

Summer Program Moves to All-Day Format

FOR SAIL MARTHA'S VINEYARD, 2024 was a very good year. The high school varsity sailing team was named the Commonwealth's top public school team at the conclusion of what Sail MV's coaches had expected to be a rebuilding year. The Maritime Studies program at the high school continued to see its graduates move on to good careers in the maritime trades. 2024 was a breakthrough year for SailMobility, an adaptive sailing program which got its start in 2018. Sail MV's flagship summer events, the annual Seafood Buffet & Auction and the Vineyard Cup Regatta, were successful both as fund- and friend-raisers.

And in August, after another busy eight-week season of instructional classes on the Lagoon, the Sail Martha's Vineyard board of directors voted to approve plans for an ambitious reimagining of the program—restructuring from half-day classes lasting two weeks to a season of full-day, one-week classes beginning in the summer of 2025.

Andy Nutton, executive director of Sail MV, says that conversations around this change go back six years. To state his thinking most simply, he says, "Going to a timetable of full-day classes, one week long, will allow us to serve everyone better."

There are real challenges involved in restructuring the summer program this way. More staff will be needed on the Lagoon each day: "We're looking at a staff of 14 or 15 instructors next summer," Nutton says. And two classes—windsurfing and the introductory Messing Around in Boats—will stay as half-day programs, because beginning students are often just eight years old, and windsurfing is too physically demanding for full days on the water.

But the benefits outweigh the challenges, says Nutton. For the parents of the Island children who make up more than two-

thirds of Sail MV's summer enrollment, delivering or picking up a child in the middle of a working day is difficult, sometimes prohibitively so. "Parents in the families we serve are working so hard," he says. "We were hearing from people in the community saying, 'We would love to have our children do this, but we just can't make it work for us.'"

Each summer, some families organize to take turns delivering and picking up kids at Sailing Camp Park—and this poses challenges for the instructors, who try to keep in

touch with parents about the progress of their youngsters.

"We want each child's day on the Lagoon to be fun," says Nutton, "but it's important for both parents and children to understand that this is an instructional program—we're teaching life skills. We want to make sure that instructors can connect with parents and tell them how their kids are doing, learning these skills. So the feedback piece is really important."

One thing that won't change in the summer of 2025 is Sail MV's tuition

structure. "Families who live on the Island won't be paying a cent beyond the cost of a membership in Sail MV until they graduate to the higher classes in our summer program," says Nutton. "And even then they'll be paying less than half the full price."

A lot of work is going into this reimagining of the Sail Martha's Vineyard summer program. "Operationally," says Nutton, "this isn't an easy change. But it became clear to us that we had to do this. The essential things we need are to be sure we have enough staff and enough boats. We do have enough boats; we'll be hiring the staff. And the Lagoon is just an absolutely perfect location for this expansion of our summer program."



Olivia Gowland and Henry Scott enjoy a blustery sail in one of Sail MV's Fevas.

Sail MV's Busy Year: 2024 in Pictures



Clockwise, from top:

Good food and fellowship at the annual Seafood Buffet & Auction. • The 2024 summer instructional staff. • A Minnows class tests new skills on the Lagoon. • Yachts set sail in the 2024 Vineyard Cup Regatta. • One of our star windsurfing students, Kira Timmons.



SailMobility Attains a Major Milestone

SIX HANSA sailboats were added to the Sail Martha's Vineyard fleet this year, purchased with funding from MVYouth in the second year of a three-year grant.

The Hansas have proved the perfect vessels for advancing Sail MV's SailMobility program, but their arrival, on the blustery morning of the annual Seafood Buffet & Auction, wasn't exactly at the perfect time.

"They were meant to arrive the previous day," recalls Andy Nutton, Sail MV's executive director. "When they finally arrived in Falmouth, it was blowing 25 knots, and we towed those six little boats across from Woods Hole. It was not fun. We had people in the Hansas and they were pumping the whole way. Shackleton would have been proud."

