



The Lifted Tack

APRIL 30, 2007

Upcoming Events

May 5
Al Sellers'
Dam Race

May 19
Fun Cruise
and
Picnic Lunch

May 26-27
Confederate
Admiral's
Regatta

May 28
Memorial Day
Raft Up

June 2-3 and 9-10
Sail Seminar

June 23
Spring Race 2

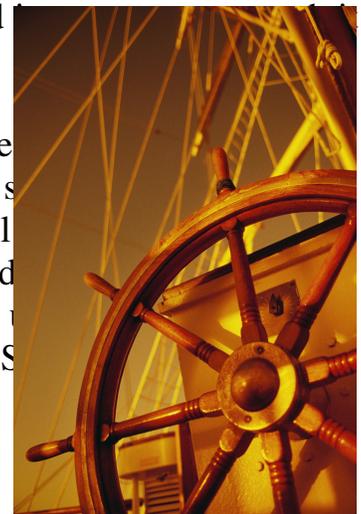
June 30
Spring Race 3

COMMODORE'S CORNER

Fun! Fun! Fun! The *fun meter* was at an all time high during the recent 2007 Commodore's Regatta. I had a great time and I heard several visitors say they did too. First of all the weather was perfect. Pleasant temperatures and strong breezes predominated. We had nine boats participate including two boats from Wheeler. We had great meals. I know because I helped cook all three of them along with Nancy Gautney and Barbara Glenn. They thought I was a slave driver regarding the preparation and cooking of the meals (something along the lines of why must we let the meat "rest" before we serve it and why must we trim the fat off the lion and roll it just so?).

We took in \$850 for meals and regatta fees and spent that much putting on a good show. We had hamburgers and hot dogs for Saturday's pre-race festivities. Then Saturday night we had stuffed pork loin paired with a secret red current/raspberry sauce served with mixed veggies and a great chocolate cake for desert. We then watched the movie the "Wind". We all yelled and laughed at the sailing and love scenes on the boat. The movie was much better than I remembered it and with the running commentary from the crowd.

Then the wind again for Sunday was great complete and we followed that up with hot pork tenderloin served on our new giant Green Egg. Actually, we cooked all of it on the Club's new Green Egg grill. What a great product. If you would like to have a cooking seminar to show everyone how to use it at the club please contact me, Tony or Bob S



THE LIFTED TACK

instructions. There is also a DVD at the Club on how to use it.

Who won? Well, in the dinghy class Nolan and Andrew did. They beat out Dave Seborg and Floyd Hauffe. I got to sail with Floyd and had a great time on *his* Scot. The cruiser spinnaker class was won by Paul Wunsch of WYC and the non-spinnaker class was won by Joel, John and Todd. Several skippers needed crew and we were luckily that several visitors and members without boats showed up. Rick McAdams took out two visitors who recently moved to Huntsville, Dave had no crew and Hauffe and Jenkins combined to go together. The Gillingham's could also have taken out one or two more people. My point being that there is plenty of need for people to come out and sail together even if they don't have a boat or are inexperienced. The same will be true for the next two upcoming regattas.

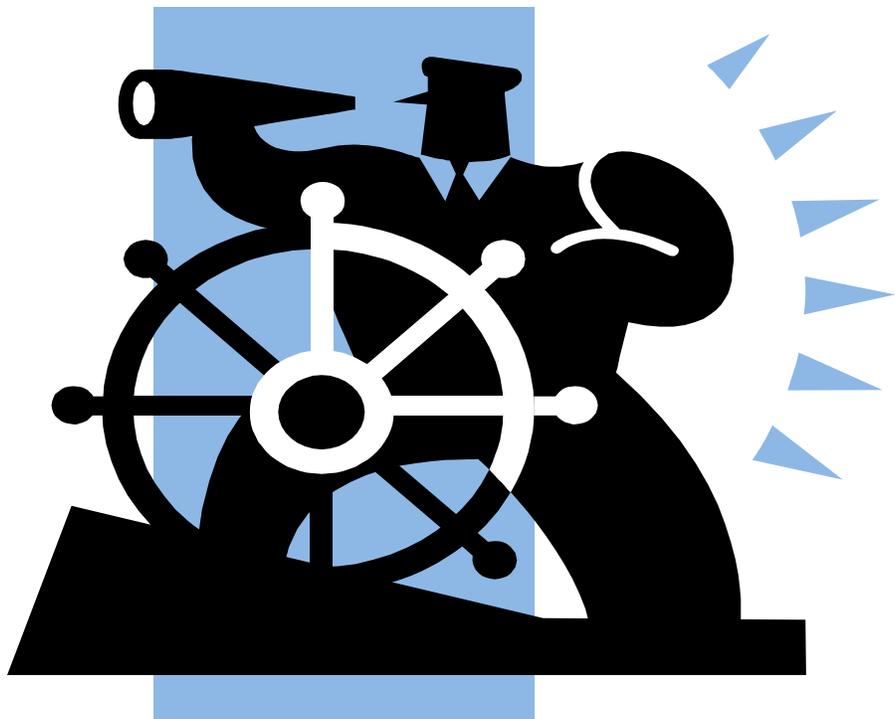
Finally, the race committee work was excellent. Russ did a great job as PRO and was assisted by Pat Hauffe and Tom Comer. Good work. All three of these club members attended our "How to work the Committee Boat and Rules workshop" the weekend before and you could tell it. We had a total of 18 people attend that workshop and we served lunch as well.

