May 25, 2020

Dear Fellow Fleet Members,

The time has come where we’ve needed to make some decisions about our summer sailing program and I’ll tell you more below about what we can and plan to do this summer. Online registration for our offerings will open on June 1st at https://www.nehss.org/, with lesson availability beginning on July 1st. We are requiring all members to complete our Covid-19 Waiver, which will be a pre-requisite for all summer programming.

I’ll begin with a sad announcement that we will not have our youngest rowers or learn to sail children as a part of our formal programming this summer. The task of trying to keep these young children distanced and apart, keeping them and our staff safe, all while providing a hands-on teaching experience landed us with an impossible mission. The fleet owns 2 Newman rowboats, however, and we are encouraging households to come and use the boats for a family experience of rowing together. For our sailing families, there will be opportunities to get on the water together as well, further explained below.

We will be offering one-on-one lessons for intermediate sailors that want a chance to get on the water this summer. These lessons will be available with the new RS Teras and Optis. We will allow for flexible scheduling, as we have dedicated 4 different time slots of 90 minutes each for signups during the week and can also make weekend instruction available for those that want it. There is time built in between sessions to clean and prepare the equipment for the next sailor. The lessons can be purchased individually, or if you want to realize savings, we have discounted purchase packs of 5 and 10 lessons. The bulk lesson purchase will not need to be scheduled right away, but you can contact me to get lessons booked as they work for your family. Our staff will be fully trained on the new safety protocols we must abide by and will be in a power boat during the instruction to enable safe distancing on the water.

The Sailing School has 4 new RS Ventures, an Areys Pond Catboat and the IOD Magic Bus that are now available, as they won’t be used as planned for our Learn to Sail program. As a result, we’ve offered these boats for charter to households with an experienced captain in 3 hour blocks. There is a morning session from 10:00-1:00 and another from 1:30-4:30 available. We are charging a nominal $75 fee for each charter and if you write a review and share pictures from your first charter of the boat within 24 hours, we’ll waive the fee in exchange. We will have staff to clean and disinfect the boats in between use, so you can be assured that this will be a safe option for your family.

I look forward to meeting everyone this summer and please get in touch with me with any specific questions in regards to your child or personal sailing opportunities. The support and feedback we have received to date shows how much you all truly care about our beloved NEH Fleet and each other. We truly appreciate your understanding with the changes we’ve made for this summer and look forward to what’s ahead, despite the changed landscape. It is our belief that time on the water, spent with family, will help to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Best,

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