

ACTON ACTION

VOLUME 55 ISSUE 7

MAY 2012



Sails look full, don't they? It is mostly sag. The front half of the fleet heads for the "windward" mark. Some have not even crossed the start line yet.

SUNFISH SERIES OPENER A (QUALIFIED) SUCCESS DESPITE WIND, WHICH STAYED HOME - MOSTLY

It happens every time. Get a group of sailors near a body of water and a few yellow barrels and they will insist on racing. Even if the one essential element is missing – the wind.

That's what happened last Sunday for the first "All Sunfish/All the Time" race date, one of four Sundays this season designated just for Sunfish racing.

If the race committee (Roger Henthorn, Laura Beebe, Bobbie Bode) was keeping track of wind speed, we are sure that they recorded several zeros.

The first two of the four races gotten in were drift fests of the first order, complete with shortened courses and slow motion roundings. When someone mentioned the word "race", they were hooted down.

The wind did show itself – between races - but largely made itself absent until race 3 and 4 when it blew a small gale of 5-7 mph.

Roger Henthorn brought his usual intense focus to even these appalling conditions and won the day with a 1-2-2-2. **Neil Harrell**, also known for his skill at sailing in wind no more strong than fish breath, pushed Roger with a 2-1-5-

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Memorial Day Series This Weekend

The first holiday series is upon us. Four races over two days and someone gets a trophy. HSA’s holiday series (also July 4th and Labor Day Weekends) are self-contained series each with four races and a victor crowned. No waiting to the end of the season to find out if you are in the medals.

Each series is also a chance for a sit down potluck dinner in the Hueston Room, this one on Sunday at 5:00 pm. Members and guests attending should bring a covered dish and place settings for their group as the price of admission but you can sometimes get in empty handed if you have somehow come unprepared.

There will be pizza for the juniors (who seldom like green beans and scalloped potatoes) and geocaching after dinner. Or whiffle ball, whichever one works best.

Junior racing will be a part of the racing this weekend so make sure your juniors come out for the fun.



RARE MOMENT ON SUNDAY – WIND!

(continued from page 1)

Winning the last race in the freshest breeze was **Jerry Brewster**. Jerry also did well in the first race without wind. Not a bad performance by any standards.

Megan DeArmon finished the first two races before withdrawing but these were her first two races as a skipper – congratulations, Megan. We would have all been wise to withdraw, but a teaser wind between races ended any further move to sanity.

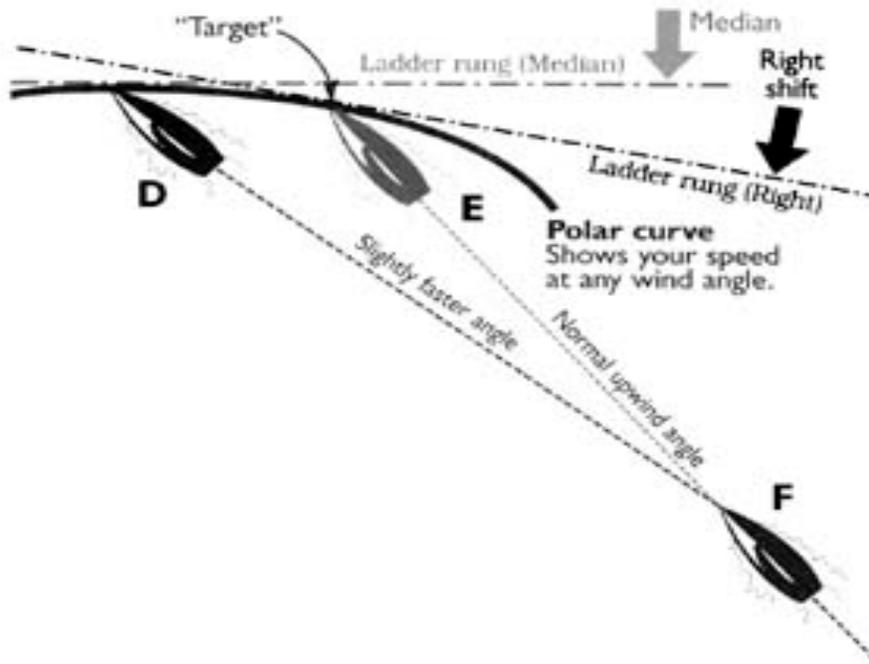
The day’s activity was followed by a cookout beneath HSA’s personal giant oak near the launch. Temperatures reached 90 degrees but with low humidity, it was not hot. It was the 4th race weekend with poor weather in a row. *May the odds now be ever in our favor.*

