

Welcome to MIT Sailing

Mission Statement

The Sailing Pavilion exists to provide all members of the MIT community – of any age, status, prior experience, and ability – with opportunities to sail and to improve their nautical skills. Sailing is an enjoyable sport that offers intellectual and physical release from the intense pressures of the Institute. Sailing is a sport at which MIT people excel; as mentally as it is physically demanding, sailing promotes not only physical fitness but also precision of mind, and teaches leadership, teamwork, responsibility and perseverance. The large mental component of sailing allows enthusiasts of all ages to learn and compete together: The MIT Sailing Pavilion is a rare environment where undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni, and family mingle on an equal and friendly footing. The Pavilion accomplishes its mission through classes, programs, and the MIT Nautical Association, the largest recreational club on campus.

Website

Please visit the MIT Sailing website for sailing information, event schedules, contact information and much more: <http://sailing.mit.edu/>

MIT Nautical Association & Sailing Cards

The MIT Sailing Pavilion is the oldest – and arguably still the finest – university sailing facility in the country. Its fleet is available to any member of the MIT Community who holds a current membership in the MIT Nautical Association. Once you have obtained your MIT Athletic privileges you may obtain a Sailing Card at no additional charge.

Membership cards are NOT transferable. Both portions of your card remain at the desk. Please remember the **number** on your card; the small portion will be filed accordingly. The larger portion will be filed alphabetically, by your **last name**.

Sailing Pavilion Season & Hours of Operation

The Sailing Pavilion is open seven days a week – including all holidays—from April 1st to November 15th. Hours are 12 noon until sunset, except on Mondays which is 3pm until sunset. Particularly inclement weather promising to last all day may result in early closing.

Swim Tests

Each cardholder who is under 21 and wishes to sail must take the Small Boat Swim Test. Ask for information about this at the Z center. All others may take the Small Boat Swim Test or sign a statement swearing that they have the ability to swim 100 yards and tread water for 10 minutes. Each member is responsible for his/her guests being proficient swimmers.

Classes

- Learn to Sail the Tech Dinghy
Our basic sailboat is the tech Dinghy – a sturdy, 1-3 person cat rigged sailboat. It is wonderfully suitable for beginners, but also enthusiastically raced by experts. Learn to Sail classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 to 7 and Sundays from 9 until 2.
- Physical Education Classes
The Pavilion offers classes to students and staff through MIT Physical Education. If you are interested please check out the MIT Athletics web site for more details:
www.mit.edu/athletics/www/phised.html.

Taking out the Boats

Any member, who feels able to handle a boat, may sign out a Tech Dinghy – wind restrictions permitting. We have a series of check offs that each sailor will want to complete as soon as they are able. The Pavilion desk has sheets further describing the ratings outlined below.

- The responsibility for a boat remains with the member as long as it is checked out in his/her name. Upon returning to the dock, check the disposition of your boat at the desk. Quite frequently you may be able to transfer it to another member. Be sure that your card is filed in the box before you leave.
- Make sure that your boat does not hit any other boat while at the dock. Do NOT leave boats unattended at the dock, nor should sails be left luffing in a strong wind. A boat banging against the dock and a sail whipping around in the wind significantly shortens the lifespan of the equipment.
- Land your boat where there is sufficient dock space or tack back out and try again. Always land with the front of the boat pointing into the wind.
- Before hauling any boat onto the dock, the sail must be lowered, the rudder removed, and the centerboard raised with its bungee leash attached. Do not raise the sail or install the rudder until the boat is in the water.
- Do not allow the sails to touch or drag on the dock. Keep the sails clean. If you get the mast stuck in the mud, wash off the sails. Check the mast for mud as well.
- After leaving the dock, do not leave your boat for any reason. If you capsize, right the boat by swimming around and getting on the centerboard.
- Bail the inside of your boat before stowing.
- Sailing area:
 - Stay away from restricted sailing areas and stay visible!
 - Charles River Yacht Club Marina
 - Harvard Boathouse
 - Community Boating area (MDC Boathouse) and the nearby island
 - Sail only in the area between the Harvard and Longfellow bridges
 - Land only at the Sailing Pavilion dock
- Right of Way:
 - Keep clear of human-powered boats
 - Learn the Rules of the Road
 - All skippers must be alert for and stay clear of crew shells at all times.
- In the event that you run aground:
 - Pull out the rudder to keep it from banging on the rocks
 - Lower the sail halfway to summon the launch.
 - Raise your centerboard to keep it from getting damaged on the rocks.
 - If possible, get out of the boat and hold the boat away from the rocks.
- Capsizing
If you capsize, stay with your boat! All of the boats float when full of water or even if upside down. A safety launch will be out to help you soon. Please stay with your boat at all times, it is easier to find the boat in the water than it is to find your little head.

Lifejackets

Everyone must wear a lifejacket at all times when in a boat.

Broken boats & equipment

Please tell the dock staff about broken equipment. They will either take the equipment from you or will tell you where to put it so that it may be noted and repaired.