What's coming up? On Saturday, May 5th, we have our annual Al Sellers' Dam Race. It's usually our most attended race with close to 20 participants. It's a great social race and lots of fun. There will be a dinner that night at the Club as well.

Don't miss out on the fun for it's there for the taking.

See you soon.

Willson



AL SELLERS' DAM RACE

May 5, 2007



Event Description: A distance race to Wilson Dam & returning to the Club.

Location: Muscle Shoals Sailing Club; 1350 Co. Rd. 411; Killen, AL 35645

Rules: Governed by the US Sailing Rules 2005-2008.

Registration: MSSC Club House between the hours of 9:00-11:00 Saturday morning.

Schedule: 11:00 Skippers' Meeting
12:00 Starting Signal for race

Social: Join us for dinner Saturday evening in the Club House
Cost: \$9.00
Time - 6:30 p.m.

Handicapping and Trophies: Current Portsmouth Yardstick. Trophies three deep in each of the two classes, Spinnaker & Non Spinnaker.

Entry Fee: \$15.00

Additional Information: Richard Gillingham
256 335-7549 or sharich@comcast.net

This is a fun, long distance race in memory of a very active competitor and long time member of MSSC.

Plan to bring your own lunch and enjoy it on the water!

MSSC Sailing Schedule 2007

Date	Event	Coordinator	PRO	Race Committee	Food
3-Mar	Commissioning Day/swap stuff (lunch at the club)	Rick McAdams			McAdams
10-Mar	Spring Race 1	N/A	VerPlank	Miller, Parrish	N/A
17-Mar	Laser Rigging Seminar	Nolan Richards			
24-Mar	Ribs Seminar. Morning Committee Boat workshop, Race Seminar - Afternoon Lunch at club)	Steve Blazler	Jenkins	N/A	Jenkins
1-Mar-1-Apr	Commodore's Regatta Dinner and a movie	Wilson Jenkins	Kerl	Tom Comer	Barbara Glenn, Nancy Gantney
14-Apr	Wheeler Vice Commodore's Regatta at Wheeler	Cancelled due to weather	N/A	N/A	N/A
21-Apr	Horace Bramm Cup, 1-day Regatta	Joe VerPlank	Gar Bouse	T. Fegenbush, R. Millberg	Jane Glenn, B. and W. Jenkins
5-May	Al Seller's Dam Race	Gillingham	N. Richards	Hickman	Jane Glenn, Barbara McCollum
19-May	Fun Cruise and Picnic Lunch	Joe VerPlank	E. File	Alan Wall	N/A
26-27 May	Confederate Admiral's Regatta	Steve Blazler	F. Hauffe	J. Ferry, M. Adcock	Brett Wood, A. Putnam
28-May	Memorial Day Raft Up	Rob Brown	A. Tidwell	D. VonTress	N/A
2-3 Jun	Sail Seminar	Steve Blazler	Jenkins	Loew, Richards	N/A
9-10 Jun	Sail Seminar	Steve Blazler	Jenkins	Loew, Richards	N/A
23-Jun	Spring Race 2	N/A	Holland	Keenum, R. Matthews	N/A
30-Jun	Spring Race 3	N/A	Andina	Seborg, Shortt	N/A
25-26 Aug	Vice-Commodore's Regatta/Flying Scot One Design/Disk Scot Challenge- Parrot Head Party with concert.	Jenkins-Flying Scot, Bucher V.C.	Gar Bouse	Hayden Glenn, Randy Stout	Wilson Jenkins, Bucher
3-Sep	Labor Day Weekend Raft Up	Larry Gantney	Colef	Bill Campbell	N/A
8-Sep	Fall Race 1	N/A	Holland	Jeff Compton, C. McGraw	N/A
22-Sep	Fall Race 2	N/A	Jamerson	T. Glenn, Kettel	N/A
29-Sep	Sunset/Moonlight Fun Cruise	VerPlank	N/A	G. Perkins, T. Smith	N/A
6-7 Oct	TVCC at Wheeler	Privateer Yacht Club/boat at WYC	N/A	N/A	N/A
13-14 Oct	Nolan and Helen Richards Regatta a/k/a Little America's Cup DIYRA Portsmouth Regatta	Wilson Jenkins	Blazer	Terry Yost	Yost, Gillingham
27-Oct	Fall Race 3	N/A	Jacobs	Kushlan, Staggs	N/A
10-Nov	Fall Race 4 Annual Meeting	Wilson Jenkins	Tom Brown	Parkhurst, T. Glenn	"Covered Dish"
	** Regattas Should Serve for at Least 3 People on Race Committee Duty. No Food or Coordinator for Club Races. **				

