

# Acton Action

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MAY 2016

## Sailing School Success!

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Many thanks to the instructors and volunteers who came out for Introduction to Sailing this past weekend. Get the full story on page 2

## Memorial Day Potluck

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Time to bring on the food. And the racing. The first holiday series is here in the form of Memorial Day Weekend. Two races Sunday are followed by the potluck dinner. Then there are two more on Monday to finish it off and determine the trophies.



On Sunday, this is what it looked like to be on a Nacra F-16. Which is different from actually being on a Nacra F-16. That's Joe Buchert and student Kiana Berry all day long.

(picture courtesy of Tracey Berry)

## The Sailors and the Convicts

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JoAnn Callahan tells the stories of those early days when your average convicted felon was a close friend of the sailors at Hueston Woods.

Hueston Woods - where all the sailors are strong, all the fishermen are handsome, and your next adventure is this weekend.

## Here We Go!!

It has been a long time since warm temperatures and really strong winds have come to Acton Lake. So Mother Nature decided to really bring it. We don't have enough exclamation points in our word processor for it.

It was 10-15 on shore on the second day of the Introduction to Sailing class, but as soon as we got on the water at 1:00 it quickly became apparent that it was much more

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## Here We Go! (continued from page 1)



Left to right: 1 - Jordan Gunter; 2 - Boyd Crapnell and Heather Martin; 3- Roger and Bobbie; 4 - Chris Dowden and Lynn Butler; 5 - Ali Mirolo and Steve High; 6 - Noah Blach; 7 - Terri Smock; 8 - Charlie DeArmon and Todd Rovito; And we think Pete Peters is back there somewhere along with Linda Rovito. Not pictured are Kermit Tackett who had to leave early, and Kiana Berry who was still down at the beach unrigging with Joe Buchert.

## HSA Volunteers Make ITS a Success for 11th Annual Sailing School



Saturday's chilly weather and strong winds were a challenge, but Sunday's warm knockdown winds were much more so. Here's who we need to thank for their skilled help; Committee: Joe Fulford, Bobbie Bode, Charlie Buchert, and John Shipley. Skippers: Joe Buchert, Don Fecher, Pete Peters, Roger Henthorn, Jerry Brewster, Bill Molleran, Martin Griffis, and Charlie DeArmon.

Two boats lost jibs but were able to eventually get back in the action. There was only one ITS capsized, a catamaran that was going so very fast in the 20+ mph gusts. Student driver Kiana Berry was at the helm at the time. You can see both her and Joe in the midst of it all on page one. Another Y out Sunday did capsize as did some Sunfish but all sailors and boats were good.

than that. Winds out of the northwest had a long fetch and unhindered access to the lake. The result was waves, whitecaps, and wild rides off wind as well as upwind.

After tearing his jib on Saturday in strong but manageable wind, Charlie DeArmon returned with a new jib on Sunday. His crew, Intro to Sailing's Steve High, jumped into a boat with Yours Truly on the second day - only to suffer another jib incident when Y-2592 broke its jib halyard in the 20+ mph breezes. After a stop at the dock at the lodge and a quick tilt of the mast to retrieve the halyard, they were back on the water.

By that time many of the instructor's boats were headed back in. Some of the four Sunfish out that day for a sail ended up dumped but it also happened to a Y-Flyer (which was not part of the class) and to Joe Buchert and his student Kiana Berry who were flying the Nacra F-16 with both skipper and crew on trapeze. It was Kiana on the tiller though, and she, along with Steve High, was the only new sailors to get tiller time in the wild, wild westerly wind.

Boats fought to stay upright and many quickly beat their way back into the dock area. Students were awarded their "I Survived HSA's Intro to Sailing Class 2016" medallions and, after inviting them back to next weekend's Memorial Day Weekend Series racing and potluck dinner, and after partaking of caterer Jerry Brewster's foodie spread, the class took their team photo.

Participants were mostly 20 somethings, but as usual, there was a wide spread of age groups present including one person who was 73. He left before our closing meeting for his sky diving lessons where it was no doubt less tense.

