"Just for fun" the Ragnots started 123 Sunfish races, sent 27 Ragnots to national and world Championship Regattas, went to New Orleans for the Sunfish Mid-Winter Regatta, hauled 10 sunfish to Gulfport, Miss., for the North American Women's Sunfish Championship, flew to San Francisco for the Sunfish World Championship and the USTRU National Championship for the Score Cup, Bemis Cup, and Smythe Cup, raced the HRC Solo Line for practice, raced for the Kirk Arnold Trophy, raced five Ragnot Series, slammed TCR and the Seabrook Sailing Club for the Tri-Club Trophy, sailed practice races until our hands turned to prunes; sailed the Long Distance Race at the Seabrook Sailing Club, entertained junior sailors from Denver, Colorado, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Austin, Dallas and Ft Worth; rigged and launched 21 new Sunfish, repaired 27 Sunfish several times; built a 6 boat Sunfish trailer, rebuilt six Flying Juniors, borrowed Captain Carr's tools and forgot to return most of them; raced in J-24's, Ensigns, windsurfers and Gerry 18's, crewed on PHRF boats, wore out 5 Lawn mowers launching 3250 Sunfish, learned about powerboats, with the Powerhouse, cruised to Redfish, Double Bayou, Cedar Bayou, Offsets Bayou, and Clear Lake, spent 246 hours on chaser boats... had the best summer camp ever with 65 Ragnots, learned water-safety, practiced CPR, learned to tie a bowline, to row dinghies, paddle canoes, studied racing rules and advanced racing tactics, .... and while we were resting .... we had a fishing tournament and caught redfish, trout, drum and panfish; got rained out for Halloween trick or treat, dockside; made tons of Christmas toys for sale; had a visit from Santa Claus and his helpers for the Christmas Party, huddled doughnuts at the mid-winter Regatta, had all the younger Ragnots for an Easter egg hunt, published the Sunfish Machine, graduated 27 Junior-Powerhouse, were honored to participate in the opening ceremonies for the Club; got 75 new Sunfish lockers and converted them to condos; celebrated the beginning of summer with a "Back to the Bay" party.
threw the sailing instructor in the pool, cranked 12 gallons of homemade ice-cream at the Beachcomber, learned to boogie to the "B-52s" and the cotton eye Joe, Bullsh--! and then... we saw 1½ movies, ate huge piles of popcorn, threw the sailing instructor in the harbor, went water-skiing, spent a lot of time goofing around, paddling on boats, playing soccer, ping pong and "21", eating goldfish, swimming, and watching a few summer romances come and go... and now that fall has come and 'tis time for the Reanot banquet, let's remember the...

... good times and sunshine!

John + Catherine Focke
OKAY YOU GUYS... DON'T TOUCH THE HULL YOU'LL SCRATCH IT...
FIRST WE PUT THE HARKEN ON... THEN THE JAMB CLEATS & OUTHAULS...
The NEW RAREBEE IS ON ORDER... JUST WATCH... I'LL BLOW EM AWAY!

June 1, 1982

Wow! You are lucky

My Sunfish weighs 200 lbs, it's a tank!
Series A - First Race
June 9th

BARGING! I'M GONNA PROTEST!
BARGING... BARGING! I REALLY MEAN IT... PROTEST!

720

NO WAY JACK!

STARBOARD
GOSH DOGGIT!

UP UP UP!

37864

OOPS... OOPS...

HARBOR CONNECTION
A **Ragnot** ready for a day
on the water... towing Sunfish,
racing and sailing home...

Sailfish ready for
towing to TCYC regatta:
sails furled, spars tied
off to halyard and
bridle + 10' nylon
bow line (41).

Following Sunfish
bow line tied around
rudder of Sunfish
ahead.
SORTING OUT THE OPTIONS... PORT? STARBOARD?
ROOM AT THE MARK!
GO FOR IT!
YANDELL AND LAWRENCE...
"SUPER SENIORS".. COACHING
THE FLEET AROUND THE
WEATHER MARK.
Ragnots surfing...

