

ACTON ACTION

State Relaxes Grip; Racing Begins Again

HSA Opens Racing Year After Long Delay



In what we will likely remember as the Year of the Pandemic, HSA finally got to return to the race course after a week of starts and stops.

Park Manager Ken Elliot gave the go ahead after talking to HSA and being assured that racing sailing as

an activity would be relatively Covid safe.

A few days later, the gun sounded and 15 boats and twenty-five crew and committee rediscovered the perils and prerogatives of the wind and the X course. Race results within.



At left, Brett and Maggie on Opening Day; At right, Scott Eversole and dad Paul. Just a few of the families who sail together. Above, Ryan Servizzi in newly refurbished Rescue One. Thank you, Pete Peters!



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When Sir Issac Newton was quarantined because of the plague, he discovered calculus. Do you have any idea how bored you would have to be to discover calculus?

"You can't buy happiness but you can buy a boat. And that's pretty much the same thing."

HSA Turns Out for Spring Series #2; Competition Keen

The hopeful forecast brought out the competitors in each fleet this past Sunday. And although the wind didn't always live up to its billing, there was enough to go around. A three lap X course is a long race unless you have some wind that flexes its muscle.

It did cool off, speed wise, as race two was shortened, but the competition never slackened. In the Hobies, Charlie Buchert, who missed week one, won both races to tighten the spring series with Mark Costandi, who still leads. Veteran Mike Wier demonstrated that he can still command a Hobie and a wind that tries to buck him off as at least two puffs caused him to let

In the Handicap Fleet, the Sunfish dominated the larger boats. Bill Molleran remained undefeated in 2020, capturing both races fairly comfortably. Laura Peters and Brian Callahan did their best to rein him in. The three are the best in the club, but it was Molleran's steady starts that put him in front for good.

In the Y-Flyers, with Pete and Rose on committee it was up to the Stratton/Gunter boat, Brett and Maggie Hart, and Scott and Paul Eversole to slow Roger Henthorn and sidekick Bobbie Bode but close doesn't count. Nor does the fact that winner was behind most of both races. Henthorn won both to extend his spring series lead but it's too early to make any predictions.



Sunfish racers crowd the line as the starting gun nears. Julie Molleran impressed but in the end husband Bill was untouchable as formidable opponents Laura Peters and Brian Callahan struggled with the wind.

Race Results Spring Series #2



Stephen Cook gets a lift in his Montgomery 15

Hobies

- 1. Charlie Buchert 1 1 2
- 2. Mike Wier 3 2 5
- 3. Mark Costandi 2 DNS 6

Y-Flyers

- 1. Roger Henthorn/Bobbie 1 1 2
- 2. Mike Stratton/Dawn 2 2 4
- 3. Brett Hart/Maggie 3 3 6
- 4. Scott Eversole/Paul 4 4 8

Handicap

- 1. Bill Molleran 1 1 2
- 2. Laura Peters 2 2 4
- 3. Brian Callahan 3 4 7
- 4. Julie Molleran 6 3 9
- 5. Jerry Brewster/Darrilynn 5 5 10
- 6. Ken Wright 4 6 10
- 7. Joe Fulford/Leigh Ann 7 8 15
- 8. Dom Everaet/Skylar 9 7 16
- 9. Stephen Cook 8 9 17



All is Lost – The Thinking Sailor’s Movie?

The title of the film is “*All is Lost*”, which sounds more like a description of some cultural cynic of our country’s economy and politics right now. It is as if the title is preparing you for two hours of being despondent. And you can just about guarantee that there will be no banjo music in the sound track. (Steve Martin banjo, not *Deliverance* banjo.)

So, with that in mind, let’s join the film’s star and only character on board his 36 feet or so of waterlogged fiberglass in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Robert Redford’s unnamed character awakens to find his cabin flooded and the corner of a stray shipping container sticking through the hull. Water is pouring in over his electronics so forget Mayday or SOS or even “Help!” It is going to be man vs. nature and since this man is 77 years old, it is virtually old man and the sea with few fish involved.