The passage was successful, and two of the new sailboats were on display at the annual celebration that evening. "The very next week," says Nutton, "we had kids from Island Autism out in the boats."

The Hansas are an Australian design, manufactured in Singapore. ("I didn't realize this was going to become part of my job," quips Nutton, "but I've become an importer of boats.") They are built on the principles of a new paradigm called Universal Design—design that's simple and easy to use, that's forgiving and intuitive, that works for people of all shapes and sizes and abilities, that's never stigmatizing to any users.

Sail MV took more than a dozen members of Island Autism sailing in the Hansas this July and August for two-hour sessions, three days a week. It was a delight to watch these young sailors take to the new boats over the summer, says Nutton: "We had guys who didn't even want to get into the boats in the beginning. We'd set them in the boat at

first; they'd sit there for a bit and get back out again. The next session they'd stay a little longer. Then they'd get in and sail out 20 yards and come back again. By the end of the summer they were like, Yes: we're going sailing! Their acceptance of the activity grew, almost exponentially, thanks to these boats."

One of the first people Sail MV took out on the Hansas was Kevin McGrath,

Nutton, who was following closely in one of Sail MV's power boats, admits that this was an emotional moment. "You know what it's like—we all know what it's like—when you get to share something with your child that you didn't imagine was going to happen. This was exactly what we wanted to see."

McGrath says the Hansa sailboats—Sail MV plans to add more of them



Kate Nolan and Andres Sanchez-Roa enjoy one of Sail MV's new Hansa 2.3 sailboats.

father of Connor McGrath and chair of the Island Autism board. McGrath's first outing was a quick lesson in sailing from an instructor on the Sail MV summer staff. "I'd been on sailboats before, but I'd never sailed one myself in my life," he says. "It was a bit nerve-racking at first, but my instructor was very patient, and I learned a lot."

On their very next visit to the Lagoon, McGrath says, "Andy said to us, why don't you just take Connor out? So the two of us went sailing together."

"Connor was next to me, enjoying it all—what a great experience, to be independent and out on the water, father and son enjoying the day. It was just a blast."

next year—have been a revelation. "On another boat," he says, "it would have taken months before I was able to go out with Connor like that. These sailboats are just amazing. They're actually adaptive equipment, and I had never thought about bringing that kind of design to sailboats."

For Nutton, the Hansas are another leap forward in Sail MV's quest to make the joys of on-the-water experiences accessible to everyone. "Our main goal for more than 30 years has been to get people on the water," he says. "A splash of water, a bit of wind in the face, sun on the skin—everyone should be able to experience that."

"This is what we were meant to be able to do."

Extending Our Reach for Service to All

THIS HAS BEEN a year of transition for Sail Martha's Vineyard—from an organization that provides vital services to the youth in our community, into the only maritime organization on the Island that offers on-the-water opportunities to anyone who wishes to sail, whatever their ability.

This change has only been possible due to the kind gifts from many Island organizations and generous personal donors.

As you will have read in this year's newsletter there are an abundance of success stories for us to tell. For me, it has been a real privilege to see how all your generosity, paired with the tireless work of Sail MV board members, volunteers and staff, has created the opportunity for our organization to continue to grow and diversify our offerings while never losing sight of what we stand for: protecting and perpetuating our Island's maritime heritage, culture, skills, and connection to the sea that surrounds us.

This mission is at the heart of all the decisions we have made over the past year. The boats in the Sail MV fleet are our classrooms, and we have searched far and wide to make sure that the vessels each of our programs use are tailored specifically to the group of students using them. If finding the best vessels required importing boats from Europe or the Far East, then the work was done to make this possible.

Sail MV is now able to offer everyone, young and old, craft suitable to their levels of skill, be it an eight-year-old taking their first step into the wide world of sailing in a Hartley 10, a member of our SailMobility team taking to the water at the helm of a Hansa 2.3, or one of our fantastic high school teams competing against the best squads in New England in our fleet of 12 new 420's. Without these craft, none of this would be possible.

