

ACTON ACTION

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Volunteer John Shipley takes a hose to a club Capri. John, also a Capri owner/sailor, was on hand for HSA's Launch Day Work Party. In the background, other boats are scattered around the area, each with its own project crew of volunteers.

SEASON OFF TO LURCHING START; BOATS MEET WATER

HSA's annual Spring Social on April 15 was a great day for sailing. But it was a work day for launching boats and then socializing (see page 2), so no one did any sailing. After all, the next Sunday, April 23 was opening day for racing. How did that go? Not so good.

First, the wind was a howlin' and the temperatures were a shade shy of shivering. Boats did actually get on the water, but it was more like a floatation test than anything else.

Wildly fluctuating wind in the area of the docks made Charlie Buchert change his mind after attempting to sail out of the launch area. (We call it "launch area" since calling it a "harbor" is to misuse the term. There is no "harbor" in our harbor on most days, only challenges.)

Y-Flyer Roger Henthorn put

his boat in and then said no as the wind whipped sails into insane fits of luffing. He never left the dock. New Y-Flyer owner Brett Hart attempted to hoist sails but he and crew were soon overwhelmed by blasts that tried to whip the shackle and ring infested clew into the heads of anyone foolish enough to get close.

All this while the committee gaily went about their business of setting up a race course that no one would reach. Y-Flyer Pete Peters left the docks, but it turned out to be just a shakedown cruise as he arrived on the course to find himself with no competition. He was joined on the water by Diane Pierok and her dad/crew David in her newly acquired Capri 14.2. Impressed by all who watched, she carefully maneuvered her craft away from the docks, paused to

adjust the sail plan at the rowing docks, and then gracefully healed close hauled on port tack to clear the point before heading out onto the lake proper.

Diane, who has some experience sailing, just took her Intro to Sailing class last year and was certified in Capris shortly thereafter. She wouldn't call herself an old salt yet, but that was a handy bit of seamanship. Dad David Stone was on the jib sheets.

Brett Hart was trying out Jim Mossman's Y and eventually got sails hoisted and got out on the water after figuring out the peculiarities of the Mossman Rigging Methods. By then the wind was not so hostile and the result was the purchase of a boat.

Congratulations to our racing newcomers on their acquisitions. Next time, we might actually race.

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Ken and Brett look for wind as Bobbie works.

WORK PARTY WORKS; STABLE OF BOATS FED AND WATERED

All hands were on decks on April 15 as the club turned out in numbers for the annual ritual of Launch Day and Spring Social. Harbormaster Don Fecher and his minions oiled, greased, and fitted motors to boats and screwed up what needed to be screwed up. In a good way.

The club's Sunfish, Capris and the Flying Scot also got a lot of attention as masts were stepped and hulls and cockpits got their semiannual once over. Jerry Callahan led the juniors in getting winter crud off the club's fleet of 'Fish.

Both Capris were stepped and tuned in advance of their first days of service which will come as soon as the May Sailing School on the 20th and 21st. Both will be outfitted with floats on the tops of their masts to prevent turtling.

Joe Fulford had the biggest task with the Flying Scot. Joe and others removed the centerboard for a major overhaul. The Scot's sails are back from cleaning and repair too so this excellent boat will no doubt see some action in May as well. Joe has all new running rigging for it as well.

Over 15 members turned out for the work session. Much thanks to all who participated: Pete Peters, Rose Schultz, Michele Elsaesser, Bobbie Bode, Doug Brown, Roger Henthorn, Jerry Callahan, Brett Hart, Joe Fulford, Charlie/Kevin/ and Megan DeArmon, Kayla Draper, Ken Wright, Diane Pierok, Jerry Brewster, John Shipley, JoAnn Callahan, and the man himself, Don Fecher.



SPRING SOCIAL FEATURES STORIES OF SAILING AROUND THE GLOBE

HSA launched boats about noon after a morning work session on April 15 before moving to the Hueston Room for lunch good ole southwestern Ohio fraternization.

But instead of the time honored talk by the Park Manager or one of his henchmen, HSA's own sailors took over for a bit of a slide show and storytelling session.

Jerry Brewster led things off with great photos and a description of what he and wife Darrylynn did last summer when they chartered cruising boats, first in on Grand Traverse Bay in Michigan and then a little Hobie fun in Florida. The Brewsters had so much fun in Michigan, they are talking about a club outing to introduce others to the experience.

Kevin DeArmon followed with pictures of the DeArmon family in Jamaica over the winter where they got catamaraned up, a trip that included 90 year old granddad on a sailboat along with 17 members of the DeArmon family and friends.

The elder DeArmon, who once raced Y's at Acton Lake, is still able to enjoy the sport, though he may want to avoid sailing around coral

reefs with grandson Kevin. Kevin managed to get his Hobie stranded on a reef and had to be, uh, rescued. Charlie Sr. is also now scuba certified!

