



NORTH OAKS KIDS' around town SAILING CAMP

Submitted by **Captain Joan Gilmore**

The mast of the small sailboat filled with squealing girls pointed its bright silver spar toward the sunny sky over Lake Pleasant on a beautiful summer morning. Then slowly, it waved its warning finger toward the horizon before splashing down, dumping its inhabitants into the water. The squealing crescendoed as the crew splashed into the water; then the girls expertly righted their sailboat, swam around and slipped back aboard like seals. "Can we do it again?" they yelled toward their instructors, laughing encouragement from the shore.

This was "capsize and recovery" day at North Oaks Sailing Camp, a day camp held at Lake Pleasant beach. Kids ages 7-15, and sometimes an athletic parent or two, learn how to rig and sail a sailing "scow," or flat-bottomed sailboat. Kids learn how to perform a crew overboard drill, capsize recovery, tack and jibe, the points of sail, and five sailing knots.

This summer, sailing camp meets the week of June 24-28: four hours a day for five days. Students can choose between the 8-11 a.m. morn-

ing session or the 12-4 p.m. afternoon session.

This sailing program is unique in that there is an instructor onboard each of the three Johnson Mini-scows and larger Barnett scow used in this program. So, students are not alone on the boats until the final day when they have the option of sailing the boat themselves, a proud moment that gives them a great sense of accomplishment.

The program is staffed with several junior instructors and on-site lead



instructor U.S. Navy Retired Commander Toole, or "Mr. T.," as he is known by students. ASA Small Boat Instructor Byron Toole is a high school teacher who also leads Junior Navy Cadets in leadership training throughout the summer. Several of his top cadets are invited to take a rigorous qualification clinic, becoming certified American Sailing Association Assistant Small Boat Instructors. All instructors are also certified in CPR and first aid.

The program is headed by Captain Joan Gilmore, who grew up on Hawk Lane in North Oaks. Her first "real" job was as a lifeguard at Lake Pleasant Beach. She is now a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed

100-ton master and has captained steam, motor and sailboats from a 100-passenger steamboat to 60' cruising catamarans.

If you are interested in registering your child for sailing camp, please contact Michelle at nohoa@comcast.net. For questions about the program, you may contact Joan at captainjoan@mac.com, 612-871-8101, or visit www.sailawaysailingschool.com

Author Bio:

Joan is an instructor evaluator for the American Sailing Association and writes articles for ASA and for Sailing magazine. She leads Sail Away Sailing School, LLC, a full-service sailing school for adults and families, specializing in classes, coaching and cruises on Lake Phalen, Lake Minnetonka, Lake Superior, the Virgin Islands, and both coasts.



Do you know of any local events happening around North Oaks? Are you planning an event to which would like to invite the neighborhood? Email us at northoaksliving@n2pub.com to learn how you can promote events in this publication!