



# THE COMMUNIQUE

*Monthly Newsletter of the NorthWest Sailing Association*

April 2022

A Happy (Hoppy) April to everyone! As we can see in the pictures, winter has not quite relinquished her vice-like grip on the Great Lakes!

Still, we had many adventurous sailors voyaging out to our “Wish I Were Sailing Party” and to Larsen Marine’s Open House. I hear some people even bought a boat!

## **Important Dates & Info!**

**Monday April 18th at 7pm**

**General Club Meeting In-Person at  
The Arlington Heights Historical Society**

**110 W Fremont St**

**Arlington Heights, IL 60004**

**Also Available via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81165798529>

**Meeting ID: 811 6579 8529**



**From the deck of the display Jeanneau they all look  
like little cold ants!**



## Commodore Wayne Smith



The covers are coming off, the boats are slowly getting waxed, and prepped for the upcoming season. This is an exciting time of the year for me, especially this year. We have a whole year ahead of us to do whatever we want. This is also a great time to think about renewing your membership and becoming a part of this great sailing community. I know sometimes we forget, but there's a lot of upcoming sails this year, meetings, and general socializing to be had. It was great seeing everybody at Yachtapalooza, I wish I was sailing party, Larsen's open house, and at the general meetings that we've had so far. I'm looking forward to the upcoming season and seeing you all on the water and at socializing events.

Wayne Smith

Commodore



**Fun Fact:** Did you know that there are some weirdos out there who enjoy racing on the ice? Their boats can exceed 80 mph! That's gotta be like driving your convertible with the top down in Chicago January! I'm going to pass on this pastime. Thanks to Donna P (and WTTW) for this informative look at people who are apparently cold-blooded!



**Vice Commodore**

**Tom Steider**



## Ahoy April Club Members!

A few months ago, I began looking to purchase a sailboat. I found the search process to be very challenging on where and how to go about finding a boat. I thought I would share my experience to assist any of you who may be looking to buy a boat. First, I would recommend, if possible, to begin your search in Summer or Fall while boats are still in the water. It is difficult and uncomfortable climbing ladders and under tarps to adequately view a boat. While some boats may be stored indoors, the vast majority are outside in the cold.

I basically used three approaches in conducting my search. First was to access online websites listing sailboats for sale. The websites I found to be the most comprehensive are: Boat Trader, YachtWorld, Sailboat Listings, Craigslist, and Facebook (Great Lakes Boats for Sale – Group).

Secondly, I leveraged my sailing network of friends from NWSA, Sail Chicago and other personal acquaintances. They provided me with many leads of people planning to sell their boat.

Lastly, I contacted local sailboat dealerships (used and new) and provided them with information on the type of boat I was looking for. I strongly suggest establishing a relationship with the boat sales dealers as they can alert you in advance of a boat that is coming on the market. This is extremely valuable in a tight sailboat market. These are the local sailboat dealers I have been interacting with that have both new and used sailboat inventory: Larsen's Marine – Waukegan Harbor, Crowley's Marine – Chicago, Nautical Donations (used boats only) - Chicago.

While I reached out to some sailboat brokers, I did not have much success in getting their assistance. This was primarily due to the fact they deal with the 'higher end' market of larger and more expensive boats than what I was looking for.

These are just a few of many sources you can use in your sailboat search. I would like your comments on other sources you may have used.