The Class of 2016 will be known for their pluck as they braved chilly temps in both water and air on Saturday and the howling but sun drenched Sunday. Congratulations to the graduating class of May 2016.



Charlie DeArmon with Lynn Butler on Sunday

## HSA Calendar

### May 29-30 Memorial Day Series

1:30 Race Time  
5:30 Potluck on 29th

### June 4 Learn to Race Clinic

Sign up if you are interested in learning to race or just improve your skills. The clinic will cover starts, rounding marks, rules, and getting in Roger's way.

### June 5 - Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta

The first set of races in the season long four weekends devoted to just Sunfish. No need to register or phone ahead. Just show up with your Sunfish and get ready to rumble. There will be trophies awarded and a picnic afterwards. Four to six races on a short course.

Lots of action, lots of fun. Don't miss the first weekend of this racing series. Not only are there awards for each of the four weekends, the scores are kept all season long for the crowning of the Sunfish champion.

In July, it's Camptown Races, followed by Augusto! in August and OktoberFast in October.

### June 12 - Fifth Spring Series

**Weekend** - all fleets back in action as the series heats up.

### June 19 - Sixth Spring Series

**Weekend** - all fleets: Catamarans, Y's, Sunfish, and handicap. (Note: Handicap means all boats not mentioned above, which are then handicapped as in golf to score the racing.)

## Potluck! Memorial Day is Here! HSA Goes for Gold

The first trophies of the new season will be determined this weekend with the arrival of the Memorial Day Weekend Series. With warmer temperatures and gentler winds, participants are looking forward to reuniting with members and friends who haven't been out this year yet.

Racing begins as usual at 1:30 with the potluck at 5:30. Bring a dish to share, your own service, and family and friends. HSA is especially hoping to see participants from not only this year's learn to sail class, but those from previous years. You are invited!

If you remember anything about last Memorial Day, you may recall that after a really good day on Sunday, Monday's racing was cancelled due to forecasts of thunder, lightning, earthquakes, volcanic eruption, and an ebola outbreak. As it turned out, the day was not the predicted 20-25 that intro to sailing WENT OUT IN last Sunday.

Pete Peters and Rose Schultz are defending their Memorial Day crown this weekend, as are Jerry Brewster in Sunfish/Handicap racing, and Joe and Kelly Buchert in catamarans.

## RC Racing Returns

It has been a few years since we last did this, but it is time to get your Soling or other RC sailboat out. It's after the potluck on Sunday.





At left, Roger Henthorn and crew Ali Mirolo head downwind on a bit of a plane; at right committee and rescue crew John Shipley and Charlie Buchert at a relaxed moment, which was rare. The boat was busy all afternoon helping a few capsizes and towing some in. In case you are wondering, those buoys never got used.

## Instruction at HSA Gets New Lift

The handsome thing at right is the newest addition to HSA's fleet. No, not Jerry, the Capri 14.2. With its teak wood work refinished, its hull polished and the cockpit and lines shining like new, she took her place along side the stable of Sunfish and the Flying Scot that the club already has in service.

The boat will be employed in training and certifying new sailors and members. Once certified in rigging and sailing an HSA boat, you can come to the lake anytime and sail it yourself.

All that is required is the Introduction to Sailing class and the certification class, in which you learn how to rig and care for the boat. At the end of the class, if you can demonstrate the ability to sail it solo on all points of sail, you are in.

HSA membership is also a prerequisite but at \$95 a year, where else can someone find a bargain like that. Certification/soloing is \$60 and by appointment.

Is it a fast boat? No, says Bill Molleran who sailed it over the weekend, but it is very comfortable.



