



Bluewater Sailing

SAFETY! FUN!! LEARN!!!™

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A Division of Compass Rose, Inc.**

Sailing, Power & Navigation Instruction
Yacht Management and Delivery
Boat Rentals & Yacht Charters
Group / Private Lessons

Our Professional Instructors Average More than 20 Years Experience On The Water

Daily Breeze Newspaper

Serving the South Bay for 107 Years

TUESDAY

January 1, 2002

BUSINESS

Section

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AT WORK

Photograph: **SCOTT VARLEY / DAILY BREEZE**

Caption: Sailor Peter W. Damisch, managing director of Bluewater Sailing in Marina del Rey, teaches others how to be free from the pressures of daily life.

The Great Escape

By **Muhammed El-Hasan**
DAILY BREEZE

As managing director and senior instructor at Bluewater Sailing in Marina del Rey, Peter W. Damisch spends his days teaching people a way to escape the “hustle and bustle” of everyday life.

In fact, it was his longing for the ocean’s serenity that persuaded Damisch, 48, of Marina del Rey, to enter this field full time nearly a decade ago.

He previously had taught sailing on and off, mostly to family and friends while running a series of steel manufacturing firms.

Damisch received a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering in 1975 from the U.S. Naval Academy, and a master’s equivalent degree in nuclear engineering a year later at the U.S. Navy Nuclear Power School. In 1982, he received an MBA from Northwestern University.

Damisch first learned to sail 30 years ago in the Navy. Damisch’s wife, Kathleen, owns Bluewater Sailing.

■ How did you become a sailing instructor?

I had spent a large number of years sailing on my own with friends and family and building up a large experience on a wide variety of boats. Some people started saying, “How about helping me sail?”

■ What’s the best part about being a sailing instructor?

Maybe you don’t make a lot of money, but have the opportunity to do something you like. Before, I was making a lot of money, but I wasn’t having a lot of fun.

You get to meet a large number of different people.

We’ve worked with people from about 30 countries in the past year. We work with homemakers, doctors, dental hygienists. We’ve worked with Hollywood producers and people from UCLA.

We’ve had people in here from Europe. We had a lady this year who flew in from Tokyo just to take classes.

If you’re looking for a way to get away from the hustle and bustle of like, you can’t find a better way to do that than go sailing.

SAILING / C3

SAILING: Students bring enthusiasm with them

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■ **What's the worst part about being a sailing instructor?**

I don't think I've found one yet. It's such a wonderful environment to help people learn a skill. You're helping people learn who are motivated to learn.

■ **Is there an element of danger to your work?**

No, not really. People think there is because of what they see in movies. But being on the water is a heck of a lot safer, if you look at the stats, than driving on L.A. Freeways

■ **What skills do you need most as a sailing instructor?**

You need a blend. You've got to be an outstanding sailor. But the ability to work and deal with people is at

least equally, if not more, important. We try to find instructors wh can remember what it's like to know very little. We need to have instructors who have the ability to convey abilities in a variety of ways.

■ **What advice would you give to someone who wants to enter this field?**

You need to build up that experience. The more time you can get on the water in a wide variety of boats and weather conditions, that's your foundation.

■ **If you weren't a sailing instructor, what would you be?**

After 48 years on this planet, I've finally found the perfect job.