

# SACHEM'S HEAD YACHT CLUB

## 2021 JUNIOR PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

END OF SUMMER Newsletter for August & 2021 JR Summer Awards!

### From the August Sailing & Waterfront Director, Haley Brown

It's great to be back finishing the last few weeks of summer sailing at SHYC! Kevin left the program in "ship shape", so it's been "smooth sailing" these last few weeks. Session D ended on a high note! Each class wrapped up the summer with exciting activities and racing drills. The instructors remained enthusiastic and creative in lesson planning, making the last few days a fun and exciting end. The Sea Squirts got to slice through the waves on the majestic Koru (Thank you, Albert!). Our morning Adventure group sailed to Outer Island and got to participate in a lesson in invasive shoreline species. The afternoon Feva Adventure sailors took the spirit of Team USA to another level, and challenged the neighboring Pine Orchard Club Sailing Team to a series of relay races and Olympic style sailing challenges! I was particularly impressed with the 420 and Feva Racing Team in my last two weeks. Eli and I held "college style" practices and taught the racers some advanced drills from my own college sailing days. I was blown away with their ability to learn and accept some challenging new sailing material.

I want to thank all the sailors, parents, and instructors for making the last few weeks of the summer sailing season a huge success! I hope everyone has a smooth transition back into school and the fall season. Thank you to our team of amazing SHYC 2021 Coaches!!



### Thank you to our 2021 COACHES!

**Program Directors** - Kevin & Haley

**Sea Squirts-** Maeve, Alex & Amelia

**Morning Adventure-** Haley & Eli

**Morning Opti-** Kevin, Izzy & Courtland

**Afternoon Adventure-** Maeve, Cortland, Alex

**Afternoon Racing-** Kevin, Cortland, Izzy, Haley & Eli

**Boating Skills for High-Schoolers** - Maeve

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## Sachem's Head Yacht Club - JR Program Summer Awards

Watch the 2021 end of [summer slideshow video](#)!! Thank you to Erin McCarthy for putting this together for us all to enjoy.



Commodore Mike Schnitt hands out the 2021 JR Program Awards & Pennants

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### 2021 Sailing JR Award Winners:

**All Star-Coaches Tennis Award:** Eloise Streeter & Gus Fichtenholtz

**Best Sportsmanship:** Taylor Mikolay & Hannah Brown

**Most Enthusiastic:** Avery Peterson & Teag Ozyck

**Most Improved:** Nicki Leonardi & Carter Mikolay

**Best Attitude:** Luke Steffen & Sasha Fichtenholtz

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### 2021 SeaSquirt Paper Plate Awards:

All of our awesome SeaSquirts received Maeve's special paper plate awards! Congrats to all the SeaSquirts, they represent the bright FUTURE of SHYC sailing!

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### 2021 Tennis JR Season Award Winners!

**All Star-Coaches Tennis Award:** Carter Mikolay & Nora Davis

**Best Sportsmanship:** Eloise Streeter & Silas Streeter

**Most Enthusiastic:** Chase Gunningsmith & Miklosh Frusztager

**Most Improved:** Nicki Leonardi & James O'Dowd

**Best Attitude:** Keilor Fitton & Hayden Ginz

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## **2021 Tennis SHYC Championships:**

### **Green Singles Championship:**

- **Runners-Up:** Keve Frusztager
- **Winners:** Nicki Leonardi

### **Yellow Doubles Championship (13 & Under):**

- **Runners-Up:** Avery Peterson & Eloise Streeter
- **Winners:** Peter Leonardi & Luke Steffen

### **Yellow Singles Championship (13 & Under):**

- **Runners-Up:** Avery Peterson
- **Winners:** Zach Milano

### **Yellow Doubles Championship (13 & OVER):**

- **Runners-Up:** Nora Davis & Molly Peterson
- **Winners:** Simon Weekes & Preston Eder

### **Yellow Singles Championship (13 & OVER):**

- **Runners-Up:** Silas Streeter
  - **Winners:** Simon Weekes
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## **2021 Swimming Season Award Winners:**

