

# J/35 Fleet Newsletter

**May 1, 2025**

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## The Race is On!

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Winter is waning, and blue skies of spring are upon us. As your boats emerge from winter storage, you've decided on races you plan to do in 2025, and you've registered for them. Now it's time to knock the dust off the boat, put the boat and her crew on the water, and get down to brass tacks.

As we stated last month, sailboat racing is a community sport that's challenging and rewarding with the most fulfilling race being competition among identical boats, where a win is credited to skill, not mechanical advantage. This essence of One Design racing is upheld at NSSC (North Star Sail Club). Racing at NSSC starts this month with the Top Gun Twilight Spring Series on Tuesdays beginning with the May 6<sup>th</sup> tune up race and running weekly through June 24<sup>th</sup>. Hermann Ball is keeping watch and guarantees the spring racing series is going off without a hitch! First warning sounds every Tuesday with military precision at exactly 1900 hours. J35 racers have witnessed this firsthand every racing season for the past six years. This is a huge attraction for NSSC because everyone likes an organization with discipline as well as knowing just what to expect.

This year we are adding two J35s to the Tuesday night start line, Rumors owned by Don Endres and Lyon's Den owned by Charlotte Lyons. They've been rounding up crew during the cold months because building a committed crew who show up consistently is key for any successful campaign.

On that note, if you hear a giant sucking sound coming from NSSC, that's the sound of J35s looking for enthusiastic people wanting to join the action. What am I getting at? Each J35 needs a crew of 8 to be competitive and 8 more minimum as backups for the unexpected. How many sailors do we need to dance on the decks of our J35s? Our J35s total 13 -- Mr. Bill's Wild Ride, Snipe, FireFly, Time Machine, Falcon, Red Line, Dean's List, Tonic III, Honor Roll, Centurian, Black Hawk, Rumors, and Lyon's Den. Each needs primary and backup crew. That's 208 sailors! Dean is bringing another J35 to Michigan May 4<sup>th</sup>. When we add that boat to the fleet, we'll need even more crew. Wow, lock the doors! This boat can be yours! If interested, reach out to Dean directly.

If you need crew or are willing to train crew, keep an eye on NSSC's Race 2 Place students. Race 2 Place is led by Mike Deck May 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Also, Dean Fitzpatrick will resend a list of students from his 2025 J/35 sailing class. Both are excellent opportunities to reach out to newbies and build crew. Break down barriers and step up to the plate. This is going to be a blast; I guarantee it!

- Dean

# Save the Date!

In addition to the Top Gun Twilight Spring Series starting this month, the **J35 Great Lakes Championship** at Bayview is May 30<sup>th</sup> through June 1st. With our J35 owners hungry to be on the podium, this has the makings of a real “barn burner”. We’ll have a chart-topping event, including a J35 booth and J35 swag at the regatta. Look for the blue J35 canopy, J35 posters and one of our signature yellow J35 tablecloths. To make this an over-the-top success, spread the verbal and visual J35 “gospel”. Also, see additional race schedule highlights below with full details on the NSSC website at [www.northstarsail.org/racing.php](http://www.northstarsail.org/racing.php) for opportunities to get into the racing game.



## Race 2 Place May 17 & 24, 2025

Sailing class at NSSC. Classroom 9-11AM; On the water 11:30AM-2PM

## 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** May 30 - June 1 (J35 Great Lakes Championship)

**101<sup>st</sup> Bayview Mackinac Race** (Port Huron to Mac) July 12, 2025

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pig Roast Saturday Aug 9<sup>th</sup> in Oscoda!

Camp onsite or grab a hotel. Enjoy mountain biking, volleyball, dancing, euchre, and more. Activities are planned Aug 8-10. The main event is Aug 9<sup>th</sup> with dinner and a band. Bring friends, family, dogs and a dish to pass. See details in the accompanying flyer. I hope to see you there!

## Dean Fitzpatrick / Honor Roll

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