

Special Issue

# Action *Action*

## Learn to Sail Class Gets Wind and Some (Yikes! Electric!) Weather





## Instructors Get in (Knee) Deep

Scott Johnston decided, as some others did, that it was easier to walk his boat into the dock than sail it. Low water due to drought and other factors has made the dock area tough on rudders and boards. Here, Learn to Sail participants Leah and Teasha Seitz help by paddling and steering.

# Saturday's Learn to Sail Goes Smoothly; Sunday Gets Lit Up

The first day threatened to go calmly and did. Light to moderate air and plenty of sunshine. But members of HSA's Learn to Sail class got a close look at what happens when weather threatens when they returned on Sunday.

The safety lesson came after boats had only been on the water about an hour. Before the first practice race could be finished, dark clouds came out of the northwest, followed by a single clap of thunder. It was a 180 for all boats, most of which were still headed for the jibe mark when the thunder rolled.

The rains came and all got a literal baptism in being on the water when it is better to not be on the water. Soaked but safe, all arrived back to shore by beating into the coming weather. Later, it would thunder to the east, showing that storms were still in the area, but before everyone had gone, it was breezy, sunny and warm. Of course.

Seventeen participants made both days of the August class and most were able to get some time on the tiller or a sheet or two in their hand. Most would probably have rather done

without the scare, but HSA's safety record is intact and all were smiling at the post sailing refreshments and chat.

Despite the large class size (17 in class; 14 on the wait list), instructors turned out in good numbers despite the absence of several members out due to vacation or sabbatical. Four Hobies made it to the line as did five Y-Flyers. Also on the water were Bill Molleran in the Flying Scot, Jerry Brewster in his daysailer, and Martin Griffis in his Catalina 22.

Other instructors coming out for HSA were Roger Henthorn, Charlie DeArmon, Scott Johnston, Laura Beebe, and Neil Harrell in Y's. Hobie skippers included Dave Munday, Charlie Buchert, Mike Weir, and Ryan Servizzi.

Jerry Callahan, Rose Schultz, and Bobbie Bode served with valor on the committee. Mike Weir's Hobie finished first in the only race. Who was leading the Y's at the thunderclap? Laura Beebe and student Suzy Conover. It was Laura's first time skippering a Y. You go, Girl!

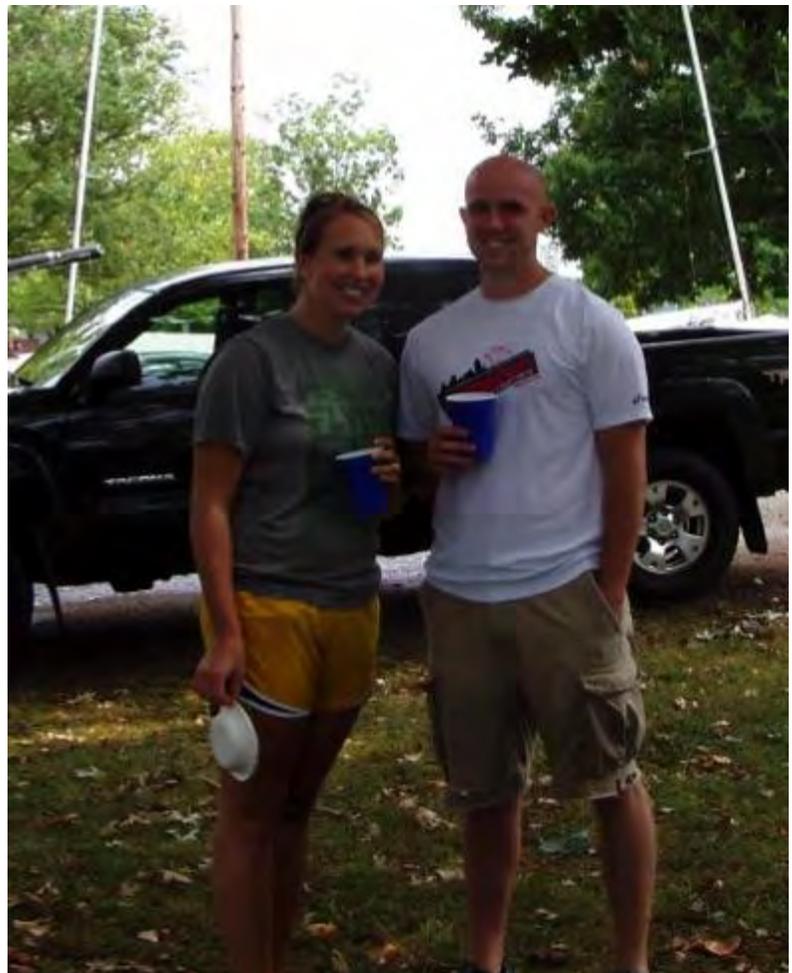


John Cannon (left) enjoys post class fellowship with son Chris (middle) and Tyler Korte (right) who came with his dad Ted.

Steve and Candace Marshall of Middletown chose Neil Harrell as their instructor, "because he's cool," Steve told us.

"There never was a great man yet who spent all his life inland."  
Herman Melville

Boats below head for cover into the oncoming weather. Soon there would be lots of wind and lots of water both above and below.





