

S U M M E R 2 0 1 6

the Acton Action

Volume 60 Issue 13 August 10



Beach Day Olympiad Produces Its Champions

Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky notwithstanding, the Acton Olympics had its own moments of gold. Who can forget the lightning quick Beach Ball Tandem Hip Squeeze of Team USA? Or the tension of the Zimbabwean team as they poured a record 52 ounces through their team's relay on their way to a surprise victory in the Water Torch Pass event? In the end, it was Team USA over France, Brazil, the "despots" of Zimbabwe, and 257 other "countries". More inside with actual photos!

Save the Date!

Fall Series #3

Sunday, Aug. 14

The Fall Series resumes in all classes. Bring a boat! Any boat will do and join in.

Race Clinic

Saturday, Aug. 20

The season still has 1/3 of its life left. Race clinic offered. Sign up now!

Augusto!

Sunday, Aug. 21

The Sunfish Regatta series 3rd leg is coming soon. Who can catch She Who Must Not Be Named?

Wingsailer Debuts!

The big question got answered. Does it sail? The answer is a resounding "Yes!" The "oddest boat ever" made its debut on Sunday at Acton Lake and, despite little wind, actually proved itself wind and seaworthy.

The craft, found in a forgotten corner of rural Ohio, was all gussied up for its first public appearance, although it had to share the spotlight with a couple of other unusual watercraft.

LTS grads Robert and Rebecca Meador brought their restored 46 year old Dutch sloop for us to gawk at in amazement, and the SS CataFisherMaran made its maiden voyage. Take a look inside. (Below, Jerry Brewster in the cockpit of the "Wing".)



Beach Day Olympiad!

Bucket Ball Hole

At left, event organizer and referee Brett Hart provides commentary as Team Brazil fires blanks at the buckets with their tennis ball ammo. Left to right, Joe Costandi, Christa Ashley, Rebecca Meador, May DeArmon, and Rose Schultz.

CataFisherMaran

When Jerry Brewster sailed this boat to the beach, he had to be towed by Don Fecher in his inflatable. But when these four juniors took over, the lack of wind was not the point. That's Cosette Gunter, Kayla Draper, Wally Kelly, and Megan DeArmon.

Gold Medalists!

Team USA crushed the opposition squads. Probably had something to do with the fact that the other teams average age might have been past their Olympic prime. Team parents, Roger and Bobbie, pose with their nimble protégés: Megan, Wally, Kayla, Sarah, Riley, and Cosette.

Ohhhhhh! That's Cold!

Runners up Team Zimbabwe did their best in this form of water torture. Pete makes a brief exclamatory remark as the water misses his bucket and hits his, well, his briefs and my bucket. That's Mark Elsaesser behind him awaiting his careful turn, followed by Scott Johnston. Michelle Elsaesser, having finished her turn, coaches from the sidelines.





Beach Day Photo Display

Above left, the girls chat; above middle, the best of Team Brazil's Bucket Hole Brigade; above right, Darin Ashley misses and pours water down his back and not in May DeArmon's bucket to the delight of the crowd. But then they are blindfolded, after all; below left, Rose, Jerry, and Pete ponder the Wingsailer's merits; below right, swing and a miss.



Meador's Mac Dinghy

2015 HSA LTS Grads Buy and Restore a Classic

When Robert and Rebecca Meador bought their 46 year old boat, it was in pretty sad shape. Sunday, sitting there on its trailer at HSA's Beach Day, you would have thought it just came out of the box brand new. A skillful restoration has produced a beauty. In 1970 the Mac Dinghy cost \$700. They were originally designed and produced by the McClintock Sail Loft of North Hills in Pittsburgh, but were made in Dubdam, Holland. First built in 1963, the boat is only 10 feet long and has 65 square feet of sail area and a four foot beam. The dagger board equipped fractional rig dinghy has no forestay. The Meadors have only a few more coats to put on and a pile of hardware to install and then it's Launch! (The photo at left is a boat like theirs but not the actual one.)