... at Mach Two.
A MINOR PORT-STARBORD CONFRONTATION... M.B. TAKES A DIRECT HIT...
CARTER & JEREMY TAKING A BREAK AFTER A SPECTACULAR TURTLE... ON THE STARTING LINE.
Lawrence with the Ten Dollar Water Mellon... Melanis and Merecedes Ready to Pounce On... The Water Mellon...
THE RAGNOTS
HAVE ORDERS FOR
"THE SUNFISH MACHINE"
IN 41 STATES AND
GUATEMALA... MEXICO, PERU,
VENEZUELA, DUTCH
ANTILLES, TRINIDAD,
BERMUDA, BAHAMAS,
CANADA, BARBADOS

The Sunfish Machine

The Sunfish Machine is a primer for beginning racers. Topics covered in the book include rigging and equipment for racing, sail trim, basic racing tactics and rules. This book is a must for all newcomers to Sunfish racing.

TO ORDER
Individual copies may be purchased, for $4.95 plus $1.00 postage, from the HYC RAGNOTS, P.O. Box 1276, La Porte, Texas 77571. Special fleet and dealer rates are available on request.
A GOLD RAGNOT SKIPPER GOING FOR GOLD...
GOING TO WEATHER ON GALVESTON BAY....

.... ALL THE LIGHT WEIGHTS MADE THE BIG STEP TO SINGLE-HAND RACING!
BACK TO THE BAY...
WATERMELON RACE

...SOME MELLONS
WERE COVERED
WITH VASELINE
THANKS MR. K.!
THE RAGNOTS ARE ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

THE SUNFISH MID WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP...

...AND THE WOMEN'S SUNFISH NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR OUR GIRLS...

...LOOKING GOOD & SAILING TOUGH!!!
HE NOT 'PUNK ROCKERS'
GETTING WIRED IN ON
THE LINE ... JB, ED & GP...
TWO RAGNOTS ENJOY AN AUTUMN AFTERNOON SAIL, NEVER MIND THE DRIZZLE AND FOG....
THE RAGNOT CREWS FLOWED THROUGH HEAVY SEAS...

....AROUND THE 8MILE TRIANGLE.

SEABREEZE SAILING CLUB
LONG DISTANCE TRIANGLE
...JF+TD, TF+ED, MO & MM...

WEATHER - PLENTY 18-25 MPH
RAGNOTS - TIRED.
On any Sunday
You will find a ragnot
in a Sunfish on the water...

Sometimes just plain sailing is fun!
KILLER MULLET ATTACKS A SUNFISH...
Looking for action

RAGNOTS CRUISING THE HARBOR...
SAILING HOME AFTER FIVE
LIGHT AIR RACES BACK TO
BACK... WOW!
DRIVING HARD FOR
THE MARK...
RAGNOT REGATTA '82
...but the fleet went that way...

Hey! A turtle... turtle, turtle, little turtle...  

Him again... he never talks to us...
Moving up...

Mystery
A'ragnot takes on
the big time!
MR. F & MR. H IN "DAUNTLESS" CHECKING OUT THE FLEET BEFORE THE RACE ...
TH-Club Regattas

Some like to sleep, no regatta jitters here...

AND some like to chat... about sailing, the movie, boys, the dance etc, etc, etc...

Some like to troll for sharks...

AND... oh my gosh why did I do this..
Harbor Rules

1. Captain Carr is responsible for management of all harbor activity. He is the law!
2. Ragnots must wear life jackets at all times while on the water. Everyone must wear a life jacket on board-boats, adults included.
3. No swimming in the harbor. No tipping over Sunfish to cool off.
4. Ragnots leaving the harbor on Sunfishes or dinghies must check with Captain Carr before leaving and check in when they return.
5. During Ragnot sailing events do not leave the harbor until after the Committee clears the harbor.
6. Reckless boat handling in the harbor or sailing in and out of big boat traffic is forbidden.
7. Sunfish are not to be left on the lawn Monday through Friday.
8. Sunfish parts or equipment are not to be borrowed without the owner's permission.
9. Sunfish are not to be left on the ramp or on the lawn carts.
10. Ragnots should help each other launch and retrieve their
THE LAST OF THE FJ's
... MF F5 REVENGE!
August 13th
Series E - Race 123
27 boats on the line... no collisions...
Nobody over early...
No fouls... no 720's...
No turtles...
August 30, 1982

BENT SPAR FROM TURTLING 27 TIMES

HALYARD SLIPS ON GOODO FROM DUCK TAPE

MAST CAP POPPED OFF AND MAST FILLED WITH WATER

RIpped OUT GROMETS IN A DEATH ROLL

GOOSE NECK BROKEN... WHO KNOWS WHY!

EYE BOLTS VIBRATED OUT ON A SCREAMING REACH...

