

ACTON ACTION

APRIL 2026



Hueston Sailing Association Launch and Lunch April 11, 2026

The first official act of the new season took place at Hueston Woods today as the club prepped boats for launching, pruned trees in the dry moorage area, and revved engines for the much anticipated racing to come in just two weeks.

A hardy contingent of members gathered to take part in the kick off event and recessed for lunch in the Hueston Room to eat and hear from the executive committee.

Commodore Joe Fulford piped a brief meeting to order and highlighted the changes coming soon. Working closely with the state park and the Hueston Woods Visitors' Bureau, the club has acquired two AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) - one for the committee boat and one for a designated park ranger vehicle.

HSA will also have a mast raising system installed once plans and funding are in place. That and the new plumbing for a fountain and faucet for the moorage are the result of the visitor's bureau generosity.

Brett Hart and David Parrott were instrumental in the club acquiring those AEDs, a device used for treating cardiac arrest.

Commodore Fulford also spent some time describing a renewed effort on the part of the state park to dredge some of the more silted areas of the lake.

Vice Commodore Diane Pierok was responsible for the lunch in the Hueston Room and did not disappoint.

There are other changes in the racing and teaching programs, most notably the changes in the Intro and Learn to Sail programs. In addition a fourth start has been added to race day for cruisers and other handicap racers, leaving the third start to Sunfish and Capri 14s.

The club website now has race committee assignments posted, so check that soon to see what your dates are. If a conflict occurs and you can't serve on the date assigned, Rear Commodore Jerry Brewster reminds everyone that members are responsible for finding a substitute on their own and informing him of changes.



April 26 2026 Our season opening Races

Sunfish/Capri division



HSA opened the sailing season Sunday, it's 69th since that first one back in 1957, and all is well on Acton Lake.

Predictably the weather was a bit chilly but as sailors warmed up to the racing, so did the temperature. The also predictable wind was its usual unpredictable self, if that makes sense. One of the early benefactors of those merciless shifts was Sunfish master Bill Molleran, who port tacked into a hole in the start line and played the shifts to a windward mark lead.

He arrived at the second mark of a figure 8 course just as a huge shift occurred and, while the rest of the fleet suffered, he flew out to an insurmountable lead.

In race two, in what became a triangle due to changing conditions, he chose the wrong side of the beat and fell behind early. He recovered for a fourth place but that race and the day belonged to the reigning Sunfish stalwart Brian Callahan who put that bullet together with third in race one.

Callahan had to catch perennial Sunfish threat Laura Peters in that race after she rounded the windward mark first. The wind and some luck caused a lot of position changes with Dom Everaet turning in a solid performance as he battled the power trio at the top.

Callahan was stung on the water by a bee when returning to the ramps post racing, but he begins the year by stinging the fleet with a claim to winning the day in Spring Series #1.

Relative newcomer David Parrott inserted himself into the story as he challenged for a top three finish as did new member Bill Settle who got a top five finish and Brendan Draper who pulled off a fourth in race one.

Joining them with a top five finish was Bob Fletcher. The fleet starts off the year competitively healthy with seven of nine participants grabbing a top five finish.

Settle, a Brookville Lake man, sailed his Sunfish like Rocket (sporting a Mylar sail) with the Sunfish start. The club added a fourth start this year for handicap boats - those in the larger dinghy and cruiser classes - leaving the Sunfish and Capris together with their similar Portsmouth ratings alone in start number three.

The only Capri to join them was Jerry Brewster who sailed a club Capri after leaving his own boat's boom at home in the garage. His crew was former co-worker Katelyn who had never sailed before but, according to the Other Jerry, is happy to try again.

April 26 2026 Opening Races (cont.)



Darrilyn, Jerry's wife and usual crew mate, is likely out of action until mid summer or later with knee replacement.

