



Access Dinghy Telltales

Official Newsletter of the Access Dinghy Foundation

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PATRON: Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia,
His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)



Access Boats USA

Ricardo Seidner

<http://www.accessboatsusa.com>



Contact Access Dinghy
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"I love sailing, but when I see others sailing and coming back with HUGE SMILES after having been able to assist them in getting in the boats and on the water - that is all the pay I really need!" says Ricardo Seidner, the new builder of Access Dinghies in the United States.

Access Boats USA, our family's new company in Plantation, Florida, opened its doors March 1, 2005, making Access Dinghies available for the first time from a builder within the United States. As with most things that surround the creation of these little boats and the programs that utilize them - Access Boats USA has a story.

Ricardo became familiar with the Access Dinghies, after meeting Debra Frenkel of the Tradewinds Foundation, during a program for children with cancer and their families. Ri-



cardo's 14 year old son, Josh, has been going through treatment for Leukemia since September of 2002. As of the end of March, 2005, he has finished his treatment and is doing well. Josh and his family had attended a special day of yachting and activity provided by the Tradewinds Foundation.

Josh was then invited to join in the all-inclusive sailing program, newly established by Tradewinds, in the Ft. Lauderdale area, and the smiles that crossed his face rejuvenated his father. Ricardo hadn't seen Josh smile like that in a very long time.

Since then, Josh has gone sailing almost every weekend and won first place in the gold fleet at regatta in Miami. Josh said that when he is on the water he "forgets about everything and it doesn't matter if you have a disability - even if you are a quadriplegic - in these sailing boats you have the same chance of winning."

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*"Proud Supporters and official
supplier to Access Dinghies"*



Wendy sails "the Dam"

Editor.

Wendy began sailing in 1997. Since then she has sailed in State, National, International and World competitions in Australia, Japan and France. Having severe Cerebral Palsy creates difficulties for Wendy in controlling her dinghy. Wendy has an IFDS Classification of FCS1, and is a vocal advocate for equity in sailing, believing that regardless of degree of disability, all sailors are entitled to the same sailing options as those with a lesser disability. In October, Wendy will travel to Italy to compete in her second IFDS Single Person Dinghy Worlds. Read her Sailor Profile and Comments following 2004 SP Worlds:

www.accessdinghy.org/2005sp_dinghyworlds/sailors.htm#WendyEvans

When I sail on Grahamstown Dam at Port Stephens, I usually sail in an Access 303 on my own. This is much harder for me than a 2.3, as I do not have very good co-ordination and am slower than others pulling the ropes and adjusting the jib after tacking. However, I feel a great sense of achievement after being in a 303. It may be hard for me, but it's not impossible, and sometimes I do manage to beat able-bodied sailors in other 303s. That adds to my achievement. I think because of my great love for sailing, I forget how difficult it is, and just do it.

On April 16th Sailability Port Stephens planned a day to sail right around the shore of the Dam. They say the dam is about 8 – 10 kms, but I think it's more. Sixteen sailing craft started off. It was not a race. It was just for fun. And fun it was. Myself, the only sailor with a disability, was in a 303 on my own. It was a terrific feeling being to be included and treated like an able-bodied sailor with no special attention – to be equal.

I kept to the shoreline almost all the way, while others cut across or just turned back. The wind was a nice strength for me, so I handled it well. Three hours later I was back at the Club House and extremely proud of myself. I did it! I did it! I sailed the Dam. Thank you to Sailability Port Stephens. You are a fun club. One bit of advice to your club for the future – always make sure the Rescue Boat has plenty of fuel, so it doesn't have to be rescued by an Access 2.3. Ha



Access Boats USA From page 1

Josh continues to use crutches due to weakness in his legs from the treatment. He has brought his cousin with him to sail; recruited his mother and sister to participate in special events; has made new friends and has travelled to regattas in other cities. Josh intends to be working in the business with his father in anyway he can, and of course, continue sailing.

Ricardo has been volunteering for the program while Josh has been sailing. He told another story about a deaf/mute gentleman, Steven, who came to sail. When Steven got off the water from his first time out - he was smiling ear to ear - hurried off the boat and ran up the dock, scurrying. The instructor and Ricardo watched in bewilderment, unsure why he had ran off so quickly and only explained by Steven's return, holding up with outstretched arms - a piece of paper with the words, "I loved it!" written across.

