

The Lifted Tack

WEBSITE: <http://home.hiwaay.net/~mssc/> (also: www.sailmssc.com)
WebMaster: John Glasscock

AUGUST 15, 2006

A Message From the Commodore

420 Sailing..... You Will Love It!

MSSC has acquired four 420 sailboats. They are all on trailers and have covers. There is a dolly to hook onto the trailer to launch by hand. I tried this a couple of weeks ago and just about got dragged into the water with the boat and trailer. This is definitely a two man job. The sails are presently kept in the clubhouse storage shed but will soon be moved into our new storage building which will be set up next to the Laser rack any day now.

The rigging and sail setup is traditional and if you are accustomed to a larger boat, you should have no problem setting everything up. If you do not feel comfortable setting things up, call one of the officers or other regular sailing members to show you how. *THESE ARE REALLY WONDERFUL BOATS!* The slightest breeze will push the boat along at a good clip. Balancing your weight is very critical. When you first step into the 420, be sure to step into the center of the cockpit and stay low. The slightest movement of your upper body will tip the boat. A few strokes of the paddle will get you out of the harbor.

These boats are owned by the Club and are here for your use. In addition, the Club also now owns four Lasers. Those of you who prefer a little "wet" sailing might want to try one of the Lasers. *Have fun....go sailing!!*

Joel VerPlank, Commodore
joel@verplank.com

Upcoming Events

- August 19-20 Race Seminar — See inside
- August 26-27 Vice Commodore's and Dixie Scot Regatta—See inside
- September 4 Fall cruise and raft-up
- September 9 Fall Race #1
- September 16 Work Day
- September 23 Fall Race #2
- Sept. 30—Oct. 1 TVCC (MSSC hosts this regatta at Wheeler)

Commodore
Joel VerPlank
766-3652

1st Vice Commodore
(Clubhouse)
Bob Bucher
757-7200

2nd Vice Commodore
(Land)
John Glasscock
710-1960

3rd Vice-Commodore
(Docks & Racks)
Rick Milberger

Secretary
(Memberships, etc.)
Liz Stagg
256-533-9894

Treasurer (\$)
Andy Keenum
766-9301

Sail Master
(Training/Sail Camp/
Slips)
Rick McAdams
767-6610

Fleet Captain
(Racing)
Byron Jamerson
383-0520

Recreation Officer
(Socials)
LarryGautney
767-0467

Newsletter Editor
Bob Parrish
740-0131

Boat Partnerships

If you own a boat jointly with another person or group, please be advised that the Treasurer will not bill slip fees proportionately. Each boat slip will be billed to one club member only. It will be up to that member to collect from his partners and all partners must be club members.

The quarterly billing process and pro-rata charges has not been an easy situation for the club to adjust to on this first year. All kinds of complications have arisen including the cost of set up. If you are a partnership, please notify the Treasurer which person will be the billed partner. If you are pulling your boat out and relinquishing your slip, please apply to the board for pro-rata status. Please see the by-laws which give the reasons a person would be granted pro-rata status. — *Joel VerPlank*, Commodore

Slip and Dock Maintenance

We are doing some log removal and selective dredging in the Marina where it has been difficult for some of the sailboats to enter and leave. — *Joel VerPlank*, Commodore

The docks need to be pressure washed and sealed. It would cost the club over \$2000 to have a contractor do this. To save the club money, board members have started cleaning the docks every Wednesday evening starting at around 5 PM. We've found that this is too big a job for us and we need your help. Can you give us a hand on Wednesday evenings?

We need pressure washers, members to run them and members to apply the sealant. I have a pressure washer and Joel has left his at the club to use. We would like to have the docks cleaned before a scheduled workday on Saturday, September 16. Several members can easily finish waterproofing the docks in an easy day if they are already clean. Pressure washing is the time consuming part of the job.

From what I understand, the club has taken pride in being a volunteer organization in the past. Let's continue the tradition and complete this much needed maintenance project.

Please call or email me if you can help. Other arrangements can be made if Wednesday evenings don't fit your schedule.

WE NEED YOUR HELP or we will have to hire someone to do the job. Thanks in advance.

Rick Milberger
Dock Master
rmilberger@decalscentral.com

Work Day — September 16

Work days are how our little do-it-yourself club survives. They are also a source of good stories for years to come. Who can forget Steve "Blazer" Blazier's pyrotechnics when burning the brush, or Don "Excaliber" Von Tress' miraculous extraction of his chainsaw from the tenacious clutch of the mighty timber? Come out to work day if for no other reason than to protect your own boats and trailers from the rest of us "workers."

Club Membership Is Booming

If you notice a lot of new faces at the club, it's because we are growing! Thanks to excellent publicity in the Shoals area, full-to-bustin' Sailing Seminar enrollment, plus word-of-mouth enticement by members, we have several new Class A member families. We have also gained two new Juniors members, which is great news. Here are the names of our new members, listed alphabetically. Let's all see how quickly we can put names with faces and welcome them to the ranks of MSSC:

Stuart Bartmess, a 14-year-old from Florence, has been welcomed into the club as a Junior member. He owns a Butterfly sailboat and wants to learn how to sail better. Stuart was sponsored by Rick McAdams.

