

the
Acton Action

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Merry Christmas!

Yes, Hueston Sailing Association, there is a Santa Claus. He doesn't always wear a red hat with a little white fluff dangling off to one side. (Who among us wants to stay in uniform all the time?)

Steve Bossert, who is an alum of Sunfish racing at our lake and also a J-24 skipper at Brookville, donated the magnetic board below to HSA. The training kit will come in handy during camps, Learn to Sail dates, and other classes next year. Steve's daughter, now 28, attended HSA junior camp at one time.

Steve gave the board to HSA's Pete Peters who didn't know exactly what all the pieces were for but he was sure of one thing. The red boat with inside position in the upper left, he said, was certainly his boat in this illustration. I know, Pete. We are all eager to return.

Meanwhile, thanks Steve. And Happy Holidays to all of you.



HSA Says: Give the Gift of Knowledge and the Great Outdoors

OK, break out your Christmas lists. The one for yourself too. Who's on your list that could use a good dose of Mother Nature? What do you want from Santa? We have some ideas for you, just in case you needed a few more or wanted to give something a little different.

We say, give the gift of sailing. With it comes a great many accessories. 3000 acres of natural beauty. Included. 600 acres of water. Included. Forty or fifty new friends. Included. A lifetime of fun, learning, and friendship. Included. The ability to do something that few others can claim the ability to do. Included. Wind. Uhhhh.... included, but strength and duration may vary. (Sorry, we said a great gift, not a perfect one.) With many of these gift ideas you get someone like the guy pictured above who can't seem to stop doing sailing related stuff even if his hands are frozen to the mast he is carrying somewhere. Included.

Check our list of December gift ideas, some of which can't be fully opened until May. They're on the next page.

Christmas Wish List

How many of your gifts of Christmas past have ended up in a closet somewhere, or a garage sale, or at Goodwill? Give these gifts and they will last a lifetime. Maybe even longer.

A Learn to Sail Weekend in June

Our club offers a Learn to Sail class, a group experience that takes place twice next summer – once in June and once in August. The class is a two day experience that puts learners in an instructor's boat for a sailing weekend. This introduction to sailing will teach someone the basics of rigging, launching, points of sail and other fundamentals of wind, water and wonder.

Gift certificate can be sent via email before Christmas. \$50 (cheap)



Sunfish Solo

Put someone you love (or like a lot) in a Sunfish with one of our instructors for a four hour lesson in basic small boat sailing. When you finish, you will be also be able to play the guitar. OK, maybe not that, but you will be ready to sail that same day ON YOUR OWN! Guaranteed.

One on one instruction \$50

Learn to Race

Know someone who wants to learn to race? Maybe you want to be that someone. You can give them or yourself a four hour lesson in basic, intermediate, or advanced racing. Again, one on one instruction in our boat or theirs. Or yours! \$50

There are family discounts for our learn to sail/race classes. Ask us about including the spouse and the juniors.

Teach Me To Sail My Boat

How about someone who already has a boat but needs someone to teach them how to rig and sail it? We can do that too. Our "Teach Me" class for people who have a boat but are not that sure about how to use it exactly can get an HSA instructor on board with them for an afternoon on the water in their boat, literally learning the ropes. Yes, just \$50 and we'll bring the magnetic board with us.





Off Season? Off the Water? Not a Problem – There’s an App For That

Actually there are a lot of them. Here are some that we have tried and liked, some of them free.

Top Sailor – This app puts you at the controls (rudder, mainsheet) and sends you to school. You can learn how to get your boat around on the water. The wind direction and speed are indicated and you have to trim and steer to move around a course without capsizing or getting in irons.

Yes, capsizing. Your little avatar sailor can switch sides of the boat, hike and even swim if he has to. (I know, having been virtually wet several times.) After going to “school”, you can select any number of standard courses in all kinds of conditions. Challenging.

Sailing Knots for Beginners for iPad

– In this app, “Andy” will show you how to tie 18 different knots. (You only need four or five) including our favorites: the ever popular and useful bowline, the clove hitch, the figure eight and the half hitch. It will also show you how to cleat a dock line so your boat doesn’t drift away without you on it. I have been there. More than once. In the same weekend.

There is also the ever popular round turn rolling trucker’s hitch with a slipped sheet bend. OK, I made that one up. This app isn’t animated like some sites you can Google up but it will show you how to tie knots in a series of very clear illustrations. Beginners only – very basic.

Sailboat Championship – This is an app I have had for a few years and find fun and challenging and addictive. This racing app will pit you against three other boats, some that are really good and some that are even worse than you. Like they run into you and stuff.

But you can make your way up levels just like Mario Bros. or Assassins’ Creed. I am currently at Pro Stage 8, which sounds good but only if you don’t know that I have been there for three months.

A “ghost” image of a boat races with you and your competitors to show you your previous best effort so you will know each time how you are doing against your best time. Unlike the app Top Sailor, which requires you to multi task, this one just needs you to steer. And it’s free. (continued next page)

More Apps!

(Continued from previous page)

Tactical Sailing Tips – This one is by far the most interesting and the most versatile. It is not only a smart device app, it is downloadable for your Mac or PC and available on CD. What is Tactical Sailing? According to the website it is a game against the wind. But it is so much more. It is a simulator for beginners and advanced sailors/racers. You can learn sailing, compete, or just get animated tips on tactics and strategy.

The app for my i-devices is free as is access to the website and its demos, but the CD or downloadable application is \$54 on Amazon. You can learn basic rules of the road for crossing situations on port and starboard in all wind directions – a very nice feature for those who want to either stay out of the way (learning) or get in someone's way (racing).

The site is a bit hard to navigate, but after a little time, everyone from novice to champion will find something that will interest them. I tried out the demo racing and it only took me three races to beat the green boat (which I think I named Roger). Although I haven't thoroughly checked this site out, I have the app on my device and not afraid to use it. I'm not sure if I will put out \$54 to buy the whole thing but what little I've seen is enough to keep me exploring it. And so far, enjoying what I found.

The whole thing is sailing guru Dave Dellenbaugh's creation. He is the driving force behind the racing publication Speed& Smarts, which would also make a great gift for the racer who just wants to get a little better. Speed&Smarts is a bi-monthly newsletter with good articles and great illustrations on how to race faster and smarter. It also regularly carries articles on racing rules, the part that I often study most. No, really.

If interested, go to www.speedandsmarts.com where you can order the print version for \$45 a year or the downloadable PDF version for only \$35 annually. The current issue, #128, is all about starting.

Be a Good Elf



'Tis the season of giving so let's give it up for... Laura Beebe, our Rear Commodore (the one standing behind Lionel Ritchie and the others). Laura would like to set committee duty dates early this coming year. It helps her a lot. So send in your dues early and get signed up. The dues are the same as last year - \$95 – and will get your whole family crew into HSA. Whether you are a returning veteran, rookie, full member or associate, you can serve on committee and get a front row seat at the start and the finish. Most of us are assigned just two dates during the summer. It's a great way to learn how to set up the course, run the rescue boat, or even learn how to race. Like your pastor says – you will never be given more than you can handle. On race duty, that is. Forms are at the website: www.huestonsailing.com **Happy Holidays!**