

# ACTON ACTION

Volume 64 Issue 2 February, 2021



More photos for our Facebook Series "Can Your Sunfish Do This?" Sunfish rigs seem popular for iceboating.

## HSA 2021 Calendar Set As Sailing Enters 2<sup>nd</sup> COVID Year

No Delayed Start This Time; Season to Open in April But Effect of Pandemic Still Evident

HSA's Executive Committee met via Zoom last Saturday and set up the framework for the 2021 season. Unlike last year, the racing season will begin at its traditional starting date in April. Intro to Sail, however, as well as HSA's Junior Camp will continue to be affected.

Mark your calendars for April 28 for the start of the Spring Series. April will also see the club working on boats before that racing starts. In addition to the usual Work Day/Boat Launch, a weekend has been set aside for getting the club's five boat Capri fleet up to snuff.

Junior Camp will, it appears, return but in a different



### Wanderer

2

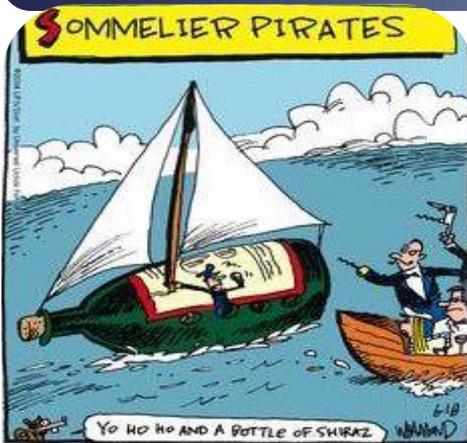
Sailor, actor, author – the autobiography of Sterling Hayden. This month's winter read.



### Pandemic

4

We continue our series on how members have coped with COVID 19 with the Fulfords, Wrights, and Callahans.



## Funnies

### Generation Gap

An old sea captain was sitting on a bench near the wharf when a young man walked up and sat down. The young man had spiked hair and each spike was a different color... green, red, orange, blue, and yellow.

After a while the young man noticed that the captain was staring at him.

“What’s the matter old timer, never done anything wild in your life?”

The old captain replied, “Got drunk once and married a parrot. I was just wondering if you were my son.”

### Your Puns for the Day

“What do you call a sail with only two corners?”

“I have no clew.”

A boat carrying red paint crashed into a boat carrying red paint and the crews were marooned.

## Wanderer: A Book Review

*Actor? Sailor? Author? American War Hero? Communist sympathizer? Will the real Sterling Hayden please step forward?*

*You may not recognize the name. He was well known from the 1940’s through the 1980’s as a Hollywood leading man and supporting actor, but he was someone who was uncomfortable in the sizzling heat of the tungsten lamps of movie making.*

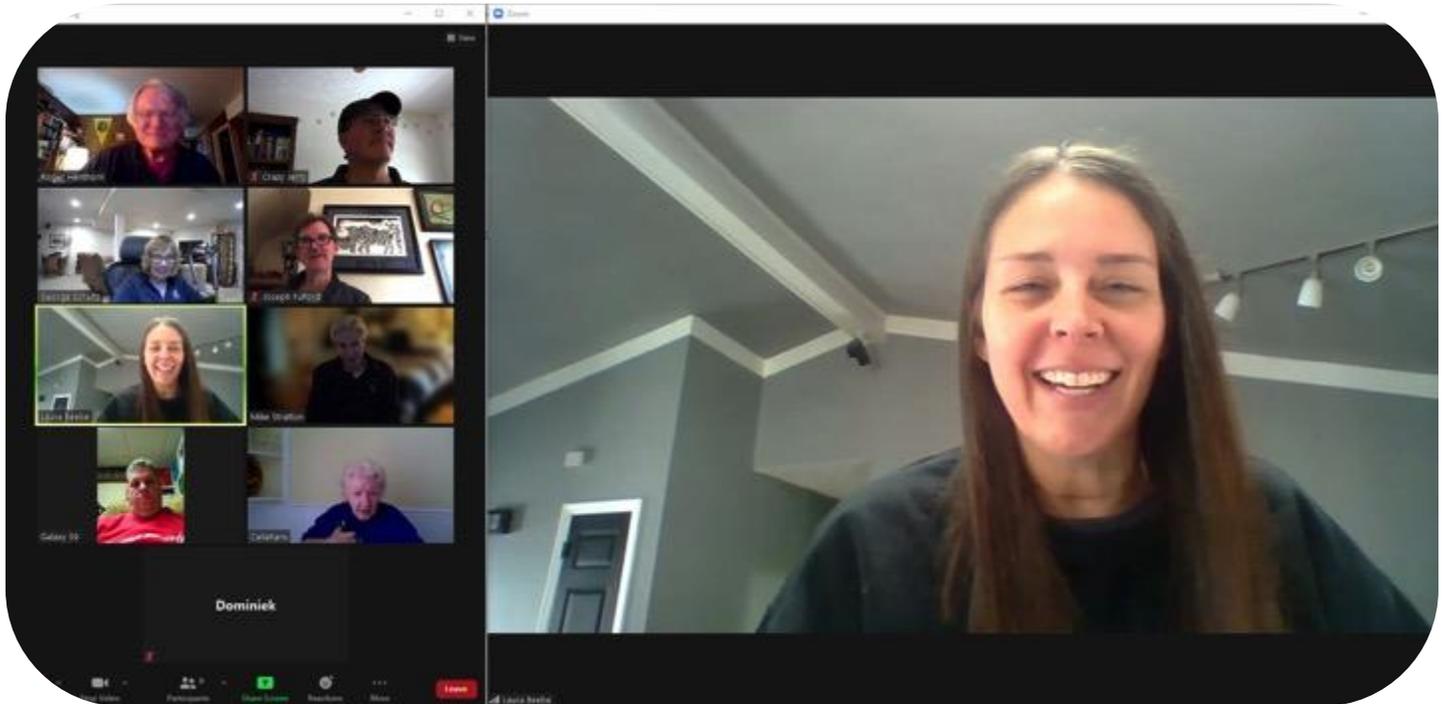
*We came across Hayden’s autobiography quite by accident. Called “Wanderer”, the book showed up on a list of some of the best books about sailing – a likely candidate for our winter series on books about sailing to-pass-the-time-at-sea-while-spring-takes-its-bloody-time. We took a chance, not knowing his movies but recognizing the name. And we were rewarded.*