With the sun setting on 2024, I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only our board and volunteers, but also Amelia Smith, our office manager. She has quickly become the keel on which Sail MV depends, and I'm not sure if we would be where we are now without her.

Most of all I want to thank all of you who are spending the time to read about our journey this year; without your support



Minnows students Ben Grim and Bowie Rosenberg experience the joy of sailing a Hartley 10 on a summer morning.

our efforts would be in vain. We can achieve so much by the support and grace of the community we serve. So here's to the Vineyard, and all those who keep the sea that surrounds our little Island close to their hearts.

Gratefully,

Andrew Nutton, executive director

Thank You for Supporting Sail Martha's Vineyard

SAIL MARTHA'S VINEYARD depends on generous donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and small businesses. The following individuals and organizations made monetary donations. We apologize for any omissions.

\$10,000 +

Stuart & Beverly Halpert
Pat Morgan
Phil & Debbie Hale
Sandy & Carol Vietor

\$5000 - 9,999

Donald Corner & Jenny Young
Mark Cronin & Shelley Edmundson
Harald B. Findlay
Paul & Jennifer Mitchell
Bob & Gayle Mone
Richard & Linda Oppenheimer
Daniel & Ellen Pesch
Cole Powers
Marco Rini
Peggy & Bob Schwier
Jeffrey & Joyce Sudikoff

\$1,000 - 4,999

John Anderson
Anonymous
James & Kelly Anthony
Benevity Fund
Chris & Betsy Bowden
Marjory Bravard
David & Karin Brown
Sylvia Cohn
Geoghan Coogan
John Corrado
Tracey & Jackson Craig
John Crowley
Tim Cuppett
Robert Decelles & Mary DuPont
Pamela & Morris Flam
Mark & Helena Foster
Thomas Graham & Christine Varney
John Hess
Ken Iscol
James & Janet (Tiger) Jones
Daniel & Priscilla Karnovsky
John Kerry & Teresa Heinz Kerry
George Kiesewetter
John & Charlotte Klein
Stefan Laux
Zachary & Margo Lee
Travis Lenkner
Candace & Vincent Loccisano
Michael & Lisa MacKenty
Peter & Judy McChesney
Blake Middleton & Martha Eddy
Edward Miller
Sheila & Christopher Morse

Deborah & John Nugent
Michael Orlowski
Penny & David Parrot
Langley Perer
Joy Peters

Greg Smith
James C. & Norma I. Smith
Foundation
Robert Soros
Sara & Robb Spalding



A group of students in Messing Around in Boats, sailing out together.

Jane & Edward Rabe
Robert & Mary Ann Ranalli
Susan Rappaport
Walter & Clara Ricciardi
Heidi & John Ryder
Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer
Patricia & David Schulte

James & Susan Swartz
The Vineyard Legacy
D. Warren Vose, Jr. & Anne M. Vose
Eric & Jessica Widra
Edgartown Yacht Club
Paul & Deborah Young-Hyman

