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Take the Helm®

Official Newsletter of the National Women's Sailing Association

JULY 2020



National Women's Sailing Association
ON LINE EXPO

A triumphant expression of approval!

We hope you were able to enjoy the full OLÉ — On Line Expo programs on both June 6 and 7. Once the decision was firm to go virtual, we were able to take advantage of the fact travel would be unnecessary. We sought out round table speakers, She Sailor Sea Story tellers, and presenters from around the country and even from outside the US borders.

Saturday was special to me personally. I was delighted when OLÉ chair, Shirley Cassara suggested a theme, “Going Green on the Deep Blue” for the then in-person conference. Ocean protector, Rachael Zoe Miller was secured as our keynote speaker. She was fantastic. We built on her as a solid green foundation.

The Pacific Northwest offered up a big contingent of fabulous sailing instructors; Nancy Erley, Linda Newland, Behan Gifford (from Port Townsend but on her boat in the Baja) and Margaret Pommert, the Boat US / NWSA 2020 Leadership in Women's Sailing Award recipient. They all stepped up to offer live learning experiences and videos to attendees. The video offerings came from all directions as well. The new video library has enough content to keep sailing learners happy — even with a bit of binge watching. And we plan to continually add new content to the instructional library. Help us out. Let us know what you would like to learn. And if you are a woman sailing instructor and want a chance to try using video, we will be happy to help with production tips as well as editing. NWSA will do our best to bring our members the content you want.

During OLÉ NWSA addressed two big sailing related issues women care about; the environment and diversity and inclusion. The Diversity in Sailing round table spurred introspection and conversation. I believe the frank discussion has set a course to navigate towards some needed changes. NWSA wants things to look different in sailing, we want our sisters of color to have the same opportunities for equity in sailing as we white women have fought for and received. Together we can progress towards equitable inclusion and opportunity. Please log in to our

Continued on page 2



Events for Women Sailors

Monday 6th July

How much has changed in the 30 years since Maiden?

Monday 13th July

The Maiden Factor and Girls' Education

Monday 20th July

Why was Maiden successful?

Monday 27th July

The Making of Maiden (film)

Monday 3rd August

Round Up



National Women's Sailing Association
ON LINE EXPO

Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Womens-Sailing-FoundationNational-Womens-Sailing-Association-tion-175044185840300/>

Check out our website and blog

<https://www.womensailing.org/blog/>

OLÉ Report Continued

members portal watch and rewatch the diversity and inclusion portion of OLÉ. Also take a few minutes to read Behan Gifford's follow up article in Cruising World. Sailors know how to fix things. Let's make these racial repairs — not just temporary jury-rigging to barely make it to the next port — but rather let's strengthen our rigging with inclusion. In doing so, we can sail anywhere. Also take a few minutes to read Behan Gifford's follow up article where she beautifully articulates the work we should all take on at <https://www.cruisingworld.com/story/people/sailing-totem-offshore-crewing-inclusion/>

Even The Johnson Girls joined in to share a selection of a cappella sea shanty's, working songs of the great age of sail. And if you want a bit more of sailing themed entertainment while you are logged in, you can catch up on the episodes of She Sailor Sea Story. Enjoy, think about your own story-worthy experiences sailing, craft a She Sailor Sea Story and submit for an upcoming date. We provide a safe supportive space for telling your short sea story. We will continue the program monthly, as soon as we catch our breath and have some technical issues with our website ironed out.

Yes, there was a downside for doing a lot with a little of both time and resources. We experienced website problems. Not everyone was effected, but for anyone who had problems signing on as a member, please accept my personal apology. What we did was technically challenging. The snags we had were identified as they popped up, then resolved as best we could manage, as quickly as possible. (Work is on going.) We were adversely effected by stresses of doing business in the era of Covid19. Solutions took more time. Some issues required big solutions. Soon after the OLÉ weekend, we began the process of trouble shooting our new plug ins, then began a migration of our website. The disruption in service set us back, and we are sorry if you could not log on and enjoy for a time, but we are weathering the rough patch.

We promise, all OLÉ content, along with on demand videos, will be fully available to our valued members as soon as possible. If you have future issues logging into the member's area, email wsf@womensailing.org.

We are ready to help.



