

ACTON ACTION

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This picture was supposedly taken Sunday. Does anyone remember this moment? Has this been photoshopped? How can this be? We're betting that Joe Buchert doesn't even believe this photo is real.

FALL SERIES ENDS WITH A WHIMPER AS WIND DECIDES NOT TO MAKE APPEARANCE

Racers on Sunday made the discovery that sailboats need wind. But it took them until after the second race to make that discovery. Several were overheard in the rigging area saying things like, "I think we needed wind while we were out there."

OK, Yours Truly was one of them. Everyone no doubt thought the forecast of 1 mph couldn't possibly be right. And it wasn't. For brief moments, it was 2 mph. On the section of the score sheet where wind speed is recorded it says, "No wind speed was recorded." It wasn't an oversight. There was no wind to record.

Despite this one obstacle, HSA's race committee set up a course and all of us went around it. And then did again.

As a result, Rose Schultz, who apparently is not only a light air phenomenon, but a no air phenom, walked away with two bullets as the rest of the Sunfish fleet looked for a way to move like Rose. Without wind.

Even a strong showing of six Y-Flyers couldn't coax the wind out of its reticence. Yours Truly staved off a bid by The Roger to overtake him at the leeward mark after two grueling laps and took race one. The Roger returned the

favor in spades in race two by "flying" to a two leg lead he never relinquished.

The only catamaran to make it to the water was Joe Buchert who had to have been astonished that a boat designed to be so fast could go that slow. Joe apparently wanted to see if a boat that can go 100 mph could go one hundred times slower. Success.

The racing was the third straight weekend of wind inhospitable to racing. Two weeks ago it was a preview drifter, followed by a howling gale last week, followed by last Sunday's still life masterpiece. Full results page 2

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At right, Charlie goes over game plan with crew Marie Toon.



Race Results

Sunfish

1. Rose Schultz 1 1 1.5
2. Laura Beebe 3 2 5
3. Jerry Brewster
2 3 5
4. Dave Munday
4 4 8
5. Brett Hart 5 DNF 10

Y-Flyers

1. Roger Henthorn/Bobbie Bode
2 1 2.75
2. Mike Stratton/Mike Stratton
1 2 2.75
3. Charlie DeArmon/Marie Toon
3 3 6
4. Jim Mossman/Karen Thompson
4 4 8
5. Scott Johnston/Jason Thompson
5 DNF 11
6. Brendan Draper/Kevin DeArmon
6 DNF 12



"They are rounding the far turn and headed into the stretch. It is Miss Hepzibah on the rail with Summerfair coming up on the outside...."

OKTOBERFAST PROMISES TO BE FAST IN OCTOBER

If you are hungry for a good wind to roil the surface of our beloved lake, this may be your last chance this season. With the laws of probability and statistics solidly in our favor, the forecast is for 10-15 mph winds for the event that will close the 2014 season.

After three weeks of wind that either drove you to distraction or wind that threatened to drive the bow of your boat under the white capped, foaming rage of a lake surface, we might actually be ending the season in a much deserved breeze.

OktoberFast, a Sunfish only event, should bring out both the competitors who will be looking to upend The Roger's bid for 2014 Sunfish Series Champion, and those who could win the day (and the trophies) and even play spoiler for the series.

Henthorn, who still leads the season long Sunfish wars (four events) despite a woeful experience

he had at AuGusto just about a month ago, will be hoping for a little redemption as well as the title.

Even those competitors who have only raced in one Sunfish event could qualify for the series due to the relatively small number of races thus far.

Food to match the mild (mid 60's) temperatures will follow the racing along with a presentation of trophies. (Bring a snack or dish or dessert to share if you can.)

Meanwhile, don't forget to check out the Sunfish tuning guides of the past few issues to make sure your sail chariot has the optimal rig settings for going really, really fast.

For the past two seasons, the Sunfish Series has been decided in OktoberFast. Wear your fastest clothing as well as your fastest game face. No, really. Don't overlook anything.

