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Take the Helm®

Official Newsletter of the National Women's Sailing Association

MAY 2020

President's Special Vital Message

Even though the desert reservoir Lake Pleasant is relatively small, the wind can absolutely be a challenge. During my last Pleasant outing, crewing on a Santana 20, during the first and second midday 'race' we crept along, watching the water move behind us at a hair pullingly slow pace. Our crew of three was strategically placed on the barely perceptible leeward side, creating heel to reduce the waterline. We sat frozen, statue-like to minimize the disturbance of our existence through the boat. We were working hard to move at all.



That state of wind fluttered on and off for that day. The last race though the breeze piped up to the high end of the spectrum, 18-20+, with cross wind gusts strong enough the fleets chose not to fly chutes on the downwind leg. After crossing the finish line (going up wind due to a wild shift, we continued sailing south. While the foredeck crew went below to the head, I dialed my husband to tell him we were done and heading to the ramp. Then it hit.

Broach. Water poured into the cockpit over the port gunnel. It submerged my feet, even though I was on the high side. I had my high-dollar cell phone in one hand, and instinctively grabbed the boat with the other. With one move; I hung up, shoved the phone through my t-shirt neck into a semi-secure spot, and blew the jib sheet.

Metaphorically that is what has happened to the 19th annual NWSA Women's Sailing Convention. While we realized early (February 29) we should have a Plan B, the actual change has been a fast seat-of-the-pants series of tasks. Shirley Cassara and the mighty conference committee popped the sheets, stood the boat up, bailed out the organizational cockpit, reduced sail to jury rig and carry on to our intended conference destination. The

Continued on page 2



Events for Women Sailors

April 29, 2020

She Sailor Sea Story

Listen on Zoom...cool new way to connect with sailing friends and hear fantastic stories of women who sail!

April 30, 2020

Renewal Date for Membership

Look for your membership renewal emails soon. If you are not a current member sign up! We need your support.

May 7, 2020

She Sailor Sea Story

May 21, 2020

She Sailor Sea Story

June 6, 2020

19th Women's Sailing Conference -OLÉ

Early Bird Registration opens April 24. Details at women-sailing.org



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/>

President's Message Continued

NWSA On Line Expo — OLÉ, will be virtual and different than we planned, but the goals remain the same: to educate, inspire and encourage women sailors. The opening day, kick off will be June 6, with special offerings from a great cadre of women instructors live on Zoom, or presenting videos through our online learning portal, which is currently under construction. We will schedule OLÉ seminars throughout the month of June.

The cost of presenting this way was unexpected, so we need your help. By renewing your membership or joining anew — if you are able please renew for the three year term — our Association will remain healthy after investing in the future. With your renewal you will gain full access to the members-only NWSA OLÉ — On Line Expo at no additional charge. You will also be invited to join a members-only NWSA Facebook page, where you may post questions, interact with other members, as well as have access to our video library.

It is my optimistic hope NWSA will emerge from our Covid19 crossing as a stronger organization, adapting as sailors tend to do, to a changed environment. That we will continue with what we've learned to new and exciting destination.

**Please renew or join and come aboard
for the
OLÉ Adventure.**

Debbie Huntsman



<https://www.womensailing.org/get-involved/membership>

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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 29
4:00 pm Eastern
1:00 pm Pacific

She Sails Sea Story —
with the theme “Alone.”

If you're a member you will be invited to log on to Zoom and enjoy the storytelling ... or be ready to become a star storyteller!

To listen will be easy. If you have Zoom, follow simple instructions and click on the link.

If you'd like to story tell:

- **Write your story** She Sails Sea Story
- **Practice** so you don't have to read. Make sure you can keep your story down to five minutes — we will fire up the sequence clock. Five minutes! DNS (did not story) if you go over. Practice some more. Trim time. Practice and perfect your She Sailor Sea Story.
- **Join us on April 29.** (May 7 and 21) **Relax. And listen.** Or hold a paper with “storyteller.” Hope we call on you. Take a breath if you are (randomly) selected to share a five minute salty tale.

