



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

SFA 101
Freshman Success Program

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Cooper Boating
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Forest Gump made the observation that “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re going to get!”

Investing in a sailing experience with a company that I had no experience presented a significant financial risk. Boarding a boat and putting my life in the hands of an instructor/captain whom I had no knowledge presented both a personal and emotional risk.

But if every instructor Cooper Boating employees is even close to the outstanding caliber of Marla Hedman all risk is nullified. In August of 2010, I opened a “box of chocolates” to have one of the best experience of my life. From the moment I stepped on board the Polaris to the moment we returned to Granville Island my heart was smiling. The crew whom I had never met composed of an Engineer, a Physician, an Attorney and CEO, and myself: a Professor and President of a leadership consulting company, were all highly educated professionals that knew how to have a wonderful time.

Our instructor and captain Marla Hedman was equally as professional and enjoyable. There was not a moment that I felt unsafe or that I did not believe that she had a keen observation of everything happening aboard the Polaris. Marla has a wonderful manner of teaching that allowed the crew to maximize the talents and skills each of brought on board while giving us the opportunity to learn in a comfortable non-threatening environment. Marla is an outstanding sailor with keen ability to both sail and teach. She is fun, has a genuine nature, is an exceptional listener and outstanding coach, and someone I would be glad to sail with in any sea in any condition.

Thank you Cooper Boating for realizing it takes more than just a fine boat to make a great sailing adventure. Thank you for selecting quality instructors like Marla Hedman. I have been on other boats in ports in different parts of the world where the captain made the experience a nightmare for his or her crew. This experience was just the opposite: Marla Hedman made this “Bucket List” moment in my life perfect!

Sail on!

Tim Clipson, Ed. D
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