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the

# Acton Action

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## OktoberFast Has a Few Surprises, Like Wind!

The expectations were for anemic wind of about 7 mph and a trophy for perennial OktoberFast champ Bill Molleran. But the wind gusted often to the high teens, peaking at 19 mph, and Molleran was a no show. Then, when junior skipper Kevin DeArmon (in photo above), racing with the seniors instead of in the junior start, walked off with race one, all bets were off. A late start and four races later, OktoberFast had a new champion and the Sunfish Series had one too. More on page 3.

## OktoberFast Highlights... and Lowlights

- Clayton Snider's dry capsizes (he is, after all, a pro at dry capsizing) Bravo!

- Amy Marks' wet capsizes (she said it was chilly in the water but the dry clothes and hot soup later were nice) Splash!

- Kevin DeArmon's wire to wire first place finish in race one. (Nice!) (That's Kev in the picture above.)

- Mike Stratton's ramming of Laura Beebe and then bouncing into the windward mark in race 1. (Tactical errors kill; 720's are slow.)

## Inside and Up Ahead

### Haul Out Page 4

HSA winterizes while still warm and windy. Oh, the pain of October.

### Awards Banquet Saturday, Nov. 5

The 60th anniversary gathering for dinner and awards.

At right Racers gather after OktoberFast to dine and give out awards.





## Bobbie Bode

### Doyen of the Singlehanded Regatta

Nearly all of the Sunfish regattas of the past several years, including the recent OktoberFast, have a common element: Bobbie Bode on race committee. The cast and crew change but there she is, one hand on the PA, one on the horn, and another on the postpone pennant, orchestrating the countdown for one start after another.

On OktoberFast Sunday, she was on her own when the scheduled committee found itself shorthanded. That didn't seem to faze her. She played the committee boat like an instrument, successfully calling four races virtually by herself.

Fending off playful entreaties to take photographs of each starting line, she managed to run every hectic duty. We are most grateful and not just for her welcome call of "All Clear!"

### What Does Age Have to Do With It?

By **Nicholas Hayes**, author of *Saving Sailing*: Twenty-five years of age is the mean defection year from sailing, but in reality it correlates more with transition into career, marriage, parenthood, so it could be anywhere between about 20 and 30.

The key underserved groups are kids under 13, where sailors under-represent population by 70%, and 30-45 where sailors under-represent population by 60%. For example, 8% of sailors are under 13, but 27% of population is under 13. 10% of sailors are between 30-46 but 25% of population is between 30-46.

Said clearly: parents with kids and kids under 12 don't sail, because they don't sail together.

In most other age categories sailors are even (in terms of percent) or represent a higher percent of population. For example, 31% of sailors are 55-64, while only 8% of the population is in this age group.

A key point often misunderstood is that it isn't about how many kids you can pack in a program. That's just a recipe for defection. It's about how often generations interact in a constructive, fun, format. Doesn't have to be families, but if it is, all the better.





Photo by Elsaesser



## Katterheinrich Walks Away With OktoberFast Crown; Beebe Takes Sunfish Series

After junior Kevin DeArmon beat him to the windward mark and Roger Henthorn passed him too, Tom Wizard of the North Katterheinrich must have thought he was going to have a tough day.

DeArmon went on to win that race but the Big K got better as the afternoon progressed. Finishing with two bullets, he snared another Sunfish title as HSA's season came to a close last Sunday.

Henthorn continued his rise in Sunfish but a 4th in the last race dropped him into a tie with equally consistent Laura Beebe for second. Beebe beat him out in a tiebreaker and the

Roger had to settle for thurd place. Beebe's showing was enough to give her the season long Sunfish Series championship.

The Tom/Laura/Roger trio were the only ones to consistently manage the tricky wind that dipped as low as 5 mph or lower at times only to rev it up to close to 20 mph in some of the gusts. It was a hiking day well worthy of an October event.

In the junior racing, Kayla Draper won her first junior regatta over her long time junior rivals after a slow start. Four different juniors won one of the starts, but it was Kayla's steady racing that earned her the winner's laurels.