\$250 - 999

Brian Alden
Meredith Aldrich
Randi Baird
Talbot Baker, Jr.
Valerie & John Becker
Alan Bell
Eric Berge
Jana Bertkau
Pamela & Stephen Besse
Corinna Black
Allyson Bunting
Sandra Burt
John Christensen
Richard Clark & Carolyn Brand
The West End House, Inc.
Matthew & Guinevere Cramer
Nancy Weaver & David Dandridge
Cove & Howard Davis
Peter DeFeo & Dara Frigoletto
Meredith Degen
David DeGregorio
Scott & Lila DiBiaso
Classic Yacht Owners Association
Marge Dolan
Diana Dozier
Chris Drew
Greg Ehrman
Karen English
Lyndsay Famariss
Morton Fearey, Jr.
Rebecca Flanders
Robin Friedrichs-Moriarty
John Fuller
Doris Godfrey
Lucy Grinnan
Munir & Laura Haddad
Benjamin Hall, Jr. & Gretchen Anderson
Mission Safe
Adam Hayes
Jeff & Margie Honickman
Boys & Girls Club of Boston
Ken Iscol
Sallyann Kakas
Susan Katzenberg
Parthenia & Christopher Kiersted
Jessica Kramer
Megan Landeck & Chuck Hoopes
Betsy Larsen
Louis & Beth Larsen
Anthony Lefeber & Patricia A. Kelly
Megan Leone-Perkins
Jean Lewellyn
Lorne Lewis
Michael & Melinda Loberg



The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School varsity sailing team, coached by Sail MV, finished their Spring 2024 season as the top public school in Massachusetts.

The Lower East Side Girls Club
 Allyson & Rizwan Malik
 Russell Maloney
 Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club

Petra Lent McCarron
 Rory Moreis
 Fred & Sarah Murphy
 Robert Nicholls
 Hope O'Brien
 Elisabeth & James Oakes
 Jeanne Ogden
 Mary Anny Oggioni Defreitas
 Auguste Rimpel
 Steven Robbins
 William & Selena Roman
 Valerie & Thomas Rosenberg
 Erin Ryerson
 Kathryn Salmanowitz
 Cristina Saltmarsh
 Paul Schulz
 Charlie Shipway
 Polly Simpkins
 Biff Smith
 South Mountain Company
 Jean-Paul St. Germain & Sheila Gates
 Tracey & Ethan Stead
 David Stern
 Tisbury Printer
 Christine Todd
 Sarah Vail
 Jude Villa
 Marianne Vitale
 James Walters
 Linda T. Warriner
 Ulrike Wartner & David Wilson
 Wendy Whipple
 Indaia Whitcombe
 John Wilson

Thomas Winchell
 James Wolff
 Corinne & Steve Woodworth
 Jessica Wyckoff
 Terre & Scotty Young

Under \$250
 Meg & Seth Abramowitz
 Sharon Agashiwala
 Nadia & Garrett Alberghini
 Deborah Alves
 Angela Andersen
 Isabelle Anthony
 Emily Armstrong
 Jack & Carmel Arruda
 Elisa Barnes
 Dylan Batchelder
 Rachel Beaulieu
 Molly Bedo
 Nicole Black
 Rebecca Bonds
 Robert Bonsignore
 Carrie Bostock
 Sarah Bouchard
 Heather Boyle
 Robert Braun
 Ramona Brenholdt
 Nancy & Peter Brooks
 Megan Brown
 Mary Jane Burt
 Brandon Chambers
 Stephen Chance
 Bill Chipman
 Mark Chung
 Rodrick Clare
 Hébert Claude
 Libby & James Cleary
 Amy Clement
 Lauren Cofino
 Eric Coles

Kristen Cooper
 Patrick Corbett
 Edmund Cottle
 Rob Courcier
 Claire Crowell
 Kris Culp
 Michael Cutler
 Sherrie Cutler
 Bruce & Stacey Danziger
 Jeffrey Delaney
 Kris DeLay
 Brice Delhougne
 Tara Dennis
 LaShada DiCosmo
 Brooke & Brian Ditchfield
 Erika Dori
 Susan Dostal
 Adrienne Dougherty
 Ian Douglas & Kristin Harris
 Kimball Downes
 Daniel Doyle
 Vicki Dunbar
 Dianne & Tom Durawa
 Ben Durrell
 Mary Anna Eaton
 Bill Eville & Cathlin Baker
 Arash Farshadi
 Patty Favreau
 Sondra Fein
 Jocelyn Filley & Graham Houghton
 Mara Flanagan
 Elizabeth Francis
 Kelly Gallant
 Fran Gilchrist
 Robert Gilpin
 Olivia Giordano
 Eric Glasgow
 Isaiah Gluckman
 Jennifer Goeckel

