



Sunfish Racing at HSA is robust and competitive. Twenty boats showed up for the recent Camptown Races in July and in early June a dozen came out for The Founders' Day Regatta.

Acton Action

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HSA at Midseason

**Just How Do We Get Better?
Insight from Some of HSA's Up
and Coming**

The office is open and the sports psychologist is in.

"Comfortable on the couch? Good. Now, let's talk about your goals for this season. Are you making the kind of progress you wanted?"

"Well, Doc, I think I need new sails."

"Ok, our time is up, cause as we all know, it isn't the sails. That'll be \$100."

Here's the good news. The season is only half over. There is still time for us to move up a few notches, conquer those demons, make fewer mistakes and, now that we are warmed up, we can get out of town to a few big regattas or rededicate ourselves to those new season resolutions.

Now that the July break is over, let's look at

More inside!



**Handcrafted from Civil War era
barn oak, Stephen Cook
branded his creations. Page 2**

GenderFish

Nearly one third of the Sunfish fleet at the recent North American Championships was female. There may not be another class of boats that has that many female skippers. The popularity of the boat with female skippers has led to a dedicated women's fleet for the first time in the 2023 Pan American Games. You go Girls!

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who some of those first half performers were. There are so many to choose from as we have witnessed good performances in every fleet.

Let's start with **Stephen Cook** in the handicap/Sunfish group. Stephen has obviously been training and preparing. In the offseason, he made a new high performance daggerboard for his Sunfish and a new rudder. In the recent Camptown Races Sunfish Regatta, he finished fifth overall, his best finish in one of these events yet.

He showed signs in the earlier Sunfish event, the Founders' Day Regatta, that he might be breaking through a wall, garnering a third place finish there in one race. When you beat people you have never beaten before, you know you are doing something right.

Oh, Stephen's new sail? Ok, might have helped too. (See Stephen's own analysis at right.)

Another newer racing sailor who is moving up the aspiration chain is San Juan 21 guy **Curt Donahue**. Curt, though saddled with a lower Portsmouth rating than he would like, has been gamely battling it out with the swift boats of the Handicap fleet for three years and managing a respectable showing despite the Portsmouth anchor dragging behind his boat.

He took a new step recently when he took one of HSA's Sunfish out for Camptown Races. In an unfamiliar boat he did capsize and struggle but his move to master the Sunfish skill set bodes well for his racing future. He is



Stephen Cook: In His Own Words

At the end of each sailing season, I look at my boats and make a list of things I'd like to do before April. I'm lucky that I have a 20'x70' greenhouse with a large open area in which to work on them.

This last off season, my focus was on my Sunfish which was uncompetitive for several reasons. It had a leisure sail with no window, an old fashioned mahogany daggerboard with no airfoil profile and an old rudder...(I) bought a Hueston Woods marina rental when they got out of the sailboat rental business.

(It) had a gaping hole in the bow where it had been repeatedly smashed into the dock.

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Curt Donahue

This San Juan 21 sailor started out renting sailboats with his girlfriend (now wife) as a teenager and has been sailing ever since.

"I've never had any formal training," he told us, and he has been figuring out as best he can since that first experience. In the off season, Curt says he analyzed his weaknesses and focused on eliminating mistakes. "I've improved on my starts. I used to botch them up and watch the rest of the fleet sail away, but now I sometimes nail the start, so my hope is to become more consistent on that."

Since his move to racing, Curt says he has become a better sailor. "I tell people that racing is sailing with a purpose vs. just leisurely cruising. Both cruising and racing are fun but having marks to round as quickly as you can has motivated me to improve technique and recognize more of what I need to work on."

If there is an idiot in power, it means those who elected him are well represented. *Mahatma Ghandi*



Curt Donahue, dapper in his sailing chapeau, flies by the committee boat as he gets ready for a start.

