

# Acton *Action*

Hueston Sailing Association



## Round the Lake Racers Square Off

**Y-Flyers Fastest Around Course; Last Year's Champion Dethroned**

After explaining the course three or four times over the PA on the water, committee chair Mike Wier was still not sure everyone knew what to do. Some did. Those who did not just decided to play follow the leader.

That leader was Roger Henthorn and trusty sidekick of a crew Bobbie Bode,

his resident tactician. The team led wire to wire despite late heroics from the second place boat. And Round the Lake had a new champion.

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### Fall Series End Abrupt

Incidents and accidents abounded. But all hands safe.

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### The Twin Towers

Environmental collapse? Just what can individuals do?

Page 4

### Cruisers Get Drafted

Water levels are down and cruisers are gauging their chances.

Page 6



## Race Results

Sunday, September 22

### Hobies

1. Charles Buchert
2. Kevin DeArmon / Megan / Kayla
3. Mike Wier

### Y-Flyers

1. Roger Henthorn / Bobbie
2. Pete Peters / Rose
3. Charlie DeArmon / Amy
4. Scott Eversole / Paul
5. Mike Stratton / Mckenna

### Handicap

1. Brian Callahan Sunfish
2. Laura Beebe Sunfish
3. Jerry Brewster / Darrilynn Capri
4. Diane Pierok / Ken Wright Capri

### Cruisers

1. Curt Donahue / Chris
2. Dave Judy / Jackie
3. Stephen Cook
4. Peter Lask

## Final Fall Series Cut Short by Wind

The wind turned the last race in the Fall Series into a dunking booth for some, a mechanical bull ride for others.

Three boats, one in each start (except for cruisers) found the water when the wind did what it advertised to do: gust to the high 20's. Then a Hobie (not with HSA) went over down the lake and the committee raced off to help the stranded sailor.

That led to a cancellation of the 2nd race. Some may have been glad for the incident as the wind had been piping up all afternoon between 10 and 20 mph and testing skippers and crews alike.

Still, the four starts came off without a hitch even if a

boat or two capsized before race one was over. Hobieman Mike Wier gamely and bravely singlehanded his catamaran but the wind eventually got him.

Sunfish sovereign Laura Beebe also found the water. The first time she dry capsized. But as soon as it was back up, it went over again and this time she was not as lucky.

Mike Stratton, skippering Mckenna Eversole's Y, also capsized after nearly finishing the three lap contest. When he and Mckenna got the boat back up, it was full to the gunnels. They bailed themselves out of it and finished, nonetheless. It was Mckenna's first dunking.

## Cruisers Come on Strong; Furlers and Reefs Came With Them

Curt Donahue, who missed CruiserFest 19 due to a losing struggle with a park ranger over registration, made up for missing that event Sunday. Curt, sailing with his brother Chris, flew around the two-lap course in under 40 minutes and left the fleet behind.

Dave and Jackie Judy furlled a little jib but left the main full as they fought off at

least one 45-degree heel, finishing second.

Peter Lask, sailing singlehanded in his Catalina 22, bravely tried to make it to the finish but ended up going in early as the wind threatened to dump even the Big Boys.

Stephen Cook also sailed singlehanded but reefed. Those on the course never saw him go faster.



## Twin Towers of the Environmental Crisis

Carbon Emissions and Plastic Waste Represent Most Pressing Issues

Last Sunday as we were righting Mckenna's capsized Y-Flyer, I looked at my plastic water bottle floating away to leeward. Mckenna's too.

It was a reminder that even if I weren't using a single use plastic bottle, that I am adding to the thousands of plastic bottles and other plastic waste in Acton Lake.

Most of the bad news about plastic pollution concerns the oceans. We are all aware of the huge trash gyres that exist in all five oceans. We are all aware of the damage these plastics cause to marine life and the food chain. But the problem is local as well as global.

Sailors on Acton Lake contribute a fair share of plastic waste every year. Who hasn't watched their own water bottle or lunch

container float away and sink, not to mention the pieces of polyester clothing we may have lost? I have several hats at the bottom of the lake myself.

Each year in junior camp, we lose milk jug bailers and single use water bottles in numbers that eventually add up.