COMMISSIONING DAY REPORT

How do you measure success? Commissioning Day was a success if you measure it by the number of club members that showed up. Jim and Sandra Loew made the briefest appearance in the Guinness Book of Records. We managed to say Hi as they darted in and out of the clubhouse. Charles Anding showed up too. Hope we see more of him this year. In all, about 20 to 25 members attended and enjoyed renewing friendships and some pizza. Many thanks to Larry Gauntry for picking up the pizza at Foxes in Killen and to Brett Wood for firing up the wood stove. It added a little cozy comfort to the clubhouse.

If you measure success by the number of boats worked on or cleaned, it was a total failure. Only Chris McGraw braved the weather and actually worked on his boat. Randy Stout tried, but the wind blew the coating he was applying off faster than he could apply it. A few boat covers and mooring lines were adjusted but that was about the extent of the work done.

The Nautical Swap Meet was a qualified success, only because Horace Holland brought enough stuff to stock a small chancellery. I know because he walked away with some of my money, Thanks Horace, I've wanted a BBQ ever since I saw Andrew's at the last cruise. I believe a Nautical Swap Meet has a lot of potential but we need more participation to be a successful event.

I enjoyed the day and hope the rest of the members did too. It was a time to get together and remember why we belong to the MSSC. Which, when the weather turns bad seems to be to eat pizza and talk about sailing.

Rick



Our First “Long Distance” Regatta

We bought our Day Sailer 857 in early 1961. The then O’Day dealer, John Glover from Fairhope, delivered it. Our first “short range” regatta was to the Lake Guntersville Sailing Club about 80 miles from Florence. It was as a result of that regatta that we resolved to find a better way of handicapping mixed fleets than the Yachting One-of-a-Kind.

By October, we thought we knew enough about sailing “Hinemoa” that we would accept John Glover’s invitation to sail in the Fairhope Yacht Club’s regatta in October.

Fulfilling that invitation and its consequences was a trial.

The situation was like this; while the DS was at home and ready to trail behind a 10 hp Ford Anglia, Helen was at home with Bruce (5) and Robin (3) I was not there. I rang Helen from Reynolds Metals head office in Richmond, VA and blithely said “I’ll fly down and meet you in Mobile. Can you please take the boat down?”

Well, Helen was a brick. She had not towed the boat before. She had to pack the car with all the stuff the children and we might need for a far away weekend regatta and found her way via Route 17 to the Glovers. John met me at the airport on Friday night.

There were two races on Saturday and I recall being amazed at the classical Fish boats that were used then for inter-club Gulf Yachting Association events. Wooden, gaff-rigged and seemingly cumbersome (since replaced by the Flying Scot.) but sailed by very competitive and competent crews. We had to work out the tidal flow, which was new to us lake sailors. I can’t remember much about the first race in which about six DS’s were in a fleet. But I do remember that Bruce and Robin were great with the patient way they slept/played under the cuddy.

The second race I do remember! After the start around 3.30pm, and part way through the course, the wind died. I had not developed the skills then for light air sailing in a tidal environment. The RC did not shorten the course and there was no time limit. We, or I, would not quit. So we inched along at with agonizing slowness. The sun was setting and our hosts, the Glovers, I think sent a boat out to take the children in. We continued to drift on a glassy, wavy bay. The other DS’s were probably a leg ahead and finished at about sunset. We persisted. I don’t know how Helen tolerated me. We eventually finished under the lights of a coast guard vessel on the finishing line around 8.30 pm. – dismal last!

