

J/35 Fleet Newsletter

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A Word from our Newsletter Sponsor

A significant notion in the big picture of life is this, you likely haven't reached the finish line in your plan to be a major contender in a field of expertise or interest. A noteworthy experience sitting right in front of you is a sport that has all the ingredients you need to excel to the next level in your life. It's a sport you can learn at any age. That sport is sailboat racing! Your brain will learn new neural pathways to keep you sharp. Your body will become strong. Your social skills will improve by being part of a team bound by a common goal to win. Your "sixth sense" of proprioception* will kick in on the boat, which is an awareness that would never develop sitting at home on the sofa.

Sailboat racing is a community sport that's challenging and rewarding. The most fulfilling sailboat racing is competition among identical boats, knowing a win is credited to skill as opposed to mechanical advantage. This is the essence of One Design racing or racing "stick against stick". Everyone is in the same boat, so to speak. It's also a playing field without handicap rules or other weighting factors. The J35 sailboat in particular has a strong and active One Design racing community with superior leadership, providing support and opportunities for sailors to race and socialize. In fact, the J35's design and impact on the sailing community earned it a place in the Sail America's American Sailboat Hall of Fame in 1999. And where One Design racing is concerned, we have the 'nuts' at NSSC (North Star Sail Club). The J35s are the largest One Design fleet on the Great Lakes, and every Tuesday all summer long the J35s race One Design at NSSC! This year we are adding two more J35s to our Tuesday line up, Lyon's Den owned by Charlotte Lyons and Rumors owned by Don Endres. There's more good news: I'm bringing another J35 to Michigan on May 4th, and this boat can be yours!

If you're hungry enough to enhance your life, join in the game! Whether you jump in as a sailboat owner or a crew member, don't miss the chance to give sailing a try. Life is too short to let opportunities like this pass you by without grabbing hold. You'll have plenty of community support as you take on a new life enhancing challenge like sailboat racing.

*Proprioception is your body's ability to sense movement, action, and location. (I call it SA, situational awareness)

- Dean

2025 J/35 Open House Recap

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2025 J35 Open House March 9th! We had approximately 70 attendees who enjoyed food, fun, and fellowship amid a fleet of J35s, making this year's event a huge success! A special thank you to the Guinness Bikers who arranged a group ride to the open house in support of their sailing friends and family. We look forward to the 2026 open house!



Save the Date!



Race 2 Place May 17 & 24, 2025

2-week sailing workshop at NSSC May 17 & 24. Classroom 9-11AM followed by sailing on the water until 2PM. No prior experience necessary. A \$50 fee covers both weekends. Space is limited!!!

2025 Racing May - October

Spring Series – **Tuesdays** May 6 through June 24

Summer Series – **Tuesdays** Aug 5 through Sep 2

Fall Series – **Sundays** Sept through Oct 18

Spring **Friday** Fun Sail – May 23 through June 27

2025 Helly Hansen at Bayview May 30 - June 1. This is also our J35 Great Lakes Championship!

101st Bayview Mackinac Race (Port Huron to Mac) July 12, 2025

See more at www.northstarsail.org/racing.php

Pig Roast Weekend Aug 8 -10, 2025 – Main Event is Saturday Aug 9!

Set up camp on the property in Oscoda or grab a hotel room. Enjoy mountain biking, volleyball, corn hole, Guinness, dancing, euchre, and tall tales around the fire pit. The dinner is Aug 9 at 3PM, and the band starts at 7PM. Bring friends, family, and a dish to pass. Kids and dogs are welcome!

Join the J35 family, and thanks for reading!

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