

Acton Action

Hueston Sailing Association's Newsletter



Here are the top ten at AuGusto! (Ok, just nine of them. Story next page)

What's Up Next

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sunday and Monday | Labor Day Holiday Series; Potluck at 5:30 on Sunday; All fleets in action |
| Sunday, Sept. 8 | CruiserFest '19! Racing starts at 1:30; All cruising boats welcome! |
| Sunday, Sept. 15 | 5th Fall Series; All Fleets Race Clinic at noon; Subject? Starts: How to Get Off the Line |
| Sunday, Sept. 22 | 6th and Final Fall Series Races; All fleets; |
| Sunday, Sept. 29 | Round the Lake Race II. Six buoys, one time around; All fleets; Handicap scoring. Is this the real club championship?" |

CruiserFest '19! Let's Do It!

Pardon this interruption in the Fall Series, but it is time for the Big Boys to get out on the race course. We are talking, of course, about CruiserFest '19, the race date on which the heavy hitters lumber onto the cage stage for a meat and potatoes showdown.

Last year's champion Curt Donahue has indicated he will defend his title, after sailing last year in his San Juan 21 with HSA cohort Charlie DeArmon. The target has a back.

There are no fees and no registration for this event, and you don't have to be a member. All one needs to do is show up by the gate to B Dock for the 12:30 Skippers' Meeting and get all the race details. Need an experienced crew to help you around the course? HSA can get someone to fit the bill. Just contact Mike Stratton at mastratton44@gmail.com. Want to volunteer to crew? Let us know. We'll try to get you on one of the Tall Ships.

In this Issue: We take a look at the AuGusto! Sunfish Regatta on August 25. You won't believe what happened! Also in this issue, a look ahead to the next HSA special event: Round the Lake Race II and what organizers have planned for this year's longest race. Can you say Double X Course? With a Twist? And, Jerry Brewster gives us a peek at the race course from the deck of his Capri 14.2.



AuGusto! Lives Up to Its Promise

High Winds Unexpected, But the Winner Was the Biggest Surprise

Screaming reaches? Had 'em. Knock downs? A bunch. Cramping legs and fingers? Two of one and ten of the other. Prayers and Concerns? Hail Mary, full of Grace.

It wasn't apparent who the competition would be until everyone showed up. It was quite a field, littered with

people who had won this and other Sunfish regattas at our lake before.

When it was over, all the bullets had been taken, including three out of five for Indy sailor Brian Callahan. Bill Molleran took the first race and Lake St. Mary's Tom Katterheinrich took the 4th one. There were none left

for anyone else, but on a day with the wind that strong, things can go wrong.

Callahan capsized in one race and finished 11th; in another race, he hit a mark, twice, and finished 7th. That was enough to sink him.

Molleran hit a boat and had to do a 720 and finished that race in 10th.

"I thought I would finish like 8th or 9th." Mike Stratton

Katterheinrich had a 7th.

Hit by those bigger numbers, it was the boat that sailed the most consistently that won the regatta. Unlikely as it might seem, it was Mike Stratton, with no finish above 3rd place, who took the

whole enchilada. Stratton, who told people before the racing began that there were at least seven people there who could and have beaten him on most days, won his first Sunfish regatta in, well, awhile. "I thought I would finish like 8th or 9th," he later

said. Instead, he put together five consistent races, four of them finishing in 3rd and one 4th place, to take the regatta by four points.

continued on page 3

AuGusto Delivers



Bill Molleran, on the left, duels with Jim Richter downwind. The two would end up tied for second with Molleran getting the tiebreaker.

continued from page 2

Jim Richter of Indianapolis, a champion Snipe sailor out in his specially rigged Sunfish, finished without a bullet but tied Bill Molleran for second. The bullet that Molleran got in race one broke the tie and gave him second to Richter's third. Richter had no finish below a 6th, but he had two of them.

The unlucky Callahan was greeted by dad Jerry at the dock. "You were on fire, son." And he was. The younger Callahan was out in front a lot and went wire to wire in at least one of his wins. It was also his birthday and he celebrated at the post race brunch with mom's cupcakes and a serenade from his fellow competitors.

Katterheinrich only had one race outside the top

five but with only two point separating second place from sixth, one bad tack could make the difference.

Laura Beebe, the favorite in this event, found that out. She had a sixth in race 4 but all the rest were in the top five. Still, she ended up just two points out of second place and finished 6th overall. Rough justice.