When Debra Frenkel suggested building the boats in the U.S. to Ricardo, he was already sold!



Ricardo & Adriana Seidner

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FESPIC GAMES 2006 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



ATTENTION ALL SAILORS WITH A DISABILITY IN ASIA & OCEANIA

SEPTEMBER 2006: FESPIC is the Far East and South Pacific Disability Games. There are 45 member nations of FESPIC and for the first time sailing has been included on the programme of the Regional Competition of 2006 FESPIC Games. The competition will be open to any sailor with a disability who is classifiable under the IFDS Classification System.

Eighteen Liberty will be available for the competition. To obtain further information regarding the 2006 FESPIC Games sailing competition, contact your country's Paralympic Committee, or

Jackie Kay at sailability@msn.com.au
<http://www.taiyonoie.or.jp/fespic/>



HRH the Princess Royal receives new Access Liberty Dinghy on behalf of RYA Sailability

June 9, 2005

Opportunities for people with disabilities to sail alongside other sailing enthusiasts at the new £7.85m Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy were given a major boost after the presentation of a brand new Access Liberty to RYA Sailability patron HRH Princess Anne by boat builder Steve Sawford.

The presentation of the dinghy was made on the pontoons at Weymouth as part of the opening celebrations on Thursday June 9th after the Festival of Sail, featuring a host of sailing legends racing against disabled sailors, had been concluded.

Steve, who has been building the Access range of dinghies for the past three years at his base in Northamptonshire and is the UK's sole manufacturer, made the presentation on behalf of Access Dinghy Sailing Systems in Australia (ADSSA), where designer Chris Mitchell first conceived and designed the Access range for disabled sailors.

"These boats are incredibly safe and simple to sail and very quickly give people confidence in handling them on a race track," he said.

"We have built over 100 of them and our order book suggests that the fleet is popular and growing fast," he said.

On the pontoon, having just won the Liberty event was Ann Lewis, the 2004 Access 2.3 National Champion from Watford who is wheelchair dependent after suffering meningitis eight years ago.

"I have already placed an order for one because they are fast, very stable and great fun to sail," she said.

"But I have asked Steve to make me one with glittery blue decks and I haven't decided what colour the sails will be yet."

The 3.6 metre dinghy, with joystick steering, high coamings and wide side decks is a totally accessible performance craft which anyone can sail, regardless of ability. It even has a ventilator stowage box, opening up the sailing

opportunity to a new class of disabled sailor.

The opening of the Academy will allow disabled sailors to race on the same courses in Weymouth Harbour as every other sailor, offering them the chance to enjoy the sport at one of the best venues in the world due to its unique combination of excellent breezes and safe waters.

Said Clive Clifford CEO RYA Sailability: "This boat has been loaned to Weymouth to encourage more local people with disabilities to take up sailing and as demand increases, so we hope the fleet will broaden. We are indebted to Chris Mitchell in Australia for making this gift to us and hope that it will transform many people's lives."

June 17, 2005

RYA Sailability has won a major prize at The Charity Awards 2005, the charity sector's most prestigious award scheme. The annual Charity Awards ceremony is the most high profile event on the charity world calendar. The awards recognise excellence in the management of charities, acknowledging the outstanding work and achievements of all charities, big or small, from across the UK and the tireless commitment of the people behind them. The Charity Awards judges recognised the excellent work RYA Sailability has undertaken in enabling over 16,000 disabled people to go sailing.

Daniel Phelan, organiser of The Charity Awards 2005 commented: "..... We have worked hard this year to recognise and reward charities that have forged creative and collaborative working partnerships that have an exponential effect on the success of their campaigns. By winning RYA Sailability has demonstrated that they are among the best-managed charities in the UK."



