

'Come Sail Away' Crystal Lake Sailing School offering lessons



MOTLEY CREW: Students from the Crystal Lake Sailing School Class of 2009. (Photos/Brian Confer)

By **COURY CARLAND**
SUMMER SCENE EDITOR

FRANKFORT - The Crystal Lake Sailing School is well into its second season and this year looks to be better than the last. The school is operated from the beach at the Crystal Lake Yacht Club, just North of Frankfort on M-22. Sailing lessons are offered for children of all ages, with a primary focus on children aged six through 16. The mission of the Crystal Lake Sailing School is, "to introduce and promote the sport of sailing to the youth of Benzie County."

"It's amazing there are so many kids in this area that have

never been on a boat before," said former Crystal Lake Yacht Club commodore and CLSS President, Steve Christian. "The Sailing School is not just for the children of Yacht Club members. It's for the community."

Last season, a majority of the students who attended CLSS were from non-member families.

Program director, Charlie Yole and the Sailing School staff place a high value on safety. By creating an environment in which students feel safe, the staff is able to teach more than just sailing technique. The program promotes sportsmanship, teamwork, responsibility, and

resourcefulness.

"The Yacht Club is the perfect place to learn how to sail," thought Christian. "Charlie knows what he's doing and he's good with the kids. Lessons are held in the morning before the wind has had a chance to gather. And the students gradually work-up to sailing on their own."

2009 was the inaugural season for the CLSS. The School taught lessons for 117 sailors, many of whom participated in both levels of instruction. Forty of the sailors were from the MSU Extension 4H Club

CLSS offers two levels of instruction.

Level I is designed for novice sailors who have little or no sailing experience. The only prerequisite is that the student pass a swim test. The class is designed to teach the basics of sailing and sailing terminology.

Level II students should have a basic knowledge of wind direction and parts of a sailboat. The only pre-requisite is the

student's ability to sail outside the docks and return. Students will sail solo while deepening their understanding of rigging the boat, handling, seamanship and safety. Students will

build on the skills developed in Level I with instruction on how to round the windward and leeward buoys, how to properly

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PLAYA: CLSS classes are taught from the the beach at the Crystal Lake Yacht Club.





AROUND THE BUOY: The CLSS teaches friendly competition and good sportsmanship.



LADIES FIRST: The CLSS offers The Mary Louise Greene-McMillan Sailing Scholarship, which was established for young ladies interested in learning how to sail.

SAILING

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cross the starting line and how to finish.

Students who successfully complete both levels of the Learn to Sail Program will have obtained the skills needed to competitively race a sailboat and to appreciate the thrill of racing.

Each session runs for two weeks, Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – rain or shine.

The first two sessions of the season have sold out, but there is space available for the sessions that begin July 19 and August 2. Lessons are priced at \$170 for the two-week session. There are also opportunities to apply for a scholarship grant.

Instructors are available to teach private, one-on-one sailing lessons on any sailboat for students of any age.

Sailing lessons are conducted under the watchful eye of Charlie Yole and his experienced staff of instructors. They seek to promote a competitive spirit, which will serve the students well as they go on in life. In addition to teaching sailing lessons for CLSS, Yole also teaches ski lessons at Crystal Mountain Resort during the winter.

The CLSS is dedicated to the proposition that the life skills of self reliance, teamwork, and resourcefulness are major components of mastering the art and sport of sailing.

For more information contact the Program Director at (231) 352-6917, or go online at www.clyc.net/clss.



INDEPENDENT: At the CLSS, students are taught to handle a sail boat by themselves.