BoatU.S. and NWSA

NWSA participates in the BoatU.S. Cooperating Group Program. That means that NWSA members are eligible for BoatU.S. membership at \$15, rather than the regular annual \$24 dues rate. We receive announcements with information that we pass on to you the member through our own website or our e-Breeze emails.

Other benefits include:

- 24/7 Towing Dispatch to over 600 towboats 300+ ports
- Roadside Assistance while trailering your boat
- Discounts on fuel, transient slips, repairs and more at 1,000+ boating businesses
- 6 issues the award-winning BoatUS Magazine
- Access to Boat Insurance from dedicated experts
- The Boater's Advocate - from local issues to Capitol Hill
- Highest level of shopping rewards West Marine
- Travel discounts from Star Clippers, The Moorings and more
- Discount on custom boat lettering and registration number

You can sign up for a BoatU.S. membership on line at www.boatus.com/member. Give NWSA's Group ID number **GA 84104B** when prompted to receive the special discounted rate.

Or call BoatU.S. membership services toll free number 800-395-2628.



Margaret Pommert Leadership in Women's Sailing Award

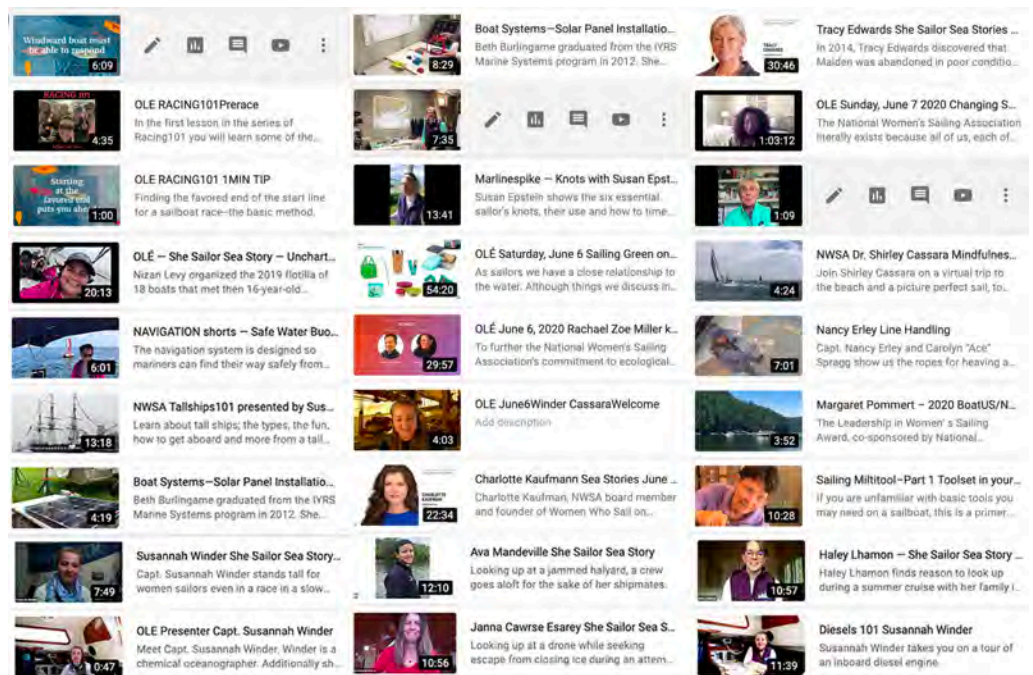
It was good fortune for NWSA, and by extension everyone attending OLÉ, that the Leadership in Women's Sailing Award recipient, Margaret Pommert, had recently completed course work in the



delivery of on-line education, and had a growing record of delivering quality virtual training for boating. That accomplishment was a footnote in her extraordinary sailing resume. Just eleven days after she was informed of her selection, NWSA came to the difficult decision to cancel the in-person conference where she would have received this award. When I called her to relay the disappointing news, she offered to jump in and help. She has been a cheerleader and hands-on asset for leading NWSA to deliver OLÉ. Thank you to Margaret for contributing and her optimism.

FABULOUS VIDEO LIBRARY HERE NOW... AND GROWING!

Below is a sampling of a wider selection of sailing related videos now in the NWSA members library: racing, safety, knots, boat systems, navigation, prepping for off-shore, and more — all with women presenters and instructors.



