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## USFSP COED SAILING COACH TO WORK WITH WARRIOR SAILING PROGRAM



*From right: Alan Capellin and friend George Szabo. Photo credit: Fried Elliott/www.friedbits.com.*

USF St. Petersburg Coed Sailing Coach Alan Capellin will spend some time out on the water working with sailors-in-training who will participate in the [Warrior Sailing Program](#) April 4-6. The program, which was founded in St. Petersburg in 2013, introduces injured or ill active service members and veterans to sailing, and provides maritime education to encourage and empower them.

The three-day sailing training camp enables participants to engage in camaraderie and spirited competition in a fun, active setting. As one of six coaches, Capellin will work with and teach three participants on a 23-foot sonar sailboat, said Cory Kapes, program manager for the Warrior Sailing Program. Eighteen veterans and service members are expected to participate in the event.

“Last year, several members of our sailing team participated with me in the event,” said Capellin. As a representative of the USFSP Coed Sailing Team, Capellin said he hopes to build a connection with the participating wounded warriors through their common bond: a passion for being on the water.

“Sailing is a great equalizer. When it comes to distance sailing in collegiate competitions, for example, there are

several classes in sailing in which it doesn't matter if someone is disabled or able-bodied—they can compete,” said Capellin. “If these guys are willing to put in the time and effort to learn sail boat racing, I'm willing to coach them. It doesn't matter if they have disabilities or not. I'm there to help them do better.”



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