All of these plastic things eventually degrade but it is photodegradation, the breaking down into smaller and smaller microplastics from the sun that lake life ingests. But photodegradation is something that doesn't happen easily at the bottom of the lake. They will be there long after HSA has disappeared from the planet.

(continued page 5 - what we can do)

## Round the Lake

(Continued from page 1)

Last year's champs, the Jerry Brewster boat, had to settle for third place but the Capri's Portsmouth rating enabled the Brewsters to finish just ahead of Brett Hart and crew Brent in their Y-Flyer.

Curt Donahue once again led all cruisers as he and crew/brother Chris sailed their San Juan 21 to a brisk finish in the sometimes-moody winds.

The forecast called for light air of about 5 mph. But as usual, the forecast "aired". The breezes averaged 8-10 with gusts to 15. Ok, there was that 15-minute lull that caught most of the fleet unfinished and stretched them out in the sun before it returned to strength for the finish.

The lead boat was finished in about 45 minutes with a course that stretched from the docks to the strange waters above the lodge.

A paired set of red buoys in the middle of the course had to be rounded with a 360, which added a bit of spice to it all. In the end, it was all pumpkin chocolate chip cookies and red velvet muffins at the post race wind up.

### Raw Finishes

1. Roger Henthorn  
Bobbie Bode Y Flyer
2. Mike Stratton Carla  
Myers Y Flyer
3. Brett Hart and Brent Y  
Flyer
4. Jerry and Darrilynn  
Brewster Capri
5. Curt Donahue and  
Chris San Juan 21
6. Diane Pierok and  
Dave Capri 14
7. Dominiek Everaet and  
Noah Sunfish
8. Stephen Cook Montie  
15
9. Pete Peters and Rose  
Catalina 22
10. Scott Eversole and  
Family O'Day 25
11. Mark Durbin  
MacGregor 25 DNF

### Corrected Time

1. Roger Henthorn and  
Bobbie
2. Mike Stratton/Carla  
Myers
3. Jerry and Darrilynn  
Brewster
4. Brett Hart and Brent
5. Diane Pierok and  
Dave
6. Curt Donahue and  
Christopher
7. Stephen Cook
8. Dom Everaet and  
Noah
9. Pete Peters and Rose  
Schultz
10. Scott Eversole and  
family
11. Mark Durbin



Above, Carla Myers in Y-Flyer; middle, the Brewsters' 360; bottom, Stephen Cook heads for the balls.

## Twin Towers (continued from page 3)

Ok, so what can we do. And it is on us. If we wait for business or government or institutions to act, we will most certainly be late to the Saving Earth table.

We likely need to pledge, all of us, that we won't take plastic containers on the water. (It doesn't take a capsized boat to lose one of these things.) Better yet, let's pledge to buy as little plastic as we can, let alone take it on the lake.

One solution is a lanyard on our water containers. (Single use water bottles cannot be tied down.) If we must use plastic bottles, let's at least tie it to the boat so we have it when we get in.

Another solution might be to use water containers made out of renewables, like aluminum or cardboard. The aluminum ones can be tied, if they have a feature that allows that. The cardboard ones can't, but at least they can biodegrade if lost overboard. The Boxed Water is Better brand is one example.

With nearly 300 million tons of plastic being manufactured each year and only about 20 % being recycled, you

might begin to appreciate the magnitude of the problem. Eight million tons of that 300 million end up in the oceans. Every year.

Changing habits is hard, but doable. The onus is on us. Some legislation is happening. For example California recently passed the Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution and Reduction Act that will reduce all single use packaging and plastic waste by 75% by 2030. But that's California. It will be years before a state like West Virginia (#1 in pollution in U.S. - the other nine are all in the South) does something similar.

And there is hope from those who can make a big difference. Brett Hart, who works for produce giant Dole, tells us that a new line of corrugated packaging for strawberries debuted this year.

But again, we must all take personal responsibility. If a restaurant serves their drinks in paper cups, good. I can forego the lid and the straw. Reusable shopping bags are another easy habit to gain. Paper based bowls and food containers are increasingly showing up. We can refuse to patronize those places that use Styrofoam still and incentivize the process.

If our excuse for continuing use of single use plastics is personal convenience, well, just where are our heads.



