

THE LIFTED TACK

Muscle Shoals Sailing Club

Upcoming Events

April 1 - Al Sellers Wilson Dam Race. Notice of Race and more information at http://mssclub.org/Wilson_Dam_race_2017

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

Combined dinner

April 15 - Cruising Class (Steve Blazier)

April 22 - Club Race #2

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

April 1 - Wilson Dam Race

Sailing Wisdom

"The cabin of a small yacht is truly a wonderful thing; not only will it shelter you from a tempest, but from the other troubles in life, it is a safe retreat." Francis Herreshoff, Boat Designer

The Commodore's Corner

I got an old fat boat,

she's slow but handsome,

Hard in the chine and soft in the transom.

I love her well; she must love me,

But I think it's only for the money.

Gordon Bok ("Old Fat Boat")



First of all thanks to everyone who pitched in on the work day. You are the reason we have such nice clubhouse grounds. I know we are already looking forward to the Fall work day. And then we had the Race Committee Workshop put on by Tommy Glenn and Steve Blazier. All of us learned more about what is involved with race committee. I would have been happier if more members showed up, but it was a cold day, hard to get your mind on sailing. Too cold for us to feel like racing, so there was no club race. But Tommy, with crew of Jessica and John David took the Thistle out

Some considerations for more enjoyment in Sailing

Invest in more conscious awareness and love of the water, wind, nature and your boat

Besides an increasing awareness of what the free wind and aerodynamics gives you in the way of propulsion, you should have become familiar with safety precautions you and your companions need while rigging/sailing/mooring and the basic right-of-way rules for sailboats.

Do not underestimate the consequences of impending bad weather... the clubhouse may be the best place for social interaction.

When sailing, avoid frustration... whether recreationally or competitively sailing, it's still "just a game". Concentrate on communing with your boat, how it is responding to you and your compatibility with your crew.

Whether out on the lake for pleasure or competition, see what other boats are doing in terms of sail trim, heel, fore and aft balance that may be making them look better than you would like to be. Try something different and sense the response. Surprises do happen.

to get some practice for an upcoming race in Jacksonville, FL.

The next event is the combination Al Sellars Wilson Dam Race and Thistle Singing River Regatta on April 1 and 2. The Thistle regatta will be a lot of fun to watch--lots of fast boats sailing in bunches. I encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the event. Watch the sailing and stay for dinner.



As far as non-racing events this year, we have the universally-acclaimed Lawn Sports Day on May 13. After intense competition in croquet and lawn bowling we will grill some hamburgers and hot dogs. Some people may drink beer. The winners of the games will receive a free dinner at the regatta of their choice. As I said, intense competition.

I have started reading C. S. Forester's *The Age of Fighting Sail*, which has gotten me thinking that while I have enough trouble just trying to sail my boat, it's hard to imagine having to that while being shot at and trying to shoot. With that thought in mind, I have decided that on the fourth of July we will have Sailing with Super Soakers to relive those ancient battles. Come out to soak or be soaked, or just for the barbecue.

If you have other non-racing or non-sailing ideas please let me know. As in the past my biggest goal is to increase member participation. We have the most beautiful site on the lake so let's enjoy it - *Tom the acting Commodore*

Some considerations for more enjoyment in Sailing continued

Back at the dock and clubhouse, thank your crew, enjoy some camaraderie, conversation, about the day's experiences, the wind shifts, mark roundings, and complement someone who did well or improved. Humor can alleviate circumstances that might not have resulted in your preferred outcome.

Nolan Richards 7 Mar. 2017

MSSC Work Day

A lot was accomplished at the spring work day on March 4th. And no one got hurt!

Paul Jacobs, Wes Brown, and Tommy Glenn rigged up the Club 420s so they are ready to go.

While in the process of doing so chain saws were buzzing, branches and even a few small trees were falling, and driftwood was being hauled to the burn pile. Randy Myers, Keith Hudson, the Gray family, Jim Farrell, Randy Henne, and others were managing this effort expertly. Randy should be an expert as he



Random Thistle Picture - they're coming to MSSC!

was a lumber guy of some sort in a past career before he became a professional brewmaster.

Bob Kuehlthau & maybe Bob Stagg were working on the RIB trailer and replacing a tire.

The pontoon boat was launched and driven around some, nice to know it's still running after a winter of inactivity.

Steven and Ashley Peoples were all over the place doing pretty much everything. That's what they do. And brightening everyone's day while they were at it.

Paul Hill was in the clubhouse doing an inventory of needed supplies. Paper products anyone?

