

ACTON ACTION

HSA Makes History

60th Anniversary Banquet Celebrates Club's Life



The wine was flowing, the awards were distributing, the banquet dinner disappearing, but none of those usual superlative features of HSA's annual end of season gathering mattered as much as this: sixty six members, friends, and family spending an evening in subdued but sublime celebration of our sailing community.

The exclamation point came with Pete Peters personal history of his and the club's evolution since its founding six decades ago on a tract of forest being reimaged as a state park. More inside.

Racing Program Winners Revealed; Peters Family Dominates

Not only is he the club's longest reigning active member, Pete Peters is once again the champion of the Y-Flyer fleet. Joining him on the medal stand was his daughter Laura Beebe, who, after a couple of years of being edged out in the Sunfish super series of regattas, took top laurels with plenty of room to spare.

Peters later narrated the slide show that began with heretofore unseen photos of the early days of the lake and the club. One of the photos showed him receiving an award when he was about ten years old. Fifty odd years later, he is still taking home racing awards, showcasing not only his durability but that of HSA. More inside!

BACK IN THE DAY

In the photo at left, HSA gathers for one of their early potlucks along the lake shore. According to long time member Pete Peters, staying after for dinner was a common activity after racing



That's Junior King, er, we mean Queen Megan DeArmon proudly displaying her award. Ok, she can be King too.

Y-Flyer Veterans Dominate Racing Awards

It was somehow fitting that Pete Peters figured so prominently in HSA's 60 anniversary season. Not only is he the lone charter member still racing, he prepared the banquet entertainment and took home yet another award.

Y-Flyer racing has been the personal playground for the Peters/Schultz team since both decided a few years ago to devote themselves to the Y class and leave their Sunfish as backup boats.

Both still participate in the Sunfish regattas but the Y is where they make their big money.

If you have ever watched them race, they seem to have a smooth connection in the cockpit. Rose is a beehive of activity, handling the pole, the barbers, the sheets, the luff tension, the board, strategy. It makes one wonder what Pete actually does.

Regardless, the results are clear. Pete and Rose seldom have anyone calling for room at the mark. They should sell space on their transom to a sponsor. It would get more views.

Before Pete and Rose became a team, it was Roger Henthorn and Bobbie Bode. The duo, who have been racing together for the past decade,



Y-Flyer Champions Pete and Rose pose with their beautiful awards. The Hit King racers have dominated Y-Flyer racing the past few years. (Hit King? Pete Rose!)

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Anniversary Banquet Sees Junior Champ Generations



From left, Pete Peters, Chris Snider, Mark Costandi, Laura Beebe, and Megan DeArmon

How appropriate for a 60th anniversary banquet. There they were. Five champions from the present to the past. A boomer, a couple of Gen X'ers, and a millennial.

The first ever award for a junior champion was given out in 1961 to Pete Peters, a charter member of HSA who also won it in 1962. Then Chris Snider took the honor for two years in 1980-81, followed by Mark Costandi in 1982-83. Laura (Peters) Beebe won three years in a row from 1995-97. She was the only three time winner until Megan DeArmon came on the scene in 2014-15, wresting the honor from her older brother Kevin. Megan added her third crown this year to match Beebe as the only three time winners.

Megan took home a trophy and a new Ronstan sailing watch donated generously by none other than former champ - Mark Costandi. Thank you, Mark.



At left is Sunfish Series master Laura Beebe. At right is Handicap Fleet Champion and Grand Poobah of HSA Jerry Brewster. (Jerry, a photographer, will likely not approve of the quality of the photo. Apologies.)



Sunfish Crown New Champ; Handicap Fleet Sees Historic First

It's not that we didn't know how good she really is. We did. Focusing on the season long Sunfish Series, Laura Beebe emerged as the champion for 2016, holding off her male counterweights.

Few in the club have proven themselves as capable in light and heavy air. By heavy we mean 20+ hair flyin'-gunnel-ridin'-self tackin'-fingercrampin' heavy air. That was the case in 2016 and the club's foremost female racer is also the best of class for either gender.

In May, she hiked her way to four white cap second places behind heavy air hound Neil Harrell and then followed up with bullet after bullet in the remaining Sunfish Big Shows. The result was an runaway as she bested the competition by a wide margin in the final tally. The former junior champion, now in her early 30's, is becoming

unbeatable.

In the Handicap Fleet, which in the past has been mostly Sunfish, it was Jerry Brewster, our Commodore, making history. His wins in the fleet that includes not only Sunfish but every other kind of boat that wants to race were accomplished in his Capri 14.2, a first for the club.

Brewster, who also races a Sunfish, has been the steady guiding hand behind the rise of the Capri as HSA moves toward the versatile boat for not only racing, but training and education as well.

Brewster, who at one time was a member of three different sailing clubs in the area, brings a wealth of experience to the sport of racing and to club leadership. His devotion to the Capri has directly led to the club acquiring two Capris, Capri 14's. Now four of the boats sail at Acton Lake and are poised to take on new roles ...

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New Sunfish/Handicap Victors Crowned (continued from page 3)

in the club's racing life.

Newcomer Ken Wright also walked away with an award for his efforts in the Handicap fleet in his Sunfish. Wright, who recently returned to the area from Virginia where he began racing Sunfish, has enriched the fleet and given new blood to the weekly contests there.

