

Windward Panther

Spring 2018

MIDDLEBURY SAILING



Welcome to our new home... The Hopper Family Sailing Pavilion



This spring, we officially moved to our new venue in Panton, VT. We are now located in Arnold Bay on Lake Champlain. We want to thank the Hopper family for generously giving us some of their land for our new facility!

Take a look inside:



Features of the Hopper Family Sailing Pavilion

- Dedicated facility for our team
- A new boathouse with storage for all team gear, sails, rudders, and other supplies
- Changing stalls
- Covered porch for outdoor chalk talks
- Improved sailing venue with more consistent wind and waves to practice in
- Parking for all of our vehicles and trailers
- Capacity for our fleet of 12 FJs and 2 coach boats
- The best views in college sailing!

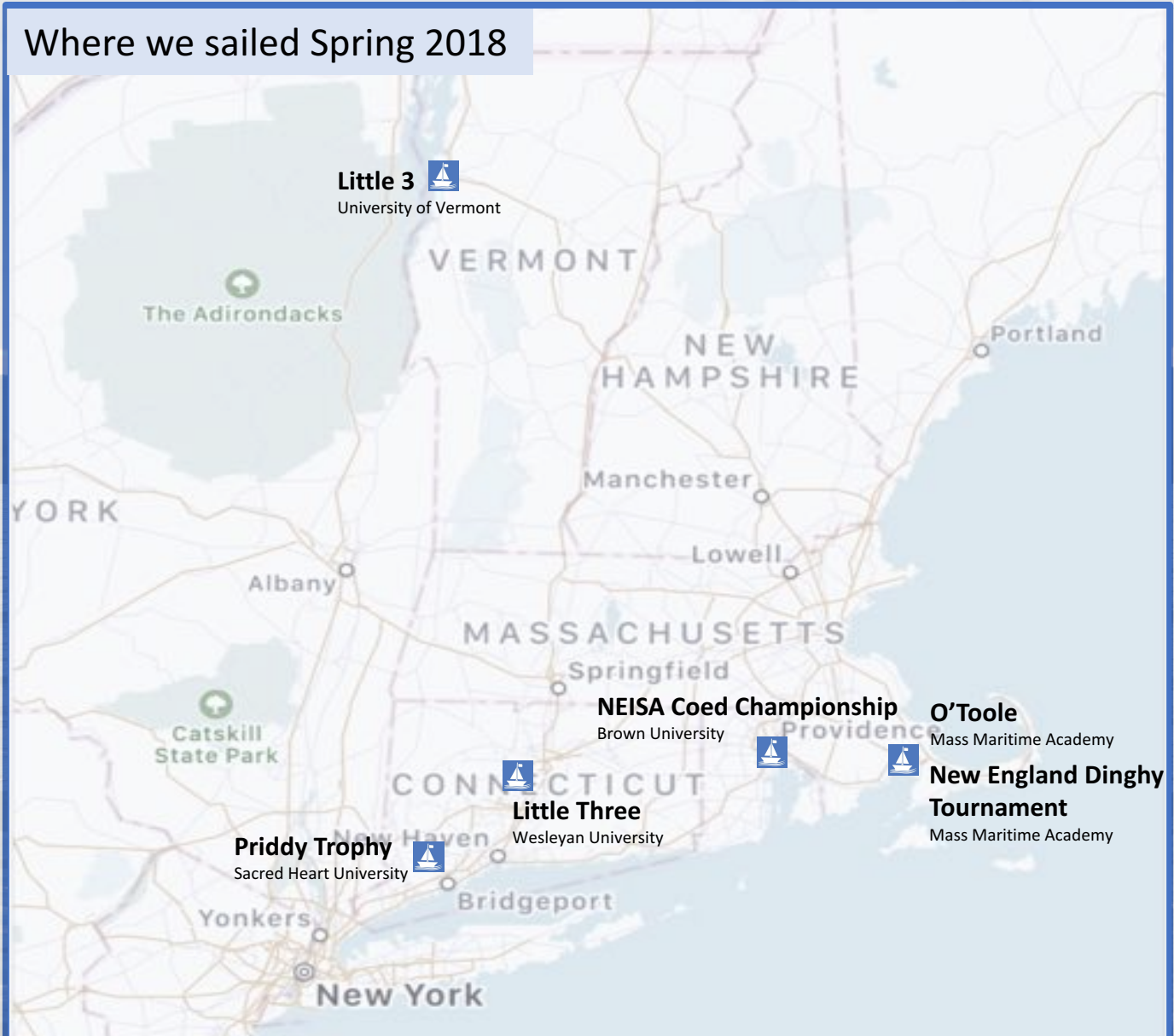


Spring Season Recap

The spring season, unlike the fall, is very short. When the team returns from spring break, there are only four regatta weekends remaining. Despite the abbreviated schedule, the team had a very successful spring. We went to six regattas across New England and had good results, especially from our younger sailors. Highlights included:

