

Les Betes Noires



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Beginners can get their feet wet through variety of sailing classes

The light shimmers off the rippling surface of the lake, frosting the blue-green water with silvery reflections. A light breeze stirs a hushed excitement. Folded white sails and life preservers move to the waiting boats.

"Sailing takes you back to the most primitive instincts. It's man

Students form car pools to reach Dexter Reservoir and, once they are there, they set about preparing to sail. An assorted tangle of ropes lying on the bottom of the boat might dismay a beginner — and with good reason. Each rope has its own purpose and its own place, and it better be taken care of while the boat is still docked.

Brenda Boughner, staff commodore and Chuck Drog, treasurer. The club has helped organize a cruise to San Juan Island from Annacortes, Wash., during spring break, for the past several years and plans on organizing many more such cruises.

Out on the water, the breeze changes subtly sometimes and other times comes in quick gusts. Sometimes the breeze doesn't come at all and the sailors assume laid back positions. One boat shows no navigator, but a closer inspection reveals two feet sticking out over the edge.

Sailing is easily addictive, according to Boughner, who has only been sailing since last fall. "When you go out it's like being free, just you and the water, you and the world," she says.

By JULIE MORTON
Of the Emerald

against the water. You can keep control and have smooth sailing or you can really screw yourself," says Brenda Boughner, staff commodore of the University sailing club, as she waits to go out on Dexter Reservoir.

The sailing club is a non-profit incorporated business which offers classes to aspiring sailors. A person can belong to the club without being in a sailing class. The classes, which are usually offered through SEARCH, cost \$25. This fee pays for the use of the boats and the instructors. The club owns 14 boats: six Cyclones, which are 13 feet, one-sail, one-person boats; seven C-Larks, which are 14 feet, two-sail, two-person boats and one Blue Jay, a wooden boat, which was donated to the club.

Classes are divided into beginning, racing and blue water cruising and navigation. Blue water cruising and navigation is directed more toward ocean sailing — big boats.

"You have to make sure everything is set up before you go out on the water, because once you're out there, with wind blowing, it's pretty hard to make any changes," says Boughner.

The sails are hoisted and the boats assume a grace which seems to make them a natural accessory to the water. The wind tugs at the sail as though it, too, is excited and wants to get going.

About 100 students are presently enrolled in beginning classes, 15 students in the racing class and 25 in the blue water cruising and navigation. The classes meet for a one-hour lecture every week and enrolled students receive P.E. credits. The lectures deal with — what else? — tactics. Tactics encompass everything from knowing which side to pass another boat on, to knowing how to most effectively use wind changes in racing.

The sailing club is headed by Andrew Freeman, commodore; James Taylor, vice commodore;

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