

Windward Women of Halifax Sailing Association Hosts Florida Women's Sailing Association to Promote Women's Sailing on Florida's East Coast

DAYTONA, FL. On the evening of February 22, 2023, the Windward Women, the women's sailing group of Halifax Sailing Association (HSA) hosted the leadership of Florida Women's Sailing Association (FWSA) and women sailors from sailing clubs all along the east coast of Florida for an informational and networking presentation to promote women's sailing in Florida. The event, open to the public, was held at Ormond Beach Public Library. Florida Women's Sailing Association representatives and guests also visited the Halifax Sailing Association's site on the Halifax River in Daytona the following day to meet and spend time on the water with HSA members.

Kathy Sinnett, chair of the Windward Women, reports that the event was very successful with twenty-five women attending the event from St. Augustine, New Smyrna Beach and the Orlando area along with four representatives of FWSA from the West Coast of Florida. The informal event included introductions of attendees and of women's sailing programs in Daytona Beach (Windward Women) and St. Augustine (St. Augustine Sailing Sisters) and a presentation on the FWSA. FWSA invited individuals and women's sailing groups to join the FWSA to formally grow the network of women's programs in the state. Many women stayed afterwards for dinner at the nearby Ormond Garage restaurant. The event was advertised through social media, club websites and by posting at the local Halifax Harbor Marina.

The next steps include connecting women with sailing classes, programs and to start visiting, sailing and competing with each other. Within the following week, several women signed up for sailing lessons or membership at the Halifax Sailing Association, citing the welcoming and supportive atmosphere. Kathy Sinnett states she continues to get calls from women who could not attend the networking event and want to get involved. "The response to this event has been fantastic. It's clear that there is a desire and need for opportunities for women to sail".

About Windward Women and Halifax Sailing Association

The Windward Women, created at the Halifax Sailing Association of Daytona Beach, is a group open to all women members who strive to develop sailing skills and confidence on the water through instruction, recreational sailing, and competition within a friendly and supportive environment. The social component of the Windward Women fosters friendships through events, on-the-water activities, and general club participation, including leadership roles and community engagement.

Halifax Sailing Association has dedicated itself to promoting the sport of sailing and the values of camaraderie and community since 1957. HSA is one of the oldest and most active sailing clubs in Central Florida. Our facility is located on the Halifax River, close to downtown Daytona Beach. HSA sponsors many races and other sailing activities and provides opportunities to introduce children and adults to this sport year after year. We also provide affordable sailing

lessons so new sailors can learn to sail the safe and correct way from experienced, certified sailing instructors. More information may be found at Windward Women's page at www.halifaxsailing.org.

About Florida Women's Sailing Association

Florida Women's Sailing Association (FWSA) was founded in 1973 to promote and to encourage the growth of women's sailing groups in Florida. Nine member clubs from the west coast of Florida are active members of FWSA. More information may be found at www.fwsa.net.



FWSA Officers: Beth Owens, Lynne Randall, Ann Carroll, Joy Sheets



Welcome by Lisa Herbster, HSA Commodore & Kathy Sinnett, chair Windward Women