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SAIL AWAY, *sail away*

Three Minnetonka sailors make waves on the national and international sailing scene.

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“We sail much more intensely here.”

—Bruce Martinson  
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Dentist Bruce Martinson is a lifelong sailor. Even as a small child, he loved boats and being on the water. “Ever since I was a little kid, I wanted to sail,” he says. In his early teens, Martinson attended sailing school on Lake Minnetonka, which fueled his passion for sailing. After graduating from Minnehaha Academy in the early 1980s, Martinson moved to southern California to attend college (and ultimately dental school), and continued sailing. The sailing was good, but Martinson found that it paled in comparison to his hometown lake.

“We sail much more intensely here,” says Martinson, in part because of the convenience of fresh-water sailing just minutes from many Twin Cities homes. Partially due to his love of Lake Minnetonka sailing, Martinson moved back to the area and established his dental practice in Wayzata. Nearly two decades later, he races up to five days a week during the summer months.

Sailing has kept him physically and mentally fit and allowed him to travel all over the world. In recent years, Martinson has competed in masters’ events in Brazil, England

and Australia, and in October, he heads to France to participate in the Laser Masters’ World Championships. “Every place you go [to compete] is very different,” says Martinson. “Being there seven to 10 days, you get to travel [around the area] too.”

Martinson has also become a certified sailing judge for both national and international events, and he estimates that helps judge a dozen high school, college or national events a year. “It’s my way to give back to the sport,” he says. He credits his time in sailing school for solidifying his skills and deepening his love of the sport.