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Acton Action

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Women's Group Forms for Some Late Season Sailing

When HSA's Pat Roser sent out an invitation for sailing partners, she was hoping to get at least one other female interested in some time on the water. She got several times that.

Six of them showed up last Saturday for a little instruction on Sunfish sailing and then went out on the lake on a gorgeous afternoon. Pictured from left above are: Pat, Debbie Jenkins, Barb Jacobs, Nicole Moore, yours truly, Jennifer Deaton, and Debbie Binder. Someone suggested we have a little fun with some cheesecake posing. The photographer, an innocent passerby, complied without asking too many questions.

OktoberFast!

Wait a minute! You weren't seriously thinking about putting your boat away for the season? Or hanging up your hiking boots?

HSA's final racing event of the season is coming this Sunday and we have it straight from the mouths of the, uh, Weather Channel app on my smart phone that wind and warm air will be there too. As in 10 mph and 70.

OktoberFast, a nearly decade long traditional season closing event, will this year feature Teutonic cuisine. Grilled metts, brats, and hot dogs, sauerkraut, streusel, and lots of beer! Ok, not lots of beer. But, bring a dish to share, and, more importantly, bring your Sunfish (or similar boat) and end your sailing season on a high.

Our goal is to get 15 boats on the line at 1:30. Last chance.

Save the Date!

**Saturday
October 12**

Haul out! Bring your chili appetite and your work clothes.

**Saturday
November 2**

That's the date of the banquet. Invitations coming soon.

**Sunday
October 6**

OktoberFast! And you don't even have to be German.





Fall Series Ends in Soaking

It looks like a group gathered in mourning but it is just HSA hopefuls showing up strong last Sunday. The weather showed up stronger as massive front moved through last Sunday.

Umbrellas? Really?

Despite the poor forecast, 18 showed up for the final day of the fall season, hoping that rain would slow or stop and the final day of the fall series could be held. It was not to be. A torrent of water doused the last flames of competitive fervor and the race committee called it a day.

Racing's loss was Bob Evans gain as 15 of 18 who gathered for what they hoped would be one last moment at the lake in Y's and catamarans ended up eating flapjacks and sipping soup at the Oxford campus of Bob Evans University.

Five catamarans were ready to take on the challenge and were rigged and ready when the final call came. Some of those people will have another chance on the water before winter strikes. At least three HSA catamarans will be at the Old Fox Regatta in Columbus in the middle of October.

Sunfish, of course, have OktoberFast this week and can at least get in that glorious event before stuffing sails and spars in bags for next Spring.

You're Invited

Not racing but want to come out to the lake anyway? Come out Sunday and sail your boat. You don't have to race. Or, volunteer on race committee. If you would like to join us for the sauerkraut and dogs afterwards, bring a dish and meet us at about 3:30 under the Big Tree.

Haul Out Still to Come

HSA will pull the committee boat from the water and prepare boats for winter storage on Saturday, October 12 at 10 am. Anyone who would like to help with that effort is welcome to come and join in. JoAnn Callahan will, as usual, serve the work party with her fabulous chili and pink lemonade.

Mystery Picture from last week? It is the bird watching hut near the dry moorage area. Roger had the quickest, correct response. His prize? A late start in race 1 at OktoberFast. Congrats, Roger!



It's Official – 10 hp Limits on Acton and Cowan Are History; New Plan in Effect for 2014

In last week's issue of the Acton Action, we announced that Acton Lake's horsepower limits were to be removed for 2014 and replaced by a "behavior management" policy that allowed unlimited horsepower but at idle speed. Here is an email I received from Deb Green of the ODNR watercraft division announcing the change officially.

Horsepower Limits to be Removed on Cowan Lake in Clinton County and Acton Lake Located in Preble and Butler Counties

After considering public input gathered over the past year through public forums, e-mails, and other methods, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources plans to adopt the a new lake management strategy that will allow watercraft powered by more than ten horsepower to access and utilize two lakes managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation, provided that they only operate at idle speed. These lakes include, Cowan Lake in Clinton County and Acton Lake located in Preble and Butler Counties. This new strategy will be implemented as a pilot program to be tested and evaluated for a two year-period beginning with the 2014 boating season. Before the change is adopted, there will be a formal public hearing and comment period. In addition, the proposal will be considered by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) which oversees the administrative rule process for state agency regulations.

There are a handful of lakes here in Ohio that were changed to unlimited hp at no-wake speed on a trial basis a few years ago. This management strategy has been very successful at the lakes where it was implemented; Knox lake, La Su An, Oxbow, Rupert, and Burr Oak. Since the initial trial period, Harrison Lake has also adopted the unlimited, no-wake regulation. Because of these successes and public interest in allowing the same type of operation on other lakes around the state, the Department has determined that this regulatory change is appropriate for both Cowan and Acton lakes.

The proposals are driven primarily by the desire to provide equal access with reasonable restrictions. Power boaters, regardless of the amount of horsepower, contribute to the maintenance and facility development of waterways all around the state through registration fees and excise taxes, but are prohibited from using many of the state's waterways. Additionally, there are secondary local economic benefits to allowing a more diverse boating population in an area; more business for local restaurants, bait stores, convenience stores, marine services, in addition to increased fuel sales.

Public comments and recommendations, along with public safety, recreational opportunities, regional economics, and environmental factors are some of the key components considered during the development of a lake management plan. The Department's primary focus is to preserve the unique character of the boating experience on each waterway, while providing the best possible service to the boating public and local communities.

For additional information contact Ohio State Parks at OhioStateParks@dnr.state.oh.us or by phone at (614) 265-6510.