

Acton Action

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HSA hosted Beverages and Boats at the Mellow Mushroom on March 7th. We have the story and a few photos

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Joe Fulford takes you to Indianapolis where a whole crew of HSA's finest, uh, road warriors attended a seven-hour seminar on racing tactics. We'll never be the same. And that was the point.

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The HSA calendar is official and published here! Got your dues paid yet? Your committee boat duty dates set? Now's the time!



Abner Kingman / Disney Enterprises

Film Series: *Morning Light*

Eleven Crew – All Under 23 – 2300 miles –
Against the Best Racing Sailors in the World

When you were about 20 years old, wouldn't you have loved to have had the opportunity to cross an ocean? Well, I did. Only I was on board a U.S. Navy destroyer and headed for the war zone. Blech.

No, I'm talking about **sailing** across the great Pacific Ocean. That's what eleven lucky young people did back in 2007. They were the crew of a TP52 that somehow got entered into one of the world's premier races – the Transpac from Los Angeles to Hawaii. Read about the film that chronicled their adventure on the next page.



Film Series: *Morning Light* – The Story of the Youngest Crew to Ever Compete in the Transpac Race

It was early in the morning on a warm day on the ocean, about one thousand miles into a race across the Pacific to Hawaii. The crew of the racing sloop *Morning Light* awoke to find that after not seeing their principal rival since the start of the race in Los Angeles days earlier, there they were – about two hundred yards off their stern.

That is exactly what happened to the youthful crew of *Morning Light*, a 52 ft. boat specifically designed for racing across oceans.

The race took about 10-12 days and involved over 70 yachts in seven divisions. *Morning Light*, with its crew of 18-23-year olds, wanted to finish the race but how does a crew of mostly college students even get into a race like this? (No spoilers here; you'll have to see the film to find out how they did against the nine other boats in their division, all crewed by seasoned professional racers.)

The answer is Roy Disney. Yes, Walt's nephew and a movie producer in his own right. Back in 2006, Disney was approached by the Transpac 52 class president and suggested a project: recruit, select and train a crew to compete in the Transpac race, one that would take over 200 hours to sail, from Los Angeles to Hawaii. But it had to be a young crew, kids barely out of high school.

Disney saw the chance to promote the sport and the race across the Pacific that he himself had participated in and won in record time on more than one occasion. And to make a documentary about the whole experience.

The result was the film *Morning Light*, which debuted back in 2008, the year after this remarkable crew was selected, trained,

and entered into a competition that most people had to wait years to get into and usually only after becoming professional sailors.

The film wasn't widely seen back in 2008 but it certainly is one that can be enjoyed not only by the sailing community but by general audiences. A good deal of the film takes place on the boat at sea. There were cameras everywhere – on the boat itself, on a boat that sailed close by, and sometimes on an aircraft. It is after all, Disney.

Over 500 young applicants vied for the 30 spots that were to be the final pool of applicants for the 15 finalists. Of that 15, only 11 would actually make the trip, the other four being alternates. The film shows the selection process and the viewer gets to know the crew pretty well and cheer for their success.

The film was not well received by critics or the Tomatometer back in 2008. However, if you want to see a slickly produced documentary that lives, breathes, and surrounds the world of ocean racing, then it can be pretty absorbing.

Disney passed in 2009 but the scion of the Disney family was a champion sailor himself and made this film, unintentionally, his swan song. We are pretty sure that the lives of the 15 young people chosen for this adventure were significantly altered by their experience. Who among us wouldn't have grasped at an opportunity for such a challenge so early in our sailing careers?

Even now, we might have a little regret for spending so much time away from or postponing the exhilarating experiences of the thing we love – sailboats and racing.



HSA's First Beverages and Boats Attracts "Mellow" Crowd



It was noisy, but conversation was the priority of the day as HSA met for the first time since the November banquet. The Mellow Mushroom in West Chester hosted our 22-member party that included nine people who came out to talk to us about sailing.

We put our event on the web after joining Cincinnati Meet Up. The site was introduced to us by Jon Hill and friend Sherie who came to Acton Lake last summer for a sailing outing with us and brought along several of their Meet Up guests. (The couple are now looking for a cruiser to put at their dock at Rocky Fork.)

