



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SAILING AND THE BLOCK ISLAND CLUB SUMMER SAILING PROGRAM

The Block Island Club started Wednesday night sailing in 2020 as a way to offer an additional night of racing, and to place more of a focus on dinghies. The format is a windward/leeward course, with multiple races, starting at 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday evening. This event is organized by the Block Island Club, and it is open to the public. In order to use a Club boat for this event you must have a member on board. Approximately 18 people participated in the event each week, roughly 8 adults in keelboats and dinghies, and

10 kids in dinghies. Keelboats used for racing included: Colgate 26's and J24's. Types of dinghies used included: 420's, Optimists, Topazes, Megabytes, Lasers, Hobie Cats, International Canoes, Tasers, and Sunfish.

Since its inception in 1963, the Block Island Club has sought to

increase the number of sailors on the Great Salt Pond by offering access to sail boats and through classes and clinics. Ages 5-6 sail on Colgates with their instructors and friends to become comfortable on the water. Ages 7-12 sail on Colgates before progressing to Optimists (single handed dinghies) and Topazes (double handed dinghies). At the age of 13, students move onto 420 dinghies, the standard boats used for racing in high schools and colleges, with the addition of trapezes and spinnakers. Adults receive lessons on the Colgate 26's. In 2020, the Club welcomed over 45 kids per week in their sailing program, with a large mix of local kids, summer residents and weekly visitors. The goal of the Block Island Club is to give students the skills to sail with independence and confidence. This summer there were eight US Certified Sailing instructors teaching classes, running adult clinics, and providing sailing charters around the Great Salt Pond and the Island itself. The Club is optimistic about the future of sailing on the Island and is hopeful to build on the enthusiasm of this past summer. The plan is to increase sailing numbers across all age groups.



For information about next summer, contact the Block Island Club at www.BlockIslandClub.org or call 401.466.5939.

OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Great Salt Pond, including its shorelines and wetlands, and to promote appropriate and productive uses of the Pond's resources by residents, visitors and local businesses.

FUNDING: Individual contributions, membership dues, special events, program grants. IRS 501(c)3 non-profit. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please consider becoming a member of The Committee for the Great Salt Pond. For information and details, visit our website at cgspbblockisland.org.