



What are these people doing? Must be something they did at the HSA Winter Social in early February. Left to right: Laura Beebe, Dawn Gunter, and Charlie DeArmon. More inside. At right, that's Hobie sailor Mike Weir surfing in February, but not at the Winter Social.

# Acton Action

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## Get Sailing! Get Racing! HSA Opens Soon

### Warm Temperatures and Good Breezes Reported Seen in Area

Why get into sailing/racing? Maybe it's the adrenalin rush as each gust of wind heels the boat or the way butterflies hit before a race. Or perhaps it's the level of concentration it requires in spurts of 15 to 30 minutes and the escape that the concentration affords you. Or the on the water camaraderie of fellow sailors and competitors. Or the sheer delight of a good breeze finding you and you alone on the lake.

HSA sails and races in primarily three boats: catamarans (one or two people), Y-Flyers (two people) or Sunfish (singlehanded) but every Sunday we have a start called the "handicap". It comes after the cats



*Juniors get in some human chair chain thing at Winter Social*

### Horsepower Limit

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has filed a rule change for Acton Lake that would allow watercraft powered by more than 10 hp to utilize the lake at no-wake speed. If the proposal moves forward as expected, the change would go into effect June 1 of this year and remain in effect until November 1, 2015. A formal hearing on the proposed rule change at Acton is scheduled for April 22 at 7:00 at the Hueston Woods State Park Lodge.

More inside!

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## Get Sailing! (cont. from page 1)

and Y's have started. Any kind of boat can jump in here from Sunfish to cruisers. You have to wait until you get ashore to find out how you did since scoring is handicapped according to something called the Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme, but you can compete on an equal footing with all boats.

### Which Boat?

If you are into sailing by yourself, the Sunfish is a good boat to select. The Sunfish is an award winning design, there are more of them than any other sailboat in the world, and it's easy to rig, sail, and maintain. Best of all, it is the least expensive way in with good used boats for well under \$1000.

If you want to sail something bigger and you have a spouse, friend or kids to crew for you, there are several good lake boats that need a two or three person crew. The Y-Flyer class here is often sailed with spouses or children and comes with a ready made support group of Y-Flyer people.

If you need speed, the catamarans are the fastest boats on the water. Although they take some getting used to, Hobies and other cats can be sailed alone or with a crew and (cont. on page 3)



### Do You Own a Cruiser?

Been looking for a way to enjoy HSA with a big boat? The club is thinking about ways to do just that. If you are a cruising member of Hueston Sailing, we invite you to join us in planning some additions to our 2014 sailing calendar.

Some of the ideas floated recently were a moonlight sail during the full moon phase from June 8 to the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Also in discussion is a "rafting up" party for the fireworks on the lake in early July. Yet another outing would see cruisers spend a night anchored in the Lodge cove and a star gazing evening complete with telescope. Then breakfast the next morning in the beautiful lodge dining room.

A Saturday Poker Sail is another outing possibility in which cruisers would sail to areas of the lake to gather giant poker cards. The boat that returns with the best hand wins!

If you would like to be part of the planning for these events, let Mike know.



How much fun was the HSA Winter Social? Well, we ought to have one every month. The Schultz's spacious home provided plenty of room for the crowd that included seven juniors who thought it wouldn't be too bad to hang out with the adults, none of whom embarrassed themselves. Unless you count most of what we did.

Those in attendance are already looking forward to next year's doldrums' breaking party, but in the meantime we shall just have to look forward to ... sailing!

With sailing season only a month away, it is almost time for a different kind of game playing. With the wind.

# Ten Myths About Getting Into Sailing

One – You have to live near an ocean. (Acton Lake!)

Two – Sailing is expensive. (You can spend a lot, but thousands of people are sailing for a few hundred dollars.)

Three – It takes a long time to learn how. (Four hours and you can be going it alone.)

Four – Too much of a time commitment. (Like many things, as much or as little as you want.)

