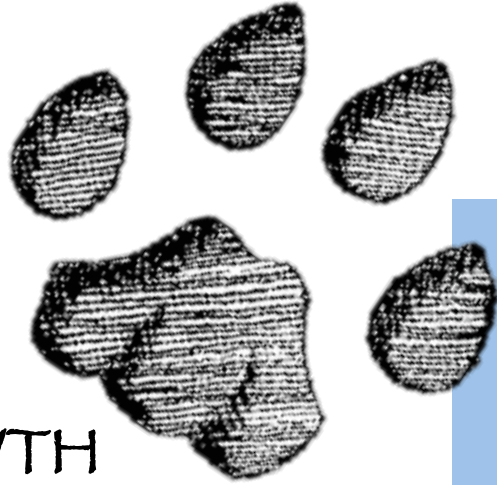


The Windward

Panther

2015



A SEASON OF GROWTH

This year the team has experienced tremendous growth with the roster growing to 24 sailors and the addition of our new coach, Alex Levin. We attended 13 regattas including hosting the 2nd Annual Dr. Stuart Walker Open at Lake Dunmore. Here's to looking back on a great season!



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello MCSC Community!

My name is Meghan Colwell, your Commodore until the New Year. I am an International Politics & Economics major and, besides sailing, I love cooking, wine, travel, and friends.

This fall has been a rewarding season. MCSC underwent yet another coaching transition, but one that has resulted in perhaps our most positive coaching experience thus far. Alex Levin, UVM '11, has brought exceptional leadership, initiative, and sailing expertise to the docks at Lake Dunmore. His knowledge and love for the sport show through in his coaching both on and off the water. Thank you to the board members who helped to conduct candidate searches and interviews throughout the summer; our efforts were certainly met with success and I look forward to the spring season.

This season's other successes include three MiddView sailing orientation trips and a memorable Dr. Stuart H. Walker Open. We were honored to host Dr. Walker and members of his family at the lake, and intend to win back the trophy next year!

MCSC's membership continued to expand this fall with the addition of eight new freshmen, who have brought impressive eagerness and dedication to the team.

This spring, we look forward to another spring training in Florida, as well as the prospect of more sailors joining from the incoming Feb class.

I am both excited and nostalgic as this semester ends and graduation inches ever closer. MCSC has been a defining aspect of my Middlebury experience. As I'm sure is the case for many of us, I count Middlebury Sailors among my closest friends and sailing atop the list of my favorite things. Thank you, MCSC, current members, families, alums, and friends. It was my honor to present the Commodore's hat to our new leader, Alden Cowap '17, at this year's Commodore's Ball. Since her introduction to MCSC through a freshman sailing orientation trip, Alden has excelled as a sailor and leader and will no doubt lead the Club toward excellence.

Lastly, Midd sailors are doing some exciting things in the world. Thanks to those of you who wrote in with updates. I hope you all enjoy this edition of the Windward Panther.



Cheers!
Meghan Colwell '16



Meghan Colwell has held nearly every position on the MCSC board during her four years on the team. She will continue as Rec/PE coordinator this spring until her graduation. She has skippered in women's and co-ed events and served as Women's Team Captain. After graduation, she hopes to return to the Bay Area to continue sailing and looks forward to joining the ranks of FMS! You'll be greatly missed!



COACH'S CORNER

ALEX
LEVIN

Alex Levin joins the Middlebury College Sailing Club as the Head Coach for the 2015 season. Growing up in Rockport, Massachusetts, Alex began racing at Sandy Bay Yacht Club, and has competed in Optimists, Lasers, 420s, Stars, and Rhodes 19. Since 2006, Alex has coached at SBYC, traveling to local, regional and national events. Over the last two years, Alex has directed the SBYC Sailing Program, a program comprised of 150 junior sailors. We are excited to welcome Alex Levin aboard!

