

ACTON ACTION

HSA Sailing Has June Grads

Sailing School Wind Behaves and Rewards



HSA's first sailing school in May had a rough time in the tumultuous winds of Spring, but this past weekend's class got lucky.

It was tiller time for all as light winds Saturday and medium air on Sunday afforded even the youngest (11 year old Julia Wahl) to not only take the helm but also skipper some practice races.

No collisions, no capsizes. Just smooth sailing in just enough wind to make the heat a non-factor. Look for more on the weekend elsewhere in this issue.

Club's New Boat Getting a Workout; Capri Turning into Workhorse

Since being launched into service in late May, the club's Capri 14.2 has seen its share of duty. The boat has tirelessly served as a trainer for both intro to sailing and for solo certification.

"The boat takes about 15 minutes to rig and you are ready to launch," says Jerry Brewster, a long time advocate of the design. Brewster owns one

himself and praises its handling ability. Club members who want to try out the boat can schedule its use with Commodore Brewster himself.

(HSA found out over the weekend that the Capri 14.2 it tried to buy in the Park auction a few months ago was won by the **Casada** family who had it out over the weekend. Congrats to **Abby** and family!)

A LOOK INSIDE

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You have heard of STEM but what does STEM have to do with REACH and what do either have to do with sailing?

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Spring Series ends on competitive note. Summer begins now. Did we mention fireworks? Yes, fireworks.

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In Photo at upper left, June Sailing School participants left to right: Greg Wahl, Melissa Wahl, Julia Wahl, Ed Martin, Paul Flanagan, Inga Schubert, Junbo Zhan, Diane Pierok, and Michelle Elsaesser. The new sailors are getting a close up look at a Capri 14.2.

Spring Series Concludes; Here Comes Summer! Fireworks Too!

HSA is about to kick some serious summer. The Spring Series is officially in the books and Summer Solstice parties have been celebrated. So what is now in store for the middle passage of the HSA year? Sailing! And then some more sailing!

The July 4th Holiday Series kicks off this weekend on Sunday with racing and the potluck dinner (in the former prison dining hall). The potluck begins at 5:30. Monday's holiday racing will feature two more races before the July 4th Series champions are crowned.

Then, it is Camptown Races, the second in the four

event summer Sunfish series, on July 10th. It will be a Sunfish smackdown as the series heats up with the weather. Got a 'Fish'? Bring it and join the fun. The Sunfish events usually involve 4-5 short races in one afternoon, followed by a little picnic on the green beneath the HSA Giant Oak, aka "The Biggest Tree in the World".

Junior and Ladies Camp occupy the second week in July as HSA descends on the campground and lake for five days of watery fun. Camps are full, JoAnn's freezer is stuffed to the proverbial gills, and an army of volunteers are poised to spring into action on Acton.

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Chris Snider and son Clayton talk boats with Charlie DeArmon last Sunday.

"But equally importantly, sailing teaches teamwork, leadership, communication skills, inquisitiveness, resilience, the value of practice, strategy, creativity, organization and commitment. So yes, sailing is a fantastic platform for learning, but the focus of that learning need not be reduced to the left brain."

Nicholas Hayes

What is the Fastest Growing High School Sport? Sailing?

What is the fastest growing high school sport in the nation? If you Google that question, you will hear claims for the following "new" sports: lacrosse, soccer, trap shooting, and sailing. What? Sailing?

Well, actually, yes, some are making that claim. There are over 500 schools with a sailing program. It is, according to *Scuttlebutt Magazine*, the fastest growing segment of sailing today if not the fastest growing sport in high schools.

There is also a lot of growth in community sailing centers, too. But just what are they and how are we different? Well, size has a lot to do with it. We are a small club on a small lake near small towns. Most community sailing centers are in or near large cities and have access to large resources as well as large numbers of people.

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Instructors and new sailors pose after Sunday's Intro to Sailing class ends



Junior skipper Clayton Snider was practicing his "dry" capsizes Sunday. Then he practices a "wet" one. Clayton, a veteran of sailing camp and a keen competitor, was out on the lake Sunday with the Intro to Sailing folks and joined the practice racing. Just for the heck of it.

U.S. Sailing Using Sailing to Teach Math and Science to "REACH" New Sailors

Did you know there were hundreds of sailing schools in the U.S.? Many of them are using sailing as a way of teaching math and science as well as sailing. U.S. Sailing has developed a curriculum for middle schoolers called REACH in which they teach science, technology, engineering, and math. Yes, STEM, as we have come to know it, a nationwide movement to get kids interested in math and science.

Harnessing the wind, waves, and the mechanics of sailing can be rewarding in and of themselves. Using sailing as a way of teaching science and math has always had its adherents, but U.S. Sailing and many sailing schools are taking it to a new level. The curriculum's first ten modules cover things like measuring wind, buoyancy, sail area, simple machines, marine life, wind power, the geometry of wind angles and more.

New modules will cover beach ecology, weather, environmental impact and

other topics.

