

Setting sail



Newsletter of the Disabled Sailing Association of British Columbia
Winter 2009 - 2010

Sails top 800 in great 09

Thanks to hard working summer staff and volunteers – not to mention a cooperative weatherman – 2009 was a near-record year for the Disabled Sailing Association of BC (DSA) in Vancouver.

From June to August, DSA chalked up 869 sailing experiences at its operations centre at Jericho Sailing Centre on English Bay. This compares very well with 735 in 2008 and 719 in 2007.

DSA ran three regattas, Cascadia, New Beginnings and the Integration Regatta, and supported two more, the Jericho Classic and Waves Regatta. It hosted two events for junior sailors, a children's day and an event with Canuck Place Children's Hospice (see Page 2).

The year was highlighted by the launch of another Martin 16 sailboat, sponsored by the Variety Club of B.C. DSA's *Red Heart of Variety II* is the fourth sailboat provided by Variety since 1988.



On-the-water action: Competitive racing from the 2006 event – the last time Mobility Cup was held locally.

Mobility Cup 2010 in Vancouver

Mobility Cup, Canada's annual regatta for sailors with disabilities, is returning to Vancouver.

The event is open to anyone with a significant physical disability, both novice and experienced racers.

DSA and Royal Vancouver Yacht Club will host five days of sailing on English Bay from **Sept. 13 – 17**, using the adaptive Martin 16 sloop. Racing will be in two classes of 20 boats, each divided according to sailing experience.

Organizers will host a Mobility Cup fundraising dinner, likely in May. Full details will be announced nearer the time.

The first Mobility Cup was held in

Vancouver in August 1991 – making this year's the 20th annual event – as both a competition and a means of promoting adaptive sailing across North America.

Founder Sam Sullivan explained: "It was important to have people come together and celebrate their achievements, and to do that in the form of a race."

Mobility Cup has grown over the years, travelling coast-to-coast across Canada – inspiring new adaptive sailing branches and leaving benefits such as sip 'n' puff technology in its wake.

For most participants, Mobility Cup is a social occasion as much as a race. To learn more about the event, or book a place, visit www.mobilitycup2010.org.

604-688-6464 ext. 117

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Sale away!

The recently re-launched Martin 16 is generating interest among adaptive sailing groups across Canada.

The adaptive vessel is being sold by Martin 16 Sailing Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of DSA-BC.

“There are five adaptive sailing groups across Canada currently fundraising to buy a boat,” said project coordinator Stephen Hunter, who expects sales ahead of the summer season.

For more information, call Stephen Hunter at 604-688-6464, ext. 132.

Volunteer

If you can volunteer this summer to enable people with disabilities to sail, call 604-688-6464 ext. 117.



Donate your old boat

to help keep DSA afloat!

Give us your unwanted boat and receive a full tax receipt.

Call 604-688-6464, ext. 132
www.disabledsailingbc.org/boatdonation_program

Meet the next generation of sailors

Disabled Sailing Association of BC (DSA) makes sailing accessible for all ages.

On July 31, DSA welcomed 16 people aged 11-18 from Canuck Place Children's Hospice. The day included hiking with the TrailRider, operated by sister society British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society.

“We always reach out to young people – they are the sailors of the future,” said DSA program manager Kirk Duncan. “Sailing is an accessible activity for all ages.”



Accessible: Enjoying the Canuck Place children's day.

Opportunities on the horizon

Off-the-water sessions for sailors and volunteers will ensure participants will get the most out of the coming season.

The 2010 program starts in late May, but there is still a lot of DSA activity over the coming months. People wanting to try adaptive sailing for the first time, and those looking to brush up on their skills, are invited to pre-season get-togethers arranged by program administrator Eric Molendyk.

“We want to make these very social,” he said. “It's about getting people excited about the upcoming season of sailing.”

“It will be a way for current sailors to meet, out of the season, and hopefully bring in some new people that are interested in trying the sport for the first time.”

The first four will be held 6:30 – 8 pm at GF Strong Rehab Centre on the third Thursday of each month (Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18, April 15) while the final session will be at Jericho Sailing Centre on Saturday, May 22.

Presentations will include an illustrated account of sailing adventures around the world (January), a solo Hawaii expedition

(February), the upcoming 2010 Mobility Cup (March) and a movie night (April). May's event at Jericho will include volunteer orientation and a last-minute refresher for sailors.

“We want people to have fun,” continued Molendyk. “Sailing is a recreational activity, and a large part of this is the friendships and camaraderie that develop.”

Meanwhile, longtime volunteer Trevor Skutezky will be complementing this with hands-on training sessions over at Jericho in April and May.

“I want to introduce people to sailing prior to dropping them into boats,” he explained. “I want to talk about the boats, the controls and the basic concepts of sailing.”

Skutezky is an experienced sailor, who has been volunteering with DSA-BC over the past four years. He aims to recruit newcomers to adaptive sailing, along with additional sailing volunteers.

For more information about these sessions, or sailing and volunteering in general, call Eric Molendyk at 604-688-6464 ext. 117, or email dsa@disabilityfoundation.org.