

August Newsletter

1 message

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BLUEFLASH SAILING FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



WORKSHOP SUCESS!

Special thanks goes out to Mark McCuddy for facilitating the haul out of the first four boats at his yard on Tomahawk Island! In the end it took about 30 work hours (thanks to my 6 helpers!) to clean, sand and paint the bottoms. This is critical work to keep the boats in race condition.



FOUR MONTHS IN THE RIVER...

Fresh water is more forgiving than salt by far, but even using the cheap divers/brushes etc, the bottoms become a mess for racing!



PRESSURE WASHING HELPS A BIT...

The bottom is much smoother now, but this stuff is not coming off with a little polish...



SANDING IS HARD WORK!

Sanding with 220/320 grit takes 4 hours of backbreaking work, but done carefully preps the vinylester gelcoat for paint.



ULTRA SMOOTH AND FAST PAINTED!

VC-17 paint is a super thin, super smooth product designed for fresh water racing bottoms. 2 coats takes about an hour to apply.

THE WORKSHOP PROGRAM

The August Workshop attendees learned about the construction of the boats, best practices for maintenance of the bottoms, and options for paint to prevent marine growth.

We plan to organize ongoing workshops to get everyone involved in maintaining the fleet. Did you know that behind the scenes a few of us have been steadily working over the past four months trying to keep up on maintenance? A sustainable program of maintenance will not only involve more people, but teach them the real world skills needed to care for racing sailboats.

Ok, it's not as fun as racing the boats. But I can tell you from experience that virtually all races are won before the start based on proper preparation, including a perfectly prepared boat. There simply are no short cuts, only excuses.

Workshop Schedule will be announced via the crew/skipper whatsapp group and on the website.

FLEET UPDATE

In anticipation of the coming Fall/Winter sailing we are planning to finish painting the last 4 boats and store them on land for the Winter. The 4 active teams will continue to sail, race, and yes, maintain the 4 boats being kept in the water. Special thanks again to Langdon who gave so much time this summer to the program. We wish him well as he bows out to hand over the reigns to our next fleet maintenance manager. Is that you? We would love to hear from anyone with an interest in helping organize our workshops and help us keep tabs on the boat's maintenance. Email Scott.Grealish@Blueflashsailing.org

SKIPPER UPDATE

Congratulations and thanks to the 5 skippers who are guiding the 4 active sailing teams! Although many initially expressed interest in skippering the boats, we have learned that it's a big commitment that takes more time, dedication and expertise than many can afford to bring to the program. We are very gratified that some of these talented sailors are getting on the boats as crew and bringing energy to the program as their time permits.

Look for upcoming Skipper Training Events this Fall/Winter. Our goal is to cultivate a larger Skipper group that is fully versed in the boats, the program, and the responsibilities involved.

CREW UPDATE

We've simplified the program. Want to be crew on a Melges 20? Sign up for a monthly subscription for only \$50. Yep, it's that simple.

CLINIC UPDATE

JOIN US FOR AN ADVANCED CLINIC SEPTEMBER 25-26

Friday will be a classroom session from 6:30-8:30.

Saturday will be a classroom session from 9:30-11:30, followed by on the water drills 12:30-2:30

This clinic is for the active skippers and crew, and any crew interested in advanced topics including full review of the responsibilities of the person in charge, detailed analysis of the tuning/trim of the Melges 20, and boat handling/tactics for racing the Melges 20.

Instructors: Scott Grealish and Kerry Poe

RACING UPDATE

Summer Racing Series wrap up in August, with September offering a chance to practice before the start of the Sailing on Sundays Series that will run until Spring. Our fleet plans to participate in the Sunday series as weather permits.

Meanwhile, at least one boat is heading down to San Diego to participate in the super fun Hot Rum Pursuit Races held by San Diego Yacht Club. These events often get nearly 200 entrants, and the after parties at the club are a blast. We typically sail the Friday before and the Sunday after the race for fun. Interested in getting involved? Email Scott.grealish@Blueflashsailing.org

HELP!

Do you have social media skills? A few hours to give to administrative organization? We need your support! Volunteers gain access to the boats in exchange for their efforts, so let us know if you have the skills and interest we need! Email Scott.grealish@Blueflashsailing.org

