



Junior Sailing "MAKING WAVES"

March 2016

March 5 Saturday Class - From Report by Volunteer Instructor Richard Woods:

"I have been helping with the junior training for a few weeks. I have to say that they all have improved immensely. Today I saw the Optis confidently sailing out towards Johnnies Cay, some sailed back home to the club without a tow. So they now know how to sail!

The 420 sailors are also more confident, they just need to spend time on the water. For the last couple of weeks we have run some short races, because it makes it very obvious which techniques work best. Sailing as efficiently as possible isn't just useful on the race course, but also when trying to get through a tidal gate or into a narrow harbour (like Hope Town!) - or even to get home before the bar closes.

But some people don't like being pushed into competition for the sake of it. Furthermore, by concentrating too much on racing, seamanship gets forgotten. So today we tried something different: a timed "Man Overboard" competition. The first boat had a fender. They would throw it in the water for the next boat to pick up. We timed how long it took. Then it was the next boat's turn and so on.

It sounds trivial, but it is actually a great exercise in close-quarters maneuvering, because in order to win, the fender picker-uppers have to stay close to the fender-throwers, but the fender-throwers want to keep them as far away as possible. The actual course sailed doesn't matter and there are no "starts", "finishes" or even "marks". So it's a cross between match racing and team racing without anyone realizing it.

It didn't take long for the sailors to discover that the best tactic was to drop the fender on the opposite side of their boat from the picker-uppers. And not much longer to realize they could get in the way of the picker-uppers and by multiple tacks or gybes could get farther away from inattentive picker-uppers and thus have a head start.

As always the shriek level is the best "fun gauge" so the results don't matter too much, except the winner picked up in 6 seconds, while second place was 8 secs, very reassuring if it had been a real crewman in the water!

It looked great fun; both Andrew and I were itching to do it ourselves. Certainly something for adults to try some day, along with the blindfolded helmsman, rudderless sailing and sailing backwards between marks. It all makes a regular race course sound kinda boring, doesn't it?"



Photo of March 12 Opti Class on the Beach at Puck Cottage - photo by Bobbie Collins



March 13 - Optis Join the Hope Town Sailing Club Dinghy Races

From Nakia Wilhoyte: "Big congrats to the five kids who participated in today's dinghy races! We had a great success by having 3 new kids out on the water attempting their very first official races! Congrats to Journey, Caroline, Lauren, Colby and Jack for all their efforts and good sportsmanship on the water!"

 3 Mar 2016 HOPE TOWN SAILING CLUB RACE RESULTS						
Sail #	Skipper	Race #1	Race #2	Race #3	Total	Place
201	Jack Guinness	1	1	1	3	1
212	Colby Stebbins	2	2	2	6	2
202	Lauren Sandberg	3	3	3	9	3
210	Caroline Sandberg	6	4	6	16	4
209	Journey Higgs	6	6	6	18	5



Jack Guinness - Opti Winner

March 19 - Special Races for Juniors, Preparing for the West End Regatta in April

From Head Instructor Caitlin Hevey: "We are hosting a race day for Junior Sailors this Saturday in lieu of a regular class session. This will allow a great opportunity for our beginners to experience and observe a race first hand as well as giving our sailors who are headed to Freeport a good warm up!"

From Ann Gooding: "We had a great day of racing. Brad Gunn in Mothra was committee boat, and Doug and Margy Hyde in Kestrel were mark set boat. There were seven Sunfish and seven Optis, and we were very proud of the way they all sailed. The wind was probably 10-12 SW. Several capsizes in the Sunfish. We had 23 kids. The most experienced were helming Sunfish with crews who I don't think had been in Sunfish before. The four Opti single handers are the ones going to the Regatta at Grand Bahama. The other three boats had experienced helmsmen, with crews with little sailing experience. The theme was working together, communication and team work.

From David Allin (Race Committee Chairman): "I ran a three race series this morning for the Junior Squadron ... we had seven Sunfish and seven Opti's with 23 youngsters. They wanted to have a race simulation day as four or six of them are going to race in an invitational regatta at West End on the 8th to 10th April, so all have been madly practicing. I must say that it was a pleasure to watch these youngsters, and it seems to me that there are quite a number of really good little sailors coming up. We thoroughly enjoyed the morning!"

Results as follows:

Sunfish

1. Chloe/Journey..... #3958
2. Summer/Allie..... #3920
3. Malia/Katie..... lime/or/yel
4. Alexis/Casey..... #3931
5. Ryan/Richard Woods lime/or/yel
6. Bessie/Skylar #2571
7. Maitland/Luke.....# 3925

Optis

1. Jack (three firsts).....#213
2. Colby.....#202
3. Lauren.....#211
4. Maison/Teddy.....#212
5. Dawson/Blake.....#201
6. Jazzie/Will..... #209
7. Caroline..... #210



Skippers' Meeting



March 19 Junior Sailing Race Photos by Ann Gooding



Special Thanks to the Sunfish Polishing Party!

Many of the Hope Town Sailing Club sailors have enjoyed using the Sunfish for racing and recreation. It is a way that Junior Sailing can say "Thank You" for helping the program get its start, and keeping it going. Last week some of the people who had raced Sunfish during the season got together on Saturday morning and waxed and polished the topsides. The people involved were: Dan Forman, Rocky Keith, Ann Gooding, Dave Pahl, Jim Ryan, Richard Woods.

Thank you all very much!!!!

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