

The Masters is HISTORY

The 2007 Sunfish Class U.S. Masters Championship is now in the history books. Turnout was light at 28 boats, perhaps due to \$3.00+ per gallon fuel and perhaps a little due to the rainy light air forecast that was in place all the way to early Saturday morning. Once again we saw why depression is common amongst weather prophets, and those who believe them, in Texas.

The skippers meeting came off right on schedule (why is that so hard at so many regattas?) and the first gun was right on schedule in spite of some concerns that storms could be moving in (they did not, they stayed about 70 miles west and delivered 3-6 inches of much needed rain to western North Texas in 4 to 8 hours.)

At the first start winds were in the 15G18 range out of about 150 with air temp around 75 (F) and water temp in the upper 60s, pretty near perfect 'fishing weather. Most of the ladies "Jensed" or reefed to be a little on the careful side. The course of a W2-1/2 and the wind was shifting through about a 15 degree range. At the start Greg Gust went left, betting that he would pick up a lefty off the shoreline and did. Greg, Tony Collins, Paul Foerster, Ash Beatty, Martin Ottenheimer, Buddy Wainright and Bill Jackson all went off to duke it out at the front. On the last leg, Greg, Paul, Ash, and Buddy finally separated from the rest of their tormentors so Ash and Buddy could watch Greg fight off Olympic Gold Medalist Foerster to the finish (more on that Gold Medal later when we discuss the trophies this year... wow.... You will want to hear about this!).



Greg Gust takes the first race, powered by 4 scoop fudge Sunday Friday night!



Bill Jackson and Gill Greenwood round the weather mark in Race 1



Warren Fitzpatrick gets around the weather mark just ahead of Vic Manning in Race 2

The winds freshened a little for the second race to about 15G20 and we sailed another W2-1/2. I think it was in the second race that this happened... Paul Foerster's hiking strap came untied and he went overboard at the start. For those who think every little setback is the end of hope... he then got back in the boat, worked his way up through the fleet and won the race. Cool! Everyone got in some planing on the runs and the fleet stayed pretty tight with only a couple of stragglers who were more than 1 couple of minutes behind the top dogs in the pack! There was at least one soul who capsized while demonstrating their giboing technique. Gust had apparently used up all the extra energy load he had gotten Friday evening, after registration, from a Bacchanalian orgy of a 4 scoop bowl of ice cream with two ladles of fudge, explaining how he let Foerster clean his clock that race. Rob Johnston, local J22 hotshot, demonstrated that he still recalls how to sail a boat that weighs less than he does and pulled off a 4th place!



Bob Cockerill, Supreme Master (70+), having also had one of those 4-scoop ice cream and fudge concoctions Friday evening and finished 9th in the second race!

After the second race we all went in and enjoyed a good lunch and brief rest (and cry in some cases). Then when the committee sounded the gun indicating that they were unimpressed by the moaning and whining from the porch of the club where many of us had convened to discuss who hurt the most. During lunch we had all been watching with keen interest as the breezes freshened even more to 18G22 or so. Happily as the event was held in Texas, we had little concern of expiring from exposure, though acute fatigue was becoming an issue.

As the 3rd race got underway the winds were fairly howlin' at times. This was obviously to the liking of Ash Beatty of Houston as he moved a notch and pulled off a second place, just beating out Gust and at times seriously challenging Foerster. The orders of finish really got swapped around with your humble correspondent finally remembering where the "GO!" button was and scoring a 4th, the highest finish for a Grand Master in this regatta. I wish I could claim it was due to grand level skill and cunning that I beat out Buddy Wainright, but truthfully, with my 220 pounds and 6'3 or so leverage Buddy was simply a victim of blunt force trauma to weather and we were both planing like crazy off the wind so on the last beat, I just gutted it out (oh lord my thighs were shrieking!) and out Ice Cream and Fudged him. To finish within a minute of Foerster, Beatty, and Gust was WAY cool, but it is Tuesday and I am still paying for that thrill every time I get up from my chair. In this race Carlos Saavedra stayed in the hunt until the second weather leg when Foerster, Beatty, Gust, Wainright and I (man! It feels really good to be in that group even if it is only because I am too big to sail a Sunfish) separated from the fleet. The 3rd race also provided several overheated competitors the opportunity for a brief refreshing (and unplanned) swim.



Paul Foerster (8) and Ash Beatty (42563) fought it out to the finish of the 3rd race. It was so good that Ash actually grinned Saturday night!

