



Blue skies, sunshine, fresh air, and fellowship. What more could you ask for? What? You want wind? Picky. Y-Flyers get out front as Sunfish wait their turn to go fast.

Acton Action

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AuGusto! Sunfish Racing Saturday

Trophies for First & Top Junior Picnic Planned - Bring a Dish to Share!

With the racing season still hotly competitive after burning through more than half the schedule, Sunfish racing is coming center stage Saturday with the arrival of the AuGusto! Sunfish Regatta. And the hottest competitor, Laura Beebe, is looking to consolidate her hold on the season Sunfish Series with another strong showing. If Beebe can pull off a performance that matches her earlier success, OktoberFast, the last in the series, may be superfluous. Can she be stopped? There are several (silly) hopefuls betting she can.



Race committee comfort in light air. Jim Mossman, left, and Don Fecher looked relaxed and happy in the shade.

Learn to Race

This Sunday is the season's second Learn to Race clinic. Are you registered? Just let us know at midview@wildblue.net if you are coming. The clinic begins at noon with a chalk talk followed by an on the water practice race or three.

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Summer of Light Air Brings Out the Best

Not. At least not in every respect. The forecast is now becoming predictable, ironically. "Winds light and variable." Yet, the hardest light air-never-seen-a-bad-day-on-the-water folks came out despite that all too familiar wind outlook.

The club has not enjoyed a good day for wind on the water since the Learn to Sail event at the start of the month and few race days before that. The law of probability is on our side and we should begin to see our luck change. Unless it doesn't.

In the meantime, racing sailors have had to put on their best light air faces (kinda sour, a little bit snake bitten, and oddly determined) and read up on how to go "fast" when there ain't no wind.

Traffic on the lake last Sunday was heavy: kayaks and fishing boats, whom we were happy to wave at and talk to, but the fact that we were "racing" was never heard in any of it. Why make them wonder WTF? (Why The Face) (Yes, the light air face.)



Low Side Lassitude for Wind and Water

Champions practice. That's Laura Beebe out in front Sunday skating along on the glassy surface. She took the first race to make her record in her new Sunfish 9-1. But as all who race in light air know, you can be really, really good and still lose.

Jerry Brewster became only the second club sailor to take one from her when he caught a late second race breeze as both approached the finish line and beat the Beebe Sunday. Due to his second place in race one, he won the day. The smart money is still on the blue and gold sail for Saturday's Sunfish face off.



Acton Lake is 660 acres of water, but, here, four Y-Flyers fight for the same small hectare of aquatic real estate. On a day when you could be on any point of sail at any moment, all eyes were glued to the telltails. And the transom of the boat just there in front of you. "Coming up!"



Got Religion? Perhaps It Pays to Pray

You have all heard the expression. "There are no atheists in a foxhole." Well, there aren't any in light air racing at Acton Lake either. After the sound of laughter at the beach and the noise of the "idling" motorboats, the prayers were the next most audible sounds last Sunday.

The Wind, alternating between minus five and plus five, gaveth and tooketh away and did so with regularity. In the end, it was Lady Luck more than Mr. Skill or maybe just the right combination of the two that produced a "winner".

Yours Truly parlayed two bad starts into two mediocre finishes to "win" the day in Y's. And then just by the skin of the proverbial teeth. There were no fouls or capsizes. Just clean, fresh suffering as leads turned into liabilities downwind. Or was that a beat?

The only runaway was Pete Peters and Rose Schultz in race two as they caught a shaft of air and took a modest lead. But on a day like Sunday, a modest lead can sometimes be insurmountable. The others hoped they would sail into a hole, but they instead sailed into a first place finish.

The race committee kept their shorten course flag and horn close by and used them.

Y-Flyers Fly; Ha!

Race one was a close one. Shortened to one lap, the entire fleet of Y's finished within a whisker pole of one another. Race two was more of a separation thing, but everyone was within a whisper of one another most of the time. Not much was said though. Shhhhh. You'll wake the wind.

Anticipating the light air, both Yours Truly and Charlie D. sailed solo. Others anticipating light air stayed home.

Mike Stratton and

1. Harvey Rabbit 1 2 3

Pete Peters and Rose

2. Schultz 3 1 4

Roger Henthorn and

3. Bobbie Bode 2 3 5

4. Charlie DeArmon 4 4
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Mike Wier sails near the shore Sunday hoping to catch a thermal. And looked good doing it.

"Leeward Boat! Coming Up!" (Schedule Wise)

We are on the downward side of the season but there are still lots of dates left on the racing and education calendar. Sunfish certification people tell us that there are lots of weekdays open for do both certification and learn to sail. If you have yet to earn your solo certification, there is still time.

Right after the Fall Series #3 on August 30 is the Labor Day Series and Potluck Dinner. After that it is more Fall Series and the final Sunfish event OktoberFast before the summer comes to an official end.

Y Flyers were all over one another and frequently faced with how to maneuver without much steerage. In the end, clean living seemed to be the determining factor.

LTS and Sunfish certification guy John Cannon provided the photos for this issue. John, a stone sculpture wizard in Cincy, was told to capture the action. He is no doubt still waiting.

