

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The WSU Sailing Team has finished one of the best springs we have ever had. We attended six regattas and one clinic this semester, the most events the team has ever attended for a spring semester.

We started the spring season with the Jeff Mixdorf Regatta up in Bellingham. We brought 12 members and 3 teams to this regatta, more than ever before. We also brought our own boat to this regatta, an Alpha which we christened and named Turtle. We waited all of Saturday for wind that never came, but had plenty on Sunday that put most everyone in the cold waters of Lake Whatcom for a short time. We had many new members at this race, so it was a big learning experience for most. Nick and Conner finished in 7th in A division, with Scott and Angela finishing 5th in B division.



We then made the long drive to Friday Harbor for a new district team race. We were planning on sailing in Vanguard 15's but the race committee decided both days not to race as the wind was too strong and the seas were too wild. It was unfortunate that we didn't get to race, but we made up for it by having a great bonding experience with the district. As a district we went bowling, shopping in Friday Harbor, and went on a tour of San Juan Island. It was a memorable experience for everyone.



After a long break through March, the next race was NW Women's Champs back up in Bellingham. We sent a team of four girls to this race for the first time ever. Charissa, Diana, Angela, and Lauren attended this race and did amazing. Charissa and Diana skippered and surprised everyone with their abilities. It was a great accomplishment that we went to this race and were able to provide some competition to the other teams.

The next weekend we drove down to Cascade Locks, OR for the Rainier Cup, our NW intersectional. Again this race was very fun with strong winds, a large fleet of competitors, and camping and a barbecue Saturday evening. The strong winds made for a lot of work, but Dave and Charissa and Scott and Angela were able to each get 8th places in their divisions beating teams from UCLA, Hawaii and Portland. The JV team also did well with Rachel, Spencer, Brian, and Lauren all racing at Rainier Cup for their first time.

It was then time for district championships. This year champs was hosted by the University of Oregon in Eugene. Scott, Charissa, Rachel, and Spencer made the trip to this national qualifying regatta. This again was the first time known that the team has attended this race, another impressive accomplishment for the team. Scott and Charissa had multiple 2nd and 3rd place finishes, though it wasn't enough to hold off the Huskies who qualified again for nationals.

We then had two weeks off to study for finals and finish the semester. Only one race remained, the Gorge Invite again at the Cascade Locks on May 12th and 13th. We managed to send a large team of nine sailors to this regatta. The Gorge supplied us with some very strong winds again, too strong for most on Saturday morning which led to postponement. Eventually it lightened slightly and we were able to get some races underway. The heavy winds made things very exciting and eventful. The weekend was a great way to end the year and say goodbye to all our friends from other schools.



A highlight of the weekend came at the annual All Northwest Sailing Team awards. For the first time ever two members of the Washington State team made the All Northwest team. Charissa Benson, a senior at WSU, was awarded All Northwest Crew of the Year. Charissa won this award for her skills as a crew and her positive attitude towards sailing. This is especially impressive as Charissa started sailing only 3 years ago and has quickly become one of the best. She has always remained enthusiastic about sailing and has encouraged our team to become more competitive and participate in more regattas. She very much deserves this award and the team is very proud of her.

The Northwest Leadership award this year went to our team captain Scott Wilson. Scott was recognized by the district for his success in establishing a competitive team at WSU. He started the Cougar Cup regatta and has increased the growth of the team considerably.

Overall the semester and year was our most successful ever. We attended more regattas than ever before, grew as a team, improved our equipment, and had two members placed on the All NW Sailing Team. Much of this success was made possible by support from our alumni, and the family and friends of our sailors. We are very grateful for your support. We now have the summer off to practice our sailing and get ready for next year. The first race is our very own Cougar Cup on September 22nd and 23rd at Vantage. Come if you can and support the team. Visit wsusailing.com for news, pictures, and more.

