

Acton Action

Racing Season Arrives; Opening Day This Sunday! Spring Allowed to Begin Officially



Kevin Dearmon models his new HSA shirt.

Special Edition April 2012

HSA April/May Racing/Social Dates

- April 29 First Spring – Hobies, Y-Flyers, Sunfish; Roger Henthorn, Bobbie Bode
- May 6 Second Spring – Hobies, Y-Flyers, Sunfish; Charlie Dearmon, Ryan Servizzi
- May 13 Third Spring – Hobies, Y-Flyers, Sunfish; George Fecher, Jim Mossman
- May 20 Sunfish Series #1
Committee: Roger Henthorn, Bobbie Bode, Laura Peters
- May 27-28 Memorial Day Series! See Page 2; Committee – Chuck Smith Laura Peters

New Racing Calendar Unveiled

HSA’s Executive Committee has finalized the racing/social calendar for 2012 with six dates in the Spring Series. Interspersed among those race dates are not only the sailing camps and Learn to Sail but a few special events as well.

The traditional Memorial Day Series will be held on May 27-28 with a potluck dinner in the Hueston Room and four races over the course of the two day holiday series. Not so traditional and new to the schedule this year is a first for HSA, the *InterFleet Championship Fun Day* on Sunday, June 24.

Organizers say the details are being worked out but it will involve all three fleets in an event that promises to be not only fun, but perhaps the first true test of sailing/racing ability across the club in several years.

Other changes in the schedule include *Beach Day* in late July, a special racing/social event for all fleets. More on this later as well!

Who is This? A Bird with a Backstory

Park Naturalist Shawn Conner shows off “Colonel”, a red tailed hawk, at the Ice Cream Social on April 14. “Colonel” was hit by a vehicle on I-71 and thought dead. The driver looked for him in the ditch and on the road, but no dead bird. See the article on page 2 to find out what happened. Strange but true.





Launch Comes Off Without a Hitch

Ship's Store Sells Shirts; Camden-College Corner Country Confection; Boats Bouyant; Launch Day Comes and Goes Happily (and wet!)

Much anticipated Launch Day on April 14 was a successful mixture of chili, ice cream, and renewed fellowship. The only problem was the weather. After nearly a month of sunny skies in March and April, it rained nearly all day.

With a little grit and some foul weather gear though, Harbormaster

Charlie Dearmon and his crew successfully serviced both boats and launched HSA's flagship in anticipation of the first day of racing this Sunday.

The weather did cancel out the geocaching experience (to be rescheduled) but those in attendance got a chance to do most of what else was scheduled. The new

"Hueston Woods Wooden Bridge" over Four Mile Creek near the park is nearing completion and those who did a drive by were treated to a true rural route beauty.

Shirts!

We ordered a few extra – two men's large, 2 women's medium remain. Ask Mike about them.

Red Tailed Hawk Gets Care Flighted (Trucked?)

Vice Commodore Rose Schultz introduced park naturalist Shawn Conner at the Ice Cream Social. Shawn updated everyone on what is new or going on around the park. He also brought a red tailed hawk and a small owl as he talked about his specialty at the Nature Center, rescued wildlife. Both

the owl and the hawk, like most of us, had interesting backstories.

The hawk was struck by a pickup truck on I-71. The driver stopped to see if he could find the bird, assuming it was dead due to the force of the collision. The bird, however, was nowhere to be found. When the driver got home that evening, he was

getting ready to put something in his pick up bed and there was "Colonel" in the back with a broken wing. The bird seemed to be saying, "if you are going to hit me, you are going to have to take care of me."

As for the owl, an Eastern Screech Owl, he was hit by a car in the park and lost the sight in one eye.



Past Commodore and current HSA race committee guru Pete Peters addressed those in attendance at the season's first clinic and relayed a few do's and don'ts for those on committee duty. Some of those key tips and reminders are listed here but be looking for another chance to get a fuller debriefing later in the spring. Here are the highlights:

- Chairperson should contact committee members early in the week to verify duty.
- Committee members should contact chair if not contacted.
- Arrival time for duty should be not later than 11:30 on race day.
- Review race instructions before getting on the water.
- Communicate with

racers via bullhorn and warn them of impending signals.

