

July 2026 Acton Action

The dog days of summer are here! Does that bother HSA sailors? NO! We arrive at Acton Lake ready to race enjoying the wind, sun, water and the company of all the other sailors. Races are every Sunday and the start horn sounds at 1:30pm



Ten racing rule Commandments:

- 1) Port keeps clear of starboard
- 2) Windward keeps clear of leeward
- 3) The boat astern keeps clear of the boat ahead
- 4) A boat tacking or jibing keeps clear of one that is not
- 5) Avoid collisions
- 6) If you gain right of way or change course, give the other boat time to clear
- 7) The inside boat at two boat lengths from the mark is entitled to room to round the mark
- 8) A boat backing up or not racing keeps clear
- 9) If you have violated a rule, take a penalty
- 10) It is better to give way than to spend hours in a protest room

Commodore's Corner

Stopping to Smell the Flowers



Our home's short-in-stature, but beautiful Mexican Sunflowers (*Tithonia rotundifolia*) are blooming and make us think of our go-to garden suppliers, Stephen and Zella Cook, which of course makes us think of our happy place, Hueston Sailing.

Like these sunflowers, our growing club has a lot of "splashy color" in a small package. HSA has a wonderful community of sailors with a similar sun-facing people-oriented culture.

Sometimes new members approach me and share that they can't believe what they have found. Older members often note the busy speed-Boaty lakes they've sailed on and how blessed they are that HSA is located on a quiet state park resort lake.

So, when you are next out on Acton Lake, surrounded by your fellow sailors, take a moment to notice the beauty around you. Stop to smell the flowers.



July 4th and 5th



According to Jerry Brewster, 4th of July series was a good event. Despite being threatened briefly by a thunderstorm, there were no bolts and nary a drop of rain.

Saturday, he said, was the better wind day with wind in the 5-10 range and some gusts to 12 mph. There were, however, some of those notorious Acton Lake shifts of close to 180 degrees. A given?

Jerry noted that the race committee was joined by new member Chrissy Heims (Capri 14.2) along with Jerry and JoAnn Callahan. Brian Callahan was on committee along with Anna and her ten year old granddaughter Sasha.

Sasha got to get on board Laura Peters' Sunfish between races for a little fun. As for racing action, Jerry reported that another new member, Jennifer Harris, was out in a Sunfish and was able to compete with pace in race one.

The Brewster experienced what he called something like Maradona's "hand of god" when in race one he found a nice line of wind that took him nearly directly to the windward mark.

"It felt like angels had picked up my boat and carried it to the windward mark for me," he said. He hung on in that race, won by Bill Molleran, to finish a second and beat the next boat by a "half second".

Race chair Brian Callahan described both days as having decent wind with the usual holes. On Saturday, Bill Settle in his Rocket won both races. "He's got the Rocket figured out, and he's going to be a force every week," Callahan said.

He went on to say that the first race Sunday was wind poor but picked up later, coming directly down the lake from the northwest at about an eight mph clip. That caused Don Fecher in a Hobie and Stephen Cook in the Cruiser group to finish a shortened race in about ten minutes each.



In the Sunfish/Capri racing, Bill Settle won Saturday, Bill Molleran Sunday, but Laura Peters, who raced both days, ended up the Fourth of July Series Champion.

Sunfish/Capri Results:

1. Laura Peters 2 2 3 2. 9
2. Jerry Brewster 3 3 2 5. 13
3. Bill Molleran DNC DNC 1 1 20
4. Bill Settle 1 1 DNC DNC. 20
5. Jennifer Harris 5 5 6 6. 22
6. Lauren Anderson DNC DNC 4 4. 26
- 7 Bob Fletcher DNC DNC. 4 4. 26
8. Jackie Guntle 4 4. DNC DNC. 26

In the Y Flyer Fleet, Roger Henthorn and Bobbie Bode drove away with the title as they scored two bullets and led the field on the holiday weekend. Pete Peters and Rose Schultz also won two races and were way ahead in a third when the wind gods found favor with the others. The result was a gigantic plunge to third place and the Series, which they had in their pocket, slipped away.

