

Sailing is Freedom



Newsletter of the Disabled Sailing Association of British Columbia
Summer 2015

Race club off to flying start

Gerry "Burner" Burns has gone from novice sailor to a mainstay of the Disabled Sailing Association race club.

This year he is fleet captain, which entails responsibility for keeping the 19-member race club running smoothly and fairly.

Whilst DSA continues to offer sailing experiences to everyone, irrespective of disability or sailing ability, we are proud of our skills development work. Not everyone is a competitive sailor, but race club promotes excellence, outlines Gerry.

"Race club is really about being able to fully control the boat and being aware of the water and weather conditions.

"It blows me away what a high level of sailing ability there is in race club. From the outset, you realize that if you want to be a competitive sailor you have to become a better sailor.

"It's also a high adrenalin extreme sport. The only way to learn it is to do it."

Gerry, who started sailing with DSA in 2010, has been a regular at Mobility Cup regattas. He competed at the 2015 event in Kananaskis, Alberta "with snow on the mountains and grizzlies on the beach."



Skill set: DSA is now offering CANSail training through summer 2015.

Brush up your sailing skills

DSA will be offering Sail Canada's CANSail training specially designed for sailors with disabilities this summer.

Although we have consistently encouraged people to progress to sailing solo, this is the first time we have been able to offer official sailing certification.

It will be of interest to anyone who wants to become a better sailor as it offers both practical skills and theory knowhow, said DSA program manager Stephen Hunter.

"It's not like a driver's licence in that you have to pass a test in order to sail. This is something extra for people that want to learn more about sailing.

"It's a standardized and recognized qualification. It's something you can

present anybody connected with the sport to show you are qualified to a certain level – it's a standard that's used around the world.

"Of course, people are still welcome to come along for a day sail, or else sail solo or race in events. It's just that now we are able to offer qualifications."

Joel Taylor and Ed Sim, who return as Head Sailing Instructor and Sailing Instructor respectively, will be leading the sessions which are expected to run between six and 12 weeks.

Participants in the initial sessions were recruited through DSA's pre-season get-togethers, but more spaces can be made available according to demand. Info: Eric Molendyk at 604-688-6464 ext. 117.

DSA: Sailing for people with disabilities



Clear sailing: The DSA-BC 2015 summer sailing schedule is out.

Summer '15 sailing at a glance

The Disabled Sailing Association summer season will open **Wednesday, May 27**.

Our Jericho office is now open for bookings – phone 604-222-3003, fax to 604-222-3004 or email us at dsasummer@disabilityfoundation.org

We sail 10am to 6pm, Wednesday to

Sunday. Race club is held every Sunday, except regatta days – which are given below – and this year's Mobility Cup is held in Victoria, BC, beginning Monday September 7.

If you have any general questions, ask Eric Molendyk 604-688-6464 ext. 117, or eric@disabilityfoundation.org.

Schedule 2015

MAY

Wednesday, May 27

First day of sailing

Saturday/Sunday, May 30 / 31

New Beginnings Regatta

JUNE

Saturday/Sunday, June 6/7

Jericho Classic Regatta

Saturday, June 20

Kids' Day

Saturday/Sunday, June 27/28

Waves Regatta (hosted by RVYC)

JULY

Saturday, July 11

Integration Regatta

AUGUST

Saturday/Sunday, Aug. 8/9

Cascadia Regatta

Sunday, Aug. 23

Volunteer appreciation party

Friday, Aug. 28

Last day of program sailing

SEPTEMBER

Monday - Friday, Sept. 7-11

Mobility Cup, Victoria, BC

Can you help?

Our sailing program cannot exist without helping hands.

Dedicated volunteers fulfill a variety of land and on-the-water roles. Duties range from assisting clients to and from boats, helping launches and, for those with sailing qualifications, teaching sailing skills.

If you can help out – you will need certification for on-the-water positions – call Eric Molendyk at 604-688-6464 ext. 117.

Kid's day ahoy

A special day will allow children with disabilities to sample sailing and hiking opportunities.

DSA runs an annual Kids' Day event with sister society BC Mobility Opportunities Society, which operates the TrailRider backwoods wheelchair hikes, at Jericho on **Saturday, June 20**.

Donate your boat



...to keep DSA afloat

Give us your unwanted boat and receive a tax receipt.

www.dsaboatdonation.org

DSA

disabledsailingbc.org

604-688-6464 ext. 117