

The Windward Panther

End-of-Season Report – Fall 2017

Breaking News:

Move to Champlain



Docks at Panton to start off the move!

The team has decided to move to Panton, Vermont this spring. We will be leaving Lake Dunmore and sailing on Lake Champlain. Plans on the venue change have been underway for a few years. After observing the sailing conditions and conducting some test sails there, we are excited to take this big step. We believe that this will be a great development towards becoming a better team. Special thanks to Annie Hopper and her family, Sean Willerford, and all those that make this happen!



Last time moving the docks for the winter at Lake Dunmore



Sunset at Panton, Vermont. We'll be seeing a lot more of this!



Message from the Commodore

Hello MCSC sailors, alumni, and friends!

I am writing at the close of my time as Commodore, and it has been a wonderful experience leading the team that has meant so much to my college years!

We jumped right in this fall with our new coach, Tom Tucker, attending two regattas our first weekend and continuing at full force until the end. We attended a whopping 14 regattas, the largest number in a season since 2013! In addition to the sheer amount of competitions we attended, we won our annual Stuart Walker Regatta for the first time! I hope this trend continues in seasons to come.



Most importantly, we are excited to welcome our new coach, Tom, and many new members to the ranks this year. Their talent as well as their enthusiasm for the team and its traditions is great to watch and I look forward to watching MCSC grow!



Another notable update in the world of MCSC includes a venue change to Panton, Vermont for next spring. After a suspenseful ordeal involving a small crane, encroaching darkness, and a very oversized flatbed, we officially moved our docks to Lake Champlain! I look forward to sailing with bigger wind and waves, new sunset-over-lake pictures, and an enduring partnership with the incredibly supportive Hopper family.

I'd like to thank the friends and alumni of Middlebury Sailing, Coach Tom, members of the board, and everyone in MCSC for making this a great season!

I hope you all enjoy this edition of the Windward Panther.

Rebecca Freeman, '18

Coach's Corner



Hello MCSC friends and alumni.

My name is Tom Tucker and I am very happy to be the new coach. This fall season has been very exciting. We saw 22 student athletes compete in 14 events over 8 weekends. Perhaps the most exciting part was winning our home regatta, the 4th Stuart Walker Regatta. The first victory on home waters was secured by Robbie Kelley '19 and Commodore Rebecca Freeman '18 in A fleet, and Nate Weiner '18 and Ben Dohan '21 in B fleet with help from Nick Jaczko '19. The team narrowly missed qualifying for the Schell Regatta, but finished 2nd at the Fall Dinghy Tournament at Providence College among strong competition. Alex Baskin '19 and Erich Wu '19 for A fleet, and Warren Galloway '21 and Gaby Beaulieu '20 for B fleet each

earned multiple first place finishes in challenging conditions with strong winds. Ultimately the team finished 21st in the NEISA conference.

This fall saw a large and dedicated class of freshmen, which will be good for future seasons. Eight freshmen competed in regattas this season including the Freshmen Regatta at Tufts, which provided valuable experience. 33 sailors attended over 30 practices, 11 of which were freshmen. This has given us hope for team growth in the coming years.