**All Star-Coaches Tennis Award:** Ethan Atwater

**Best Sportsmanship:** Colby Perry

**Most Enthusiastic:** Francisca Beecher

**Most Improved:** Ava gunningsmith

**Best Attitude:** Libby Vitari

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## **SHYC - End of Summer JR Recap - By Whitney Peterson**

I can't believe our 9 weeks of JR Programs have come to an end so quickly! I hope everyone had a great time, learned lots of new skills, and made many new friends. We had 90 junior participants this year (a record!), across the 3 sports (sailing, tennis, and swim), and 15 coaches. I have been thinking a lot recently about the important role that SHYC Junior Programs play at our club and clubs all over the country. Our talented sailing coaches are leading our kids to become life long sailors, competitive racers, cruisers, leaders of the sport of sailing, and stewards of our oceans. We are lucky at our sailing club that we offer multiple sports, so that we can also foster the development of life long tennis players, competitive high-school tennis athletes, and strong, safe swimmers. Our team of 15 coaches are out there everyday as role models to our kids, teaching them skills and sportsmanship on the water, on the docks, on the courts, and in the pools. Behind the coaches are all the volunteer parents, and the SHYC Executive Committee, that make it all happen for the kids. When I was a kid, my mom

ran the junior sailing program and my dad was the Commodore of the yacht club that I grew up at (Ram Island Yacht Club). I'm proud to be continuing the tradition of giving back to youth sailing as my parents did for me and all my friends.

- **A BIG thank you to all the parent volunteers and the SHYC Executive Committee members** who made this summer's JR Programs possible, including the following who put in much extra time!
  - **Shane & Erica Walden** - for running Junior Sailing, managing all the JR Powerboats, and running the day to day show of all things Junior!
  - **Elisa Milano** - for managing junior Tennis
  - **Catherine Greenman & Erica Walden** - for running Junior Swim
  - **Erin McCarthy** - for organizing Parent of Day and the Slide Show
  - **Harland Fichtenholtz** - for supporting travel Junior Racing
  - **Jamie Mikolay** - for helping with Friday AM Programs and being our cooler organizer for Travel Regattas
  - **Eric & Laura Davidson** - for helping with AV, managing all the JR Moorings for our growing fleet of powerboats, and running our important staff safety briefings
  - **Commodore Mike Schnitt** - for his ongoing support of JR Sailing, JR Racing, all things SHYC, and helping make the 2021 Awards Ceremony special for all the sailors at SHYC



*The SHYC Burgee & American Flag sets on the end of 2021 JR Programs.*

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## **Final JR Racing for Sailors on Labor Day Weekend!**

Labor Day Junior Trophy Racing for FEVAs & OPTI. Save the dates and get ready to race! Harbor Start at 9AM, first race at 9:30AM, for both Trophies below.

- **Steward Cup (OPTIMIST)** on Saturday Sept 4th (Trophy Race)
  - Green Fleet Opti Sailors welcome to participate in this racing (please bring a parent with you)
- **Commodores Cup (FEVA)** on Monday Sept 6th (Trophy Race)
  - *If we have more sailors than available Fevas, priority will be given to those who have been racing Fevas this summer in the series races, at regattas, and in the SHYC junior programs. Please email Whitney/Shane to reserve a FEVA to race.*

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## SHYC JR Racing Summary for 2021 - by Whitney Peterson

We are all very proud of SHYC JR RACE TEAM SAILORS! At the start of the summer we were not sure how much racing would be possible with COVID, but it turned out we were able to support a solid racing experience for our sailors. I personally was fortunate to get to attend 2 of the travel regattas that our SHYC coaches and sailors went to this summer (the Junior Olympics at Niantic and the Feva North Americas). I was so impressed by our outstanding race coaches (Eli Gleason, Courtland Doyle, and Izzy Merrill) - they showed remarkable leadership skills, strong logistical coordination abilities, sportsmanship on and off the water, high safety standards, and were all around fantastic youth coaches. They had our sailors prepared, working as a team, and sailing smart and strong. We are lucky to have coaches like Eli, Courtland, and Izzy leading our SHYC kids forward in the sport of sailing. There are amazing opportunities in sailing to travel and make lifelong friends, and I see it happening here now with our SHYC youth sailors.