Happy Sailing  
Tom

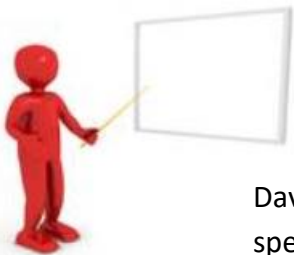


## Purser's Report

Hoai Ha



NWSA STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES			
March 31, 2022			
Beginning Balance			\$4,556.90
Income			
		Amount	Total
Membership		\$660.00	
Ship's Store		\$0.00	
Membership Directory		\$0.00	
50/50 Raffle and donation		\$26.00	
		\$0.00	
Total Revenue			\$686.00
Expenses			
	Check #	Amount	Total
Monthly Bank Fee		\$12.00	
Member Reimbursements		\$322.14	
Total Expense		\$322.14	\$334.14
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets			\$351.86
Ending Balance			
			\$4,908.76



### The Stage is Set for Monday's Guest Speaker!!!!

Dave Brezina who is Secretary of the Chicago Harbor Safety Committee (CHSC) will be speaking about the CHSC and safe boating practices in the Chicago Harbors. Dave is a sailor, Coast Guard licensed Captain, and past Commodore of Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club.



**Fleet Captain:**  
**Lorraine Klabunde**



In a little more than one month, we'll be hoisting our NWSA sails. Yea!

Our first official club outing is scheduled for May 21 out of the North Harbors-Waukegan, North Point, Kenosha, and Racine.

The sail descriptions are posted on the next page of the Communique.

**Sign-up for the first group of sails (and other events),** through July 10, is shown **online under EVENTS.**

(For any members who have difficulty signing up for the sails under the EVENTS heading, please contact me or any members of the Board.)

Although a very brief description of each sail is posted online, more descriptive details will be provided in the Communique. Most sails have a gathering time of 10:30AM but the final decision for the meeting time and "afterwards" will be decided by the cruise captain and skippers and communicated to the crew one or two days before the sail.

Skippers and crew, I **strongly encourage** signing up for the sails as soon as possible. Early sign-up truly expedites the responsibilities of the Cruise Captain for providing assignments to various boats. And... speaking of Cruise Captains, they are the linchpin for the sails. And here is where I encourage those who have not held this position before to volunteer for the upcoming season. Serving as a Cruise Captain is a great way to meet other members and provide volunteer time for our volunteer organization. The responsibilities for this position are listed step-by-step in the membership directory and involve a minimal amount of phone time/online emails or texts.

So, with Covid almost out of sight (fingers crossed), hopefully this year will provide greater opportunities for sailing and social gatherings. Of course, there's always the weather but optimistically speaking, here's to a great season of sailing, socializing, and many pink skies at night...you know the rest.

Lorraine Klabunde, Fleet Captain

# THE NWSA SAIL DESCRIPTIONS



**“Well, it’s a big pretty sail that is grayish-white and looks like a triangle shaped curtain!” -Johnny**

## **MAY 21- NORTH HARBORS SAIL**

An early season opener for the skippers of the North Harbors-Northpoint Marina, Waukegan, Kenosha, and Racine. This will be the first "Shakedown" sail of the season, getting out the cobwebs (or bird's nests), from the winter storage, and finishing some of the finer details of the Spring tune-up. As with our June 11 sail, this could be a great opportunity to learn many of the necessary “tricks of the sailing trade” for preparing a boat for smooth sailing in the summer ahead. And, depending on what mother nature provides, it could also be an enjoyable brisk late Spring sail on Lake Michigan.

## **JUNE 11: ALL HARBORS SHAKEDOWN SAIL**

Scheduled for June 11, our second sail of the season will involve both Chicago and northern harbors. For some of our skippers who launched their boats in April, their shakedown sails are history. But for many of our members, this will be the first sail of the season and perhaps an opportunity for crew to learn some of the elements and refinements involved in the finishing touches of the Spring launch. Some skippers may be looking for help launching their boat and "taking it upriver," so keep an eye out for any blasts or invitations in the Chat room on the front NWSA website.

## **JUNE 18: KENOSHA HARBOR; MEMORIAL SAIL**

June 18 is the first of our Kenosha sails. Kenosha currently supports the majority of the boats in NWSA fleet and has many opportunities for a variety of after- sail gatherings. The sail this year will be our first Memorial Sail commemorating the past members who have given significantly to NWSA not only by donating time as skippers, cruise captains, and Board members but by personally mentoring many of the members over many years and making themselves available for everything from boat launching to sanding bottoms (of boats) and personally teaching the many aspects of sailing, boat maintenance, and essentially the love of sailing. Assayo, our Social Director, will be providing more information in an upcoming Communique.

