

COMMUNITY LEARN TO SAIL

Southern Idaho Sailing Outreach Newsletter · Winter 2020



Smooth Sailing Ahead for 2020 Camps

As the snow has been piling up in the mountains, Southern Idaho Sailing Outreach (SISO) and the City of Boise have been planning 2020 sailing camps. The overwhelming success of two 2019 pilot camps (15 new youth sailors graduate) have opened the doors to expand the 2020 sailing program! The City of Boise Parks and Recreation, in association with SISO and Idaho State Parks and Recreation, are in the process of finalizing the details for this year's calendar. We are excited to announce the 2020 camps will include:

- **7:** Basic Sailing Youth Co-Ed Camps
- **1:** All-Girls Basic Sailing Youth Camp
- **2:** Intermediate Sailing Youth Camps
- **1:** Evening Basic Sailing Camp. Open for ages 16 and up.
- **110:** Total student capacity

Look for the 2020 sailing camp schedule in the City of Boise Summer Activity Guide. Scholarships available through City of Boise.



During 2019 sailing camps, Nicholas Hassler (L) and Maggie Scanlan (R) practice knot-tying skills with oversight from instructor Kent Reetz.



Marie Hattaway, City of Boise Parks & Recreation, interviewed by local TV reporter about the 2019 sailing camps.

The Word Gets Out

Who would have guessed that sailing in Idaho would get news coverage as if it was some kind of breaking news? Well it happened. Both Channel 6 and Channel 7 heard about all of the fun kids where having at sailing camp and dedicated time and resources to do a story.

If you didn't see the news coverage feel free to check out the following links:

- Channel 6 News Coverage of Sailing Camps
www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6eO3Umdb-8
- Channel 7 News Coverage of Sailing Camps
www.ktvb.com/video/news/local/boise-sailing-camp-gets-kids-out-on-the-water/277-56215b93-ff04-487c-b7d7-adbac448c52b

The SISO Sailing Fleet

Sailing a small, unballasted boat is exciting and exhilarating. A skipper uses their experience, body weight, helm (steering) and sail controls (main sheet, vang, downhaul etc.) to control a magic carpet. When all are in balance, pushing hard and sailing fast, there are few better feelings of adventure and being in the moment. This is the gift SISO strives to offer the youth of the Treasure Valley. Getting there however requires practice, perseverance, a smile and good equipment.

Our choice of program boats was definitely more complicated. We wanted a small unballasted board style boat that could be sailed by 1 or 2 people. Requirements included: easy to sail, easy to self rescue (right), the ability to reef (reduce sail area), durability, relative affordability but with enough controls (things to pull) to teach advanced sail trim concepts. We quickly found that no one design was perfect.

After research, debate (and an actual vote), and the generosity of donors, the Board decided to purchase 10 RS Zests.

These are a cutting edge, British made 12' trainer available with an optional jib (which we purchased). They are small, colorful, forgiving but fast. Definitely sporty fun and our students love them. The best part, though, is that the RS Zest is a durable rotomolded design. As we

quickly discovered, sometimes all of the best instruction, careful strategy and newly discovered student docking skills is trumped by PLASTIC boats and docks.

Simply put – we would rather be sailing than repairing! The RS Zests tolerate mistakes and inspires the thought that “Plastic Keeps Turkeys Fresh Longer”.

More info about the RS Zest boats is available here: www.sailmagazine.com/boats/boat-review-rs-zest.



During SISO's first sailing camps, students had the chance to sail solo. Above, Ian Anderson hikes out on one of the RS Zest boats at Lucky Peak State Park Reservoir. Below, the RS Zest.



New Safety/Teaching Boats on the Horizon

Safety/Teaching Boats are integral to the program and are used for both instruction and safety. They are used as the platform from which the instructors teach the students. Once the students are in a sailboat on the water, the instructors are on the powerboats and stay in close proximity to the students. This proximity allows instructors to verbally communicate with the students and carefully monitor their skill development and interaction with the boat.

The powerboats also play a key role in the safety and security of the students. For example, if a student is unable to right the boat after a capsize, the powerboat will be used to assist. If the weather becomes an issue, the powerboats will assist bringing students and sailboats back to shore. There is one powerboat on the water for each 10 students on the water.



Sailing instructors keep in close touch with students from the safety / teaching boat.

SISO's goal for 2020 is to replace our two used fiberglass Safety/Teaching Boats with two new Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs). Using RIBs are recommended by US Sailing, and each boat costs \$27,500. This type of boat provides an ideal platform for teaching as well as rescue or assistance operations. The low freeboard (distance from the waterline to the deck) and soft inflatable sides makes this an excellent choice for maneuvering around small sailboats.

Get our sailing season off to a great start! Make a charitable donation that will be used toward the purchase of the two new boats. Visit sailingoutreach.org for ways to contribute.

Become a US Sailing Small Boat Level 1 Instructor



Sailing instructors (L-R) Steve Christiansen, John Burke and Kent Reetz at 2019 Sailing Camps.

If you have sailing experience, consider offering a lifetime full of adventure and skills to Treasure Valley youth by teaching them how to sail. As the youth sailing program continues to grow, the depth of US Sailing Certified Instructors must keep pace.

US Sailing Level 1 Certification is scheduled for **June 29 -July 2** at Spring Shores Marina. Registration is through US Sailing.

For more information contact:
Steve Christiansen, 208-830-422
isaic15@cableone.net.



The Future

The future is bright and with continued support of our generous donors, the 2020 sailing program is off to a strong start.

The 2020 program will provide opportunities for up to 100 youth and 10 adults to learn how sail. In addition to basic, intermediate and adult sailing camps, the future includes a strategic sustainable plan of calculated growth that will offer: advanced sailing, racing, STEM, family, veteran and adaptive sailing programs. This plan will require more boats, equipment and personnel.

Help Make Youth Sailing Possible

The two highly successful 2019 youth sailing camps proved that youth sailing education in Southern Idaho is in great demand. Consider helping us build on this momentum.

Be part of our success!

SISO is a nonprofit organization that promotes a healthy, active lifestyle through youth sailing education.

Thank you for considering becoming a program advocate today by making a tax-deductible donation.

- Online:** sailingoutreach.org
by credit card (PayPal)

- By check:**
Payable to:
Southern Idaho Sailing Outreach Corporation
2117 N 14th Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
(help us save on costs by using your own envelope and stamp)



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***"Throw off the bowlines, sail away
from the safe harbor, catch the
tradewinds in your sails.
EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER"***
- Mark Twain

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All smiles, Elise Messerly
2019 Sailing Camp

THANK YOU!!

Your generous financial support gives Idaho's youth the opportunity to learn and grow through sailing.

Youth sailing camps provide lessons in sailing and safety including: discovering how systems like sails and lines work together and how to manage those systems to power a boat; building self-confidence when mastering new skills; and experiencing the adventure of exploring new places and outdoor activities. We envision that a SISO youth sailor from landlocked Treasure Valley will one day go on to pursue the dream of sailing in the Olympics.

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