



## The Wind Jam

August 27, 2016

Creating a new event is always a challenge. The goal for Wind Jam was to attract adults new to sailing, kids, and boat owners wanting to try a race for the first time, and experienced sailors willing to help others get a feel for sailing around the buoys. We hoped for a sunny day with 5-8 knots of breeze and little chop, making it easy for teaching and learning alike. Well, we got exactly that. Combined with the help of the Windjammers current officers, and past officers Larry Welch and Tom Jenkins, the first annual **Wind Jam** went off smoothly with two races being sailed. For some, being the first two races they have ever sailed. Here is Brendan McCarthy's recount of the day:

*Although Good Girl is a family boat on a weekly basis we swapped out the skipper for WindJam. Charlotte who is 13 has sailed with us since she was an infant, but she rarely wants to helm the boat. WindJam was an opportunity for her to focus on sailing the boat herself and put into practice the lessons that she learned in a Dyer Dhow at Mystic Seaport Sailing Camp.*

*After the first race Charlotte gave up the Helm to Reed MacNaughton who is new to our boat this year. Reed has done some sailing in the past and is interested in finding a club to sail with. Dylan let me know that Reed contacted Windjammers looking for a boat to go out on, and we have had him out on Good Girl for a few Thursday night races this year. WindJam was a great opportunity to hand the helm over to a new crew member. It was a race environment without any stress about performance. The breeze was beautiful and there were teachable moments.*

*We also had enough time between and after the races to go swimming. Andrew who is 10 though that the swim breaks made it the best race day of the year.*

A big thanks and congratulations to all of the sailors. Over the next three years I will be working to grow the **Wind Jam**, to make it an even greater opportunity for people to get the feel of racing for the first time, learn more, and have a good time doing it. Really, a day at the end of the summer all can look forward to.

Dylan Mark  
Fleet Captain Windjammers Sailing Club