PULLED BOW CHOCK OFF... LIFTING BOAT FULL OF WATER

POPPED BOW LINE TOWING AT 25 MPH TO TCYC

MINOR... PORT STARBOARD COLLISION - NO ONE WAS HURT...

Mast punched through the bottom

10 POUNDS OF BAY MUD

BLOWN OUT SAIL FROM 40 MPH SQUIALL

TORN SAIL FROM NEW HARBOR ENTRANCE

BENT SPAR PRACTICING TURNING OVER... CAT ON TILLER & BROKE IT

BRIDLE POPPED WHEN MAIN SHEET CAUGHT ON PILING...

KNOCKED RUDDER OFF BARGING

KNOCKED BAILER OFF, ON THE BOARD-WALK

WRECKED SPLASH RAIL AT WINDWARD MARE...

RAMMED DOCK IN FIRST DOWN WIND LANDING

KNOCKED HATCH IN THE ELD LOCKERS!

HIT A GAR IN THE HARBOR

RIPPED OFF MAIN SHEET BLOCKS, OVER TRIMMING SAIL IN 40 MPH SQUIALL
A Survivor...

- Black eye from trying to throw L.T. into the pool
- Fat lip from getting hit by the boom
- Alligator nose from too much sun...
- Ear infection from swimming in the harbor
- Spained wrist in port-starboard starboard collision
- Sore back from weight jacket
- Wore out the seat of 'lopo from hiking
- Bruised butt from sunfish rub-rail
- Skinned knee sprained ankle chasing Carter
- Stubbed big toe on the sunfish ramp
- Splinter from the pier
- Wore skin off toes after 360 hours in the pool
1982
United States
Junior Sailing Championships

Dave
Mark
Mitch
"The Little Guys"
Greg & John
Lawrence

Rob
'The New Gut'
Don't Be Afraid
To Fail

You've failed many times, although you may not remember.
You fell down the first time you tried to walk.
You almost drowned the first time you tried to swim, didn't you?
Did you hit the ball the first time you swung a bat?
Heavy hitters, the ones who hit the most home runs, also strike out a lot.
R. H. Macy failed seven times before his store in New York caught on.
English novelist John Creasey got 753 rejection slips before he published 564 books.
Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times, but he also hit 714 home runs.
Don't worry about failure.
Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try.
RAGNOTS + Powernauts = "On the water"

- Picking into a gawgitch bay can be rough!
- Follow me... RAGNOTS
- You think the boat will follow this lane?
- Hatch these legs... please
- If the sea takes course of the boat...
- You think she's clear in the harbor?
... 27 Ragnots learned
the mysteries of power
boats
THE RAGNOTS HUSTLED DONUTS FOR VISITING SKIPPERS AND CREW...
...EIGHT DOZEN DONUTS WERE DEFECTIVE AND HAD TO BE EATEN BY THE RAGNOTS.
Ragnors hot dogging the slopes at Winter Park...

...Julie F., a new Ragnor blows em away in skiing competition during the winter months...

...While other Ragnors are hot-dogging the slopes.
MICRO RACING ON THE CANAL...
WHO HAS THE...
GOLDEN EGG? 

-- The Great Easter Egg Hunt
THE RAGNOT SUNFISH FLEET HAS FOUND A HOME... THANKS!
Water Skiing

WE DIDN'T DO
ENOUGH OF IT!

A DETERMINED RAGNOT...
...GOING FOR IT!
Wind Surfing

RAGNOTS SHOWING OFF IN THE HARBOR...
Biking

Off the water, ragnorts go fast...
With a...
...race inc. dirt

Bike with tublar fork,
Three piece crank, allon pedals,
Rims, suntour peddles,
Diamond back seat, nickle plated chain, aggressor tires and grab ons...

Don't forget your life jacket!
Saturday Night Video

BLACK STALLION, STAR WARS, CADDY SHACK (OOPS!)
CLASH OF THE TITANS,
SUPERMAN, CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A THIRD KIND, RAISE THE TITANIC,
THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE...

...POPcorn AND GOOD FRIENDS.
Ragnot Fishing Tournament

The ensign fleet had to face the Ragnot anglers...

Ragnots on the way to the Bogars' house...

The Ragnot Angler...

The speckled trout a great sport fish... trout have a soft mouth and must be caught on treble hooks.

The red fish is a prize catch... caught on shrimp... on or near the bottom great eating!
A Halloween Flop

RAGNOT TRICK OR TREAT... GOT RAINED OUT..
Regnots Christmas Treat

GANDALF DRAGON WAGON

THORIN'S WRECKER

LUNCH BOX

SUNFISH MACHINE

THE RAGNOTS ARE WORKING HARD ON CHRISTMAS TOYS...