## **JUNE 25: ALL HARBORS**

The weekend of June 25, the world, and more specifically NWSA celebrates SAILSTICE WEEKEND. "Sail locally, celebrate globally" is the established motto for this weekend. Scheduled on the Saturday closest to the summer solstice, Sailstice celebrates internationally the joy, exhilaration, and beauty found out on the water and in our sailing adventures. A second purpose of the weekend is to promote, share, and grow sailing across the globe and to encourage anyone who thinks they might remotely consider sailing, to give it a try. Depending on the sign-up for this sail, co-cruise captains would be beneficial.





## Social Director Asayo Horibe



### Party Notes

What a party! Through wind, snow and 40 degrees, about 30 intrepid sailors showed up to celebrate our I WISH I WERE SAILING PARTY. They came from the city, the suburbs of Illinois and even from the wilds of Wisconsin. We had the best cuisine from the NWSA chefs, with yummy appetizers, chili, beers, wine, soda, desserts of cheesecake, cookies, coffee, tea, and fruit. We miss many folks who could not attend and hope that as the sailing season arrives, members will show up to help rig our boats, launch our boats, and join the continuing festivities after a day of sailing on the waters.

Thank you to George and Sally, Conrad, new member Mary McCarter; and M@L Donna Prestel, and Linda Bezac for their help in setting up and clean up. Thank you to Commodore Wayne and everyone who also helped and made this a fun event.

All attendees expressed appreciation for a great venue.

A new member arrived, Benjamin Foroush (sp?), and he was invited on by Public Relations.

A guest showed up at 6pm because he misread the flyer. He came all the way from Elgin. He was welcomed and offered some appetizers.

We enjoyed a wonderful party, and everyone headed home while it was still daylight.

While we enjoyed a great party in Kenosha at Southport Marina, Conrad, Mary, Donna and I arrived in Evanston only to go out for dinner at a very nice Italian restaurant.

Thank you everyone for a great gathering. NWSA is a social sailing club. We love sailing, like to party, want to share our sport with those who want to learn and enjoy our sails. Let's keep doing what we enjoy and set an example of friendship, cordiality, and welcome.

Fair winds to all,

Asayo, social director



**Fun people, delicious food, and our Evanston Italian restaurant!**



## Technology

### Joyce Clifford



Your boat just hit a partially submerged floating cargo container that must have fallen off the cargo ship we saw at a distance while crossing Lake Michigan. Our boat is beginning to take on water and sink. You need to make a Mayday call!

There is a "procedure" for sending out a distress call. All you really need to know is to turn your VHF radio to Channel 16 and set it at the highest power setting (strongest signal). Key the mike by pressing the talk button and say one of the three phrases three times (discussed latter). Provide your position / location and situation information. Most VHF radios on recreational boats are simplex (vs duplex). That means only one person can speak at a time. You must release the push to talk button when finished speaking and listen for a response. It helps to say "over" when you are finished speaking, so the person at the other end knows you are finish speaking and can reply.

Here's a hypothetical MAYDAY call from a 36-foot sailing vessel, Caribbean Soul (reference to real people, events and boat name is purely coincidental 😊)

"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday. This is the Caribbean Soul. Our position is 42 degrees, 32.147 minutes north; 84 degrees, 48.996 minutes west. We are sinking." Remember every radio is different, some display Lat / Long in decimal degrees like 42.536 degrees west, 32.817 north or in degrees, minutes, and seconds.

Try to speak slowly and clearly. Repeat this information three times, then release the push to talk button. The essential information is "Mayday", your position, and your emergency. If you have time, describe your boat and how many are aboard:

"We are a 36-foot sailing vessel, white hull and sails, and teal Bimini with three adults, all wearing life jackets."

