

To: Parents of Prospective 420 / Laser Sailors

From: Tim Clarke & Kris Dumke

Date: January 25, 2009

As we head into registration season, we wanted to offer additional information on what to expect in terms of class placement and boat options for returning or prospective 420/Laser sailors.

Following registration PYC will group students based on parent request and instructor input. The afternoon racing program (excluding Pixels) basically breaks down into two classes and boat types:

Classes: 1) 420 Racing
 2) Laser Racing

Boat Types: 1) Club 420 (double handed)
 2) Laser Radial (single handed)
 3) Laser Standard (single handed)

Class 1 Description: The 420 Racing class is geared for sailors wanting to participate in the full compliment of Long Island Sound regattas (see schedule below). As such this class will focus on developing racing skills for crews and skippers. PYC will use its best efforts to pair up unmatched crews and skippers for regattas. However, it's always best to sign up as a team and we recommend that you use the time between now and the end of registration to arrange your own pairings. For your convenience a copy of last year's junior sailing roster is attached.

Class 2 Description: The Laser Racing class is similar in all respects to the 420 Racing class except that it is geared for the single handed sailor and therefore no team sign up is required. The Laser Racing class will have its own dedicated racing coach as will the 420 class. Of the two Lasers boat types raced on Long Island Sound (Laser Radial and Laser Standard), the Laser Radial is by far the larger of the two fielding between 65 to 75 competitors per regatta (male and female) versus 25 to 35 for the Standard (primarily male).

Boat 1 Description: The Club 420 is JSA's designated double handed boat for the advanced age group (14-18). The 420 is just under 14 feet long and is usually sailed by two persons subject to a minimum combined weight of 220lbs. The 420 flies a spinnaker in addition to a jib and main sail.

Boat 2 Description: The Laser Radial is a single handed boat. It uses the same hull as a standard Laser; however, the sail area is reduced for smaller sailors (ideal weight is 110lb-150lbs). Laser Radials are ideal for sailors who (1) need to sail solo; (2) want a break from Optis; (3) are not yet of the physical size or strength to handle a full Laser rig; (4) enjoy nimbleness and speed (this boat really flies!). The minimum required weight and age to enter Laser Radial regattas is 110lbs and 14 years, respectively.

Rent vs. Own: We have a limited number of Club-owned 420s available for charter (6) on a first come, first serve basis during registration. In addition, there can be an active private charter market depending on the year. Charter fees, whether club or charter, can range between \$1,000 and \$1,200 depending on what's included (trailer, dolly, extra sails, etc.). These rates are per sailor per eight week season.

A new 420 including trailer is priced at approximately \$8,000. A used 420 with trailer can range between \$4,000 and \$6,800 depending on age and condition.

A new Laser Radial retails for \$5,200 and used models can range between \$3,000 and \$4,500.

The Boat Locker hosts an annual "420-Laser Swap" at which used boats are sold off by private owners (see dates below).

Where to find a boat: The JSA web site is a good starting point to view a listing of used boats for sale or charter. You can find this site at:

www.jsalis.org

Under "Resources" (left hand side) select "Classifieds"

Also, many of the top sailboat dealers in the area offer new or used 420s and/or Laser Radials and may also arrange charters on a limited basis. These retailers include:

The Dinghy Locker
151 Harvard Ave.
Stamford, CT
(800) 941-2219
www.dinghylocker.com

Hathaway's
184 Selleck Street
Stamford, CT
(203) 324-9581
www.hathaways.com

The Boat Locker
1543 Post Road
Westport, CT
(203) 259-7808
www.boatlocker.com

This year's annual "420 – Laser Swap" will take place on April 11 at 10am at the Boat Locker.

The Club 420 Class Association can be found at:
www.club420.org

The Laser Class Association can be found at:
www.laser.org

Parent Coordinator: Kristina Dumke will be our liaison to 420 / Laser sailors and parents this year. Please feel free to contact her with any 420 or Laser related questions at:

(203) 222-8557
kristinaharvey@earthlink.net

420 & Laser Regatta Schedule:

June 19	420 & Laser Rigging Day (Pequot YC)
June 24 – 25	Advanced Racing Clinic (Stamford YC) ¹
July 6 – 7	Law Trophy (Indian Harbor YC) ¹
July 8	Eastern Districts (Noroton YC)
July 10 – 11	JSA Girls Champs (Seawanahka YC)
July 12 – 14	Larchmont Race Week (Larchmont YC)
July 15	Sears Cup qualifier (Indian Harbor YC)
July 20 – 23	420 North America Champs (Brant Beach, NJ) ²
July 26 – 27	Junior Race Week (Cedar Point YC)
July 29 – 31	Area B qualifier (Stamford YC)

¹ This is a pre-qualifier event. Sailors must have placed in the top 40% of any 2009 Laser/420 JSA event

² We competed in the 420 US Nationals last year. This event will be held in California this year.

July 30	McIntyre Team Race Clinic (Kings Point, NY)
Aug 2	McIntyre Team Race Champs (Kings Point)
Aug 6 – 8	Buzzards Bay (420's only)
Aug 9 – 10	420 / Laser Championships (Pequot YC) ³
Aug 9	420 / Laser Alternate Regatta (Centerport YC)

³ This is a pre-qualifier event. Sailors must have placed in the top 40% of any 2010 Laser/420 JSA event.