

SPRING 2021 WINDWARD PANTHER



MIDDLEBURY SAILING

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From zoom workouts to knot-tying lessons on McCullough lawn, to making it onto the water with our sailing partners that double as close contacts, it has certainly been an abnormal semester. While COVID restrictions and ice kept us off Lake Champlain until April, Social Chairs Maya Saterson and Arlo Fleischer organized many team bonding activities including virtual team dinners and chalk talks in the first half of the semester. As the weather warmed and restrictions started to relax, we were back on the water!

New team members at the annual pirate party



Team bonding COVID testing



Hot Chocolate Night!



Back on the water :)



sailing + dogs, what more could you ask for?



end of year BBQ



Having a quick swim on the last day of practice

Coach's Corner

It was great to be back on Champlain with the team this spring. Although there was still no formal competition we managed to have a productive season. There was an abundance of new faces and enthusiasm. I was relieved to see that motivation and dedication remained through the last year. Although the season was shorter we were able to have several weeks of productive practices in preparation for eventual regattas. The team is in good shape to hopefully return to competition in the fall with a large and enthusiastic roster.

There are still no regatta highlights to share as we normally do, but I'd like to thank the graduating seniors for their time on the team. They spent this spring helping train new students and set up a successful fall. Class of 2021 members Mollie Ockene, Hanna Mass, Anna Spiro, Jeanelle Tsai, and Allie White have formed the core of the team for the last four years and all made valuable contributions racers and board members. As the team leaders for the majority of the pandemic, they were phenomenal at recruiting new members, maintaining engagement, and preserving the team's enthusiasm. They also represent the last of the team who sailed on Lake Dunmore prior to the move to Champlain. Thank you all.

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Allie, Mollie, Hanna, Anna at the Freshman Priddy Trophy in Bridgeport CT. April 21 2018. They came in fifth.

Our equipment continues to be a concern. The floating dock sections that hold the fleet are well past their life expectancy. They've suffered some major breakdowns and loss of floatation. The higher aluminum docks are doing well, but the lower wooden docks need replacement after this season. The fleet itself is in good condition. The boats, standing rigging, and running rigging are all good. The sails are not. They should have been replaced years ago, and several get sent for repairs each season. New sails will extend the life of the fleet another 6-7 years. Both of these projects will require generous donations and support. If you are interested in helping, please email tucker@middlebury.edu.

Tom Tucker
Head Sailing Coach

Message from the Commodore

Hi everyone,

I hope you all are doing well and staying healthy. The sailing team was able to have an awesome spring semester, despite facing unique challenges. We started off with solely virtual practices, but we were gradually able to meet in person and start sailing. This semester brought with it several setbacks, most notably the continued inability to participate in regattas, but it was also marked by perseverance, teamwork, and growth.

At the beginning of the semester, our team was only able to meet virtually due to Middlebury's COVID-19 protocol. During these first few weeks, we met over Zoom for workouts, chalk talks, and team dinners. Though holding practices over Zoom was not ideal, meeting virtually was a great way for the team to get to know each other, exercise, and review sailing tactics before hitting the water.

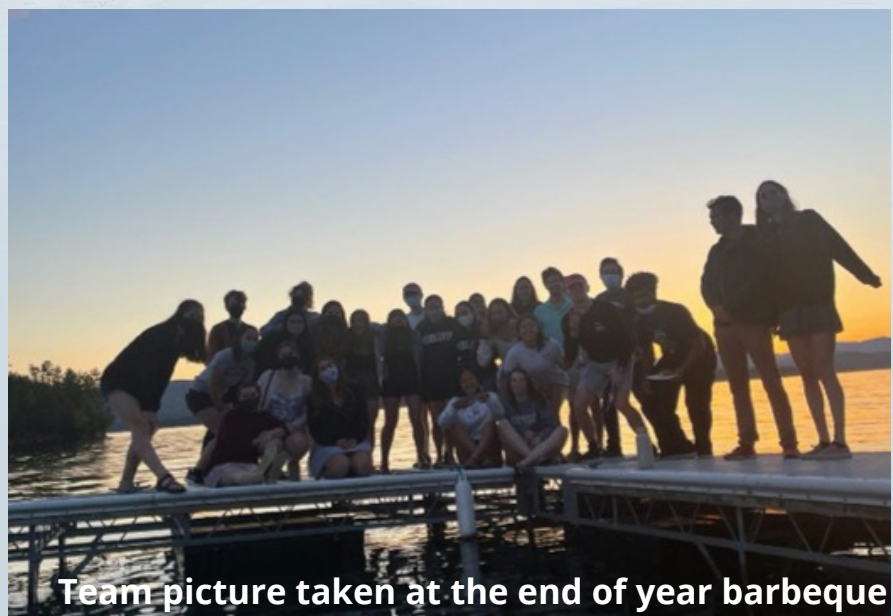
Around mid-April, restrictions loosened, and our team jumped into action to get sailing. In the first few weeks, our team was required to have assigned skipper-crew partners. This system was at times a hindrance, but it also allowed sailors to build a relationship with one partner, as well as ensured new sailors had more experienced partners. Eventually, this restriction was dropped, and we began changing up the partners to give everyone a chance to sail with someone new. This season, regattas were not a possibility, so practices were less focused on racing tactics and more geared towards improving boat speed and control. We dedicated time to coaching beginners and bringing less experienced sailors up to speed.

