

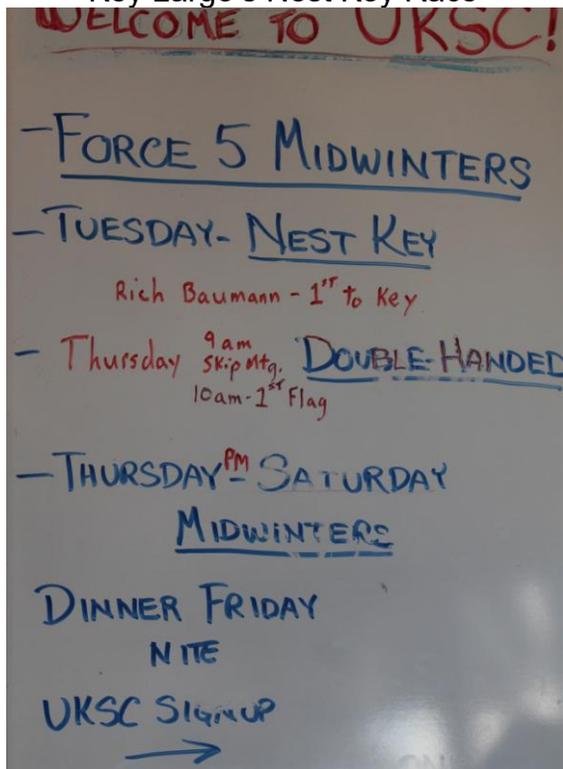
The F C'S'LE

Hunterdon Sailing Club, Inc.

April 2017

Number 494

Key Largo's Nest Key Race



Tuesday in Key Largo is the day to sail to Nest Key, about 6 miles NW of the Upper Keys Sailing Club. More on p. 6



Linda Howard and her crew with UKSC regatta chair and the Commodore. See p. 5

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 *Commodore's Corner*
- 3 *Poop Deck*
- 4 *Scorekeeper's Corner*
- 5 *Linda's Excellent Adventure*
- 6 *Rich's Excellent Adventure*
- 7 *Vice Commodore's Notes*

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - APRIL 2

WORKDAY - APRIL 15 (OR 22)

OPENING DAY- TWILIGHT SERIES
APRIL 26

OPENING DAY - SUNDAY
APRIL 30

Commodore's Corner



It is hard to believe that sailing season is already approaching.

Our first public meeting was held recently and many new potential members showed up to learn more about our learn to sail programs. Our next meeting will be on April 2nd. We hope to see you there.