Laura Beebe and husband Chris went to New Zealand and Samoa last year and she brought back photographs and pictures of that trip, which, of course, had to include a bit of sailing. Laura, who has been sailing since she was a toddler, had to overcome Laser rental personnel's instruction on how to trim a sail before she could take the helm and show them how to do it properly.

Yours Truly had more to add to his HSA Facebook postings about his recent trip in March to Port Charlotte Harbor in tropical Florida for the Sunfish Masters and Midwinter Championships. After much prodding from Jerry Brewster, he reluctantly showed pics of the Italian sailors in their pantinis on the beach.

Michele Elsaesser told a tale of receiving a text from friend Diane Pierok at a wine tasting. No autocorrect mistakes but four hours later, she found out Diane was bringing home a sailboat for them. And some accessories. You will have to ask about the details. Capri 14.2.



Jerry Brewster points to the places he sailed with wife Darrilynn last year on the Michigan's Grand Traverse Bay. Group cruise anyone?



Ken Wright (right) with Roger Henthorn (thorn) work on launch day

Wondering About Race Committee??

May 7 3rd Spring - Roger Henthorn, Bobbie Bode, Joe Buchert

May 14 4th Spring - Charlie DeArmon, Ryan Servizzi, Michele Elsaesser, Diane Pierok

May 28-29 Memorial Day Weekend Jerry Callahan, JoAnn Callahan, Brian Callahan, John Shipley

June 4 Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta Mike Stratton, Laura Beebe, Rose Schultz

June 11 5th Spring - Mike Stratton, Brett Hart, Brian Eady

June 18 6th Spring - Charlie Buchert, Ken Wright

July 2 & 4 Charlie DeArmon, John Cannon, Bobbie Bode

July 9 - Sunfish Regatta Camptown

July 16 HSA Club Championship in Capris - (TBA) (See website for more)

**1st Spring's Race Committee:
Thanks! Jerry Brewster, Jim Mossman and Lauren Rura**



Mike Stratton points out the people he sailed with at the Midwinters last month. It was an international crowd - Italy (photo), Nicaragua, Bermuda, and Columbia.



Michele Elsaesser tells of a trip to Cornell University, snow (27 inches) and, eventually, becoming co-owner of a Capri 14.2

Club Championship Returns! Sailing Village Excited!

It is kind of exciting. In fact, we are really pumped up about it. The club championship series is actually coming back to HSA this season for the first time in ten seasons. And it's a whole new monkey's fist. From 1959 to 2007, the Boies Series determined the club champion and it was contested in a different boat from all the fleets at Acton Lake each year.

This new iteration of the race will be sailed in a boat that for many in the club is unfamiliar - the Capri 14.2. The only likely contestant with any real experience is Commodore Jerry Brewster. However, to the others, a sailboat is a sailboat and they will be ready to compete to win.

The format will be different too. Instead of a series of races on one afternoon where skippers changed from one boat to another, this will be a round robin event with five Capris in each race. The top two finishers in each heat will advance to the finals as the other skippers, crews, and gallery of onlookers watches from boats gathered near the race course.

Juniors will be recruited to serve as crews and will stay with each boat as skippers get rotated randomly. Once reaching the finals, skippers still in the hunt will be assigned boats and crew by lottery.

The winning skipper will be crowned club champion at the HSA banquet in November and presented with a new traveling trophy. In order to qualify for this series, to be held on July 16, any HSA member need only to have participated in at least half of the races in the Spring Series or participated in both of the two holiday series (Memorial Day and 4th of July) or in both of the Sunfish regattas held by that date or some combination of participation in races to that date which the permanent race committee shall determine as qualifying.

If a second day is needed, September 10 has been reserved for the finals.



"Why, man, he doth bestride
the narrow world

Like a Colossus, and we petty
men

Walk under his huge legs and
peep about..."

(Above is Caesar bestriding the
club Capri #2 on Launch/Work
Party Day)

HSA SAILING SCHOOLS FILLING UP

It didn't take long. HSA's first sailing school of the season comes up on May 20-21 and that class has but one opening left. June's school weekend has seven spots open. The two day event is one way that the club gets interested people in sailboats each summer. The enthusiasm amongst both participants and instructors is strong and seems to always end with everyone feeling as though it was a good experience.

If you know of anyone, family or friend, that might want to take the school, be sure to have them get in touch with HSA soon. Private lessons are also available for those who can't join us on either of those two weekends and are offered during the week.

Instructors and other volunteers are important to our mission so make sure you set aside May 20-21 and June 24-25 on your sailing calendar. Find a way to help HSA. This year, volunteer. We have a strong core of people working together, so get your sailing fellowship on.