

Setting sail



Newsletter of the Disabled Sailing Association of British Columbia
Fall 2008 edition



Bowen-bound: DSA-BC's Bowen Island flotilla, seen here August 2008.

Clear skies and calm waters ahead

DSA-BC is looking ahead to a New Year of new sailing opportunities.

Events begin in February, with free theory sessions – “for anyone ready to make the move to solo sailing, or just wanting to get more from their sailing,” explains program administrator Eric Molendyk. These are held Thursdays – Feb. 19, March 19, April 23 – 6:30pm to 8pm at RoundHouse Community Centre, Vancouver

The sailing season begins May 27, and will feature everything that has made the program a success, says program manager Kirk Duncan. DSA-BC's 354 registered sailors should expect regular opportunities for beginning and experienced sailors, along with regattas, Sunday racing and the ever-popular Bowen Island trip.

In addition, a behind-the-scenes change should guarantee the future of the Vancouver-designed adaptive Martin 16 sailboat. DSA-BC bought an M-16 from Florida, to take the place on an aging fleet vessel – even down to taking its name. As it's a straight swap the group will continue to run eight M-16s, along with a safety boat.

For a time it was feared that no more M-16s would be manufactured, following a devastating fire at the Abbot Boats workshops, Sarnia, ON, in June 2006, which destroyed the production molds. But the old DSA-BC boat that has been taken out of commission will be dismantled, and its parts used to recreate new molds.

For more about theory classes, phone Eric a 604-688-6464 ext. 117.

The 2008 season in review

The Disabled Sailing Association of BC (DSA-BC) again improved its performance.

There were 735 program sails this year – last year saw 719, with 642 in 2006.

DSA-BC hosted a children's day and ran three regattas, Cascadia, New Beginnings and the Integration Regatta, and supported two more: Jericho Classic and Waves Regatta. It was represented in Mobility Cup 2008 by two sailors (Wayne Phillips and Dan LeBlanc, who won the Darren Tucker Award for perseverance).



Hardware: Dan LeBlanc.

Making all this possible were the 91 volunteers that registered with DSA-BC for summer 2008.

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Ready to launch: one of the kid's day new sailors.



Waterborne: a kid's day sailor taking to the sea.

Launching new sailors with the DSA-BC kid's days

Events for children are all about encouraging the next generations of sailors – and encouraging sheer enjoyment!

The Disabled Sailing Association of BC (DSA-BC) runs kid's days each year – and encourages all-ages participation throughout the sailing season – as part of its brief to make sailing as accessible as possible, says program manager Kirk Duncan.

This year's Kids Day event, held at DSA-BC's Jericho centre on July 24, included sailing, face-painting and an introduction to the TrailRider, an access-all-areas wilderness wheelchair that opens up hiking trails for people with significant disabilities. These are operated by British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society, a sister group to DSA-BC.

"We had face painting and TrailRiders on the beach to make it a party atmosphere," said Duncan. "We used the TrailRider because it makes sense to interest sailors in hiking and hikers in sailing, as well as giving the kids more

to do on the day."

He said DSA-BC is open to school-age participants during the May-to-August sailing season – each sail will cost \$10, although anyone sailing more than four times will have to take out a Jericho Sailing Centre membership for insurance purposes (children's rates are available).

"Any day is a kid's day for us," continued Duncan. "We have child-sized equipment, so there is no additional cost for the parents.

"We always want to get younger sailors in. The earlier we get them in, the longer we have them for!"

- DSA-BC program manager Kirk Duncan has praised last year's staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication in making sailing both enjoyable and organized. "They came together as a team," said Duncan. "They worked hard, and enjoyed the job, and that showed, and I think the clients really related to that."



Transfer: getting ready to launch.



Ship shape: leaving land for the open water.



Shipshape: staff coordinating Kid's Day.