HRH The Princess Royal on the pontoon with Ann Lewis and Steve Sawford.



www.rya.org.uk/sailability

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SSMarine@btinternet.com



Sailability Italy is Established

Luigi Zambon

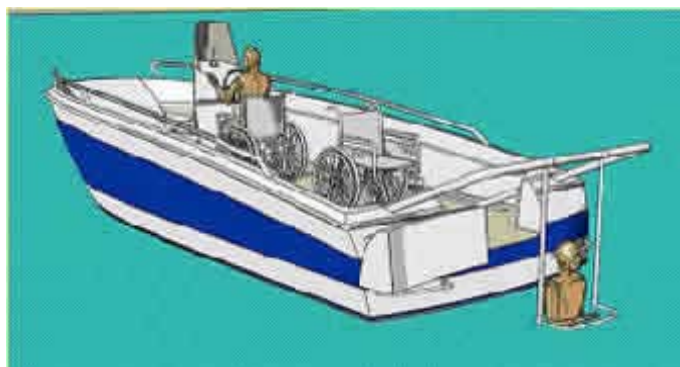
www.sailability.org/it/italy

Sailability Italy was created in 2004 in Sabaudia, near Rome, on a lagoon where the sailing school "Scuola Vela Sabaudia" has its location. The Scuola Vela Sabaudia started its activity in 1982, and became well known because the president Luigi Zambon created the first large sailing boat which can be totally managed by a disabled person. He also created a shipyard "Sabaudia Etica" with the aim of building such boats (www.velaetica.it). The shipyard is also about to produce an accessible motor boat for going out swimming and fishing or diving.

This is our latest project: "Easyboat". This is a 21 feet long open boat that can be used by people in a wheelchair or by those who, due to age or...overweight, find it difficult to use an unstable gangway or to climb a little ladder. "Easyboat" allows everybody to enjoy a day out at sea, with comfort and security, perhaps fishing and bathing thanks to an electric hoisting system. Re-

mote control allows independent use of the anchor and control of the telescopic gangaway. A chemical w.c. is also available (when necessary, a removable curtain hides the w.c.).

The Scuola Vela Sabaudia has also a long experience in teaching sailing to disabled, and uses 2.4 boats and a Dream. Now, of course, the school owns three Liberties ! To be selected as the starting point for Sailability in Italy became, therefore, very natural. After visiting the place



and meeting the people and the organization, Jackie Kay and Chris Mitchell decided that Sabaudia and the nearby harbour of San Felice Circeo were the right place to organize a World Championship for the Access Liberty.

There is now great activity for the organization of the "Sabaudia's Cup" (October 1 - 10) with the aim of creating an unforgettable experience for the sailors and the friends who will come to this very attractive coast of the Mediterranean Sea. In May we were honoured to host the Technical Delegate for the Worlds, Ian Harrison and his wife Pauline. The organising committee is well on track.

Sailability Italy has created a new Sailability Centre near Venice and Marco Rossato is president of the new Sailability Veneto. Marco, a person with a disability, was excited when he sailed a Liberty for the first time and is looking forward to competing in the Sabaudia's Cup. He now has a Liberty in Veneto. There are many new contacts for increasing the number of Sailability Centres in this country.



Sabaudia Prima—Everything onboard has been studied to make all of its parts available and accessible. The sails, the wheel, the anchor and the lifeboat can all be easily managed (www.velaetica.it). The great novelty is a patented reliable hoist which can transfer the disabled from a wheelchair into the water and viceversa with dignity and safety.

2005 Single Person Dinghy World Championship & SABAUDIA'S CUP



October 1-10, San Felice Circeo, Italy
www.accessdinghy.org/2005sp_dinghyworlds



Download Entry Form and NOR
http://www.accessdinghy.org/images/pdf/2005sp_nor.pdf
http://www.accessdinghy.org/images/pdf/2005sp_entry.pdf

Expressions of Interest:
 ITL, GRE, GBR, POR, FRA, AUS, SIN, MAL, JAP, USA, HUN



The History of Regatta



Luigi Zambon advises that one of his ancestors created the first regatta in history. On 10th of January 1315, the doge Giovanni Soranzo (d.1328) organised a rowing race through the canals of Venice. The original name was *Remigata* (from *remo* meaning "oar"). Then it became *regata* as is said in Italy, and *regatta* in other languages. Today, Regata Storica is held annually on the first Sunday of September and is one of the most traditional Venetian celebrations.

