

2020-2021 Bitter Ends Season
Captain's Report

This year I continued the transition of the Bitter Ends to a Sunfish Racing Club. Higel Park Pavilion became our unofficial club house as we sailed, partied, walked and kayaked our way through the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Sold the remaining Opti Sails and any extra Opti parts to Davis Island Youth Boating in June 2020.
2. Met with VYBA director, Kelley Severns, in July 2020 to negotiate VYBA fees prior to the VYBA Board meeting in early August. This resulted in a timely dissemination of forms and fee information to VWSS members for their return by September 1st. Negotiated a decrease in the whaler rental fee from \$100/use to \$75/use.
3. Worked to strengthen the bond between the Bitter Ends (VWSS), Venice Youth Boating Association (VYBA) and Englewood Sailing Association (ESA).
 - a. VWSS members volunteered for the VYBA Adult Learn to Sail classes in 420 sail boats for a total of 8 evenings in July. We volunteered 60+ woman hours of labor.
 - b. VWSS sailors participated in VYBA 420 Friday Night racing in the fall.
 - c. Communicated with Miriam Staveley, a volunteer at ESA, on a regular basis for the appropriate placing of adult sailors wanting to learn to sail.
4. Offered 9 summer social activities throughout the summer to include kayaking, biking, art, hiking and pool and beach parties
5. Treasurer Ann Carroll developed and printed our new VWSS brochure.
6. Webmaster Nancy Marik updated the VWSS website to reflect the transformation of the club to a Sunfish Racing Club. We developed an Interest Questionnaire for potential members that can be completed online with the form being sent to the vwss.captain@gmail.com email address.
7. Developed Bitter Ends Covid-19 protocols to get us safely through the sailing season. Updated our policies to reflect cost control measures. Updated our By-Laws to reflect the clubs continuing evolvement into a Sunfish Racing Club.
- 8.. Completed VYBA Whaler Driver Certification for members and volunteers in September and January.
9. Emphasized membership recruitment this year to increase the size of our fleet. Conducted a Sunfish tryout for Carolyn Muccioli who joined as a new Sunfish sailor in September (The first of seven new members this sailing season)

10. Started Easy Outdoor Fridays on the second Friday of each month to keep full and anchor club members connected. We had 8 Fridays together that included yoga, beach walking, finding the sharks in downtown Venice, walking several different parks, kayaking. and a Christmas ornament making party at Higel Park Pavilion with cookies and hot chocolate (hosted by Anne Chotkowski).

11. This year I developed a 5 week September Series focused on both fun and education. We sailed 4 out of 5 weeks competing our Second Annual Poker Race, Hurricane Sally's Surprise Relay Race, Let's Go Backwards - Starboard or Bust, Bay to Bay to Bay to Lunch Long Sail Race.

12. Inducted the Bear Ends as an official group within the Bitter Ends under the leadership of Capt Beth Anderson on Lil Bear. They provide safety boat services to the racers.

13. Had a successful Open House at Higel Park Pavilion, hosted by Vice Captain Lois Stekete, to recruit new Sunfish racers. We had approximately 20 people attend the Open House and conducted Sunfish Tryouts for 7 people in hot October weather. We added 3 new sailors, Christine Holmes, Lynn Mahonney and Lisa Meacock to our fleet in November. Bitter Ends volunteered 60+ person hours.

14. Had a very colorful and successful FWSA Interclub in October with a Sun Fiesta Theme hosted by Interclub Chair Pam Miller. It was the first of only 3 FWSA Interclubs for this sailing season. We had 8 sailors race from other clubs and 3 Bitter Ends in heavy winds.

15. Hosted a Halloween Party and Sail with our traditional costume contest for the top 3 costumes.

16. We competed in the FWSA Championship in November sailing an Ideal 18 non spinnaker with Skipper Ann Carroll at the helm, and crew of Jill Joos on Jib and Marge Whiteman as Middle Man. We placed 1st for the second year.

17. Hosted the Women at the Helm Regatta with lunch to follow at Bodrums. Pam Miller was the winner for her second time.

18. Hosted a Thanksgiving fun sail which turned in to a full Flamingo themed 80th Birthday Party and Sail for Ann Carroll.

19.. Our indoor Christmas Party was cancelled however Pam Miller hosted a GoodBye 2020 Bring Your Bling New Year's Party and Sail at Higel Park Pavilion. Excellent food was provided by the Maine Line Lobster Food Truck. We donated \$1170 to SPARCC and \$600 to South County Food Bank.

20. We completed 11 race days in Race Series 1. Most of it seemed to be in winds averaging around 15 mph. Race Season One Winners were Fleet A: 1st Pam Miller, 2nd Ann Carroll, 3rd Jill Joos. Fleet B: 1st Marge Whiteman

21. January and February were education months. FWSA sponsored a 4 session education series by Dave Perry on sailing strategies and racing rules. Almost all Bitter Ends sailors participated via Zoom. Coaching on the water was also arranged for small groups with coaching by Henry Millette, VYBA school year racing coach.

22. To meet the needs of women wanting to Learn to Sail, we suddenly teamed up in late February with the VYBA and ESA to offer a Sunfish Learn to Sail Course for women. This was coached by VYBA Coach Henry Millette and his assistant Chris. The Bitter Ends provided woman power lifting, hauling, and assisting with rigging, launching, returning, derigging and cleaning. Sailors volunteered 80+ woman hours. We had two new sailors join the club, Sandy Vaughan and Sandy Kastorff. Pam Miller volunteered to be the coach of a New Salt Fleet. The Bitter Ends volunteered an impressive 200 woman hours assisting women to get on the water and Learn to Sail.

23. Margot Quinn, an experienced Sunfish Racer, contacted the club and successfully passed her Sunfish Test. She joined the club in March becoming our 7th new member for the year.

24. The Bitter Ends supported Venice Youth Boating by becoming sponsors of their annual Venetian Cup Regatta. We donated \$3785 to the VYBA. The Bitter Ends Charitable Donations this year were a whopping \$5555.00!!

25. The Spring continued to bring change. The FWSA Rainbow Regatta was once again cancelled due to Covid-19 and the May FWSA meeting, which the Bitter Ends was to host, was changed to a Zoom meeting. Race Series Two brought windy, stormy or low wind weather with many cancellations. We completed only 7 race days for Race Series Two.

26. Plans for our First Annual Barbara Dein Memorial Regatta were well underway for our May 5th regatta when Higel Park Ramp and Pavilion were abruptly closed for utility work. Three of the next 4 racing days were cancelled. We were able to coordinate one day of sailing for New Salts with their coach Pam Miller successfully launching from the VYBA dock while other members kayaked. Our Committee Boat Guys were treated to a month off, a small gift and lunch to thank them for volunteering their time. All agreed to return for next season.

Overall, it was a good year for the Bitter Ends. We continued to sail through a worldwide pandemic with no illness, many challenges and a lot of fun. Our club continues to grow and evolve so that women can hopefully sail as a Bitter End for another 45 years.

Signing Off,
Captain Marge Whiteman

May 20, 2021