

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The Sailing Team is now finished with another great fall season. The team went to many races, driving long distances most every weekend. We all got a lot better and had lots of fun.

The season started with our own Cougar Cup regatta hosted at Vantage. The weather was nice and everyone had a great time camping and sailing. We brought 11 sailors to this race which had very high winds from 15-25 knots gusting to 30! These strong winds made it difficult for most sailors to keep their boats upright, but it was a good start to the season. Our varsity boat made up of Scott Wilson and Charissa Benson, and Nick Farly and Angela Congdon did very well finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall! Special thanks to Diana's parents, Ed and Connie Worthen, for providing us a committee boat and to alumni Dave Wheeler for helping with race committee.

Scott and Charissa then drove to Seattle for the singlehanded district qualifying regatta. This regatta was hosted at Sail Sand Point by UW and was sailed in Lasers. Again heavy winds made sailing difficult for the fleet, but it provided for some exciting racing. In the end, Charissa placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the Women's division and Scott placed 11<sup>th</sup> amongst the men.



The next weekend it was off to San Francisco for the Stoney Burke Intersectional. This was exciting for the team as it was only the second time the team has attended a regatta in San Francisco. Despite driving for 40 hours over the course of the weekend, the team loved the trip and is ready to go again. The racing was held at Treasure Island between Oakland and San Francisco. This was an intersectional, so the race was open to schools from all over the country. Most schools from California attended, plus 5 schools from our northwest district. Hawaii even made the long *sail* over! The team was able to spend some time at Fisherman's Wharf and enjoy the Blue Angels who were performing all weekend. As for sailing, the competition was intense. This required getting very good starts and no room for mistakes. For Scotty Baxter and Jake St Clair this was only their second regatta and a tough way to start. We all did a great job though given our competition.



After recovering from the trip to San Francisco, studying hard and taking some tests, we drove back down to Eugene for Sloops. This is the sloop national qualifying regatta which was hosted by Oregon. This year Scott, Baxter, and Charissa went and sailed in Thistles. It was a good weekend,

but with our little experience in Thistles our performance wasn't great. We had fun though, and placed 5<sup>th</sup>.

The last regatta we attended for the semester was the Frosh/Soph regatta in Bellingham. This regatta is designed for freshman and sophomores to sail and get some valuable on the water coaching. Unfortunately there was no wind this year and therefore no sailing. It was still fun for everyone to make the trip and see all the friends they have made over the course of the semester. By traveling to the same races every weekend, great friendships are made between schools.

This semester also means saying goodbye to one of the best sailors we have ever had. Charissa Benson will be leaving us and going on to a career in education. Charissa was a very valuable member of the team, always being the first to sign up for every regatta. She continually pressured the team to grow and attend more races. She joined the team her freshman year never having sailed before and quickly became a very skilled crew. At the end of her junior year Charissa won the All Northwest Crew of the Year award. She will be missed.



Overall this semester was a great learning experience. We drove over 4000 miles and had some great experiences. We implemented for the first time a twice weekly practice schedule which helped us improve significantly. Thanks to all of you who supported and donated to the sailing team. With your support we are able to travel to more regattas and purchase new equipment. We now have some time off to rest and get ready for the spring.

Thanks again for your support, visit the updated [www.wsusailing.com](http://www.wsusailing.com) for more information, news, and photos.