



THE LCYC AND THE GREAT HARBOR FLEET

**What if we could bring together
Mount Desert Island's youth 420 sailors?**



We can!

Consider the Great Harbor, the body of water connecting Southwest Harbor, Northeast Harbor, Seal Harbor, and the Cranberry Isles.

Meet the Great Harbor organizations:

MDI Community Sailing Center (MDICSC), Northeast Harbor Sailing School (NEHSS), Seal Harbor Yacht Club (SHYC), and our very own Little Cranberry Yacht Club.

Enter the Great Harbor “Turbo Twink” (420) Fleet

The collective goal is to create an environment where youth sailors in the Great Harbor come together, learn together, and sail as a group. This project is the first step, and a bold statement, towards a new idea —providing the momentum to invigorate and promote joint sailing instruction and racing in the Great Harbor. Our combined efforts will ensure that we offer exciting and fun opportunities for our youth to enjoy sailing and experience sailboat racing. Getting to know other teens who share a similar interest will create a vibrant and contagious social environment. Let's face it, many youth will want to do this because their friends are doing it.



Isn't that cool!

Background

The concept of combining the efforts of the various organizations to better reach out to all the junior sailors of the Great Harbor is a new approach to an old problem. For years, clubs and organizations have been determined to teach youngsters the fundamentals of sailing and the rewards that come with it. Through effective instruction, the programs have instilled independence and self confidence, teamwork and responsibility. However, the abundance of distractions for teens these days causes rampant attrition as youth get older, and a new approach to retaining these kids needs to be established. The future of all of these sailing clubs firmly rests with our ability to teach, excite, and retain youth sailors.

Proposal

It is essential to get all of the teens, regardless of their skill levels, to congregate together as a massive group, and to have more social interaction and fun together. Additionally, a new generation of boats needs to replace our aging, slow, and un-responsive fleet in order to successfully engage our youth longer term. To this end, and through a joint effort, the collective clubs have decided to acquire twenty-one newly designed 420's (affectionately called "Turbo Twinks") at a cost of \$9,000 per boat.

The plan is to store the 420's on floats off of the western side of Greenings Island, near the 2012 location of MDICSC's 420 floats. Hinckley Yachts has offered the use of several moorings on the western side of Greenings in order to secure both the Fleet and MDICSC 420 floats. The students from MDICSC and NEHSS will race from the floats together.

Here at the LCYC, we will add three boats to our fleet, store our boats at Little Cranberry Harbor, and participate in a Great Harbor advanced 420 class once a week with the other clubs. At the end of the summer, a review of the individual participation by each club will determine the appropriate allocation of overall expenses. Each individual club (or sailing program entity) will retain liability for their students participating in the Great Harbor program.

More about the Great Harbor "Turbo Twink"

The LCYC, along with NEHSS, MDICSC, and SHYC, is excited about purchasing a hybrid 420 Class sailboat which will give a huge jolt of enthusiasm to our teen sailors. At the LCYC, and all over the east coast, a heavy duty "Club 420" sailboat was used almost universally. Despite the traditionally accepted use of this boat, each region has experienced dramatically declining enrollment numbers as sailors get into their mid teens. One of the underlying issues is that the Club 420 boat is quite heavy and extremely unresponsive in a variety of sailing and wind conditions. With new technology, it is possible to build a far more exciting 420 sailboat, while maintaining its stability and safety.

Franny Charles, sailing director of the NEHSS and Sailing Master at MIT, has spearheaded the plan to replace the fleets of 420s at each of our clubs. The design of the new boats has been a labor of love, a ton of work, and a task uniquely suited to Franny's passion for youth sailing, his talents as a competitive racer, and his technical boat building knowledge and experience. The LCYC is lucky to have Franny's dedicated involvement!

Over the past few months, Franny has engaged with Rondar Raceboats in Peabody, MA, which has a reputation for making consistent and durable boats.



Rondar, with significant input from Franny, has introduced a boat which will be lighter and way more exciting to sail than any boat seen on these waters. Cored hulls with resin infusion processing allow for a far more durable construction at a fraction of the weight. Masts and booms will be half the weight of currently used spars by selecting a better quality alloy along with a thinner wall thickness. The stability of the boats actually improves dramatically by minimizing weight aloft, and this will make sailing a Turbo Twink blazing fast and highly addictive. Although the boats will accelerate rapidly, they will be much more stable with the lighter spars, even in freshening breezes. If breezes become overpowering, the mainsail is designed to be easily reefed. Sitting on shore on windy days will be a thing of the past, as our youth will have a smaller sail plan and will be able to comfortably enjoy the spirited conditions of gusty days.