

Acton Action

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Labor Day Weekend Forces Sailors Into Labor

The Labor Day Series gave birth to a wild and wonderful sailing weekend for most. (There were a few mishaps.) A naughty, capricious wind on Sunday that ranged from dead flat slow to hiking strap fast, moments apart, gave way to a steady breeze on Monday gusting to near 20 mph. The result? Capsizes, close calls, and even closer contests as all three fleets got everything they were hoping for and more. In the picture above, Brian Callahan and Amy Marks in pre-race preparation. Who won? Was it Brian's practical headgear or Amy's tactical blueberries? See inside for more.



Dinner Time

Samantha Marks hams it up with what might actually be a piece of ham as dinner attendees begin to jockey for position at the head of the line. Just your usual 35 guests for a little potluck. No one seemed to be over early but there was some barging.

Peters Has Henthorn's Number - then Forgets to Call as Other Racers Play Musical Boats

It was the Labor Day Weekend, a celebration of the working man and woman. Instead of making it a toasted cheese event in front of the television or a Craft Beer Day, sailors took to the water for some good old fashioned... labor.

Crews and skippers jumped from boat to boat and fleet to fleet as wind strength demanded. In the end, all the Sunfish racing was decided on Monday and the cast and crew of this movie was always in a state of change.

Laura Beebe jumped from Charlie DeArmon's Y on Sunday into Mike Wier's Hobie on Monday. Kevin DeArmon and Victor Abitabilo

were together in a Y on Sunday (promptly dumped it) but showed up on different boats on Monday.

Visiting Y-Flyers Dan and Diane Eskew sailed together on Sunday, but Jim Cooper jumped into Dan's boat on Monday as wind speed climbed the Beaufort Scale. Yours Truly changed out crews as well with Kofi and Cosette taking dutiful turns on the jib.

The Eskews, who sail their orange and white Y against Flying Scots on Lake Keowee in South Carolina, returned to the lake they once called home for a reunion sail. (cont. next page)



Brian Callahan points to a nearly empty platter after taking it from Pete Peters (at right) who had been licking it. The Labor Day Potluck, postponed from Sunday, was highlighted by a watermelon “cake” and an unusual array of exotic salads.



Y Exchange

There may have been some real talking going on here as it was announced Monday that Charlie DeArmon had purchased Jerry Callahan’s Y-Flyer.

(Labor Day Series continued from page one)

Despite all the changes in crew or because of them, the racing turned out to be close. In no fleet was it closer than the Y’s where heading into the final race on Monday, Pete Peters only needed to finish one spot ahead of Roger Henthorn to win his second holiday series of the summer.

“I was right there. I had him covered. It’s all plane geometry,” said Peters afterwards, explaining with cups on a table how he let The Roger sneak across the finish line inches ahead of him to eek out a quarter point win in the Labor Day Series for Y’s.

Up until that last race, Peters, Henthorn, and Charlie DeArmon had each won a race to put the whole shebang up for grabs. Peters ran The Roger to the pin end at the finish and tacked but the timing allowed the SummerFair team to nose in at the very last second.

“I was right there. I had him covered. It’s all plane geometry.”

Pete Peters

DeArmon, sailing Jerry Callahan’s Y, delivered a stunning victory in race one Monday with daughter Megan crewing. Charlie, who will buy Jerry’s boat this week, it is rumored, found out that the price of the boat went up or down according to his finish in each race.

Yours Truly had a hard day on Sunday and then it got worse. After one lap of race one on Monday, daughter Cosette and dad decided to try out the wetness of the water. It turned out to be very wet. That untimely capsizes was quickly forgotten and as we tuned up for race 2, it happened again. Day over. (For Hobie and Sunfish results see pages 4 and 5)

Sunfish Five Come Alive

by Brian Callahan

In this candid description of the Monday racing, Brian Callahan gives us an insider's view of the figure eight course in Monday's wind, which we are told gusted to 19 mph.

There were five of us ... me, Amy, Samantha, Kevin, and Brendan. Knowing the forecast and the way the sky and water were looking, we all were fairly certain that the day was going to be rough; the kind of day where you have to keep one eye on where you are going and one eye upwind so that you aren't surprised by the many, many hard puffs.

The first race Kevin and Brendan nailed their starts but when the heavy puffs came they both struggled; especially Brendan, who says he weighs 115 lbs. I weigh 175 lbs. That and maybe thirty more years of experience allowed me to power through to the lead, which I never relinquished.

There might have been more capsizes but I know Brendan went over at the second windward mark. It was swirly up there as the wind seemed like it couldn't decide whether to come up the lake or from the beach. Brendan got caught hiking out a little too far; got caught with a big wind shift and over he went ... to windward. He righted his boat readily enough but as I looked back he's jumping off his boat swimming away. He must have REALLY liked that shoe.

