

Action Action



In Memorial Day Action, above right Charlie Buchert sails toward his start followed by Jerry Brewster; bottom left, Ken Wright and Brewster prepare for start; bottom right, Ali Mirolo and Yours Truly on a nice starboard lift.

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“Hey, Mike. I really enjoyed that tutorial you sent last night to the race clinic people. It's helping a lot.”

Jerry Brewster, trying to distract me with his trademark banter during the Sunfish racing Sunday.

Memorial Day Racing Has WOW Factor, Defeats Forecast

It was supposed to be really light air on the holiday Monday after a brisk and refreshing wind day on Sunday. But the good wind returned for the second day of racing and defeated the forecast.

With some of the best racing weather of the season, all three

fleets took to the water and reveled in warm air, warm water, and wind that averaged in the sweet spot between 7 and 10 mph with gusts both days into the mid teens. Priceless.

In catamaran racing,

more on **2**



At left, Joe Fulford pilots a nice looking Capri 14.2 as he prowls the start with Brett Hart going the other way on Memorial Day.

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it was Joe and Kelly Buchert in the Nacra winning (uncorrected time) all four races, followed by brother Charlie. Ryan and Kelsey Servizzi, still relative newlyweds, ventured out on Monday after having to skip Sunday's races.

Virginia transplant Ken Wright showed his East Coast skills by taking it all in the Handicap fleet.

Ken, racing his good looking 2008 Sunfish, bested Jerry Brewster in his Capri 14.2. It was actually a good match up since we learned that the two boats, though very different in design, have virtually the same handicap according to the Portsmouth rating system.

Amy Marks only came on Sunday but threw down a bullet in

race one, thereby besting the five men in the fleet. Two Capri's entered the fray. In addition to Jerry Brewster's beloved boat, Joe Fulford raced the new club Capri also. Jordan Gunter jumped in a club Sunfish for his first official races of the season, joining Brett Hart. Both attended the race clinic this past weekend and took turns at the lead.

Race Clinic Attracts Clinicians

On Sunday morning before the Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta and while the wind was high but still manageable, four participants in the HSA Race Clinic spent some time practicing starts and short course racing. Pete Peters handled race

duties for the group which included Brett Hart, Jordan Gunter, Ryan Servizzi, and Dominiek Everaet. Jordan and Brett each got some bullets in the close matches, all well earned. Brett almost added a second win in race 2, which he lead, but got caught in a shift after rounding the leeward mark and then, unceremoniously, capsized.

Handicap Racing Rundown for Memorial Day

Editor's Note: The following account of racing was written for the AA by Commodore Jerry Brewster, who told me to "feel free to edit (I did), but not much (I had to), and don't take out any of my jokes. (I couldn't find any.)"

On Sunday, May 29th, six boats came out to race in the first day of the Memorial Day Series handicapped fleet. This weekend, two classes (4 Sunfish and 2 Capri 14.2s) made it a true handicapped fleet. The solo-sailed, lateen-rigged Sunfish and the sloop-rigged, two person crewed Catalina Capri are distinct in almost every aspect, but have such similar handicapping numbers (99.6 versus 99.4) that they can probably be raced without factoring in their elapsed time.

The Sunfish were skippered by Jordan Gunter, Amy Callahan, Brett Hart, and Ken Wilson, while the Capris were sailed by Joe Fulford at the helm of HSA's "new" training boat with the club's newest Junior, 11 year old Elijah Rovito as his crew and Jerry Brewster skippering his own Capri 14.2 with Elijah's father, Todd Rovito, as Jerry's crew in Todd's first race ever.

All races in the handicapped fleet were a one lap, X course. The winds were strong and gusty, but manageable. In the first race, Ken Wright led the fleet around the course while the remaining 5 boats traded positions a few times. Ken and Amy led the pack and it looked like Ken was certain to win until about 100 feet before the finish line, Amy tacked to port and edged out Ken by inches for the bullet. In the second race, Ken once again led the fleet around the course, going wire to wire. Amy and Jerry Brewster exchanged positions a few times and in the end Jerry edged out Amy for second place.

On Monday, the winds had picked up slightly, and must have scared away most of the handicap fleet participants, because the only ones to make it to the starting line were Ken Wilson in his Sunfish and Jerry Brewster racing his Capri 14.2 single handed (for the first time ever). Jerry chose to race under main AND jib causing several observers to comment that he often looked like a "one-armed paper hanger". Another observer noted that both Ken and Jerry's boats had red, white, and blue sails, so they assumed that only boats with patriotic sails were permitted to race in the handicap fleet on Memorial Day.