Y Flyer Results:

1. Roger and Bobbie 2 1 1 2. 6
2. Pete and Rose 1 3 3 1. 8
3. Charlie DeArmon/Amy Marks 4 2 2 3. 11
4. Brett Hart/Maggie 3 4 DNC DNC. 17

In the Cruising Crowd, the crown was handed to Stephen Cook by virtue of his attendance. On Saturday he was the lone contestant - two bullets. On Sunday he was facing Curt Donahue and Jim Milks - same result

Cruiser Results

1. Stephen Cook Sage 17 1 1 1 1. 4
2. Curt Donahue SanJuan 21 DNC DNC 2 2. 12
3. Jim Milks Mariner 19. DNC DNC 3 3. 14

Don Fecher was the lone Hobie on the course. Default champion in the Hobie starts



After the races on Sunday July 5th, Fred and Jackie Guntle, Pete Peters, Laura Peters and Joe Carpenter, Bobbie Bodie and Roger Henthorn, Amy Marks and Charlie DeArmon all gathered at the lodge to enjoy swimming, music, dancing and pizza.

We also enjoyed waving down all the HSA sail boats cruising by the lodge to say Hello! The fireworks were spectacular!



Sunfish from the past

This photo was taken during Darrilynn Brewster's first Lady's sailing camp. She was learning to sail her new sunfish, when who should appear on their Capri? None other than Jerry Brewster with kids in tow, complete with water guns. The ladies loved being sprayed because it was so hot. The kids and Jerry had a blast too! As Darrilynn recalls, the kids hopped on her boat and she took them for a brief sail!



Commodore Joe Fulford has made us a new start pin with the help of JoAnn Callahan who sewed the new flag! Thank you to you both!



Camptown Races HSA Sunfish Regatta

July 12



1st	4410	Laura Peters	2	1	2	4	2	11	11
2nd	78831	Brian Callaha	1	4	4	3	1	13	13
3rd	78557	Mike Stratto	3	3	1	6	3	16	16
4th	78255	Bill Mollera	4	2	8	1	4	19	19
5th	81227	Bob Fletche	5	8	3	9	6	31	31
6th	8689	Jerry Brewst	6	6	11	2	7	32	32
7th	7855	Domini ek	7	5	6	7	13	38	38
8th	80885	Brenda n	8	12	12	5	5	42	42
9th	8	Zach Nerod	9	10	5	10	9	43	43
10th	76434	Amy Marks	14	9	7	8	10	48	48
11th	80883	Charlie DeArm	11	7	9	11	11	49	49
12th	RWB 50	Stephe n Cook	12	11	10	13	12	58	58
13th	1960	Curt Donahu	10	14	15	12	8	59	59
14th	1253	Jackie Guntle	15	15	13	14	14	71	71
15th	76331	Brett Hart	13	13	14	16 DNS	16 DNS	72	72

Camptown Races Sunfish Regatta July 12th

1st place went to Laura Peters

2nd place to Brian Callahan

3rd place to Mike Stratton

We got in five races in wind that stayed pretty much in the 10 to 15 range with spikes to 18 mph. It was nothing short of marvelous, especially since it is still July, the month of heat and anemic wind.

It was not a light air drifter that would test the souls. It was not a heavy air hike fest that tested strength and endurance. It was the pitch perfect wind that, if we could, we would order each Sunday from a wind menu at the Buenos Aires Racing Restaurant.



Who would win in such conditions? Jerry Callahan predicted the top four finishers before racing started. He was right. What he did not predict was the order. In the end, it was Ms. Consistent who mastered the field, a good bet for anyone familiar with the skills of the Sunfish fleet.

Laura Peters only won one of the five races, but it was enough as her male rivals, each of whom grabbed a bullet of their own, faltered a bit in their other finishes while Laura kept threatening to take all five. (Brian Callahan actually had two bullets but it wasn't enough.)

Callahan finished second overall, succumbing to some bad starts that he almost always recovers from. He mostly did that again. Yours Truly had designs on that first place trophy but succumbed to a silly foul in race four and had to do two circles fifty yards from the finish. Bill Molleran had good finishes but an uncharacteristic 8th in race three to eliminate himself from the winner's circle.



Still, despite domination of the top spots by the usual suspects, there were some shiny moments for others who figured out the starts and the shifts. One particular shiny moment belonged to Bob Fletcher, a relative newcomer to Sunfish racing. He took off in race three from a nice start and rounded the windward mark in first, a position he held throughout the Olympic course until the last downwind leg when he somehow fouled Brendan Draper who was coming upwind.