## OktoberFast Results

### Seniors

1. Tom Katterheinrich	3 2 1 1	7
2. Laura Beebe	4 1 3 3	11
3. Roger Henthorn	2 3 2 4	11
4. Mike Stratton	6 4 4 2	16
5. Rose Schultz	5 5 5 7	22
6. Kevin DeArmon	1 6 7 9	23
7. Charlie DeArmon	8 7 8 8	31
8. Chris Snider	9 9 9 5	32
9. Jerry Brewster	7 8 10 10	35

10. Pete Peters	DNS DNS 6 6	38
11. Amy Marks	10 10 12 11	43
12. Brett Hart	11 11 13 12	47
13. Dominiek Everaet	12 12 11 13	48

### Juniors

1. Kayla Draper	3 2 1 2	8
2. Megan DeArmon	4 3 2 1	10
3. Victor Abitabilo	2 1 3 4	10
4. Clayton Snider	1 4 4 4	13



# Chili Mommas and Value

## Sailing: The Great Leisure Bargain

"Sailors en masse commit much more time to sailing than participants in other leisure activities, and this investment in time makes sailing cheaper overall and potentially much more valuable. I compared the money spent per hour by participants between sports and found skiing at \$111 per hour, golf at \$37, hunting at \$25 and sailing, at a lowly, lovely \$14 per hour.

"Time, not money, is the key to sailing economics. It isn't about the cash, but instead about the hours you commit to friends and family. Sailing has a scale and a social reach unmatched by other leisure activities because it isn't limited artificially by venue, method, schedule or price. You can always add another evening, go another place or invite another friend." Nick Hayes



## HSA Boats Hauled Out - "Haulelujah!"

It is often cold and gray in October when HSA hauls out boats for the winter. Sometimes, like last Sunday, it is warm, sunny, and (this is the hard part) windy. You want to say, "We should be sailing!", but saying so is painful.

So 15 members showed up to clean, lube, and stow. And bite their tongues.



In the photo above, that's teen Jack Cooper manning the power washer and taking a season's worth of Acton barnacles off the pontoon. At left is JoAnn "Chili Mom" Callahan handling the pot of spicy beans for the haul out crew, continuing her tradition of providing warm comfort. Here's who hauled out for you: Todd Rovito, Laura Beebe, Jack Cooper, Jim Cooper, Diane Pierok, Don Fecher, Roger Henthorn, Bobbie Bode, Pete Peters, Rose Schultz, Charlie DeArmon (both of them), Jerry Callahan, JoAnn Callahan, and Jerry Brewster who provided these photos.



# What Do You Get From HSA? What Do You Want to Get?

Another sailing season has come to a close and all that remains is our annual awards banquet - one final time to gather in friendship and celebrate not only a season but 60 years of history as an organization.

And what a history it has been. We are perhaps the single institution outside of the State of Ohio itself that has been promoting the great outdoors at Hueston Woods ever since the park was created back in 1956. As both friend and champion of the state park, we have enjoyed not only that role but the role of advocate of wind, sail and water on a lake that is still devoid of loud engines, jet skis, and motorsports other than fishing.

As we gather to celebrate our 2016 season and our decades long commitment to the absolutely sublime sport of sailing, it is worth considering also our legacy. Few if any in our club are unaware that we are at an all time low in terms of membership and participation. Although we continue to attract new members and new racers each year, we have also witnessed some attrition. So much so that we seemed locked in a struggle for one to match the other.

**"We train, we educate, we promote, and we preach the undeniable greatness of sailing as a sport and of racing as its finest expression."**

Are we alone? No, many clubs across the country and perhaps even the world are facing the same dilemmas. Yet many others are witness to a great revival. But we are here and here is where we will make our stand. Just what will our future be like? What will be our legacy? What will we bequeath to the next generation of sailors and outdoorsmen?

It is my hope that we will somehow survive the current downward trend, even though others have long given up the fight. We are maintaining our club, our racing schedule, and even showing signs of new life as we expand our fleet of boats and our education and training programs.

