

friendly, FUN, affordable!

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# OPPI newsletter

McLaughlin Boat Works



optistuff.com

423-875-4040

## ***PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT***

### **Sandy Creek Park, Lake Chapman - Georgia**

There are county parks, then there are super parks like Sandy Creek. Just perusing their website you get a feel that these guys are providing incredible services with a gorgeous piece of real estate. When we delivered half dozen OPPIs last fall we could tell it was a special place. Here is a welcome in their words -

*" We invite you to enjoy outdoor recreation in a beautiful setting.*

*This 782 acre park surrounds Lake Chapman and offers picnic sites, hiking and horse trails, swimming, playgrounds, fishing, camping, dog runs, boating, disc golf, sports areas, camping and more. Athens-Clarke County takes pride in providing our community with facilities like those of many state parks.*

**WELCOME! "**




Program Specialist Carly Robinson had the following to say about her sailing program and her experience with their six new OPPIs. "We were very excited to offer a sailing program for the first time this year. We needed a boat that was basically for the kids, but could accommodate teens and adults on occasion. The OPPI was perfect for the kids. They are not intimidated by the boat at all. Maybe it's the colorful sail or soft plastic toy-like feel, but they were always ready to jump right in", reported Carly. "They were so excited about the opportunity to sail their own boat without a parent. The boats are a little heavy, but dollies would probably take care of that. Basically, we made a wise choice and are so happy to have found McLaughlin. You guys made everything easy from purchase, delivery, manuals, and parts to follow-up. When we need anything... you guys are easy to contact and quickly solve the problem."



## ***SALES PITCH***

*Call today and reserve your OPPI fleet for spring 2009 delivery*

*Our success with these boats has been phenomenal. Each delivery has sold out shortly after every shipment. Don't wait for Spring and don't be caught without boats!*

**Do You  ?** Have you seen the cool OPPI video? This kid really knows what he's doing. Roll tacking, roll jibes, hiking, 720s.... he does it all! Give us a call and we can send you a DVD copy of the video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIWlxjeGQs>

## ***TEACHING TIP***

### **3 Things Beginners Should Learn From the Start**

**Eyes out of the boat:** teach them to steer, trim sails, bail, adjust daggerboard, etc. by feel. Their eyes should be on the sail and on the area around the boat when steering and adjusting the sail at least 90% of the time. There is a tendency for beginners to push the tiller away from them when looking into the boat or making any adjustments. Teach them that nearly every adjustment is relative to the surroundings and not what's in the boat. When we steer - we need to align our course with a buoy or other object outside the boat (a little more advanced concept is to adjust our course to or with the sail). When we adjust the sail our eyes need to be on the luff AND on the horizon. When we adjust the daggerboard, our eyes need to be on the horizon / buoy. Even with advanced sailors we are constantly telling them to "keep their head out of the boat". The earlier kids learn this important skill the better sailors they will become, the less stress for you and the more FUN for everyone!

**Use the tiller extension:** from day one, using the tiller extension should be taught. Old school was to tie it back because it complicated things. Maybe today's kids are different, but we see that it accelerates learning and definitely encourages good sailing. Kids who are not taught to use it have an extremely hard time learning it later on. Not using it encourages sitting inside the boat, sitting too far aft, leaning into boat, and not hiking (consequently kids are afraid when the boat heels because they cannot balance it). Teach it from the start and your kids will be more skilled and have more FUN.

**Sit forward on the deck:** Start them out sitting on the deck, not in the bottom. It's more comfortable and encourages proper sailing position. Instruct them and keep reminding them, "feet together, knees together and hands together". Point the knees at the mast and align the whole body with the hips. That way the body is naturally facing the mast and the body is not twisted, not even the neck. Relative to the boat, sit in the middle, (amidships), with the forward foot touching the partition (midship frame).

## ***DID YOU KNOW?*** Kids, families and boats

**A recent study by the National Marine Manufacturers Association and the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation revealed the following insights:**

Children who boat are more self-confident (54% to 47%).

Boater's children (75% to 65%) tend to be the leader more often than other children.

Involving children in boating also appears to promote active involvement in other recreational activities, such as camping, football, baseball and hiking.



Children who boat learn to be more outgoing and less shy or introverted, which may be one reason they become better team players (63% vs 53%).

The survey also found that children who boat tend to be more optimistic (52% to 43%).