Sounds great, right? Teach kids math and science while getting them outdoors and on boats. U.S. Sailing's initiative isn't without its critics, however. Their primary criticism is that sailing is supposed to be fun, not homework. There is a lot of support for REACH in the sailing community, but many consider STEM a scholastic fad that will soon wither and lose funding as well as interest.

Still, sailing is without a doubt a rich vehicle for learning about math and science as well as other things, if kids are curious enough about why sails, wind, water, waves and simple machines work the way they do. And parents are willing to use sailing as a way to encourage such learning.

Saving Sailing's Nicholas Hayes had this to say: (continued next page)

Using Sailing to Teach Math Science (continued from page 3)

1.) "Is sailing a good platform for learning things other than sailing? You'd be hard pressed to find a lover of sailing who doesn't credit it as the source for many other things that they love, know and do. The physical nature of sailing is explained mathematically; sailing tools and techniques are improved every year by advancing science and technology; sailing teaches creative design and problem solving within tight limits — one of the proven best methods to arrive at a solution.

But equally importantly, sailing teaches teamwork, leadership, communication skills, inquisitiveness, resilience, the value of practice, strategy, creativity, organization and commitment. So yes, sailing is a fantastic platform for learning, but the focus of that learning need not be reduced to the left brain. Answer: There are limits to STEM. It isn't comprehensive enough to do justice to the opportunity to teach through sailing.

2.) Is a sailing school the place to learn advanced skills in things other than sailing? Sailing as a teaching medium is inherently broad in what it can offer a student, but it is not inherently deep or specialized, unless it is the sailing that you plan to perfect. An aspiring engineer needing advanced calculus is not going to find it at a sailing school, although they might become an accomplished sailor at that school if they can find the time outside of math class. Of course, for the advanced math, they'll need an advanced calculus teacher. Their calculus might nicely support their quest to become a champion sailor, but it won't train them physically or strategically for it, in the same way that sailing can't comprehensively support their quest to become a calculus expert, because sailing isn't merely equations. So while integrated curricula can help to well-round a person, an expert becomes one by committing unpolluted time and focus on an advanced subject. Kids need both general and specialized educations. Answer: It's easy to over-promise with STEM. Sailing schools can't do everything and they shouldn't try.

Sailors know that sailing isn't just a program. It's bigger. Sailing makes our lives exciting, fun and even worth living, because it constantly teaches us. It trains our minds and bodies to do more and be more. It brings us closer to Mother Nature and human innovation and expands our spiritual selves. It inspires us to share and stretch what we have. It reveals the power of compromise and cooperation. It strengthens our friendships, which, in turn, strengthen our communities and neighborhoods. It is gender, race, income, age and religion neutral. So it can be an essential ingredient in an educated, peaceful, aspirational and productive society.

Instead of marketing sailing as just another alternative to failing schools, or as one neat youth program among many, I would challenge US Sailing to go big and shout to the nation: *Sailing is the university of a well-led life from which no one need graduate.*

To do this, US Sailing should elevate its mission. As a proud dues-paying member, I humbly offer this proposed draft: "US Sailing calls on local and national leaders to make sustained and substantial investments to secure access to water, fleets, spaces, tools, outdoor classrooms, and the free time for people to come together during their whole lives to learn and share, building the nation's capabilities, creativity and social capital."

Math doesn't rock. Sailing rocks. Math just helps explain why."

SAILING AND LEARNING

Here's our ITS instructors and crew:
Charlie Buchert, Chris Snider, Clayton Snider, Charlie DeArmon, Pete Peters, Rose Schultz, Joe Fulford, Ken Wright, Joe Buchert, Jerry Brewster, Don Fecher, Bill Molleran, and Danny Molleran.

Thank You!

"Math doesn't rock. Sailing Rocks. Math just helps explain why."
Nicholas Hayes



Above, Jerry Brewster and his weekend protégé Michelle Elsaesser ply the waters at HSA's sailing school.

Fastest Growing Sport? (Continued from page 2)

Many of these community sailing centers have their own facilities that they have either owned for a long time, purchased, or have been provided by their municipalities where support for community sailing is strong.

These centers are often private, non-profit 501(c)(3) agencies that offer educational and recreational sailing programs to those who want to learn to sail at whatever age, ability or economic level. And they get help financially from grants and governments.

There are over 500 sailing centers in the U.S. Over thirty of them have the additional designation of being accredited by our national organization, U.S. Sailing.

HSA is also a non-profit though without the designation of a 501(c). Like those centers, we offer educational and recreational sailing programs as well as racing. We also own boats that people who join the club can use. Our ten club owned boats are dwarfed by the fleets that some of these centers have - over 80 in some places like Milwaukee and Boston. These boats can range all the way from prams and 470's to cruisers like Pearson 22's and racing boats like J-24's.

But like the larger community sailing centers all you have to do is take a few classes and become qualified to sail a particular kind of boat and you can come and sail. Getting people into sailing probably means just that - offering instruction and offering access. Right here at Hueston Woods.

We may not have any high school sailing teams, but we teach sailing. We go small and stay home.