## Back in the Day - HSA and the Prisoners of the Oxford Honor Camp Were Unlikely Allies

*Raymond Light Shepherd saw his chance. The police cruiser stopped at a traffic light in the Fairmont area of Cincinnati on a warm night in August 1962. The former steeplejack jumped from the cruiser window and disappeared into the woods under a hail of bullets. Canines later tracked him down. A convicted armed robber, Shepherd had walked away from the Oxford Honor Camp at Hueston Woods on August 12.*

*Police in January 1963 spent several hours searching Butler, Montgomery and Hamilton County for three men - Norman Allen, Verdell Bailey, and Charles Baker - who had escaped from the Oxford Honor Prison Camp at Hueston Woods.*

*A knife-wielding convict named Carter Davis, an armed robber, kidnapped the chief of the Oxford Honor Camp during a transfer to a prison in Columbus, wounding him during the two hour drive into Indiana. The Chief escaped in Richmond after being cut on the throat and thumb.*

*These "desperate and highly dangerous men" as news reports called them, were the early friends of JoAnn and Jerry Callahan and the rest of Hueston Sailing Association.*

*From 1952 until 1966 the men imprisoned at the Oxford Honor Camp built roads, buildings, docks and other features of the park, many of which are still there today, including the park office and the Hueston Room.*

*In this issue JoAnn retells some of the stories of those early days at Hueston Woods as a sailor.*

The Honor Camp prisoners were a great help to HSA many times. After a really bad storm, they would walk along the docks and bail out any water filled boats, clean them up and retie them to their moorings. Occasionally they had to motor out to the middle of the lake to make a rescue and tow the boat back to its proper dock.

We asked the warden if there was anything we as a club could do to thank the men. He suggested cigarettes and magazines. The cigarettes were no problem but after our club members responded, I'm sure there was some inmate disappointment when they were given *Yachting*, *Sailing World* and *Cruising World* instead of *Playboy* and *Hustler*.

In the early days, the lake was drained for the winter and the docks pulled out for repairs. When the water was down, you could find a treasure of tools under the docks like hammers, screw drivers, pliers and saws. If you happen to own scuba gear and could get to the middle of the lake off the sugar camp, there is a wallet with \$200.00 at the bottom of the lake. That was a very expensive afternoon for one of our Thistle sailors who capsized.

HSA helped the Callahan's celebrate their 1st wedding anniversary by having a huge potluck along the seawall where the cruising boats are now docked on docks B, C and D. With Jerry at Miami and me working, we had no extra money for any celebration of any kind. The first anniversary being paper, we were given paper plates, paper towels, paper bowls, paper napkins, paper cups, toilet paper, paper tablecloths and boxes of tissue. By then I was pretty teary when they passed the hat. One of the wives baked a beautiful cake which went to the winners of the days races as we had no trophies in those days.

One of our members decided we should have a canon to start our races just as they did in the big yacht races. So he devised a sawed off shotgun mounted on wheels as our starting canon. If your race duty was the next weekend, you took it home with you since there was no at-the lake storage facilities (this was before we started storing our gear in the old pumphouse). It was our turn next.

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After a trip up the lake and back twice, Pete Peters and his student crew Chris Dowden seem to have their rig under control.

The day was not without mishaps but time on the water had to be slightly curtailed due to the intensity and unpredictability of the gusts, many of which exceeded human understanding.



## Back in the Day (continued from page 5)

During that week on a very hot August day, I was driving a car with no A/C, full of children and groceries when up ahead there were flashing lights and police all over the place. There had been a bank robbery and the police were searching everyone's car. When the officer saw I was eight months pregnant, had a car full of screaming kids and not wanting him to open the trunk, I asked him if he REALLY thought I had robbed a bank and did he REALLY have to search my car. Luckily, he let me go and I then decided the club really needed to think about getting a horn.

It's nice to have friends in low places! About two weeks before delivering our first child, one of our favorite prisoners asked if we had all the baby furniture we needed. He offered to get us anything we needed in any color or style we liked. He had already knocked off this particular furniture store in Cleveland three times and said they had quality stuff. He told us his mother had a TV in every room from his earlier exploits and he had friends who could get what we needed. I politely declined and our first child had to sleep in a crib that had been in the family for over 50 years.

*(Editor's Note: Jerry and JoAnn Callahan, who together organize and run HSA's Junior and Ladies Camp every July, are, along with Pete Peters, the longest reigning HSA members, having been there since the start in 1956. Still active, still married, still promoting sailing. Their extended family joins them every July at the lake.)*