For more info  
on OPPI:

**800-784-6478**

### ***RIGGING TIP*** OPPI Rigging Guide can be found at <http://www.optistuff.com/info/faq/manuals/OPPIRiggingManual.pdf>

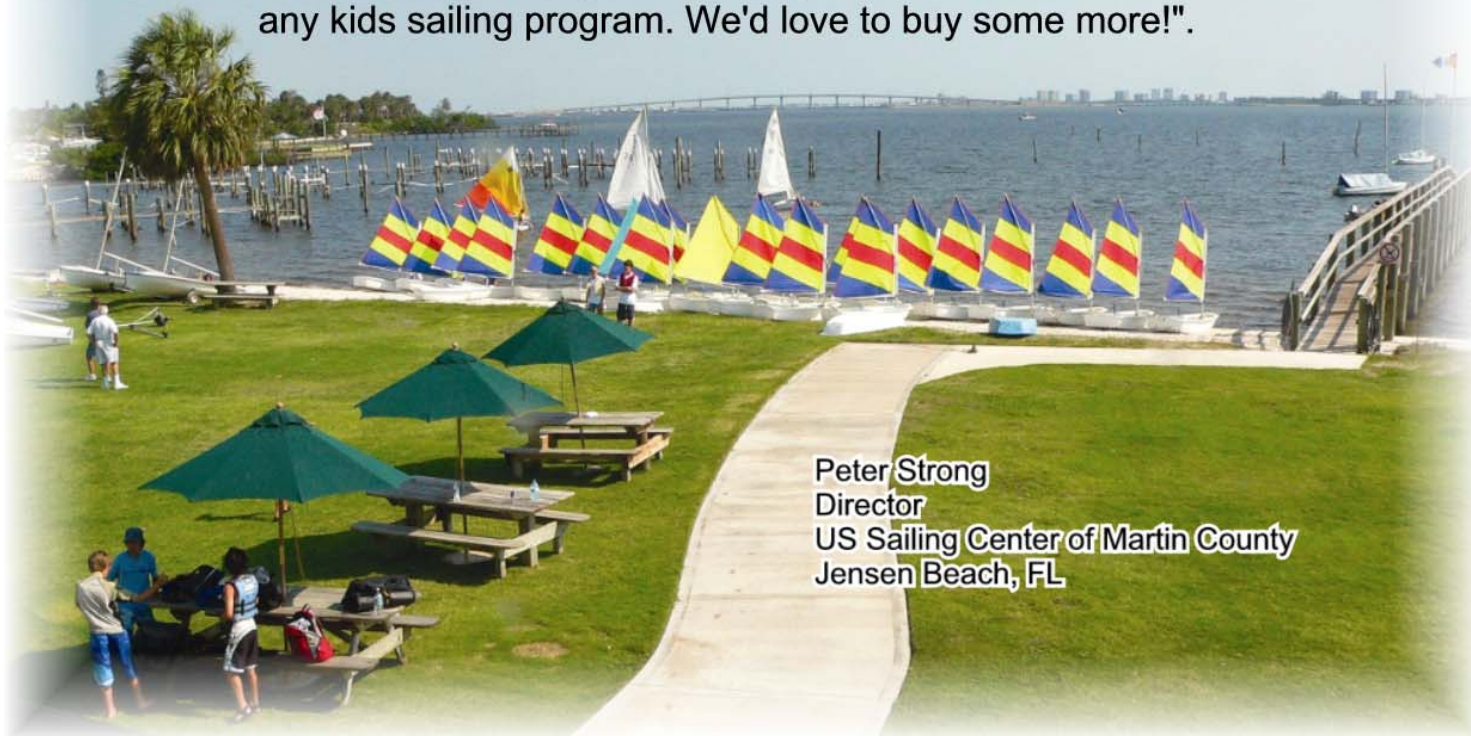
#### **Don't lower the BOOM, raise it!**

Did your OPPI come with a MAST EXTENDER and are you using it? Your spars were constructed for alternate use in the Optimist Dinghy, which has a deeper cockpit than the OPPI. The mast extender raises the sail and boom allowing an additional 4" of headroom (and that's a good thing!). Remove the end plug in the top of the mast (the largest spar), by tapping it out with a screwdriver.



Apply a heavy coating of silicone sealant to mast extender in an effort to make a watertight seal with mast and to keep it attached. Slide together and wipe off excess silicone.

"We bought 24 of these for the Sailing Center over three years ago and they have been terrific. Not only are they durable, but the kids love them. The Oppi is the perfect boat for beginner youth sailing; minimal bailing, no destruction when they crash, and not too powerful. I'd recommend them to any kids sailing program. We'd love to buy some more!"



Peter Strong  
Director  
US Sailing Center of Martin County  
Jensen Beach, FL