



Regional News

Midlands Sailing School

Learn to Sail Level 1



The Learn to Sail program took place on the 16th and 17th of March 2024. Fourteen participants from Durban University of Technology attended and successfully completed a Learn to Sail Level 1

program. During the course, they were introduced to the fundamentals of sailing and gained a basic understanding of sailing techniques. The program aimed to provide participants with a solid foundation in sailing, preparing them for further exploration and skill development in the sport.

Main Activities

- Participants engaged in theoretical sessions on sailing principles and learned the importance of fitting buoyancy aids for safety while on water.
- Practical activities included hands-on experience in floating techniques and rigging boats.
- Participants had the opportunity to sail with experienced Instructors, practicing manoeuvres such as tacking and gaining confidence on the water.
- Learning sessions focused on identifying different parts of a boat, mastering knot-tying skills, and understanding how to read and utilize wind direction effectively.
- Participants demonstrated their ability to helm a boat, showcasing proficiency in basic controls and ultimately sailed independently under supervision.

Outcome:

The Learn to Sail program proved to be a resounding success, with participants making significant strides in their understanding and application of sailing fundamentals. By the end of the two-day program, participants were able to confidently helm a boat, execute basic manoeuvres, and sail independently. They showed strong knowledge of boat parts, knot-tying techniques, and the importance of wind direction in sailing. The instructors were impressed by the progress made by each participant and their enthusiasm to learn and improve throughout the program.



Challenges:

While the program was overall successful, there were challenges faced during the course of the two days. Some participants initially struggled with the concept of tacking and controlling the boat effectively. Additionally, a few participants found knot-tying to be a challenging skill to master within the given timeframe. However, through patient guidance and practice, these challenges were ultimately overcome, and all participants were able to make significant progress by the end of the program.

In conclusion, the Learn to Sail program at Midmar Dam provided an enriching experience for all participants, equipping them with essential sailing skills and knowledge to continue their journey in the world of sailing. A huge Thank you to SA Sailing KZN and KZN Sports Arts & Culture for sponsoring this programme. And Midlands Sailing school for Hosting and running this successful programme.



Sail Africa Youth Development Foundation

Learn to sail level 1

The Durban Sea Cadets recently participated in a Level 1 Learn to Sail program in order to gain access to on-water activities. The program spanned over 3 Saturday mornings and included a range of activities aimed at equipping the cadets with the necessary skills and knowledge to sail a keel boat.



Program Overview:

The Level 1 Learn to Sail program covered a variety of topics to ensure the Cadets were well-prepared before setting foot on a boat. The program included classroom activities such as water safety, knot-tying, rigging, derigging, learning how to read wind, boat parts, harbour craft awareness, and basic sailing techniques.



Before heading out on the water, the cadets were required to learn about the various parts of the boat, rigging procedures, and nautical terms. This ensured that they had a solid foundation of knowledge before embarking on their sailing adventure.

Outcomes:

By the end of the program, the Durban Sea Cadets had successfully completed the Learn to Sail Level 1 Keel Boat program. They had gained a comprehensive understanding of water safety, practical sailing skills, and essential nautical knowledge. The cadets were able to confidently rig and derig a boat, tie various knots, and navigate a vessel using wind direction.

Overall, the Level 1 Learn to Sail program provided the cadets with a valuable opportunity to learn new skills and gain firsthand experience on the water. The program not only enhanced their sailing abilities but also fostered teamwork, communication, and leadership skills among the participants.



Conclusion:

The Durban Sea Cadets' participation in the Level 1 Learn to Sail program was a resounding success. The cadets demonstrated dedication, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to learning throughout the program. The skills and knowledge gained will undoubtedly serve them well in their future sailing endeavours. A huge Thank you to SA Sailing KZN and KZN Sports Arts & Culture for sponsoring this programme and Sail Africa for organising and running this successful programme.

It is recommended that similar programs be offered in the future to continue to develop the cadets' sailing proficiency and foster a love for the sport of sailing among the Durban Sea Cadets community.

Henley Midmar Yacht Club

Halcat Nationals 21-24 September 2024

What a milestone! The Halcat class is apparently celebrating its 45th anniversary of National Championships at Henley Midmar Yacht Club 21 – 24 September 2024. Excuse me while I contain my excitement.

Yes, the humble old Halcat, that majestic 14-foot catamaran that has somehow managed to survive 45 years of competitive sailing. Who would have thought? Certainly not the skeptics who liken sailing a Halcat to kissing your cousin. But hey, don't knock it till you've tried it, right? (Sailing a Halcat that is!!) Sailing a Halcat apparently unveils a world of unparalleled joy and great competitive racing—according to sailing legend Bill Ellens, that is. And if Bill says it, it must be gospel, right? After all, he's practically been around since Noah's Ark, if the rumors are to be believed.

With over 30 boats entering in 2023, the Halcat fleet seems to be growing stronger, or so they say. I mean, who needs a foiling boat when you can stick to good old-fashioned not-foiling? And let's not forget the allure of its "relatively one design" feature. Because who needs innovation when you can stick to the same old thing for decades, am I right?

But fear not, dear sailors, for the Halcat class caters to everyone—from the young to the old, male and female and those confused genders are also welcome to enter. From rock stars to fun-loving family sailors. Because nothing screams "high performance" quite like a non-foiling, relatively one design boat, right?

And to mark this momentous occasion, they're planning the biggest event in September.! They might even upgrade it to a "World Championship" status event. Because why not shoot for the stars when you can barely skim the surface of the water, right?

So, to all aspiring Halcat sailors out there, past present and future- heed the call: beg, borrow, or steal a Halcat and just be there. Remember, their motto is "ye sail, have fun and don't complain!" Because what could possibly be more fun than sailing a Halcat? Well, maybe complaining about it afterwards.

Sail Africa Youth Development Foundation

Learn to sail – level 1

Sail Africa successfully concluded the 2024 Learn to Sail program with 25 girls from Mowat Park Girls High. The program provided the girls with a total of 20 hours of sailing experience through 2-hour sessions out of 10 sessions held from 3pm to 5:30pm.



Despite challenges such as inclement weather and a limited number of boats leading to some girls being unable to sail at times, they were still able to complete the Level 1 Learn to Sail program.



Additionally, in situations where some girls were unable to sail, they were given the opportunity to ride on our powerboat, providing them with an exciting alternative experience.

Overall, the 2024 Sail Africa program with Mowat Park Girls' High was a success, with the girls making noticeable progress in their sailing abilities and overall confidence on the water. We look

forward to continuing to support and empower young female sailors through our program in the future. A huge Thank you to SA Sailing KZN and KZN Sports Arts & Culture for sponsoring this programme.



TUZI TEKWINI

OCEAN RACE 2024



KSYC



PYC

14-17 JUN 2024

RICHARDS BAY - DURBAN

**R80 000
PRIZE MONEY**

**LINE HONOURS
DIV A, B AND MULTI-HULL
WINNERS**

**ORG PROVINCIAL
CHAMPIONSHIP**