We met Ken and Shannon Tudor there, a couple from Germantown who own a Hobie 18. Ken has grown up around sailboats and is eager to get his newly acquired Hobie on the water and into racing.

All but one of those who came to explore sail were women, a confirmation that the sport is attracting more females. But women involved in adventure is nothing new.

In fact, you can see the Women's Adventure Film Tour on March 25th at the Garfield Theater in Cincy. The lineup features an "all star cast of global athletes, businesswomen, mothers and storytellers, including cliff diver Rhiannan Iffland, climber Kira Brazinski, long distance hiker Jennifer Pharr-Davis, and many more women in snow sports, mountaineering and mountain biking." Might be some sailors in it too.

At left, Joe Fulford and Dom Everaet hold sway with five people new to sailing at one end of the table. At right, Shannon Tudor listens as the Brewsters and the Cooks trade stories at the other end.

"All but one of those who came to explore sail were women, a confirmation that the sport is attracting more females. But women involved in adventure is nothing new."

HSA Goes to School

Racing Seminar Makes Road Warriors Out of Midwinter Couchmen as They Yield to Siren Call of the Sailing Classroom

By Joe Fulford

HSA “Donner Party” Attends North-Sails University Tactics Seminar in Indianapolis

Much like the Donner Party pioneers who left the Midwest in the spring of 1846, a group of HSA sailing faithful struck out westward early on March 14th in the face of a large snowstorm and an unknown virus landscape.

After confirmation with the North U organizers, and goodbyes to our loved ones, intrepid sailors Mike Stratton, Joe Fulford, Stephen Cook, Scott Eversole, and Brian Callahan bravely converged on host Eagle Creek Sailing Club’s teaching venue in Indianapolis for an all-day seminar on Racing Tactics.

The hardy travelers were relieved to note the generous collection of disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer (mandatory use prior to gourmet lunch), and nary a cough ... while watching the snow fall heavily out the classroom window all afternoon.

Our instructor, [Andrew Kerr](#), originally of Plymouth England but more recently of Eugene Oregon, is an active coach and racing tactician as well as a championship skipper including J24 National victor seven times over.



Andrew Kerr of North U

He is a contributing writer to *Sailing World* magazine and has taught hundreds of North U seminars while head coach at the Boston Sailing Center and while Assistant Director at Steve Colgate’s Offshore Sailing School — we definitely got our \$135 worth!

The content of the seminar spanned many tactical and strategic topics that Andrew tailored for the classroom’s collection of twenty odd lake sailors. We discussed racing prep, starts and starting drills, upwind/reaching/downwind strategies, rules, teamwork, boat speed & handling, clear air, and light-medium-heavy wind course making. (continued next page)



HSA Goes to School

(Continued from previous page)

He easily fielded every question thrown his way and screened multiple aerial videos of starts and mark rounding while quoting the [US Sailing rule](#) number and paragraph — it was informative as well as fun to watch skippers negotiating courses (sometimes not so well) all over the world.

In summary, North U staffed this seminar with a top-notch instructor and Eagle Creek Sailing Club hosted us expertly and comfortably. The trip home was uneventful, and without enough snow blocking our path to end anything like the Donner Party experience. After the seminar, we inexplicably felt weeks closer to HSA's launch date of April 18th than when we started that morning, and also just a little bit smarter.



HSA's Stephen Cook takes a drink of water during a brief break in the seminar last Saturday. Although it looks a lot like a bottle of vodka, we can assure you it is water in a unique decanter. Because that's Stephen – unique.



Reducing Plastic Packaging One Step at a Time

Have you ever been grocery shopping or strolled down the aisles at any retailer and been dumbstruck by the number of items packaged in plastic? We have.

The only way out of this plastic mess is to gradually eliminate consuming items that come in plastic. It isn't easy. So much comes that way it is hard to abstain. But we can make some progress here.

We recently began using toothpaste "Bites", a small mint sized tablet that you simply chew a bit and then brush. It foams up like toothpaste and, bingo, fresh breath, clean teeth, and no plastic tube joining the billion plastic tubes that enter the waster stream every year.

