

Young sailors get their sea legs

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Publication Irondequoit
Date October 06, 2005
Section(s) Local News

*The **Sea Scouts** program gets the curious on the water and in charge.*

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When Mary Joyce D'Aurizio was a child, she visited her aunt and uncle who lived on a lake. As a farmer's daughter, she was always excited to go there. She recalled being envious of those out on the boats.

D'Aurizio, now an experienced boater, hopes area youths will have the chance to sail through Irondequoit's Sea Scout ship No. 5555.

The **Sea Scouts** are a branch of the Boy Scouts of America's venturing program. **Sea Scouts** give boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 21 a chance to learn safe boating and sailing.

There are about 10 members from Pittsford, Charlotte, Irondequoit and Brockport on this "ship" so far.

D'Aurizio's husband, Frank D'Aurizio, started the **Sea Scouts** program because of their involvement locally with the United States Power Squadrons. He teamed up with Joan Halstead, the Boy Scouts' district program chairwoman, to get the program started last fall. The ship is sponsored by the Rochester Power Squadron.

The idea to bring a **Sea Scouts** program to the area made perfect sense to Halstead, since Irondequoit is surrounded by water.

The Power Squadron is an organization committed to teaching safe boating and sailing skills and it has a close relationship with the Boy Scouts of America.

Helpful community members are an integral part of **Sea Scouts** success.

Sea Scouts members hold meetings at the Rochester Yacht Club, which allows members to gather in their junior yacht club facility for no charge.

Their boat was donated by Bob Dowd, a former Sea Scout in Buffalo. The boat is a 1976, 23-foot Watkins sailboat named "**Susie**."

This past summer, crew members spent part of the season doing maintenance work on "Susie " at Shumway Marina on Pattonwood Drive, whose owner also donates storage space in winter.

Andrea Currie, 17, a senior at Irondequoit High School, got involved with the crew for more water time.

"I had gone out sailing with friends a few times, but I wanted to get more experience," she said.

Currrie also helped on the summer maintenance work. **Sea Scouts** sanded down the fiberglass on the hull, repainted the boat, and did other routine maintenance.



This past June, the crew launched the boat for the first time into Lake Ontario. They were able to do several day trips over the summer as well as a kayaking trip.

"Two of our dynamic teachers have been Rick Hibbs and Bob Brown, both from the Rochester Power Squadron," Mary Joyce D'Aurizio said.

The two have been taking the kids out sailing on the donated boat and their own

boats over the summer.

D'Aurizio said Brown, now the active skipper, oversaw all the maintenance work done on the boat over the summer. He also teaches the kids about sailing.

Ship 5555 is looking for new members and adult advisors for the upcoming year.



The first **Sea Scouts** meeting is at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at the Rochester Yacht Club, 5555 St. Paul Blvd. For information on joining, call (585) 467-0963.

Sea Scouts need help

Their boat is in need of a long-shaft, low horsepower outboard engine. If anyone is interested in donating an engine or selling one, call Mary Joyce D'Aurizio at (585) 467-9360.