

# DECEMBER ACTON ACTION 2025



The end of 2025 has had it's usual busy work to be accomplished and thankfully we have a wonderful crew who worked together to move the Committee boat and rescue boat to their winter resting/work area at Guntle's barn(palace) as well as keeping up with covering Club boats and checking on member's boats!



Thank you: Joe Folford  
Roger Henthorn  
Bobbie Bode  
Dave Judy  
Fred Guntle  
Jackie Guntle



This just in from the desk of  
MIKE STRATTON!!



HAPPY NEW YEAR, HSA. IT'S 2026 AND WE ARE ALL HYPED FOR A NEW SEASON. HSA WILL KICK OFF THE 2026 CALENDAR BEFORE THE CLUB ACTUALLY HAS A CALENDAR WITH THE FIRST LUNCH AND LEARN AT HUESTON WOODS LODGE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH.

LUNCH IS AT 12:30 IN THE SMOKEHOUSE RESTAURANT FOLLOWED BY THE RACE CLINIC AT 1:30. THE TOPIC FOR THIS SESSION IS "DR. SPORTSMAN" OR "HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE RULES".

IF YOU ARE NEW TO RACING, THIS CLINIC WILL LEAD YOU TO A MORE RELAXED APPROACH TO WHAT LOOKS LIKE, ON THE SURFACE, ANXIETY AND STRESS. FOR EXAMPLE? WELL, DESPITE THE COMPLEXITY OF DAVE DELLENBAUGH'S WEBINARS, THERE REALLY ARE ONLY A HALF DOZEN OR SO RULES OF RACING YOU NEED TO KNOW REALLY WELL. WE'LL HIT THOSE BRIEFLY WITH A COUPLE OF STRONG SLAPS OF CLARITY. PLUS, WE ARE GOING TO ADDRESS THAT DAVE D. INDUCED DILEMMA ABOUT WHEN RULES TURN OFF AND WHEN THEY TURN ON. IT'S LIKE A SWITCH, HE SAYS.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN AROUND A WHILE, THIS CLINIC SHOULD CLARIFY SOME LONG HELD MYTHS ABOUT RACING SAILBOATS. WE'LL SPEND SOME TIME, THEN, MYTHBUSTING. FOR EXAMPLE? WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS ONE: "YOU OWE ME ONE". OR THE ONE ABOUT "PROMPTLY TAKING A PENALTY" OR THE ONE ABOUT "IF I SAIL FAST, I WILL WIN". THERE'S MORE. WE'LL BRING THEM UP AND LET YOU DECIDE WHICH ARE MYTHS AND WHICH ARE THE REAL DEAL.

IT ALL HAPPENS ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH AT OUR HOME LAKE'S AMAZING RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER.

IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING AND JOINING US FOR LUNCH, PLEASE RESPOND BY EMAIL WITH YOUR INTENT AND WE'LL RESERVE YOU A SPOT.

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WELCOME BACK, SAILORS

## Commodore's Corner and Words of the Year: Slop? 6-7?

Hip Commodores toss about words of the year like “slop” and use Gen Alpha phrases like “6-7” as they go about the complicated business of commodoring. These bonafide 2025 words of note, as announced by Merriam-Webster (a dictionary outfit for our younger readers), feature big in this article about Acton Lake and dredging. Slop of course has origins in soft mud, silt, and muck and goes back to the 1700s. This year it also relates to low-quality AI-driven internet information, perhaps like an upcoming *Commodore Corner* article on cats and catamarans, that will practically write itself. Six-seven, in case you missed it, means *nothing* but has peaked like the word “hip,” so old-timers proceed carefully.

Back to dredging and Acton Lake... We all know the dredger and its crew have valiantly swept the silt from our marina for decades. But, as a Miami University study found, these crews would have to work daily, from Spring to Fall, just to keep up—a lofty goal. We see this dredging shortfall as ever rising levels of silt and tree debris—stuff especially challenging to HSA sailors as they maneuver near the marina. This is happening at all Ohio lakes and ODNR has their hands full both with dredge resource shortages (crews & equipment) and with finding new sites for the dredged material.

Unlike the phrase 6-7, Acton’s silt is not going to fade away. Like other lake advocates, I have written a letter to ODNR’s chief (a Flying Scot sailor), that went via our park manager and also landed on the desks of ODNR’s chief of dredging and head of dredge planning for our district. On a chilly afternoon last week, Pete Peters and I met with them at the docks. In a nutshell, Acton’s dredge site is full and without a new one the crews have nowhere else to pump. They have promised to survey the marina depth next Spring and we discussed alternate nearby sites for the removed material they are actively exploring:



Going forward, ODNR has formally responded to the State Auditor stating their intentions to strengthen the dredging program and fix shortfalls but this will not happen overnight. Locally, I’ve briefed the very supportive Hueston Woods Visitors Bureau and am so thankful for our long-time members and helpful park manager for their encouraging words. During the holiday break please consider contacting ODNR and/or your local representative. Other lakes have formed advocacy communities and HSA sailors like you are natural advocates for Acton Lake, a beautiful lake ...wait for it... 67+ years old. Here’s how:

**Dredge Program Chief: Thomas Grabow**  
Email: [Thomas.Grabow@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Thomas.Grabow@dnr.ohio.gov)  
Address: Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
834 Edgewater Drive  
St Mary's, OH 45885  
Phone: 419-394-3611

**ODNR Director: Mary Mertz**  
Email: [Mary.Mertz@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Mary.Mertz@dnr.ohio.gov)  
Address: Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road  
Columbus, OH 43229-6693  
Phone: 614-265-1005

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS DAVID and SHEILA HOWELL



Recently, on one of the shortest days of the offseason, David Howell went long. After a good drive up to Pennville, Indiana, after climbing around on a boat on a frigid day, and just before the sun set on a nearly iced over Acton Lake, he was stowing his newly acquired O'Day 222 at Hueston Woods.

David, who was tutored in sailing at our lake about five years ago in LTS, has been thinking about this moment for a while. Since sailing a Capri and crewing in a Y-Flyer back then, he has not been sitting around wishing.

He did some American Sailing Association certification (ASA 101, 103, and 104) and kept the training going. When he retired recently from the IRS, he decided to find a cruiser. He found one in Pennville.

David and his wife Sheila reside in Fairfield, a short 45 minute hop to the lake where he plans on learning how to rig and sail his new, old boat and maybe get on the race course. He and his wife recently completed an over 13,000 mile road trip to the West Coast and back. With three children and six grandchildren, the couple is looking forward to spending the holidays together.

They will become first time snowbirds in January, wintering for a few months in Venice, Florida where David has already joined the Venice Sailing Squadron and where he plans on crewing in races there. He might even find a boat to charter.

David lived in Steamboat Springs, Colorado for ten years where he was able to indulge in one of his favorite pastimes – skiing.

His enthusiasm for sailing and passion for sport will likely continue to give him an outlet for his love for competition. He says Sheila is not too keen on sailing just yet, but he hopes to change her mind.

Welcome to HSA David and Sheila.