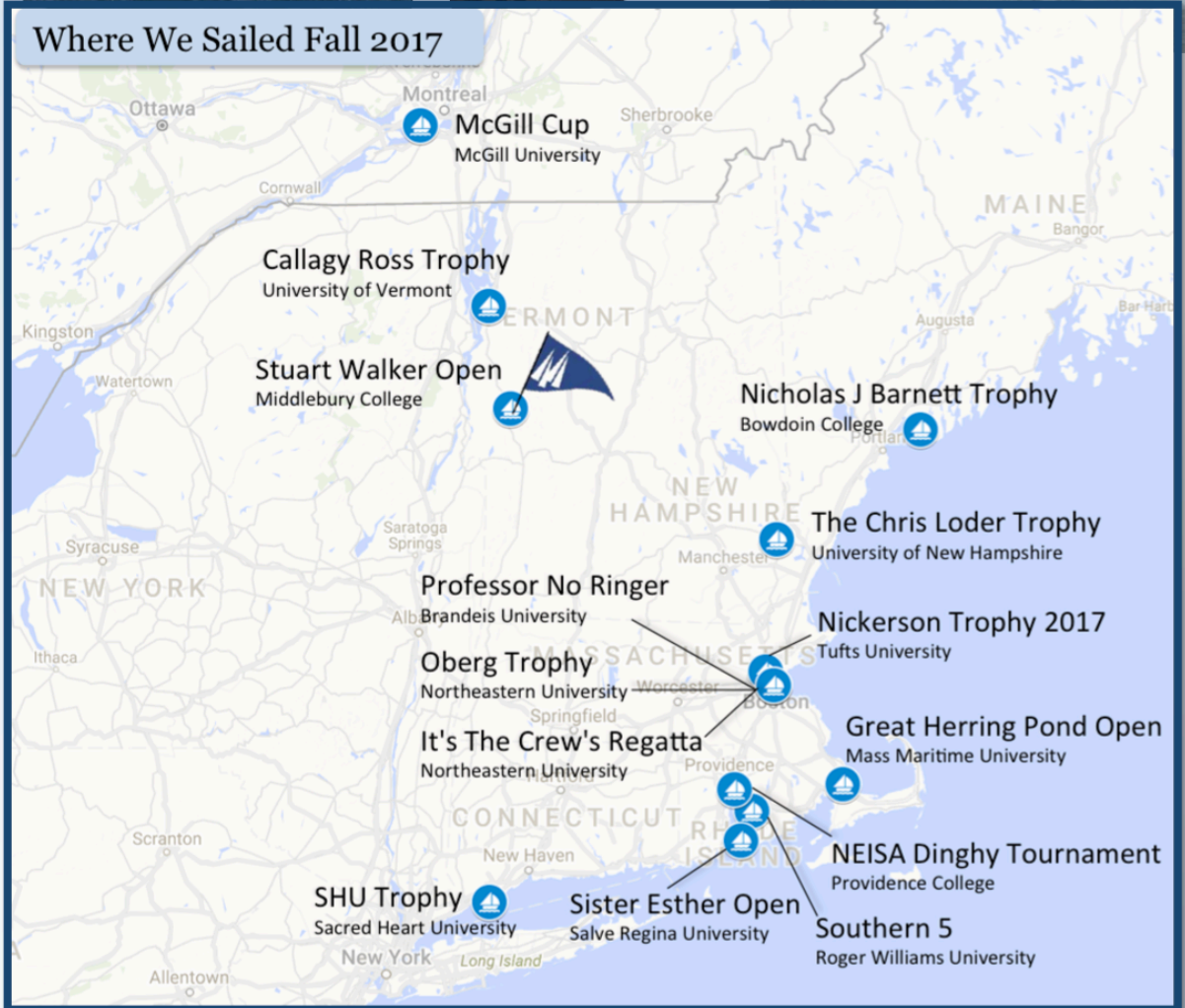
The team has begun to move locations from Lake Dunmore to Lake Champlain in Panton with generous help from alumni Annie Hopper and Sean Willeford. After the season ended, all the docks were loaded onto a trailer and moved 27 miles to our new location on Sean and Annie's lakefront farm. This was a tremendous effort and took lots of work from team members. We saw 100% attendance during the week we moved the docks and boats. The team will begin practicing on Lake Champlain in the spring season. This will allow the team access to much better sailing conditions with stronger and more consistent wind. Although a few years in the making, this move will provide more productive practices and hopefully increased performance. Please contact us if you are interested in helping support this important move. We will also be hosting an alumni regatta the weekend of the Stuart Walker Regatta next fall. All alumni and friends are welcome. Standby for a formal announcement.