And everyone else who was there was pitching in somewhere or another. Many hands make light work!

I would like to thank all the folks who were able to help at the MSSC Spring work day as follows:

Keith Hudson, Dave Seborg, Paul Jacobs, Steven and Ashley Peoples, Bob Kuehlthau, Paul Hill, Horace Holland, Randy Myers, Joel VerPlank, Steve Blazier, Wes Brown, Rick McAdams, Phin Jones, Tommy Glenn, Randy Henne and anyone I may have forgotten. Also our junior member Christopher Gray along with his brother Sam, his father Gary and his grandfather.

The weather was perfect and thanks to the excellent turnout and were able to get a lot of items accomplished.

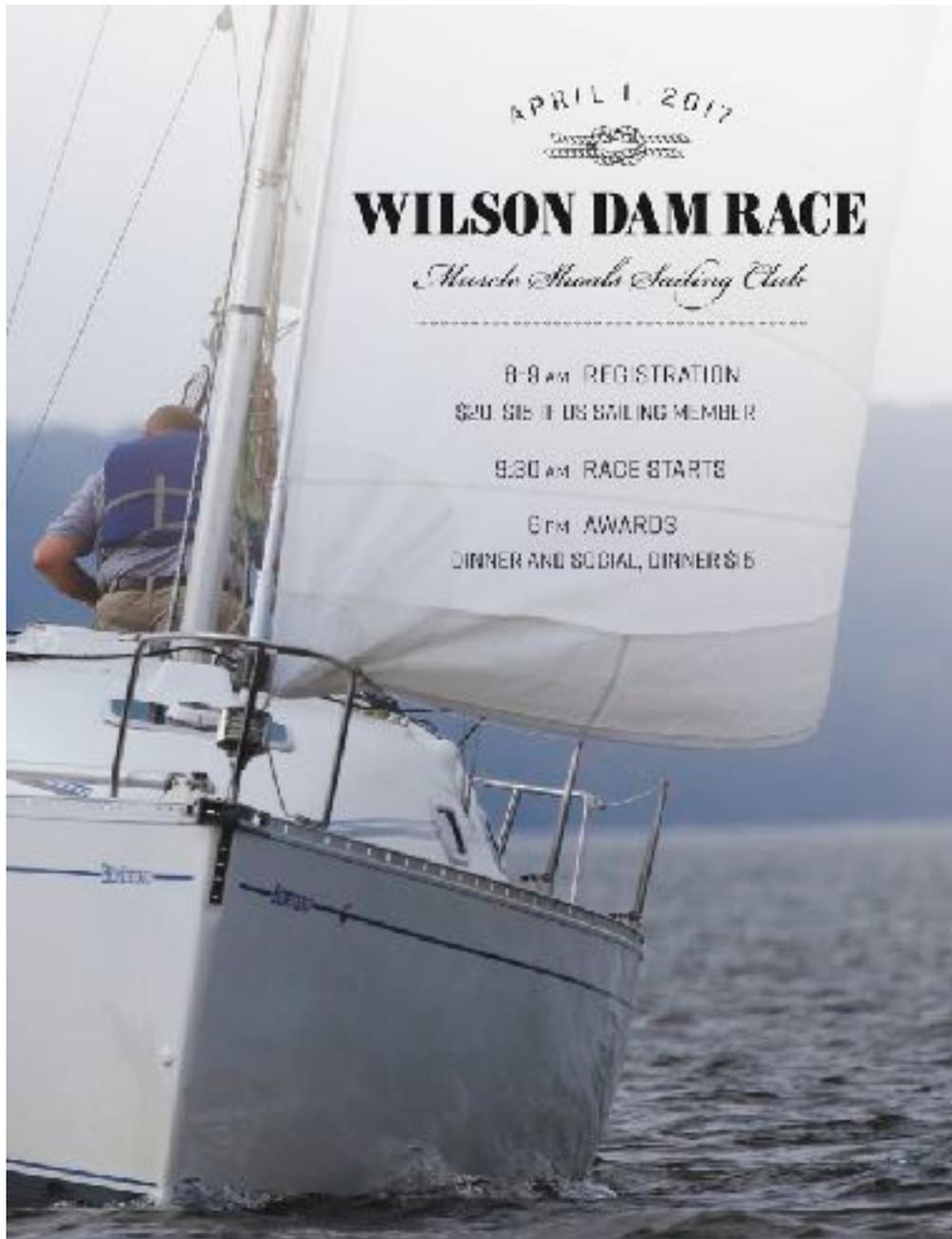
Jim Farrell

Harbormaster

with embellishments by Tommy Glenn



Randy and Brock showing good upwind technique



Please make plans to participate in the Al Sellers Wilson Dam Race on April 1st. It's a great opportunity to be involved in a low key race, boats aren't crowded together, just set your sails and go. So far we have three boats coming down from Wheeler. Let's get as many MSSC boats on the line and have a great time. There are three potential courses depending on the weather so you won't be on the water till after dark! Hope to see many of you there. For more information see the Notice of Race at http://mssclub.org/Wilson_Dam_race_2017.

