



2019 SINGLES UNDER SAIL MEMBER SURVEY SUMMARY



SKIPPER 9 responses (50% of 18 skippers) CREW Member 29 responses (46.7%) of 62 crew

Total 38 responses (47.5% of 80 members)

All comments (except repetitive ones) are listed in the appropriate section.

NEW MEMBERS 9 responses (number included in crew total) Please answer the following
IF you are **NEW to SUS (joined up to 3 years ago)**

1 What was most useful about the Member Orientation Class (MOC)? What should we add? Was it valuable to you? Why or why not? Very good introduction to the club...good that it's experienced early in membership. Peter and Janet are amazing!... Clone them. On the boat with Janet and Peter real life orientation... Great direction and loving care for our education. Have not yet attended. Don't remember! Have not attended – probably not necessary. Good orientation class.

2 What was the most useful about the Dockside Orientation Class (DOC)? What should we add? Was it valuable to you? Why or why not?
Simple rules – maybe a graph of the boat and all the pertinent info needed – halyard, etc. Plan to attend in July or August. Have not attended. Valuable to have hands-on experience on a boat.

3 Did we make you feel welcome as a new member? How can we do that better? Yes, I felt very welcome...I did notice clicks as in any club. I am not a good person to “infiltrate” into a group... so I'm slow to assimilate – all good. Yes, although I was listed as a renewal and so was not sent any current information - I had not been a member for many years. Yes, lots of people have introduced themselves and explained that novices are welcome. It was nice to meet “all” the skippers at that event. Yes and looking forward to special events. No, not in coming back for the second time. Yes, but maybe assign a willing and friendly “buddy”?

CREW SAILING QUESTIONS:

4 Do you usually sail the number of times you want to during an average year?
NO (6) Sometimes (1) Not always (1) Yes (18) No answer (3) If not, why? Weather and not knowing enough skippers. You tell me, sometimes due to an oversight. I wait for an invitation. Some skippers take out the same people or are full. I wasn't proactive enough. I can't get a cat sitter.

5 Which type of sails do you prefer? (Day, Twilights, Weekends, Annual Cruise - list all you prefer) Why do those sails work for you? Day 22; Twilight 24; Weekend 18; Cruise 10. Comments: I'm retired. We have done the cruise (not interested cruise). Convenient sailing times. All, whenever I'm available. Enjoy all of them. I love all of them...they get me out on the water where I am happiest. Annual cruise – I've done LIS for so many years...going to MA, RI and maybe ME this summer. Like them all depending on my schedule. Love it! Love sailing. Works with my current schedule. I work during the workweek.

6 Do other more experienced crew help you learn what you don't know how to do?
Yes (24) Sometimes (1) Usually (1) Not necessarily (1) Mostly positive. Especially if I ask. Janet and Peter. Exp crew have been generous in teaching basics.

6a If you joined with a lot of sailing experience, how can you help others with less experience?
Letting them try anything and everything. Always willing to pass on info. I try to help others if they are willing to learn. Help explain if person wants help. Teach them with relaxed manner. Learn as you sail. Cool and calm activities. Answer their questions...offer suggestions. Share experience. Sailing together.

6b Is learning or teaching about sailing important to you? **Yes 34; No 2; a little 1; Neutral 1;** Comments: I took a beginning sailing course to become more familiar with the terms, etc. Leads to improved experience. Have taught frequently. I like the clubs 3 aspects – education, social, sail. It makes you safer. I didn't know hardly anything about sailing when I joined SUS. I've got some experience but there's always room to learn something new. I just finished the power squadron course. Completed ASA 101. Why I joined. There are 8 months between sailing seasons and one gets very rusty. Appreciate all that I have learned since joining. That's how I can get better.

6c Should SUS have educational requirements for all members? **Yes 21 No 6 Maybe 1 Not Sure 1**
Comments: Should have boaters license at least. Some basic sailing/boating would be helpful...we are crew, not passengers. At least basic safety rules. Encourages engagement and learning is fun. Safety of other crew members depends on it. For me yes, others may not enjoy. I like current requirements. It is very important to sail safely. Basic sailing skills are a must to enjoy the activity we joined SUS for. For safety reasons. Facilitating information or encouraging novice sailors to take an intro course could help new members foster new friendships.

SKIPPER SAILING QUESTIONS: Relevant comments listed.

7 About how many times did you take SUS members on your boat last season? **1-2; 3; 10; Many; many, many; about 20 times – all on water events; 14+; 4?**

8 What types of sails do you prefer participating in? List all. Day sail; Day sails/twilight/some weekend sails...turned off by some of the cruises and overnights; Day sails and local Sailaways. Day, Twilight. Weekend, day sails.

9 Do you take NEW SUS members out sailing? **Yes (7).** Would like to take out more of them. I will try. I will once my boat is in the water. Do you take existing members who you know out sailing? **Yes (8)**
What incentives would encourage you to take out more members? If they ask me. I should not have to pay dues if active. People who listen! None needed. Don't know.