It comes in a compostable package every four months after initially arriving in a small glass container that you simply refill. Nothing to throw away. Goes well with our bamboo toothbrushes.

HSA's 2020 Racing and Instruction Calendar

April 18 Launch Boats 10:00

April 26 1st Spring Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer

May 2 Sea Scouts Training

May 3 2nd Spring Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer

May 10 3rd Spring Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer

May 16 Girls Adventure Group Intro to Sail

May 17 4th Spring Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer

May 24 - 25 Memorial Day Series Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer, **Cruisers**

May 31 Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta

June 6-7 Sailing School #1 Introduction to Sailing

June 14 5th Spring Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer, **Cruisers**

June 21 6th Spring Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer, **Cruisers**

June 27-28 Sailing School #2 Introduction to Sailing

July 4-5 4th of July Series Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer, Cruisers

July 12 Camptown Races Sunfish Regatta

July 13 - 15 Junior Sailing Camp Sunfish & Capri

July 19 HSA Club Championship Capris

July 26 1st Fall Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer

August 2 2nd Fall Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer, **Cruisers**

August 9 3rd Fall Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer

August 16 4th Fall Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer

August 23 Augusto! Sunfish Regatta

August 30 CruiserFest 2020!

September 6 - 7 Labor Day Series. Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer, **Cruisers**

September 13. 5th Fall Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer, **Cruisers**

September 20. 6th Fall Handicap, Hobie, Y-Flyer

September 27. Around The Lake Race. All Boats welcome

October 3 - 4. OktoberFast Sunfish Regatta

October 10. Haul Out



A cruising start has been added to several of our racing dates. Cruisers, whether members or not, can join in the racing any weekend, though. If there are three or more, a separate start will be added. Otherwise, cruisers can jump into the Handicap start if they like. Each of our Holiday Series (Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day) weekends will also feature a cruiser start.

We welcome our cruising sailor friends at Acton Lake to our schedule!



2019 Warmest Year on Record

“Since 1950 the world has created 6.3 trillion kilograms of plastic waste and 91 percent of it has never been recycled even once.”

From a study published in 2017 in the journal “Science Advances”

Fun Facts

“Every human being on the planet is ingesting nearly 2,000 particles of plastic a week. These tiny pieces enter our unwitting bodies from tap water, food, and even the air, according to an alarming academic study sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, dosing us with five grams of plastics, many cut with chemicals linked to cancers, hormone disruption, and developmental delays.”

Rolling Stone

Is this the year that HSA is plastic free? Come on, HSA! You can do it. Refuse to Use single use plastic!

In the past decade, HSA has endured the hottest summers in recorded history. 2016 was the warmest ever, according to NASA and the NOAA and the decade ending with 2019 surged to the top of the list as the warmest decade since record keeping started back in 1850.

Heat records were set around the world. In fact, July of 2019 was the warmest ever recorded in human history. And it was the 43rd straight July and the 417th straight month with temperatures above the 20th century average.

According to NOAA, there are three big reasons why the global temperature was so hot. First, if the global temperature is going to set a record, it’s mostly going to be in July, which worldwide is the hottest month of the year.

Second, there’s a normal amount of variability in the weather. The most significant factor was that earlier last year, El Niño warm weather conditions formed on the Pacific, causing warmer-than-average weather conditions.

However, NOAA and climate scientists agree that one of the most important reasons that the world is within striking distance of setting global temperatures is climate change. Arndt says that the records are “almost entirely [due to climate change](#).” NOAA scientists have warned rising greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere impacts the climate.

“Greenhouse gas pollution traps heat in the atmosphere, which has consequences,” James Butler, director of NOAA’s Global Monitoring Division, [said in May](#). “There’s no getting around it — burning fossil fuels is changing the course of our planet’s future. How society deals with that will be a major challenge in coming decades.”

That HSA has “weathered” this precipitous rise in temperature in an outdoor activity is in itself remarkable. How will we deal with impact of burning fossil fuels? We are already a sport that harnesses natural forces of clean energy. But how much carbon do we burn and where can we cut it back?