Season Recap



Where We Sailed Fall 2017



Winning Stuart Walker

This year's Stuart Walker Open the first time in recent memory that the weather on Dunmore was typical: drizzling with no wind. The several teams in attendance arrived on time, except McGill, who had a visa issue at the border (the most McGill reason to be late to a regatta!). My crew, Ben Dohan '20.5, and I, sailed in B-Division in some of the lightest and shiftiest conditions I've ever sailed in. Individual tiller movements matter a lot in light wind, and even the wake of the team Zodiak, Patricia (named after Stuart Walker '41's wife), caused our boat to heel and shift heading.



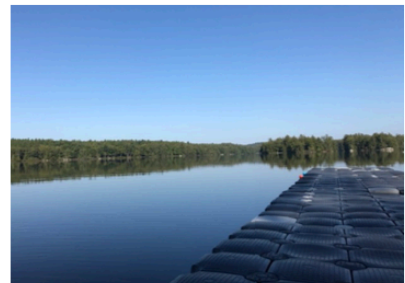
Although the day was plagued by light wind, Ben and I stayed in the middle of the course (and kept our weight in the middle of the FJ!) and we cruised to victory over all the other teams, the first time that Middlebury Sailing has won our home-regatta! The day was especially memorable, as my parents came to watch me sail for the first time (and likely the last!) of my college sailing career. Despite the lack of wind, it was a great day out on Lake Dunmore!

Nathaniel Wiener '18

(Mostly) Windless Regattas

This season, I seemed to have the worst luck possible when it came to wind at regattas. In the first two regattas combined, I sailed only 4 races. Luckily, in the third regatta I sailed, it was 20 knots both days, but the final regatta I sailed this season was not so kind. The first day, they sent us out in 0-1 knots, and it was raining!!! After 45 minutes of getting soaked, they decided we were done for the day with no races sailed! But to be fair, what else can you expect from New England lake sailing?

Ben Brown '18



Mendums Pond @ UNH



Sailing Abroad — Spain



Madrid is not sailor-friendly. When you get landlocked for a few months, your sailor instincts come calling. It was under this nostalgic feeling that I decided to spend part of my trip to Basque Country sailing about a month ago.

To make this happen, I contacted several sailing centers and yacht clubs near Bilbao for dinghy rental. The process was not easy, since most clubs required first-time renters to be certified, or to have completed a lesson under supervision. Luckily, the Royal Maritime Club of the Abra (Real Club Marítimo del Abra) agreed to lend me a Laser Radial for 12 euro per hour. Since I had not sailed a Laser before, I emailed Coach Alex, who offered me some great advice.

I arrived at the Club at 11:30 a.m. local time. The fleet master was very friendly and helped me set up the Laser in a swift fashion. He was very excited to hear that I competed in 420s and FJs back in the States, showing me photos of one of his students, who now sails for Jacksonville. Before I got on the boat, he asked me some general points of sail questions. Thanks to the fact that Sara and I tried sailing in Spanish at Dunmore, I was able to fumble with some basic sailing vocabs (virar—to tack, transluchar—to jibe etc.).

The wind was between 12-15 knots when I sailed out from the club, and the temperature was a high 70. I sailed in the Bilbao Abra for about an hour and was the only dinghy on the water. Unlike 420s or FJs, Lasers slid a lot if they were not flat. I was forced to hike out constantly. With the help of some constant puffs I was able to do some planing, and the boat moved very fast while planing on reaches. Additionally, I found that the vang could really affect boat speed and needed some attention. I had one close call when my rear traveler's bar got hooked by the stern during a gybe, but I came back nice and dry, except for my back and hip. The people I met in the club and on the water were phenomenal. Even the Ertzaintza (Basque Police) patrol boat came by and said hi. I also had the fortune of meeting a high schooler who recently competed in the European Laser Championship. Before I left, the yacht club gave me a stamp on the back of my burgee and gave me a handwritten list of Spanish sailing vocabs, as well as an official formulario de protesta, as souvenirs.

Sailing is a great skill that allows me to meet new people and practice in many places. I hope to further develop this skill with the team upon my return.