**Our SHYC Race Team had 25 sailors on it, and our racers traveled to 7 regattas this summer, and got on the podium in nearly every event. Here are some highlights!**

- **Sachems Head Junior Regatta:** Gus Fichtenholtz won the 420s, Ben & Hannah Brown won the Fevas, and Wylder Smith took 4th in the Opti.
- **Niantic Bay Junior Olympics:** SHYC swept the podium with Ike Schutz winning the 420s, and Avery Peterson was the crew on the winning FEVA (sailing with her cousin as her skipper). Luke Steffen & Archer Fitton took 2nd, and Carter Mickolay & Sasah Fichenholz took 3rd.
- **Pine Orchard Regatta** - This regatta was super windy, Gus Fichenholz & Ben Brown took 2nd in the 420's and Sasha won the Opti fleet.
- **FEVA NORTH AMERICAN Championship** at Cedar Point Yacht Club, with 35 FEVAS. 1<sup>st</sup> - Ike Schutz & Avery Peterson; 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gus Fichtenholtz & Ben Brown; and our young team of Carter Mickolay & Sasha Fichtenholtz took 11th. *Ike & Avery have been invited to go to the **2022 FEVA Worlds in England** for winning this event, as RS FEVA's North American representative.*
- **A special congrats to the Smith Opti Sailors (Wylder & Fischer) who has been training hard and making it to the top of the Optimist Travel Circuit all over the USA and Caribbean.** Wylder Smith has been dominating the scene, is a member of the US National Optimist Team, and most recently finished 2nd place overall in the Optimist Nationals held in Virginia! Fischer Smith has also been racing at the national level, and he recently qualified for the US Team Trials which will be held next Spring!
- **SHYC Green Fleet Racers** - I'd like to recognize the **7 sailors from our Opti-1 class** who participated in our Green Fleet Saturday races this summer. They represent the future of SHYC Racing! They were presented with green medals at the awards ceremony.
  - Chase Gunningsmith
  - Cora Steinbacher
  - David Fantarella Jr
  - Ellie Davidson
  - Henriette Bailey
  - Taylor Mikolay
  - Teag Ozyck
- **Travel SHYC Racers.** I'd like to recognize the 11 SHYC sailors who attended multiple travel regattas this summer, representing Sachems Head Yacht Club! These sailors all

took to the podium in one or more regattas this summer. They were each presented with a **SHYC Burgee and a gift from RS FEVA** at the final awards ceremony.

- Archer Fitton
- Avery Peterson
- Ben Brown
- Carter Mickolay
- Fischer Smith
- Gus Fichtenholtz
- Hannah Brown
- Ike Schutz
- Luke Steffen
- Sasha Fichtenholtz
- Wylder Smith

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### **END OF SUMMER - Important Reminders**

- 1) **Pick up your EQUIPMENT & BOATS:** Please remember to pick up your Optis, kayaks, paddleboards, paddles, blades, sails, lifejackets, gear, and more! Equipment should be removed by the week after Labor Day (or sooner if you would like!)
- 2) **LOST & FOUND:** Have you lost anything this summer? Lost and found is in the shower room this year. Take a look! Your long lost item may be waiting for you!

### **Any Final Questions:**

- **JR Sailing & Swim Questions – Erica Walden, [ericagwalden@yahoo.com](mailto:ericagwalden@yahoo.com)**
- **JR Tennis Questions – Elisa Milano, [SHYCTennis1@gmail.com](mailto:SHYCTennis1@gmail.com)**
- **Head Tennis Pro: Steve Godiksen: [stevegodiksen@yahoo.com](mailto:stevegodiksen@yahoo.com)**
- **General Questions – Whitney Peterson, [petersonwhitney@gmail.com](mailto:petersonwhitney@gmail.com)**