With a big hole in the side of your boat, and no way to contact anyone, you can expect things to go from bad to worse. And they do. In any dramatic movie that takes place aboard a sailboat, you can expect a few things. Electronic failures, a storm,

falling overboard, and near rescues. In fact, he is passed twice in broad daylight by container ships (ironically) that somehow miss not only seeing him and his boat but also his signal flares. I believe it can happen.

You can also expect to see a sailor do things or fail to do things that even your average lake bound sailor would do. Number one? Fail to reef or furl or, in this case, set a storm jib before the squall strikes. It helps the drama I suppose but also strains credulity that an experienced ocean traveler would see a storm coming and then wait until he or she was being tossed around to go out on deck and attempt to switch out a sail, hank by tedious hank.

As someone probably never said, if you think you might need to reef, it’s probably too late.

And let us ask you. Would you take the boards from your companionway hatch in a storm with waves crashing over your bow? Our solitary septuagenarian does it twice while viewing sailors cringe.

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All is Lost (continued from page 3)

him overboard. Twice. Let's go out on a deck even a young person would be unable to stand on and try to bend on a sail. Good Lord, though! Isn't there enough drama available to someone in a similar situation? Yes. The boat does a knock down and a 360-degree roll with frightening reality. Redford no doubt had a stand in for that but in many other scenes requiring physicality, he is remarkably up to the task. Except for the part maybe where he had to pull himself back on board after falling over. They edited out the critical moment where he had to throw a leg over and use arm strength to lift himself onto the deck. I can't even do that on my Catalina and I'm much younger than Redford (Ok, two years).

Although the film is shot entirely on the ocean ... wait - I should say simulated ocean since much of it or most of it is filmed in the giant water tank in Mexico where they filmed Titanic, a fact you can't miss since the water around the boat often resembles a swimming pool after a fat guy's cannonball, with giant fans blowing ... where was I. Oh, yes, shot entirely on the simulated ocean, very little sailing takes place. Redford's nameless character tacks a few times but that's it. Most of the film is him sloshing around in a soggy or soaked cabin or the interior of a life raft.

Still, despite these nagging little disparities, you do get caught up in the struggle and begin rooting for his survival. (You have to forget that any modern boat would have an EPIRB on board and it would get deployed.) Our man doesn't say much. (Less than fifty words of dialogue throughout, about 35 or which are in one scene where he tries to hail someone on his broken radio.)

The film could be an allegory about man's struggle to survive in a world that's not only indifferent to your survival but also the cause of an existential battle and a frustrating search for meaning. How much worse it must be when the only thing that gives you joy - sailing alone on a vast and beautiful ocean - suddenly becomes your greatest misery. The movie's ending leaves you wondering about this allegory which may or may not be full of symbolism and open to wide interpretation. If it is an allegory, in its ending you can choose your own adventure, so to speak. I chose the hopeful, optimistic one.

Yet you are never really sure of the outcome whether you are seeing it literally or as allegory. How unpredictable of them. How deliciously ambiguous. How unHollywood. There's satisfaction in that.

SAILING PLAYLIST

A Starter Kit

"A Pirate Looks At Forty,"
Jimmy Buffett
"Come Sail Away," Styx
"Redneck Yacht Club," Craig
Morgan
"Southern Cross," Crosby,
Stills & Nash
"5 O'clock Somewhere," Alan
Jackson, with Jimmy Buffett
"Knee Deep," Zac Brown Band
"Boats," Kenny Chesney
"Sloop John B," The Beach
Boys
"If I Had a Boat," Lyle Lovett
"Rock the Boat," Hues
Corporation
"Back to the Islands," Leon
Russell
"Four Strong Winds," Neil
Young (Ian Tyson)
"And It Stoned Me," Van
Morrison
"Wooden Ships," Crosby, Stills
& Nash
"Boats to Build," Guy Clark
"The Wreck of the Edmund
Fitzgerald," Gordon Lightfoot
"The Irish Rover," The Pogues
"Redemption Song," Bob
Marley
"Orinoco Flow (Sail Away),"
Enya
"Boats, Beaches, Bars &
Ballads" (album), Jimmy
Buffett