For the 4th and final race of Saturday (and it turned out ... of the regatta) the R/C acknowledged that since this was The Masters, it was likely that there were contestants who had previously (back when race committees knew there were more than two points of sail) sailed a reach at some time in their career and decided to let us have some REAL fun. They set an Olympic course. And the Wind Gods responded with 20G24 or so! We had a reach where water was shooting up through the daggerboard trunk and at least three

feet on upwards! Paul Foerster, Greg Gust, Ash Beatty, Chris Gill, and Buddy Wainright got away from the next level of the fleet on the first windward leg, so when we hit the reach I found myself planing along beside Supreme Master Cockerill with the two of us hollerin' and hootin' and laughing loud enough to hear each other over the wind.

Together we represent well over 130 years on the planet and I suspect that Bob and I will still be grinning by Friday when all the grimacing, from our battered musculoskeletal overexertions, are over! We were not gaining on the fast guys because there is a speed at which a Sunfish will simply not go any faster, and we had about 15 boats doing that.

Then we jibed. I don't know if anyone lost it on the jibe. Foerster, Gust, Beatty, Wainright, Gill, Cockerill and Bynum did not... drat! Sounds like a gang of lawyers! On the next leg things were so exciting that looking back was not part of the survival plan for the day. On the final beat I managed to sneak past Chris and get him between Bob and myself. One of the really gutsy shows of the day was Lisa Heatherholt, of Tulsa. She was the only lady who sailed 4th race and she survived it and was grinning from ear to ear that evening as she told tales of wild reaches and runs and just plain hairy jibes. I don't yet have any pictures from the 4th race.

Saturday evening several, having seen the powerful hiking benefits, joined Bob Cockerill and others in partaking of major ice cream and fudge adventures, but alas it was for naught as the sun arose to find large thunderstorms training from south to north from down around Corpus Christi to somewhere far north (like Minnesota!) of Tulsa right square ver the top of Rockwall county. After waiting a couple of hours hoping the system would move east (or west) we all gave up and decalred victory on the 2007 Sunfish Masters.

Trophies were presented to the top 5 overall positions and the top three in each age category plus top opposite sex. Tony Collins, of Tony Collins Art (and also the same 'fish driver mentioned above) did all the trophies, and they were spectacular. See more of Tony's art at: <http://www.tonycollinsart.com> . Paul Foerster won the regatta, chased by Greg Gust and Ash Beatty. Paul also won a lot of "points" for something else he did. Paul donated his genuine and official Athens Olympics Gold Watch to be given by drawing amongst the category winners. After all the other trophies had been awarded, the drawing was held. Bob Cockerill, who won the Supreme Masters Division and sailed all four races won the Olympic Gold Watch!

This event was so much fun that I am all inspired now to make it to the Southwest Regionals – North, in Arlington, on June 9/10 and am wishing I could get away to make the North Americans the following week in Fairhope, Alabama. Several people who were at the Masters have sailed at Fairhope and they sang the praises of the people and venue, so if there is any hope that any of you can get away to make that one, please believe it will surely be a great regatta experience (and send us all daily reports and pictures during the event so we can really feel crummy if we cannot get there.)

The final standings from the 2007 Sunfish U.S. Masters are tabulated below. Pictures in this report were by C.P. Burks of Arlington. C.P. has promised to put more pictures online at his web site (www.dinghyone.smugmug.com) in the next couple of days.

To the people who worked their buns off organizing and running the regatta on and off the water... thanks, y'all did very well. To the people who came to the regatta and joined in the fun on and off the water, thanks for coming. It is always a pleasure to get to see you and we hope you will come back to Rush Creek soon. To Paul Foerster, the winner of the regatta and donor of a very special prize that I suspect Bob Cockerill is sleeping with, congratulations and what a class act! It is always a pleasure to get pounded like cheap veal by such a fine sportsman. Really! It is!

Fellow geezers and geezerettes, we are awesome!

Subdivision: Apprentice Master (10 boats) [\(top\)](#)

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Skipper</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R3</u>	<u>R4</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Pos</u>
1	8	Foerster, Paul		2	1	1	1	5.00	1
2	42563	Beatty, Ashley		4	3	2	3	12.00	2
3	78007	Gill, Christopher		13	14	9	6	42.00	3
4	79696	Saavedra, Carlos		16	15	6	8	45.00	4
5	79321	Collins, Tony		6	17	11	11	45.00	5
6	79230	Weston, John		25	12	12	10	59.00	6
7	78954	Johnston, Rob		10	4	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	72.00	7
8	79207	Burks, Ellen		17	13	17	29/NoFin	76.00	8
9	874	Milling, Grawford		15	22	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	95.00	9
10	3	Roy, Jacques		29/NoFin	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	116.00	10

Subdivision: Master (6 boats) [\(top\)](#)

