



POINT OF PITTSBURGH SAILING LEAGUE

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Sailing Close Hauled

“A sailing program serving Pittsburgh area high school students and others”

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Rain and weather conditions have not dampened interest

Rain and storms were a Wednesday routine for most of July. We worked to meet the challenge of multiple rainouts with indoor instruction at the Carnegie Science Center. **O**utreach efforts continue in recruitment of students including a new application display at the portable sailing platform. **A**s a part of our commitment to “safety first” the Point of Pittsburgh Sailing League is looking at ways to protect against concussions while sailing.



Rain, rain and more rain has been the story of sailing in July. With adverse weather conditions, instruction has been moved inside for most of the month. We deeply appreciate our partnership with the Carnegie Science Center that permits us to move inside during adverse weather conditions. While the rain finally stopped, river current was still too high for sailing. But we were able to do tiller drills with the sailboat secured to the dock.



Our outreach efforts to recruit additional students continue. An application display has been added to our portable sailing platform (see photo). We also continue to refill our previously installed business card display. Social media has also helped to spread the word, especially our website that continues to generate increased online visits.



An emerging issue of youth sailing is concussions caused by head impacts with booms (the horizontal pole on the mainsail). It should be noted that one of the safety features of the RS Quest is that the boom is significantly higher than most other sailing dinghies. Some sailing programs are looking at helmets to eliminate concussions; however, there can remain the issue of impact at the vulnerable lower back neck area. PPSL is testing out boom padding that is being explored as a safety measure by other sailing programs.

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