Once again, the handicap fleet raced a single lap on a standard triangle course. Jerry won the start in both races, however Ken passed him on the first downwind leg. On the second downwind leg, Jerry got close enough to Ken to start a conversation and distracted Ken by shouting to the committee boat that they should take a photograph of their boat's patriotic sails. While Ken looked toward the committee boat and smiled for a photo that was never to be, Jerry snuck behind Ken, stole his wind and accelerated past him on the inside to win rights at the leeward mark. Unfortunately, the smug Jerry threw it all away as he tried to round the mark with Ken on his starboard side. Ken gave Jerry plenty of room to round the mark, but Jerry got about 90 degrees around the mark and found that he neglected to lower his centerboard all the way and he couldn't sheet in both sails and steer the last 45 degrees around the mark. Their boats ended up bumping, and although Jerry was in the wrong, Ken did two penalty turns while Jerry tried to untangle his lines and recover. By the time he did, Ken had finished his unrequired 720 and had a huge lead over Jerry. Jerry made up ground on the last beat, but Ken still crossed the line about 10 seconds ahead of Jerry.

In the second race (4th and last for the series), Ken wasn't watching the clock and was on the wrong side of the line at the starting horn. Somehow he recovered, found more wind, and beat Jerry to the first mark. Jerry gained on Ken on the downwind legs, but couldn't quite catch him. Jerry gained on Ken in the last upwind leg. He might have beaten Ken to the finish line except that the wind really picked up about 500 feet from the committee boat. Jerry hiked out like crazy, but since he had no crew and wasn't wearing his lead ballast hat, he completely let go of the jib to prevent a capsize. Jerry struggled to sail the last hundred feet with the main sheeted in and the jib flapping wildly. Back on shore, Jerry was heard saying that next time rather than try to race his boat single handed he would either 1) recruit a committee person like John Shipley to crew for him (a la Charlie DeArmon), 2) find some bikini'd crew at the beach (a la Brendan Draper), or jump aboard Charlie's Y-flyer and crew for him (despite Charlie & Mike Stratton's opposition to that idea).



Above, Neil Harrell and Laura Beebe in pre-race stratagems at Sunfish Founders' Day Regatta; top right, Charlie, Megan, Kayla, and JoAnn. Bottom left, Sunday morning race clinic participants fly to the windward mark; bottom right, Jerry shows Joe Fulford and Rose Schultz how to "tuna fish".



MPH! OMG! But No LOL

Season's First Sunfish Event Greeted by 20+ MPH

On the way home last Sunday, we couldn't help but notice how the giant hickories and maples along the road home bent in the wind, their huge branches whipping back and forth.

It was a potent reminder of what we had just been through on the water that afternoon. Although there were 11 boats at the postponed start of race one, only eight remained on the water at the end. The wiser ones had quietly abandoned the effort.

How strong was it? Well, the rule of thumb is that you multiply every five mile an

hours of wind by the average number of mistakes made on the course, divided by the number of foot pounds of energy and emotion expended, you get the ratio of survival but only if you figure in the joy/despair quotient.

The answer? 25. Or 26. Unless we forgot to carry the exponent of difficulty squared.

Ok, maybe there isn't a formula for it but this we know: racing should have been

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called off. Instead, the hale and hearty Sunfish warriors took to the frothy surface of Acton Lake and witnessed some of the wildest action we have seen in some time.

There were collisions, of course, most notably when Laura Beebe put her bow over the top of junior Megan DeArmon's cockpit in a pre-race mishap.

Megan herself took a chunk out of the bow of her boat when a sudden huge wind shift send her into the side of the committee boat where fellow junior Kayla Draper had smartly taken refuge earlier. Rose Schultz and Joe Fulford also saw the wisdom of retiring.

And the mistakes. If you think it odd that veteran sailors would find themselves in irons, well, it happened repeatedly as even the most skilled among us found him or herself in the throes of those shackles.

Mistakes: marks were hit and re-rounded; over early's were restarted; a missed horn or two with at least one competitor starting a minute late; capsizing (few were spared).

Laudably, relative newcomers, Brett Hart and Dominiek Everaet were on the water and keeping their boats upright. Mostly. Dominiek did find the bottom of his boat three times. Rescue boat operator Pete Peters had a busy day helping to right boats and collecting belongings from the water.

At the end of day, the Callahans, who were enjoying the action from their safe perch on the committee boat, got four races in, despite the fact that many competitors were hoping for the three horns of abandonment.

