

# The Wayfarer SKIMMER

United State Wayfarer Association – [www.uswayfarer.org](http://www.uswayfarer.org)

Spring 2021



Close racing was the theme of this year's Wayfarer Midwinters, as illustrated in this spinnaker moment (above) where Marc Bennett and Julie Seraphinoff (W11339) lead the leg with Jim Cook and Mike Taylor (W10873) and David Moring and Ariel Harrington (W10864) nipping at their heels. North Carolina's Marie-Lyne Lavoie (top right), in her brand new Wayfarer Mark IV (W11340), sails in after a day of racing. Jim and Linda Heffernan (above right) are honored for their years of service to the USWA. Jim is stepping down as commodore, taking on the title of honorary commodore; Linda will continue as secretary. Richard Johnson becomes commodore the end of April.

## 9-race series makes for great Mids

### ■ Cook lauds importance of crew effort in 1st-place finish

By Jim Cook  
W10873

**T**he Lake Eustis Sailing Club hosted the 2021 Wayfarer Midwinters regatta on Feb. 5-7, which was doubling as the make-up for the 2020 US Nationals. Of course, I want to give a big thank you to Pat Kuntz for organizing the regatta, and to the rest of the LESCF race committee and support. We were treated to three great days of sailing with wonderful weather and nine close races. I enjoyed a return to sailing triangle-windward/leeward courses, which were common when I was a youth sailor.

Thursday night before the regatta, my crew Mike Taylor and I discussed objectives for the weekend: have fun, don't hit anyone, go fast. Well, we ended up winning the regatta.

The racing was very close, and if we had sailed another day the first place finisher could easily have changed. I have to dedicate our excellent results to my crew Mike. It is clear to me that his hard work over the entire weekend was the reason

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### ■ LESCF event gives coach chance to do some racing

By Craig Yates  
LEYSF Program Director

**B**eing a youth sailing program director and coach has its disadvantages. The biggest one is - you never get to sail!!! Fortunately for me, the Wayfarer Midwinters is held at Lake Eustis and it is the one regatta where I don't have to focus on getting kids out on the water. That means I can actually treat myself to three days of racing. Since 2014, I have been putting this event on my calendar and doing my best to scrounge up a boat so I can compete.

This year I lucked out. The Lake Eustis Youth Sailing Foundation had recently purchased two used Mark IVs so they can have a youth representation at the 2022 International Championships next March on Lake Eustis. I was able to charter Dave Hepting's W10862 and, since we only sail once a year, thought it was best to enter the non-spinnaker class.

Since we are in this for the fun, my crew and I (Rob

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# Importance of crew

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for the success. I've known Mike for ~20 years. We used to sail Lasers on the Intercoastal in Titusville, Fla. and other areas on the east coast of Florida. I remember Mike was not interested much in racing. He just wanted to go on screaming reaches, surfing down waves and getting hit in the face with spray.

For the past several years he has crewed for me at Midwinters, and has shown much more interest in racing. He routinely asks me what he can do better, and works hard to improve, which directly contributes to making the boat go faster. For example, in preparation for the regatta he read articles on flying spinnakers because he knows it is an important skill for Wayfarer crews to have. In the fall, Mike and I met for practice in Beaufort, S.C., where he got the chance to sail in the Mark IV for the first time. We talked about the choreography of spinnaker sets douses douses. He took notes and reviewed them prior to the Midwinters regatta. This type of crew dedication makes a huge difference in the boat speed and race results.

It is common for the skipper to receive too much focus. I want to dedicate this report to all the crews out there who are critical to making the boat go fast and win races. I hope you will gain some inspiration. Listed below are some of the primary responsibilities for crew position. For each of these, I can highlight where my crew Mike Taylor performed well.

- Helping prepare the boat
- Balancing the boat with body weight
- Looking outside the boat
- Jib Trim
- Spinnaker Handling
- Spinnaker Trim



Mike Taylor trims the jib while skipper Jim Cook concentrates on steering. Photo by Randall Moring

Boat preparation is a requirement for racing success. When I asked Mike to look at the bottom of the boat and clean off any road debris, he didn't hesitate. A good crew will know how to rig the boat completely and can catch all the skipper's mistakes before they cause a problem. While sailing, the crew is constantly adjusting position of their body weight to keep the boat flat. We had high winds on Friday and definitely benefited from Mike's ability to hike hard. He is a Laser sailor after all.

The wind on Sunday was light with short blasts of heavier air. In those conditions, he transitioned into a different mode of sailing, but still coordinated his movements with mine to keep the boat flat. When sailing upwind, Mike was continuously looking outside the boat and reporting on other boats and the

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# Coach

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Krentel - LESC Flying Scot/Laser sailor) decided to trade off skippering - race about. We are fairly competitive with each other, so for a while were "keeping score" as to who had the best cumulative results at each mark. But that soon got too complicated We had some great races with Phil and Jeannie Leonard and really enjoyed holding our own against the big boys in the fleet. To win our non-spinnaker fleet and be 2020 National Champions (Ha!) was just a huge bonus to a great weekend.

