

Join DC Sail on the Water this Summer

BY LAURIE POMERSON

Looking for some new outdoor recreation activities this summer? Come give sailing a try! Located in Southwest DC at the Gangplank Marina, DC Sail offers adult and youth sailing lessons, weekend boat rentals, racing nights, social sails, schooner charters and more. The group is open to new members, sponsors, volunteers and anyone who loves to spend time with fellow sailors.

DC Sail offers beginner and advanced lessons where participants can learn to sail a Flying Scot, an FJ or a more performance-oriented boat – a Laser. Students can also become US Sailing Certified by learning from the many US Sailing Certified instructors.

For a more relaxing experience on the water, DC Sail offers group sales for four to 20 people for three hours – skipper provided – and private charters and sunset cruises aboard a 65-foot schooner, The American Spirit. Private charters can be made for up to 35 people and are often booked for corporate outings, birthday celebrations, weddings and other get-togethers. Sunset cruises are held every other week on Friday evenings throughout the summer.

There's also "Boating and Baseball" aboard the Spirit. DC Sail will sail guests down to Old Town Alexandria and return to the dock in time for a short walk to the National's Park for a baseball game, tickets included.

DC Sail offers extensive youth programming, including Kids Set Sail, a summer camp where kids ages 7 to 14 learn to become beginner and intermediate sailors. Sailing teaches skills that are used on and off the water, and these youth programs instill lessons that last a lifetime. Weekly camps are going on now, and campers can still register. Other youth initiatives include after-school High School Racing, Learn to Swim and Sail, and Schooner Education programs. Due to generous donations from community members, scholarships are available to these programs.

DC Sail will host this year's third annual Cantina Cup Regatta, Oct. 2, which will feature a full day of sailing with more than 100 participants. The Cantina Cup, hosted by Cantina Marina and sponsored in part by Mount Gay Rum, benefits DC Sail.

DC Sail is a community program of the National Maritime Heritage Foundation and is a nonprofit organization that relies on program revenue and commu-

nity support to continue its programming. Consider supporting DC Sail by booking a charter or becoming a member. DC Sail also accepts contributions through its website, www.DCSail.org. Also find information on volunteering at the website or by e-mailing volunteers@dcsail.org. For other questions or to make reservations for any programs, call 202-547-1250. ★

DC Sail sailboats on the water.