Jared Gollob & Julie Black
 Gollob
 Wendy Goyert
 Alena Grady
 Amie Grim
 Theodore Haber
 Ila Halby
 Erik Hammarlund
 Simon Hammarlund
 Sylvia Harris
 Jirawadee Hazelton
 Zoe Higgins
 David Hughes
 Eric Hughes
 Kristen Hurd
 Lori Ionnitui
 Valerie Jackson
 Michael Janson
 Tricia Jette-Gonthier
 Brad Karp
 Chris & Barbara Kende
 Emily Klebanoff
 Joshua Klevans
 Marina Klusas
 Kathleen Koehler
 Anna Kolchinsky
 Giocchina Kuester
 Kimberlee Labonte
 Lisa Lane
 Travis Larsen
 Valerie & Curtis LaVigne
 Jalana Lazar
 Meredith Lewis
 Katrina Lima
 Tristan Lodge & Elise Quebec
 Ajaa Long
 Leslie Look
 Jennifer LoRusso & Joel Glickman
 Jeffrey Lott
 Caitlyn Lundberg
 Khalil Maalouf
 Erica Maloney
 Laura Marshard
 Laura Martino
 Natasha Mast
 Lianna Mattson
 Courtney McCloskey
 Peter McCormick
 Misty McGee
 Mike McMullen
 Shimul Mehta
 Alex & Laura Meleney
 Reimer Mellin
 Louis Merriam
 Nancy Merriman
 Stefan Miljanic
 Matt Millard
 Peter Miller
 Elaine Miller
 Gregory Milne
 M.J. & Judy Mintz
 Sejal Modi & Brad Loberg
 Hilary Moore
 Charlie Morano

Elizabeth Moriarty
 Walter F. Morris
 Patrick Mullin
 Scott Mullin
 Sarah Murphy
 Margaret & Christopher Murray
 Caroline Murtha
 Rebecca Myers
 Kelly Neadow
 Lance Nelligan
 Karen Neuhauser
 Emma Nivala
 Janet O'Brien-Aram
 Elizabeth O'Hanlon
 Robert & Jeanne Ogden
 Melanie Oliver
 Sarah Omer
 Nannette Overbeck
 Michelle Park
 Steven Park
 Angela Park-Sayles
 Allison Cameron Parry
 Richard Patterson & Nancy Clair
 Holly Pennington
 Timothy Persinko
 Helen Phillips
 Nevette Previd
 Lorraine Wells & Jim Pringle
 Glenn Provost
 Daniel Pruzan
 Laura Rappaport
 Anne Reitzell
 Mary Rentschler
 Asha Rhodes-Mead
 Doug Rich
 Michele Ring
 Caitlin Riordan
 Ben Robinson
 Gavin Robinson
 Diane B. Rock
 Sandra Roedel
 Jan Romanowsky
 Marilyn Roos
 Cristina Rosen
 Tachina Rudman-Young
 Candace Ruitenber
 Catharine Rykowski
 Ann Saccoccia
 Christian Sager
 Thomas Saltonstall
 Anthony Samuels
 Gilbert Sanborn
 Jennifer Scannell
 Denise Schepici
 Edward Schulman
 Peter Schwebach
 Chris Scott
 Julie Scott
 Jordan Shaughnessy
 Alison Shaw & Sue Dawson
 Ronald & Susan Silva
 Christina Simmons
 Tara Simmons
 Harry Sinclair
 Nancy Sinsabaugh

