

GHYC Junior Sail



GHYC Junior Sail is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing a safe, fun and educational environment for youth. Our programs develop local sailors at all skill levels and challenge them to achieve confidence and independence on the water.

2020 Summary

205 youth participants

20 new racers

18 gallons of sanitizer

\$4052
awarded in scholarships

\$88,468
raised in support

Right: An Opti Race Team member hikes her boat flat at the end of season scrimmage held in October. Eliza learned a lot about managing her boat in wind this summer. **Cover left:** A new sailor learns how to drive an Opti at the TYC Wollochet Bay Outstation. GHYC and TYC Junior Sail joined forces to get kids on the water. **Cover bottom left :** Bic racers participate in an end of season scrimmage in October at West Shore Marina. The Opti and Middle School Race Team saw tremendous growth in 2020. **Cover middle and right:** Laser sailors participate in small group practices on Wollochet Bay in September.





FOR THE KIDS

GHYC Junior Sail, a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization, has promoted a vision for 11 years “to inspire youth to have a life-long dedication to and love of sailing.” Each of our 12 board members have specific tasks from fleet upkeep, boat donations/sales, investments, and marketing. Yet the board comes together to work cooperatively year-round to support both Sail Camp and the Narrows Race Team. GHYC Junior Sail is funded by our annual auction, donations, and partnerships. The Stearns family provides W. Shore Marina, Pen Met Parks provides boat storage, Tacoma Yacht Club Junior Sail partners in programs and in facility use, and GHYC provides facility use and tremendous support.



Joan Storkman
Program Director
GHYC Junior Sail

All these supports allowed us to hire a full time Sailing Director in Jan. 2020, Ashley Nelson. Ashley has been instrumental in providing a COVID safe program in this challenging year. The Board and Ashley put in long hours of planning every detail that had to be considered and debated whether or not to open. Although shut down for three months in spring, when we did open, families were so very grateful, “you’ve given my child something normal in this very difficult time...thank you!” A tremendous thanks to all our wonderful staff who worked so very hard—with smiles, encouragement and amazing skills.

We could not provide these sailing opportunities for youth were it not for your support. We are so very grateful to you!

Above: New sailors learn to tow after heading out to the "big bay" for the first time

**From the
Program
Director**



Youth Camp sailors racing for the first time. There was fierce competition among three cousins pictured here. We love it when families get to learn something new together!

THE JOY OF SAILING

This year was about our community coming together. We re-opened in June with a simplified goal of getting kids outside and providing a space for them to enjoy the sport. It was a year filled with firsts and growth. Instructors took on new roles, sailors tried new boats, and I finished my



Ashley Nelson
*Sailing Director
GHYC Junior Sail*

first year full-time. Sail Camp and Narrows Race Team participants adapted gracefully to guidance and made the most of five person practices and classes. Board members and volunteers spent hours on Zoom planning to keep everyone safe, and generous donors stepped in to help. This year reminded us that we sail because we LOVE it, and that if we work together we can find a solution to even the most unprecedented challenges.

From the
Sailing
Director

A YEAR TO ADAPT AND ADJUST

The COVID-19 global health crisis led to a unique year at Sail Camp. After closing all operations in March, we redesigned our program to resume youth sailing activities in June. Participants sailed in groups of no more than five in single person boats. With fewer openings available, we operated throughout the summer and fall to accommodate as many kids as possible. We saw 153 sailors and filled almost every space. West Shore Marina hosted our Intermediate Camps and the Opti and Bic Race Programs and the TYC Wollochet Bay Outstation hosted Youth and Teen Camps and the Laser

Race Team. Our partnership with TYC evolved to a joint camp program in 2020 to meet challenges presented by COVID-19. A big thank you to our 2020 Sail Camp hosts!

We could not host our camps without the work of our incredible staff. Many challenged themselves and took on new roles and more responsibility due to COVID-19. Thank you to: Ashley Nelson, Alyosha Strum-Palerm, Axel Stordahl, Ben Sprenger, Dalton Lovett, Emily Smith, Jaden Unruh, Julia Sherry, Kara Ashpole, Olivia Lowithan, Peter Ryalls, Taggart Messersmith, Ted Corddry, and Thomas Pentimonti for an excellent year.



Top: Laser sailors approach the start line on their fourth day sailing. The transition to Lasers proved to be a challenge for staff and participants and brought a higher level of learning to our Teen program. **Middle:** Youth Sail Camp participants engage in Noodle Tag, an innovative social distancing game. **Middle Right:** Sailing director Ashley Nelson prepares to meet participants for their daily health screenings in August. **Middle Left:** A sailor perfects his tiller-hand exchange on the second day of camp. **Bottom:** Staff members enjoy a distanced debrief lunch at the end of the summer. Many shared that they were most proud of pulling together as a team and challenging themselves during such a difficult year.