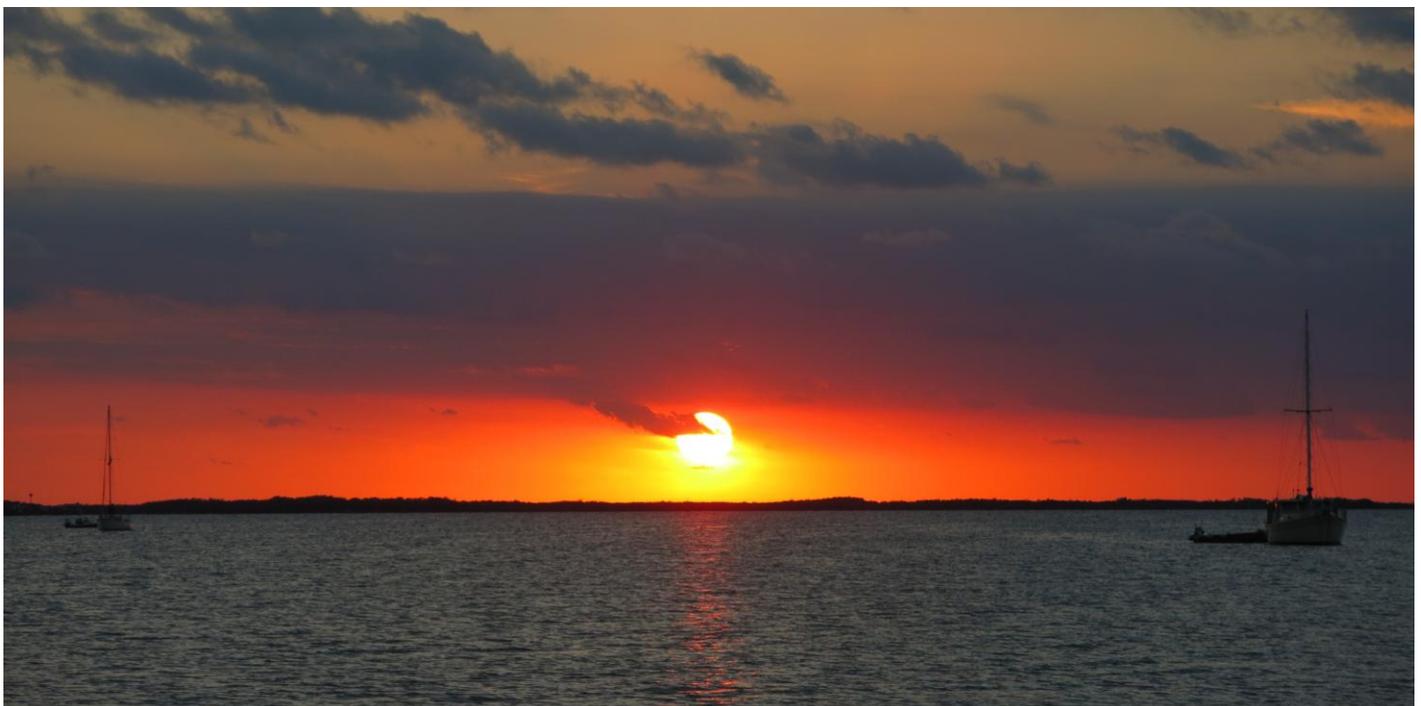
Member Paula Alexander has volunteered to chair our new social committee. The goal is to have a dedicated group of people to organize our social activities, in particular picnics and so forth. We are still looking for additional volunteers to help out. Details of the roles and responsibilities will be discussed at our April 2nd meeting.

Last year's supervised practice sessions on Sundays were quite successful. We are still searching for staff for this summer. If you have any potentials please contact me or Doug Brown.

We are also still looking for sunfish to upgrade our fleet. We are looking for the newer hulls without the metal gunwales. If you come across anything of interest please contact Jay Halstead.

The water level is still low and many people are asking if we will be able to hold sailing classes this summer. We of course don't know what the situation will be when the time comes. At this point we are proceeding under the assumption that the water situation will improve. We will re evaluate as we get closer to the start of our first training session.

Let's hope for some spring rains!



Rich's Annual Key Largo Sunset Picture

The Poop Deck

News from the Rear Commodore

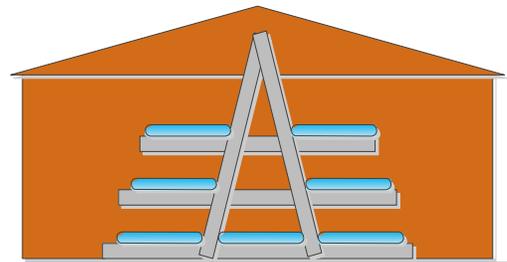


As the snow melts and winter becomes a memory our thoughts turn to sailing and spring work day. Workday is scheduled for Saturday April 15 with Saturday, April 22 for a rain-date. I'm sure launching the boats at Spruce Run promises to be more pleasant than filing income tax. We'll start at 9am and should finish before 3pm and any time you can donate will be appreciated. Like Sunday sailing, bring a lunch. We'll need someone with a pickup to bring some large items (old grill and broken trailer) to the transfer station in Annandale.

After a series of large purchases over the past few years, the club is in good shape with equipment. This spring workday besides launching the boats, we'll focus on some improvements to the See Which Won. The plan is to drop the masts and mount the VHF radio antenna on one and an anemometer on the other. A set of electrical terminals will be installed under the stern allowing the battery wire to run under the deck. The annual tasks include mounting and testing the engines; checking the sunfish sails and rigging; and cleaning out the shed.

A new BBQ grill has been purchased and I for one look forward to various culinary delights like we were treated to last summer. I personally enjoyed the variety over hot dogs.