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We also worked hard to make our team more inclusive, driven by the efforts of our NEISA TIDE Representative, S.J. O'Connor. The NEISA TIDE Representative is a position that has been recently added to the board, and this individual works on The Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity (TIDE) Committee of NEISA. We welcomed around ten new recruits this semester, the majority of which had never sailed before. Through beginner-focused chalk-talks and one-on-one training, these new sailors were able to help rig a boat and sail by the end of the semester.

I want to thank the hard-working upperclassmen on our team and our coach Tom Tucker for making this season so successful. COVID-19 could have put a damper on the semester, but we were able to practice as a team with virtual meetings from the beginning and then get out on the water for over a month of sailing. We also want to thank our donors for continuing to support our team; we are so appreciative of your generosity, and we sincerely thank you for making the sailing team possible! We look forward to bringing together the team's community next semester, when we can hopefully host the family and friends regatta again. I hope everyone has a great summer, and I look forward to getting back out on the water with you in the fall!

Lucie Rochat 2022
Commodore



Team picture taken at the end of year barbeque

FIRST-YEAR BOARD MEMBER SJ O'CONNOR '24
WRITES ABOUT HER POSITION AS
MIDDLEBURY'S NEISA TIDE REPRESENTATIVE
AND HOW THE COMMITTEE WORKS TO FOSTER
AND PROMOTE INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY IN
SAILING



"I work with the New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association (NEISA) on the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (TIDE) Committee. I joined the School Outreach and Recruiting subcommittee that I meet with once a month to develop plans to move sailing programs in the conference forward, specifically with education. In addition, I attend bi-monthly International Collegiate Sailing Association meetings. I help with outreach to all students and retention on the Middlebury team as well as bring/present any programs TIDE develops to the Middlebury team! A team full of people ready to grow, learn, and accept different opinions is a strong team and one I see before me at Midd.



THE
INCLUSIVITY
DIVERSITY &
EQUITY

NEISA COMMITTEE

I feel it is important to continue the work I've been doing this semester in the fall as I collaborate with many different northeast regional sailors on education plans and outreach for the international sailing community. When we as a team include people from all socioeconomic backgrounds, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, sailing skill sets, etc. we become a better group of sailors and people as a whole. I have been working to help TIDE develop an education plan that focuses on diversity training and retention by fostering an inclusive community. My subcommittee has been focused on reaching out to young sailors and assists them with college recruitment which can be confusing to those who are unfamiliar with the system. By continuing in this position, I will use it as an opportunity to open sailing up outside of its predominantly white roots and continue to hold our team accountable for having hard conversations to open up the endless possibilities ahead!"

- **SARAH JANE (SJ) O'CONNOR**



SJ O'CONNOR '24 AND KATIE ROSA '24.5 AFTER A QUICK SWIM AT OUR END OF SEMESTER BBQ

On Sailing

a small collection of
poems by Will Procter

The Tom and the Patricia
by Procsauce

See the sailing of the Tom,
I think he's angry at the bee balm.
He finds it hard to see the dock,
Overshadowed by the red crosstalk.
Who is that whipping (in Patricia) near the sail?
I think she'd like to eat the ponytail.
She is but a floating Patricia,
Admired as she sits upon a Leticia.
Her dank car is just a boat,
It needs no gas, it runs on Vogt.
She's not alone she brings a boom,
a pet fish, and lots of legume.
The fish likes to chase a capsized,
Especially one that's in the memorize.
The Tom shudders at the windy puff
He wants to leave but she wants the fluff.

