

S E P T E M B E R 1 7 , 2 0 1 8

Spindrift

Houston Sailing Association's Race Report



Award Season

Before the leaves even start to fall, we know that the end of the season is closing in on us. With only three racing events left on the calendar, it is time to nominate, call in traveling trophies, and get invitations out for the 62nd Annual HSA Awards Banquet.

Barn-n-Bunk, our favorite venue, is once again the site. Dinner, wine tasting, games, and lots of pictures make this event a fitting way to cap off a season. And awards. Those who did well in the holiday series, Spring and Fall Series, and special events will be recognized along with the awarding of HSA's five special awards that single out members who have gone above and beyond.



CrusierFest race results on page 5; Variety and flair were the day's touchstones.

CruiserFest '18 Makes History

CrusierFest was sometimes a SnoozerFest as far as wind strength, but it was fast enough to beat whatever Hurricane Florence could throw our way. Ten big ole boats, most of which were skippered by sailors with little to no racing experience, gamely lumbered out to the starting line Sunday to try their hand at a little port/starboard competition. Some discovered they had skills and fast boats. Others found out that their comfortable cruisers were content being just that. The wind didn't help. Gusts to 15 mph accompanied by periods of breathless floating were hard to cope with, including those who were racing veterans. More on next page.

Save the Dates! (They are all that's left!)

Sunday, Sept. 26

Last chance to get your game on in the Fall Series as the 6th and last official racing hits.

Sunday, Sept. 30

It's the first Round the Lake Race, a new event for all boats of all sizes as we touch all the bases.

October 6-7

It's OktoberFast! HSA's home grown Sunfish Regatta. Trophies, food, drink, and RACING!

CruiserFest '18

San Juan 21's were the boats to beat as HSA's inaugural cruiser racing event took to the water

Donohue Sails Into Winner's Circle

Curt Donohue has raced a few times before. But that was decades ago. Normally an occasional singlehander, he welcomed HSA's Charlie DeArmon aboard on Sunday and the two of them swept the field of ten boats with two bullets in two attempts.

With the wind gusting to 15 mph and then dying away to naught-y-ness, skippers had their hands full. In both starts, the wind was under 5 mph at the beginning, making it difficult to get off the line. The Donohue boat, a San Juan 21, got off well, though, and went wire to wire in race one, winning by a full leg.

A huge shift to the left put everyone on port tack in race two's start with the Donohue boat on the wrong side of the course. Scott Johnston, in his own San Juan 21, was over there too but both recovered.

Johnston took off when he tacked over to starboard, got a great lift, and led for most of the race. On the downwind leg before the short windward sprint to the finish, the Donohue boat overtook second place *Goodnight Moon*, a Catalina 250 with Yours Truly and Kevin DeArmon aboard. After the Johnston San Juan rounded the leeward mark, it went to the right.

The gamble proved to be a mistake as the Donohue boat rounded and picked up an inside lift as the wind veered left, and it took the Donohue crew right to the finish line. *Goodnight Moon* followed. By the time the Johnston boat got back to the wind, it had lost them both and ended up third.

The first four boats in both races were identical, although the way they got there differed. Overall, it was a San Juan 21 day.



Upper left, the San Juan that won it all. Below that, the winning crew - skipper Curt Donohue on the right with his crew Charlie DeArmon. In the picture above, Scott Johnston sails upwind with his son and granddaughter as crew as he led most of race two.



At left, Dennis Hensley, Bill Jackson, and Martin Griffiths relax after racing in Martin's Catalina 22. At right Scott Johnston gesticulates.



CruiserFest '18 Celebrates with Food and Fellowship on the Water and on the Dock

Dock "A" became party central Sunday as the cruiser crowd crowded on to wooden planks for a cookout and conversation.

Some of that conversation was about the racing that had just taken place that afternoon, but mostly it was a chance for those who occupy most of docks A, B, C, and D to chat up the sailing season and begin to bid farewell to one another and the 2018 summer of sailing.

It was only the second year for this dock party, but this year organizers grew the event to include some cruiser racing. It was straight up, no handicap racing as the one and two ton heavyweights duked it out on the water

regardless of the Portsmouth rating or the experience of the crew.

Even as the season wanes, there was a good deal of waxing about next year and doing it all again.

Some came early just to watch and gauge their chances if they should join in the competitive portion of the program next year.

It was a great opportunity for cruising sailors, who are already friends, to get to know one another a bit better and to make new friends. And there just might be some go fasters added to some boats for next year's event.



CruiserFest's Captain

Oxford plumber Dave Judy and wife Jackie Make it Happen

At left, Mike Marshall talks to Dave and Jackie Judy next to the grill and the Judy boat, a very nicely restored Catalina 22. Dave brings a ton of equipment and food and serves as grillmaster too. The Dock Party is in its second year and seems destined to grow and continue as a way to close out the summer sailing season.

A big thank you to the Judy's and to the race committee comprised of Roger Henthorn, Bobbie Bode and Rose Schultz.

6th Fall Series Brings It All to a Close Next Sunday

Fall's Final Water Fight Upon Us

Calling all classes! Oh, if you have boats, prepare to race them now. For after this Sunday, the Fall Series will have run its course. Jerry Brewster, Brett Hart, and Curtis Mears are on committee and await your arrival on the starting line.



Round the Lake Race Breaks Ground

It has been years since HSA has put racing buoys in the southern end of the lake. That is about to change. On September 30th, boats of all shapes, sizes, and colors, as well as mono and multi hulls will kick off the first Round the Lake Race.

One time around, touch all six marks and return to the place you began. It's a double helix or something of that sort. Whatever form it takes, you will be doing it for the first time. There will be winners in different categories so that the catamarans don't take all the glory.

Afterwards HSA will celebrate lakeside with food and fellowship as winners are announced and thrown off the dock. (Ok, not that last part.)

OktoberFast Sunfish Racing Closes Season

As has become our tradition, HSA will close out the racing season on October 6th and 7th with the last Sunfish Series of the year - OktoberFast.

This year is once again a two day extravaganza but with a smaller entry fee - just \$10. (Register now!)

The racing will compete with the Sunfish Worlds being held in North Carolina (if they recover quickly enough) the same weekend. So we will be having OktoberFast: the Mini-Worlds.

JoAnn Callahan is heading up the food crew, so let her know if you can volunteer in the kitchen. There will be dinner Saturday in the Hueston Room, breakfast and lunch on Sunday with a presentation of trophies.



Par-tay!



CruiserFest '18 Results

1. Curt Donohue/Charlie DeArmon 1 1 2 San Juan 21
2. Mike Stratton/Kevin DeArmon 2 2 4 Catalina 250
3. Scott Johnston/Chris Johnston/ Haley Johnston
3 3 6 San Juan 21
4. Stephen Cook/Zella Cook 4 4 8 Montgomery 15
5. Bill Jackson/ Jane Jackson 6 5 11 MacGregor 25
6. Jim Dew/Joe Fulford 5 7 12 Hunter 20
7. Martin Griffiths/Dom Everaet 7 6 13 Catalina 22
8. Jerry Brewster/ Lauren DNF 8 19 MacGregor 19
9. Dave Judy/Jackie Judy 8 DNF 19 Catalina 22
- 10 Dennis Hensley/ Melissa DNF DNF 22