If someone is injured, mention that. If you don't get an immediate response, continue to periodically send out a Mayday broadcast as long as the radio will function, taking care to give your position with every transmission. If time permits, scan through the other channels and interrupt any radio traffic you hear with your Mayday broadcast. If you don't hear traffic, try transmitting on Coast Guard Channel 22A.

Sending out a Mayday call is only to be used for when a person, or boat is threatened by grave or imminent danger, and requires assistance.

The other two calls are PAN-PAN and SECURITE.

PAN-PAN - (pronounced pahn-pahn) is used to signal urgent information, like when someone has fallen overboard, or a boat is drifting onto shore or into a busy shipping channel. If your emergency isn't immediately life threatening, say Pan-Pan instead of Mayday.

SECURITE - (pronounced sea-cur-i-tay) is the safety signal. This is used to transmit information about the safety of navigation. For instance, if a large commercial vessel is coming into the Kenosha Harbor Channel, or a log is floating that would severely damage a vessel. Then this signal would be used. It can also be used to transmit weather information, such as when a powerful storm system is approaching.

Let's all hope we never have to use these calls. But now we are prepared to effectively communicate in case we do.





## The Ship's Store

George and Sally Andersson



**NWSA caps** \$15

**NWSA T-shirts** \$12 available sizes: small, medium, and XL

**Burgees** \$18

**Patches** \$2

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary shot glasses** \$5

Our latest addition **Pens with stylus** (1) for \$3 or (2) for \$5



Get these items before they sell out!

April Fools! We have plenty in stock.



**N**



**W**



**S**



**A**

Now, where did I leave off last time.... Oh Yes!

# Nautical Flag History: Nautical Flag Meanings & International Signals Part 2!!!

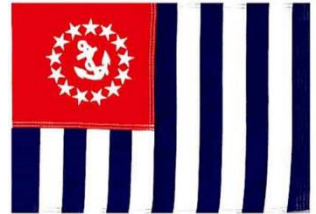
## Nautical Boating Flags

Flags are used to identify a vessel. The three flags traditionally used are:

- The national ensign (country)
- The yacht club burgee (fleet)
- A private signal (master)

These are used primarily on recreational vessels. Some boaters are criticized for using flags too recreationally as flags should only be used to send a message about the boat such as:

- Nationality
- Maneuvering situation
- Club affiliation
- Office held



## Identification Flags

The preferred United States national ensign is a “50-star” or “Old Glory” flag. The ensign is used to represent the country of the vessel’s registry. In domestic waters, some vessels prefer to fly the following:

- **U.S. Yacht Ensign:** Features a blue canton with 13 white stars surrounding an anchor atop horizontal red and white stripes.
- **U.S. Power Squadron Ensign:** A red canton with 13 white stars surrounding an anchor atop vertical white and blue stripes. This flag can be flown on boats with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Ensign (a blue ensign) to indicate the owner is affiliated with both the U.S. and the Coast Guard.

## Warning Flags

Other flags used on recreation vessels are intended to serve as warning to other vessels:

- Hurricane Warning Flag announces that sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are expected within the coastal area.
- Skin Diver Down River Flag is legally required to be used by divers to indicate their activities and diving area.
- **Fun & Fish Flags**
  - Some flags are used to serve a more decorative purpose. For example, the Jolly Roger, or pirate flag, famously features skull and crossbones on black canvas. Originally used to indicate no mercy when taking over ships, many who fly a Jolly Roger do so for sport, though only in domestic waters.

Other novelty flags include: 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Flag, Beer Flag, Coffee Time Flag, Cocktail Flag, over 30 different Fish Flags (based on what you are good at catching).

# Messages in Bottles

## CREW WANTED!

I am sailing my SWAN 411 sailboat from Rhode Island to Monroe Harbor in Chicago, Illinois. I am looking for crew to help on this adventure. It would be great if you could do one or more legs of the trip or the entire trip.