Ratings

- **The Provisional Rating**

involves performing basic sailing maneuvers, demonstrating rigging and unrigging, and showing an understanding of safety precautions and right-of-way rules. This test may be administered by the staff or by any other member with a Helmsman rating. Aside from the obvious personal safety rationale for our check-off requirement, the proper care and protection of our boats is an important consideration. Members with a Swim rating may find their sailing privileges curtailed – at the discretion of the staff – if the wind is too strong or conditions otherwise warrant caution. The Provisional Rating also allows light-wind use of our Lasers (single person planing catboats) and Lynx Catboats.

- **The Helmsman Rating**

is our expert, heavy-air sailing qualification. The test requires sailing solo in a strong wind of 20 knots. It includes: sailing a Tech upwind – flat and close-hauled – showing good hiking technique, proper use of the tiller extension, and sharp tacks; sailing downwind showing the ability to comfortably carry off a series of controlled jibes; and expertly carrying out the woman-overboard procedure. The Helmsman rating is a prerequisite for heavier-air use of our Lasers and Lynxes, and for checking out the Flying Juniors, 420s (2 person planing sloops) and our Hobie 20 catamaran.

- **Lynx Rating**

allows you to sail the Lynx Catboats in medium-strong winds, as well as during moonlight sails. You need the Lynx rating, plus experience, to lead a Harbor trip

- **Boardsailing**

is independent of the Provisional/Crew/Helmsman hierarchy. Start by discussing your previous experience with the staff. For novices, classes in rigging, board care, and windsurfing technique are occasionally offered during the warmer months. Wetsuits (not supplied) must be worn when the water temperature is low. If you are capable of sailing close hauled for extended periods of time, you are not required to wear a lifejacket.

Recall Signals

The dock lights turn on at sunset, signaling all skippers to return to the dock. Please be attentive to this sign, as sunset occurs well before it gets dark. In the event of approaching storms, our staff will notify you by turning on the dock lights, lowering the MIT Burgee (the flag flying atop the Pavilion) and possibly by motorboat. Please pay attention to these signals as they are for everyone's safety.

Events & Programs

- **Moonlight Sails & BBQ's**

Sail on the river after dark. Bring something warm to wear, a flashlight, and food for the BBQ. The boats you'll sail are the Lynx Catboats. If you don't have experience sailing the Lynxes then hop on board with a more experienced skipper.

- **Racing program**

Through August, the Pavilion offers racing three nights per week. Monday nights, the coaches teach an Introduction to Racing class. Tuesday night is when our VERY COMPETITIVE Tech series is held. Thursday night is Advanced/Intermediate night (all skill levels except novices). All three evenings are raced in Tech Dinghies, solo. You are welcome to sail with crew if you would like. Starting time is 5:30.

- **Ocean Cruising**

MIT owns a 43-foot, six berth, deep-water sailing yacht, *X-Dimension*, which sails out of Boston Harbor. Please see the sailing website for information on “bluewater” sailing for information on how to sail on *X-Dimension*: <http://sailing.mit.edu/bluewater/>

Valuables & Lockers

Due to the danger of theft and the possibility of water-immersion, valuable property is most safely left at home. Small items such as wallets, keys and watches may be placed in an envelope, labeled and locked up at the Pavilion desk. Most eyeglasses sink rapidly and should be tied on with cord available at the desk. A limited number of lockers are available during the sailing season only in the men's and women's locker rooms for a rental fee of \$5 per year. You must supply your own lock. Locks left on lockers not assigned will be removed after suitable warning.

Foot Injuries

Full coverage, soft-soled, washable footwear is highly recommended for sailing. Please bring a change of shoes, as ones that soak up Charles River water are never the same!

Showers & Bathrooms

There is an outdoor shower located outside on the dock to the right of the lobby. Locker rooms for changing are also located to the right of the lobby. There are two single bathrooms on either side of the main door, before going down the stairs to the lobby.

First Aid items

There is a first aid kit behind the desk for minor cuts and abrasions. For serious emergencies, all MIT Campus Police are trained EMTs capable of handling any situation.

Lost & Found

The lost and found for clothing is located outside of the locker rooms. If possible, we will try to put aside items of value, such as wallets, keys and glasses. MIT is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Parking

There is no designated parking for the Pavilion. Members may park in metered spots on Massachusetts Avenue, as well as in designated parking spots along Memorial Drive. Please do not park in no-parking zones, especially in crosswalks. The State Police enforce these two zones very enthusiastically.

Reserve the Pavilion

If you are an MIT Nautical Association member and you want to have an event at the Pavilion please call and speak to Fran Charles, 617-253-4884 – fcharles@mit.edu, or sign up on the sailing website: <http://sailing.mit.edu/GeneralInfo/reserve.php> The Pavilion often hosts parties and BBQ's with or without sailing. The view is the best in Cambridge.

Phone Calls

There is no phone for public to use at the Pavilion. The closest public phone is located across the street, in the basement of Walker Memorial.

Smoking

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED in the building, on the dock or in the boats.

Volunteering at the Pavilion

We love our volunteers! The Pavilion can always use help with sailing instruction for our Learn to Sail classes, running evening racing and regattas. Please contact Fran Charles if you are interested: fcharles@mit.edu or 617-253-4884.