Making Changes Come About®

For the Girls

NWSA continues to identify new opportunities beyond the AdventureSail® program. Scholarship funds are available to assist girls who, after participating in an AdventureSail® event, have expressed a desire to take lessons in a sailing program. Two scholarship funds are available — Lean to Sail and Sue Corl Scholarship to assist girls. Information on the scholarship program can be found at www.womensailing.org/scholarships.htm.

You may send tax deductible contributions to:
Women's Sailing Foundation

c/o Barbara Robinson
Treasurer NWSA
300 S Broadway -
Apt 4A
Tarrytown NY 10591

Donations can also be made on our website at the bottom of the main page or most other top level pages.

What's up, while we are in.

Sailing during a pandemic is doable and safe to an extent. Some clubs are hosting single- and double-handed beer can races. My husband and I have double-handed just to go sailing and enjoy the coastal waters. NWSA has the health safety of our members as a priority. For the foreseeable future we will happily offer learning, sharing and community on line. For the time being though all our in person events are postponed or canceled.

Here's some of our (virtual) plans for the summer and beyond as necessary. We hope to bring you live events using Zoom and other platforms.

* **We will post five episodes of Maiden Monday's**, a series in cooperation with Tracy Edwards of the Maiden Factor and Women Who Sail. The goal of the weekly series is to raise money for the **MAIDEN WORLD TOUR**. Maiden is sailing to 40 destinations in 20 countries around the world, with a mission of supporting and working with community programs worldwide which empower and enable girls to obtain education. In return for their chance to have an audience of women sailors who can pitch in financially, NWSA members will enjoy stories of their journey and get a chance to ask questions of skippers, crew, mile builders, filmmakers, volunteers and girls' mentors. Here's the proposed schedule (subject to change). If you miss the live Monday events you can catch Maiden Monday approximately 48 hours later. Watch at your leisure as a NWSA member. Log in to womensailing.org for video of all episodes.



Monday 6th July — How much has changed in the 30 years since Maiden?

Tracy Edwards Skipper
Nikki Henderson The Maiden Factor Skipper
Courtney Koos Current Crew • Theresa Reidl Mile builder

Monday 13th July — The Maiden Factor and Girls' Education

Tracy Edwards Skipper
Annie O'Sullivan Next Maiden Skipper and Girls' mentor
Amalia Infante Current Crew (Camera woman)
Kenza Salem Maiden Volunteer (Seattle)

Monday 20th July — Why was Maiden successful?

Sally Hunter Crew
Mikaela Von Koskull Crew • Angela Heath Crew

Monday 27th July — The Making of Maiden (film)

Joanna Gooding Camera woman
Tanja Visser Stills • Katie Bryer Film Editor

Monday 3rd August — Round Up

Tracy Edwards Skipper
Erica Lush Current Crew • Belle Henry Current Crew
Kaia Bint Savage Current Shore Team

DISCOUNTS FOR NWSA MEMBERS



Members only offer!
Get 10% off

<https://www.women-sailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020-NWSA-Offer-from-Offshore-Sailing-School-Save-10.pdf>



Members only offer!
Get 10% off

TETHYS OFFSHORE

Each trip is 8 nights aboard Tethys and begins and ends in Port Townsend. Three berths for women learning crew are available for each voyage. For more information, to book a passage or to contact Nancy for speaking engagements, contact: phone +1 (206) 789-5118 or nerley@hotmail.com



What's Up Continued from page 4

* *The She Sailor Sea Story series*

is an entertaining chance to experience the full spectrum of human emotion — joy, love, fear, bravery and giddy happiness. We get a good dose of human interaction while story tellers generously share a part of themselves. I find it therapeutic. We will aim to have a Sea Story session once a month. Once we get our website operating as it should, we will announce the schedule. The next session will have the theme “reef.”



* *Commodore's Quarterly*



☆☆☆ for leaders in women sailing. We have begun planning a Commodore's Quarterly, which we see as a platform where leaders can share what has been successful in women's sailing groups and layout how to replicate successful quality programs. It will give young leaders a chance to ask seasoned leaders how they accomplished certain goals, and turn the tables to give young leaders a chance to share fresh ideas. We hope it will bring to the forefront ideas for changes which might be of great importance among leaders across the spectrum of sailing. And develop the tools and experience to make systematic progress and change for the good of the sport and women sailors.