SANTA AND HIS HELPERS ON THEIR WAY TO NYC....

THE RAGNOTS WISH ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS A "WINNING" NEW YEAR ... IN CASE WE HAVEN'T SAID IT TO EVERYONE ... THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP, GUIDANCE AND ALL THE SUNSHINE AND GOOD TIMES.
The following article was written by Houston Yacht Club Youth Activity Program Director, John W. Focke. It is being included in Windward Leg to give you and your club some ideas for sparking more interest in your own junior program. A good junior training system virtually guarantees a strong fleet.

The Ragnots are a part of the Houston Yacht Club youth activity program dedicated to teaching sailing, racing, water sports, water safety, and good sportsmanship. Children become eligible to participate in the Ragnots when they are nine years old, and may stay in the program through high school. For over twenty years the Ragnots have used the Sunfish as the fleet boat in a very active and organized racing program. In fact, we have one Sunfish in the Ragnot fleet, vintage 1960, that is still racing today with the addition of a new sail and shiny new coat of paint.

During the summer months it is not unusual to see 30 to 35 Ragnot Sunfish hitting the line in a very competitive series on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Behind the racing program is a close group of children and young adults who have established themselves as an important part of a family oriented club. The Ragnots have their own Commodore, Vice Commodore, Fleet Captain, and Race Committee Chairman plus other Board members who plan and organize their own activities annually. The club supports the Ragnot program with an annual budget for the racing program, and provides a sailing instructor during the summer months. The sailing instructor is usually an ex-Ragnot in college who knows the program, the families and club members, and has been competitive in Sunfish or one design racing.

Each season the Ragnots kick-off the summer with a five day sailing camp for beginning sailors as well as the old pros. During camp the children and counselors live at the Yacht club to better concentrate their attention on learning water safety, sailing and boat handling skills, with some brushing up on racing rules, strategy and tactics.

During camp in early June, the Ragnots (40-50 children) are organized by age and skills into four groups: beginner and intermediate groups, 9-11 year old; juniors, 12-14 years old; and seniors, 15 years or older. Several of the seniors will act as counselors and several juniors as counselors-in-training. The purpose and focus of the camp is to bring new Ragnots into the racing program and to give the experienced sailor a chance to tune-up for the summer racing which begins immediately following camp.

The sailing instructor begins working with the children, particularly the beginners, during camp. In the week following camp the summer series begins with Wednesday and Friday afternoon racing, usually three races each afternoon. The racing is organized and managed by the sailing instructor, assisted by several adults, the sailing instructor lays out the course for the day, starts, finishes, and scores the races, and if necessary hears protests. With 30 to 35 Sunfish competing, boat discipline on the water is very important for safety and for response to the occasional squalls that can sweep across Galveston Bay with little warning.
The Ragnots Sunfish fleet is divided into three classes by age with separate starts for each class. This provides a more manageable starting sequence and lots of trophies, usually three per class. The Ragnots sail an Olympic triangle with juniors adding a final leeward leg and the seniors adding a leeward and windward leg.

The racing is monitored by several chase boats to keep the course clear and to assist the younger Ragnots who have turned over, but no coaching is allowed. The chase boats, the committee boat, and the harbor master maintain constant radio contact to keep track of all the boats and weather conditions.

Twelve races or four race days constitute a series, so we usually get in 4 or 5 series over the summer. Final trophy presentation takes place at the end of the summer at a formal banquet in the club ballroom with family participation.

The summer sailing program includes an Annual Ragnot Regatta open to other clubs in the Galveston Bay area, and a tri-club series of regattas for club honors between the Houston Yacht Club, the Texas Corinthian Yacht Club, and the Seabrook Sailing Club. This series of regattas gives the Ragnots a chance to visit other clubs and to heat-up their competition with top notch Sunfish skippers from these rival clubs. On race weekend the Ragnots will usually elect to tow their Sunfish the 5 to 7 miles to these clubs rather than use a trailer. It's more fun and more time on the water. Last summer after one of these long regattas, sailed in light air and 100 degree temperature, the Ragnots sailed the 7 miles home accompanied by their sailing instructor after winning back the tri-club trophy. They had been in their boats ten hours from first gun to the time they sailed into the HYC harbor at sundown to a warm welcome, cheers, and boat horns from club members.