“Going from mark 2 across the lake to mark 3 was some of the most fun I've ever had on a Sunfish.”

I was first; Kevin was second. Not sure about third and fourth; Brendan was fifth. The second race I tried to start at the committee boat. I was in good position, too, until Kevin swooped to leeward of me and slammed that door shut. I

did a turn and started a few seconds late.

The wind was heavy enough, though, that I was basically right behind him a few yards after the start. I was in his bad air so I decided to tack away. For some reason Kevin tacks to cover me. You'd think he would have learned from our last tacking duel to not do that but back and forth we go ... by the fourth quick tack I'm ahead of him, lol.

Samantha, with some smart tacking, got to the first mark in first place followed by me, then Kevin. Going from mark 2 across the lake to mark 3 was some of the most fun I've ever had on a Sunfish.

It would start as a broad reach with the wind coming from the beach then morph into a beam reach when one got out into the middle of the lake when the wind came from the dam. It was crazy fast. I passed Samantha to take over the lead and Kevin and Brendan caught up to Samantha.

I think Samantha then caught me going to the second windward mark (#4). Going, for the most part, downwind towards mark #1 I passed Samantha but Kevin, Brendan and Amy all caught up tremendously on the strong winds coming up the lake. I rounded mark #1 in the lead but tacked into too many headers and was on the wrong side of too many shifts.

I went left out into the lake thinking the wind would continue coming up the lake which would lift me right to the finish line. Everyone else went right and the wind came off the beach.

Of course, wind from the beach was death for anyone, me, who went to the left when they tacked back over onto port. All four boats took that starboard lift and passed me ... I finished fifth. 115 lb Brendan took first, Kevin second.

Overall, it was a great day. Hard work, but fun. I think there was only the Brendan capsize during a race. Before and after the races only I managed to stay upright. Amy capsized once, Samantha twice and Kevin “two-and-a-half times”.

Labor Day Series – And the Winner Is...

Hobie Results

Mike Weir	1 1 2 2	5.5
Charlie Buchert	2 2 3 3	10
Dave Munday	3 3 4 4	14
Joe and Kelly Buchert	DNS DNS 1 1	9.5
(unofficial)		

Sunfish Results

Kevin DeArmon	2 2 4
Brendan Draper	5 1 5.75
Brian Callahan	1 5 5.75
Amy Marks	3 3 6
Samantha Marks	4 4 8
Jack Cooper	DNS DNS 12

Hobies Fly, Find Mud; Committee Keeps Secrets

By Mike Wier

Joe and Kelly Buchert didn't sail at all on Sunday, but were flying all day Monday. Except when they capsized. They righted the boat but were still so far ahead I have no idea what else they did.

The first race on Sunday was Charlie Buchert, Dave Munday and myself. Dave went right while Charlie and I went left, and he beat us to the first two marks. We all got stuck in holes, but had a good time in all.

Monday was a bit windier. Dave had his son Victor crewing, and I was lucky enough to have Laura Beebe sail with me.

Charlie "the Hulk" Buchert single handed his boat. We went from flying hulls to screaming reaches to sitting in holes all afternoon long. Dave gave young Victor a lesson in righting the boat, which he passed with flying colors. Charlie, Laura and I kept our masts out of the mud.

JoAnn told me that the top gust was something like 19.6 mph at which point Jerry told her to tell no one.

Y-Flyer Results

Roger Henthorn/Bobbie Bode

2 1 3 1 6.5

Pete Peters/Rose Schultz

1 2 2 2 6.75

Charlie DeArmon/Laura Beebe/Megan DeArmon

3 4 1 3 10.75

Mike Stratton/Kofi/Cosette

4 3 DNF DNS 19

Dan Eskew/Diane Eskew/Jim Cooper

5 5 4 DNS 20

Kevin DeArmon/Victor Abitabilo

DNF DNS DNS DNS 24

Learn to Race Event This Saturday

Just in time for this Saturday's clinic on racing, the heat will go away in favor of a mid-seventies warm instead of a July-ish 90 and the wind will settle down for a little practice racing.

Seven participants are expected for this Saturday's second Learn to Race clinic. Organizers plan on a Big Tree session in the shade that covers starts, the windward leg, mark rounding tactics, and lay lines to the finish.

After that, clinic attendees will rig boats and head to the water for a series of short races that will emphasize what participants have picked up on shore.

If you would like to learn a bit more about racing, let us know. There will time allotted for questions about your specific concerns no matter what your skill level.

You will need a boat and it **doesn't** have to be a Sunfish. HSA still has two boats available for members who want to attend. Email Jerry Callahan at aftermath2@juno.com to reserve a boat. Email Mike if you have not yet indicated your interest. midview@wildblue.net

The class is free and open to members and non-members who want to know more about how to get around the race triangle.



Discover the joy of racing this Saturday with others new to the sport. HSA's Learn to Race clinic is free and open to members and non-members.