Sports 12 | Friday, Feb. 7, 2014

ON THE WATER

Newport instructors honored

BY TAYLOR HILL STAFF WRITER

Two instructors at Newport Beach Sailing School were chosen for the Outstanding Sailing Instructor of the Year award by the American Sailing Association this year.

The award, given to only 30 sailing instructors worldwide, was the third time instructor Mike Kohl has received recognition and the first for instructor and Newport Beach resident David Carlson.

The Register caught up with each to talk about the award.

What is special about this

Mike Kohl: The Outstanding Instructor Award is based off of student survey results and is given to only the top 2 percent of American Sailing Instructors Association worldwide. It feels good to be recognized once again by my students with this award, and it makes me feel happy to know they are happy with me. This award is special to me this year because it serves as justification to continue teaching sailing even though my real estate career has really taken off.

David Carlson: It's special to me because it shows that I am communicating to my students well, that they are learning safely and most importantly having a good time.

Why do you think Newport Beach Sail School had two instructors win the award?

Kohl: They pay well. No, just kidding. We somehow have as-



Captain David Carlson

sembled an amazingly talented and enthusiastic group of

sailing instructors. I'm sur-

prised more of the guys who

didn't win this year, especially

Captain Roger Phillips, who

has been with the school since

its inception and has won the

award in the past. The school

has the best maintained sailing

fleet in the industry headed by

a South African guy named

Don Shannon. He's always

down there on the docks mak-

ing sure we are good to go. The

laid back, yet sharp style of

management also keeps every-

thing running smoothly and

has to be the backbone of it all.

It takes the whole team of folks

Carlson: We have a great re-

lationship with Chris Jester,

the owner of the school and a

very good maintenance team.

Also the staff in the office and

the other instructors do a won-

derful job. So we are surround-

to make it all possible.

ed by good people.

PHOTOS: NEWPORT BEACH SAILING SCHOOL

Captain Mike Kohl

full time job? What else do vou do?

Kohl: It was at first. I once even maintained our entire fleet of sailing yachts before Don Shannon stepped in (and stepped up the game), but I've become too busy as a real estate agent with Star Real Estate and Kohl and Associates over the past few years. I sell residential real estate in Orange County, specializing in short sales and probates. I guess it really doesn't matter what you do. I mean, as long as your heart is in it, everything eventually comes together.

Carlson: Yes I am lucky enough to do this full time. On days off I play polo. I also like to spend time at the track with sports cars and motorcycles.

How long have you been with Newport Beach Sailing School?

Kohl: Seven Years.

Carlson: I have been teaching with them for three years. **Is sailing instructor your** Before that I taught sailing and

racing in Boston for 15 years.

What do you like about teaching sailing?

Carlson: I grew up sailing. I think it is something you can do your whole life. I like to pass that on to other people, and the enjoyment they get is very rewarding. It's a sport that involves you both physically and mentally.

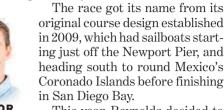
Kohl: I really enjoy the challenges of working with so many different types of people. Everybody seems to learn a little differently, and figuring out the best way to get somewhat abstract concepts across is always interesting for that rea-

Located at 1600 W. Coast Highway, Newport Beach Sailing School focuses on one-on-one sailing instruction for beginners up to advanced sailing skills, with classroom sizes limited to just two students per class. For more information, go to www.newportbeachsail.com.

BORDER RUN SAILBOAT RACE ALTERS COURSE

Register

With its start moved from April to Feb. 22 this year, race creator Randy Reynolds expected fewer entrants for this year's Border Run, but issues in Mexico could potentially limit entries further.



This year, Reynolds decided to HILL cancel the Coronado course, cit-STAFF ing a lack of interest from the WRITER larger, faster sailboats and unanswered questions from Mexico re-

garding racing in their waters. "We've been in talks with officials down there for months, but we just couldn't get a straight answer on whether our boats would be allowed to sail around the islands without the fear of being boarded for inspection during the race," Reynolds

The news of Mexico officials impounding more than 300 boats - most of which were Americanand Canadian-owned - in various Mexican marinas hasn't helped race entries either.

"We have about 65 right now, and we had about 100 in last year's race," Reynolds said. The two alternative courses for the race will

keep sailboats in native waters. The San Diego course will run 70 nautical miles

from Newport to San Diego, and the Dana Point course will run 14 miles from the Newport Beach Pier to Dana Point Harbor. "We just want to give all sailors a chance to en-

ter. From dinghies to catamarans to the maxi sleds," Reynolds said.

"And we really hope these issues with Mexico are cleared up in time for the Newport to Ensenada race this spring."

For more information, go to theborderrun.org

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