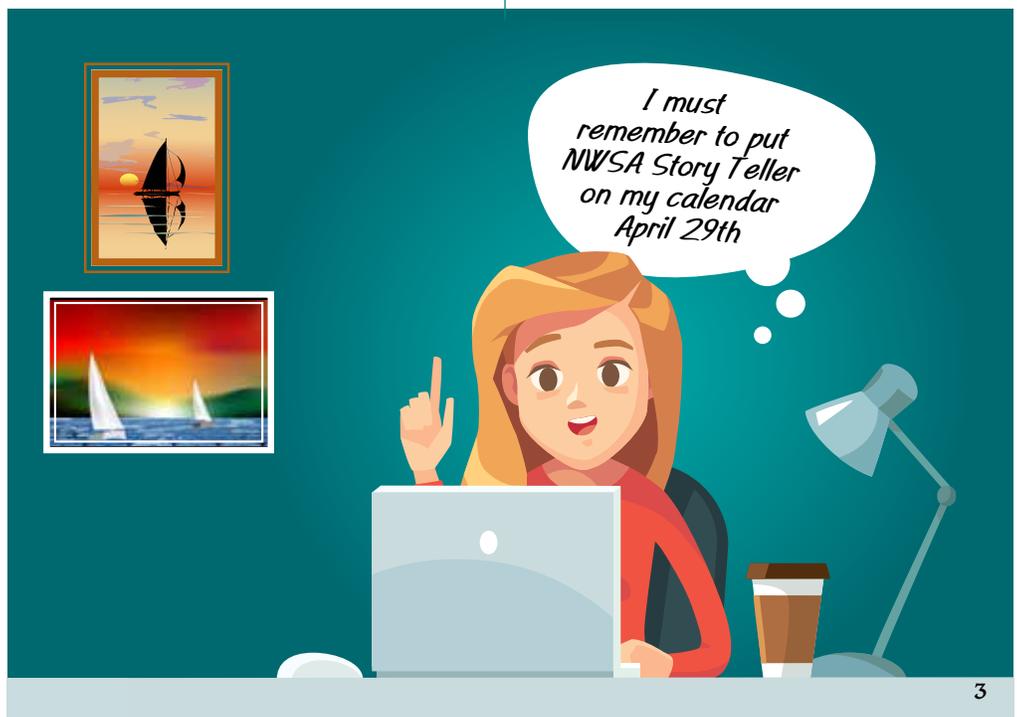


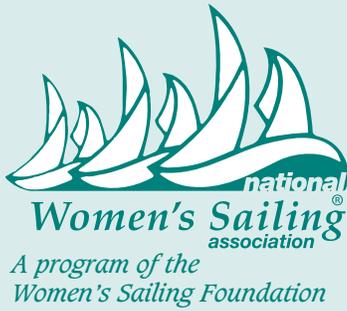
• **Miss the selection boat?** Fear not. Join us again, and again. We will do this bi weekly. Get more chances to make us laugh, to make us cry, to get us to cheer or to simply remind us why we find such joy in sailing.

• **Contestants will be judged** on crossing the finish line within the allowed five-minutes, and wowing shipmates with beautifully woven words.

• **The audience will score** each reader 5-10 (using the chat function).

• **The winner each date** will be invited to a special She Sails Sea Story Fest at the National Women's Sailing Association 2020 OLÉ — On Line Expo, June 6 and receive some easy to mail something or another (we are not in shopping mode yet) to honor their storytelling efforts.





On-Line Learning Portal — upcoming membership benefit

One of the greatest challenges for serving the NWSA membership has been reaching out across the nation, doing what our first name, National, implies. While NWSA has made a recent effort to broaden our outreach presenting workshops from coast to coast, that in-person instruction is available only to a small group of our members, and often with the added expense of travel.

At our annual meeting in 2017, we had identified on-line learning opportunities as part of our long-term plan. Covid19 gave us a shove to get moving on that good idea.



National Women's Sailing Association ON LINE EXPO

This month we invested in upgrading our website to host the **June 6 On Line Expo — OLÉ**. That infrastructure improvement will be available for all sorts of good ideas to be made into accessible reality. The programmers are busy building the portal as our amazing instructors and partners are busy creating content. NWSA members will have access to all **On Line Expo — OLÉ** content, and will be able to continue learning through the portal once the Expo is over.



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.

President's Member of the Month

Congratulations to **Marlene A. Sassaman**. Marlene was chosen as the April 2020 President's Member of the Month after being the first member to renew in April — our renewal month — and she renewed for multiple years. Her rapid 3-year response to our membership plea will not only help NWSA stay financially healthy, but the income will give us latitude to develop tools to present the 2020 Nonference — the virtual replacement for our vital annual fundraiser and learning experience for women sailors.

Sassaman's sailing avocation began in 1980 with the purchase of a brand new Hobie 18. Just three years later, she competed with Cindy Deans in the first Hobie 16 Women's National Championship. Sassaman was self-taught with the help of her husband and the many sailing friends she met. Combining her career as a school counselor with her drive to become a better sailor, she used sailing as the venue for her research on how adults learn to earn her doctor of education degree.

Marlene became a US Sailing Small Boat Instructor and a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Captain — Attagirl! She served as a board



member of the Melbourne Yacht Club and as the Youth Sailing Director for several years. She competed in many Hobie and Sunfish events including the 45 mile Palatka to Jacksonville Race, and the Miami-Key Largo Race. From 2008 to 2010 Sassaman was the captain of an all-women's team racing a Lindenburg 28. As a cruiser she has sailed her 35-foot trimaran to Bermuda and throughout the Bahamas, sometimes alone, sometimes with crew.

Currently Marlene lives on board her CSY 33 in Florida. She is looking forward to long distance sailing to begin later this year.

Thank you for your generous support and work to further women's sailing Marlene!

<https://www.womensailing.org/get-involved/membership>

Join or Renew Your Membership