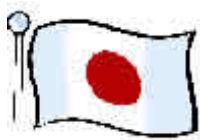
The festival was a way to honour foreign dignitaries visiting Venice. The Regata has two components - the Procession and the 'Regata'. The Procession, is a colourful parade along the Grand Canal, with oarsmen dressed in historical costumes. In the modern Regata, after the Parade, the first race features the young rowers. Then it's the turn of the women. The third race to start is the men's race, on heavy six-oared 'caorline', and the climax of the event is the champions'

race on two-oared 'gondolini'.

After the usual protests and accusations of impropriety, the prize-giving ceremony takes place. Traditionally, first place is awarded a red flag, second a white flag, third a green flag and fourth place a blue flag. Together with the symbolic prizes, there were also some "in kind" awards. The most famous of these prizes was a little live pig that was displayed on a gondola in the Parade. As the gondola passed the spectators, it acted like a thermometer of the Venetians' feelings towards the City Government of the day. When the people weren't satisfied, the pig would be acclaimed with whistles and shouts such as "Here's the Mayor" and "Long live the Mayor". The pig ceremony was abolished a few years ago - officially after the protests from animal protection organizations.

<http://www.ombra.net/tradizione/storica.php?hlang=en>





The Torch Run on the Sea for Special Olympics Winter Games

Hiroataka Mukai



Special Olympics Games is an international competition for peoples with intellectual disabilities, and the 2005 Special Olympics Winter Games was opened in Japan.

Our Sailability-Ise participated a torch run event as pre-event for the games. Our idea was "Let's take torches by Access Dinghies".

At first, we visited a small island Sugashima to ignite a light in front of a lighthouse. A lighthouse has been in Sugashima since 18th century, because of a dangerous point for shipping. It is suitable for our torches, isn't it?



We opened a trial event for kids there, and many kids tried sailing. They sailed in a small fishing port with our staff. It was pretty windy, so there was no doubt that they found it pleasant to sail. Probably, it was the first sailing for them, but they were delighted very much.

We also were very happy that they got an opportunity to know about the Special Olympics Games. Then we participated the torch run final event at a yacht harbor to give back torch fire into a flame-holder.

There were three torches that were put together from several parts of our prefecture with various events. Of course, our torch, which ignited a light, was included. Each torch was carried by shipping. One of them was carried by a passengers boat. Another one was carried by a sailing curser. Our torch was carried by a leisure boat. And Access Dinghies were used for transfer from each boat to a quay. Three persons, who have intellectual disabilities, had taken charge of torch transfer with Access Dinghy operated by our staff. Then other handicapped persons carried it to the flame-holder. And finally, it was ignited by three torches. So, the final event for "S.O. torch run" was prosperity. And in the spare time, many people had sailed Access Dinghies. We were satisfied with many smiling faces. We hope to participate in similar events again, if we have a chance.

Sailability-Ise is just a small-scale yacht club, but we can give much pleasure for many people. We hope to make a new culture by using Access Dinghies in Japan.

Sailability-Ise

URL: <http://www.sailability-ise.com> (Japanese Only)

Contact us: info@sailability-ise.com



SAILABILITY DOBROYD RISES FROM THE ASHES AFTER DISASTER

www.sailability.org/au/dobroyd



When members of Sailability Dobroyd arrived for their regular sailing day at the Five Dock on April 3, they were devastated to see the results of a fire caused by arsonists. The clubhouse was totally gutted, destroying all nine Access Dinghies, transferring equipment, lifejackets, bbq, safety boats, engines. Everything was lost.

The Dobroyd Aquatic Club (DAC), located at Rodd Point on Sydney Harbour, has been the home of Sailability Dobroyd for ten years.

Neil Anderson, President of Sailability NSW and founding member of Sailability Dobroyd, said, "Although the fire at Dobroyd Aquatic Club (DAC) has destroyed many years of history, hard work and effort for both Sailability Dobroyd and the members of DAC it has not destroyed the wonderful memories that have been experienced there. The fun, laughs and learning experiences we have had with family and friends at Dobroyd still live on, and will forever, regardless of this tragedy.

Out of all adversity comes some good. Experiencing the willingness of our friends and families to assist in what ever way they can has been very uplifting and I believe has shifted Sailability to another level."