We’ll start with a sailboat race. The America’s Cup notwithstanding, the most important match race in competitive sailing in the 1920’s and 30’s was the Sir Thomas Lipton International Fishing Challenge Cup. The race was only held three times in the 1930’s and each time the competitors in that decade were the same. The pride of Canada, the schooner *Bluenose* vs the American schooner *Gertrude L. Thiebaud*. (Not sure which boat had the better name)

The *Bluenose*, the only non-human (until 1960) to be in the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, was a 143 ft. long working fishing vessel as was the *Thiebaud*. The American schooner, out of Gloucester, Massachusetts, was built specifically to compete against *Bluenose*. And she was the last schooner of her type constructed for the Gloucester fishing fleet. (continued on page 6)



Sterling Hayden aboard his schooner Wanderer with his four children in 1959. Hayden was under court order not to take his children to sea. He promptly left for Tahiti.



## HSA Sets Calendar for 2021

(Continued from page 1)

Above is Commodore Laura Peters as she Zooms with the rest of the Executive Committee last weekend. Not pictured? Dom Everaet, the new secretary, who was driving while zooming. Or vice versa.

form. Details will be worked out as we get closer to Spring.

The club is optimistic that the vaccine will be widely distributed by this summer and that we can resume some of our social activities, but mask wearing and social distancing are likely to be a part of the this year’s program as it was last year.

The calendar includes just one Introduction to Sailing weekend, not two as in the past. That weekend is planned for June 19-20 with a class size limit of 12 participants. There are currently five spots still open on that roster.

Another notable change is an emphasis in 2021 on helping newer racing sailors enhance their skills. A weekend in May, the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, will be devoted to practice starts, windward legs, and mark rounding as well as training for committee boat duty.

The four Sunfish regattas return for next year with the season ending OktoberFast winding

up the racing at Acton Lake on October 3-4.

The Junior Camp, though planning has yet to begin, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, July 17-18 and then have juniors return for a single day on Saturday, August 22. The tentative plan is to limit camp to HSA member families.

All three Holiday Series will return, although with the Hueston Room closed until the end of May, the traditional potlucks may not, depending on the State of Ohio’s rules and the state of the pandemic.

CruiserFest will return on Sunday, August 29 as will the Around the Lake race that closes out the Fall Series action for all fleets.

If all goes well vis-à-vis the pandemic, the club could enjoy a fall banquet in November. 2020’s banquet was postponed, then cancelled.

The full calendar should be available soon on the HSA website at [huestonsailing.com](http://huestonsailing.com).

## Life in the Time of COVID; More Stories from the Pandamit!

By Joe Fulford

This public affirmation may completely jinx us but with our rally caps and special good-luck socks on, we can state unequivocally, with zero confidence, that we have not contracted COVID... yet. Leigh Ann and I have both avoided the dreaded nose swab and continue life as healthy retirees.

We have managed the new rules much like a C Fleeter at Jr Camp—forward moving, but wobbly. We strive to meet the spirit of Gov. DeWine's requests to limit travel, wear a mask, and stay away from big gatherings but it is hard when your children or favorite niece/nephew want to visit or the beer growler needs filling.