The logo for Sail Camp, featuring a red and white triangle pointing right on a dark blue background.

Sail Camp



A YEAR OF HIGH HIGHS, AND LOW LOWS

The Narrows Race Team had an excellent time sailing out of West Shore Marina and the TYC Wollochet Bay Outstation this year. The team felt lucky to have such wonderful venues for practice during a year where we spent the majority of sailing time "at home".

The team evolved tremendously during 2020. It was a difficult year marked by challenge and disappointment for many of our competitors. Seniors who helped to build our team missed out on their final season, and it may be a full year before High School sailing returns as we knew it before. There is no way to change that reality, or make it easier to accept for those who worked for years toward canceled championships. We will rebuild our High School teams as competitions resume, and hope to cheer on our sailors as they sail on their college teams.

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Banner: Laser sailors practice in groups of five on Wollochet Bay in August. The purchase of 4.7 rigs and sails funded through 2019 auction donations, allowed younger sailors to participate.

Left: A sailor enjoys his "graduation day" into the Laser from the Opti Race Team. We love to see our sailors try new challenges as they grow. **Below:** Restrictions lifted just enough in October to allow for a late-season scrimmage. Sailors pose for a masked and distanced team photo after enjoying a full day of racing.





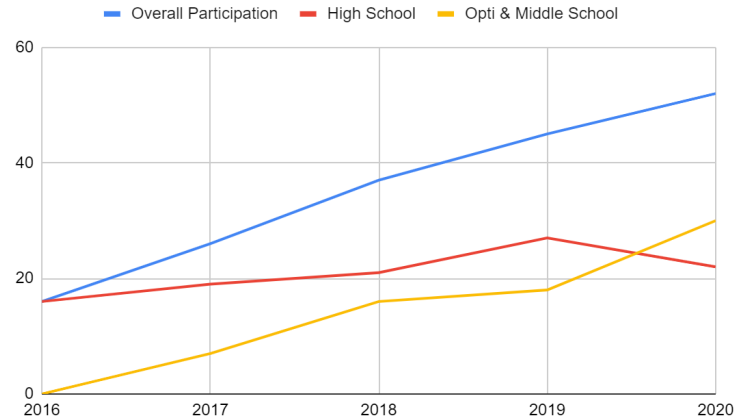
Top: Bic sailors in late June tow out of West Shore Marina, grateful to be on the water for the first time in months. **Left:** New recruit, Kameron, learning the ropes at camp before joining the Narrows Race Team. His hard work and motivation helped him learn the skills he needed by the end of summer. **Above:** Narrows Race Team sailors help winterize boats at West Shore. Sailors give back to the program by helping with projects and volunteering at camp as Junior Instructors. **Left:** Coach Dalton and his Bic team prepare for practice at West Shore in July.



Continued from pg. 6

In the midst of that disappointment, we got back out on the water. Sailors resumed practice in late June and continued through Halloween. Though there were no competitions, sailors pushed themselves to learn new skills and perfect boat-handling. Sailors participated in small five person practices in Lasers, Bics, and Optis. The summer and fall seasons saw our highest ever participation among younger sailors. The Opti Green Fleet Program, new in 2020, took a beginner friendly approach and was hugely successful. We are excited to introduce these sailors to competition in the coming year.

Narrows Race Team Participation Over Time



2020 SENIOR SEND-OFFS

Our graduating class of 2020 had some of the founding members of our three major teams. These sailors have given so much to the program, and we can't wait to see what the future has in store for them.



Thomas Pentimonti

Bellarmino Preparatory School

Attending University of Washington



Nick Lee

Charles Wright Academy

Attending University of Washington



Axel Stordahl

Gig Harbor High School

Attending College of Charleston



Hayden Flaskerud

Charles Wright Academy

Attending University of Chicago



Above: High School Sailors at their last regatta before COVID-19 regulations this March. Narrows Race Team Sailors competed representing Gig Harbor High School, Bellarmino Preparatory School, and Charles Wright Academy