That race left a strong incentive to learn how to manage a DS in light wind and current; to stay close enough to those who knew more so that one could observe what constructive moves/ adjustment should be made to be moderately competitive.

We did go back to the Fairhope Yacht Club in succeeding years. Our skills evolved to the extent of winning trophies!

Are there any morals to this story? Yes, be grateful for extremely courageous and patient wives and children, recognize that every sailing environment has it’s own peculiarities and you’d best learn how to make your boat go so as not to miss supper!

Nolan Richards
DS 857

Southern Flight 242 Remembered

You may have noticed that at present, the Times Daily is publishing a series of articles on the 30th anniversary of the tragic crash of Flight 242 NW of Atlanta; it's intended destination after originating at Muscle Shoals and stopping off at Huntsville. You may recall that the cause was the rare occurrence of ingestion of excessive hailstones in both engines causing a flameout. The pilots were unable to restart the engines and opted to glide onto a stretch of road.

The connection to MSSC is that we lost a staunch and creative member in that tragedy.

George Wilkinson came to Decatur in the early 60's at the request of Monsanto. He was a recognized expert on the dyeing of textiles and, as far as I know, remains the author of the definitive technical encyclopedia on this subject. He lived in Hartselle where he and wife, Billie, raised David and Pamela.

The Wilkinson's joined MSSC around 1964 with their first boat, a Y-Flyer. They then bought Day Sailer 2223 which they campaigned around the southern regionals and participated in the North Americans at Lake Lanier in 1970 and New Orleans about 1973.

George was not only a gifted technologist, but also an artist and creative writer. He drew up catchy and attractive announcements for MSSC's regattas, some of which I think are on the walls of the clubhouse and must be conserved. He started "The Lifted Tack", a digest of recent news from M.S.S.C. There were 11 issues the first year and one would hope we continue to produce 7-8 per year. He created sections for social, racing, cartoons, meeting reports, racing results and comments, profiles of new members, boats coming into the club and those for sale, revisions to the membership roster, and snippets about members in the news, traveling to out-of-area regattas or doing odd jobs voluntarily at MSSC. He was also an avid photographer and often included photos in "The Lifted Tack" of racing and people enjoying social or educational events.

So we owe a lot to George for his creativity. He continued as editor of "The Lifted Tack" until his death. His legacy of writing about everything of interest at our club is worth emulating and preserving.

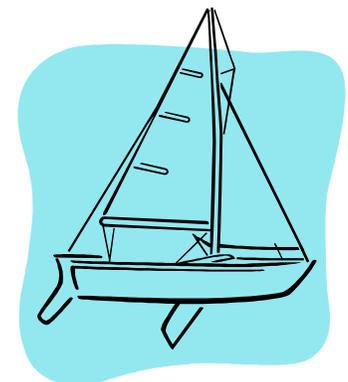
He was the commodore in 1973. The rotating trophy for the cruising class champion is named for him.

Around 1976, he sold his DS and bought a 470 because that fleet was very active at the time. This boat was a real challenge to the Wilkinson's and perhaps not the best choice.

Son David became a talented sailor, first in a Sunfish and then in a Laser. Dig into the archives of MSSC and you will certainly find written and photographic records of events and the evolution of MSSC that, but for George, would not exist.

May he have many wonderful sailing days in "Sailors Heaven". During his unfortunately curtailed time on the waters of S.E. USA, he certainly earned them.

Nolan Richards
DS 857





THE LIFTED TACK

Notes and Asides from the Editor/Publisher:

Receive *The Lifted Tack* electronically thus saving trees, storage space, copying charges, and postage cost. We now have twenty seven members and two non-members on electronic delivery.

Gar Bouse	Charlie Anding	Horace Holland	Tom Brown	Tom Cromer	Bill Campbell
Bob Parrish	Jeff Compton	John Glasscock	Tommy Glenn	Bob Stagg	Joel VerPlank
Glenn Miller	Joyce Sellers	The Milbergers	Ernie Fite	Larry Gautney	Paul Jacobs
Andy Keenum	Bill Parkhurst	The Gillinghams	Bob Kuehlthau	Chris McGraw	Bob Bucher
Jerry Ferry	Brett Wood	Floyd Hauffe	Scott Hickman	Matthew Massey	

See All The Pictures in COLOR at www.sailmssc.com . Sign up for this group by email: joglass@comcast.net

Please submit pictures and article for future editions. Article subjects can include travel stories, racing stories, technical sailing info or more, be creative. This is your newsletter and can only be produced with your help. Thank you to all who have submitted articles and pictures for this publication.

John