Steve Szymanski, the newest Sunfish racer in the club, had a few tough moments himself. After a very good showing in the Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta back in June, he ended up in 7th place after a 15th in race one. What happened? Well, according to Steve, "I hit the weather mark #1, fouled a boat on starboard tack on the 2nd leg, then hit the jibe mark. On leg #3, I was in 21st." It got better after that

White capped lake; wild starts; wind gusting to 20; we loved it.

for him but one bad race Sunday spelled doom.

The twenty-one boats out was a new high water mark for a non Regional Championship Sunfish event at our lake. It matched the number of boats for Midwest Regional #2 back in 2017.

One participant was recruited the day before racing. Charlie DeArmon and Amy Marks were out tuning up in Sunfish on Saturday and met Jim Myers of West Chester out in his Sunfish like Phantom and invited him out. He came and HSA threw him into the wildest racing of the season. Welcome, Jim.

"I hit the weather mark, fouled a boat on leg #2, then hit the jibe mark. On leg #3 I was 21st." (Steve Szymanski on his 15th place finish in race one.)

Two champion contenders were out to the lake but Jerry Callahan came back in when the wind starting roaring.

(cont. on next page)

AuGusto! Continued from page 3

The other, Roger Henthorn, was on committee, raced in the first race, but retired after that to rejoin the committee when boats starting going over.

Twenty-year-old Kevin DeArmon was the youngest finisher in the top ten, coming in at #8.

Accolades to juniors Kayla Draper (80 lbs. soaking wet); Charlie Cooper (Wet Pants Award for capsizes); and Jonah Reid, a 2018 alum of HSA's junior camp.

It was Brian Callahan's birthday, so it was mom JoAnn's cupcakes for everyone and a serenade from the assembled diners. Mom JoAnn, aware of the two hours of work everyone enjoyed on the lake, was handing out opioids (aka ibuprofen) at the dinner. She had some takers.

Next up for Sunfish is OktoberFast, a Midwest Regional Championship on October 5-6 at our home lake. Brett Hart, missing in action at AuGusto!, is in California right now, but he will back. He is that regatta's chair. Look for the NOR (Notice of Race) for that event and enter early.

AuGusto! Results

1. Mike Stratton	3 3 3 4 3	16
2. Bill Molleran	1 5 10 2 2	20
3. Jim Richter	2 6 2 6 4	20
4. Brian Callahan	11 1 1 7 1	21
5. Tom Katterheinrich	4 4 7 1 5	21
6. Laura Beebe	5 2 4 5 6	22
7. Steve Szymanski	15 7 5 3 7	37
8. Kevin DeArmon	12 9 8 8 8	45
9. Pete Peters	13 8 6 9 13	49
10. Rose Schultz	8 10 13 10 10	51
11. Charlie DeArmon	6 11 9 11 13	54
12. Ken Wright	9 13 11 13 9	55
13. Dominiek Everaet	17 12 14 12 11	66
14. Megan DeArmon	7 14 12 22 12	67
15. Kayla Draper	10 16-17 14 16	73
16. Amy Marks	16 15 16 15 14	76
17. Stephen Cook	18 18 15 16 18	85
18. Jonah Reid	19 17 22 22 15	95
19. Roger Henthorn	14 DNS DNS DNS DNS	102
20. Jim Myers	22 22 22 22 22	110
21. Charlie Cooper	22 22 22 22 22	110

Handicap Racing: An Insider's Look

HSA 3rd Fall Race Day from the Perspective of a Handicap Fleet Racer - by Jerry Brewster

Thankfully, most racers launched their boats a little earlier than usual on this

Sunday because nearly everyone struggled to get to the starting line thanks to the light and variable winds. Some, like Megan and her friend Kelsey, struggled more than others. The girls, who decided to try racing a club Capri, found themselves completely stationary shortly after

rounding the corner of the marina, despite the fact that the winds picked up and a couple of boats sailed past them on the way to the race course. No, their boat did not automatically deploy an anchor. They were stuck on a submerged object. Fortunately, Megan was able to

Handicap Racing: Continued from pg. 4

raise the centerboard and get moving again.

The only optimistic person on the water on Sunday was this week's Race Chairman, Bill Molleran, who set a long triangle course and then hung placards indicating three laps for the handicap fleet and FOUR laps for Hobies & Ys!!! Despite verbal protests from myself and Don Fecher, Bill persisted and no one called a doctor to have his mental health assessed. We were all thankful that there wasn't a "5" placard onboard. Helping keep Bill in check on race committee were Stephen Cook, Todd Rovito, Linda Rovito, and junior sailor Eli Rovito's friend, Adam.

