

SEPTEMBER 2026



JUNIOR SAILING ACADEMY BEQUIA NEWSLETTER



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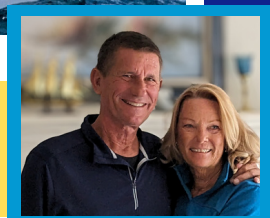
Message from our Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that John Dillon has accepted the position of Executive Director of JSAB, and Darcy Dillon has joined the Board of Directors.

We have made incredible progress with JSAB over the past year, and we want to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed financially and helped make this success possible. Your support has played an important role in helping JSAB grow and move forward.



Coaches Corner John & Darcy Dillon



The past several months have been incredibly busy as we have not only continued coaching but also worked behind the scenes to support its growth and bring our financial and corporate paperwork up to date. These important steps will help ensure that JSAB continues to operate smoothly and successfully for years to come.

We're excited to finally share an update on the activities, projects, and successes we've experienced over the past couple of months.

Thank you for being part of the JSAB community, and we hope you enjoy this update!

Welcome

Welcome to our September JSAB Newsletter!

We hope this newsletter keeps you informed and connected with all that is happening at JSAB. Inside, you'll find updates on our progress, direction, current initiatives, and the needs and priorities that are shaping our work moving forward.



Directors: John & Darcy Dillon



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Fun Outings for our Sailors

Jim Boos Historical Boat Building

During the Easter break, we organized a special visit for our youth to **Jim Boos'** boatbuilding site in Friendship Bay, where a new whale boat is under construction.

Built from original New England plans, with help from **Ross Gannon** with the lofting and other details, the completed boat will closely resemble how the Iron Duke would have looked when she first arrived in Bequia.

Jim gave the youth an excellent tour of the blueprints and construction process, while sharing how these boats were built and operated in the past. The visit gave our youth a deeper appreciation for Bequia's history, traditional boatbuilding, and the skills involved in building these remarkable boats.

They absolutely loved the experience!



**"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not
what ships are built for."**

– John A. Shedd



Fun Outings for our Sailors



S/V Ananda 82' Swan

Another outing over the Easter break, our youth who participated in the Bequia Youth Easter Regatta were invited aboard Ananda, a beautiful 82-foot sailing yacht moored in Admiralty Bay.

Owners **Mark and Beth Stern**, supporters of our JSAB youth, welcomed the group for a tour of the yacht and an introduction to the many career opportunities available in the private yachting industry.

Captain **Kirsty Morrison**, First Mate **Joshua**, and Chef **Greta Gannon** also spent time with the youth, sharing their roles and explaining how the yacht operates. The visit ended with a delicious lunch of sandwiches and other treats aboard.

It was a fun, informative, and memorable experience for our JSAB youth!



**"You can't control the wind, but you can
adjust the sails."
— Ricky Skaggs**





Caribbean Dinghy Championship

Kemuel Bynoe and Keyron Harris will be competing in the Caribbean Dinghy Championship in St Maarten

With the continued improvement and success of our Optimist sailors in local SVG regattas, we felt it was time to give them the opportunity to take their sailing to the next level of competition.

This October, two of our JSAB youth sailors will represent Bequia and SVG at the **Caribbean Dinghy Championship**, an annual event that brings together some of the top youth sailors from across the Caribbean. The championship will take place in St. Maarten from October 23–25 and will provide our sailors with valuable experience competing at a higher level.

A qualification regatta was held in Bequia to determine which two JSAB sailors would represent Bequia and SVG in the Optimist class. At the end of the competition, **Kemuel Bynoe** and **Keyron Harris** finished first and second, earning the opportunity to compete at the Caribbean Dinghy Championship.

The championship will bring together some of the best Optimist sailors in the region, giving Kemuel and Keyron the opportunity to challenge themselves, gain valuable racing experience, meet sailors from other islands, and make new friendships. Most importantly, they will experience what it is like to compete at a higher level and bring that experience back to JSAB. We are incredibly grateful that we are able to send these two young sailors to this competition. This opportunity has only been made possible through the incredible generosity of those who donated through our GoFundMe campaign, along with the support of the **Sylvester Simmons Memorial Foundation** and the **SVG Olympic Committee**.