The Wayfarer group is a great bunch of people to hang out with and race against. It's fun and relaxed but also competitive. It's nice that everything gets left out on the water and that everyone does whatever they can to make sure everyone has a good experience. The Wayfarer Midwinters is the perfect event for those new to the fleet or experienced sailors.

Unfortunately, I will be hard pressed to participate in the 2022 event. I have to revert to my Coach role and will be too busy getting our two youth teams up to speed. We are



Craig Yates, skippering this race, and Rob Krentel lead Marielyne Lavoie and crew Dave Asaibene during Saturday's racing. Craig and Rob teamed up to win the Non-Spinnaker fleet. Photo by John Cole

excited to have our youth participate and I know they are going to bring some young energy and skill to the fleet. You all better watch out! See you in 2022!

# Importance of crew

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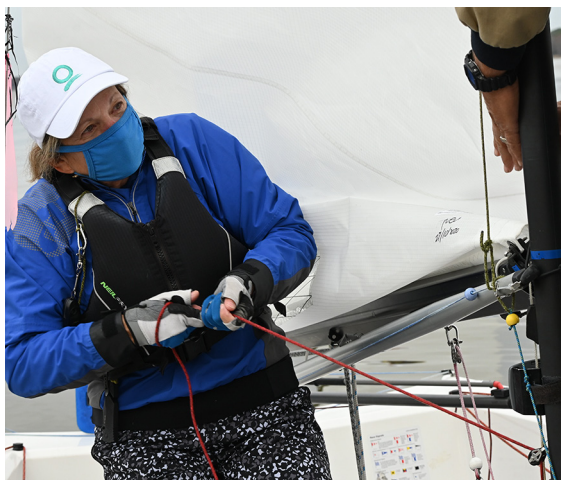
wind. This freed me up to drive the boat while staring at the jib telltales. It is also key that he was just feeding me information and never telling me what to do.

During the regatta, we were frequently making minor adjustments to the jib trim. Mike was continuously learning to get the jib trim right coming out of the tack and had no problem making small adjustments based on the wind and mode of sailing.

Throughout the regatta, Mike and I worked on spinnaker sets and douses. I was struggling especially with the douses, getting the spinnaker halyard accidentally cleated while trying to take it down. We talked about it Saturday evening and made some changes to have Mike help me out during the douses, which led to some smooth douses on Sunday.

The big story of the weekend for us is the improvement Mike made with spinnaker trim. On Friday, we routinely found ourselves first around the windward mark only to be passed downwind. It was clear that our downwind boat speed was not where it needed to be. We talked about it quite a bit, but didn't know what the problem was. In the page one spinnaker photo, you can see Mike and I in the foreground going slow with the foot of the spinnaker close to the forestay. In the background, you can see Marc Bennett and crew Julie Seraphinoff (W11339) passing us. Notice how their spinnaker is floating high and away from the boat. On Saturday, Mike started looking at our competitors (Marc/Julie, Dave Moring/Arial Harrington (W10861)) so that we could copy what they were doing. He decided to raise the pole height, and we were immediately able to match their boat speed. On Sunday, we were able to maintain our lead going downwind. In hindsight, I believe raising the pole moved the spinnaker out in front of the boat for better flow. Mike also commented that the spinnaker was well behaved and easier to keep trimmed.

Mike's continuous hard work and desire to improve were the keys to our success at the regatta.



Craig Yates and Rob Krentel (above), followed by Richard Johnson and Michele Parrish, Joe Schnur and Janis Schnur, Jim Burns and Mike Tighe, and Uwe Hein and Nancy Collins head for the windward mark during Friday Midwinters racing. Photo by Randall Moring Pat Kuntz, of LESC and the lead organizer of the annual Midwinters regatta (left), rigs her boat before a day of racing. Marc Bennett with crew Julie Seraphinoff (below left) were caught in the act of fouling Dave Moring and Arial Harrington. Marc thought he had room, but... In the moment, both teams were unsure of who was in the right and both did turns. Alas, this photo doesn't lie. Photos by John Cole



Use your phone camera to scan the QR code below to see complete results from the 2021 Wayfarer Midwinters/ 2020 Wayfarer Nationals



[www.wayfarer-canada.org](http://www.wayfarer-canada.org)  
under regatta reports



Midwinters 1st Place & 2020 U.S. Nationals champs Mike Taylor and Jim Cook with commodore Jim Heffernan.



Midwinters/Nationals 2nd place Marc Bennett and crew Julie Seraphinoff.



Midwinters/Nationals 3rd place Dave Moring and crew Arial Harrington.



Midwinters Non-Spinnaker fleet 1st Place Rob Krentel and Craig Yates.



Midwinters Non-Spinnaker fleet 2nd Place Phil Leonard and Jeanne Allambly.