Coming Up In August and September at HSA

1. Moonlight Sail! Saturday, August 13th. Moonrise at 9:46 pm and boats decked out in lights. And who knows, maybe a pancake breakfast the next morning?
2. AuGusto! Sunfish Regatta – Sunday, August 14th
Bring your A game and B satisfied with what you will C.
3. CruiserFest '22/Moonlight Sail II Saturday and Sunday Sept. 10-11
Stay overnight after the Moonlight Sail on the 10th and maybe another pancake breakfast? Whether or not that happens, we know for sure that the Sunday afternoon cruiser racing will be followed by the annual Dock Party on A dock. All of this co-sponsored by HSA and the Mayor of the Marina Dave Judy along with First Lady Jackie Allen.

cont.

HSA at Midseason

also eyeing the club Y-Flyer and may take on the challenge of racing that boat in a very competitive group.

In the Y Flyer fleet there is a serious battle being waged there every week. The long time veterans are still sailing well, but the hounds are at the gate. One threat that has not escaped attention is **Charlie DeArmon**.

After laboring for a long time in the Y vineyards, the past two seasons have seen him ripen into a contender. It might be attributable to the addition of wife/crew Amy Marks in the past two seasons as having a steady crew can make a difference.

But Charlie has been doing well even when he has a new or unseasoned crew as Amy rehabilitates an injury. One thing is certain: no one is surprised to look on their hip and see Charlie these days. He has won in spectacular fashion in some races where the other veterans met with calamity.

The Y fleet is also seeing a surge from **Scott Eversole** who has not only raced both Y's and Sunfish this year, but also his O Day 25. On a recent Sunday, he came from behind and almost nipped The Roger/Bobbie tandem for second place.

More on Scott and other Up and Coming sailors in our next issue.



Stephen Cook's barn oak blades.

Class legal?
Yes.
Handcrafted?
Yes.
Fast?
Results don't lie.

Stephen Cook: In His Own Words (cont. from pg. 2)

I ordered a racing sail, which had a long lead time and decided to make my own rudder and daggerboard out of Civil War era oak left over from our old barn. With my boat weighing in at 148 lbs, I figured that oak blades would be much lighter than their GRP counterparts.

My goal was to see where I stand in the HSA Sunfish Fleet and to gauge whether I am making any progress or not. The racing sail transforms the feel of the boat and makes it easier to see other boats, which advantage took a while to manifest, since Julie (Molleran) and I collided twice over the Independence Day weekend. The new blades make a difference, but it's not as noticeable.

I think I'm getting some things figured out with the Sunfish. On the port tack, I've moved the sail telltale aft to get it out of the disturbed air behind the mast. I'm learning to use the leech telltales on my sail to avoid the overshooting on upwind legs, allowing them to show me when to ease the sheet a little and let the sail "breathe". Also on the upwind, the Sunfish tacks so easily that I think I tack on lesser wind shifts.

So there we are. It's fun to believe, even if I am mistaken that I am making progress.

At right, Stephen is in the Sunfish with the new World's racing sail. He also has a spiffy new daggerboard and a new rudder, both made out of Civil War era oak from an old barn on his property. As you can see, Stephen isn't afraid to mix it up with other boats at a start, no matter the size. In the background a San Juan 21, a Capri 14, and an



"I'm not much at seizing the day. I just sorta poke a stick at it."
Anonymous



The wind challenged and the Y Fleet responded – the floats on the heads of the sails were there for, uh, psychological support as they seem to do little when the actual, factual capsizes occur. Gusts happen. Floats fail.

New Member Is All In; Barnyard to Boatyard

Eaton Resident Adds Cruiser to Stable of Boats

Editor's Note: At first glance, you might think that this article is about Bobby Taylor. But even Bobby is not the first member to have, uh, choices when it comes to deciding what to sail. There are several others, one of whom will remain nameless. Cough. Mike. Cough. New member Jackie Guntle now has three in about a year. Look out Bobby.

Jackie Guntle bought her first sailboat, not last year or this, but at age 16. She used her babysitting money and bought an 11 ft. Sea Snark for \$75.

She tells us she would load it on top of her Pinto and drive to Hueston Woods “every chance I could get.”

Fast forward a few decades and Jackie is in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula loading another sailboat on top of her van. This time it’s a Sunfish. She drove all that way simply because, as she puts it, “I wanted to race”.