I plan to leave around May 15, 2022, but dates are flexible! The tentative schedule follows.

1st Leg: RI to Hudson River-4 days

2nd Leg: Hudson River-Erie Canal-4 days

3rd Leg: Erie Canal-Buffalo NY-9 days

4th Leg: Buffalo NY-Lake Huron (through Lake Erie)-2 days

5th Leg: Lake Huron-Mac Island-5days

6th Leg: Lake Michigan-Monroe Harbor-5 days

Interested parties please inquire for more information from Richard Reed at [ricre2@aol.com](mailto:ricre2@aol.com) or 312-922-5381

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Joyce (Our Lady of Perpetual Technology) would like to share

It is the story of Pete Schleck's Caribbean sail that he discussed with us at the March NWSA meeting.

Since it's a 44-page article, we will provide the link in the Communique (see next line)

[http://nwsail.com/Joomla3/index.php?option=com\\_attachments&task=download&id=572](http://nwsail.com/Joomla3/index.php?option=com_attachments&task=download&id=572) (Told ya)

I've included this article in our Club Presentations section of the website.

I also promoted the article within our "Announcement" section of the website.

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**From Debbie Garrity (yes, THAT Debbie Garrity!) and our friends at Corinthian Yacht Club**

<http://www.corinthian.org/>

### Adult Sailing Registration Open - New slots will be opening soon



If you are interested in registering for our Adult sailing courses, please checkout our website!

While most classes have filled up, we are going to be releasing additional sessions very soon..

See the website for detailed scheduling.

[Adult Sailing Registration Information](#)



## Librarian

### Robbie Leighton



## Welcome to the NEW NWSA Library

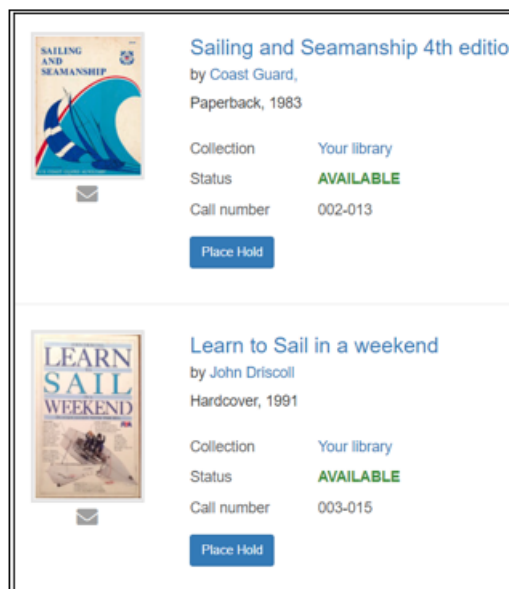
Many thanks to the former Librarians Paul Del Monaco and Larry Gulotta who did all the hard work in setting up the cataloging system and entering the books. A special thanks to our Technology Director, Joyce Clifford, who did all the behind-the-scenes magic to make this all happen. Below is a flow diagram which outlines the steps for the new system. This is our first step in making our Library a state-of-the-art information system. Many more improvements are on the drawing boards. Until then... Happy Reading



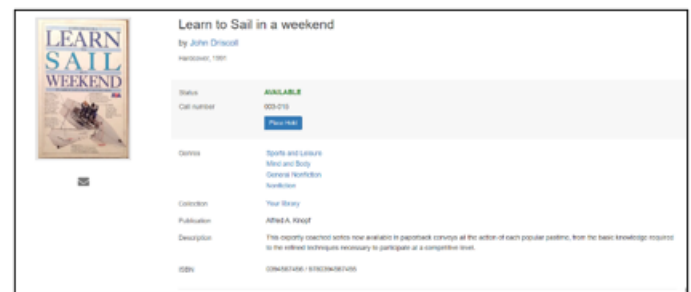
1. Click on the Tiny Cat link in the Resource Section.