Building an A-frame rack for the sunfish was approved at the last general meeting and Spruce Run has approved locating it behind the shed. The image to the right shows how it will support seven sunfish. The bottom center one will have slide to put it in from the end. Once this is in place, the existing side racks will be reinforced.



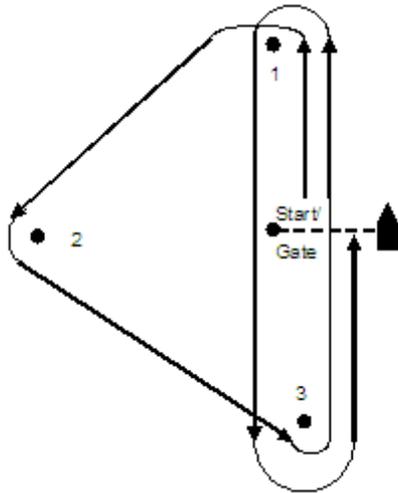
Over the winter, the boxes have been cleaned out and holders installed for the flags, signal letters, wind tell-tails, course signs and Freon horns. This should help locating everything when setting up a race.

Now we need the lake to fill and we'll be in great shape.

If something needs attention please notify me at rearcommodore@sailhsc.org

Happy sailing
Angelo





Scorekeeper's Corner

As we prepare for the 2017 season, a few reminders about recording and scoring races.

The See Which One and Safety1 have plastic clipboards with score sheets and pens inside. Please use these sheets.

When registering racers, please take care to record the first and last names, sail number and boat class. Sometimes sailors have multiple boats and don't always sail the same one. Bear in mind that it is the sailor's responsibility to register before the race and the HSC manual states the following: "Each boat shall register with the

Race Committee by sailing past the RC Boat and giving the skipper's name and boat number. . . . Late arrivals will be accommodated at the discretion of the Race Committee."

On Sunday, record the finish by recording sail and class in order the boat crosses the finish line. There is no need to separate by class on Sunday. The scoring system takes the sail numbers and class in the order the boats finish, please don't reorder by sail number. On Wednesday, record the finish by sail number in the order the sunfish cross the finish line. Do not separate by championship and challenger fleets, we need the actual finish order for the Blue Nose invitation.

Keep in mind that DNF is for boats that start and do not complete the course. It is not when the RC assigns a finish position to late finishing boats. DNF's apply a penalty to the sailor. The race committee can apply other penalties at its discretion using the codes in [THE RACING RULES OF SAILING 2017-2020 pg55](#).

It is not necessary for scorekeeping to record boats that retire before a start since only boats that start or are penalized are recorded.

After the race, email or text the scoresheet to scorekeeper@sailhsc.org.

Happy sailing, Angelo



Force 5 Midwinter Race Week 2017

This year was my second year sailing in the Force 5 Midwinter's Championship in Key Largo, Florida, and so far it has never failed to thrill and surprise. I planned to race only in the single-handed races on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, but when I arrived early to set up my boat on Thursday, the double-handed race, scheduled for Wednesday but rained out, was rescheduled for that morning. Some enterprising folks at UKSC asked around and hooked me up with a willing crew participant.

Now I have never done a double-handed race before but the winds were up to 15-20 and after the long drive from New Jersey I was itching to get out on the water. We set up my short sail and we're off, arriving at the starting area with enough time to get



a working system together. We practiced some tacks and jibes and communication techniques, and sorted out our respective duties. We turned out to be a good team, my crew member picking up the slack in areas where I was weak; timing the start, helping me pull in the mainsheet more when I would lose strength (no jam cleat on my boat), and keeping an eye on the position of other boats, letting me know when it was safe to tack. I could focus on boat speed, keeping the tell-tales flying, and the shortest course to the next mark.