Muscle Shoals Sailing Club Event Schedule					
<u>Date</u>	<u>2017</u> <u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Principal Race Officer &</u> <u>Assistants</u>	<u>Social</u>
1-Jan	Sun	New Year's Day Regatta	Everybody!	Self Start at 12:30 PM	Non Racers watch bowl games in Clubhouse! BYO food and drink!
18-Feb	Sat	Wine & Cheese Party	MSSC Board		
4-Mar	Sat	MSSC Workday	MSSC Board	Everybody!	Bring Work Gloves and yard tools
11-Mar	Sat	MSSC Club Race #1			
18-Mar	Sat	Race Committee Course	Steve Blazier		
1-Apr	Sat	Singing River Thistle Districts Regatta Day 1 & Al Sellers Wilson Dam Race	Tommy Glenn		Start Dam Race before Districts, combined dinner!
2-Apr	Sun	Singing River Thistle Districts Regatta Day 2	Tommy Glenn		
7-Apr	Fri	UNA Outdoor Adventure Club	Andrew Putnam		
8-Apr	Sat				
15-Apr	Sat	Cruising Class	Steve Blazier		
22-Apr	Sat	MSSC Club Race #2			
6-May	Sat	MSSC Club Race #3 & Learn to Sail Small Club Boats			
13-May	Sat	Lawn Sports Day	Tom Cromer		
27-May	Sat	Confederate Admiral's Regatta & Flying Scot Invitational	Steve Blazier		Joel Verplank (Promote Flying Scots)
28-May	Sun				
3-Jun	Sat	Sail Seminar			
4-Jun	Sun				
10-Jun	Sat				
11-Jun	Sun				
17-Jun	Sat	MSSC Club Race #4			
4-Jul	Tue	Independence Day Party & BBQ			
26-Aug	Sat	MSSC Commodores' Regatta		Tom Cromar, Paul Hill, Jim Farrell	
27-Aug	Sun				
2-Sep	Sat	End of Summer Raft Up			
9-Sep	Sat	Introduction to Racing 1PM, Club Orientation 4PM, Welcome Party 5PM			
16-Sep	Sat	TVCC at Privateer			
17-Sep	Sun				
30-Sep	Sat	Club Race #6			
21-Oct	Sat	Little America's Cup			
22-Oct	Sun				
11-Nov	Sat	Club Race #7 and Club General Meeting			
18-Nov	Sat	MSSC Workday	MSSC Board	Everybody!	Bring Work Gloves and yard tools
1-Jan	Mon	New Year's Day Regatta	Everybody!	Self Start at 12:30 PM	Non Racers watch bowl games in Clubhouse! BYO food and drink!

Rev 17.3

MSSC Race Committee Class

We conducted our annual Race Committee class on March 11th in conjunction with the first Club Race. Eight folks participated, wish we had more folks attend! Running races is pretty fun, and if you volunteer to help one of our more experienced Principal Race Officers (PROs) you can learn about it in a relaxed atmosphere.

Afterwards, as Tom mentioned in the Commodore's Corner, we were supposed to have a club race, but as it was pretty cold and no one was real enthusiastic about getting out in 40 degree weather, we decided not to race. However, I've never been accused of being too smart, so me and my intrepid and arguably crazy crew John David and Jessica headed out to do some practicing for the Orange Peel regatta coming up in Jacksonville FL. Later George Makowski and Bryce Devine also went out for a sail in Mellow the Flying Scot, proving that they don't have much common sense either. But we both had a blast in the cool temps and 10-12 mph breeze. Afterwards we were declared co-race winners by acclamation.

Attendees at the RC class were Steve Blazier, Tommy Glenn, Tom Cromer, Bryce Devine, George Makowski, Bill Parkhurst, Larry Gautney, and Dave Seborg.

If anyone wants a copy of the RC presentation please send me an email at tbglenn@gmail.com

Tommy Glenn

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

You can email the board at board@mssclub.org