



Block Island Club Keelboat Program



Colgate 26s and the Block Island Club

In June of 2016, the BIC accepted a proposal from a group of Island sailors to create an adult sailing program. The committee, was comprised of Henry DuPont, Ted Merritt, Bob Greenlee and Kim Granbery. The US Coast Guard Academy, was releasing a number of Colgate 26s through the Government Services Administration. The boats would be offered on a tiered system. The lowest tier is nonprofit sailing programs such as the Block Island Club. The odds of the BIC receiving the boats were a "million to one".

Henry worked with former Club President Kelley Walter to get the BIC deemed eligible to receive surplus federal property. On September 13th, six skippers, their crews, and three tow boats descended on the US Coast Guard Academy to take possession of the Club's new six pristine Colgate 26 sail boats and sailed across Block Island Sound for a triumphant entrance into the Great Salt Pond.



Course Outline

This course is intended for BIC members to become confident sailors on our fleet of Colgate 26s. Although counter-intuitive, these bigger boats are actually easier to learn on than small boats like 420s and Sunfish. The Colgates are spacious, stable and forgiving to new sailors! Our class sizes are purposely small so that everybody has sufficient time on the steering and controlling the sails. Our goal is to give you all the tools you need in order to sail these boats independently and explore Block Island by sail.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Independently rig a Colgate 26
- Identify key parts of a sailing boat
- Steer the boat proficiently
- Control the sail efficiently
- Understand all points of sailing
- Collect a mooring / Recover a man overboard
- Understand basic sail theory



Day 1

Rigging | Wind Direction | Basic Skills | Theory

- Introduction
- Rigging main sail
- Identifying parts of the boat
- Steering + Sail Control
- Tacking (turning into the No Go Zone)
- Gybing (turning away from the No Go Zone)
- Points of Sailing
- De-rigging and storing sails



Day 2

Theory | Rigging | Recap Skills | Advanced Skills

- Test Review (Rules of the road, Port/Starboard, Points of sailing)
- Detailed points of sailing
- Independent Rigging
- Recap Basic Skills
- Performing Man Overboards / Mooring Pickups
- Independent Derigging