SUS COMMUNICATIONS:

10 What is the best way for SUS to communicate with you? Email, text, phone, cell phone, SUS website
Comment: But I miss printed Mastheads. For general info website okay.

11 Do you read the Masthead newsletter? **Yes, Usually (1)** SUS emails? **Yes, Usually (1)** SUS flyers? **Yes, Usually (1)**

Do you like to get reminders of meetings and events? **YES!!! (ALL)** Do we send too much information? NO Too little? NO Comments Just right amount. Good. Reminders day of with addresses is helpful. Sometimes too much (1).

12 Do you use the SUS Website? **Yes – 20; No - 17 (Not yet; Rarely; Once in a while; Not at present; Don't use;)** What do you like best? What do you like least? Is there something we should add?

Comments: Can't find member contact info when I'm out and about and don't have the paper with me. All Aboard sailing...seems to be confusing all around. It is a good tool and people should be encouraged to use it. Will use if billboard program assists in getting crew. Haven't looked at it lately...had trouble getting it to work. Put all events on Meetup.com to send out. Difficult to know if you are logged in or not...difficult to find the message board...maybe it's me but the location is not obvious. ADD: Peter's twilight sails. ADD: A quick reference page for events for coming month; It's fine. BEST: Looking upcoming events. Regular update of website for non-members might help to bring new members. Rarely use, but I should make this a habit so I can sail more – stay informed. Usually don't go on site. Use it seldom, but will use it more. Not so far, but will do. Read through it once usually. Good for general info.

MEETINGS, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

13-15 Do you like...

Program/Speaker meetings? **Yes (all)** Why? Why not? Interesting speakers willing to pass on experience and talk about special events pertaining to sailing. Like learning. I like to learn about safety and other people's experience. Armchair learning and adventure. Anything that leads to socializing. Educational. Informative. Primary objective. Good speakers, good yarns, maybe new info. Nautical and related themes are preferred. The good ones bring in people. Love learning. Not so much summer...rather be on the water. Opportunity to socialize network with ALL members at one event and learn something. Learning experience, interesting topics. Need better program presenters. Prefer less technical speakers and more generally interesting speakers. Enjoy the speakers...enjoy the nametags. Topics, dining with members. Do like coffee, dessert for members. Like to hear about boating topics.

"Social get-togethers" at a restaurant or bar? **Yes 30 No 4 Maybe/Sometimes/not always 4** Comments: liked it at outdoor concerts and potlucks. Sometimes. Getting to know more people. No pressure. Getting to know our members. It is a long drive to CT for me. Better to go back to the old social meetings. Neither – never did the bar scene...restaurant socials and dinner parties limit personal contact. Too noisy. Same old food. Too much booze orientation. If not too loud. Would like to see more films or documentaries. Sometimes, not too frequently...free public concerts. It's okay. Good to meet new people and connect with older members. Simple happy hours in different towns would be fun. Prefer waterside restaurants and YC decks. I belong to several meetups for eating/drinking...want more boating meetups.

"Special" social events (parties, dinners, theme parties)? **Yes 26 No 12** Comments: Fun. Can be too formal or costly. Why not? Like to dance with the ladies. Music is good. Events are getting more enjoyable and better organized. Congrats to volunteers responsible. Home parties bring in the most members and we should have more. I like social events linked to sailing events. Every so often. Not into formal dinners. Not so much. Once in a while – depends – this year's Castoff didn't interest me...no Lobster, Ponus not known for its food and location. Need to subsidize social events. I think there could be less social events...also prefer events that cost less than \$50...I don't want to pay \$65 or more for a mediocre dinner and music. Was disappointed with the music played at Ponus dinner...you won't attract younger members. I brought a possible new member but doubt they will join because club atmosphere was for an older generation. Don't like dance parties. Too much \$. Tired of some of the venues with poor food and high prices.

16 Do you prefer “social meetings” in a meeting space where we have sailing related activities?
Yes 22 No 16 Get to know members and share your experience. Doesn’t matter. No preference. Outdoor activities. Not necessary but nice. Suggest meetings be held in in Skipper’s various clubs or marinas...might generate greater interest and participation by our skippers. Sure if at all possible. Yes...the events of the day “the one that got away” and fun topics seem to flow. They are interesting, not hot, not noisy, not uncomfortable. Yes, we are a sailing club. I enjoy seeing new locations...I miss the old house parties. Enjoy sailing related activities more learning experience. We are not welcome at yacht clubs during “in season” for club. Doesn’t matter. Can meet without sailing activity – just as enjoyable. Promotes member communication

17 Where do you prefer Program Meetings be held? Stamford? Many yes Norwalk? Many yeses in another convenient location? Westport, Darien. Fairfield, Stratford, Milford. Westchester. Please recommend new locations for us to check out? No further south than Greenwich. Any place is fine. 30 minutes from Westchester. Stamford is far enough for me (from NY). Places where people can mingle rather than tables. See above #16. Central location...let’s try one meeting a year west and one east. Either. Stamford is more central. Both. Westchester too. Stamford is most central as CT traffic gets worse. If meetings are at KofC, then other events should be further East. Current and immediate past locations are equally convenient. Vary the locations, Norwalk, Stamford, Westchester.

