

# COMMUNITY LEARN TO SAIL

Southern Idaho Sailing Outreach Newsletter | Fall 2023



## 2023 was a banner year for SISO!

This summer SISO, through the City of Boise and its sailing instructors and volunteers, realized goals which were previously only aspirational. Over the summer, we held eight sailing camps with a combined total of 75 sailing students! This year's schedule included four basic beginning sail camps, one of which was an all girls camp, three intermediate camps, and our first ever Racing Camp.

Since the inception of our sailing program in Summer 2019, six sail camp students progressed through our beginning and intermediate camps and then became sailing instructors. Of note, during this year's inaugural Race Camp, five of 10 students expressed interest in becoming volunteers for the summer sailing program; and then to become certified assistant instructors; and upon reaching age 18, to become fully certified instructors.

This represents the realization of SISO's goals of introducing the lifelong sport of sailing to Idaho youth and to develop a new generation of sailors who will go on to share their passion of sailing as sailing instructors. None of this would have been possible without the valuable support of our donors! A huge "Thank You" to each of you!



*Sailing with confidence*



*Pre-race start sailing. Looking out for fellow racers and determining their next move as start of the race approaches.*



# Race Camp a Success

A small taste of racing during intermediate camp was enough to bring back ten eager sailors with full racing appetites to participate in very first Boise Parks and Recreation Youth Sailing Race Camp.

Racing sailboats is a natural next step for young sailors to put previously learned sailing knowledge to the test by competing with and learning from others. Racing small boats is way to increase sailing skills very quickly as evident in the race camp. "It was amazing to see the confidence and boat handling skills improve at the starting line and around crowded marks as the week progressed," says sailing instructor, Steve Christiansen.

All sailors improved their sailing skills during race camp. The wind conditions ranged from very light wind to upwards of 10 knots which required different sailing skills and racing tactics to keep the boat sailing fast as possible and winning races. Learning opportunities included the rules of racing, penalties, ability to protest, good sportsmanship, tactics, starting, mark rounding and making the boat sail fast in all different wind conditions. The kids were really into the rules and did their penalty turns. It was great to see good sportsmanship and it was fun to hear them calling out "starboard!" as they crossed boats on port tack.

At the end of the week, 19 races had been completed. Races included racing around the marks and long distance racing to Gooseneck Bay and back.

The kids were divided into two teams. The race committee scored each sailor as they came across the finish line. The team with the least number of points won. This made it fun for everyone. The first, second and third place finishers of each race were also recognized.

There was an RS Zest fleet, Laser fleet and Pico fleet for each race. This provided opportunities for all kids to place well in the fleet they were sailing no matter what team they were on.

Based on the success of this racing camp, it is going to be a fun challenge to keep feeding the appetites of the these young sailors with a craving to race sailboats.



*All clear at the starting line. Race On!*



*Fellow competitors in a tight race to the finish.*



*On the line and sailing fast in clear air makes a good start.*



*Looking for the layline to the mark.*



# Journey from Youth Sailor to Collegiate Sailing Team

By Molly O'Sullivan

In my earliest memories, I am sailing. I remember the sun and the sea spray on my skin, sitting on my dad's lap as he captained our Catalina through the San Juan islands. We spend a good part of every summer on our sailboat Shenachie, cruising, playing in our dinghy sailboat, swimming, exploring beaches, and crabbing for our dinners. Sailing has always been a part of my life. But what I possessed in enthusiasm and time on boats, I lacked in the technical knowledge required to sail on my own and sail comfortably.

Two summers ago, at the age of 16, I signed up for the one week beginner youth sailing camp with SISO, hoping to gain that formal education I had never received. By the end of the week, my initial nerves and excitement were replaced with newfound confidence and competence.

I loved my sailing camp experience and happily spent the rest of that summer volunteering with the camps. Last summer, I was offered the opportunity to work as an assistant instructor, which was an incredibly fun summer job being on the water with kids. Additionally, it allowed me to refine both my sailing and teaching skills, preparing me for the US Sailing instructor training course I took later that summer with several other young sailing friends I met through SISO. I am incredibly proud to say that I worked this year as a US Sailing certified instructor for SISO/City of Boise, teaching both beginner and intermediate camps!