Due to the committee boat damage and the cancellation of next Sunday's racing, the Sunfish group won't compete again until the first Sunfish regatta of the new year. That will be the Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta on Sunday, May 10th. The regatta is open to all Sunfish racers and the Rocket. Trophies and food follow, according to Sunfish regatta organizer Jackie Guntle.

Results

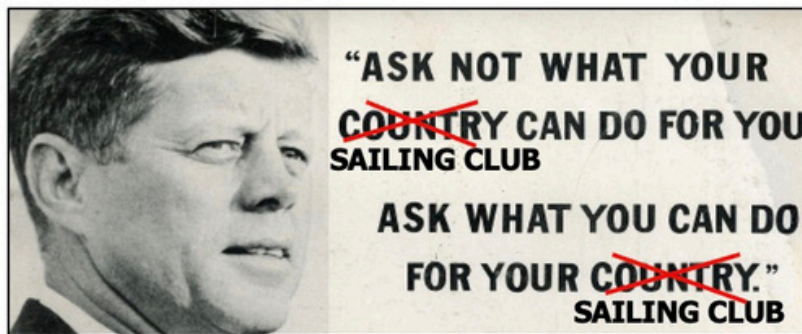
1. Brian Callahan 3 1. 4
2. Bill Molleran 1 4. 5
3. Laura Peters 2 3. 5
4. Dom Everaet 8 2. 10
5. Bob Fletcher 7 5. 12
6. David Parrott 6 6. 12
7. Bill Settle 5 8. 13
8. Brendan Draper 4 9. 13
9. Jerry Brewster/Katelyn 9 7. 16



Our club's new AED was presented to Joe Fulford and Kathryn Conner by Mark Johnston of Christ Hospital on April 29th. Also present was David Parrott who wrote the successful grant application. Well done, David! This new AED will live in our club shed. Training to follow!

Commodore's Corner

Sailing Experience Skippers Needed!



Sailing Experience

Join in an adventure through nature on land and water!



Location: Hueston Woods State Park, Marina Shelter
Date: Saturday, May 16th, 2026
Registration: Sign-up begins at 9:30 AM at the Marina Shelter
Time: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Sailing Experiences: approximately leaving every 15 minutes
Location: At the Marina Shelter
Nature Center: Open 10:00 to 4:30 for your enjoyment; educational programs occur throughout the day
Lunch: Grilled hotdogs and hamburgers graciously sponsored by the [Hueston Woods Region Visitor Bureau](#)

In coordination with our country's 250th anniversary, I've reached back to a time of altruism and inspiring quotes like this one from JFK. HSA's very popular "Sailing Experience" is coming up on Saturday, May 16th and we need skippers to call Brett Hart and ask "*what can I do for my club.*" For those new to HSA, this is also one of those Saturday's of public program volunteerism that earns you a gold star with our dry moorage sheriff, Roger Henthorn, and keen-eyed deputy sheriff, Bobbie Bode. Earn two gold stars and you get to keep your boat in dry moorage another year, for free! Operators are standing by so call now.

In other park news, Hueston Woods' suspension bridge is now complete in the preserve up above the fishing pier (not far from Mike Stratton's "Bermuda Triangle" area of swirling creek currents and glass calm waters). If you travel halfway down the road that goes to sugar camp and the fishing pier, you'll find a trail head that leads you down to this bridge. All this to say, as you regale your Sailing Experience guests on Saturday, May 16th with tall tales of how you escaped out of Acton's treacherous waters and up this creek, make sure they know about the coolest new bridge in ODNR's state park system—a system [recognized as #1 in the USA!](#) This bridge was made possible by our Visitor's Bureau's trustees... volunteers just like you improving our park and asking that question, "how can I help?"



***Monday April 27, 2026 storms rolled thru Hueston Woods**



The unfortunate result of the storm was some damage to our committee boat which has caused us to move Sunday May 3rd races to Sunday June 21st. Also canceling our potluck on May 3rd, which will also be rescheduled. Please keep your ears to the water in the case help repairing our committee boat is needed. Thank you