

O K T O B E R 9 2 0 1 5

the

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Sunday Surprises

There were eleven Sunfish out last Sunday for HSA's closing day. One surprise was wunderkind master of the multihulls Joe Buchert, who showed up unexpectedly in a borrowed boat. Racing with a rec sail rather than a racing sail, Buchert still managed a couple of respectable finishes despite his status as a relative newcomer to the "Fish."

Also sailing was Y-Flyer warlock and Sunfish sage Jerry Callahan.

Callahan, however, capsized before race one and decided that getting from one side of a small boat to the other at 80 years was a bit too much in that wind and he sailed in.

Tom Katterheinrich, the Sunfish wizard of the north, was on his way but was called back home by a death in the family. Oh, and one more. The mysterious absence of Laura Beebe, she of the beautiful boat.



Molleran Wins OktoberFast !

The Traveling Trophy for OktoberFast has been around for three years. But so far it hasn't traveled very much at all. Bill Molleran's name will once again be the only name on this trophy after a nearly successful attempt to run the table last Sunday. He got foiled a few times in that attempt but went into the last race in a comfortable position. It wasn't a lock, but it was, uh, interesting. More on page 2.

Save the Date!

Haul Out

Saturday, Oct. 10

Join the Harbormaster Don Fecher and crew to haul out boats.
10:00 am

HSA Banquet

Saturday, Nov. 7

Your invite is on the way soon. Wine, food, and a last chance to see faces this year.

That's Jerry Brewster at right trying to overtake Bill Molleran and Yours Truly. Result? The much coveted Turd Place. 3's are good, right?





Left or Right?

With the rest of the fleet headed for the left side and with little to lose perhaps, Brian Callahan heads to the right. Callahan, who figured to be in the running for the medal of sailing honors, fought back to a bullet in the final race, but earlier troubles kept the Indy sailor in debt. Still, good enough for third on the day.

Clear Air and the Lead. Perfect.

Looking back towards the leeward mark, the committee has a panoramic view of the downwind leg. Here, the leaders engage in a little match play while the fleet heads for the turning mark in pursuit. Junior Kevin DeArmon's start strategy in race one was to sit in his boat comfortably while the sails luffed until just before the one minute signal. It seemed to work. It was his best race. Sadly, he didn't try it again.

OktoberFast Splendor

Wind and weather, moon, stars and planets - all aligned for what everyone said was a beautiful day to end the season. Amen, brother.

Windward Leg

If you got to the windward mark early, you were in pretty good shape, as usual. Sunday, even more important. Clear lanes of air, being on the right side of the course, going on the shifts? Check, check, check. Eventual champ Bill Molleran found himself at the windward mark in the top three in every race. Nice.

Downwind Duel

Molleran, in the yellow striped speed machine at left, rides Yours Truly's hip on this leg. Lightweights? Yes, the boats that is. Jerry Callahan's scale came to the lake the past two weekends. Lightest boats? Laura Beebe's and Bill Mollerans' at about 126 lbs. Yours Truly came in at a svelte 127. Fattest boat? Hmmmm ... no fat shaming here.





OktoberFast Race Results

1. Bill Molleran	1 2 1 1 5	10
2. Mike Stratton	2 1 3 2 4	12
3. Brian Callahan	5 4 4 5 1	19
4. Roger Henthorn	4 3 5 8 2	22
5. Rose Schultz	6 7 2 4 3	22
6. Jerry Brewster	7 6 6 3 8	30
7. Kevin DeArmon	3 8 9 10 9 7	36
8. Charlie DeArmon	9 9 7 6 9	40
9. Joe Buchert	10 5 10 9 7	41
10. Brendan Draper	8 10 8 7 10	43

Sunday's Sunfish clash had its moments of drama. All three of Bill Molleran's first place finishes came with little room for error as the second place boat was five seconds or less behind at the finish. Had any of those races turned out differently... well, they didn't. Molleran knew what he had to do. In the fifth and final race, for example all he had to do was be in the top five or so and beat the boat in second place in the day's competition. He got taken to the lay line on the right side of the final leg and that allowed other boats to get an inside lift from the left after leaving the leeward mark. Despite finishing fifth, he stayed close to the boat he had to beat in order to win the day.

Did the tactic work? Yes. Brian Callahan, Roger Henthorn, and Rose Schultz all slipped inside of the lead two who were off doing their own thing. But Molleran only lost one point of a three point lead. It remains to be seen if it also gave him the Sunfish Series title for the four Sunfish regattas battle that began back in May at The Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta. The leader of the Sunfish Series, Laura Beebe, was in Milwaukee for work and missed OktoberFast.