Ian Deaton

Gig Harbor High School

Attending University of Michigan



Together We Raised

\$45,955 At our 2020 Auction

\$5,975 Toward our Scholarship Fund

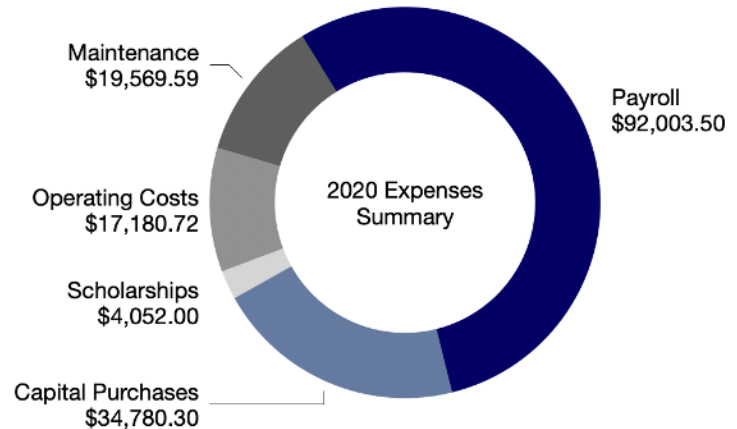
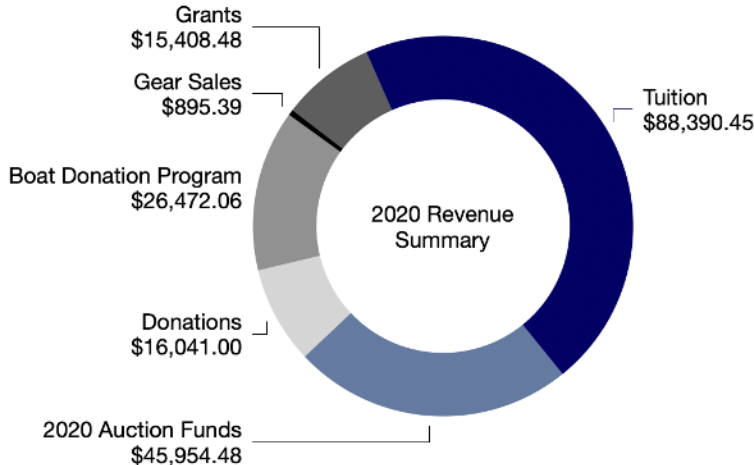
\$26,472 Through the Boat Donation Program

\$16,041 In Donations

YOUR DONATIONS MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE

Following years of planning and building a financial basis to support a full time Sailing Director we hired Ashley Nelson. COVID-19 drastically changed our budget for the year. Your donations helped us weather the crisis and set us up well for 2021, thank you. Your donations made it possible to get kids outside at a time when they needed it most and allowed us to keep kids safe by operating in small groups.

Financial Report



Where We Have Been

2010 Founded by GHYC. Donations fund used safety boats and new Open Bics

Awarded the PIYA Garrett Horder Memorial Trophy

2013 Program enrolls over 100 sailors at camp for the first time

2014 GHYC Junior Sail Race Team founded with volunteer coaches

2015 Donations finance purchase of five Sail Cubes and one FJ

Narrows Race Team formed by GHYC and TYC Junior Sail

2016 First paid coach hired and Narrows Race Team program expands into school year

Joan Storkman, Program Director, is named US SAILING Volunteer of the Year

2017 Narrows Race Team makes first High School National appearance representing Charles Wright Academy

Donation funds finance two FJs

2018 Narrows Race Team sailors represent Gig Harbor High School at ISSA Keelboat Nationals

Donation funds finance RIB and trailer

2019 Narrows Race Team sailors represent Gig Harbor High School at Cressy High School Singlehanded National Championship, and ISSA Keelboat Nationals

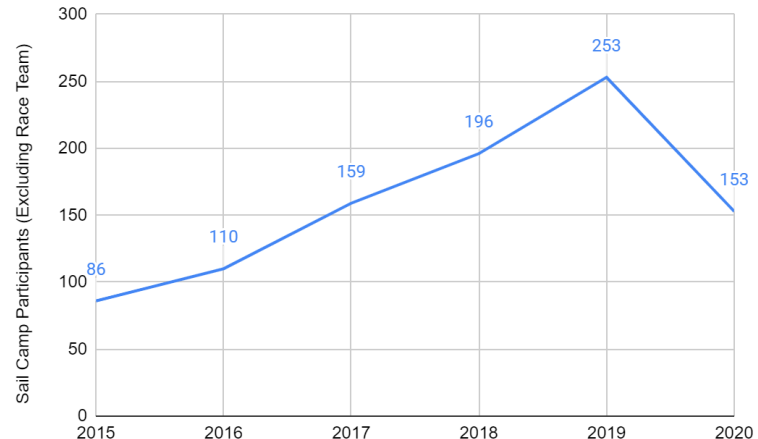
Narrows Race Team Sailors compete in Chubb U.S. Junior Championships

Donations finance six Opti sailboats

2020 Donations finance four Opti sailboats
GHYC Junior Sail hires its first full-time Sailing Director

GHYC Junior Sail combines with TYC Junior Sail for summer 2020

Sail Camp Participation Over Time



GHYC Junior Sail Executive Board

Board Members worked hard behind the scenes this year to overcome COVID-19 challenges, open programs to kids, and continue to maintain a sound financial picture.