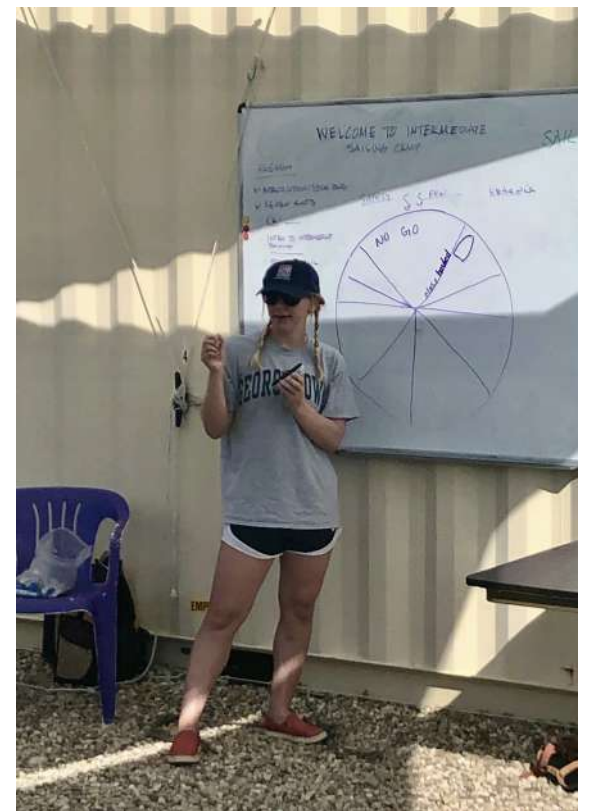
The beauty of SISO's program lies not only in its community outreach but also in its sustainability, with each generation of young campers gaining the opportunity to develop their skills and become an instructor themselves one day. I am proud to be part of this first generation of young SISO campers-turned-instructors and so excited to give back to the program that brought me up.

I certainly never expected to find such a thriving sailing community in landlocked Idaho, yet that is exactly what happened. I learn something new about sailing every week of camp I teach from the incredible and dedicated team of instructors and volunteers. The passionate SISO team is the heart of this program and the reason for its success, growing from just two weeks of camp in its inaugural summer in 2019 to eight weeks of camp in 2023! I've listened to tales of my fellow instructors' ocean passages, their experiences as liveboards, and their racing glory days. Their mentorship has opened my eyes to the world of sailing possibility.

Mid-summer, I captained my own boat for the first time in a regatta at the Cascade Cup and placed first in class! I also raced in the Puget Sound this summer, driven by the confidence SISO instilled in me. This fall, I am a freshman at Florida State University, far from Idaho, and I am seeking out a new home on campus by joining the club racing team. I can't wait to be part of a collegiate program in which I can continue to enjoy being out on the water, practice my skills further, and travel regionally to compete—all possible because of the experiences SISO offered me these past few summers! As I look towards my future in sailing—on the college racing team, teaching back home in the summers, and all of the opportunities beyond—I am both excited about and grateful for the program that got me here. Thank you, SISO!



*Molly enjoying teaching at the intermediate sailing camp.*



*Teaching points of sail at sailing camp.*

# View from a Sailing Camp Volunteer

By Tina Klamt

The first time I volunteered was the girl's beginning sailing camp, three summers ago. I was impressed by two things: the students sailing those little boats and the quality and dedication of the sailing instructors.

Since that first time I have volunteered each year in both beginning and intermediate sailing camps. I continue to be impressed that students get on a boat their first day of camp and sail around. And I continue to be impressed by the quality of the sailing instructors and assistants. That is evident in the readiness of those students to sail the first day.

Volunteers provide support for the instructors and students. It might be helping students carry rigging down, and back up the ramp, sitting with a student who is not feeling well, helping to set a course by hauling anchors and marks on the safety boat, getting to know the perspectives of the students, catching the sailors as they approach the dock on their boats, or just being another eye on those young sailors. And we learn right along with the students – a refresh on points of sail, terminology, and knot tying (my favorite). For me, it is a joy in itself to watch the students catch the sailing bug but even more so to be a part of it. And I get so much back!

Volunteer! I highly recommend it!



*Tina Klamt - Current and past Commodore of Southern Idaho Sailing Association. Competent and competitive sailor who is always willing to volunteer to assist and lend a helping hand no matter how big the ask.*

## Fueling the Fun with Lasers

**“This is the most fun thing I have every done!”** as expressed by a youth sailor. This was all that was needed to fuel the Laser frenzy at racing camp.

The kids were lined up and ready to take the next step in their young sailing careers. Graduating from the RS Zest sailboat to the Laser is a big step forward. With light to medium strength wind, the Laser is a fun boat to test their skill level. As the wind increases the Laser can become a handful for the most experienced sailor. They used their sailing knowledge from the basic learn to sail and intermediate camps to race a boat they had never experienced. They quickly realized their knowledge translated directly to sailing a boat with a lot of power and speed. There were capsize as the wind increased, but that didn't stop the kids from wanting to sail the Lasers. It was all about going fast, hiking out, testing their skills, all with big smiles and wanting more. They could not get enough of a good thing.

The Laser is one of the most popular dinghy (small) racing sailboats around the world. There have been more than 200,000 of these boats sold worldwide. The Standard Laser (now known as the Ilca 7) has been used in the Olympic Games since 1996 and is considered one of worlds largest one design fleets. The boat was designed in 1971 by Bruce Kirby.