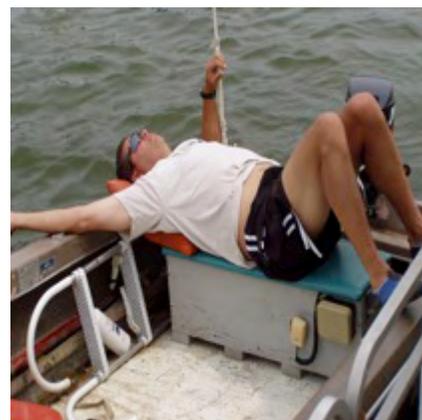
- Before launching rescue/crash boat, make sure plug is in transom and make sure it is out after retrieving the boat on the trailer.
- Keep speed of rescue boat to 10 mph unless emergency arises.
- Always secure anchor line to boat first, then lower the anchor off the bow, rather than throwing.
- The higher the wind speed the more scope (length of line) needed on anchor.
- Clean mud off anchors for both boats and marks before bringing them aboard.
- Place marks far enough off shore to ensure enough wind for competitive rounding.
- Most importantly, be good stewards of Acton Lake by being courteous to all

Race Committee Duty Clinic Highlights Preparation, Courtesy

boaters. Change course if it looks like others are unsure or anxious about your intentions.



Don Fecher's duty

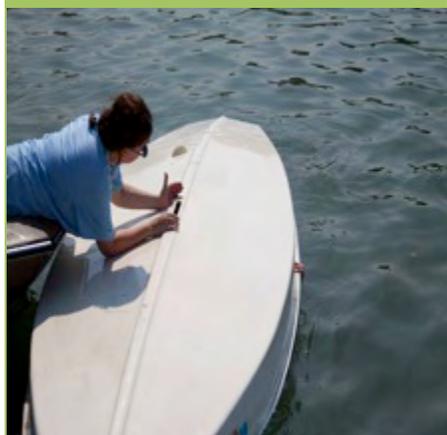


Don Fecher on duty



“If in doubt, let them out.”

“Get clear air, maintain clear air, stay in clear air.”



“A smooth clean bottom has more speed effect than new sails”

“A 10-degree shift advantages one boat by 25 percent of the separation between boats. Get separation at your peril or advantage.”

Words to Sail By

By Dave Ellis

Sailors for generations have used chants, songs and sayings to remember what they need to know to make the boat do what they want it to do. PHRF racing skippers and crew can use word reminders to keep the myriad things in mind that make our boat a little faster than that boat back there. Here are a few words to sail by:

SAILS

- If in doubt, let them out.
- Make the top battens parallel to the boom. If they are full-length battens, make the aft third parallel to the boom.
- Check the top full-length batten after every tack or jibe.
- Trim jib first, then the mainsail to match.
- Play the mainsheet more, the tiller less.

SAILING

- Get Clear Air. Maintain Clear Air. Stay in Clear Air.
- To "slow" the boat, don't slow down; make turns to go more distance (at the start or to position for inside turns).
- The rudder is a brake. Use it judiciously. Use the mainsail to help turn: Dump out when falling off; pull in when heading up from a reach or run.
- Telltales on the genoa when reaching: Let the sail out or pull it in toward the one that is misbehaving.
- After a jibe, push the tiller toward the boom to avoid doom.
- When tacking, push the tiller toward the boom to avoid doom.
- Sailing to weather, think speed, not height.

- On reaches, up on the lulls, off on the puffs.
- On the corners, "Wide and Tight," like a motorcycle racer's turn.

THE BOAT

- A smooth, clean boat bottom has more speed effect than new sails.
- Every extra pound on the boat has to be pushed around the course.

BRAIN GAME

- A 10-degree shift advantages one boat by 25 percent of the separation between boats. Get separation at your peril-or-advantage.
- When a port tacker ducks a starboard tack boat, unless that boat is laying the weather mark, the port tacker is now ahead. Stay to the right of your closest competition.
- Communicate to crew... before you do anything, not during.
- Smile! It's supposed to be fun!

■ **Classified:**
galvanized trailer with adjustable rollers for H16-H18; tires are in decent shape; Brake lights and turn signals are in working order, but the running lights need some attention. \$300
*Has a sail tube
http://s19.photobucket.com/albums/b161/Tri_X_Troll/Traile
r/ Ryan Servizzi