We miss friends and even Halloween was different with our long candy chute. We have a wonderful block but had to say goodbye to one (very cute) family, not with a traditional block party, but with more of a block parade. We each stayed in our own front yards with drinks and grilled food and they did a slow loop past us all while staying on the sidewalk.

Family trivia Zoom calls have certainly helped and we've explored every Dayton MetroPark. We joined a virtual walk of The Way of St James (aka Camino de Santiago--on our bucket list to do for real) with my sister and brother-in-law that moves us on a pilgrimage map as we walk around here.

We limit grocery shopping to every 10 days or so and during quieter hours (99% conducted by *Leigh Ann the Brave*). Internet grocery ordering was tried once and it is indeed weird to have a stranger picking out your fruit and veggies.

Leigh Ann rents a small studio in an old church downtown and keeps busy with stained glass art, and as a library trustee I've been busy with facility renovation plans and construction decisions. Santa delivered an antique accordion at Christmas to mess around on but I believe Leigh Ann is secretly enjoying the fact that it is with a restorer in North Carolina right now.

We have fixed every squeaky hinge, replaced the floor tile in the side entryway, renovated a bathroom, and painted all our wooden storm windows, which of course grew to include the entire house. And, like everyone else we binged the heck out of Netflix, Amazon Prime, and checked out lots of books and movies from [Wright Memorial Library](#) to help cope.

(continued on next page)



### Joe and Leigh Ann

*The Fulfords live in the Oakwood section of the Greater Dayton Metro Area. Above are the Flying Scot shipmates. Below is a photo of the Fulfords' Hands Free Trick or Treat Delivery Apparatus (HFTOTDA) which they employed in order to have a safer Halloween. The Fulford's both work as substitute teachers for Oakwood Schools.*



## Life in the Time of COVID (continued from previous page)

Leigh Ann founded an annual walk about 20 years ago to support Daytonians with breast cancer. 2020's walk was a DIY affair that turned out pretty well from a fundraising standpoint with walkers doing their own walks, and the [CAREWalk](#) team continuing to help many uninsured women.

A bigger impact, especially as folks are more isolated this year, has been her [AFSP](#) suicide prevention Zoom seminars and outreach work she and a friend have been able to do—outreach serendipitously having higher participation rates due to the ease of virtual access.

We enjoyed being a part of [I Love West Dayton](#) clean-up crews this summer where mask-wearing volunteers picked up garbage in blighted parks or vacant lots in Dayton's poorer neighborhoods.

Finally, we planted a raised-bed garden this summer that turned into a how-do-we-find-a-home-for-all-these-vegetables! thing but ended up being a stay-connected-to-friends venture. Neighbors and friends returned many veggies as breads and relishes—an unexpected but wonderful kindness during this time of COVID.

**Ken and Theresa Wright**

*The Wrights live in Springdale. Ken sails a Sunfish and often crews and skippers with Diane Pierok in her Capri 14.*

We've been lucky the past year in many respects: We've not contracted Covid-19 (knock on wood), we got a really nice trip to Costa Rica and Panama completed right before everything shut down (a few travelers were walking thru the Panama airport in full body suits which we thought odd at the time but wouldn't now), and we've had or made enough things to do that we haven't gone stir crazy.

The most amusing, and gratifying, part has been our kids' reaction to our health and well-being. We've gotten lots of lectures from them about safe behavior and how to stay well – I guess this is the role reversal that happens between parents and children as they get older! Since two of our three live way out of town (either coast) we haven't seen them in person, but they did, on their own initiative, start regular family Zoom calls which we've continued all year. *(continued on page 7)*



At right are Ken and Theresa Wright on a Danube cruise before the pandemic hit. At left are the Callahans, after returning from a trip to Ireland, also before the pandemic. You can find out about their COVID adjustments to life in this issue on pages 5 and 7.



## The Wanderer

At left is a photo of Hayden's ship coming into San Francisco harbor, returning from a forbidden voyage to Tahiti with an amateur crew and his four young children. The trip cost \$50,000 (which he had borrowed from a film studio) and they came home broke. "I'm a sailor, not an actor," he said.

### The Wanderer (continued from page 2)

The *Thiebaud* won the first year, 1930, 2-0. The following year, it was *Bluenose* in both races. In 1937 they raced again in a best of five series. The first race was won by the *Thiebaud*; *Bluenose* won the second. In the third race, it was all *Bluenose* when the *Thiebaud* navigator got lost in the 15-mile windward leg search for the first mark.

