



University of Pittsburgh

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Surgery

September 22, 1988

Mrs. Mary Buddington
Box 222
Marion, MA 02738

Dear Mary:

After longingly, for a week, passing by the Sailfish on the front lawn, Rod and I gave it a try on Sunday. The blustering sou'wester dispelled some of my disinclination because of the jury-rig with a carriage bolt on the tiller. Once we tightened that up, and drained gallons of water out of the hull, we had a gay old time---in the old sense of gay, although conditions were close.

During the sail it became evident that we were significantly handicapped by the equipment. The sail is torn, badly stretched, and missing some of the fittings. The mast has no plug at the end to keep from wearing a hole in the boat. The daggerboard and rudder are those for a Sunfish---they work but not entirely properly. The rudder was held on by a steel carriage bolt that would probably have rusted over the winter and had to be chiseled away, had we not removed it. The hull contained a lot of water; we were pushed for time and I did not check for location of the leak. However, the drain plug had lost the cable that keeps it attached to the boat and perhaps the plug would have been lost in the sand had the boat been drained. These things have not necessarily been abused; they are just old.

When we took the sail to the attic, I noticed another sail there which I presume is in better condition. Both of the sails are for Sunfish, but Sunfish and Sailfish sails are interchangeable. I realize that many of the problems I encountered could be corrected with a little tender loving care and a modicum of time, and I regret that I did not spend a little time when we were there in June or again last week.

My reason for recounting this tale of woe is to express to you and the co-owners my belief that we owe it to the 13 members of the youngest generation to provide better equipment and teach them respect for it. Rules for care need not be many, could be left with instructions for the house and easily followed---like feetwashing in the basins at front and back doors. The missing item is getting good equipment.

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My recommendation---and plea: 1) Purchase a Sunfish, complete with sail and hardware, either new or used; 2) purchase a new sail, spars, and hardware for the Sailfish. I hope to go to the cape after a meeting in Boston next June and might work on the Sailfish hull to patch the leak, if I can find it. If the leak is inaccessible in the daggerboard hole it is usable as is.

I believe it is an important, although nonessential, element of education for children and grandchildren to take advantage of opportunities that the Porter house provides. The cost of the recommended items is significant, and I am not sure how it should be apportioned, probably by adding on to the rent. I don't believe we could expect any individual or family to fund the investment. No one spends a whole month there as we and the Wilks used to. I am willing to provide a bit more than our share *per stirpes* if the kitty needs a boost.

Our gang had a great time for the week at M.B. We missed the Wilkins' but enjoyed being with the other sisters and in-laws. I hope next year we can spend more time before and after the high season.

Best wishes to the Porter gang.

Sincerely yours,



Henry T. Bahnson, M.D.

HTB/sjt

cc: Jane Porter
Louise Porter
Suzanne Porter