The fleet splits tacks shortly after one start as the search for the side of the course with the most pressure begins. If you look closely, you can see the start pin on the left side.

HSA Award Nominations Due

Bob's Sportsmanship Award

Nominate someone who has distinguished themselves through service and sportsmanship. HSA's executive committee makes the selection on all these awards. Every name that has won this trophy from 1962 on is still on this traveling trophy. It is the oldest of the five awards HSA hands out annually



Frank Peters Memorial Trophy

Named after one of HSA's Founding Fathers, this trophy is given to a person who exhibits sportsmanship during the competitive season. Charlie Buchert currently holds this one, but just the year before, Laura Beebe, the namesake's granddaughter, took this one home. Nice.

US Sailing Sportsmanship Award

US Sailing donated this award to HSA in 1986 and is to be given to the person who has done the most to improve or promote the sport at Acton Lake or who has contributed to the sport by consistent example and exemplary behavior. Current holder: Jerry Brewster



Richard Saunders Memorial and Larry L. Johnson Challenger Trophies

The Saunders Trophy is in memory of Richard Saunders to someone under 18 for overall enthusiasm for sailing. It was not awarded last year. The Johnson Trophy is in memory of Larry L. Johnson and awarded to a member who strives to improve his or her sailing skills, sportsmanship, and club activity. This trophy was also not awarded last year. Both are open to nominations, however, this year.

Off Season Sail Care; Add Years to Cloth Life

by Dan Dickison

Most boat owners know to winterize their engines. But fewer are aware of the important steps required for properly storing a sailboat's main engine - its sails. Too often, mainsails are left on the boom, and roller-furling headsails left wrapped around the headstay for the duration of the winter. This kind of exposure to mother nature will ultimately lessen the lifespan of those sails.

So what are the best ways of storing your sails for the offseason? Getting those sails off the boat and out of the elements is ordinarily the best bet. Also, seal up the sails as well as possible so that you won't later have to deal with bird's or hornet's nests a few months down the road. And, if it's your practice to store your mainsail by flaking it on the boom, you really should consider rolling the sail instead. The object here is to avoid creasing or wrinkling the sail cloth for a prolonged period of time. (To effectively roll any working sail, start at the head and roll the sail toward the foot, taking care to keep the rolls relatively tight, but again, not so tight that the cloth is stressed.)

Depending on what kind of sails you own, most sailmakers recommend a seasonal cleaning of the sails. There are various firms around the U.S. that specialize in this business, and they have machines built expressly to do this, but be sure to ask beforehand what kind of wear and tear that process will contribute to the sail.

Some of this work you can do this on your own. At the very least, if you're going to be taking your sails off the boat for an extended off-season rinse the sails with fresh water and allow them to dry thoroughly. In fact, regularly rinsing your sails with fresh water can be very beneficial, as long as the sail is allowed to dry

thoroughly before it is put away. When you rinse a sail, you remove grit that may have accumulated on the sail. And, an additional benefit is that going through these steps will allow you the opportunity to inspect your sails more closely than you probably did while they were on the boat. This is your opportunity to discover any wear and tear that ought to be attended to as well.

If you do clean the sails yourself, use only a mild detergent (like diluted Ivory soap) and a soft brush, or better yet a rag. And never use chlorine bleach on sails built with Kevlar or Nylon. Then, rinse the sail thoroughly and allow it to dry completely. If a sail is put away for the off season while it's still damp, you can be certain that mildew will set in. Mildew doesn't affect the structure of a sail, but it's unsightly and is nearly impossible to remove completely if left unattended too long.

Where you store your sails is also important. You want to find a cool, dry location. Make sure that the bags covering your sails seal well enough to keep out mice or rats as they have been known to gnaw away at Dacron.

All of this may sound like a lot of bother, but sails are expensive and they're an undeniably critical element for any boat. Having them in good shape when you're ready to begin using your boat again after the off-season is truly worth that effort.

(Ed. Note) One business I have used is Sail Care in Pennsylvania. This company will repair, clean, re-resin, and put numbers or graphics on your sails at a reasonable cost. The website is <http://www.sailcare.com/> Most sails can be cleaned for about 10-20% of the cost of purchasing new sails.

America's Cup 2016

As we announced in a recent issue, for the first time in the history of America's Cup racing, one of the events will be held on fresh water. Chicago and Lake Michigan will host one leg of the Louis Vuitton Challenger World Series next June in the Windy City. Chicago's famed Navy Pier will be the viewing platform where spectators will have a front row seat for both the start and the finish. It should be spectacular.



Jerry Brewster took this shot with his GoPro on the end of his boom Sunday. Look for a video clip on HSA's Facebook page soon.