Of enormous encouragement has been the subsequent flood of letters with donations and offers of boats, sailing days and other gifts from NSW and ACT Sailability Branches and regular supporters. Sailability Dobroyd's long-time supporter, the Canada Bay Club has been extraordinarily generous in donating \$26,000. In addition, many people quite unknown to Sailability have donated, saying they just wanted to help rebuild. Now, the priority is to work with DAC to rebuild the Club House. If anyone can help, please contact Mike Cuming (mga-spc@bigpond.net.au)



PROGRESS IN HUNGARY

Zoltan Pegan

Hungarian Access Dinghy Builder

Pallás Vízisport Kft was recently granted licence to build and distribute Access Dinghies throughout Eastern Europe. From December 2004, Pallás Vízisport director, Erno Papp spent three months in Melbourne with Chris, learning the processes of building Access Dinghies. Hungarian production is imminent.

Budapest Rehabilitation Expo

The three day Expo was a great success, with somewhere between 4000 and 5000 attendees. The highlight of the weekend came on Sunday. There was a woman there who was visually impaired and there was nothing that the Expo organisers could offer her in the way of activity. Teri is 55, and has limited peripheral vision. I told her about the boats, the Homerus Project, and what we've done in Sydney with the blind sailors, and invited her to come and check out the 303. Once she sat in the boat, she stayed there for an hour and a half, chatting with her friend and drinking coffee.

The organizers have invited us back for next year. I told them that we can probably get the new Hungarian boat builder there and that Zoltan and the Access Dinghy will certainly be there.

June 12—The Missing Ingredient

Almost two years to the day since we brought 3 x Access 303 Dinghies to Hungary to form the foundation for Sailability Hungary, we've finally got a good supply of the one thing we were missing from a successful disabled sailing program: sailors!

In the meantime Eva Pallás negotiated with the owners of a brand new marina being built on Lake Balaton at Balatonfűzfő. They included a disabled washroom in their building plans and gave us two berths to use as our own. We don't have a rescue boat yet, but we now have a home.

The morning of June 12 dawned cloudy, and we felt the occasional drop of rain, but there was good breeze on the lake and the 7 boats were lined up on the

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grass. We could put eleven people on the water at once, and three of those could be servo-assisted. Eager sailors began arriving before we had the first boat rigged. People kept arriving until we had 25-30 potential new sailors and enough volunteers to keep six boats afloat all day. I soon lost track of the time.



managed to prove him wrong.

At the end of the day, everyone went home satisfied with the day and eager for more. They're asking when we can start racing because one or two want to go to the Sabaudia Cup in Italy in October - and then there's Beijing in 2008. For the full story see

www.sailability.org/hu/hungary



Erno Papp, assisting with the UD18 in Melbourne.

Then about noon the sky cleared, the wind settled a bit and it was a glorious afternoon for sailing. A sailor boasted that he had been out five times, and I remembered speaking to him at the rehab expo, where he'd told me that he was very interested, but felt he was too old to learn a new sport. We



South Australian Access Dinghy C'ships

March 12-15 2005

ROGER LAMB

A sailor who has not competed since becoming disabled.

Day One—We were greeted by high temperatures and a moderate but fluky wind. The day was particularly marked by the positive spirit shown between competitors out on the water. For example, in the event of a late arrival at a buoy, it was good to hear comments such as "why don't you go first, we will follow you". Not what you would expect from a "normal" cut-throat sailing competition.

Day Two—I arrived with signs of high temperatures and indications of a fresh wind. For those who started, it became clear that a postponement may be required...the re-start took place fortunately with the support of a strongish wind.

For two novices to be sailing a 3.03 metre, it became essential to discussand agree on tasks for each race. At the conclusion of the day on reflection it was a very much pleasing learning experience trying to pick wind patterns and looking around the fleet to see who was getting wind and what particular sail settings seemed to be most effective.

All support staff seemed to be happy to make helpful comments regarding sail settlings, and offer effective strategies

that incorporated their local knowledge. This seemed to underline the spirit that the races were sailed under e.g. let's make the day enjoyable and without many of the mean spirited actions that often characterize many high profile races.

As a former sailor, I was most impressed with the spirit that prevailed throughout the whole two day regatta. The regatta was particularly well organized, Pt Adelaide Sailing Club are to be congratulated for their organisation on the day. How pleasing it was when racing results were announced, to note the genuine pleasure of everyone when someone received an award.