# Learn to Sail/Camps Behind You – What Next?

## New Sailors Search for Path to the Tiller; HSA Offers the Best Next Step

OK, you survived your first experience on a sailboat and it was most likely, not surprisingly, a pretty interesting one. Where do I go from here?

Since there aren't small boats to rent anywhere these days (Hueston Woods marina quit doing this years ago), about the only course you can take other than buying your own boat and just launching it, is to join HSA.

HSA has boats available to members who either have sailing experience or have been through one of our camps or schools. These Sunfish, often called the simplest boat to sail, are at the lake and ready to go in the water.

For less than it would take to take a family of four to the Reds game, you and your family can join HSA and have access to those boats to continue your sailing adventure.

Why sailing? It's green for one thing. The wind is free, and the motor uses fresh air, but, more than those obvious ecological advantages, sailing is a sport you can enjoy the rest of your life.

We have had members in their 70's and 80's still on the water, still racing, still enjoying the feel of a sailboat under power in a crisp breeze.

Once you are a member, all you have to do is spend a few Sundays with us at the lake so we can help you rig, launch, and sail independently, while feeling safe with our boats

and skippers on the water with you.

After you have demonstrated that you can take a Sunfish out on your own a few times, you can then come to the lake anytime and have access to those boats for your own recreation and learning.

Heading up the Club Sunfish for Members program is Jerry Callahan, long time HSA member and Y-Flyer/Sunfish skipper. Jerry will let you know what boats are available each weekend and arrange for someone to meet you at the lake to help on Sundays.

Most learn how to sail a Sunfish in a few hours. The boats are easy to rig, easy to handle, and very forgiving of mistakes.

Another path to take is to volunteer to crew for one of our skippers in a weekend race, very much like you might have done in Learn to Sail, if we had gotten more races in.

Yet another path is to pull the trigger and buy a boat. Used boats are readily available and inexpensive. Good used Sunfish generally go for anywhere from \$500 to \$1000. (There are two newer and beautiful Sunfish now for sale by member Joe Fulford for about \$4000 for both.)

Used Hobies go from about \$1000 to \$2000 and are often race ready. Used Y-Flyers are in that same range. Of course you could spend a lot more for newer boats or bigger ones, but this might be a good place to start.

Family membership - \$95 annually

## Spring Series in the Books; Fall Campaign Begins Sunday

“...this beginning motion, this first time when a sail truly filled and the boat took life and knifed across the lake under perfect control, this was so beautiful it stopped my breath...”

— [Gary Paulsen, \*Caught by the Sea: My Life on Boats\*](#)

### ***Juniors Ready to Rumble***

Fresh off an exhilarating Junior Camp experience, many of HSA’s juniors have gotten into the racing frame of mind.

2011 Junior Champ Brianna Brewster has been on the water recently, and current junior leader Kevin DeArmon was on the lake during Learn to Sail last weekend, along with sister Megan.

Also returning to the lake in recent weeks were Logan Brasher, Sean Mahoney, Sam Abowitz, Zane Koontz, Harrison Free, and Sarah and Katie Lockhart.

The battle is shaping up for 2012’s junior champ. Dark horse Brendan Draper is also capable of taking it all.

A separate junior start is planned for each fall series race, the Labor Day racing along with the two Sunfish Series. Juniors – trim your sails!

The first races of the Fall Series begin this weekend with racing in all three fleets. If you didn’t get qualified in the Spring, here’s your chance to get in the medal hunt.

There will be five weekends in the Fall and you only need half of those ten races to qualify. Also remaining in the Fall schedule are two Singlehanded Sunfish Weekends on August 26 and September 30, the latter also known as “OktoberFast!”.

Coming up on September 2-3 is the Labor Day Series, a separate race series consisting of two races on Sunday and two on Monday with a potluck on the first day in the Hueston Room.

Committee for this weekend are Charlie Buchert (chair), Charlie DeArmon, and Joe Fulford.



Boats were reaching, getting ready for the race, but as you can see, the sky was beginning to tell a story.

"For will anyone dare to tell me that business is more entertaining than fooling among boats? He must have never seen a boat, or never seen an office, who says so." Robert Louis Stevenson

Those "fooling around in boats" this past weekend were, in addition to our own hearty skippers: Steve and Candace Marshall, Alex Daufel, Charlotte Kinnison, Teasha and Leah Seitz, Ted and Tyler Korte, Tom Choate, Jeff Wilson, Chris and Molly Neglia, Laura and Katie Karnes, Suzy Conover, and Chris and John Cannon. All received their "I Survived HSA's 2012 Learn to Sail!" buttons.



Paddling out and in was the method, especially for rudders that don't kick up. Eh, Roger?



Dave Munday, Hobie skipper, talks to Laura and Katie Karnes. Laura is an alum of HSA's Ladies Camp.



The Neglia's Hunter 23 sits in dry moorage waiting for more water in Acton Lake.



Bill Molleran has Ted Korte on board, along with mom/daughter Laura and Katie Karnes. At right, Roger Henthorn prepares for race one with Chris and Molly Neglia, new owners of a Hunter 23.