

Spindrift

HSA's Racing Newsletter for
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The Race Course!

Race Chair Joe Fulford abandoned the usual format for Sunfish and went with a two lap triangle that stretched somewhere between Hamilton County and Piqua. Two and a half hours later, five races were in the books and we had a regatta, but it was a test of strength and endurance.

When all was said and done, you knew that you had been in an action packed afternoon and had come out the other side unharmed if somewhat exhausted. Thank you Joe, Leigh Ann, Doug and Carolyn for a job well done. We actually had a grand time!

Beebe Conquers Wind

All it took was one race to figure out who was going to be the boat to beat. Newest HSA member and veteran racer from South Carolina Steve Szymanski was the wild card. And he came out of the chute flying. After two long laps in winds that gusted to 20 mph, he approached the leeward mark with only one short windward leg to the finish to win his first Sunfish race on Acton Lake.

Laura Beebe had other ideas. After trailing him the entire race, she pulled up inside of him as they rounded the leeward mark after Steve left a little too much room and got on top of him, a position she refused to relinquish until they crossed the line close together. Beebe would go on to win that race and four of the five long races, Szymanski getting the other bullet, and win the title by a healthy seven points.

The wind was ridiculously great for a Sunfish contest. (cont. next page)



They Look Like Nice People

Don't kid yourself. They know how to mete out the pain. One sailor who survived the afternoon later said, "My GPS said that I sailed 46 miles Sunday. In circles."



Beebe Conquers Wind (continued from page one)

Reigning Sunfish Champ Continues Her Demolition of Competitors

Committeewoman Leigh Ann Fulford said that it was mostly between 8-12 with gusts near 20 knots. But upwind sailing was mostly hang your heinie over the side or you were going to get whipped.

Even the broad reaches to the leeward mark were hair-raising adventures, complete with a little submarining of the bow. "It feels like sailing last year at Devil's Lake," Beebe shouted during one planing run. Devil's Lake last season was memorable for its wind, chop, and chilly September air. "It was definitely a fun day, that is for sure," Beebe said later. "I enjoy actually having some wind as opposed to just floating and sweating."

Szymanski, sailing in a new Sunfish direct from Laser Performance's new factory in China, was always in or near the lead in every race, showing that he is no stranger to the race course or the wind conditions.

Brian Callahan, returning to racing after more than a year away for back surgery and rehab, picked up where he left off. "I'm pretty happy with how I sailed even though I didn't win any. Tactically I made some major mistakes but my starts, which is where my problem usually is, were really solid today." Callahan finished third overall.

"I enjoy actually having some wind as opposed to just floating and sweating." Laura Beebe

Also having a good day in wind that he really likes was 20 year old Kevin DeArmon. After hanging with the leaders through the first four races, he ran into some mainsheet trouble in race 5 and dropped to 10th in that race and 5th overall.

Mark Costandi, who finished sixth overall, started showing up in the top five after

the second race. The Hobie sailor is getting used to the fast tack of the Sunfish in heavy air. "I had no real excuse the first race. Just wrong choices in general," he said. "Second race (he finished 10th) I misjudged the windward mark and fell in irons right near it as all the boats went by. Not very pretty. If I had bait I could have caught a fish in the time I was stuck there."

Mike Stratton found himself at the windward mark first in two of the races, but touched the mark with the end of his spar in one and had to do a 360. The second time in the lead, it lasted until Beebe went over the top of him on the way to the leeward mark on a screaming reach.

After racing, the whole fleet met under the Big Tree for a picnic and trophy presentation where Brett Hart got the capsized award, Stephen Cook got the prettiest hull award, and Jerry Brewster got the trash talk award.



Sunfish Tips from the Top -

Back in March, the Sunfish class held its annual Midwinter Nationals at Davis Island in Florida. Four of the five top finishers in that light air regatta were interviewed about their racing not only at that event but in other Sunfish events as well.

Those interviewed include Connor Blouin who won the title. Blouin is as close as you can come to a professional sailor. He not only coaches the sailing team at College of Charleston, he is employed by Zim Sailing and US Sailing. He has won numerous championships both in college and in one design boats.

David Mendelblatt has been a champion sailor since his days in an Optimist and has competed at a high level since the 90's in the Sunfish class nationals, midwinters, and World Championships.

Jeff Linton is a five time North American champion in Sunfish and the 2007 Rolex Yachtsman of the Year.

Eugene Schmitt, a New Orleans sailor, won the 2016 and 2017 Sunfish Midwinters.

You can watch an 18 minute You Tube video of them talking about racing Sunfish with this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4J3RqDTpxIY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1mKrhWFYBcaHGJQsazxa7-yCYekqB9HzlrHwjMcs_k77nptJz_k6R3ogk

Founders' Day Results

1. Laura Beebe 1 1 2 1 1 6
2. Steve Szymanski 2 4 1 2 4 13
3. Brian Callahan 4 2 3 4 2 15
4. Mike Stratton 5 3 5 3 3 19
5. Kevin DeArmon 3 5 4 6 10 28
6. Mark Costandi 9 10 6 5 5 35
7. Pete Peters 6 9 8 8 7 38
8. Charlie DeArmon 8 6 7 9 8 38
9. Jerry Brewster 7 8 10 7 9 41
10. Amy Marks 10 7 9 10 6 42
11. Dom Everaet 11 12 12 11 12 58
12. Brett Hart 12 11 13 13 11 60
13. Stephen Cook 13 13 11 12 13 62



Starting line fills up fast. It was key to success on windy day. Well, any day, but if you were in the second row, it was a hard row to hoe.

Picture Gallery

Laura Beebe at right on her way to the finish line where she arrived first most of the time. Below left, Amy Marks and, right, Pete Peters. Below, that's not us. It is a start at the Sunfish Worlds.