Five – You have to be fit and athletic. (Ha! Have you seen HSA members? No, really, if you are not fit, you can stay that way and sail. But sailing will make you want to be more fit.)

Six – The weather can be bad and the water cold. (Yes, but just like a hike in the woods and across the creek. We have a rescue boat just in case.)

Seven – I might get hurt. (Sailing is actually one of the safest sports in the natural world.)

Eight – It takes years to become good at it. (The learning curve is long, gentle, and slow or short, steep, and quick. You choose your curve.)

Nine – The terminology is too complex. (“Cleave the mainsheet before you harden up and wear to starboard a point or two, you lubber!” I have no idea what I just said.)

Ten – I’m afraid I will fall in love with boats and abandon friends and family. (We have no answer for that except take them along wit’ cha.)

cont.

they, too, come with a support group at HSA. There are at least three current Learn to Sail grads that took the class and jumped into Hobies right away.

## Where to Start

HSA offers classes each summer, either group or individual, in learning to sail and learning to race. Plus, HSA has people who know boats and where to get them. Once you learn enough to go it alone, the club has boats for members to use and practice their skills on.

## Changes to Sailing Calendar

HSA’s sailing calendar is accessible at our website but there have been a few additions since the tentative schedule was rolled out early this year.

On June 22 there will be a Learn to Race session from 12:30 to 1:30 before going out on the water. Once there, the new knowledge will be immediately applied in a few short practice races in which skippers will be paired, veteran and newer, for a little practice competition. Then it will be time for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Noodle Races with noodles handed out for a 2:30 start.

The club wants to sponsor a Catamaran Day on July 20 and call all Hobies/multihulls into action. The goal is to get ten cats on the line in a day devoted to those darn cats. Food and prizes? Why not.



Chris and Laura Beebe study a puzzle at Winter Social. Chris, a graphic design business owner, is also an Elon Musk lookalike.

# Getting Boats Ready for Spring

Aren't you glad you are a sailor and not a power boater? No fuel systems to clean, no belts and hoses to replace, no electrical systems to rewire, no fluid levels to check, no propellers to un-foul or sheer pins to replace. And best of all, your boat is as green as Earth Day itself. But owning any boat does require some maintenance. Here's a little review of what you might do before April comes.

## Hulls and Topsides

If you have a painted bottom you will probably be sanding and painting. This is a hateful job but it has to be done if your bottom is painted with antifouling paint (cruisers). For most of us though, we don't keep our boats in the water for extended periods of time (barnacles and lake growth are slow) so a need.

If you have gel coat blisters, cracks, or dings, you may want to address those now with some fiberglass repair, especially below the waterline. Heavy staining, usually near the waterline will require a stronger solution than the diluted ammonia we use. Marikate On and Off Hull Cleaner is good. There's also a product called "Zing", available at Strictly Sail Cincinnati that is nothing short of miraculous. That brown stain all along the waterline will disappear like magic. Just make sure you have a hose running nearby since you don't want this stuff on your trailer. Then a good waxing of the freeboard and bottom (if you want speed) (maybe). Tip: Don't wax the deck. (Experience speaking here.)

## Sails and Rigging

If you take a cotton ball and run it up and down your shrouds/stays, it will expose broken wires (meat hooks). Check the spreaders, turnbuckles, and shroud pins for secure attachment. Keeper pins and ring dings are important. (continued on page 6)



good cleaning is all you



## HSA Survey Results Compiled

For a second time in the past five years, HSA took a moment to stop and ask members and friends about the state of the club. The number of responses was strong enough to draw some conclusions about how we are doing and what might need changing.

Of all the activities HSA offers, the Sunday racing program and the Learn to Sail classes were cited as most enjoyable.

Although one third of the respondents do not currently own a sailboat, more than half said that HSA is very effective in responding to the needs of sailors.

The main reasons cited for continuing to join the club were to learn and improve and the friendships in the club. Only 1/3 said that active racing was the main reason. Yet racing was the primary reason for at least half of respondents for joining. The rest of the responses all received strong support including day sailing/cruising, junior programs, social programs, and ladies programs.

