



Fleet 1 Outreach Program

Are you interested in helping improve and build our Harbor 20 racing fleet? For those of us actively involved, we already know that there is **NOTHING MORE FUN THAN RACING HARBOR 20'S**. With over 120 boats in Newport Harbor, and less than 30 participating, we are pretty sure **A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE MISSING OUT ON A LOT OF FUN!** For this reason, Fleet 1 is initiating an Outreach Program, and we would like you to help.

The idea is this: There are undoubtedly folks out there who are intrigued by the racing activities they see. But some may be hesitant, or even intimidated, to join. Others may just not know how to get involved. We believe these hurdles can be addressed by establishing a program that caters to new comers and novices.

The goals of the Outreach Program are to:

- Attract new skippers, crew, and boats
- Establish a continuing education program
- Initiate a mentoring program
- Introduce a C Fleet

We believe the outreach program would be attractive to:

- H20 boat owners who have never participated in Fleet 1 racing
- H20 sailors who would like to improve their skills
- Potential H20 boat owners

The most important goal is to attract new comers to our fleet. But, to do this, we need to provide a fun and un-intimidating venue where folks can get started and establish a degree of comfort. An unintended consequence of the recent A/B fleet rule changes, which resulted in a larger and more competitive B Fleet, is that it is now more intimidating than ever as a venue for the new comer. What we really need is a C Fleet. Thus, we are presented with a “chicken before the egg” situation. We need to attract new comers before we can establish a C Fleet – but we need a C Fleet into which new comers could comfortably participate.

Inviting folks to participate is not enough. New comers need help. To this end, we would like to establish a continuing education program consisting of seminars, and augmented by a mentoring program. The seminars will help establish the basic skills and knowledge necessary for safe and fun competition. And, in an effort to help break through learning “plateaus”, the mentoring program will place experienced sailors aboard with novices in real races.

The first seminar sponsored by Harbor 20 Fleet 1 has been scheduled for the weekend of April 5-6 at the Newport Harbor Yacht Club. This two day event will feature Andrew Kerr, a full time racing coach, seminar speaker, and North U instructor. The success of the outreach program lies largely in this event, and to make it successful we need as much participation as possible by the existing fleet. The idea is for everyone to help register a friend or acquaintance who is interested in getting involved in any capacity: boat owner, potential boat owner, skipper or crew.

The seminar will be geared towards Harbor 20 Racing Fundamentals, and will include both classroom and on-the-water exercises. We would like to have as many boats as possible participate, and are especially interested in involving any of our most experienced skippers who would consider participating in a mentoring capacity. Mentors would participate as crew members during on-the-water exercises. As not everyone will be able to bring someone new, this will also be a great opportunity to increase the knowledge and skills of existing skippers and their crews. For detailed information, please see the Harbor 20 Racing Fundamentals Seminar flyer and registration form.

Rome was not built in a day (or 2). Nor can we expect a single event to provide the lasting effect we wish to achieve. To this end, it is our intent to follow-up with a continuing set of seminars throughout the year. These seminars will be conducted by Peter Haynes, an experienced sailing instructor in his own right. Because there is a lot to learn about racing sailboats, the idea is that three different seminars would be offered, each focused on different topics, and that each seminar would be repeated several times over the course of the year. The seminars currently proposed would cover Mechanics and Dynamics, the Racing Rules of Sailing, and Tactics and Strategy.

So, the goals of the Outreach Program are to increase the size of Fleet 1, and to improve the overall quality of competition, which in turn should INCREASE THE FUN IN FLEET NUMBER 1 for everyone.

Are you interested in helping make the Outreach Program a success? If so, please register for the Harbor 20 Racing Fundamentals Seminar on April 4-5. And, more importantly, please try to help register a friend who is not currently actively participating in Fleet 1 as well. See you there!

If you have questions or suggestions regarding this program, please contact:

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