Many Ragnots and ex-Ragnots have expanded their sailing to include participation in regional, national, and world competition. This year we have initiated a Youth Activity Fund to offer travel grants to Ragnots competing in these events. This fund is supported by Ragnot projects including their recent publication, The Sunfish Machine, A Primer for Beginning Racers.

Not all Ragnot racing is taken seriously. Throughout the summer there are fun races which might involve starting at the club pool, swimming two laps, racing to the Sunfish dock, sailing out of the harbor to pick up greased watermelons bobbing in the bay, and back to the Sunfish dock to finish and eat hot dogs and iced watermelon.

article and drawings by John Focke to be continued in the next issue
John W. Focke, Youth activity program director at the Houston Yacht Club continues his article on ideas to spark a successful junior sailing program.

Another type of fun race which tests boat handling skills is the timed slalom race beginning with a windward leg, tacking through a tight line of buoys, rounding the weather mark, and gybing through the same line of buoys to the finish line. Skippers compete against time and enjoy the close order boat handling.

Next summer we will try a new fun race in which we team up an experienced Ragnut with an eight-year-old beginning sailor to race short triangles. The objective of these races is for the beginning skipper to learn the starting sequence and to gain experience in getting around the course. In lieu of trophies the winning skipper and crew receive two gallons of ice cream to share with the other skippers and crews.

We have found that developing sailing skills takes a lot of instruction as well as on-the-water practice. Sailing seminars and after race discussion have helped to accelerate the learning process for beginning skippers. Most of these seminars are planned and given by senior Ragnots, the sailing instructor, or other club members. We have an outline of seminars in advance and supplement the discussion with handouts and slides. This year we have expanded these seminars to include advanced racing, boat handling, and rigging for Sunfish, sailing on several of the world class sailors on Galveston Bay to give the seminars.

On the subject of trying new activities we have a number of Ragnots that participate in long distance Sunfish racing. The Seabreeze Sailing Club, one of our neighbors on Galveston Bay, sponsors a late summer series for long distance races (5-mile triangle). The series is sailed under the Portsmouth Rule and is open to small one design boats and all age groups. The Sunfish competes very effectively under this rule and the Ragnots have enjoyed competing with other one design boats.

In our experience we have learned that children enjoy participating in all activities on the water, and as a result this year we've added a Ragnut/Powernaut course in the early spring to learn about power boating from outboard powered dinghies to trawlers. We have also added waterskiing in August and a Ragnut fishing tournament in the fall.

All of these new activities have increased our time on the water and involved many more club members and parents in Ragnut activities, but our central focus is our racing program. The Sunfish has endured as the Ragnut club boat because it accommodates a wide range of sailing skills, it's as tough as a nine-year-old, and in the hands of a world class skipper is an extraordinary machine for going to weather.
A Ragzor is
A SUNFISH SAILOR, SINGLE-
HANDED, DOUBLE HANDED,
NO HANDED, FRONTWARDS,
BACKWARDS, UP-SIDE-UP,
UP-SIDE-DOWN, IN GOOD
WEATHER, IN SQUALLS, AND IN
CALM...

A GOOD COMPETITOR, A
FEARLESS SAILOR, A BLUFFER,
A CON, A PROTESTER, A WINNER,
A HAPPY GO LUCKY KID...

AN ANGLER, A GRABBER,
A WILD GAR CHASER, A FREE
SPIRIT AT THE WATERS EDGE...

A FRIEND OF ALL PONERNAUTO,
A DINGHY EXPERT, AND HARBOR
CRUISER, A CAST NET DRagger,
A SHRIMPER, AN OLD TEAK
SCRUBBER AND MAST TOP
SEARCHER...

WHO LOVES TO HANG AROUND,
EAT GOLDFISH, BOOGIE TO THE
B-52's, RIDE DIRT BIKES,
SCARF HAMBURGERS,....
JUST IN TIME
TO WATER SKII, SHOW-OFF
ON A WIND SURFER, ROMP
IN THE POOL, LOVE ON
BABIES, KITCHENS AND PUPPIES,
TALK TO OTHER KIDS PARENTS, ...
ALWAYS READY TO LAY IT
ON THE LINE TO RESCUE
A BOATER IN TROUBLE,
WITH COURAGE AND STAMINA
TO DRIVE A SUNFISH ALL
DAY AND BOOGIE ALL NIGHT...
A COMPETITOR, A BEST FRIEND
TO THE END...

... Regents never-give up!