A big THANK YOU to SISA for lending their Laser and Pico Laser Fleet to SISO this summer. Providing an opportunity for kids to sail and experience different boats is fuel in the tank towards providing kids with a sailing experience they will remember for a lifetime.



*Laser frenzy at race camp.*



# Sizable SISO Donation from a Sailor's Estate

Long time member of Southern Idaho Sailing Association, Dennis Cleary, has made a sizable donation to SISO on behalf of and in memory of his late brother Kevin A. Cleary who passed January 6, 2023.

"My brother Kevin taught me how to sail at a young age, and I wouldn't be a SISA member or sailor if it hadn't been for him," says Dennis, who is an avid SISA racer and sailing competitor.

An excerpt from Kevin's obituary provides testimony. "One of Kevin's passions was sailing. He sailed in Mexico, the Pacific Ocean, the many lakes surrounding his residence, and at Lake Tahoe. Many family reunions were held at Lake Tahoe and sailing was a big activity for friends and family".



*Kevin Cleary  
1949—2023*



*Dennis Cleary and his daughter Rose.*

"Kevin would be so proud to see what SISO is accomplishing with kids, and to know he helped with a meaningful donation," Dennis professed after presenting the contribution.

SISO is hugely grateful that Dennis made the connection between his brother's love of sailing and our vision of raising the next crop of youth sailors in Southern Idaho.

## Nautical Knowledge: Square Knot or Thief Knot

The thief knot resembles the square knot except that the free, or bitter ends are on opposite sides. It is said that sailors would secure their belongings in a ditty bag (small cloth bag used for personal belongings) using the thief knot, often with the ends hidden. If another sailor went through the bag, the odds were high the thief would tie the bag back using the more common square knot, revealing the tampering, hence the name.



*Thief Knot*



*Square Knot*

*Source: Wikipedia*

*Image Credit: 718 Cyclery and Outdoors*

# Sails Fill for 2023 Open House

Classmate sailors of the 2023 season and the SISO Board of Directors hosted a 'Grand Finale' Open house for all SISO friends, donors, sponsors and parents of the graduates at Spring Shores Marina in early August.

The first time event was a big success! Attendees witnessed intermediate classmates rounding marks on the racecourse on fresh wind, and instructors monitoring and calling results from our two coach boats. All SISO gear and talent was on display, real time.

Guests meanwhile toured the 'Base Camp Headquarters' to view our infrastructure and all associated gear, files, tools, solar charging station, etc. We were pretty much showing off, wanting all to see the setting where our combined efforts this year produced another 75 eager graduates.

Finally, the group gathered on the marina patio to give heartfelt thanks to our donors, instructors and volunteers, enjoy refreshments and witness the presentation of certificates to the graduates.

Redline Recreational Toys ([www.redlinerecotoys.com](http://www.redlinerecotoys.com)), who operate the marina store and toy rentals, was a huge help in facilitating the event; food, beverages, and a shaded place to celebrate. Many thanks.

Finally, it's official, the SISO Open House will happen again in 2024, graduation day of the last class. We hope to see you there.



*Kent Reetz, Sailing Instructor, left, James Giffen, Sailing Instructor, right, presenting graduation certificate to new sailing graduate, middle.*



*Victoria and Lisle George, Nancy Davis and Doris Denney tour SISO base camp headquarters.*



*Nathan Wanke, Assistant Sailing Instructor dark shirt, and Kent Reetz, left, US Sailing Instructor visit with Nathan's parents and SISO Volunteer, Dick Armstrong, volunteer background.*

## Thank You to our 2023 Volunteers

- ◆ Dick Armstrong
- ◆ Natalie Bartley
- ◆ Ann Cordum
- ◆ Frank Donnelly
- ◆ Tina Klamt
- ◆ JT More
- ◆ Keith and Lynn Sander
- ◆ Tom Wordell

We could not have done it without you. Your enthusiasm and shared knowledge was invaluable. We are very grateful for you and your time working side by side with the instructors helping make the 2023 Youth Sailing Camps fun, educational and a safe environment for all those that participated.



# Lasting Impression



My name is Kestrel and i'm 14. i'm doing the intermediate camp and i'm having a ton of fun! thank you for making it possible! my favorite part is hiking out!

Through your generous donations, SISO is growing one step at a time. Our future is bright and youth sailing in the Treasure Valley is **ALIVE!**

## Help Make Youth Sailing Possible

Youth sailing education in Southern Idaho is in great demand. Help make sailing accessible to all Treasure Valley Youth.

## 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.

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by credit card or PayPal
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Noun: something accomplished, especially by superior ability, special effort, great courage, etc.

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

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