HSA Junior Camp

Beach Moment

The juniors take a moment from their "work" on the lake to go swimming at the beach. Here, most but not all of the boats are lined up on the sand while counselors and instructors watch boats, boaters, and boatees.



Break Time

That's Roger, Rose, Sarah, Charlie and Pete holding the workboats at anchor while the swimming juniors take a break away from their noble steeds. Although the boat with the yellow sail seems to be sponsored by Miller Genuine Draft, we assure all that campers had only lemonade and, maybe, a little Fruit Punch.

Capsize Drill

Juniors started their camp experience with capsize drill, but campers then learn how to stay upright. Knot tying, sailing all points of sail, rigging, docking, and sailing backwards - the camp covers a lot in three days. The kids stay at the lake each day from 8 am to about 7 pm and then head to the campground for a few hours of play before showers and sleeping bags. At right, Charlie Cooper shows his best capsize recovery form. Below, first time sailor Will Sargent beats to windward



Junior Camp Spaces Limited

It's barely a month out from this summer's junior camp but 2017 is already nearing or at capacity. In fact, camp organizers Jerry and JoAnn Callahan tell us that the slots for new campers are gone and a waiting list has been started. Spots for returning campers may still be available but check with them at aftermath2@juno.com

Volunteer instructors, counselors, chaperones, and kitchen/camp help number around 25-30 people.

Whether in reality or virtuality, sailing friendships hold firm

by Nicholas Hayes (reprinted from *Sailing Magazine*)

Do a quick inventory: How many of your friends do you know because of sailing? Sailing is a theme that permeates my life. More than half of my best friendships either began on a sailboat or strengthened because of time sailing together. I'll bet your social network looks about the same.

At its core, sailing is a classic social network; millions of people sharing a common interest and similar experiences get together in small groups to trade stories.

Contrary to myths and common perceptions, the sailing network is diverse and inclusive, at least on the dimensions of ways and means. It encompasses a wide range of individual interests-adventure, travel, competition, science, endurance, strength, strategy, teamwork, ecology, seamanship and stewardship-on a wide variety of craft: large and small, fast and slow, customs, classics, kits, kites, boards, catamarans and trimarans and, now, foilers.

A common interest, whatever it is, is vital to the strength of a social network. When two strangers find that they like, do or want to do the same thing, barriers fall, discussions are more energetic and interesting, and a new friendship often forms. Common interest stories are the glue that hold the relationship together and keep it vital.

The sailing social network is expanding and changing rapidly in an all new directions.

The fastest growing and most active group entering sailing is made up of active outdoorsy adult women, who eventually bring their friends and family. (For decades, most sailing newcomers were boys.) Like the disruptive new technology that reshaped the America's Cup, this new demographic is shaking sailing's traditional institutions to their core.

Throughout the 20th century, sailors usually confirmed their status in the sailing social network by becoming members of yacht and sailing clubs. While a few of those clubs were elite and out of reach financially, about 80% of them were designed to lower the cost of access to boats, water and other people who like boats and water, and can still do that.

"The fastest growing and most active group entering sailing is made up of active outdoorsy adult women, who eventually bring their friends and family."

Yacht clubs are akin to sailing cooperatives; places where folks combine time, money, effort and other resources to improve their social community and their quality of life. Alas, until relatively recently, few clubs were friendly to women.

(continued next page)

Most were made by and for men and many tried to keep it that way. To be fair, club bylaws gradually evolved and gates have opened to women, but it hasn't been perfect. How often have you heard a codger say that the way to attract boys is to use girls as bait? It makes this father of daughters cringe every time I hear it.

So sailing's adult female newcomer is rightly skeptical that membership in a club is necessary to her sailing. Why fight through a thick residue of archaic attitudes when your mission is to go blast reaching with your friends and then post clips and photos of the experience online.