Bob did his circles but the incident robbed him of a chance at what would have perhaps been his first regatta race win. He did his circles and managed to do so without losing third place due to a large gap between him and Brian Callahan in fourth.

Another bright moment belonged to youngster Draper who struggled through the first three races but finished strong in races four and five with two top five finishes. Jerry Brewster, despite early tactical questions, found some golden moments in race four and led that contest for a good portion before Bill Molleran chased him down.

Jackie Guntle prepared a great after racing meal. Those who tasted it were universal in their praise. Thank you, Jackie. The race committee spent their time on the water well with new member David Howell (O Day 222) joining regatta regulars Roger Henthorn and Bobbie Bodie in officiating the event. Fred Guntle was his usual helpful and cheerful self as he once again mastered the dolly deliveries.

July 18, 2026 Intro to Sail

The club's Introduction to Sailing program got another edition launched last Saturday as eleven mostly brand new sailors jumped into HSA's fleet of cruisers to literally fly around the lake.

The group met at 10:30 under The Big Tree for a series of brief talks on club and lake history, points of sail, rigging, safety, and other topics before lunch with their skipper/instructors.

Organizer Brett Hart once again orchestrated the outing which was not only notable for its velvety smoothness but also enjoyed some of the best wind of the summer. Many of the participants got to feel what weather helm was like as some of the gusts hit the 15-20 range.

The instructional crew included Dave Judy, Kim Mullally, Amy Marks, Pete Peters, Dennis Hensley, and Yours Truly with Charlie DeArmon and Bill Sellers on the safety boat.

This student group, like the first one in June, will return to the water for a second and third lesson in the coming weeks with yet another group of HSA's finest sailing teachers. Congratulations to Austin, Lucy, Mike, Mark, Kathy, Brian, Devin, Kevin, Rio, Amy and Penelope for completing their first on the water experience



By: Mike Stratton

July 26th Race report

--Mike Stratton--

1. A very unexpected decent wind day where 5-8 mph beat the forecast of 4 mph - Yes!
2. The unexpected company of thirty sailors on twenty boats - Yes!
3. The natural beauty of Hueston Woods in midsummer - Yes!
4. The Joe X Course of 4-3-2-1 - What?

Yeah, that was, uh, interesting. A tight box in the middle of Acton Lake with the biggest turnout of boats of the summer. There were comments before, during and after to be sure. Here is one crew conversation at mark 2:

"Which side do we round this mark?"

"I think we round it to starboard."

"No, I think it is a port rounding."

"We are in great position for a starboard rounding."

"But we are supposed to round it to port."

"Nobody's looking."

"Don't tempt me."

Let's just call it the day of Really Interesting Mark Roundings Involving Members of Multiple Fleets. In the end, it was generally regarded as a good exercise in creative course design and a good lesson in paying attention to committee signals and signs as well as the complex rules and physics of starboard mark roundings. The committee was apparently well aware beforehand that their eXperimental course would elicit... concern.

Mastering the maze of boats and marks were the team of Bode and Henthorn who overcame fouls and pole-less downwind legs to conquer the Y Fleet that turned out six Flyers. Phil Robertson and grandson Landon made their first appearance of the season and made things difficult for the usual suspects at the top of the fleet.

Charlie DeArmon had Kevin Worobey aboard as crew, joining three other boats yesterday with new or relatively inexperienced crew. All four are previous Intro to Sail participants. Brett Hart and Yours Truly further mixed and matched as they took turns on the tiller.

Anything unusual happen? Well, Pete and Rose inexplicably ran into the committee boat and finished fourth in a race they led to the finish, almost. The Y's pretty much stayed together for much of the two, two lap races and made it fun at the finish. There was at least one finish where it was inches as Brett shot the line and edged out the Curt. Might even have been millimeters.

Y Results:

1. Roger and Bobbie 1 2. 3
2. Pete and Rose 4 1. 5
3. Mike and Brett and Brett and Mike. 2 4 6
4. Phil and Landon 3 3 6
5. Curt Donahue and Diana Gross 6 5. 11
6. Charlie and Kevin Worobey 5 6. 11

In the Sunfish/Capri contest, Lauren Anderson ditched her family vacation in Wisconsin and returned to Tipp City in time for racing, in this case, in a Capri 14 with ITS grad Barry Gross as crew. They finished last but gamely in a club Capri just behind the Jerry Brewster/Diedre Mahle Capri. (Welcome back, Diedre!) Light air is Bill Molleran's go to condition and, even though he had to chase down chief rival Laura Peters at times, he prevailed and took both races. Bob Fletcher was on the two leaders transoms for most of the competition and continued to find new ways to make his Sunfish racing better.

