



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

From left: Tom Brownson, Thor Sorenson, Sarah Lu Heath and Curt Yoder take a brief moment to relax during the race.

CATCHING THE WIND

By COLIN MURPHEY
The Daily Astorian

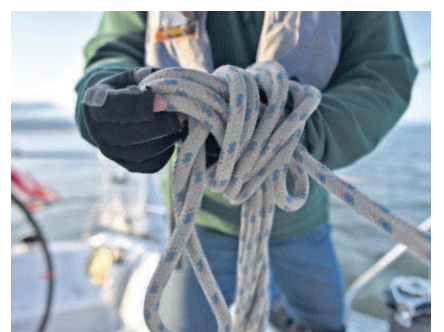
What do Astoria Yacht Club sailors do in the summer when the wind is good, the skies are clear and boats are ready? They race of course. If you are new to sailing and want to see what all the fuss is about, contact the yacht club — you might get lucky and land a spot on board a boat for a pleasure sail. Just remember to bring some wet weather gear, comfortable shoes and the Dramamine. And don't forget to duck if the captain informs you the boat is about to "jibe," because a really heavy boom is about to swing centimeters above your head at a high rate of speed. You don't want to be in the way.



Crew members on board the S/V Contata compete in the first race of the season with the Astoria Yacht Club.



Curt Yoder is reflected in the glass dome encasing the boat's compass as he takes the helm.



Sarah Lu Heath bundles a rope on board the boat.



Tom Brownson, captain of the Contata, checks the condition of the main sail during the race.



Curt Yoder pilots the Contata back into the marina after sailing on the Columbia River.



The S/V Contata sails under the Astoria Bridge during a race.



ABOVE: Curt Yoder takes the helm of the boat.

LEFT: The crew of the Contata leave other boats behind as they race on the Columbia River.