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Skipper</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R3</u>	<u>R4</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Pos</u>
1	31486	Gust, Greg		1	2	3	2	8.00	1
2	79261	Wainwright, Buddy		3	8	5	4	20.00	2
3	77981	Greenwood, Gil		9	6	8	29/NoFin	52.00	3
4	80387	McCary, David		12	23	18	12	65.00	4
5	88205	Weatherholt, Lisa		24	24	29/NoFin	13	90.00	5
6	79319	Medina, Mary		23	25	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	106.00	6

Subdivision: Grand Master (9 boats) [\(top\)](#)

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Skipper</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R3</u>	<u>R4</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Pos</u>
1	78747	Jackson, Bill		5	5	13	9	32.00	1
2	79138	Bynum, Don		19	11	4	5	39.00	2
3	57062	Ottenheimer, Martin		7	7	7	29/NoFin	50.00	3
4	3669	Manning, Victor		20	18	10	29/NoFin	77.00	4
5	80013	McKenzie, Marshall		14	19	15	29/NoFin	77.00	5
6	88640	Fitzpatrick, Warren		11	16	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	85.00	6
7	89928	Snider, Steve		18	20	19	29/NoFin	86.00	7
8	79117	Chandler, Jo Ann		29/NoFin	26	20	29/NoFin	104.00	8
9	77083	Stones, Vickie		26	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	113.00	9

Subdivision: Supreme Master (3 boats) [\(top\)](#)

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Skipper</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R3</u>	<u>R4</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Pos</u>
1	3244	Cockerill, Robert		21	9	16	7	53.00	1
2	3238	Jones, Malcolm		8	10	14	29/NoFin	61.00	2
3	89925	Uroda, Jim		22	21	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	101.00	3

Subdivision: Women (5 boats) [\(top\)](#)

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Skipper</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R3</u>	<u>R4</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Pos</u>
1	79207	Burks, Ellen		17	13	17	29/NoFin	76.00	1
2	88205	Weatherholt, Lisa		24	24	29/NoFin	13	90.00	2
3	79117	Chandler, Jo Ann		29/NoFin	26	20	29/NoFin	104.00	3
4	79319	Medina, Mary		23	25	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	106.00	4
5	77083	Stones, Vickie		26	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	113.00	5

Fleet: 2007 Sunfish Masters Overall (28 boats) [\(top\)](#)

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Skipper</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R3</u>	<u>R4</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Pos</u>
1	8	Foerster, Paul		2	1	1	1	5.00	1
2	31486	Gust, Greg		1	2	3	2	8.00	2
3	42563	Beatty, Ashley		4	3	2	3	12.00	3
4	79261	Wainwright, Buddy		3	8	5	4	20.00	4
5	78747	Jackson, Bill		5	5	13	9	32.00	5
6	79138	Bynum, Don		19	11	4	5	39.00	6
7	78007	Gill, Christopher		13	14	9	6	42.00	7
8	79696	Saavedra, Carlos		16	15	6	8	45.00	8
9	79321	Collins, Tony		6	17	11	11	45.00	9
10	57062	Ottenheimer, Martin		7	7	7	29/NoFin	50.00	10
11	77981	Greenwood, Gil		9	6	8	29/NoFin	52.00	11
12	3244	Cockerill, Robert		21	9	16	7	53.00	12
13	79230	Weston, John		25	12	12	10	59.00	13
14	3238	Jones, Malcolm		8	10	14	29/NoFin	61.00	14
15	80387	McCary, David		12	23	18	12	65.00	15
16	78954	Johnston, Rob		10	4	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	72.00	16
17	79207	Burks, Ellen		17	13	17	29/NoFin	76.00	17
18	3669	Manning, Victor		20	18	10	29/NoFin	77.00	18
19	80013	McKenzie, Marshall		14	19	15	29/NoFin	77.00	19
20	88640	Fitzpatrick, Warren		11	16	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	85.00	20
21	89928	Snider, Steve		18	20	19	29/NoFin	86.00	21
22	88205	Weatherholt, Lisa		24	24	29/NoFin	13	90.00	22
23	874	Milling, Grawford		15	22	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	95.00	23
24	89925	Uroda, Jim		22	21	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	101.00	24
25	79117	Chandler, Jo Ann		29/NoFin	26	20	29/NoFin	104.00	25
26	79319	Medina, Mary		23	25	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	106.00	26
27	77083	Stones, Vickie		26	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	113.00	27
28	3	Roy, Jacques		29/NoFin	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	29/NoFin	116.00	28

By the way, the storage area behind the cockpit on the Sunfish is gonna need enlarging so I can store my walker back there in a few more years! YEEEE HAAAAWWW!