Sunfish/Capri Results:

1. Bill Molleran 1 1. 2
2. Laura Peters 2 2 4
3. Bob Fletcher 4 3. 7
4. Brendan Draper 3 4 7
5. Jerry Brewster/Deidre Mahle 5 5. 10
6. Lauren Anderson/Barry Gross 6 6 12

The Big Boats Division saw Sunfish guy Dom Everaet, out for the day with wife Laurie and daughter Skylar, move into his Catalina 22 and, in raw scoring, besting the fleet's usual Sunday champ Stephen Cook in a tiebreaker.

Jim Milks and son Matthew with sailing kitty Nyx aboard, stuck it out for both races and grabbed a third place finish. Nyx jumped ship a bit early returning to the docks and got a lesson in distance/time/space from boat to dock. The rescue was a success. However, by deserting ship, Nyx forfeited all wages and prize money.

Stephen Cook, hearing of the incident, had this to say: "I was sorry to hear how Nyx had come a cropper..."

Stephen also reported that the Joe X course had "rumblings of discontent" in his fleet, but that he was happy just to be messing about on Acton Lake with such a fine group of mariners.

O Day 222's John Hawthorn grabbed a third in the first race but retired before race two after boat camping Saturday night and after seeing others in his fleet struggle to round marks with what Stephen called a "pirouetting wind".

Cruiser Results:

1. Dom Everaet/Laurie/Skylar Catalina 22. 2 1. 3
2. Stephen Cook Sage 17 1 2 3
3. Jim Milks/Matthew Milks Mariner 19. 4 3. 7
4. John Hawthorn O Day 222 3 DNS 9
5. Dave Judy Catalina 22 5 DNS 11

Don Fecher welcomed Kevin DeArmon back to the race course and, though the younger man won both starts, the elder won the races. Both were very excited about the X course and the mark traffic where they tried to go fast amid a herd of slow moving wind machines.

Hobie Results:

1. Don Fecher 1 1. 2
2. Kevin DeArmon 2 2. 4

Wednesday night Sunfish training class July 29th a total success!



For the second week in a row, the club populated the lake with boats and members for that somewhat rare sight: weekday sailing.

No doubt the wind and weather were a factor as good breezes greeted all who came to play. First out was Yours Truly in Goodnight Moon at noon for a couple of hours of smooth sailing. David Howell took friend Greg out in his new O Day 222.

Brett Hart sailed out singlehanded in his new O Day 222 for a test drive later that sunny pm closely followed by Dennis Hensley and Pamela Sherman in Dennis' San Juan 23. Then Dave Judy and Brett decided to get in a few more tacks and gybes on Dave's Catalina 22 before working on Brett's furler. We also saw Guy Hemmer return to the water in his cruiser after a recent launch. Welcome back.

Joe Fulford treated another ITS participant to a brisk bout with a breeze about three o'clock just as the Wednesday Sunfish gang showed up to rig and practice racing. We had seven members at the pre practice tactical talk. Six went out, four spent the next two hours on the water, and eight showed up afterwards at the lodge for their pizza Supreme.

The Sunfishers were missing some of their regulars but we had Michel Bourgeois and Stephen Cook taking advantage of the midweek mashup.

Young John Hawthorn had his first experience in a Sunfish yesterday as he joined the others for some upwind/downwind/mark rounding whotafluteyng. Jackie Guntle, Amy Marks, and Charlie DeArmon rode bikes around the 9.5 mile Loop Rd that encircles the park before attending Sunfish training. Whew! They are preparing for the next triathlon coming up at Acton Lake in September.

Sundays we race fer shure, but Wednesday is becoming a popular day for all manner of sail and club activity. Good sign.



The O'Day is going, going, GONE!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped take this boat apart on our clean up day the end of June!

Special Thanks goes to Dave Judy, Fred Guntle and Pete Peters, who all worked together to take this boat to her final destination.

