

Kids learn to sail at Port Marina

The El Gorgo Sailing Program at the Hood River Marina expanded significantly in its second year.

"This program has been amazing," reports Community Education Director Mike Schend. "Last year when we offered one camp the interest level went through the roof. This year, with the help of the Port and program founders Jaime and Andy Mack, the program was able to grow. A new float was built for the sailboat fleet. We offered eight week-long camps and they filled immediately.

In fact we have had just as many kids on waiting lists as we've had in the camps. There has been a tremendous response from the community." Schend says Laurie Borton, Marina Manager for the Port, has been extra helpful in making this program a success.

This summer's camps are taught by Seattle high school teacher Dan Falk, who races Lasers as a hobby. Falk says to assure the success and sustainability of programs like this requires numerous volunteers, so no one carries an excessive load. Schend and Falk both credit the Macks for their dedication in getting the program off the ground.

"It's also great to have the Port of Hood River's support for this community sailing program. This is an excellent, protected facility for teaching kids," Falk said. For further information, contact Hood River County School District Community Education at 541-386-2055.



*El Gorgo sailing program teaches kids ages 8-14
beginning and advanced sailing in Optimist sailboats.*

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