2. In Tiny Cat, you have 3 options. Perform a Search, click on a scrolling book cover, or click on the link below the search bar to view the cover page of all books.



3. If you enter a search word or phrase, Tiny Cat will show you all the books meeting that criteria. Click on the book if you want to see more detail.



4. You can read the details about a book. If you like it, click on place hold.

Who is checking it out?

A	B	C	D	E	G	H	J	K	L	M	N
P	R	S	T	W							

A

George Anderson	Sally Anderson	Rodica Andone
-----------------	----------------	---------------

B

Tish Baker	John Bardin	Joyce Bardin	Conrad Bazyjewski
Dale Bennett	Casey Bezec	Linda Bezec	Elizabeth Bishop
Owen Brodeur	Don Buell	Jan Buell	Kenneth Butler

Patron placed a hold on *Learn to Sail in a weekend*

OK

Nonfiction

6. Success! You placed a book on hold. It will be delivered by the Librarian.

5. Find your name & click on it to identify who is checking out the book. This screen will send an email to the Librarian notifying them that you wish to check out the book.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=CWAfqlFL1jo>

Ummm, that's it? I kind of thought with that title there would be a little bit more to it.....

No, no, it's okay. I mean, I guess I should have read it before putting in the lightning bolts and all that.

We'll just chalk this up to a learning experience on my part.

I learned not to pre-emptively use my lightning bolts and

How to dock..... **LIKE A BOSS!**





**Member At Large:**

**Donna Prestel**



**MAY 14, 2022**



**Don't Miss the Boat!**

**[Register Now!](#)**

<https://mwsc.wildapricot.org/>

## A Welcoming Community

Discussions about who attends a women's sailing conference have become more complex as new understandings of gender emerge. The MWSC was created so that women, often marginalized in the world of sailing, have a space to find support and grow in their sport. Because of that history, we realize that there are other genders who need the same opportunity. We welcome all people of non-male gender identities to attend the conference and to be part of our community.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

## Support Our Silent Auction

Do you have an item you'd like to donate to our silent auction or raffle? Something from your business... something you made... an experience you could share. Perhaps you'd be willing to reach out to the companies you often buy from and ask for a donation. Or maybe a spouse/partner or other family member. As we often say, "Ask those who owe you, and those who love you!"

We plan to open the online auction on May 9th and appreciate any items or gift certificates by April 22nd so that we have time to process and post them. If you have something you'd like to donate, please contact

Micki Reinardy to make arrangements. And thank you!

## Weather on the Water is Back!

Learn how to understand and use the right information to make good decisions about pending weather conditions – for you, your boat, and your crew. Read the clouds, sky, and wind to predict what is coming and prepare. Discuss how to stay informed and exercise good judgement for a great safe-boating experience whether cruising or racing.

Instructor Rebecca Hansen is a meteorologist for the Milwaukee/Sullivan National Weather Service Office in Dousman, WI. There, she helps her team provide weather support for 20 counties in southern and eastern Wisconsin along with the open waters of Lake Michigan and the nearshore waters from Sheboygan to Winthrop Harbor.

**When:** Sunday, May 15th **from 10 a.m. to noon**

**Where:** **South Shore Yacht Club**, 2300 E. Nock St, Milwaukee

**Cost:** **\$30 per person**

Main registration is limited to 2022 Conference attendees, but they may bring one guest (of any gender).

Your registration fee includes a hot buffet brunch with a variety of options suitable for most dietary restrictions. If you have not registered for the Conference yet, add the Sunday brunch/class to your main registration. If you have already registered, and would like to attend the Sunday program, [contact us](#) and we'll add it for you.



