

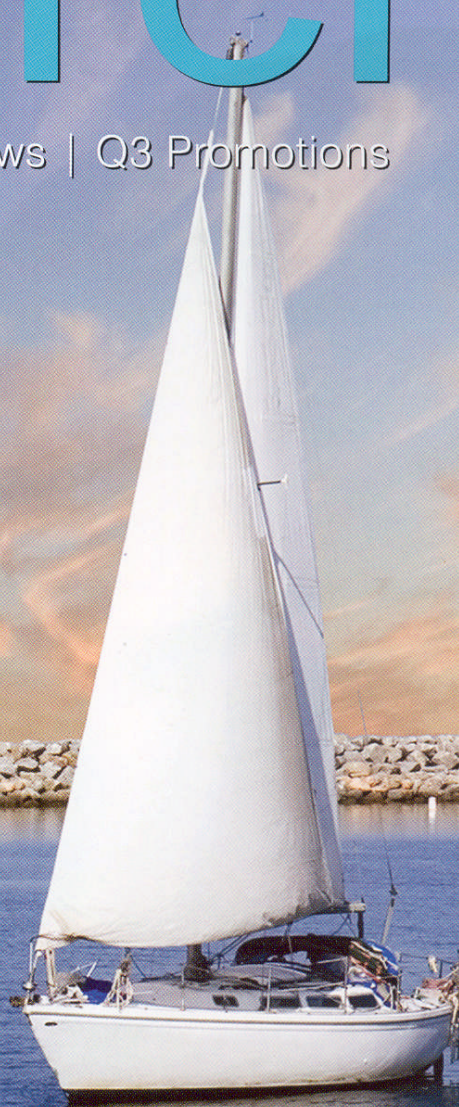
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Launch and Learn

Many of you have experienced a manufacturer sponsored Lunch and Learn within the parameter of your office. This is when lunch is provided for you and your staff while a presentation is made by an expert to update you on valuable information about the latest technology in products or equipment.

Well, how would you like to have a FUN learning experience with your staff on Lake Lanier, while learning to sail? That is exactly what Dr. Elizabeth Caughey and her team recently did, turning a “Lunch and Learn” into a fun “Launch and Learn” event!

Sponsored by Windsong Sailing Academy of Lake Lanier, Capt. Dave Crumbley facilitated an unconventional event that was like no other in-office or classroom training. Over the last several years, Capt. Dave has been using the lake and his 28 foot sailboat to provide corporate adventures. After talking with several dentists, Capt. Dave took his corporate venue and modified the event for dental professionals.



Not knowing what to expect, Dr. Caughey and her team showed up at Holiday Marina all spiffed up in their matching nautical shirts showing off their team spirit and enthusiasm before they stepped foot on the dock! The weather couldn't have been more perfect...clear blue skies, 66 degrees, and 10-12 mile per hour winds created ideal conditions for this obscure adventure.



This active event continued to stimulate them physically, mentally, and emotionally - all while challenging their abilities to accomplish new tasks.

After a brief training on how to properly and safely get on the boat, maintain safety on the water, and other basic preliminaries, they were soon on the water. The first order of the day was to learn how to sail the boat under the direction of Capt. Dave. After each team member had an opportunity to rotate through each position and show competency following orders, the next session began.

Equipped with instructions, a map of the lake, and binoculars, they sailed in search of a mysterious treasure. Yes, it was a treasure hunt that would test many skills from reading navigation signs, completing team challenges, and learning about team communication, all while sailing the boat.

Planning their strategy as Capt. Dave motored the boat through the marina, Dr. Caughey and her team met their first challenge when a sudden wind blew their map into the water. As their first team challenge, they made an attempt to retrieve the map, but alas, it soon sank beyond their reach to the bottom of the marina waters.

As everyone knows, a great plan always has a backup plan, and being the great captain that he is, Capt. Dave soon had a backup map in their hands, and on they went.

Wrist bands of various colors identified their unique "behavior style" giving them more information about themselves and the people that they work with each day. Refer-

ence to the different styles was made as the team took on the many challenges presented to them...all while they continued to sail the boat seeking the lost treasure.

Reluctantly, each "mate" took their turn at the helm bellowing orders like, "Prepare to tack, mates! Arrr!", as they aimed to change the direction of the boat. Sudden gusts of wind, plentiful that day, drew excitement from the crew in anticipation of hitting maximum speed.

This active event continued to stimulate them physically, mentally, and emotionally – all while challenging their abilities to accomplish new tasks. It didn't take long for everyone to acquire their sea-legs and soon they began to look for "dark waters", a sign of approaching winds, so they could cruise full sails at optimum speed.

Spared of walking the plank, this lively crew had an experience that will not only be an extraordinary memory for the rest of their lives, but also a demonstration of their team dynamics in an unfamiliar and fun environment.



As a graduate of the University of North Carolina and The Pankey Institute for advanced dental studies, Dr. Caughey and her team practice in Dunwoody, Georgia.

For more information on your own Team Adventure, visit www.WindsongSail.com or contact Windsong Sailing Academy at 770-967-1515.

Photos by: Karen Ryan Photography



Written by Deborah Brunner, an Account Manager for Atlanta Dental in the metro Atlanta area and a student sailor.