New Sailors Finding Way onto Race Course

This past weekend saw some of those new to sailing getting a taste of the competition. **Brett Hart**, who along with wife Melissa and daughter Maggie participated in a Learn to Sail day this summer, took to the water as part of his Sunfish certification and decided to test his windward skills. Unfortunately, Mother Nature took the “wind” out of windward.

Karen and Jason Thompson have been crewing for **Jim Mossman** and **Scott Johnston** respectively this Fall Series and even postponed their

Sunfish certification completion to be Y-Flyers.

Another new crew is **Marie Toon** who has sailed with a few different skippers this fall in lieu of getting a LTS class and has gotten an inside look at being part of the racing scene at Acton Lake.

Earlier in the summer, **Kathy Wilson, Jenny Deaton, Russ Vela, Emily Wilson, Dave Weber, and Mark Bengel** also jumped into a race or two. Sunday, **John Cannon** helped on committee boat. John is working on his Sunifsh certification.



Knot Tying is Sometimes “Not Tying”

You might recall that one Sunfish racer (whose name will remain anonymous. Kevin DeArmon) recently suffered the experience of having his mainsheet come untied from the bridle. The line is difficult to reattach even in light air but this happened in the 20+ winds of two weeks ago. Jerry Brewster sent us this photo complete with an arrow to denote the offending knot before it came undone. The anonymous sailor recorded his own error on a GoPro attached to his boom. Jerry gleefully sent it our way.

As is often said, you only need five knots to safely secure your rigging on most small (and large) boats: the bowline, the square knot, the figure eight, the half hitch, and the clove hitch. All are demonstrated for easy practice at this delightful little website: <http://www.animatedknots.com/>



In Brief

Traveling Trophies

Vice Commodore Laura Beebe would like to remind everyone who has a traveling trophy that it is time to return yours for awards season. Also, if you have nominations for HSA’s special trophies, submit a nomination letter to Laura as soon as you can.

Haul Out

On Saturday, October 11 HSA will take the committee boat out of the water and secure our two motor powered craft for the off season. If you would like to help with this important maintenance chore, the work detail begins at 10 a.m. followed by lunch.

HSA Banquet

On Saturday, November 1 we will bring the year to a more formal close at the annual awards dinner at the Barn-n-Bunk in Trenton, Ohio. Word on the street is that the club usually has a pretty good time at this event. Have you gotten your invite yet? Should be coming soon, so don’t forget to RSVP.

Ask Mr. Mainsheet

Reader: Mr. Mainsheet, how do you make a false tack work?

Mr. Mainsheet; The false or fake tack is a move that can be used by the leading or trailing boat to get an opponent out of phase with the wind in a tacking duel. A false tack is perhaps best when you are ahead. To ensure that the other boat tacks while you're in the midst of your tack, come in and plant a tack right where you interfere with the other guy's wind. Tack slowly so that he finishes his tack before you do. Once he's falling off onto the new tack, fall off to your original tack, and you'll be right on top of your opponent. Now you're perfectly in phase. You are on the lifted tack with your opponent pinned below you.

Reader: But I'm usually behind the leader. Now what?

Mr. Mainsheet: The trailing boat can use the false tack to get clear air. During your tacking duel, try to standardize all your moves so that you can persuade the other boat to react reflexively. Pavlovianly. Advertise your pre-tacking moves. The time for your false tack is when the other boat starts tacking with you. When you are on the lifted tack and the other boat is on your wind, start to tack, but hold your boat into the wind or a little past head to wind in the middle of your tack. If you trained him well, he'll tack onto the knocked tack and you can fall back onto the lifted tack.



The strange looking photo below is a shot of the "action" from Jerry Brewster boom end GoPro camera. You can see the reflections of everyone's boat in the shot. This is Acton Lake when it is a looking glass. We don't know what Jerry is saying to Kevin who is crewing with cousin Brendan in the Y, but we are betting it has the word "bowline" in it.

