



# ***Catch the Wind***

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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## **Mission**

**Our mission is to engage people of all ages in the joy of sailing, offering access to all Nantucket's youth, and teaching every participant in our programs enduring life and leadership skills, with a deep respect for the marine environment.**

# A Proud Tradition



**Though immortalized by** Herman Melville in 1851, the sailing life had already been integral to Nantucketers for close to two hundred years. In 1852, Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin established a school in a big brick building on Winter Street to teach maritime skills to the youth of Nantucket. Part of the fabric of the Far Away Island, sailing is at the core of Nantucket history.



**One hundred and forty years later,** a group of sailors sat around a porch table lamenting the fact that much of the local community, particularly Nantucket youth, no longer had access to the water. The love of sailing that was so fundamental to them was available to only a few. They decided to do something about it. In 1994, with a handful of borrowed boats and a couple of volunteer instructors, Nantucket Community Sailing was launched from the offices of the original Coffin School where Admiral Coffin had taught sailing.

Photos: Jordi Cabré



**As optimistic as the founders were,** not even they were able to predict the success that ensued. Now in its eighteenth year, Nantucket Community Sailing offers twenty programs throughout the summer, teaching over 1,000 students in 150 boats. To ensure programs are accessible to island residents, year-round island youth are offered scholarships towards program fees. NCS sponsors and runs Nantucket High School's Varsity and Club Sailing Teams and provides access to boats and equipment to a number of community outreach programs, including those for disabled athletes.

# Keeping Up with the Fleet

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**From modest beginnings**, NCS now owns Bugs, Optimis, Hunter 140s, 420s, RS Visions, Rhodes 19s, Marshall Cats, Paddle Boards, Sunfish, Lasers,



Kayaks, Windsurfers, J-105s, and the support boats necessary for instruction and racing. As the fleet has grown, so too has the need for enhanced infrastructure, storage and maintenance. Mindful of our scrappy beginnings and a make-do mentality, NCS's Board and staff have relied upon the kindness of friends for everything from a beach presence to office space and boat storage. For a number of years that worked well.

**However, as programs expanded**, our needs increased. Nantucket Community Sailing now supports off-island racing teams competing in Optimis, 420s and in the J-105s in big boat regattas. Nantucket Race Week and the Opera House Cup regatta have grown into major economic enterprises that require the management of over 400 volunteers and additional seasonal staff. These two events also expose our sailors to a week of racing in boats of all sizes and the thrill of participating in a prestigious classic wooden boat regatta. Over 10,000 children and adults have participated in NCS programs. Running our complex operation out of a four hundred square foot office became a real challenge.



**Free winter storage for a small fleet** was initially a great gift and allowed NCS to make certain that hard earned funds went straight into programs, but as the number of boats required to support our sailors grew, free storage became logistically untenable with boats all over the island. Currently, boats are stored on others' property, and as such are subject to decisions beyond our control. The small maintenance facility is hard pressed to keep up with demand, and the shop is unable to accommodate boats over 14'.

**Most of our younger students participate** at the Polpis Harbor facility. Here we teach sailors the thrill of commanding their own Opti or Bug and being part of a team on a Hunter 140. Children also learn to respect the water, the importance of safety and how to be stewards of the harbor. Our current shack is too small to store all the necessary equipment, meet the basic needs of our considerable staff and is in great disrepair. It is our dream to have a small, better designed and attractive facility to sustain our thriving Polpis Programs.



**For many our Jetties Beach facility** is the face of Community Sailing. The three structures on Jetties Beach are no longer sufficient to support our busy rental business and popular teaching programs. The structures are in disrepair and fail to reflect the quality of our programs.

**Every year the Board and Staff** at Nantucket Community Sailing must raise the funds to support our growing programs which will teach over 1,000 students this summer and maintain over 150 boats. Funding also ensures that all year round island children who want to be on the water and lack the funds to do so are able to sail. This is the heart of our mission.



# A New Model

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Two years ago, it became apparent that the existing model for enhancing and expanding our programs was becoming obsolete.

- It was time that our facilities were enhanced to be commensurate with the quality of our programs
- Boats stored at multiple sites meant that the transportation required for repairs was not only time consuming but also ineffective. Sailing centers where huts were held together with a wing and a prayer did not serve the organization's best interest
- The budgetary demands of raising in excess of \$650,000 annually required our small staff to devote increasingly more time on fundraising and less on programs.

**Nantucket Community Sailing needed a new plan and the capital to make it possible.**



Photos: Chip Riegel

# Setting a True Course

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**In 2010 NCS leadership began working** with the Town of Nantucket on securing enough land for a permanent boat storage and maintenance facility. In time, a parcel was identified near the airport that would be adequate for our needs. With the guidance of dedicated town officials, NCS has negotiated a long-term lease. Architects and engineers have determined the structural requirements and identified building materials to economically and efficiently service the requirements of the fleet.

>> **\$825,000**

**When it became clear** that the Polpis and Jetties sailing centers had exceeded their useful life, a local contractor stepped forward and offered to help build the new structures. With final approvals expected soon, we hope to begin construction in the coming months.



>> **\$75,000**

**As nonprofit organizations come of age** most realize that creating a managed investment fund provides the kind of financial stability necessary for long-term success. The interest generated by the fund allows the leadership to focus on programs and perpetuate the mission.

>> **\$1,000,000**

# Catch the Wind

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\$1,900,000	Amount necessary to complete projects
\$600,000	Raised to date
<b>\$1,300,000</b>	<b>Campaign Total</b>

With **Catch the Wind**, Nantucket Community Sailing launches the first capital campaign in its eighteen-year history. During the next year all identified projects will be completed. The goal is modest yet comprehensive. It will allow the organization to be more economically efficient, provide better service to our students, and maintain our substantial fleet.

**What was once the dream of a few sailors** sitting on a porch has become a source of joy and pride for the Nantucket community. NCS provides affordable access to the water and in the process teaches life lessons that come with being part of a team and learning to take the helm. It has built bridges and fostered abiding friendships between summer and year-round residents. For the thousands who have sailed in our programs they have gained a knowledge and respect for the sea while learning the value of sailing a true course.

**With your support we will fill our sails  
and continue to promote the maritime tradition  
that helped shape Nantucket.  
So please join us. Come aboard and**

≡ ***Catch the Wind***

**“Every child should try sailing —  
even those who fear it most. When a child gets  
over the fear and the sheer enjoyment sets in —  
there is nothing better!”**

—Allyson

## NCS Participation Stats 1995–2012

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**700** Employees



**1500** Scholarships granted



**12,000** Youth & Adult students



**\$1 million** In total scholarships



Photo: Joydi Cabre





**“Teach a child to sail, and the lessons last a lifetime.”**

—Alan I. Newhouse, NCS Co-Founder

## 2011–2012

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≡ ***Catch the Wind***



# Catch the Wind

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Photo: Alden Winder



In 2011, US Sailing named Nantucket Community Sailing

**Outstanding Seasonal Community Sailing Program in the United States.**



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