## Sunfish Worlds Won by Guatemalan David Hernandez; Americans Get Five Spots in Top Twenty

Once again the Sunfish Worlds were dominated by the South Americans with Guatemalan David Hernandez taking it all after a tiebreaker with Peru's Renzo Sanguineta. Peru placed five in the top twenty.

A Dutchman, Eugene Hendrikx, placed fifth in the very international

competition held last week in Bonaire (off the coast of Venezuela).

The top American was New Orleans' Eugene Schmidt in 7th. The Midwest Region's Dan Norton from Michigan finished a very respectable 10th. Chicago's Rich Chapman was 23rd.

# Falling Lake Level a Concern to Cruisers

Our Man on A Dock Says "We should be good."

It was October of 2012 and the lake had dropped precipitously due to drought and a leaky dam. The water at the ramps was too low, the path to them even trickier. So what to do? Well, sailors are resourceful people.

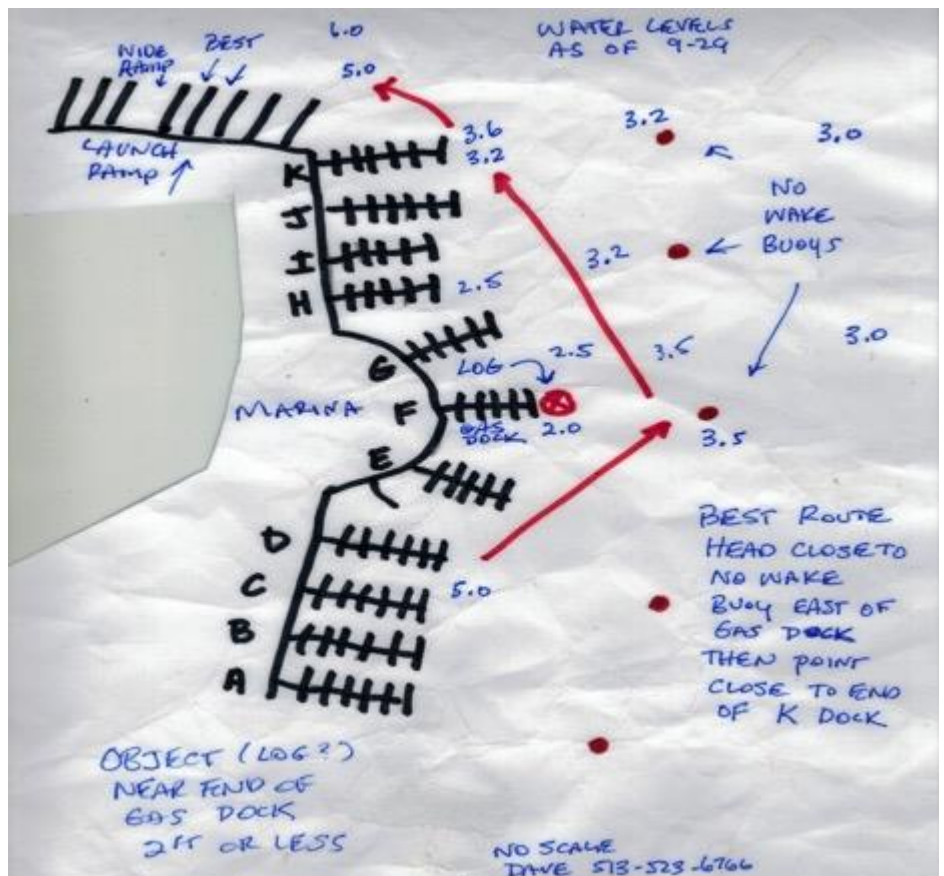
Catalina 22 skippers Dave Judy and Martin Griffiths went to Sugar Camp and hauled out there. Others, including HSA's Mark Durbin and Bill Jackson, went to the beach where, with the help of a farmer's tractor, boats were drug out there.

There are rumors of a year when a crane was hired to lift boats out at the A-D dock area, but the 2012 season was the most recent summer of silt at the ramps that made cruising sailors take extraordinary steps.

Dave and Martin took their boats to Sugar Camp where with two trucks (including a dually) pulling the hefty boats out of the water. Mark Durbin and Bill Jackson told us of the Year of the Tractor. Their stories are on page 8.