- Placing 5th at the Freshman Championships (Priddy Trophy)
- Placing 2nd at the Little 3 (with an all Freshman team)
- Placing 2nd at the New England Dinghy Tournament (which qualified the team for the NEISA Championship Regatta)

Where we sailed Spring 2018



2017/2018 Season in Review

The 2017/2018 school year has been a big year for Middlebury Sailing. We have seen significant growth in our team on a number of fronts. In addition to having more race team members than ever before, the team continues to move up the rankings and finished the year ranked 18th in NEISA (out of 42). Each week, we've had strong numbers at practice which has resulted in great improvement. In addition, we want to highlight the amount of hours that our sailors give the team each year through practice, regattas, and other team activities. We thought the best way to give a snapshot of our year was to look at it by the numbers:

- **18** Regattas sailed
- **30** Different sailors sailed in regattas
- **7648** Miles of travel to regattas
- **6** States raced in (VT, CT, RI, MA, ME, NH)
- **306** Total races sailed
- **1680** Miles driven to and from practice



End of Season BBQ and Awards



Seniors



Juniors



Sophomores



Freshmen



2017/2018 Middlebury Sailing Team



Spring 2018 Awards:
Most Valuable Skipper: Ben Arquit '20
Most Valuable Crew: Casey Astiz '19
Most Improved: Grace Hering '21.5
Seamanship Award: Nathaniel Wiener '18



Fundraising

We are currently fundraising with a goal of buying a fleet of 12 brand new FJs to be delivered for the Spring 2019 season. As many of you know, our current fleet, purchased in 2008, has served the team well, but it has come time for it to be replaced. The sails are fully blown out and the boats need continual repairs to sail in them. We have been given a quote that the new fleet will cost \$78,000. We hope to fund the new fleet through donations, so anything that is contributed goes a long way in fulfilling our goal! The new boats will improve training and will make us a top notch college sailing venue. The new boats will also encourage more teams to come to the annual Stuart Walker Regatta, which will be great exposure for our team and school. Thank you in advance for any donation you are able to make. The team really appreciates it!

Thank you to our generous donors!

- Aetna Foundation Inc.
- Kevin Arquit
- Peter and Anne Astiz
- William and Sarah Baskin
- Jane Gagne and Roger Beaulieu
- Benjamin Brown
- Thomas and Dafna Brown
- Thomas Brush
- Meghan Colwell
- Alden Cowap
- David and Alexandra Dohan
- Shannon Donegon
- Stephen Jr. and Nancy Donovan
- Terry Duncan
- Elizabeth Freeman
- Christopher and Mary Hahn
- George Jr. and Emilie Hinman
- Mark and Caroline Honorowski
- Eric and Tammy Johnson
- Douglas and Grace Lessing
- Julian Macrone
- John and Margaret Pates
- Benjamin Pruitt
- Adam and Ashley Volwiler

Donate Here:

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



Message from the Commodore

Friends of MCSC,

We had an amazing spring season this year! This is my first semester as Commodore, and I am happy to announce that we moved from Lake Dunmore to Lake Champlain! We have managed to jump through many school imposed hoops and move in to our lovely new venue in Panton, VT. I cannot thank Sean Willerford, Annie Hopper and the Hopper family enough for this amazing opportunity and for all the help this semester.

Not only have we moved, but we have completely fixed up our docks with new floatation, created a completely new dock set up, and have set up our new club house near our boats. We have experienced some amazing sailing this semester as well; we no longer go days on end without wind. In addition, we had an entire month of practice while Dunmore remained frozen. The team also participated in some great regattas, including qualifying for the New England Dinghy Championship at Brown. On one weekend we sent 4 teams to 3 separate regattas! Last but not least, we are very close to reaching our fundraising goals, and hope to get a new fleet of 12 boats by spring 2019. I look forward to fostering more growth and development of the team in the next year, and am so proud of how far we've come! Thank you all for supporting MCSC!

Casey Astiz '19



Coach's Corner

The spring season got off to a slow start due to lingering winter weather, but in late March we were able to launch 3 docks and 6 FJs at our new Panton venue. It took a lot of work to figure out the logistics of our new location. We cannot thank alumni Annie Hopper and Sean Willerford enough. Without their support and volunteer labor, this would not have been possible.

By early April, we were practicing in Lake Champlain and the improvement over Lake Dunmore was immediately apparent. We were treated to excellent, yet often frigid sailing conditions and well attended practices. It took us the first few weeks to figure out the new venue, dealing with a row boat ferry from the shore to the docks, frequent ice on the docks and boats, and a dramatically increased water level. By the end of April everything fell together. Our new location is so nice that we even stayed for an extra week to practice and sail even after the NEISA season had ended.

