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In This Issue

Is there some wood on your boat that needs refinishing? We take you through some simple steps - page 2-3

Sunfish Soap Opera? It's the ISCA vs. the ISCO and it is getting a little weird - page 4

Night Before Christmas - on a boat? You knew it (the poem) would come - page 6

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree."

Roy L. Smith



What's Going On in Sailing? US Sailing Knows

In US Sailing's most recent annual appeal to its members for funds, the organization had something to say about the state of sailing as we get ready for 2018. Since US Sailing, founded in 1897, is primarily about promoting access and participation, education, and competition, the numbers are all about training.

The group certified nearly 3,000 new instructors with about 148,000 sailors learning new skills from those instructors.

(Continued on page 4)

New Film about Sailing Coming Soon

You might remember the documentary in 2006 called *Deep Water*. It was about the 1969 Sunday Times Golden Globe Race around the world. An English businessman named Donald Crowhurst took on some of the best sailors in the world, with tragic results. Colin Firth stars as Crowhurst in a new film based on that race. The documentary was praised as "a movie which will reduce the hardest of hearts to shipwreck." The new film, based on the true story, may do the same. (Trailer just released.)

That's the rudder and tiller after I stripped varnish off. Below that is the repair with a little putty on it.



Wood and Water

Got some wood on your craft? How's that tiller/rudder looking for 2018? We go to work on getting the mahogany ready for next season.

Steps One, Two, and Three

I removed the tiller from the rudder on my Y-Flyer and took off the hiking stick. No sense getting stain on the tiller extension. I repaired a small place near the eye that is used to pull down the kick up rudder with some mahogany tinted putty. Then, it was time for stripping off the old varnish which was worn through badly in some places. Then I simply sanded - first with 60 grit, then 80, then 120. Vacuumed, cleaned with brushing liquid and used a tackcloth to remove the dust.

Steps Four and Five

I was ready to wipe on the filler stain (made pea soupy by some brushing liquid). Then with clean rags, we wipe on, wipe off Karate Kid style. After an overnight wait, I sealed the stain with Interlux 1026 sealer, two coats. More waiting overnight but ready to go next day with first coat of really good marine varnish. Nine coats. Sand with 320 grit in between.

Steps Six, Seven, Eight, Nine...

Ok, here's where it gets a little dicey. You see, since I don't have a heated garage, I had to go indoors. *In the kitchen.* Where it was warm. I had gotten everything put away that day except for the newly stained parts which were still lying on the dining room table when ... (see photo at right).

So Step Six, make sure you get everything put away before the spousal unit comes home. Cause you could end up on, uh, restriction, if you know what I mean.

Anyway, you can start applying the varnish. One coat a day for nine days with a little sanding with 320 grit paper in between coats.

(If you thought I learned my lesson, see the next page.)



We'll Call This Section, "Mike Doesn't Learn - Pictures Worth Thousand Words; Words Added Anyway." (Cont. from page 2)



Above, clever but then, not so much.



Above, cozy but then, not that clever.

So, the garage is like twenty degrees and you just can't use varnish at that temperature. What's more, I tried to find a good place to hang these things up but there was only one good spot - the light fixture in the dining room. (Hey! I used a drop cloth!)

I am now on day three of the varnishing odyssey and each coat is like pure gold. The wood is shining and both pieces actually look edible.

We went to dinner with some friends last Saturday and I was showing my friend Kramer how cleverly I had suspended the pieces for varnishing. (See clever method in photo at left.) How was I to know that she was looking over my unguarded shoulder? The jig was up.

Not sure where I am going to do coats 4-9 but I am currently scouting locations. I'm sure it will turn out fine. In the meantime, I positively glow whenever I look at my handiwork so far.

I think this work will make me faster next season, but, if not, I can always come away with the satisfaction of knowing my rudder and tiller are purtier. And protected.

I'll let you all know how it comes out. That is, when I come out of 15545 Dechant Rd, Apt. B and the wood is all finished. No pun intended.

At left, 15545 Dechant Rd. Apt. B





ISCA vs ISCO Has Sunfish Class in Tacking Duel

If you belong to the Sunfish class association, you have likely been getting the mailings about the conflict that has arisen between the International Sunfish Class Association (ISCA) and the folks at Laser Performance, the company that makes the Sunfish and other boats.