"This fall, I was given an excellent opportunity to coach sailing at a higher level and work with an incredible group of young adults at Middlebury College. Throughout the season, our team's growth as a unit was remarkable. Though not every regatta demonstrated our best sailing, we continued to improve with each practice and regatta. At first, I found it difficult to both teach sailing to new sailors as well as coach higher level racing to our experienced sailors and racers. However, I quickly learned that this is what makes MCSC unique; the team is welcoming of sailors, new and old, and works together to achieve daily, weekly, and seasonal sailing goals. With such a great group of young adults, every practice and regatta was an enjoyable experience for me. Every member is able to contribute to the team, improving each practice or team dinner.

Heading into this season, I knew I had a lot to learn. I appreciate all of the hard work by the student leaders of MCSC who keep the team organized and always looking forward. I look forward to continuing to learn more as a coach and grow with this team over the next few years. Our little sailing team located in the mountains of Vermont possesses a lot of potential and I am excited to be part of this team!" –Alex Levin, Coach

2ND ANNUAL DR. STUART WALKER OPEN



Though I had coached junior sailing and racing for years prior, this was my first experience coaching sailing at the collegiate level. The first few weeks were a crash course in college racing, starting with our first weekend where we hosted our annual regatta, the Stuart Walker Trophy. After a week of windless practice days, we had a beautiful weekend of racing on Lake Dunmore, with four teams competing in excellent sailing conditions. It was a great opportunity for me to work with MCSC Alums, Terry Duncan and Susan Rotblatt Walker, not to mention Dr. Walker himself. -Alex Levin, Coach

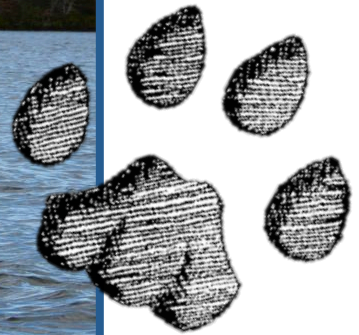
LOOKING BACK ON THE SEASON

“Alright. We got this.” I looked towards the nearing finish line. The chilly wind blew as I firmly gripped on the jib sheet. My partner, Alex Baskin, and I finished high in that race at the Nickerson Trophy regatta at Tufts. This was my second regatta. Before coming to Middlebury, I had never sailed before. It’s hard to imagine that a few months ago, I barely even knew what was what on the boat and now I could be competing at regattas. I remember engaging with this exciting sport for the first time this fall: sitting in a FJ, being on Lake Dunmore, and getting familiar to sailing. I fell in love with sailing. I’m always looking forward to the practices and gaining more experience. (Also hoping there is good wind on Lake Dunmore...) I can’t wait to be back sailing during the spring. I’m thrilled to be given the most improved sailor award this season and I’d like to thank everyone that supported the sailing team. And also thank all the members on the sailing team, especially Coach Alex Levin, the board members on the team, and my sailing partner, Alex Baskin. I really appreciate you all for making Middlebury sailing a wonderful and fun experience.

Despite having no prior sailing experience before coming to Middlebury, I have learned significantly throughout the season, made a bunch of great friends, and found something that I loved--- sailing.

Erich Wu ‘19

THE PANTHER'S PROWL



ICE CREAM

We traveled to compete at Great Herring Pond, where the wind is even shiftier than on Dunmore. On Sunday the winds were not only variable, but also strong, and by the end of the day all racers were feeling the effects of sailing in difficult conditions for two full days.

Thankfully, Pete and I were less exhausted than everyone else and got an early lead on the fleet in the last race of the day. Due in part to skill and also to the fact that the course was only a W3, we kept our lead for the entirety of the race and ended the day with a bullet! This picture was taken right after the finish when I couldn't stop smiling. It was my first B-level regatta bullet, plus Alex had promised us ice cream if we got first in a race. We sailed the rest of the day with full smiles quietly chanting to ourselves, 'ice cream.'

-Rebecca Freeman '18



HOLIDAY CARD

This fall, we had the delight of sailing in the McGill Cup in Montreal, QC. Although conditions were crazy (the wind accelerated from 2-15 knots almost instantaneously and it started hailing, temporarily cancelling races) the team had a great weekend in Montreal and placed 5/6 in the Cup. Before we left, we made sure to take this year's holiday photo, a new tradition of MCSC!