The Panthers sailed well this spring, despite having our first two events cancelled due to winter weather. A strong 2nd place finish at the NE Dinghy Tournament in early April by Ben Arquit, Casey Astiz, Alex Baskin, and Erich Wu qualified the team for the NEISA Coed Championships which was sailed in the last weekend of April by the same crew. There were also stand out performances by the team of Anna Spiro, Mollie Ockene, Hanna Mass, and Allie White, all from the class of 2021. The four came in 5th at the Priddy Freshmen Championship, and 2nd at the Little 3 regatta the following weekend.

We are looking at a promising upcoming fall season with a new venue, and lots of new team members from the class of 2021.5. We will have our full fleet launched, and lots of enthusiastic people to sail it. We're looking forward to showing it off at the Stuart Walker Regatta on October 6th. Finally I would like to acknowledge and thank the graduating seniors Ben Brown, Rebecca Freeman, and Nathaniel Wiener, all making significant contributions to the team in leadership rolls.



Tom Tucker, Head Coach

Inaugural Sunset Practice

As a fun way to end the spring season, the team had a sunset practice. It was the best attended practice of the season and sailors were met with perfect conditions for an evening of sailing. A big thank you to Liam Hahn '21.5 for all the pictures!



Thank You Class of 2018!

The year of 2018 has been an exciting one for the sailing team: getting a new coach, moving to a new venue, inching closer towards new boats, plenty of new, enthusiastic sailors, once again qualifying for the NEISA spring championship and plenty of great sailing. There's so much to be grateful about. Many thanks to all those that helped us make this happen. I couldn't have imagined all this to happen the first time I stepped into a boat on Lake Dunmore. So much change. So much excitement. What hasn't changed in the three years though, are a group of people that have always been there for many of us. They are the sailors of Class of 2018.

It's always tough during the end of the semester as the time to say, "happy graduation!" sneaks up. During the spring, I constantly mention to others how "it's hard to imagine (insert name) not being on the team next year." Yet, this spring would be even more so. Since the first time I entered the world of college sailing, you, sailors of class of 2018, have been so welcoming and encouraging. The majority of you were on the board at the time and I recall the support when I was interested about joining it. No matter if it were sailing advice, or academics, or even just a causal talk about anything, you'd be happy to engage. There's so much to say but I'll try keeping it short. Rebecca, thanks for being a great commodore. I won't forget the "Cheap Thrills" (Spring Break throwback!) you brought to the team :) Nate, thanks for being so welcoming to sailors on the team. Your dramatic antics and humor will be missed. Ben, thanks for being an important part of the team's competitive development. It's always incredible to see you do well in regattas. Margaret, Olivia, Dylan, Nick, thank you guys for being part of the team too! Good luck on your future endeavors Panther sailors of Class of 2018. Don't forget to stop by Middlebury and visit us!

Erich Wu '19



Nate — I'm going to really miss Nate buying random boats, as he has bought two this year. He has been a large part of the team, and he will be missed!

Rebecca — She has been a great member of the team, and has been a great leader. I've really appreciated getting to know Rebecca, and her help in progressing the team.

Ben Brown — Ben has been a great part of the team, and I've enjoyed sailing with him in many regattas. I had a lot of fun and will definitely miss being on the team with him.

Casey Astiz '19



Nate: "Did you go to Rio?" "Cøpe is Døpe"

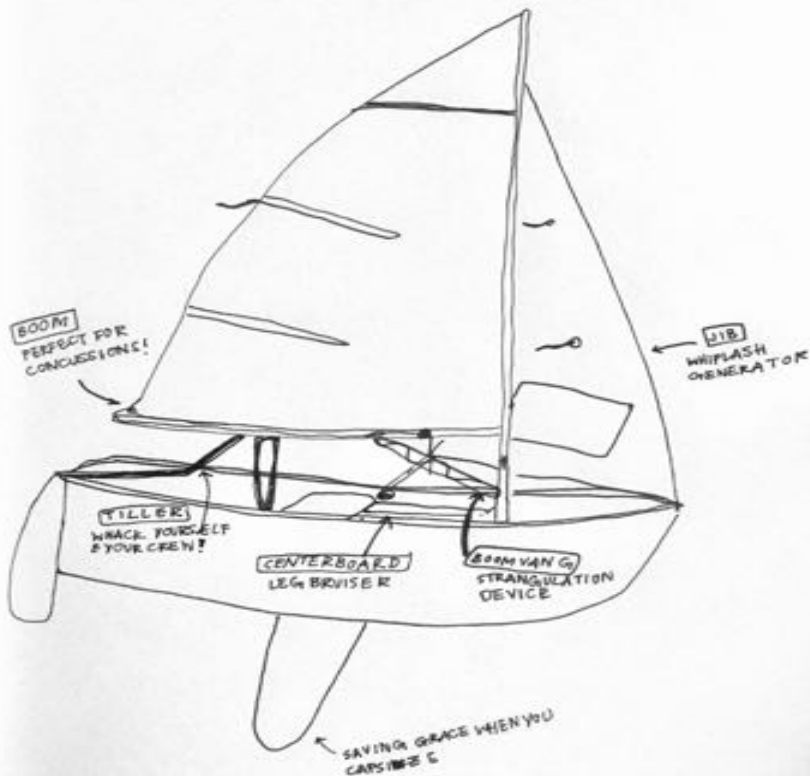
Ben: "I'm not not down."

