

Acton Action

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Sailing Season Approaches; Thumbs Up Till Then?

Despite the weather and the date, I started racing competitively in late March. No wet suit. No gloves. Certainly no danger of frostbite. But there I was, flying around a course loaded with obstacles, vicious wind changes, and difficult competition. Where did all this take place? Don't worry, you haven't missed anything at Hueston Woods. I was at home on my iPad.

Before this you would not have found me toying with an X-box or a Wii or any other video game. When my kids coax me into taking a controller, I usually end up frustrated and defeated while they find a good deal to make fun of. I deserve it. I'm terrible. All thumbs. (You would think that would be good.)

But ever since I downloaded Little Sailor and SailBoat Pro, I am doing something I thought I was immune to: becoming addicted to a video game. Sailboat Pro is my current favorite since it only has one control to worry about – steering- and a variety of courses to race, some alone against the clock, some with as

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Brianna, Danielle, Samantha and other junior sailing camp members get in some “wah” time waiting for wind on the lake last July.

Launch Day Activities Saturday, April 14

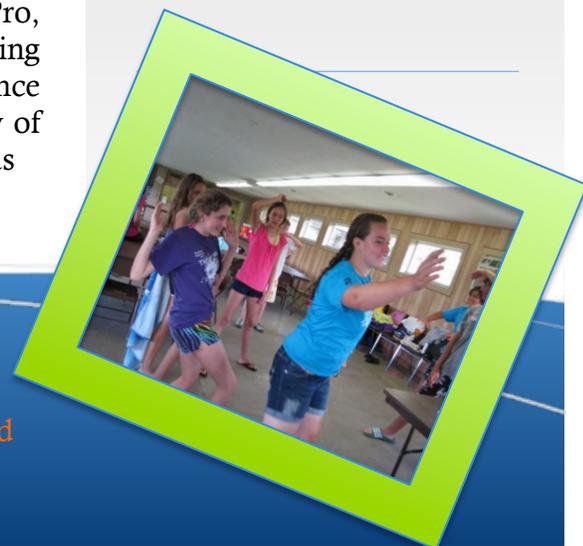
10:00 am HSA Boats

12:30 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Race Committee Clinic

1:00 pm Geocaching! For kids and grownups

2:00 pm Ice Cream!
Naturalist, new HSA shirts,
Acton Auction



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many as three other boats. My jibes are really bad, and I often find myself in irons. Yet...I keep playing.

“Little Sailor” is much more complicated. Not only do you steer by touching the rudder symbol at the bottom of the screen, you have to reef the sail with your left hand and trim the main with your right hand. (If you are keeping track, yes, you need three hands.) In this game, it is easy to capsize – something I have managed to do repeatedly. (Reminds me of real life.) The little sailor takes his dunking in stride, swims to the other side of the boat, rights it and climbs back aboard.

I haven’t gone beyond the first level in this one, so all I have seen is the beginner course. When I get tired of beating my own time on Sailboat Pro, I might come back to Little Sailor and try again. If I don’t mind getting virtually wet. A lot.

Sailboat Pro (\$4.99) and Little Sailor (\$.99) are both available from iTunes, but may also be available for platforms other than Apple. I bought another one called SailSimXL. (\$1.99) It is described as a “good teaching tool” but so far, I have no idea how to use it.

If you have come across interesting apps or something sailing related on line, let us know.

“The little sailor takes his dunking in stride, swims to the other side of the boat, rights it, and climbs back aboard.”



Hueston Woods Covered Wooden Bridge Nearing Completion

Another must do/see for Launch Day is the new wooden covered bridge being constructed near the Hedgerow Road entrance to the park on Camden College Corner Road. If you remember the old blue painted steel bridge there near the old Camp America, you know the location. I was driving past there in early March on my way through the park and saw the half finished structure. It is stunning, even half completed.

The Preble County Engineer’s office tore down the old steel truss bridge over Four Mile Creek last fall and is busy replacing it with a covered timber structure with walkways. At the Preble Engineer’s website (see address at end of article) you can read about the project and view a picture album that shows the old bridge, the new one in construction, and a drawing of what the new bridge will look like when finished. It will be called, appropriately, The Hueston Woods Bridge.

www.prebeng.org/hueston_woods_covered_bridge.htm

Sailing Downsized Offers Competition in Comfort

Think about it...no wet clothes, no body pain after sailing, no crawling from side to side or ducking the boom, no trailers to tow, no trailer lights to constantly repair, no mast to set up or sails to rig, 10-20 races a day, races 12 minutes long, tactics and rule applications in a microcosm, only spending 2-3 hours on a week night, a boat that weighs in at 10 lbs, a set of sails that cost under \$125 and a boat that costs \$300 (used) to \$700 (new). What's not to like?

The Radio Control Sailing Club of Cincinnati sails radio controlled *Soling One Meter* sailboats on the lake at the Voice of America Park off Cox Road in West Chester at 6:00 PM on Tuesday nights. Come out and we'll let you try out a boat as you exercise your thumbs.

You can sit in your lawn chair and enjoy the friendly competition or just sail to get the feel of a radio controlled sailboat. The principles are the same as "people" boat sailing. It just takes less time and your body feels better after sailing. *Jerry Callahan*



New HSA Building Moving From Plans to Reality This Season
The long awaited HSA storage building is finally becoming a reality. HSA's executive committee appointed Pete Peters as project leader at their February meeting and plans are moving forward.

According to Pete, HSA is awaiting plans and once they are priced out, he will be asking for volunteers to help build the 12 by 16 foot structure. HSA will pay for and build the unit but it will belong to the State. However, the building is ours alone to use.

HSA plans to store equipment for all of the club's boats and includes a sleeping loft and a small breakfast nook. (OK, I made up that last part.) The building will not have electric but plans do include a concrete floor.