

# Prime Lake Time

## Nine ways to savor summer

By Stuart Sudak

So much fun, so little time.

That sums up summer in Minnesota. After months of snow, the season of sun and surf seems to race along at a track star's pace. Like a cold glass of lemonade on a hot day, you need to enjoy every drop.

Grab the sunglasses, some sunscreen, and slip on your flip-flops. Fun is just a lake away, and Minnesota has 10,000 or so of them. Conveniently, some of the best are right outside your door.

Here are suggestions for summer fun (in no particular order).

### Learn how to sail

Set sail on a new passion that will test your wits.

If you want to learn the ways of a sailor, Joan Gilmore of Sail Away Sailing School can help.

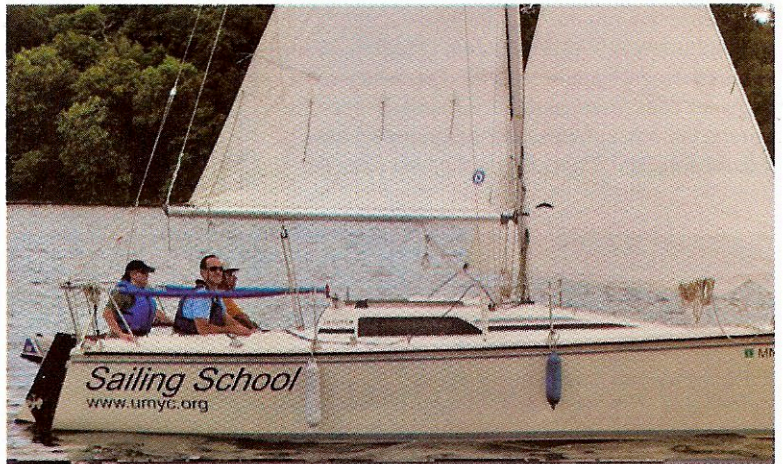
The school offers sailing classes for novices on Lake Minnetonka (as well as White Bear Lake).

"It's more of a thinking man's sport," Gilmore says of sailing. "It's not a turnkey kind of sport like power boating."

Most of her first-time students – usually empty nesters eyeing sailing as a hobby for their retirement years – have never sailed. After 12 hours of basic keelboat classes, they can handle a boat themselves. Many then hone their skills by taking more advanced classes on bigger boats. Some even buy their own boats.

"It's a sport where you keep learning," she says. "I've been teaching sailing for more than 20 years, and I'm always picking up new things."

For more information, call Gilmore at (612) 871-8101 or visit [sailawaysailingschool.com](http://sailawaysailingschool.com).



### Fish with a guide

Are you an angler in need of a little coaching? A fishing guide could help you lure bigger (and more) catches to your line.

What's their secret? Years of experience on the lakes.

"We know the seasonal movements of the fish," says Troy Smutka of the Great Day on the Water Guide Service. "You don't have to spend your time looking for fish, you can spend your whole time catching them."

Guides also teach people how to catch fish on their own.

"Most of the time we're doing things to catch fish that my customers and clients have typically not done in the past, or we do it a bit differently," said Doug Warren, head guide with Lake Minnetonka Fishing Guides.

Smutka spends most of his time guiding on Lake Waconia, Prior Lake and Lake Minnetonka. Warren and his team of guides stay mostly on Lake Minnetonka.

"It is just jam-packed with fish," Warren says of his lake of choice. "It's looked upon as a pleasure boating lake, but it also has good fishing. It wouldn't surprise me if a state record muskie would come out of it."

For more information on Smutka, call (952) 368-9718 or visit [greatdayonthewater.com](http://greatdayonthewater.com). For more on Warren, call (612) 860-3052 or visit [lakeminnetonkaguides.com](http://lakeminnetonkaguides.com).

