

THE LIFTED TACK

Muscle Shoals Sailing Club

Upcoming Events

Feb 18 - Wine and Cheese Party at 3pm. Renew friendships, sign up to help with upcoming events.

March 4th - Spring Workday. General cleanup, move boats from pavilion, launch pontoon boat, get ready for sailing!

March 11 - Club Race #1

March 18 - Race Committee Course. Come learn how to run races - it's fun!

April 1 - Wilson Dam Race

April 1-2 - Thistle Singing River Regatta/South Atlantic District Championship

Combined dinner

Sailing Wisdom

Uncle Carl (a powerboater):
"You sailors have chosen to race the slowest means of transportation ever devised by man." Dad: "What's your point?"



The Commodore's Corner

Happy New Year MSSC Members! Here is looking forward to a great year of friendship and sailing. First of all, Horace decided that he wouldn't be able to serve as Commodore after all. Well, I had mixed feelings about his being Commodore anyway. Very few have given as much to our club as Horace and here we were imposing on him one more time. I would have preferred one of the newer members to volunteer. And I still do but I will certainly continue to serve until we find a new Commodore.

As in the past two years my primary goal has been to increase participation in club activities. And activities means more than





The Events that “Were Not”

Within 120 miles of each other, two sailing events were scheduled for October 6th; the sixth club race at MSSC and an important Flying Scot regatta at Birmingham Sailing Club. On that day, the weather was delightfully cool, sunny but the winds were Northwesterly, steady about 10 gusting to about 20mph (on Wilson Lake).

Our Joel Verplank was a participant in the latter event and he had a story to tell. He related that of the 24 boats that started in the first race at BSC, only 16 finished, 6 capsized and one boat, upon capsizing, sank completely. He further indicated that this was “illegal” in the FSCT class as all boats are required to have a defined amount of flotation on board. So they had no more racing on the Saturday. Despite the RC boat showing up on Sunday, sensible skippers chose not to provide them with boats for which to set a course, so no racing on Sunday! This story gives you some idea of how devastating a gusty nor'wester can be on our lakes.

The Commodore’s Corner continued

just racing. And even more than just sailing - we have one of the most beautiful places in Alabama, and I like just going out and enjoying the view.

My other goal is to increase club membership. With new members we will have more folks involved in the club and we will have the additional income we would like in order to make some improvements to the club grounds and facilities.

The club Wine and Cheese Party will be held at the clubhouse February 18 starting at 3:00. Traditionally this is our opportunity to renew friendships and sign up for various activities, both social and sailing. We will, of course do that this year, but I hope to do one more thing: Let's have a good discussion of what are the appropriate goals for the year (mine are a starting point) and what we can do to try to meet them.

So, please, everyone come out and let's have a good time. Bring some wine (or beer or soda or whatever is good to drink) and some snacks. And ideas.



The Joy of Sailing!

The Events that “Were Not” continued

Meanwhile, out at MSSC, Phin Jones arrived prepared to be the volunteer PRO for the Club Race. Rick McAdams and Nolan Richards were the only sailors preparing a boat to go out so we suggested that “it” is a non-event to Phin. Dave Seaborg also came, but his mission was to repair a part of his Day Sailer’s coaming that had suffered during a capsize in the TVCC regatta. Rick and Nolan launched, cleared the harbor and soon found themselves with all the wind they might ever want- and more! So halfway across the lake on a barely manageable beat, all hiked out, they decided caution was better than valor, so planed now and again back to the club relieved that nothing had broken.



Dave Seborg & crew enjoying a swim at the 2016 TVCC

So, congratulations to all those who chose NOT to participate in the sixth MSSC club race! But that is NOT an excuse NOT to participate in upcoming events, including the wine and cheese party, the spring MSSC workday, and club race #1!

Nolan Richards, 1 Nov 2016

The 54th Little America’s Cup Regatta at MSSC

The 54th Little America’s Cup Regatta began on a sunny, quite windy morning at MSSC on Saturday October 22nd. Commodore Tom Cromer welcomed all to the event at the Skipper’s meeting led by PRO Bill Parkhurst. This was well, but the downside was our poor participation from our membership, the least we have incurred over the whole meaningful history of this event. We had one visitor in Ed Hurst.

Bill and his assistants, Paul Jacobs and Mike Zacharski, on the RC boat set a windward- leeward course with a northwesterly breeze, steady at about 7-9, gusting to about 15 mph. This direction is infamous for being both shifty and puffy so skippers have to be alert on several counts; balance, spotting wind and adjusting sail shape. Starts were good but depending on whether a boat went left to shore or out into the lake, separation soon set in for the combined fleet of dinghies and cruisers.

The dinghy folk had to keep hiked out pretty much all of the time on the windward legs.

Conditions were really great for sailing and the three races that afternoon gave everyone a good workout, so getting back to the clubhouse reasonably early was a welcomed opportunity to enjoy a few nibbles, cold drinks and banter about our adventures (or misadventures!).

Joel Verplank had arranged a really gourmet Cajun dinner to be served with the help of Peggy Jacobs, Susan Verplank and others.

Although Sunday came with more sun and comfortable temperatures, there was practically no wind as the sailors rigged their boats for a 9.30 a.m. start. However, either by good fortune or prayers, there developed a light easterly enabling two W-L races to be held.

As always, everybody enjoyed a satisfying lunch from the previous night's "leftovers" which was better than some of us may see in our own homes.

Joel and Bill presided over the trophies that Joel had arranged. We didn't have the Little America's Cup perpetual trophy on hand which was of some concern.

Little America's Cup Results:

Cruiser Fleet:		Dinghy Fleet		Overall	
Joel Verplank	1	Bruce Richards	1	Bruce Richards	1
Ed Hurst	2	Wilson Jenkins	2	Joel Verplank	2
Jim Farrell	3	Phin Jones	3	Willson Jenkins	3
Tom Cromer	4	Dave Seborg	4		

Let us hope that more sailors participate and enjoy the 55th LAC regatta in 2017.

Nolan Richards 6th Nov. 2016



Post TVCC Victory Celebration!

MSSC Board of Directors

Acting Commodore - Tom Cromer

Secretary - Brock Gordon

Treasurer - Paul Jacobs

First Vice Commodore - Paul Hill

Second Vice Commodore - John Sworm

Fleet Captain - Phin Jones

Sail Master - Willson Jenkins

Harbor Master - Jim Farrell

There's no article at this point, but suffice it to say that MSSC won the 2016 TVCC! Browns Creek was second, Privateer was third, and Wheeler was fourth. There are a number of photos on the club Facebook page (see below). Looking forward to the 2017 TVCC at Privateer Yacht Club!

Here are a couple of photos recently posted to our Facebook page. If you're on Facebook, search for Muscle Shoals Sailing Club, "like" our page, and check it often for updates.

