



# POINT OF PITTSBURGH SAILING LEAGUE

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## *Close Hauled*

*"A sailing program to serve Pittsburgh area high school students and others"*

**Volume One**

**Issue One**

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Welcome to our monthly newsletter – ***Close Hauled*** (sailing close to the wind). In addition to the monthly newsletter, updates will be posted here, on our Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter locations.

It's exciting to announce that we are finally moving from talking about a sailing program to serve high school students and others in the Pittsburgh area to proceeding on this long-term endeavor. With funding secured and an access point on the Allegheny River in place, **very soon you will see sailing at the Point of Pittsburgh!**

To ensure the safety of our sailors, **we have developed a safety protocol based on youth sailing programs in other metro areas.** The safety protocol was distributed to a broad range of waterway stakeholder groups including Pittsburgh River Rescue and the US Coast Guard. We have also developed a **Covid-19 plan that complies with CDC guidelines and follows guidance from the US Sailing Association.**

Thanks are in order for a number of organizations and individuals, especially **State Senator Wayne Fontana for his leadership in securing a grant to fund our program start-up.** We also appreciate the support of the Sports & Exhibition Authority for access to a riverfront amphitheater.



**Our four new 14-foot RS Quest Sailboats** were delivered on June 4th. Assembly has been completed and testing is underway. A special thanks is offered to the PITT Sailing Club for their assistance. The PITT Sailing Club will also be assisting as we start sailing at the Point.

**The RS Quest was designed to serve as a trainer and racing boat for beginning to skilled sailors from 14 to 18 years of age.** The boat can comfortably accommodate three youth sailors. The RS Quest is also a very capable boat for adult sailors. The RS Quest's asymmetrical spinnaker (the green sail) is a great feature that will enhance downwind performance and is common on many high-performance racing sailboats.

In addition to test sailing, we conducted capsizing drills with one sailor. The design of the boat, that includes grab handles on the hull, significantly aided in quick capsizing recoveries. Single-handed capsizing recovery is important in that US Sailing Association Covid -19 guidance calls for one sailor per boat.



This year we will be moving our portable sailing platform between a marina based on the Ohio River to the amphitheater between Heinz Field and Carnegie Science Center for further test sailing. In addition, **a Fall Skippers Program of area high school students with sailing experience will be undertaken to finalize our safety and Covid -19 protocols.** A complete high school student learn-to-sail and racing program is slated to begin in Spring 2021.

We invite you to visit our website and consider making a donation to this new and exciting sailing program with a key goal to promote youth sailing in Pittsburgh. [www.pittsburghsailing.com](http://www.pittsburghsailing.com)