I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to my crew Kate Switajewski and the Adelaide Sailing Club Sailability support team for all effort provided by them; to take up sailing as a sailor with a disability is not always easy. The effort and understanding shown by support staff makes it all possible.

Day Three—Very tired, very exhilarated....can't wait for the next sail.

Upcoming Regattas

2005

July

2-3 **French Access Dinghy C'ships**
St Quentin en Yvelines near Paris
La Voile Ensemble
lavoile.ensemble@wanadoo.fr

4-9 **2005 Trapseat 16 World C'ships**
Central Okanagan Sailing Association
Kelowna, British Columbia, CANADA
Gillian Thomson cosa@okanagan.net

August

6 **Canadian Access Dinghy C'ships**
Quinte Sailability,
Quinte, Ontario
d.w.fletcher@sympatico.ca

26-28 **"State of Origin" Regatta**
Sailability Northern Rivers
Dept of Sport & Rec, Lake Ainsworth
Lennox Head, Ballina NSW AUSTRALIA
boydcook@optusnet.com.au

September

2-3 **UK Access Dinghy Chapionships**
Pitsford Reservoir, Northants
Northampton Sailability
sec@northamptonssailability.org.uk

10 **Access Dinghy Regatta**
Erie Adaptive Sailing Experience
Erie, Pennsylvania, USA
jrayburg@svhs.org

October

1-10 **2005 IFDS Single Person Dinghy
World Championship & Sabaudia's
Cup International Regatta**
Circeo Yacht Vela Club
San Felice Circeo, ITALY
2005sp-worlds@accessdinghy.org

9-14 **10th Australian Masters Games**
Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia &
Adelaide Sailing Club
sahobie@senet.com.au

2006

January

26-29 **International & Australian Access
Dinghy Championships**
Docklands Yacht Club,
Victoria Harbour, Melbourne AUST.

September

TBA **FESPIC Games**
Far East & Sth Pacific Disabled Games
Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA
Contact your National Paralympic
Committee

UD 18 UPDATE

Chris Mitchell

Recently, I awoke smiling from a vivid dream. I was reclining in a "sit-ski" seat, hiking out over the windward side of the UD18, sailing solo. The seat pivoted horizontally through 45 degrees - from a post just forward of the centreboard case. Above my ankles was an array of cleats for control lines.

I push the helm down, uncleat the seat and "swoosh" - the boat tacks and I'm on the other side. I bear away, ease the sheets, haul up the spinnaker, and trim it. What a blast! Imagine being able to sail a boat like this on your own. What a setup; everything at hand. One could even control the whole thing with an electronic joystick.

It was 3AM, but I was excited: I got out of bed and went to the factory in the cold pre-dawn to make sure this would work. The result? "No worries" as Australians say, either solo, or a shortened version for sailing with a crew of two.

Apart from swinging seats, the UD18 can also be handled by the usual crew configurations. The helmsman can transfer manually and be steering with tillers, or be in a Liberty seat using a manual joystick, push/pull rods, or a servo assist joystick with full control of all functions.

The forward crew can either be on the centreline, transferring manually, or using a swinging seat. Or both crew could be mobile, even riding trapeze. As its name says, the UD18 is of Universal Design and can be sailed by all levels of physical ability, but thanks to the ease of handling and the reefing system can be readily depowered and is therefore controllable by less experienced sailors.



chris@accessdinghy.org



MAR²INE Academy

Dr. Jayne Greenberg, Executive Director
Division of Life Skills and Special Projects
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

I recently travelled to Sydney and met with Jackie, where we have initiated an international educational dialogue between special schools who utilise Access Dinghies in their lifestyle programs. This excursion was successful and I returned to Florida enthused to document the positive outcomes of these, as well as our sailing program in Miami.

Our program is the MAR²INE Academy (Marine Academy of Research and Recreation in Nautical Environments). This is Miami's first full inclusion, four year program of study. As a result, the community has started the paperwork for a foundation, Anchors Away, that will place these Dinghy's in every water sport program in Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach County. Fitting right in with Access Dinghy development throughout Asia, I developed the Sport Science Curriculum at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

We are in love with our Access Dinghies and our school programs have grown ten fold. Our newest partner, the Coconut Grove Sailing Club, is having a successful time with the school aged children, from 6-19 who have benefited from the Access Dinghies. I will keep you informed of the outcomes and developments.