Enter Sterling Hayden – the actor. In 1937 Hayden was a 22 year-old foretopman on the *Thiebaud*. He had been sailing since he quit high school at age 16 and went to sea on various sailing ships and fishing trawlers in the North Atlantic. By the time he arrived aboard the *Thiebaud*, he had sailed around the world four times and had been a doryman on several trips to the Grand Banks off Nova Scotia on fishing trawlers.

When the *Thiebaud's* navigator blew the third race, the captain pulled Hayden from the mast and made him navigator. As the *Thiebaud* flew toward the windward mark in race four in a dense fog, no one was sure if they were going the right way. Not even young Hayden the navigator. When the buoy suddenly appeared dead ahead, the *Thiebaud* rounded and headed for the finish line.

The American boat won that race but went on to lose the series. Since the race was the most popular event on the East Coast, newspapers in Boston took lots of photos of the *Thiebaud* and its handsome young navigator.

He was soon anointed the "handsomest man in America" and Hollywood came looking. After a screen test with Jimmy Cagney's sister, he went West and co-starred in his first film.

Hayden's autobiography chronicles this early sailing life, his troubled career as an actor and leading man, his struggle with wealth, fame, debt, and alcohol, and his return from his acting life to the sea aboard a number of ships, mostly gaff rigged and/or square sailed boats from the late 1800's. (The *Wanderer*, Hayden's boat, was built in 1893.)

The book opens and closes with an account of his trip aboard his the *Wanderer* from San Francisco to Tahiti in 1958 when he defied a divorce court order and took an amateur crew of about eight people and his four young children to the South Seas with him.

Hayden maintained throughout his life that he was a sailor or author rather than an actor. In the 1960's he appeared in many more films, mostly if not all, supporting roles. He had an important role in Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove* and in the 70's he had a similar important role in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather*, but, ironically, turned down the role of Quint in Stephen Spielberg's *Jaws*. He returned to Hollywood in the 80's in several films and TV shows.

The book, written in 1962, also details his adventures during WWII as an OSS officer, a lot of it on boats in the Adriatic Sea, service which won him the Silver Star among other awards.

Oh, and the Communist party thing? He was also a member of the that party in the late 1940's for six months, which got him an appearance before the House Un-American Activities Committee. We'll let him tell that story. *The Wanderer, San Francisco.*

## Life in the Time of COVID; HSA's Stories

By JoAnn Callahan

(Ken and Theresa Wright continued)

Our son is in town and we see him almost weekly, but since Thanksgiving we have shut that down since he goes out several times a week to help record stats at high school basketball games. We felt that was more exposure than we wanted. Theresa still cooks him special meals once a week which we set outside our door for him to pick up and eat at his apartment.

Of course, I was really grateful that we were able to sail most of the season last year. That would have been a really big hole in my life and doing so helped the year seem more normal, even if we couldn't socialize. Not being able to sing in a group was the biggest loss for me, since singing was early on identified as a "super-spreader" event. I was finally able to sing with a choral group this fall under carefully controlled conditions

I also got plenty of time to work on my pet project – trying to bring solar to churches in our Diocese in a cost-effective way. Zoom turned out to be the perfect technology at the perfect time since our team was scattered around Ohio.

Theresa has gone all out on quilting and has made one huge wall quilt and has started several others. She has also used her passion, cooking great food, to help out others nearby by delivering pre-cooked meals of her creation.

These have helped our friends, otherwise restricted to bland food service meals, perk up their culinary lives. We also made the decision last spring to pass forward our pandemic checks from Uncle Sam. We couldn't volunteer our time at any of the community aid services we used to, so we supported them financially instead.

After spending the month of March in quarantine in our place in Florida, we decided to quarantine in Ohio where it was a bit roomier. On the way home, there was hardly a car on I-75. The highway was ours! We made it home in 16 hours. At one point, I looked at the speedometer and realized I was doing 80. Good thing Jerry was sound asleep. For the first 3-4 weeks, Pete and Linda Peters brought us groceries. How much we appreciated their help.

We went to the lake a few times during the summer and watched the races from the hill at the beach and helped with the Sunfish Regatta. We have gone nowhere and done nothing since March 22. The house has never been so clean and we are still speaking. Someone asked if we weren't ready to kill each other but you have to remember, Jerry has been retired for 30 years, so I am used to having him around - A LOT.

*"Yes, I did get a few odd looks when I exited Kroger with four bottles of wine, but we are having good thoughts for 2021."*

Our grandson Sean, in Washington State, found a Cribbage app for our phone and every day Jerry plays one game with Sean, one with Ian, one with Tracy, one with Brian and one with Pete, if his honey-do list isn't too full.

We have seen snowflakes for the first time in 21 years. We have also learned to Zoom and I can send a picture with my phone all by myself. I can't tell you how disappointed we were not being able to have sailing camp.