

Acton Action

"Ah! A heading. Set sail in a... uh... a general... that way! direction." -Captain Jack Sparrow



Wind Rules; Rules Out the Wind(ow)

Brewster, Henthorn Dominate on Day of No Wind

“When it is really light air, it is the only time you can go twice as fast as your opponent.” That is a rough approximation of a quote from Jerry Callahan. There have been few days on which that has been more true. In marked contrast to the previous week, this past Sunday was twenty degrees

warmer and very sunny. The big difference? The wind decided to stay home. Racing at Hueston Woods, however, was still on. There wasn't much to do on the lake with

Continued on

2

Next Sunday

Spring races 5 and 6 at 1:30.
On committee: George Fecher,
Ryan Servizzi

Memorial Day

Coming May 27-28

Potluck, Four races,
geocaching, junior start, pizza –
what more can you ask for!

Inter Fleet

Championship Fun
Day- Sunday, June 24

Details next issue – you won't
want to miss it!

“Cheat the nursing home; die in your boat!” (Anonymous)



Jerry Brewster lays it on

winds that began at nearly 5 mph and steadily declined after that. So many resorted to mishchief. OK, a few resorted to mischief. I am guilty.

Some junior sailor (no names mentioned) (**Kevin Dearmon**) tried to scull their way to the mark only to be punished by a gentle but effective shove backwards. OK, two shoves. Neither gentle. Sculling, paddling with hands, and ooching are not very effective means to gain speed, but on a day when you were sometimes going Sloooooow, all three were fast.

Despite the adverse racing conditions and the illegal shenanigans, **Jerry Brewster**, a true Boy Scout, pulled off a pair of Sunfish wins as did the Henthorn Group LLC. Racing was not a priority but having a good time

was, so there was some sculling, some shoving and touching of boats, and a bit of water play. And some paddling, though the wind did pick up again as we headed in. Lots of on the water conversation, a little swimming, and a beautiful day combined to make it a cheerful time, but real competition will have to wait another week at least.

Jim Paul returned to the lake and his Y after a brief hiatus. Charlie Dearmon was on committee and lent his Y-Flyer to me for the day. Charlie's niece Kayla debuted as a Y race crew at age 10. **Ryan Servizzi** was in the park for other reasons, and **George Fecher** made his first return to the water.

Joann Callahan was also on hand to distribute yearbooks, her annual contribution to early spring activity. **Jim Mossman** was on committee and went home hungry. Sorry Jim. **Charlie Dearmon** has a new Sunfish trailer and two shiny new Sunfish. The trailer, a marvel of engineering and style, holds all four Dearmon boats. It is quite a sight. We were the last to leave – **Pete Peters**, Charlie, and me. It was almost a non event as far as racing was concerned. But you have to love an afternoon like this anyway. The place was alive with the color of spring and friendship.



Kayla, age 10, mans the jib

Why Sail?

from P.G. Hamerton's *Sailing Analogies* in an 1883 edition of [The Contemporary Review](#)

Why do we sail? What is it about sailing that grabs our attention, fires our enthusiasm, and turns us into lifelong passionate devotees of the sport?

I came across some answers to these questions yesterday in an unlikely source. The Contemporary Review is anything but contemporary, but this article is timeless.

"1. As compared to other methods of transport the uncertainty of sailing is part of its charm.

2. The fact that skill and attention are required at almost every instant of the journey makes it more satisfying than other methods of travel.

3. Sailing is a game in which the mental power and physical activity of the sailor are pitted against the forces of nature. All other games are essentially rivalries between opponents in the exercise of some skill. But all of life is not combat; it is often the exercise of our ingenuity in dealing with natural forces over which we have no direct control. So sailing gratifies one of our deepest human instincts: it mimics the struggle of humanity to progress by taking advantage of the forces of the natural world.

4. The sailor uses his skills and intelligence to beat against the wind, an apparently impossible act to the uninformed layman. Just as in life, the stupid or lazy person will drift with the wind and be buffeted wherever life takes him; but the smart, diligent person finds a way to make progress in life "against the wind" whatever that may mean in his vocation. Is the feeling of rounding the windward mark in first place after a long hard beat so different from the pleasure we feel from scoring well in an exam, finishing a tough project, or winning that promotion at work? It's all about the mental payback that comes from success after putting in the necessary hard work to achieve it.

5. In light winds the sailor is constantly on the lookout for small opportunities to make progress that may be missed by the less capable or careless. Also in life, the person with the skill for seeing small opportunities and taking advantage of them will often go far, whether we are talking about personal finance, looking after your own health, tending a garden."