18a What about SUS do you find MOST enjoyable? Friendships. Learning. members and social meetings and day sails. Organized, social and fun. Learning to sail with nice people. Sailing and new experiences. A good social with dancing, a cruise, raft up. Social interactions. Interaction with congenial people having a common interest – sailing, social events, etc. The people. Good crew and good company. Nice people...many skippers seem to care...not extremely cliquey. Twilight Sails. Camaraderie. Sailing and friendships. Sailing to new venues, new dining experiences, meeting new people. To go sailing with friendly people. Sailing, new friends learning about sailing. Learning to sail...seeing same people for many years. Sailing and people. Sailing. Meeting people that enjoy sailing. The members. Camaraderie, conversation, humor. Meeting great people. Meeting and socializing with singles who like to boat. If you start to admit marrieds, you will be just like all the others, lose the unique aspect of SUS.

18b What about SUS do you find LEAST enjoyable? All fine; traveling far to get to meetings; can’t think of anything. Meetings hard to attend due to work hours. Need younger people too. Members who don’t contribute. The pressure to perform. Meetings in Stamford prefer Norwalk. A few skippers ignore you. Being excluded from weekend sails. Gets cliquey. I always loved Sailaways but now prefer day sails. Gossip-very judgmental, negative comments about other members. Some people stay in clicks. The annoyance of former members who show up at meetings or events without joining. No name tags...don’t need at all events but it makes it nicer for new members. Learning who is the correct person to send my questions to. Politics. Dance parties. Driving so far for meeting. Big special events too costly. All the social meetups. I was hoping to meet “eligible” single sailors, lol.

19 What should SUS do to attract more NEW members including skippers? What do you think is hindering us in attracting more new members/skippers? ?. Same thing is happening to all clubs...aging out. Having our meetings in skippers clubs would give our recruiting efforts better exposure to the prospects we need for group. Let's continue the current focus and open the club to anyone who wants to join. The age-old question...be FUN. I don't care for the name – sounds a bit like a dating club. Let's get social "mediating" – I have a few ideas (Paris Gordon). Promote that finding crew you find people who want to sail and learn...a good reason to join. Post info about SUS in marinas. Widen net of eligibility. Assign current member like mentor to new members. Maybe use flyers to post in libraries, yacht clubs, West Marine, supermarkets...younger members. Open membership to anyone looking to sail...most clubs have membership issues, many new alternatives. Have married people involved. New members are hesitant joining an aging club. Coop with other meetup.com sailing groups like "Fleet5" and Sound Sailing School. Vetted onboard Meetups. Convince single men they don't need to be a Skipper – they are very welcome without a boat. Some women I brought complained about cliques. Promote the club to create awareness. Offer tangible benefits to skippers. I think the name Singles Under Sail is little misleading. Less about singles and more about sailing at this point.

20 What would you like SUS to offer or do in order to keep YOU interested in continuing your SUS membership? Attract new skippers – we need to revive the club – and carry on the message. Somehow attract more skippers. Educational presentations...guest speakers. More boating, teaching – time on the water. Have more board members attend events and off water (sic) activities. Friendliness...keeps me coming back. All skippers open to take out members. Focus on sailing events. Continue what SUS is doing now. More advertising...more free food and events...join with other clubs. Offer sailing opportunities. Raft up day sails...more skippers who take out more people...then again, some skippers I have no desire to sail with and probably mutual. I like the club and what it offers. Educational sails. I am fine – sailing with 7 skippers. Offer a \$25 rebate (sic) on membership dues for each new member you introduce to the club that pays their \$100 membership fee. Have a longer greeting time before the program. Don't end! Offer program meetings that help develop skills. For example the "knots" class was excellent. Continue to offer sailing opportunities on a regular basis.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS:

Would like to help with new members and social media organization – plus some other ideas. New Members and prospective members should get special attention and consideration to make their transition from newbies to established membership...people join an org like SUS to sail firstly and secondly to socialize. Too many join and quickly leave in the absence of either. Perhaps an alternate schedule of "persuaded" skippers as "welcome boats" could be instituted, With some 18 boats in the club it could be no hardship to accommodate a few beginners at least once in a season with longer term members invited (who are departing in greater numbers for the same reason). Happy members tend to tell their friends about us and everybody knows that word of mouth is the best form of advertisement. It's very sad, I met 2 people last month who joined and said the group wasn't friendly to them...this was a while ago. Have text-capable cell phone hotline and identify the number in the publicity as "text/call". People need to mix more...seems like we go in, listen, leave.