(Patricia is the name of the coach boat)

boats

boats are

boats are cool

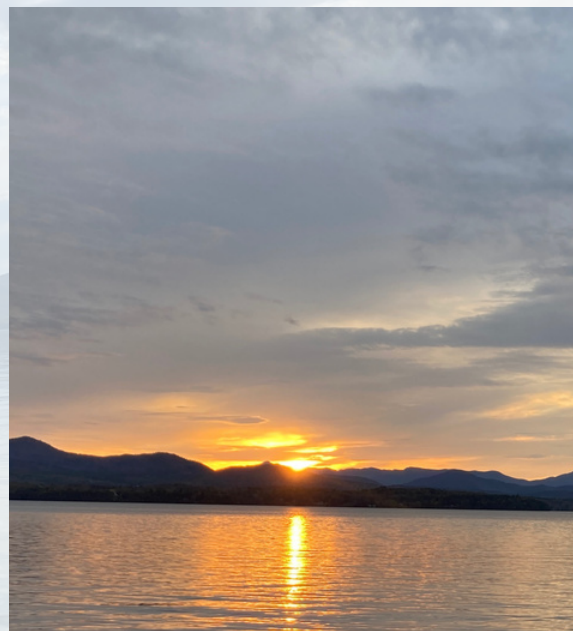
boats are cool because

boats are cool because they

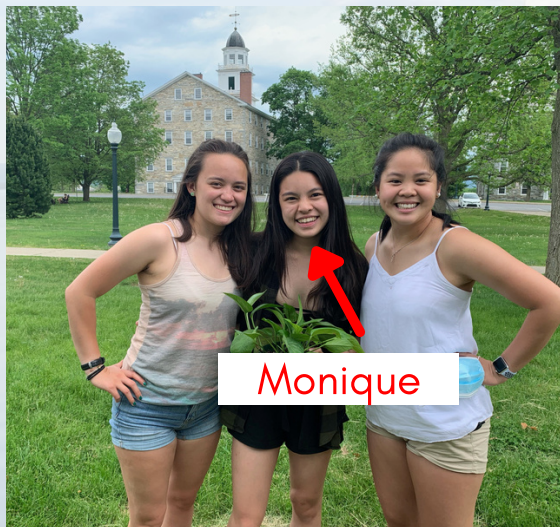
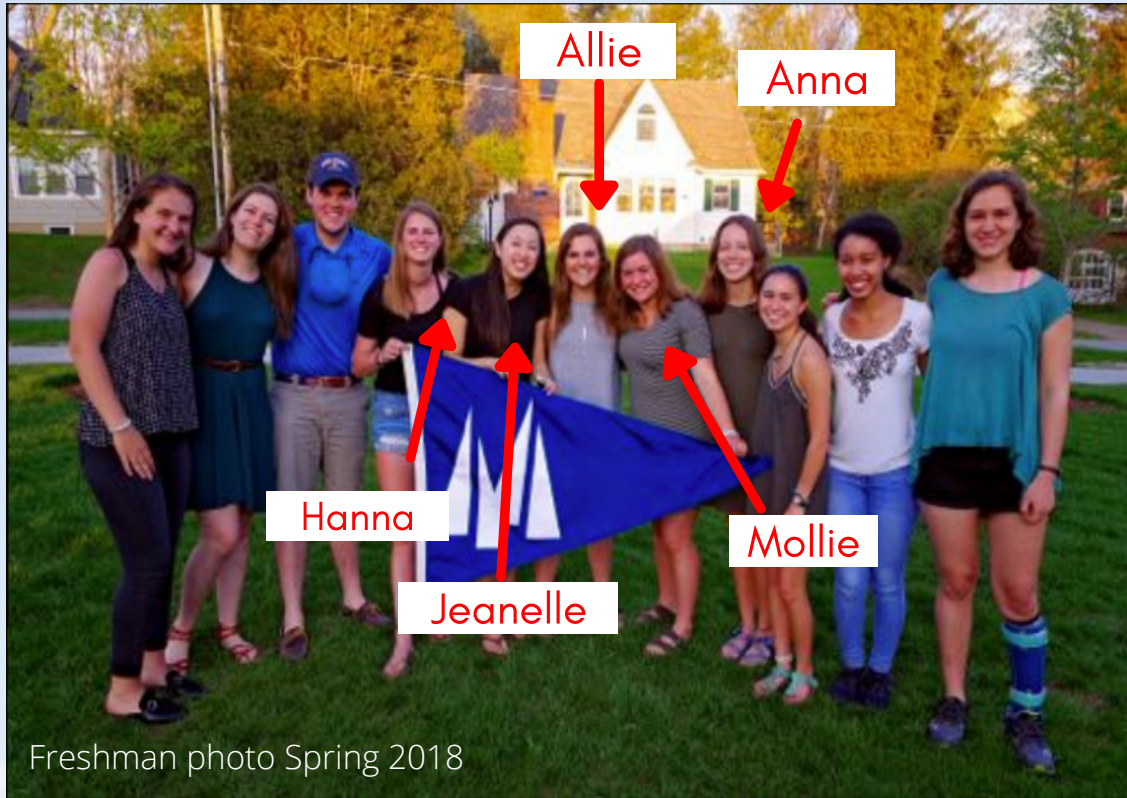
boats are cool because they float