- Roger Henthorn 1-2-2-2
- Neil Harrell 2-1-5-3
- Jerry Brewster 3-4-6-1
- Mike Stratton 7-5-1-4
- Pete Peters 4-6-4-5
- Charlie DeArmon 5-3-7-6
- Kevin DeArmon 6-7-3-7
- Megan DeArmon 8-8 DNF



The “Brewster” takes the committee boat’s stern.

2. Why you should sail fast on a lift



HSA Briefs

Acton Weather -And now, our friend – the weather. Here’s the report for Sunday, May 27: Wind speed: 9 mph! Sunny! OK!! (for now) Monday? ‘Bout da same.

Acton Action Online

Webmaster Roger has created a link for the newsletter. Just go to the link and it will take you to our site where you can find the most recent issue and the back issues this year. Thanks, Roger.

http://www.huestonsailing.com/HSA_Newsletter.html

A lot of people ask me if I were shipwrecked, and could only have one book, what would it be? I always say 'How to Build a Boat'. Stephen Wright



Tips for Sailing the Windward Leg- Part 2

Dave Dellenbaugh

Every boat has a choice of how to sail upwind. You can sail high and slow, low and fast, or anything in between (along your “polar curve”). In every wind condition, however, there is usually one wind angle and speed that will produce the best VMG upwind. This is called your “target”.

In most conditions you should aim for your upwind target all the time. However, some times you want to sail faster or slower than target. Sailing on a lift in an oscillating breeze is one of these.

Picture a boat (F) that is ailing on a lift. If she sails her optimal upwind speed, she will end up at E. This speed gives her the best VMG in the direction of the median wind direction. It turns out the best way to do this is by sailing slightly faster so she ends up at D. This optimizes her VMG toward the median and also gets her to the next shift sooner.

Inter Fleet Championship Fun Day Plans Laid Out; Gentlemen, Start Your Noodles!

Here's the plan: We will have teams made up of one sailor from each fleet - a Hobie, a Y, and a Sunfish. The Hobies would start the race on a course that isn't too big since we need at least three races. Each starting boat would have a swim noodle on board.

When the Hobie got to the windward mark, that Hobie's Y-Flyer teammate would be waiting for them. After the Hobies rounded the windward mark they would luff or sail slowly until the Y teammate sails alongside the Hobie teammate, takes the noodle, and sails the next leg, the reach. Waiting at the jibe mark are the Sunfish. After each Y rounded the mark, the Sunfish teammate would sail along side the Y and take the noodle, sail downwind, and finish the race.

Yes, it's a relay race! Organizers would take the names of all participating and put them on teams. They would first make a list of the "A" sailors, the "B" sailors, and the "C" sailors based on experience/skill, even out the groups, and then pick one skipper from each group to form a team as long as each of the three skippers comes from a different fleet. At the skippers meeting, skippers would be told their team members. We would try to make each team theoretically even in ability so as to make it close competition.

Each race, a different fleet would start and the others would automatically rotate to a new mark (they would already be there after the first handoff of a noodle) to await the "passing of the baton" or noodle in this case, in the next race. The noodles would work well as a baton because they are long (avoiding getting too close) and they float.

As each fleet rounded the mark they would either move inside the course or just luff until the team member can come along side and grab the noodle.

As they cross the finish line, the committee would record each team's time. The boats finishing would stay at the finish line and await the next start, the others would stay at the marks where their first handoff occurred and everyone would have rotated each race. There would be at least three races on shortened courses and we would take the total times for each team in all three races and let that decide final standings. Fastest cumulative time wins.

This activity allows everyone who wants to participate to get in regardless of ability, allows everyone to compete equally, and assures that it will be both fair and fun.

We like the idea of everybody on a team having to sail a different leg of the course in each race. It will take skill on the part of each team member to win this event, but a little luck in noodles will certainly be needed too.