She already had a sailboat, having bought a Chrysler Buccaneer back in 2021. She now plans to sell that boat since her newest passion in sailing, other than the Sunfish, is her most recent find – a 1987 Seaward 23.

The mom of three and grandmom of eleven grandchildren isn’t just enthused about sailing, although it is currently driving a lot of her activity. She is also the pianist at her church and an avid horsewoman.

She and husband Fred own a 121 acre farm near Eaton where she cares for five horses, four of which are hers. She used to run a training and boarding facility there and taught kids and adults to ride and the kids to compete, notably at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Since joining HSA Jackie has been at the lake often, crewing in races, trying out a club Sunfish and helping with club activities. She recently added Junior Sailing Camp to her volunteering resume.



Jackie and Fred with one of their grandchildren last week at the lake with her new Sunfish. Below is that new boat, straight from Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. It came with a dolly and a racing daggerboard.



New Member Is All In

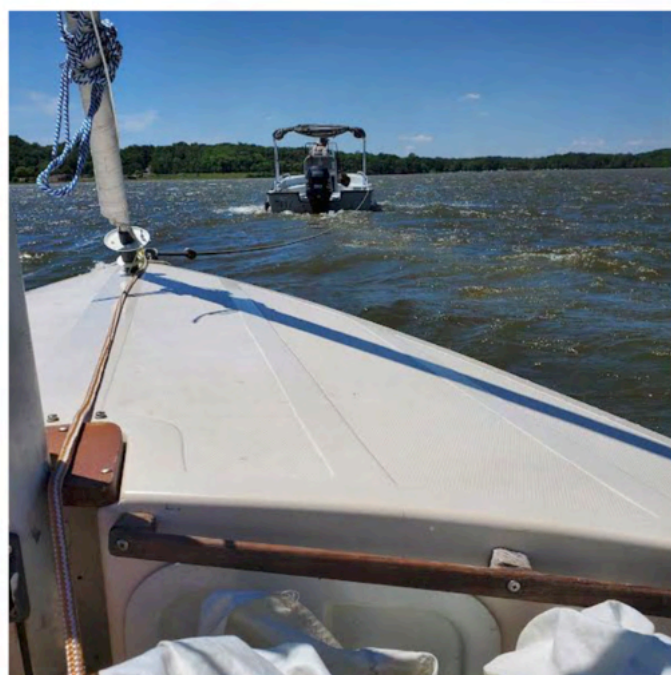
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The Seaward 23 she bought is a classic. Often described as a step up from the Catalinas and Hunters of the sailing world, it has a “well proportioned shape and a tumblehome sectional shape at the transom”, according its data. It is a fractional rig with 900 lbs of ballast but its wing keel only draws a little over two feet.

It also has a transom mounted rudder with wheel steering, making it the second boat with such a feature to arrive recently to the wet slip area of our fair lake. The other one? It belongs to Bobby Taylor.

When we first met Jackie about a year ago, she was trying to sail that Buccaneer on her own. That experience, tough as it was, did not deter her. In fact, it made her more determined to master this sport.

Her soft spoken husband Fred is an obvious support pillar. He has little interest in sailing himself, but shows up whenever Jackie needs him, whether it be to rent a boat to watch her sail on Acton Lake in case she capsizes or help her buy a cruiser at an auction. Now that is a sailor's definition of a great spouse.



Last year Jackie took her Chrysler Buccaneer out alone, a 16 ft. boat with a makeshift furler. It didn't go well. Instead of being put off by the day's frustrations, she came back with more resolve than ever. She took a sailing lesson, joined the club, and started racing with others and in club boats. That didn't always go well either, but it didn't phase her. After just a year into serious sailing, she has crewed, capsized, and contributed to HSA as a volunteer. Welcome Jackie and Fred!

Shortly after
acquiring the
Sunfish, Jackie was
the winning bidder
on this Seaward 23
at an auction. It has
everything – bells,
whistles, and...
wheel steering.
Very nautical.