Megan DeArmon, as mentioned elsewhere in this issue, became only the second three time winner in the history of the junior championship. While there is no official junior championship race anymore, Megan manages to win against other juniors, in senior competition, and recently took top honors in the Junior Camp A Fleet where she not only won the conventional racing there against stiff competition but also won or placed high in every other event requiring skill in boat handling and maneuverability.

The Handicap Fleet is slowly making its way toward being a more inclusive fleet with the addition of Capri 14's and the open invitation to any other boat that wants to use the fleet as an entry point to racing.

Y-Flyer Veterans Dominate (continued from page 2)

were not shut out. At one time their team was the one to beat. But since the arrival of Pete Rose, the duo often find themselves wondering who these guys are, as does the rest of the Y Fleet.

As we all found out in the history presented by Pete, at one time in the 1970s, there were as many as 22 Y-Flyers in the club. Today, there are but seven with only four of them actively racing each week.

The Y Fleet was the mainstay of the club and still is. Former Y racer Jerry Callahan won three national championships in the boat and finished among the top boats numerous times.

The Y Flyer regatta circuit is still active today with 22 regatta events in Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, New York, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Canada.

The Y's began their national season in March with the Mid-Winters in Florida with 24 boats participating. The National Championships were held in June in Little Rock with 27 Flyers. The season ended with the Gilbert Beers Memorial in Atlanta with 32 seniors and 11 juniors.

Y-FLYERS



Nice!

Rounding out the Y awards were, Roger Henthorn, above, Charlie DeArmon and Yours Truly. Despite the humble attitude of the Peters/Schultz tandem, the other competitors are not reluctant to take them up head to wind or overlap their transom at the mark. The only obstacle to achieving those tactical advantages is that you have to catch them first. (Bobbie Bode not pictured but should be. My crew also absent but having fun at a Troy Sivan concert.)

HSA's Fleets: The Big Picture for Sunfish Is World Wide

It all begins in January for the International Sunfish Class Association. If you are an avid Sunfish racer, there is no shortage of places and regattas you can attend. Let's start in January of this past year. If you could get your boat to Bonaire in the Carribean, you could have entered the first Sunfish regatta of the year.

Bonaire (which is one of the ABC islands that includes Aruba and Curacao of the Leeward Antilles) is a Dutch municipality near the coast of Venezuela. If you can't make it, don't worry. There are hundreds of other Sunfish regattas just in the U. S. alone, nearly 300 of them.

The Sunfish class ranges from Europe to South America and beyond with the U.S. divided up into nine regions. HSA's Sunfishers are part of the Midwest Region with dozens of regattas from Iowa to Wisconsin to Ohio and with seven other states in between.

Each region has their own regional championship qualifiers which not only offer some of the best Sunfish racing in the country, but also send representatives to the Sunfish national championship. (Locals Ken Wright and Yours Truly recently attended such a regional qualifier in August in Michigan.)

There are also Mid-winter championships in March each year as well as International, North American, and Women's and Juniors' championships each year. This past year, 59 Sunfish hit the line in Lewes, Delaware for the North Americans, which was won by Eduardo Cordero, a U.S. competitor now but formerly of Venezuela. He has won it nine times.

The women's championship was the largest ever with 42 ladies competing against all Carribean, U.S. and Canadian Sunfish women racers. Tampa Bay's Gail Heausler won it all.

Season Awards - All Fleets

Hobie/Catamaran

1st Spring; 1st Memorial Day - Joe Buchert

1st Fall Series; Don Fecher

1st Labor Day; Mike Wier

Y-Flyers

2nd Spring; 2nd Fall; 3rd Memorial Day; 3rd 4th of July; 1st Labor Day: Roger Henthorn and Bobbie Bode

2nd Memorial Day; 2nd Fourth of July: Mike Stratton

2nd Labor Day; Charlie DeArmon

1st Spring; 1st Fall; 1st Memorial Day; 1st Fourth of July: Pete Peters and Rose Schultz

Sunfish/Handicap

1st Fourth of July: Kevin DeArmon

1st Memorial Day; 1st Labor Day: Ken Wright

1st Spring; 1st Fall; 2nd Memorial Day; 2nd Fourth of July: Jerry Brewster

Sunfish Series

1st: Laura Beebe

2nd: Mike Stratton

And the HSA Special Trophies Go To ...

Each season HSA has six special trophies to award, most of which are not for racing prowess but for contributions to the club. This year only four of the six were given out, which is not unusual. Here are the recipients:

HSA Junior Champion: Megan DeArmon

Larry L. Johnson Challenger Trophy: Brett Hart (for sportsmanship, contribution to club, and active participation in racing schedule)

Bob's Sportsmanship Award: Jerry Callahan (for distinguished service and sportsmanship)

US Sailing Sportsmanship Award: Mike Stratton (for improving or promoting the sport of sailing on Acton Lake)

Not awarded this year:

Frank Peters Memorial Sportsmanship Award

Richard Saunders Memorial Trophy



This photo from 1961 shows part of the trophy table at the club's awards banquet.

Ken Wright, pictured at the left below, holds his Sunfish trophy. Jerry Callahan is in the photo at right with the Bob's Sportsmanship trophy. Jerry, who retired from racing except for the radio controlled racing he does, received his award after being nominated for his work for the club on boats, junior camp, and other club projects and activities. Jerry and wife JoAnn are two of the three "founding" members of the club who were here in 1956.