Dave's homemade chart of the important depths is below, one he just complete last weekend.

Where's Bottom?  
 Bottom?  
 Hydrographic chart by Dave Judy



## A Child Speaks Truth to a World of Adults

*Climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, addressed the U.N.'s Climate Action Summit in New York City on Monday. Here's the full transcript of Thunberg's speech, beginning with her response to a question about the message she has for world leaders.*

"My message is that we'll be watching you.

"This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you! "For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.

"You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe.

"The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees [Celsius], and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control.

"Fifty percent may be acceptable to you. But those numbers do not include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of equity and climate justice. They also rely on my generation sucking hundreds of billions of tons of your CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air with technologies that barely exist.

"So a 50% risk is simply not acceptable to us — we who have to live with the consequences.

"To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5 degrees global temperature rise — the best odds given by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] — the world had 420 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> left to emit back on Jan. 1st, 2018. Today that figure is already down to less than 350 gigatons.

"How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just 'business as usual' and some technical solutions? With today's emissions levels, that remaining CO<sub>2</sub> budget will be entirely gone within less than 8 1/2 years.

"There will not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable. And you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.

"You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you.

"We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not. Thank you.

"Thank you."

## Cruisers Go to Extraordinary Depths

Mark Durbin, who sails a MacGregor 25, tells us about the last time the lake appeared to sink. It was October 13, 2012. A helpful farmer named Ralph somehow showed up near the north end of the beach. "Several of us were trapped due to the extreme shallows near the boat ramps. I have no recollection of who knew the farmer, but word spread that on a given day a tractor would be at the end of the beach," Mark told us.

"One by one he attached our trailers to his tractor's tow hitch, backed the entire rig into the lake, and waded out alongside to help guide our boats onto the trailers. It was a very windy day and I had only the trolling motor for propulsion, but he managed to get me attached and pulled me out. He asked for \$30 but I gave him \$60 I was so relieved."

Dave Judy told us about the 2012 scramble to find a good place. He and Martin Griffiths and one other boat chose the Sugar Camp site (fishing jetty) for their adventure. Here is his story.

"The Sugar camp story (I will deny any knowledge or involvement). Yeah, it was at least 6 if not 7-8 years ago when the lake was super low.

That whole summer it was so low I think Bill (Jackson) pulled out mid August. The launch ramp area was not dredged for two maybe three years, and I couldn't get to the launch ramp when the lake wasn't a lot lower than it will be this year by the 15th. The issue was mainly the area before the launch ramp-and even up to the ramp was very shallow- although we had the additional issue that in those days the ramps dropped off at the end and one's trailer could get stuck if backed in too far. (they dredged and added fill at the end of some ramps that next year) We stayed in anyway, looking at a group getting a crane in to hoist us out.

I scouted several possibilities, (Fall water temp then was much colder and I remember being neck deep in very cold water to check) the old little beach, the main beach and found the cove (Bill now calls that *Dave's Cove*) immediately north of the concrete pier.

I found that it dropped off very fast and become quite deep quickly with a rock bottom (mostly 6" size rocks) instead of soft sand. We considered asking permission, even debated suggesting a quick and easily built emergency ramp be made there, but instead just decided not to call attention and ask for forgiveness instead of permission if caught. Martin and I both got our boats out easily there (4-wheel drive to get up the small bank-but solid ground).

I'm not sure but and I don't remember who but a third Skipper may have too-not Dennis, I remember him getting his boat out by using a line to shore to pull him into the ramp area a week before). Worse part is the road out-a tight fit for some corners with the trailer and we met a few folks coming down who had to back up out of our way due to the narrow road.

A few days later that same year a few with a tractor used the beach- (I don't think even a four wheel drive could do the sand with a boat-and it's doesn't drop off much)- and I heard that was when one unfortunate Skipper did not think to drop his mast on the way to storage lot and hit the wires at the end of the parking lot before the dog park.

I recall I heard it took out power to the Lodge and Park."

If the lake does get too low and alternatives are sought, lets do the Pier again but coordinate as a group at once and fly under the radar- I'd hate to see that chained off or made impassable with concrete blocks or such. Unless the lake dries up, I am staying in as long as I can.