



2026 Spring Newsletter

BICS was Incorporated as a nonprofit 501, (C), (3) organization in 2017 by Island sailing program supporters who were intent on making the sport of sailing fun, accessible and affordable to everyone. BICS promotes a welcoming environment of learning, volunteerism, and the satisfaction of supporting a true community benefit program.

Directors:

John Doolittle
Henry duPont
James Gallacher
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Al Skinner
Chuck Townsend

All donations to BICS are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS for charitable organizations.

BICS Web Site by [JLG Design](#)

Block Island Community Sailing is offering a 2026 sailing season line up with US Sailing accredited sailing instruction and a racing program designed to engage new and experienced sailors alike.

Block Island Community Sailing (BICS), Block Island's nonprofit adult / family sailing organization, brings the sport of sailing to the next level by making the joy of sailing affordable and accessible.

BICS is the only Nationally Accredited Sailing School in Southern New England which offers a sailing program with a complete range of nationally accredited sailing instruction from the beginner's sailing through the more advanced "Basic Cruising", "Bareboat Cruising" and "Coastal Navigation Courses". Our sailing programs which sail out of our New Harbor Boat Basin base of operations, start with our "Basic Keelboat" course for beginners which is a 10-lesson course designed to get our students qualified to competently sail any of our 25' keelboats without an instructor on board. The course comes with an illustrated student workbook which, with our expert ground school and on-the-water sailing instruction, makes sailing easy to learn and rewarding to accomplish.



"Kalevipoeg" an Ocean Racer / Cruiser is the Latest addition to our Sail Training Fleet.

In addition to our Basic Keelboat Sailing Program, BICS also offers advanced sailing instruction, including the US Sailing "Basic Cruising", "Bareboat Cruising", and "Coastal Navigation" certification courses taught by our founding Director, Henry duPont on our latest addition to the fleet, a New York 40 "Kalevipoeg". Cruising Sailing Instruction is also offered by BICS in the off season on one-week bareboat charters sailing out of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands each winter



Drone photo of our BICS January 4th Bareboat Charter Crew on Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands

through the month of April. These charters not only give our members and their family and friends the opportunity to sail in one of the most fabulous cruising venues in North America, but also an opportunity to get their US Sailing "International Proficiency Certificate" which is their "License" to skipper a 45' bareboat charter vessel, without a professional captain and crew, anywhere in the free world.

In addition to expert sailing instruction, BICS also offers skippered and crewed sailing charters on our Cape Dory 28 "Mischief" for either an afternoon or for one of our popular family sunset sailing charters. If you have guests coming to visit you this summer, this is a perfect way to take them for a lovely evening sail and to support BICS. You can easily book a Cape Dory charter sail directly from our website at www.sailbi.org.

BICS is all about high performance sailing and sail racing and we are the home for the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) on Block Island, for which we offer several racing events including the Thursday Night Sailing Series, the Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta, the BICS Offshore Regatta, and the BICS Around the Island Pursuit Race. BICS is the only sailing organization on Block Island which runs regattas with US Sailing Certified Race officials and we provide all the regatta promotion, race management, and scoring required to run a well-managed event. To participate as a skipper, crew, or race committee volunteer in one of these events, please let us know and we will be happy to accommodate you!



BICS "Mischief" on a relaxing family sunset sail in Block Island Sound

BICS 2026 Sailing Lesson Schedules and Cost

BICS offers keelboat sailing lessons every day starting June 8th with 2 ½ hour group lessons for beginners starting at 9:00 each weekday morning and 2 ½ hour Intermediate lessons starting at noon. Private lessons are available each day starting at 3:00 PM. All keelboat lessons for our members are offered for \$25 per hour, which is a 40% discount over non-member lesson rates which cost \$35/hr. Members can also save by purchasing a five-lesson package plan for \$265 which includes the course workbook and provides an additional \$60 or 20% savings. A five-lesson package plan for nonmembers is available for \$350.

2 ½ hour private lessons, for persons of any sailing ability are available, most mornings, and every afternoon at a cost \$175 for 2-4 persons for members and \$212.50 for nonmembers. This is per-boat / not a per-person cost. A private lesson can be tailored for any sailing skill level for beginning sailing, to advanced racing tactics, or even a nice relaxing sail, around the Great Salt Pond, for you, your family, and your guests.

New This Year: Earn Your Bareboat Charter Boat Skippers License or USCG Captain's License

BICS is the only accredited US Sailing School in SE New England offering advanced sailing instruction including larger boat handling, racing, and bareboat cruising courses, That means that BICS is the "go to" sailing school for intermediate sailors to achieve certifications like the US Sailing International Proficiency Certificate (IPC) which is your "skippers license" to give you the certifications you need to charter a bareboat anywhere in the Free World. Interested? Check our attached sailing event calendar for the course dates. BICS is also offering a USCG Captain's License Course through our educational affiliate Mariner's Learning System, the leading USCG Captain's license training resource. To sign up, see the "Education Tab" on our website at www.sailbi.org

Bottom line: Our BICS Learn to Sail Programs offers an exceptional opportunity for beginners to learn sailing or intermediates or to sharpen your sailing skills at less than half the cost of the adult sailing lessons offered by any other regional sailing organization. To learn more about our sailing programs or to book lessons select "Book a Lesson" at www.sailbi.org, or anytime at 401-741-5136 for more information.