-Nathaniel Wiener '18



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

From the Class of 1941 to the Class of 2015, where are MCSC Sailors now?

After moving to Bethlehem, PA in September and starting work at a energy management and sustainable design consulting firm (one of my co-workers is Jack Kerby-Miller '14.5!), I figured I sadly would not get the opportunity to sail as often as I would like. Luckily, however, an opportunity came about in early November after Dr. Stuart Walker learned my dad (Peter Duncan '80) and I were also from just outside Annapolis, Maryland and had both grown up sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. Hoping to get an all Middlebury team out on the water, Dr. Walker invited the two of us to join him for the Acors Thompson Soling Regatta. Although the day started out with light wind and rain, the wind eventually picked up a little, allowing for a fun, competitive day on the water. After the races, we headed back to Dr. Walker's house for dinner with his wife Patricia, where he shared several stories from when he was starting the club at Middlebury and we all told tales of our most memorable sailing adventures. I am so lucky to have had the opportunity to sail with one of the greatest sailors and the founder of MCSC!



-Terry Duncan '15
Associate at The Stone
House Group in
Bethlehem, PA



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

From the Class of 1941 to the Class of 2015, where are MCSC Sailors now?

Have you ever wanted to channel your inner Captain Jack Sparrow and sail around the world? Did you even know that people still sail ships like the square riggers you see in movies?

Since graduating from Middlebury in 2014, I have been working as a professional sailor and scientist for the Sea Education Association. Spending 9 months living on a sailboat has been exciting; I have sailed over 10,000 miles, have seen waterspouts and rogue waves, and may have been cursed by ancient cannibals in the south pacific.... If any of this sounds fun to you, look us up! SEA is an educational organization focused on giving undergraduate students experience sailing around the world on our two modern tall ships, the SSV Robert C. Seamans and the SSV Corwith Cramer. Our programs are designed to bring college students out into the ocean, so that they can experience firsthand how we interact with this unique resource. Most importantly Middlebury gives you college credit to go sailing. For more information visit sea.edu! Hope to have some MCSC members sail with us in the future!

- Nick Dragone '14
Sea Education Association

Once I took Sam sailing; the wind was practically wailing! The skipper's boom whacked my skull and it cracked. What next?

My memory's failing...

- Mike Luby '10
Software Engineer in San Francisco

SPRINGING FORWARD!



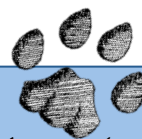
ALDEN COWAP
Commodore
Class of 2017

March 12-13	Connecticut College
March 19-20	Mass Maritime Academy
March 26-April 1	Spring Training Eckerd College
April 9-10	New England Dingy Tournament
April 16-17	Boston College
April 23-24	Reed at Yale and Morris at BU
April 30- May 1	Tufts and Little 3 at Williams

2016 SPRING SCHEDULE

Welcome aboard Vice President of NEISA—Jade Forsberg '17!

This fall, Ben Brown ('18) and Jade Forsberg ('17) proudly represented MCSC at this year's annual New England Inter-collegiate Sailing Association (NEISA) conference and scheduling meeting. It was a fantastic opportunity for our sailors to learn more about how NEISA works. Halfway through the meeting, it was time to elect the new executive board of NEISA, comprised of both coaches and students dedicated to bettering our conference. In the process, Jade delivered a stellar impromptu speech and was elected the Vice President of NEISA! We can't possibly be more excited



Looking to become more involved?

Host the team! Our sailors travel across the country to regattas, let us know if you are willing to host four of us for a weekend!

Fundraise! The team is fundraises for the spring training trip, coaching expenses, new boats and equipment, and other needs. We would love for alumni to help coordinate our fundraising efforts.

For more information or to donate please contact Margaret Weber, Minister of Special Events
Middlebury College Sailing Club • Attn: Margaret Weber
Middlebury College Box 4551 • Middlebury, VT 05753

E-mail: sailing@middlebury.edu Or visit our website: sites.middlebury.com/sailing
FIND US ON FACEBOOK: Middlebury College Sailing Club

Happy Holidays from MCSci