Akilah Skerrette-Banister
 Nancy Slate
 Lindsay Smelser
 Darleyne Smith
 Bradly Smith
 Brian Smith
 Gretchen Snyder
 Lyla Solway
 Alison & Scott Stearns
 Mark Stearns
 Alexandra Strunk
 Julia Stunkel
 Abby Sullivan
 Anne Sullivan
 Sarah Tauer
 Peter Tennant
 Gail Thompson
 Tamara Thorne
 Martina Thornton
 Myles Thurlow
 Amelia Tierney
 Suzy Timmel
 Kathryn Townes
 Alison Tsoi
 Charles Urmston
 Rachel Vargas
 Vanessa Vento
 Fabiola Viana
 Richard Waitt
 Shaun Waldrip
 Robin A. Walker
 Sarah Ward
 Nisa Webster
 Kara Webster
 David Welch
 North Whitney
 Angela Wilcox
 Rachel Wild
 Claudia Wilson
 Jessica Winters
 Benjamin Wolff
 Danae Wright
 Mark Yoder
 Jessica Zenga

"With my colleagues on the advisory board of MVYouth, I'm delighted to offer our best wishes to Sail Martha's Vineyard on the expansion of SailMobility through the addition of adaptive sailboats to its fleet. These boats will help expand the organization's programming by making it possible for youth with disabilities to learn how to sail and, even more importantly, to experience the joy of sailing the Island's beautiful waters. This was a major goal of MVYouth in making our recent grant, and we are very pleased that this goal is coming to fruition."

—Liz Pickman

Chair, MVYouth Advisory Board

SPECIAL THANKS *to the individuals and companies who provided Sail MV with goods and services that helped make our programs a success.*

Nat Benjamin, Charlotte	Buckley's Gourmet Catering
Blue Flag Group/Faraway	The Net Result
Hotels	Larsen's Fish Market
Lee Taylor and Todd	MV Whale Co
Bassett, <i>Magic Carpet</i>	Sperry Sails
Our Market	Yacht Scoring
Cape Air	Andy Hammond,
The Boathouse & Field	Mariner Help
Club	Gannon & Benjamin
Jeffery Serusa,	Marine Railway
Seaworthy Fine Art Prints	Tito's Vodka
Margaret Schwier	Goslings
Powers Electric	Juno Enterprises
Tilton Tents	Island Girl Charters

SAIL MARTHA'S VINEYARD was supported this year by grants from:

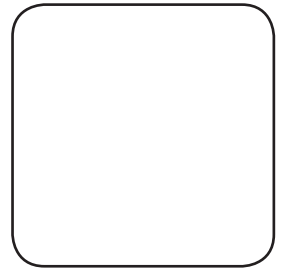
MVYouth • Peter & Anna Kolchinsky Foundation
 West Chop Community Fund
 Couch Family Foundation • Farm Neck Foundation
 Martha's Vineyard Community Fund
 Slough Farm Foundation
 Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation
 Cape & Islands United Way • Rockland Trust

AND HEARTFELT THANKS for the support of our sponsors:

MV Shipyard • Cronig's Markets
 Edgartown Books • Hutker Architects
 MV Bank • Vineyard Wind
 Powers Electric • SBS OneSource



Sail Martha's Vineyard
P.O. Box 1998
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568



SUMMER PROGRAMS SIGNUP OPENS IN JANUARY 2025

Registration for Sail MV's 2025 summer sailing programs will open on Monday, January 13. Visit our website to sign up for next summer's instructional programs on the Lagoon.

NOREEN BAKER WAS EARLY MAINSTAY OF SAIL MV



photo by Albert O. Fischer

Noreen Baker, who was a key employee of Sail Martha's Vineyard in the organization's early years, died on Sept. 25, 2024 of glioblastoma. "Noreen worked to keep

the paperwork straight for the volunteers who didn't have time in their life to do it otherwise," Rick Brew recalls. "She was dedicated to keeping it all manageable."



Out for a ride on one of Sail MV's new adaptive sailboats, the Hansa 303.

SAVE THE DATES

**34th Annual Seafood Buffet & Auction:
July 10, 2025**

Vineyard Cup Regatta: July 11-13, 2025