Rebecca: "Only took 4 years of knowing you to sit in the rain together for hours and call it racing."

Lexie Lessing '19



THE PAINFUL PARTS OF A BOAT



Submission by
Sarah Yang '19.5

An Original Acrostic by Lexie Lessing

Sailing
sailing
saIling
saiLing
sailIng
sailingG
sailingG



MIDD
SAILING

First <—> Last

On the day of my first practice, I carpooled with a rag tag group of sailors organized by Commodore Terry Duncan '14 and (self-proclaimed) 'High Minister of Recreation' Pete Kerby-Miller '17.5. Piling into Annie Hopper's '14.5 car, whom I confused with Anna Baratta '15 my entire freshman year, I ended up on Dunmore where I was stunned to see a beautiful fleet of 12 FJ's. This first practice I made a point of introducing myself to Sean Willerford '14, who informed me that he "didn't matter, cause I graduated last year". Why he was there, I was never really sure. That first practice I attempted roll tacks with Milo Stanley '17.5, likely failing repeatedly due to lack of wind and experience (we went on to win our first regatta, the 2014 McGill Cup). I was amused when CC Connard '15, drove up to our FJ in our red Zodiac Patricia and loudly asked if we were coming to MCSC's first party. Off the water, I piled into Annie Hopper's car and spent most of the drive trying to figure out why she had nun chucks in the seat-back pocket.

I don't remember the first meeting of the Royal Savage Yacht Club but it was probably in Brooker and I was probably pretty nervous. The email list was 30 people and it was a serious stretch, less than half actually showed up to things. Board meetings, from what I've heard, rapidly became arguments.

Fast forward to my last day of practice. Our email list is nearly 100 people, about half of whom actively participate in social events or practice. For my final day, I arrived at the Hopper Family Sailing Pavilion in Panton, Vermont to a hearty 24 sailors spread out across MCSC's fleet. The fleet was soaked, battling choppy and windy conditions (a huge improvement for actually practicing sailing!). I hopped in our landlords' (the very same Sean Willerford and Annie Hopper who were at my first practice) coach boat and watched the sun set over Lake Champlain and the sailors of MCSC.

It has been an honor to serve this team as Treasurer (two-terms), Rec/PE Coordinator (as a second-semester senior), and Social Chair (twice!). Having witnessed profound growth, it pains me to leave MCSC as the Team embarks on a new voyage on Champlain. I can only wish the leadership continued success in the Panton-era. To all those that guided me along the way, helped lead the team, or challenged me to see the bigger picture, Thank You.

Nathaniel Wiener '18



Racing at Dinghy Champs

With the school year flying by as per usual, we arrived at April 27 before I knew it. For those of you who know me, the last weekend in April is something I look forward to all season from when we have our first practice in September. The last weekend of April is the NEISA Coed Championship. It represents our biggest opportunity to race against the top schools in NEISA, mainly varsity programs, as well as go up against some of the country's top sailors, as it is the nationals qualifier. Just ask Rebecca or Casey, who I've sailed with the last two years, I get really excited for this event. We arrived at Brown Saturday morning and were met with howling winds. I immediately had a grin on my face. We rigged and went right out after the skippers' meeting to warm up tacks and gybes. We had an absolute blast racing in high winds and against incredible competition. By the end of the day, we could barely hike out and hold the sheets in any longer. At this moment, Casey and I agreed offseason team workouts would be mandatory next year. The next day was much lighter and shiftier, which led to new challenges. We had some great races, at times beating teams who were qualifying for nationals, but we also saw how far we still had to go. While our results weren't what we wanted, we learned so much and got a taste of what competing at that level looks like. It left us hungry for more and excited to go back to the team to start working towards next year! I know that with continued growing commitment from the team and the amazing support from our alumni we can continue to rise up the ranks in NEISA and in college sailing as a whole. The beauty of these top tier events is they give you an accurate look at where you are and where you need to be. That being said, I know this team can get there and challenge to be in the upper echelon of NEISA. I can't wait to see what next year has in store for the team and I look forward to our continued improvement!

Ben Arquit '20



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 Hat or 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 Casey Astiz, Commodore

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

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