

# Acton Action

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## Fourth of July Racing



The Race Calendar has the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Series on a Thursday and a Sunday. What is up with that? When is the potluck? Will there be fun and games? What about fireworks? I know, that's a lot of questions. See page 2 for some answers. Oh, the picture? That's Sydney out last Sunday.

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## Spring Series Conclusion



The 6<sup>th</sup> and final Sunday of the Spring Series is nearly here. After the Noodle Racing this weekend, there is only one date, Sunday, June 30, to get you and your boat qualified for the Spring. Jim Mossman and Ryan Servizzi have committee. Oh, the picture? That's Julie Molleran kayaking.

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## Sunfish Series 2 Approaches



It's singlehanded time again and time to get your Sunfish on the water for the second all Sunfish, all the time racing coming up on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Charlie DeArmon., Dave Munday, Laura Beebe, and Bobbie Bode have committee. Oh, the picture? That's Bill Molleran's brother helping out on committee.

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Laura Beebe is shown here tuning up her Sunfish in the 5th Spring Series last weekend. But her real motive is preparation for the Noodle Relays coming up Sunday!

# Gentlemen (And Gentlewomen), Start Your Noodles!

Sunday marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interfleet Fun Day (Noodle Relays). Teams won't actually be assembled until race day, so you can still get in on the event. Noodles provided!

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1. Brendan jockeying for a good start
2. Someone else jockeying for a good start
  3. Pete's well trimmed sail
  4. Pete's well waxed bottom
  5. Laura's well trimmed sail
  6. Laura herself
  7. Water
8. More of that same water

## Fun, Fireworks, and Frolicking on the Lake on Fourth of July Weekend



Every now and then, our holiday racing series refuses to come on a Sunday/Monday split. This year, the racing days will be three days apart as the 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Thursday.

The Grill Out/Potluck will be on Sunday after the racing. Games, barbecue, and gamboling about with the geese are all on the agenda for what we hope will be a celebration of our club as well as Independence Day.

If you begin with racing on Thursday, you can stay for fireworks at dusk on Friday, and camp some more on Friday before the racing concludes on Sunday. Wow, what a great excuse to stay at the park. Oh, the picture? That's Dave Munday last Sunday.

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The Interfleet Fun Day is only a year old and has already been through three name changes. As of this date, however, we shall forever refer to it as the Noodle Relays.

Race organizers plan on having at least four teams composed of a Sunfish, a Y-Flyer, and a Hobie, but all who come to the event will be placed on a team regardless of your boat's class.

Several juniors are planning on participating, so neither age nor experience nor race ability matter. Here's how it works. The first race will have the Sunfish fleet start at the committee boat. They will carry the noodle to the first mark (barrel) and hand it off to their teammate in a Hobie (or other boat). That boat will sail the next leg of the triangle course to hand off the noodle to a Y-Flyer. That boat will sail to the last barrel, round it and sail to the finish line.

Once that short race is complete, a new one will begin with each team's boat now at a different place on the race course. The Y-Flyers will start race 2 and sail to the first mark where the Sunfish will be waiting from the first race. The handoffs continue around the course until the Hobies finish.

The Hobies then start race 3, the final one of the afternoon. The race course will be short so that we can get all three races in. Afterwards, there will be a picnic under the Big Tree where race results will be tabulated and a new team champion crowned. HSA will provide the main course and drinks but bring something to add to the menu.

Defending champions are Brendan Draper in Sunfish; Mike Wier in the Hobie; and Pete and Linda Peters in a Y-Flyer. They were Team Ramen Noodle last year but may have to adopt a new moniker since that one is overcooked by now.

Race organizers say they need one more Y-Flyer and one more Hobie and will take all the Sunfish they can get.

Sunday's forecast is for sunshine and winds in the 5-10 range. Get your noodle on.

## Last Week's Racing News

Sunfish: Laura Beebe 1 2 -3; Brendan Draper 4 1- 5; Kevin DeArmon 3 3 - 6; Pete Peters 2 4 - 6  
 Hobies: Don Fecher 1 1 - 2; Dave Munday 2 2 - 4; Y's: Roger Henthorn 1 1 -2, Charlie 2 2 - 4



## Sunfish Facts

Have you ever said that your Sunfish is just a big surfboard with a sail? Well, that's exactly what the developers of the first Sunfish had in mind. (OK, Windsurfers have taken that same concept to a new level, but the first "windsurfer" was a Sunfish.

The Sunfish has many national and international associations and championships with growing participation in Latin, Central and South America and the Caribbean in addition to the Europe and North America.

The North American and World Championships regularly attract over 90 Sunfish sailors from around all over the world ranging in age from teenagers to people in their 80's. The 2011 World Championships had 98 participants.

In addition there are numerous regional championships, Masters Championships (over 40), junior nationals, and Midwinter Nationals held around the U.S. each year.

The first year for the newer hull design (rolled flange rather than riveted aluminum rails) was 1988 with the introduction of the longer and faster dagger board coming in 1994. A new composite rudder is still in development.

The Sunfish is not only sailed and raced around the world (300,000 over 50 years), but enjoys the status of being a Pan Games racing class.

Want to get started in a Sunfish? A new boat direct from Vanguard costs a little over \$4000, but a good boat can be found everywhere for under a \$1000.

## Racing Tips: Going Fast Downwind

### Downwind sailing technique

When sailing downwind in a Sunfish you may experience a big lever effect as the boat tries to turn to windward. This is case if the boat is flat and the sail is out, placing the center of effort of the sail leeward of the centerline of the boat. Counteracting this with the rudder causes extreme pressure on the tiller as the rudder drags trough the water at a permanent angle. The resulting weather helm slows down the boat substantially.

To sail downwind effectively in a Sunfish you should heel the boat to windward. You should heel almost to the point of capsizing, with the seat of your pants often touching the water. There are two reasons for doing this. First, the center of effort of the sail is kept over the boat. That way, the sail is not a huge lever trying to make the boat round up to windward. The second reason is that heeling reduces the wetted surface, reducing hull drag and increasing your speed.

Going downwind and heeled to windward in a Sunfish may seem like an unstable position. And it gets so more as the wind and waves pick up. But is it actually more stable once you get used to it. An experienced sailor can even steer the Sunfish downwind without the rudder by using his body weight and balance. The more you can steer with your body, using the degree of boat heel to change direction, the straighter you can keep the rudder and avoiding it to drag at an angle though the water.

### Right of Passage? Or right of way!

In photo at right, Brendan is on starboard tack and no doubt "asking" for his rights. You got 'em buddy.





Hobie 16 for sale, \$500 with sails and trailer. Call Dave at 513-961-8840 or email at [mundayde@gmail.com](mailto:mundayde@gmail.com)

## Sunfish Series #2 Promises To Be Big

Oh, if you have a Sunfish, prepare to race it now. The biggest Sunfish day of the year is coming up on July 14. Typically, this weekend is the largest Sunfish turnout due to the start of junior sailing camp the next day.

Boats will be arriving for camp all day and many of those who bring them find that this is a great day to get out and race. Thirteen boats made it out last year with Bill Molleran taking the whole shebang for the senior racers, and junior Kevin DeArmon dominating the juniors.

No matter what your level of experience or skill, it will be a fun day. Food to follow!



Good start for Charlie DeArmon Sunday. By the way, Charlie's boat is for sale. (He is looking for a new one.)

Y-Flyer 1590 complete package. It's a Helms boat (fiberglass, pale blue hull, white deck, dark wood floor and trim) with a 3 stay mast. \$1800.00 or a reasonable offer. Trailer and everything you need for your first race.

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