Vick Xu'19

Nov. 11, 2017 in Madrid, Spain

ALUM SPOTLIGHT



In this edition, we interviewed George R. Hinman '64. He participated in three America's cup campaigns and won the Cup with *Intrepid* in 1967. George is a former Commodore of the New York Yacht Club. He's been in various leadership roles in sailing organizations such as US Sailing, National Sailing Hall of Fame, and various yacht clubs.



➤ How did you get involved with sailing?

"It was a sailing family, and I grew up in the North Shore of Long Island and the number of kids and yacht clubs within 50 miles of NY, it's the highest concentration of clubs in the country. So you grow up junior sailing,... you couldn't have a better summer, if you like to sail.... and I've continued to do it ever since...it's been a great passion"

➤ What was it like sailing at Middlebury?

"There were no boats, I don't know if there had been a small program before we got there... we'd have to travel and use other people's boats, and there really wasn't much structure to it. I believe we went to 2 regattas because we were doing different sports... We won one at MIT and we went down to Georgetown and did another one, but it's not like what you are doing today."

➤ I see you graduated in '67, the same year you won the America's Cup?

"I competed in '64 on American Eagle, which was a new boat and unfortunately we lost in the trials to Constellation, which defended the cup. And then, three years later, I got on *Intrepid* and that was designed by Owen Stevens and it was probably his finest design. It was a great crew and we had a great skipper and we never lost a race."



➤ Were you younger than the other competitors?

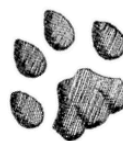
"I certainly was in '64, I don't know how I got into that boat... I was bowman on all three attempts, which was a great position because you're away from the politics of the cockpit, but you're pretty visible if you screw up... In those days it was totally amateur. People had jobs and you know, I was going to college while we were training on *Intrepid* and I would drive down on the weekends to sail. Now it's totally professional effort and yacht clubs have been sort of taken out of it and it's a professional event"

"Most of the crew on board are not (from the) US, out of the 10 you have. So it's lost its nationality and that was a big part of it, you wanted to win for the country...but now the yacht clubs aren't as important, the nationality is gone, and as a result I think the popularity isn't what you'd like for the premier event in the sport of sailing."

➤ Do you have any advice on continuing to sail post-college and pre-retirement?
“Well one of the things I’ve belonged to NYYC for a long time was commodore in ’05 and ’06 and one of the things we decided we had to do- when you graduate from college a lot of kids have low incentive- it’s a time question, and it’s a money question. They don’t have money to buy a boat after college, they’d like to, because they just finished some of the best sailing you’ll ever do, in college, so NYYC went out and bought 10 sonars, now we have 21. We said we need to do this to attract kids to join our club, we have an active racing schedule across the country, and we needed young members... we centered the program around team racing, which got us into the two disciplines in college that you guys do. ... you give them the boats and you grow your membership”

➤ Any advice for growing a club team?

“I had two daughters who sailed for Boston College. And it was a club sport. They didn’t have a full time coach, they had satellite coaches, that would come in and travel with the team. And then over time, they started doing a little bit better, they got a coach who was full time... They didn’t realize they could get a lot of visibility from sailing. It wasn’t football but it was more than they had expected... I know what helped BC get to varsity status was they hired Craig Wilkinson from UVM and he just really matured as a coach... without a full time coach and full time recruitment it’s really hard.”



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 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.

<http://sites.middlebury.edu/sailing/support-us/>

Buy a Shirt! MCSC finally has merchandise in the bookstore! All profits from the two shirts being sold in the bookstore go directly to the team and buying new boats! www.goo.gl/5EOeGE

For more information or to donate please contact Erich Wu, Minister of Special Events

Middlebury College Sailing Club • Attn: Erich Wu

Middlebury College Box 4548 • Middlebury, VT 05753

E-mail: sailing@middlebury.edu Or visit our website: www.sites.middlebury.com/sailing

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: Middlebury College Sailing Club