

The Prairie Club's Sailing Program at Camp Hazelhurst

Randy Lutter

June 2026

Welcome to the Prairie Club's sailing program at Camp Hazelhurst. We want to make sailing accessible to Prairie Club members and guests who are interested in sailing but would not otherwise sail at Hazelhurst. Camp Hazelhurst has three Prairie Club sailboats that are fun for beginning and intermediate sailors: a Sunfish and two Hobie Waves. Compared to the Sunfish, the Hobies are harder to flip and harder to right, but sail better with more and / or heavier sailors.

To use these sailboats, you, as a Club member or guest at least 12 years old, need to

- 1) Read and sign the waiver of liability available at the Prairie Club's Camp Hazelhurst [boat program website](#), and send an image or copy of the signed document to both rwlutter@gmail.com and the Club Office at prairieclub@sbcglobal.net . We request that you send in a new signed waiver even if you have done so in the past.
- 2) Watch the following videos to learn or to refresh your memory, as appropriate. Some are worth watching twice.
- 3) Swim to the sand bar and back while Randy or the waterfront director watches. Even if you are a strong pool swimmer you may (re)learn how hard it is to swim straight without lines at the bottom of a pool or how fatiguing cold water can be.
- 4) Arrange with Randy a mutually convenient time to take a verbal sailing proficiency test, which will cover
 - a. Rigging
 - b. Sailing, including tacking and jibing
 - c. Basic rules of the road.
 - d. Retrieving items or crew members that fall overboard
 - e. Righting a capsized sailboat
 - f. Assessing and managing Lake Michigan weather risks
- 5) Depending on your proficiency and the weather conditions, we may authorize you to skipper a sailboat when Randy or someone assisting him is present. Authority to skipper may later be upgraded.

If you are new to sailing at Hazelhurst, we strongly recommend that you download and use a free app called Teamreach and enter groupcode HHLMSail. That Teamreach group enables all Hazelhursters and guests wanting to sail to chat, schedule events, share pictures and find others Hazelhursters interested in sailing.

- Hazelhurst weather forecasts useful to sailors are available through free apps, including iKitesurf and Windfinder, Weko Beach buoy (in Bridgman), and Weatherbug, which provides the distance from the nearest lightning strike, as well as hourly forecasts.

Sunfish: Rigging, parts one and two

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-ikweQ5K9A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNpLpYhWVdc>

Tacking <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gftSJeQ50c>

Also https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EP_AELYURqI

Demo and practice <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdghqTKdZ2o>

Tips for better Sunfish sailing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RLOhhhgdyY>

Righting a capsized Sunfish <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lwokzjlcjvk>

Analysis of a Sunfish sailor's mistakes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsnX_HhCh6w

Hobie Wave Rigging <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPnm6LGSUrU>

Sailing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWJmWyTmWPK>

Righting a capsized Hobie Wave <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDnmeXyr6B0>

Sailing Essentials:

A video about sailing for beginners <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trwcNk8EeH0>

Rules of the road <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iS8d00QjU5Q>

How to rescue a sailor who has fallen overboard. These unfortunate sailors seem to be all men, hence these called are man overboard drills.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDS8gGQL67A>

Lake Michigan Weather

Seven day National Weather Service forecast

<https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=41.876&lon=-86.628>

National Weather Service announcement about thunderstorms and boating.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GolFYqDh3Q>