

BOAT ROTATION: TO SWAP OR NOT

Recently on the West Coast and elsewhere the question has arisen: why not do away with boat rotation during regattas? The argument is that in the matched fleets such as are now commonly found in schools and colleges and in which many interscholastic regattas are sailed, the boats are nearly identical, particularly if they are fitted with matched suits of sails. Those proposing eliminating rotation cite the time lost and the increased likelihood of damage when the boats are brought into dock between races.

The PCISA website has provision for publishing a dialogue. The following is one reaction to those arguments.

It is not by accident that both the Collegiate and High School Procedural Rules require the rotation of boats at their events. Both college and high school sailing have matured greatly during the last 20 plus years, now holding literally hundreds of regattas each year around the country. Some of the nation's brightest and most knowledgeable sailors as well as most experienced coaches and regatta organizers regularly review these procedural rules for improvements. Without hesitation there has been no move to eliminate rotation from the requirements. Why?

Differences in equipment do exist, some more by perception and some actual. Whether seeming or real, both cases provide equal incentive to rotate. Even a complete fleet at the Naval Academy can have dam-

aged gaskets, rigs out of tune, centerboards or rudder concerns, etc. College and high school sailing are all about eliminating the "equipment factor" and focusing on the competitors. Removing "excuses" can be as important to a teenager's maturity as a competitor as any other factor.

As the administrator and chief fundraiser for an organization that just purchased a new fleet of boats I will quickly agree that I am not thrilled with what I am seeing at these regattas as it relates to the care of other people's equipment. And I agree that we need to do something about that!

However, high school sailing is also mostly about education. Are we solving our problem through teaching by eliminating the fact that it is "other people's equipment." Learning to prepare, respect and care for equipment is an important lesson and learning to do so in the context of rotated boats is even more important. Many of these kids have been taught to respect their own "hard earned" assets but somewhere the lessons didn't make it to having the same concern for community property. This is not human nature; this is learned

Continued on Page 12

CLASSIFIED ADS

Readers of the ISSA Newsletter are invited to send us ads for our Classified Section. They must be of interest to school sailors, coaches, advisors, etc., and be subject to editing. Classifieds can be used to find or sell boats, give learning opportunities for school sailors, and offer sailing instructor employment. There is no cost to ISSA members for one-time publication of Classified ads. All others: \$25.00 pre-paid per issue.

INSTRUCTORS: Sailing/water skiing at top Maine children's camps offering Sunfish and master crafts. Contact Geoffrey Newman, 2914 Medinah St. Weston, FL 33332

RACING COACHES/INSTRUCTORS WANTED: YMCA Camp Letts on Chesapeake Bay is looking for enthusiastic sailors to team youth 8-16 in Lasers, Bytes, Optimists, Flying Scots, windsurfers, and 25' sloops. Offering room/board, competitive salaries, and pre- and post-season employment opportunities. Contact: Ian Fallon, PO Box 208, Edgewater, MD 21037 Tel: 410-798-0440 or e-mail irfallon@annapolis.net

ASA CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS WANTED at Camp Kinya on Lake Champlain (140 girls, co-ed staff of 60) Experience in c420s, Lasers, etc. Room, board, and excellent salary. Eight weeks to begin June 15. Contact: 802-893-7849 or e-mail Kinya@webtv.net

WANTED: USED LASER SPARS, SAIL, AND BLADES for use on "cruising Laser." Cost more important than condition. Wear, tear, and repairable damage okay. Will pick-up anyplace between DC and Boston. Contact green.end@home.com

ELECTRIC STARTING SYSTEM

THE RACE STARTER is a battery-powered automatic race starting clock and horn signal providing up to 40 3-minute sequences or 200 10-minute sequences per battery charge. Boxed in water-proof container with two separate trumpet horns.

ECOH SYSTEMS Ollie Wallock, 413-782-8431
<http://www.echosystems.com/>



We are proud to support
HIGH SCHOOL SAILING

West Marine is partnering with the InterScholastic Sailing Association, Inc. (ISSA) to encourage high school sailing.

To give more kids the opportunity to learn to sail, West Marine will provide \$500 equipment grants for new high school sailing teams registered through ISSA.

Over 235 stores to serve you
1-800-BOATING
www.westmarine.com



West Marine
We make boating more fun!