## Public Relations

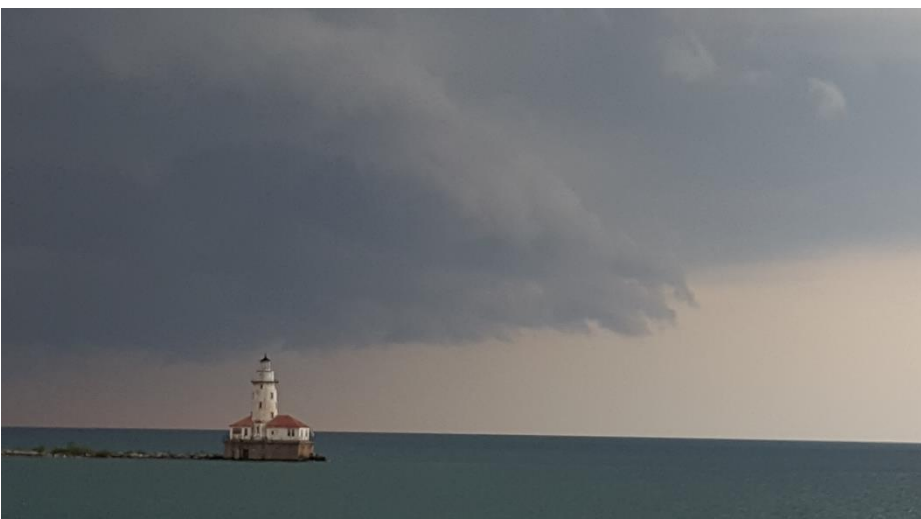
Jason Taylor



I used to paint all through high school and college, then I just gave it up as the brooding artist lifestyle doesn't fit in with today's corporate America.

Five years ago, for my birthday I was given a simple paint set in the hopes that doing something with creativity will help me deal with my hatred of work and overtime work. My first painting (on the left) turned out to be pretty "meh." We went on a week's vacation to Florida, and I decided to try again. It seems my memories of how to paint returned after the practice run; because the paint and the brush started doing what I told them to do, and my second painting is (what we in the business call) a "vast improvement."

There are lot of lessons we can take away from the story; always try again, don't let your failures define you, and always strive to do better. But the most important lesson is: go on vacation to some place warm!



**"Well, at least it's warm!" – Jason's famous last words**

## Excited To Join?

Fill out the form with a check made payable to NWSA, and mail it or bring it with you to the next meeting!



**Membership Application**  
Membership open to those 18 years old and older  
Northwest Sailing Association  
P.O. Box 921, Arlington Heights, IL 60006

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name for Badge (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name for Badge (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Partner's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership: (Circle one)    Single (\$40.00)    or    Family (\$50.00)  
Referred by (New Members Only) \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you want to be removed from the online directory (Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_  
Rating Scale #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner's Rating Scale #2: \_\_\_\_\_

### Crew / Skipper Information / Availability

- |   |                                   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NWSA Events only | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends | <input type="checkbox"/> Any Time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weeknights       | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekdays |                                   |

### Boat Owners:

Boat Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Boat Length: \_\_\_\_\_  
Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Moored? \_\_\_\_\_ Trailered? \_\_\_\_\_  
If moored, which harbor? \_\_\_\_\_ Slip Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
If trailered, will you bring your boat to a club sailing event? Yes or No



### RATING SCALE

1. I have no sailing experience, but I want to learn.
2. I'm learning knots, parts of a sailboat, and the points of sail as well as helm a sailboat with supervision.
3. I can handle halyards, sheets, winches, cleat lines, and tie basic knots-stopper, square, clove hitch and bowline.
4. I can trim sails, I know "Boating Rights of Way" and when/how to make a mayday call on VHF radio.
5. I can help in/out of slip or secure on/off mooring lines and set/weigh anchor.
6. I can helm, tack, jibe, heave to, reef sails and give instructions to crew.
7. I can helm a MOB person overboard recovery.
8. I can read and understand nautical charts and sail by compass, plot and record course using speed, time and heading with standardized notation.
9. I'm competent in heavy weather sailing and night sailing
10. I can operate various marine electronics and engines and I'm experienced in all aspects of sailing solo.