To everyone who has contributed, supported, and believed in our young sailors, we want to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you. Your generosity is helping provide Kemuel and Keyron with an experience they will carry with them both on and off the water.

"Sailboat racing becomes a game of chance only when you are not prepared."
— Buddy Melges



Learn to Sail Program

With school out for the summer, we launched our **Learn to Sail Program**, introducing Bequia youth ages 8–12 to the fundamentals of sailing. Offering a dedicated program to teach the basics has been a vision for us since joining JSAB, so seeing it come to life has been incredibly rewarding for both the youth and our organization.



Around 20 young sailors participated, with 10 in the morning session and 10 in the afternoon. While we would have loved to welcome more participants, this first program was limited by the number of available coaches, on-the-water safety patrols, life jackets, and other logistical considerations. Our goal is to build on this successful first year and expand the program next summer.

The youth began by learning the parts of the boat through drawings, games, and practicing basic skills on land, including steering, trimming sails, and tacking. The following week, they took to the water and began sailing on their own through simple exercises. **The smiles on their faces as we pushed them off from shore were priceless!**

As the weeks progressed, their confidence and sailing skills grew, and it quickly became clear that we had a new group of young sailors who truly love being on the water.

Our current JSAB sailors also stepped up to help, running the safety boat, launching and retrieving the Optimists, and offering encouragement and instruction to the beginners. **It was wonderful to see our older youth giving back to JSAB and helping the next generation discover the joy of sailing.**





New Coaching Staff

Fritz and Juju Join Our JSAB Team

For more than a year, Darcy and I have served as volunteer coaches. We now have expanded that to the overall managing of JSAB, and will continue to support JSAB as volunteers in whatever capacity is needed.

As our programs have grown, we recognized the need for additional coaching support, particularly with the increased interest in the Learn to Sail program we have recently introduced. We are very fortunate to welcome **Fritz Leslie** back to JSAB as a coach. Fritz has coached our youth sailors in the past, and it is wonderful to have him back with us. He is already doing a fantastic job supporting both JSAB and our young sailors.

In addition to Fritz, we are pleased to have hired **Dewmari "Juju" Gooding** as a Junior Instructor. Juju grew up with JSAB and has always demonstrated a strong dedication to the club and a great rapport with our youth sailors.

We are excited to have Fritz and Juju join our coaching team and look forward to building a strong, stable coaching program as JSAB continues to grow.

Coach Seminar



The **SVG Sailing Association** held a five-day Coaching Seminar this July in St. Vincent, providing valuable additional training and insight to help us strengthen our coaching skills.

The in-depth seminar was led by a World Sailing-recognized coach and covered a wide range of coaching techniques, approaches, and best practices. It was an excellent opportunity to learn new methods and gain a deeper understanding of how to effectively develop and support young sailors.

John, Fritz, and Juju participated in the seminar and are now able to bring this additional knowledge and experience back to JSAB. We look forward to applying what we learned to further improve our youth sailing programs and provide our sailors with an even stronger coaching experience.



JSAB New Website



We are excited about our new website that showcases who we are, what we offer, and the opportunities available to our young sailors. We are very proud of how it has come together and are happy to have a central place where members, families, visitors, and potential supporters can learn more about JSAB. We invite you to take a look and explore the new site:



[Junior Sailing Bequia Website](http://www.junior-sailing-academy-bequia.com)

HOW TO

Your support helps keep JSAB on the water and gives our sailors the opportunity to learn, grow, and compete. Donations help cover the overall costs of running the program, including boat maintenance and repairs, replacement parts, sails, fuel, coaching staff, safety equipment, and other essential operating expenses. Every contribution, large or small, directly supports the continued development of our sailors and helps ensure that JSAB can provide a safe, well-equipped, and positive sailing experience for our community. We are grateful for your support and investment in the future of JSAB.

We are currently working on new avenues to make donating to JSAB easier and more accessible. Until this process is complete, if you would like to contribute, please contact us using the email address or phone number provided below. We would be happy to provide information on how you can support the program. Thank you for helping us keep JSAB sailing!

A very special "Thank You" to all our sponsors!



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