Meet Our Fleet: Block Island Community Sailing has five sailboats and two service vessels in our growing fleet, We are working hard to restore and maintain the boats we have and always looking towards acquiring additional vessels for our sailing instruction, cruising, and for our racing programs. Here is a brief description of each.

- **Two Raven 24s:** “Scarecrow” and “Raven Lunatic”. These meticulously restored classic day sailors were Built by Cape Cod Shipbuilding, and are fast, maneuverable, and fun to sail! The Raven 24 was the most popular class for intercollegiate competition in the 1970s and with their bench seating, and easy handling are perfect for teaching sailing for our beginners and intermediate basic keelboat program.



- **Soling: (One Design Class)** This sleek racer served as the three-man keelboat class in the Olympics for over 20 years. Our Soling, “Oh Behave”, sails with our members onboard in our Thursday Night Sailing Series where it has won dozens of races in this series over the last 15 years. This boat is also an important part of our advanced sailing and racing instruction program where we teach racing tactics and performance sailing like the art of spinnaker flying.



- **Cape Dory 28:** “Mischief”, our classic coastal cruiser, sleeps five and is used for racing, cruising and sunset sail charters. “Mischief” is perfect for an afternoon or evening family sunset sail. She has been completely refurbished with a new diesel auxiliary engine, new standing and running rigging, new sails, including an enormous spinnaker and carbon spinnaker pole, and a digital chart plotter with advanced wind and boat speed data. Each year we take “Mischief” to the NE Cape Dory Rendezvous to meet with a dozen other Cape Dory Owners. We also sail “Mischief” in local regattas including the Mary D, and the BICS Offshore regatta. You can book “Mischief” for a relaxing afternoon or evening sailing charter at our web site: www.sailbi.org



- **New York 40,** “Kalevipoeg” is a powerful ocean racer / cruiser which we use for all our advanced sailing courses including Basic Cruising, Bareboat Cruising, and Coastal Navigation. The “K-Boat” as she is fondly called, was donated last Fall by Agu and Vanessa Pert, long-time friends of the sport of sailing on Block Island. Kalevipoeg was prepared for her sail up to Block Island from Annapolis last October by her delivery crew consisting of Al Skinner, Pete Jenson, Rob Lee, Nikki Curuso, Amy Louis, and Henry duPont.



Help Us Put Block Island on the Map as a Center for Sailing Excellence!

BICS members fared well racing in the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association Offshore Circuit in 2024, scoring enough points to put our sailing club in 12th place out of the 44 clubs which entered boats in ECSA Regattas. Our racing program goal is to field competitive boats and crews and to achieve more podium finishes to move up the ladder as one of the most competitive sailing clubs in the region.

Now that Block Island Community Sailing is the only US Sailing Accredited Basic Cruising and Bareboat Cruising school in SE New England, we are helping put Block Island on the map as a center for sailing excellence. Our community benefit programs include special sailing instruction for ladies and seniors, and our new cruising courses introduce our students to the rewarding "cruising lifestyle".

You can help us bring the joy of sailing to Block Island by joining BICS as a member, donating to support our charitable community benefit programs, or volunteering to help us work on our growing fleet of sailboats. You can also provide the gift of sailing to family and friends with gift memberships and discount lesson packages.

Visit us at our web site: www.sailbi.org or contact us at info@sailbi.org for more information.

Special thanks to our commercial sponsors who donated generously to support our sailing programs:

New Harbor Boat Basin, Sullivan Sotheby's Real Estate, The National Hotel

Block Island 2026 Sailing Events Calendar

Published by Block Island Community Sailing

Event	Class	Host Club / Sponsors	Dates
BICS / Summer Sailing Kickoff Event	All	BICS / National Hotel	May 24 th 4:30-6:30
Off Soundings Club Spring Series	PHRF OS	Off Soundings Club, ECSA	June 5th-6th
US Sailing Bareboat Cruising Course	Cruising	BICS / US Sailing	June 26 th – June 28 th
BICS Thurs Night Sailing	PHRF	BI Community Sailing	July 2 rd – Sept 3 th
Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta	PHRF OS	BI Community Sailing	July 11 th
Cape Dory Narraganset Bay Cruise	Cruising	Cape Dory Sailboat Owners	July 17 th – July 18 th
BICS Offshore Regatta	PHRF OS	BICS / ECSA	August 8 th
US Sailing Bareboat Cruising Course	Cruising	BICS / US Sailing	August 21st-23 rd
SHYC BIG Jack Watch Hill to BI Regatta	PHRF OS	Stonington Harbor YC	September 5 th
BICS Around the Island Pursuit Race	PHRF OS	BICS / ESCA	September 6th
BICS Annual Member Awards Picnic	PHRF	BI Community Sailing	September 13 th
Off Soundings Club Fall Series	PHRF OS	Off Soundings Club, ECSA	September 18 th -19 th
Cliff Mitchel Mem Columbus Day	PHRF OS	Newport Yacht Club	October 10 th

Notes: All BICS and Off Soundings events are sailed under the PHRF Class Rules of the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association. Join ECSA to support sailing in our region and to get your PHRF Certificate go to: www.ecsa.net

Legend:

BICS: Block Island Community Sailing, Inc	ECSA: Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association
PHRF: Performance Handicap Racing Fleet.	SHYC: Stonington Harbor Yacht Club