The Top Ten Community Sailing Centers

1. Westwind Sailing, Dana Point, CA
2. Stonington Harbor Yacht Club, Stonington CT
3. Edison Sailing Center, Fort Myers FL
4. Community Boating Inc, Boston MA
5. Courageous Sailing Center, Charleston MA
6. Duxbury Bay Maritime School, Duxbury MA
7. Sail Sand Point, Seattle WA
8. Milwaukee Community Sailing Center, Milwaukee WI
9. Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, Burlington VT
10. Hueston Sailing Association, College Corner OH (OK, just dreaming)

Here Comes Summer! (continued from page 2)

As soon as the camps conclude, it will be time for the first and only open Sunday this season on July 17th before the Fall Series begins on July 24th.

In between those events HSA will be busy training people during the weekdays in learn to sail or certification classes.

Fireworks at Hueston Woods July 5th

Hueston Woods State Park is once again the site of a spectacular fireworks display on the lake. The park's tradition is to celebrate the 4th on the 5th.

If you have ever attended this event, you know that boaters of all sorts head out early to find a good anchorage down the lake from which to watch. Get your running lights on your boat working so you can be among the watercraft who ply the lake in the dark. It is a very different experience to be on the water at night.

There will be other activities during the day at the park and at the lodge. The fireworks are typically ignited at the bottom of the lodge hill and on a barge on the water nearby.

There will be bombettes, brocades, helicopters, and girandolas galore. The hills around the park resound with the echoes of aerial bombs.

The park buys earplugs for the deer, raccoon and other wildlife, who, by and large, decide to hunker down during the festivities. They are glad when we all go away.

Commodore's Corner: What's "Brewing"?

By Jerry Brewster

We had perfect winds for teaching Intro to Sailing this past weekend (5-10 mph). Our students got a lot of tiller time and most were able to skipper for all three races around a short triangle.

My student, Michele Elsaesser, is a Human Resources manager in Cincinnati. The other students were a mix from all over the world: a father and his two daughters, he and his wife from South Africa, a Chinese national who recently graduated from CCM (University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music) with a concentration in voice (opera?), and a young woman from Germany named Inga. Several were twenty somethings. Several were our age. All were able bodied and excited to learn to sail.

As if the sailing wasn't enough fun, Charlie DeArmon tried (and succeeded) to add some adventure. On the way home from the lake, Charlie noticed one of the wheels on his trailer was wobbling. I just happened to see him on the side of the road just a couple of miles from the lake. We jacked up his trailer and discovered while loosening the lug nuts, that we could almost yank the wheel off the axle. After removing the wheel and hub, we

could see that the bearing had completely disintegrated!

Fortunately, Mike (the mechanical expert) and later "Farmer Allen" were able to join us to help repair the trailer (but not after a trip to Eaton for replacement bearings and to Oxford for sandpaper and some tools). We got home about 10:30.

On a side note: Did you ever get a flat tire and wonder how a long, stainless steel screw punctured the sidewall of your tire forcing you to prematurely replace an entire set of tires on your truck to the tune of \$750? Well, I figured it out. On the way back from Wal-Mart in Oxford, along the side of the road, we found a huge tackle box with tools and stainless steel hardware. Strwn all around the toolbox and in the road was about a pound of stainless steel hardware (nuts, bolts, and screws)!!! Ask Mike for details.

(Editor's note: Yes, I left my sailing tool and hardware box open on the tailgate of my truck when we drove into Oxford for trailer parts. In addition to the incredible dumbity of doing that was the incredible fact that it took four miles to lose it. On the way back from Wal-Mart, we found it, though, sitting upright on the side of the road, still open, still containing the majority of its stainless pieces, but plenty of them all over the bloody asphalt.) (Oh, and be careful at that curve on the road leaving the park toward Wal-Mart in Oxford. There might be some sharp objects still around.)



At left, Charlie and Yours Truly learn all about trailer bearings. Above, Charlie and I also learn all about picking up screws and nuts. Pictures courtesy Jerry Brewster.

HSA Getting New Shirts to Commemorate 60th Anniversary

Because it is our 60th anniversary and just because we haven't done this in a while, HSA is about to order new shirts.

The commemorative shirt will sport the same logo as the light blue shirts we now have, with the addition of the words "60th Anniversary 2016" below the boat/HSA logo.

There will be a color change to sand color along with the *addition of a long sleeve tee option* to go along with the short sleeve and polo shirts we previously got, and they will be offered in both men's and women's styles and sizes.

The shirts are by Sport Tek and are dri-fit shirts that wick moisture, dry quickly and feel very lightweight. If you have one of the light blue HSA shirts from a few years ago, they are like those but with the new wording and color.

The short sleeve tees are \$13; the polos are \$24, and the long sleeve tees are \$15. Sizes for women are from XS to 4XL. Men's sizes are XS to 4XL. Sizes beyond 4XL, which go up to 6XL will cost a little more.

The shirts are 3.8 oz. polyester, moisture wicking, double needle stitching, tag free, and totally worth it.

The order will be placed soon, so email or message Mike Stratton soon with your order. Payment will come when the shirts are delivered. That's mastratton44@gmail.com or 937-499-4343.