Handicap Race 1

The catamaran fleet had barely enough wind to get to the starting line before the Y-Flyer start although Mark Costandi with daughter Isabelle as crew were at the pin at the gun. For a brief moment the line was port favored, so I tried a port start at the pin and ended up in 4th place playing catch up.

On the first upwind leg, we caught Megan, then Rose by going to the right side of the course. We chased Ken & Diane for a lap and a half and finally on the last downwind legs we caught them in very light air. As we passed them, just before the gybe mark, we enjoyed a brief discussion about Darrilynn's sun poisoning or heat stroke the day before. Perhaps she caught what Bill Molleran had.

Before reaching the leeward mark we heard the race committee shorten the course to two laps. We crossed the finish line first and got out of the way to watch the remaining finishers: "Over Ken & Diane... Over Eli... Over Rose..." Wait, what?!?!?? Did 14-year-old Eli Rovito and his friend just beat Rose??? Actually, Eli was finishing his first lap while Rose was finishing her second. Nice try, Eli. If it's any consolation, you did come in "1st in the Junior Division of crewed Sunfish".

Handicap Race 2

The winds were still alternating between a delightful 5-7 mph and a miserable ZERO. (Probably more zero than anything else.) It was hard to determine if you should stay on the line or come in from 200 feet away with a

full head of steam. I opted to stay near the line, round the committee boat with 30 seconds left, and approach with a full head of steam. It was a close start with Diane & Ken, Megan & Kelsey, Rose, and Jerry and Darrilynn all on the line at the gun.

It was a tight race to the windward mark. Eventually, Darrilynn and I rounded first followed by Rose, Ken and Diane, Megan & Kelsey. Eli who intended to swap crew between races, picked up his friend, Adam, from the committee boat between races, but never left Colby behind (to make sure that Bill Molleran shortened the race). The three boys approached the line to start the second race, but went off to play when they realized that the extra crew weight was a major impediment to beating Rose a second time.

Darrilynn and I led the race until the second windward leg when for some reason we went to the left side while Rose, Diane, and Ken went to the right side and found the same wind (I use the term "wind" loosely.) that we had used to catch up to the fleet in the previous race. By this time Bill (seeing us struggle) came to his senses and shortened the handicap course to 2 laps again. Rose found what little wind there was (near the beach). She easily took the lead and never looked back. I think she had her boat on shore by the time the rest of us reached the finish line. <slight exaggeration>

Ken & Diane or was it Diane & Ken? I can't recall because it seemed like they had swapped helmsman and crew duties mid-race. (Is that legal? Maybe it was part of their plan to distract us.) Anyway, they beat us to the windward mark, which was becoming a leeward mark because of an eventual 180-degree wind shift. We all found ourselves sailing close hauled to the "leeward" mark with Darrilynn and I slowly being lifted, arriving at that mark ahead of Ken & Diane and Megan & Kelsey, and making a bee line to the finish line.

Darrilynn and I are very pleased to have such challenging opponents racing Capri's this year. We are especially impressed because most of them had never set foot in a Capri 14.2 three years ago while we have been sailing our little boat for about 15 years. Our hope is that others will borrow a club Capri and join us for the remainder of the Fall Series races.

Round the Lake Race II: The Case for a Race for Club Champion?

Yes, it's all about corrected time. Last year, the little Capri that could captured the Round the Lake Race I as Jerry Brewster and crew Steve Albert piloted their craft to an 8th place raw finish. And then saw themselves climb the ladder to Top Dog after the Portsmouth system worked its magic.

That would seem to make Jerry Brewster the reigning club champion since every conceivable kind of boat was entered from the sleek Hobie 16 to the fat cruisers at the back of the pack.

Organizers are at work as we speak, plotting out this year's course which will once again use the entire lake and all six marks. With a two-mile-long lake, the one lap race could end up being more than four miles long. Double helix? Figure 8x2? Great Circle Route?

Whatever the configuration, it will be a challenge. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 29th. Skippers' meeting at noon on Sunfish Island. Come to the picnic afterwards. And the crowning of King (or Queen) of the Lake.

Top left, Pete tries out the electric scooter after Roger showed everybody he knows how. Top right, Roger, Dom and Tom downwind last Sunday. Bottom left, Rose in a gust, handling it. Below right, awards and food!