Molleran, Costandi, Henthorn, and Peters Take Spring Series #1 Honors

Opening Day Racing Welcomed as HSA Turns Out in Numbers

HSA opened its season today and flew out to the race course in a strong double-digit breeze. It seemed as though the wind was in as high spirits as these racing sailors who have been beached by the (Covid) bug.

By the time the gun went off, it was back to the old Acton Lake as the wind dropped off and only returned when it wanted to lift this boat or kill that one. When all the X cursing, er, coursing was done, the Sunfish/Handicappers were watching Bill Molleran mop up. Young Megan DeArmon was on her game and finished strong in both races.

Five Y-Flyers came to the line and those two contests were split between the Pete and Rose show and the Roger and Bobbie duo who won the day.

Pete and Rose won race one and led all of race two until the final two legs of the second lap when the RogBobs sliced in front just before the leeward mark. In both races Charlie DeArmon and Amy Marks let the two boats in front know that they were not to be left out of the conversation, trailing by only a couple of boat lengths in all four laps of the two hour contest and at moments threatening to knock one or both leaders off.

In the Hobie division, Mark Costandi blasted his nearest rival, Kevin DeArmon, by a Preble County mile when the young gun got stuck in lull as the Mark boat raced away from him.

The wind veered and backed all afternoon from northeast to southwest and stayed pretty much in the 5-10 range under sunny, but white puffy clouded sky. Hooray! We're back!

Race Results for Opening Day June 7

Hobies

1. Mark Costandi 1 1 2
2. Kevin DeArmon 2 DNS 5

Y-Flyers

1. Roger Henthorn/B. Bodie 2 1 3
2. Pete Peters/Rose Schultz 1 2 3
3. Charlie DeArmon/Amy Marks
3 3 6
4. Brett Hart/Maggie Hart 4 4 8
5. Scott Eversole/Paul Eversole 5 5 10

Handicap

1. Bill Molleran 1 1 2
2. Megan DeArmon 3 2 5
3. Jerry Brewster/Darrilynn Brewster
2 4 6
4. Laura Peters 4 3 7
5. Brendan Draper 5 6 11
6. Stephen Cook 8 5 13
7. Kayla Draper 7 7 14
8. Joe Fulford/LeighAnn Fulford
6 8 14

Saving Sailing: One Family at a Time

As we adapt and adopt to the new normal, at least part of our psyche has to be thinking that the recent emphasis on staffing the committee boat and the participating boats with family and/or household members has an old ring to it.

When many of us first started racing, it was often with families who came to the lake together and raced. Husband and wife teams were common in the 60's through the 90's, and singlehanded sailing was not that much in evidence. Covid 19 has made sailing with family more urgent and more attractive.

Families are still the core of our

club and should be our emphasis as we move forward. Bring the kids, bring the spouse. We won't forget our obligation to bring others to our sport. But we also know that the strength of our sport and our club lies in our ability to get families to Intro to Sail, on the race course, and attending our social events.

It has been gratifying to see the new members like Scott Eversole sail with his extended family. Brett Hart has his daughter Maggie on board. Dom Everaet came out with daughter Skyler last week and often brings son Noah.

There are about 20 families in HSA who sail together.

As the season progresses, we



Dom Everaet and daughter Skyler out in his Sunfish last week. About one third of HSA's 60 members sail with family.



HSA's husband wife teams out last Sunday: upper left - Joe and LeighAnn Fulford; upper right - Jerry and Darrilynn Brewster; lower left - Mike Stratton/Dawn Gunter; lower right - Pete and Linda Peters. Not pictured: Bill and Julie Molleran