



Get Sailing

in association with Pacer Qld



News and features



**James 'Jimmy' Spithill,
Helmsman and Skipper,
Oracle Team USA, 34th
America's Cup, San
Francisco, September 2013**



"I enjoy taking myself out of my comfort zone. Sometimes you have to really be knocked down hard to know what you're made of."

Fast. Focused. Fresh-faced. When Jimmy Spithill debuted on the America's Cup in 1999 scene as a 19-year-old, many believed he would one day win the America's Cup. He did just that on February 14, 2010, at the helm of the most extreme yacht the competition had ever seen – the 90-foot long by 90-foot wide trimaran USA 17. That win made Spithill the youngest-ever winning skipper to win an America's Cup. Jimmy repeated his success at the September, 2013, America's Cup in San Francisco. Facing an 8-1 uphill challenge, Jimmy led his team to victory on an AC72 catamaran (especially designed for the 34th America's Cup) winning 8 consecutive races bringing the final result to 8-9 in favour of his team. There was much that came before winning these titles. The Sydney-born, sailor made

an early name for himself in junior match racing.

"When I got to primary school, I got the competitive edge. But then I really started to enjoy the team dynamic – the bigger the team, the harder it is to get the result and get the coordination and cohesion. Then there's always something that you can't anticipate that comes during a competition or race moment that's very hard to train for." Jimmy has fond memories of his early teenage school years learning to sail and race in Pacers. "Pacers are a great class of boat for our young aspiring sailors to learn to sail. I always felt safe and comfortable in Pacers allowing me to focus on my and my team's sailing performance - I knew that when I needed it, the Pacer gave me the speed I needed for racing."

"Pacers have greatly helped me in getting started with my career as a professional sailor and sportsman!"

New youth keel boat program at RQYS

The Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Manly, will be starting a new youth program this year in April.

The program is designed to give young teenage members and young adults a cost effective program to perfect the skills of small keel boat sailing and have a pathway and a feeder into many different keel boat events.

The program is based around the Elliott keel boats that the Squadron purchased in 2013.



"This new exciting program will teach our young sailors a range of skills and increase their knowledge so that they can make the transition from dinghy to keel-boat" says Adrian Finglas, Head Coach at RQYS.

All training will be under the guidance of RQYS coaches and will have a large focus on team building for the future.

The plan is to introduce the components of match racing and offshore keel boat regatta sailing. Sailors between the ages of 16-18 years will sail 4 persons per boat, and sailors between 18-23 years will sail 3 persons per boat.

For further details see www.rqys.com.au or contact Adrian Finglas on 0413 376114

Adrian Finglas

Adrian has raced and coached at both an International and Olympic standard. He has under his belt 9 National titles in Australia in classes ranging from 420, 470, and 505, both as helmsman, and as crew. Adrian was twice RQ Yachtsman of the Year and has represented RQYS all over the world in many different arenas.



Hiking

Hiking hard is one key element to making the boat go fast! As we always say "a flat boat is a fast boat"

The more pressure that you can apply to the footstrap the faster the boat will go.

Key points are:

1. Hike with your feet together
2. Apply pressure evenly to both feet
3. Sit forward in the vessel to keep the stern from dragging
4. Make sure that you have some hiking pants (Laser style)



Youth's Determination to Sail has been Successful

Some of the Brisbane schools participating in School Sailing have been struggling to maintain their involvement, yet the youths involved are passionate about their sport. They were determined to continue sailing even though their schools had withdrawn from the competition. And they have succeeded.

Two groups of students were in this predicament, one at St Margaret's Anglican Girls School and one at Brisbane Girls Grammar.

Year 8 St Margaret's student, Isabel, says about her start to sailing- "At first I was reluctant .. but had I known how many new friends and skills I would gain and how much fun sailing is, I would have been eager to begin." Now she thoroughly enjoys the sport.



Both groups of students at BGGG and St Margaret's lobbied for many weeks in an effort to continue sailing at their respective schools, however for various reasons including costs and availability of staff, a decision was made by each of the schools not to continue with sailing. Not to be deterred the two groups looked to each other, joined forces and approached Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. Their proposal was for a Combined Schools Sailing Team that was coached and supported by RQYS. The proposal was accepted and the students are now training together for the School Sailing competition.

Ellen, a senior student at St Margaret's School, commented- "It's great to have the support of RQ to allow us to continue sailing. If we didn't have the program, we wouldn't have the opportunity to sail at all!"

It is satisfying to know that a group of youth, who keenly wish to do something and are able to persevere, can ultimately achieve their goal. This group deserved its success.

Become a member of Pacer Qld to receive news and information on youth sailing. Please fill in this form and return to:

Pacer Qld Inc., P.O.Box 9075, Cleveland DC, Qld. 4163
Alternatively, e-mail your details to mail@pacerqld.org.au

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Upcoming events

Pacer Sprint Championships

RQYS - March 30th 2014

School Sprint Series

RQYS - Sept 2014 to August 2015. This year long event is a school competition with point scoring over the four terms.