11/26/2010

To Drake’s Friends, Family, and Caring Acquaintances,

Almost everyone that becomes aware of Drake’s battle with Hodgkin Lymphoma disease makes me feel guilty for not telling them about it, and because the caring is so great, I’ve decided to do my best to inform those who know Drake well.

This not a bummer or downer, but rather the opposite as his spirits and lust might make one think he is not sick at all other than the giveaway trademark fuzz which replaced his hair. Even though he gets pretty sick sometimes during treatment and has had to miss several major sailing events this year, his passion for the sport has driven him to continue improving while competing locally accomplishing new levels of performance in the Laser and High School CFJ winning events in both venues.

I’ll spare you the details but Drake now (11/23/2010) has the complication of a blood clot and doctors orders has abruptly ended his physical activities for the next few months while he administers daily injections to hopefully remedy what could potentially take him out with a knock to the head.

If any of this downside lingers within Drake he has not shown it. To the contrary, he says he will sit on his hiking bench, practice playing his ukulele, watch football and enjoy the holiday season with family and friends, and maybe do some homework. He warns that he will come out sailing stronger than ever.

We now know what was going on with Drake as far back as April when he was having uncharacteristic difficulties with early fatigue during some of the more demanding sailing events. This was more confusing because he also had a knee injury hampering him. Drake didn’t notice and complain about lumps in his throat until late August which was biopsied and diagnosed in early September for which he has been being treated for since.

Drake will hopefully be back out to play by March and in the meantime he has lots of family and friends giving him love.

Thank You for wishing him well.

Sincerely,

John and Stephanie