Frequency of participation in HSA activities was all over the board. Only 20% do so very often or extremely often, but every category of response got more than 15%, all the way down to those who participate only two times a season or less.

One of the strongest items was the one that asked people if they would recommend HSA to others. Over 90% said that they were either very likely or extremely likely to recommend us.

## Pat Peters Passes Away in February

On Thursday, February 6, long time member Pat Peters passed away at age 87. Pat worked as a nurse, but when she retired, she opened a floral business that specialized in orchids. Although many of us have not seen her for a long time, Pat used to be regular feature at potlucks and on committee duty. Here are a few memories from Jerry and JoAnn Callahan.

Here's how I remember her. Pat showed up at the lake with her 15 y/o son, Steve, wanting to make sure her son didn't get into the wrong crowd (little did she know). She thought sailing would do the trick. Steve was sitting on the dock and I asked him if he wanted to crew for me. He crewed with me the next week and loved it. After talking with several of us she decided he should sail a Y-Flyer. She bought him a new one. I don't think she ever sailed with him. We taught him how to sail. He had friends crew for him. Pat took him to several regattas. I remember she once slept on the beach in Atlanta. Since she had to drive Steve, she went out on the Committee boat and became our recorder. She did that for several years. We loved having her help out and keep us straight since we only did race duty a couple times a year. She attended all of our functions. - Jerry

When I sewed the thing that holds all of the signal flags I left one pocket (I believe it is in the lower right hand corner) that was called Pat's Pocket. This was for her gin and tonic. This woman knew how to run a race. As a graduate of the Cordon Bleu cooking school in Paris, she helped Y-Flyer Fleet 25 get the reputation of having some of the finest food on the regatta circuit. As her macular degeneration got worse, I drove her van to Florida- for her to visit son, Steve, and me to visit my Mom. I think she picked me because she knew I didn't like gin and tonic. She was never big on sharing. When Pat stopped coming to the lake on a regular basis, we all knew that we better read that manual because we had to keep ourselves on the straight and narrow from then on. I think we all missed her these past few years. - JoAnn

## Getting Boats Ready for Spring (continued)

### Running Rigging

The ends of your sheets and halyards sometimes fray and need whipping (a lost art) or at least taping. Sheets fray where they turn through blocks. Look for chafing and wear on halyards, especially at the sections that enter the mast if you have internal halyards.

Don't overlook tuning your rig according to class standards. Bending on the sails and furler (if you have one) may mean lubricating the furler drum or the sail slugs, those little things that go into the mast track on the luff edge of your main sail. There is a product called Sailkote that works well. It is a dry lubricant. Don't use things like WD 40 as it and other oil based products will attract dirt and stain sailcloth. And, did you lose a batten last season? Check now so you can order new ones. Some sailors tape or sew the batten pockets closed since these guys have a way of escaping.

### Trailer

We covered this important part of getting ready in the January issue. If you haven't checked your wheel bearings or the condition of any wood, now is a good time, before you get on the road again. You don't want to be stranded on a back country road side and get offered a ride by a Deliverance type of guy with a crossbow and a big grin.

## Executive Committee, uh, highlights!

Your personal HSA Executive Committee met in February to plan the upcoming year, approve a budget, and set the racing calendar. The Peters family happily hosted the six hour marathon. Thank you. Here's a brief summary of what went on.

- Budget approved! A printed yearbook will return this year
- discussed volunteer position of Launch master to help with rigging and launching on Sundays
- shared an analysis of HSA's strengths and weaknesses after reviewing the survey (story elsewhere in this issue.)

- proposed an outreach to cruising sailors
- adjusted dates on race/social calendar
- reaffirmed need for active fleet captains and identified members who could serve
- planned for speakers at Spring Social
- proposed asking park for a long dock at one end of beach area
- discussed enhancing transition for new members
- approved the expenditure of monies to fix steering cable on committee boat
- agreed to assess junior programs this year and provide more support