"If they can make boats fly, they can certainly invite both women and men to sail on them." Katie Pettibone

This raises the question: Are sailing clubs compatible with 21st century social trends? On one hand, done well, a club is the manifestation of a virtual social network: people sign-in, check the status of friends, make plans for the weekend, connect with newcomers, share images, archive memories and "like" each other's stories.

It crosses both ways. Indeed, a Facebook sailing group feels a lot like a sailing club in the virtual domain: people sign-in, check the status of friends, and make plans for the weekend. Yacht and sailing clubs don't need Facebook to recruit members;

Facebook itself is the club for newcomers. It's worth noting that Facebook and other virtual social networks are businesses that give away free membership in order to sell information about its members or market to them, whereas sailing clubs are often more private places requiring a fee and keeping the business of the members to the membership.

While there may be a similarity in how the platforms are used, there is a difference in structure and purpose. Sailing clubs may do well to promote the fact that advertising is not in their charter, and privacy is.

In either the physical club or the virtual group, the common interest is what creates attraction and holds it together. That is, the members must go sailing in order to have stories to share, whether they find their way aboard as a result of a Facebook post or a dockside invitation.

How many of your sailing crewmates are women, and how many are men? How is the ratio different from 20 years ago? For me, the change is pronounced: Sailing in the last century was mostly about the guys; sailing in this century is almost always a mixed affair.

Sailing has changed and continues to at a rapidly quickening pace, but the infrastructure lags, due, at least in part, to a few residual archaic attitudes, especially the one that says that men and women should be separated.

Katie Pettibone, a member of the all-female 1995 America's Cup America³ team, said it perfectly at the 2013 International Sailing Summit held in the foreground of AC34: "If they can make boats fly, they can certainly invite both women and men to sail on them."

Sunfish Series So Far



Above, current Sunfish Series leader Laura Beebe; below, Ken Wright pilots his 'Fish around the course. Ken went to Gull Lake in Michigan last weekend to participate in the Sunfish Masters where 38 boats raced. We'll tell you all about it in our next issue.



The Sunfish Series is at the halfway mark with two regattas to go. One, Augusto! is coming up in two weeks with the final one coming up in the last week of the season.

Riding high is none other than Laura Beebe (Oops. I said her name.) who has raced in both June's Founder's Day Sunfish Regatta and July's Camptown Races. Despite having only one bullet, she is averaging a 2.1 finish, highest among those who have raced both regattas. There are 15 different skippers so far.

It isn't too late for the rest of us. With two more to go, there is plenty of opportunity to not only qualify but to become involved in the talk about taking home the hardware. Neil Harrell, for example, won all four races in the raging wind of the Founder's Day event but did not compete at the Camptown Races in the extremely light air.

When all four regattas are done, only your best scores (half of all races actually run) count. Assuming there will be at least four races in each of the last two regattas, there will be 15 overall, so your best 8 will count. Love those throwouts.

Who's waiting in the wings? Well, Rose Schultz for one. She has one of the bullets that Harrell didn't get. So does Yours Truly. Did we mention Bill Molleran? Despite his lowly scores at the halfway mark (mostly due to DNS's), we all know that he is capable of knocking everyone out. Here is a compilation of scores.

Founders' Day Camptown Races

Laura Beebe	2 2 3 2 2 1 3
Mike Stratton	4 3 2 3 6 2 1
Jerry Brewster	6 4 5 6 7 3 4
Charlie DeArmon	3 5 6 4 13 9 5
Neil Harrell	1 1 1 1 DNS
Rose Schultz	DNS 1 4 6
Ryan Servizzi	5 6 4 5 DNS
Brett Hart	7 7 7 8 DNS
Pete Peters	DNS 6 4 2
Ken Wright	DNS 3 8 8
Roger Henthorn	DNS 9 5 7
Bill Molleran	DNS 5 13 13
Danielle Marks	DNS 12 7 13
Sarah Lockhart	DNS 8 13 13
Julie Molleran	DNS 10 13 13