Even during such crazy times you can always count on Lake Champlain sunsets. Whether there is still ice on the lake or some sailors just went swimming (or both) the evening mountain view never disappoints.



SENIOR GOODBYE



A super big congratulations to the Class of 2021! This year was definitely one for the books, turning MSCS on its head, but your excitement for sailing helped make the sailing team an enthusiastic and fun environment. It's hard to imagine being on the team without any of you but we are all so excited to see what you do next. Whether if it was sailing advice, or school, or even just a casual conversation, you were always happy to engage and help. Don't forget to come back and visit us!



Thank you so much to my MCSC family for an amazing four years. I truly can't imagine life at Middlebury without this team. I'll miss you all so much and can't wait to come back to our Panton home to visit soon! - Allie White '21



Thanks MCSC for 4 wonderful years and the incredible friends and memories along the way. While I am excited to begin working as a research assistant in Boston next year, I will greatly miss Lake Champlain sunsets and sailing at Panton! - Hanna Mass '21

MCSC has been such a meaningful part of my Middlebury experience - I'll remember the the Panton sunsets, the winding drives to practice, the occasional regatta chaos, and most of all the people on the team who shaped my time at Middlebury and will remain my best friends for the rest of my life. Huge shoutout to the whole team (and Tom!) for everything over the past four years. I know the current board will absolutely crush it next year, and I can't wait to come back and visit <3 - Anna Spiro '21

Being on the sailing team has been a huge highlight of my time at Middlebury, and I am very grateful for my time with MCSC on Dunmore and then Champlain. I'll be working as a clinical research coordinator at Massachusetts General Hospital in the fall, and I'm excited to cheer for you all at Boston regattas and come back to visit! - Mollie Ockene '21

To the seniors (Anna, Allie, Mollie, Hanna, Jeanelle, and Monique):

I want to thank each one of you for making Midd Sailing such a wonderful place during your time on the team. Your combined enthusiasm, kindness, and spirit have made MCSC such a welcoming and tight-knit community, which has made being on this team so fun and rewarding. Congrats on graduation and best of luck on your post-Midd endeavours! Fair winds and following seas.

- Will Procter '24



**Goodbye and
good luck!
You will be
missed on the
team but we
are very
excited for
you all.**

**What do Sea
Monsters love to
eat?**

Fish and Ships.



**What is a pirate's
favourite exercise?**

Arrrrr-robics

**How do you
rejuvenate a
boat?**

Boat-tox

**Why do oars fall in
love?**

**Because they are
row-mantic**

**What's a pirate's
favourite letter?**

**You may think it's
the RRRRR, but it's
the C that they're in
love with!**

**A boat carrying red
paint crashed into a
boat carrying blue
paint and the crew
were marooned.**



Thank You!



Firstly, a BIG thank you to our returning coach Tom for his hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm for sailing. Thanks for helping us all improve from the experienced sailors to the not-so-experienced individuals on days with zero wind to days with LOTS of wind. It's been great to have you back!

Second, thank you to all of the team members who helped MCSC succeed in this less-than-normal semester and handled all of the added COVID challenges with a positive attitude and excitement.



Last but definitely not least, a super big thank you to all the alumni, friends, and family of the team for all your support during the semester.

We could not have done it without you!



Looking to become more involved?

Host the team!

Our sailors travel across the country for 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. <https://sites.middlebury.edu/sailing/support-us/>

Buy a hat or shirt!

MCSC has merchandise in the bookstore! All profits from the shirts being sold in the bookstore go directly to the team and buying new boats! For more information to donate please contact Lucie Roachat, Commodore!

Questions?

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

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM:
Middlebury College Sailing Club

Spring 2021 Windward Panther Written by Catie Baxter,
Special Events Coordinator