Joan Storkman, Chris Boynton, Jessica Corddry, Kathleen Carlson, Alina Messersmith, Helen Stewart, Greg Olsen, Greg Hoeksema, Mary Theo Hoeksema, David McCowen, Dale Reiman, John Mulligan, and Ashley Nelson

Narrows Race Team Leadership Committee

NRT Parent Liaisons provide critical communications to team families throughout the year and they help new team members and their parents "learn the ropes". Thank you Alina Messersmith and Melissa Deprez.

One way race team families can support the program is to serve on the Narrows Race Team Leadership Committee. This group meets at least once per season to identify priorities, recommend policies and plan for the future. Thank you to the 2020 NRT Leadership Team: Joan Storkman, Alina Messersmith, Jenny Unruh, Jessica Corddry, Mark Helling, Melissa Deprez, Mario Lee, and Eric Stordahl.



Above: Auction Committee Members Mary Theo Hoeksema, Kathleen Carlson, Greg Hoeksema, and Jessica Corddry distribute items to bidders at GHYC in September.

Below: GHYC Junior Sail Executive Board meets prior to COVID-19 restrictions in January. We so appreciate the use of Gig Harbor Yacht Club for meetings and events.



Board of Directors & Volunteers



Maintenance Team

Volunteers, led by Fleet Manager Greg Olsen, meet weekly to work on boats, build facilities, and keep everything running smoothly. We could not do it without them! Big thanks to: Greg Olsen, David Holsinger, Dick Strand, Jon Freeman, Dale Reiman, Jim Drake, John Parker, and Ryan Rutherford,



Float Construction Team

Over the years, volunteers have come to the rescue when necessary. In 2020, we needed a new float on the water at West Shore before sailing could get underway in March. Just as in 2018 when our first float was built, our float construction team stepped up! Thank you very much to all of you who gathered in the cold of January & February 2020 to build the float and get it in the water:

Dale Reiman, Chet Dennis (Host and handyman), Steve Franklin, Gordon Robilliard, Connor Hoeksema, Dick Strand, John Mulligan, Jon Freeman, Jessica Corddry, Ira Spector, Greg Olsen

And thanks Gig Harbor Marina for the lift!



Above: Greg Olsen and Jon Freeman fit a new outboard purchased with donation funds onto a whaler. **Top Left:** Jessica Corddry and Dale Reiman help build the new float in January. **Bottom Left:** Dale works to fix the roof at the Peninsula Gardens facility. Pen Met Parks hosts our program for storage and winter maintenance needs.

Interested in getting involved?

Email us at:
info@ghycjuniorsail.org

A Special Thanks to our Donors

The Stearns Family

Longtime supporters, Stan and Judy Stearns, continued to help us thrive this year through the use of West Shore Marina and generous donations. Their contributions to the program have helped immensely.

Unruh Family - Jeffrey and Mary Smith Family Foundation

Through an appeal by Narrows Race Team Sailor Jaden Unruh, The Jeffrey and Mary Smith Family Foundation helped tremendously this year with a generous donation. Thanks so much for your support.

Special thanks to: Bill Harter Memorial Fund, Kathleen and Erik Carlson, Mario and Anne Lee, and Greg and Mary Theo Hoeksema

**If you would like to make a financial or boat donation
please email us at: info@ghycjuniorsail.org**

BOAT DONATION PROGRAM

The Boat Donation Program was a critical part of our financial security in 2020. Dale Reiman took over this program several years ago, and his personal touch and expertise have been pivotal to its success. In 2020, boat donors raised \$26,472. GHYC Junior Sail is immensely appreciative of the contributions made by the following individuals whose boats were donated then re-sold or auctioned:

Greg Olsen - 1976 Cape Dory 25

Donald and Marylynn Pannen - 1978 Bianca Aphrodite 101 Sloop

Jerry and Dorothy Hull - Nordic IX Sailing Skiff

Justin Freed - 1978 Catalina 25

Stanley Stearns - Classic El Toro Sailing Dinghy





GHYC Junior Sail

Thank You Sponsors & Partners

Gig Harbor Yacht Club, West Shore Marina, Pen Met Parks, Harbor WildWatch, Tacoma Yacht Club, The Sailing Foundation, Northwest Interscholastic Sailing Association, Charles Wright Academy, Bellarmine Preparatory School, Annie Wright School, and Gig Harbor High School

Thank you to the businesses and individuals who generously contributed to our 2020 fundraiser, and especially to those who have supported us for years. Your support means everything, and we could not run our program without you. Our steady growth and ability to serve the community have depended heavily on those who donate to or participate in the annual GHYC Junior Sail Auction.

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