It is also my hope that each of us who now enjoy the prospect of coming to the lake each Sunday and racing will recommit ourselves to the club's mission and do what is necessary to ensure that legacy.

How might we do that? It begins with a belief that the role we play in the use of Acton Lake and Hueston Woods State Park is an important one. We race, but we do much more than that. We train, we educate, we promote, and we preach the undeniable greatness of sailing as a sport and of racing as its finest expression.

On a primary level, our individual contributions to our longevity are simple and effective: come to the lake and race. That alone will help revitalize our racing calendar. Secondly, come to the lake and take part in some of our club duties and activities like work parties and training days, both for newcomers and others.

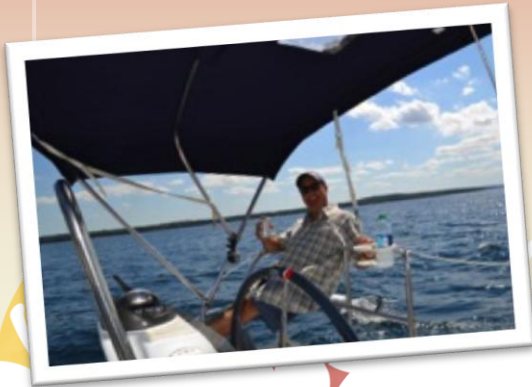
This past year we saw no significant increase in participation in racing, even though some days or events were well attended. (Two of our Sunfish only events saw 17 boats on the line - more than appear at some Sunfish regattas on the national circuit!) While the well attended days were welcome, there is still a dearth of racers in our Spring, Fall and Holiday Series.

On a positive note, there was a significant increase in members who joined work parties to help get boats ready for the season or for winterization. That was a great and positive sign that the will to make our club sustainable is still there. (continued next page)

# Busman's Holiday?

What do sailors do when they go on vacation? Well, they often sail. In an upcoming issue of AA we will have stories about the Brewster family and the Beebe family. Both went away recently for a little holiday. What did they do? They sailed. For the Brewsters it was Michigan. That's Jerry below relaxing in the stern seat of his

chartered boat. The Beebes went a little further. Like New Zealand further. We'll have some pictures to show you of what it's like in the sailing life far from home. (Got a sailing vacation story? Let us know.)



## What Do You Get? (continued from page 5)

In addition to committing ourselves to participate more in the racing schedule and the routine activities of boat and equipment maintenance, there is one other area in need of attention, and it is perhaps the one that will mean the most as we go forward. And that is the social life of the club. The upcoming banquet is but one part of that, but it is an important one. For there we have an opportunity to join with others of common interest and happy fellowship to not only enshrine the recently finished season but to re-set our will and our hearts to the future of our organization.

This aspect - the social one- is worth spending a moment on. No gathering of people in any club, organization, or group can hope to survive long if the members of that group participate only to do an activity, volunteer some time and then leave. It is the friendship, the fellowship, the actual living community of people, I believe, that determine the success and longevity of any organization.

You will hear Pete Peters testify at our banquet about this, I'm sure. He is preparing the photographic slide show that will tell the story of his and the club's evolution, but the central theme of it will be the association of people, not just boats, over 60 years - people who gathered on Sundays not just to race, but to meet, greet, and befriend one another as kindred souls in sport.

As one member, I will know that our club is in no danger of caving into in the face of 21st century isolation and alienation, is in no danger of losing the battle for vital human contact with one another and with the natural world, is in no danger of succumbing to the forces of chartered pleasures, when I see attendance at potlucks, post race picnics, Beach Days, midwinter gatherings, and just plain old lean-against-da-boat-shoot-the-damn-breeze-share-a-cupcake-fellowship that some of our luckiest members often practice after a Sunday afternoon on the water.

That to me will be the important sign that we can give up a lot of things in life, but the one thing we cannot give up is our sense of the importance of common connection with other human beings.

Have you sent in your RSVP to The HSA 60th Anniversary Banquet? That is the last thing we do this year. And the first thing we do in our own and the club's annual revitalization as Hueston Sailing Association. Will we see you there? Mike Stratton, AA editor