

Dear Junior Sailors' Parents and OCYC Friends:

My name is Brown Baer, and I am the new Co-Director of sailing along with the current Co-Director, Brian Huntsman. For those of you who do not know me, I have literally grown up at the Club. My family joined the Club in 1967. I started sailing a Moth in that first year, and have sailed most of the fleets at the club since then, including the Laser, the GP 14, Finns, 110s, J24s, and currently the Lightnings. The beautiful thing about sailing is that the basic concepts of sailing are transferable between classes. I think Jr. Sailing is all about learning to respect the elements--wind and water, and apply them to the boat in which you are sailing.

My youth was spent sailing in MAYRA, or SJYRA at that time, and then four years in college. College sailing is different than junior sailing because you sail the boats that the host club provides: Tech dinghies, Larks, 420s, and many others. Adapting to the ever changing fleets require a firm knowledge of the basic concepts of sailing which is what we intend to teach.

Racers take on a completely different role after college. They need to run their winning campaign themselves. Believe it or not the real winners train just the same as the junior sailors do, except at a higher level. So, the training that our crew will run will be done again later in life. And, pleasure cruisers, will not need to be as aggressive when they sail, but the pleasure of sailing comes from the confidence of knowing what you are doing. The cruise from Ocean City to Atlantic City is far more enjoyable if the crew is competent.

Please know that Brian and myself, as well as our staff, will strive to transform your children into competent sailors. Many of these sailors will be at the top of their class, but they will need to put a lot of time into their training. Very few can donate a minimum amount of time to sailing, or anything come to think of it, and finish on top. We will be willing to help them along the way, and with your help, I'm sure they will improve! They will gain in confidence, physical and mental dexterity, and make lifelong friendships. We will make sure they have fun, whether they are excited about racing or want to enjoy a great day on the water with friends.

Looking forward to meeting you,

Brown