Leading the way in a dominant fashion was a familiar figure, Neil Harrell, who had not been in a Sunfish

Series event for a couple of years. Showing little signs of rust and seeming to enjoy the gusts that many times



"I have been running in some half marathons, so I was prepared physically for this."

Neil Harrell after Sunday's racing

exceeded the 20 mph range, Harrell started well, led every race wire to wire, and laughed in the face of Mother Nature's attempts to dump him out of his boat.

"I have been running half marathons, so I was prepared physically for this," he later said.

His main competitor was none other than Laura Beebe,

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Memorial Day Racing Results

Handicap

Ken Wright 2 1 2 1
6

Jerry Brewster 3 2 1 2
8

Amy Marks 1 3 DNS DNS
16

Jordan Gunter 5 4 DNS DNS
21

Joe Fulford 4 5 DNS DNS
21

Brett Hart 6 6 DNS DNS
24

Y-Flyers

Pete Peters and Rose Schultz
1 1 1 4 7

Mike Stratton w/Cosette,
Kofi, and Ali Mirolo
2 2 4 1 9

Roger Henthorn/Bobbie
Bode 3 4 2 2 11

Charlie DeArmon/John
Shipley 4 3 3 3 13

Catamarans

Joe and Kelly Buchert
1 1 1 1 4

Charlie Buchert
2 2 2 2 8

Don Fecher/Steve High
3 3 3 3 12

who challenged Harrell every race but still found herself the number 2 boat. Even in a race where she capsized, she still managed to right the boat and finish the race second. If anyone doubted the distaff side's stamina, strength, and competitiveness, her performance put that to rest. The 30 something accountant and HR doyen, in only her second season with her new Sunfish and National's sail but still a veteran racer, even admitted to a "chicken jibe" during one race when downwind jibes were moments of great tension and anxiety.

Equally impressive was 15 year old Megan DeArmon who not only recovered from the collision with the committee boat but finished every race with the seniors and did it without a capsize. The two time junior champion is fast becoming one of the most skilled juniors HSA has ever produced.

Despite the fact that no one had time for conversation as we usually do during racing, unflappable Jerry Brewster managed his usual cheerful banter

on the water while others were desperately bailing water. At the post race picnic, where the wind not only sustained itself but seemed to keep building, everyone had a story.

Another Sunfish day is coming soon as is July 4th.

Race Results; Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta

1. Neil Harrell 1 1 1 1 4
2. Laura Beebe 2 2 3 2 9
3. Mike Stratton 4 3 2 3 12
4. Charlie DeArmon
3 5 6 4 18
5. Megan DeArmon
5 6 4 5 20
6. Jerry Brewster
6 4 5 6 21
7. Brett Hart 7 7 7 8 29
8. Dominiek Everaet
8 8 8 7 31

Rose Schultz, Joe Fulford, and Kalya Draper all left the playing field happily and mostly dry.

Memorial Day Y-Racing Gets Memorable Finishes

Defending Memorial Day Y -Flyer

Champions Pete Peters and Rose Schultz, racing in their red, white and blue bullet, successfully defended their title, this time in spades. The duo swept the first three races in the series, usually by comfortable margins. Although they finished fourth in the last race due to a magic box failure, the three bullets were enough for a comfortable lead. It was the last race that provided the drama, however. That race began with Charlie DeArmon taking the lead at the windward mark with crew John Shipley. Yours Truly caught him only to lose the lead by a boat length on the last leg to the finish.

At that point all four boats were within a few boat lengths of one another, as they rounded the turn and headed for home.

DeArmon, who beat every other competitor at least once on the weekend, got inside all on that final turn. Peters lost his magic box, Henthorn tacked early and often, and Yours Truly was beginning to wonder how it all had slipped away.

"That's when I told my crew Kofi, " Truly said, "that each of the eight or so tacks up this last leg to the finish had to be the best one of the race. He responded and we got that bullet." All four Y's crossed the finish line within ten seconds of one another in the maddest Y finish of the new season.

Every participant finished last in at least one race. First place wasn't shared.

Memorial Day Photos on the left Charlie DeArmon switches crew for race 2 and ends up nearly beating the boat she, Cosette Gunter, came off. DeArmon had a good weekend at the helm. Rumor is a new jib figured into it after a day at a Bob Rowland clinic. At right, Elijah Rovito, crewing for Joe Fulford, has time for a beach ball pick up while Y-Flyers engage in a little cat and mouse. Game time.