After a good start, all was well until we rounded the windward mark and the cockpit was completely filled to the gunwales with water. On the downwind leg, we managed to get about half the water out by the time we reached the jibe mark, then rinse and repeat for the long leg to the windward mark again. The second downwind leg the bow took a nose dive, becoming completely submerged and submarining the boat for a few very long seconds. We both threw ourselves as far back in the boat as possible, luckily avoiding the boat cart wheeling stern over bow. The bow came up but the cockpit was again filled like a bathtub with water. Having all that extra water on board cannot be a very fast way to sail, but opening the drain did not seem to help and I only had a large sponge for a bailer. My crew member kept busy draining with his water bottle, and we crossed the finish in third place, a good race and two lessons learned for me: 1) Sit further back in the boat with two people on board. 2) Bring two BIG Bailing Bottles for windy conditions- a sponge doesn't cut it!

Thanks to Brian Hatfield for being game to crew with me in this race. Many thanks to the Upper Keys Sailing Club for another great regatta week on beautiful Buttonwood Bay.

Linda Howard



Force 5 Midwinter Race Week 2017, Part 2

The best part of this outing was proving that last year's shoulder surgery was successful. I got in 5 days of sailing, with some of it in winds above 20 mph and had no pain. Being retired meant that I could spend the whole week in Key Largo.

Monday was spent practicing and sailing along with Class President Zofchak so that he could test a couple of sails. His experimental Mylar sail had a truly ugly crease starting at the midsection and didn't do so well. His brand new Intensity sail was better and faster than my 3 year old Cullen sail.



Tuesday was the "Race to Nest Key" day where I posted my only win of the week. Not a great accomplishment, as some were sailing double handed and most of the "race" was a reach. After getting clear of the first and only mark rounding, which was a messy affair following a downwind start, I was in second place and managed to slip past John Barrere with about ½ mile to go. We all went ashore for a rest and rum punch served up by the RC. We might consider something similar with a Goose Island finish after a mark rounding under the power lines.

The fun really started when we headed back, as the club was now almost directly upwind and the wind got up to 20+ mph. Think about that: A six mile windward leg in heavy air. No shoulder pain! Success!

Wednesday was a rainout/blowout day that provided some needed rest.

Thursday had the morning double handed race, with Linda Howard taking a third place (see page above.) The afternoon brought winds over 20, and some of us in the full rig fleet opted for a short rig for the day. It proved to be a good decision, as there were numerous death rolls and equipment failures in the two races sailed. Friday gave us calmer conditions, sunshine and warm weather. Nice.

Saturday morning races were cancelled for lack of wind, so we chatted onshore, had lunch and held our awards ceremony. Linda won the top female award along with her double handed finish. I won a bottle of rum for getting out to Nest Key first. Most folks packed up and went home. A few of us enjoyed a tour of Buttonwood Sound in steady winds of about 10. Sun, fun and no pain.

Full results at: http://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_regatta_results.php?regatta_id=13584 Be sure to check out the finishes by Linda and me in race 4.



Vice Commodore's Notes



Race Committee Notice

Race Committee signup will resume at the next General Meeting on April 2nd. After that time the RC assignments will be made and finalized by the Vice Commodore for both the Sunday and Wednesday series. The RC assignment calendar will be posted on the Website, Handbook, and on the bulletin board in the HSC shed. It is the duty of all members to participate on the RC. It is also the responsibility of those assigned to a particular day to make the appropriate exchange with another member of equal position if they are unable to attend. Any change of RC assignment must be documented on the RC assignment calendar that will be posted on the bulletin board in the shed. The purpose of this is to maintain organization and clarity throughout the season especially for the RC Chair who is also responsible for making sure that their assigned crewmembers are in attendance.

In addition we are in search of volunteers for upcoming special events and regattas including the SANJL Regatta on May 21st, The Memorial Sunfish Regatta May 29th, The Commodore's Cup June 3rd, The Little Brown Jug July 4th, The Sam Nelson & Walter Finne Regatta Jul 15th, The Ladies Fleet Regatta July 29th, The Annual Labor Day Sunfish Regatta Sept 4th, and the Bluenose Regatta on Sept 16th.

For those members new to sailing and/or to racing, taking part on the RC is a great way to get a birds eye view and a better understanding of the big picture when it comes to racing. The RC chairs that race on a regular basis are a great source for knowledge and can help to answer questions and point out different scenarios on the race course. Every member is required to serve on the RC once per season however, there is no limit to this opportunity. Anyone is welcome at any time. Just show up before the boat leaves the shore.

Andrew