Laser Performance has decided that they would like to eliminate the ISCA in favor of an organization they call the International Sunfish Class Organization (ISCO). According to the ISCA president Laurence Mass, LP is doing this because they "want a virtual monopoly on class rules and allowed parts/materials."

ISCA has gone to court to prevent LP from taking over the class and is asking members to donate to the ISCA to defray legal

costs. The US Sunfish Class Association (USSCA), with Chicagoan Rich Chapman as head, is urging USSCA members to renew for two years and send a donation to ISCA as well to fight off LP's attempt to take over.

The dispute seemingly revolves around two issues: one is the question over whether we can get parts for our Sunfish from a supplier other than LP. A second issue is that LP has unilaterally decided in the past to change parts in a one design class without the class's knowledge or input.

At stake is the matter of who controls the class. LP seems to want to force ISCA to relinquish control over class legal parts & other matters. If these things matter, find out more at <http://www.sunfishclass.org> and lend a hand.



Sunfish Class being upended?

World Council Supports ISCA

The World Council, the world governing body for the sport of sailing, has changed class rules to allow ISCA, not the builder, to approve class legal parts for the boats. The Sunfish class became a member of the World Council in 1985 after asserting its independence from the builder, which at the time was AMF. That company spun off the Sunfish as an independent internationally recognized class. LP now wants it back. The fight is on. We'll try to keep you updated.

US Sailing Knows (continued from page 1)

Over 4600 adults learned to sail or improved skills at US Sailing certified schools in 2017. The organization is particularly proud of its newer Reach STEM Sailing program which certified 102 STEM sailing instructors and started 400 Reach programs that offer sailing instruction to over 100,000 middle schoolers across the country.

Of those Reach STEM students, 90% are first time sailors, 40% continue to sail, and 50% are from underserved communities.

The group also has an ambitious racing component. About 4000 kids learned to race at Junior Olympic Sailing Festivals in 2017. Another 408 raced at US Sailing Junior and Youth National Championships. At the International Class Championships and Youth Worlds in New Zealand, US Sailing's young racers won 3 Gold, 2 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals.

On the adult side, 419 sailed at nine US Sailing Adult National Championships. US Sailing is also very active in training leaders with 600 people registered to come to their Leadership Forum in 2018.

One way we can promote our sport is to donate to US Sailing and help support these activities. You can do so just by going to this website:

<http://www.ussailing.org/> and clicking on the "Donate" button. By the way, are you a member? You can help that way too, by joining.



The Night Before Christmas

A Christmas Poem for HSA

(With apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)

Twas the night before Christmas
And deep below deck
The HSA family
All said "what the heck!"

"We're staying up late,
We're staying afloat,
To find out if Santa
Can land on a boat."

The stockings were hung
By the hatch with great care
In hopes that Elf One
Could find them right there.

When all of a sudden
There arose such a clatter,
They jumped from their V berth,
Cause it sounded like splatter.

For above it did seem
That a crash had occurred.
The shrouds were vibrating.
Some giant bird?

The father peeked out
And that made him shutter,
For up on the deck
He heard someone mutter.

"Confound all these wires,
These ropes and these stays.
It's hard to deliver
My packages this way."

The family soon found
That Santa had landed,
Though they feared that the bimini
Was destroyed, to be candid.

They moved back from the hatch
Which was used as a chimney.
Down came the Toys, iPhones!
A brand new bimini! (*bim - nee*) (*rhymes with chimney*) (*Yes*)

He HAD found them there!
He HAD the great skill
To land eight tiny reindeer
On a boat! No one killed!

And they heard him exclaim
As he sailed out of sight.
"Merry Christmas to all!"
It just seemed so right.

They popped their heads out
And looked up with wide eyes
To see what kind of rig
This Sky Sailor would drive.

It wasn't a sleigh
Or even a sled
But a slooped rigged wood beauty
With a pennant that read:

"Though the wind be strong,
You will always prevail.
Race on, oh my brothers
And sisters of sail."

Yours Truly, **Merry Christmas**



Merry Christmas!

From Our HSA Sailing Family to Yours



Happy Holidays!