* And *just for fun, with a dash of learning*, we will publish a schedule for combos of video and live learning opportunities followed by good old fashioned social mixing — done on Zoom or Facebook.



If all this sounds great, offer us your help with the planning, hosting, scheduling and production. We would benefit from the help of our membership with live production skills. Let us know how you can help and we will match you with a task that fits your enthusiasm, talents and skills. With many hands we can do more, build friendships and make it fun.

<https://nationalwomens.wpengine.com/new-membership-page-memberpress/>

Join or Renew Your Membership



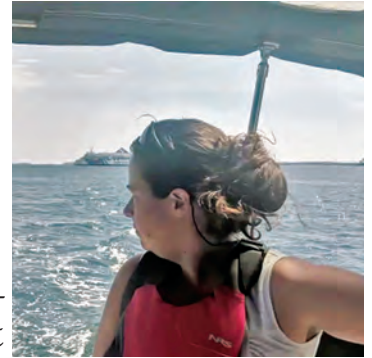
President's Member of the Month

May 2020 — Laura Howell

I exchanged a few emails with Laura Howell before the first She Sailor Sea Story and learned she was a teacher who taught biology on-line as her normal, non-Covid influenced job. I helped Laura get on the invite list for the premier She Sailor Sea Story.

She was not a NWSA member. Later anyone who attended learned Laura had a talent with words and telling a story. She was declared the winner of the first story telling event. With that she earned a NWSA membership and a seed for the OLÉ She Sailor Sea Story session on June 7.

If you missed either of Laura's stories, you can still catch them on our members portal. In her second story she tells how her father lived a life connected to the sea through a career in the Coast Guard, then as an Alaskan fisherman, yet he could not understand Laura's choice to live her life aboard a small sailboat while raising her young daughter alone. Her touching story takes us on a journey of acceptance and love with the common thread of the sea. Somewhat of a tear jerker. We are happy to have Laura aboard as a member and encourage her to keep writing and storytelling. Brava!



June 2020 — Amali Knobloch



As president I began choosing a President's Member of the Month (PMoM). I had Amali firmly in mind for June well before her appearance on the OLÉ diversity panel, so I had to act quickly in order to stay on the right side of my one and only 'rule', that the PMoM could not be on the board. I polled members of our current board and found Amali was thought of as a terrific choice for the Board of Directors. I'm very grateful to long-time board member Susan Epstein, who was willing to step down, to make room for this bright,

enthusiastic, talented and young sailor of color. I chose Amali as the June PMoM for her impressive organizational skills, can-do attitude and astounding work ethic.

When I listened to Amali during the OLÉ diversity panel, I was certain she would help NWSA in ways I had not considered, which is the point for bringing new faces to the board. I'm delighted she said 'yes', agreeing to serve as a 2020-21 Women's Sailing Foundation board member. Congratulations and thank you Amali.

President's Member of the Month - Continued

July 2020 Susan Epstein

Refer to my board member rule stated in Amali's first sentence. Last year Susan offered to step off the WSF/NWSA board. I asked her to stay on. She has been of extraordinary help to me during my terms as Vice President and as President and I couldn't have imagined not having her as an ally. I thought about her offer all year to 'give someone younger a chance' to help make progress.



If you don't know about the sailor, Susan Epstein, you should. We could fill this volume with her accomplishments. Watch her Sea Sailor Sea Story about breaking through all sorts of barriers while taking on jobs no one else wanted. She blazed trails for women in sailing. We all owe Susan a debt of gratitude. She is no longer on the board, but designated as a member emerita. I can think of no one I'd rather have as a member of the month.

Susan is a perfect choice for July. However, with Covid distancing, a celebration in her honor will be slightly dimmed by lack of hugs! But let's still do it virtually! Susan is checking her calendar for a good date to celebrate. I'll make sure everyone is invited to a Zoom cocktail hour in Susan's honor. Write your 15 second speeches to thank Susan for all she has done for NWSA and for women's sailing.

Listen to her Sea Sailor Sea Story here:

<https://womensailing.org/susan-epstien-she-sailor-sea-story/>

Attagirls to all this quarter's PMoMs.