T.L and Charlotte Coker from Starkville, MS, have recently purchased a Thistle. These new Class A members are interested in racing, sailing, and participating in club events. They were sponsored by Rick McAdams. T.L. is a history teacher and Charlotte is a retired MSU professor.

Scott and Donna Hickman, sponsored by George Perkins, are from Florence. Scott is a real estate broker, and Donna is a teacher/realtor. They look forward to learning more about sailing and being with a congenial club.

Matthew Massey from Tusculumbia, a new Class A member sponsored by Horace Holland, doesn't have a boat at this time, but he wants to learn how to sail. Matthew is a pharmacist.

Kevin Miller from Florence is helping to expand our Junior sailing program. As an enthusiastic graduate of the Sailing Seminar, 15-year-old Kevin is interested in continuing to learn more about sailing. He is one of Rick and Kathy McAdams' neighbors and has since been seen out on the lake sailing club-owned Sunfishes and Lasers.

David and Mary Jo Tosch, new Class A members from Birmingham, have a 33-foot C&C. They are interested in racing. Mary Jo attended the Sailing Seminar, and they were sponsored by Rick McAdams. David is affiliated with Tosch Dental Lab in the Birmingham area.

Al Tidwell, a semi-retired attorney in Hamilton, Alabama, was sponsored by Rick McAdams for Class A membership. Al has purchased Ron Brown's O'Day 25 and wants to learn how to sail safely and well. He looks forward to getting to know club members.

Todd and Nancy Travers from Florence are new Class A members. They own a Hobie Cat 17, which they will store at the Club. Todd is a massage therapist and Nancy is a housewife. They were sponsored by Horace Holland and are interested in racing, sailing, club activities, and socializing with other members. Todd is often seen jumping around on Horace's boat doing the work of three crewmen.

Allen and Cecily Wall from Florence were sponsored by Nolan Richards and are new Class A members. They have a Balboa 16 and are looking forward to improving their sailing skills. Allen is a financial consultant and Cecily is a "domestic engineer."

This is truly an exciting time to be a member of MSSC; the future is bright indeed. Let's make our new members feel welcome!

Liz Stagg,
Secretary

Bullet Points from Willson Jenkins

- **MSSC has a race seminar scheduled for August 19 & 20, 2006.** The seminar is free but space is limited. So far we have four members who have signed up and we have room for 8 more. See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter. Reservations are required by email: Willson Jenkins at jjat-torneys@aol.com
- **Party!** We will have an open party scheduled for Friday, August 25, 2006 beginning at 6:30 at the Jenkins lake house across the lake from the club. The address is 1260 Wheeler View Drive, MS. Email Willson at the above address or call 710-0135 for directions. We will have a number of out of town participants coming including probably 5 to 8 additional Flying Scots. We had a great crowd last year and hope for the same this year.
- **Saturday night's dinner at club for V.C Regatta, August 26:** I'm cooking Honey/Pecan Crusted Salmon plus other stuff with Tony. You better sign up per the NOR. We almost ran out last year.
- **THE TVCC:** What is it? For those of you who may have joined MSSC in the last few years and don't know what it is, I'll give you a short explanation. By the way, Gar has attended every TVCC regatta either as a participant or as race officer since inception. (Ed. Note: *True dat!*) The Jenkins have made the last five in a row, sometimes participating for MSSC and sometimes for WYC.
- Six sailing clubs make up the TVCC. The clubs are MSSC, Wheeler, Lake Guntersville, Privateer, Pickwick Cruising and Sailing and Browns Creek. Each year we get together and have one big regatta. Each club takes a turn at hosting the event. MSSC is the host club this year. We agreed two years ago to stage the event at Wheeler, a central location that has sufficient mooring, lodging and dining facilities in one location.
- Each club tries to send at least 3 boats, one in each class to represent their club. However, the way we score the event allows a club to send as many as it wants but only the top boat per race, per club, counts in the TVCC standings. This way if you do poorly in a race, it doesn't hurt your club. In fact, the more boats you have representing your club, the more your club's chances improve.
- Normal attendance is about 30 to 40 boats. It can be impressive. We will have race officials from Atlanta coming to help run this event on the water.
- We won the TVCC last year in a tiebreaker with Wheeler. WOW! Winning this thing is a big deal. PYC is usually the club that does the best, but last year it didn't work out for them. You can bet they are going to make a stronger effort this year to get the Cup back.

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So what do you need to do? So far, I have got 10 volunteers for various tasks. You may get a call and will be assigned to a task during the event. We also need crew and boats. Contact Byron Jamerson (Sailmaster, 383-0520) if you're planning on racing for MSSC. We have a race seminar scheduled for the weekend of August 20th to get ready.

During the TVCC event, we will have two parties, one with a sit down dinner and band with possible table dancing.

Lots of things going on!

Willson Jenkins

(Ed. Note: Willson is a well known Sailing Activist, part-time regatta gypsy, and believes Lake Wilson was named for him.)



Racing action on beautiful Lake Wilson and evidence that Bob and Liz Stagg's boat has not grown roots.

RACE SEMINAR

(Get ready for the V.C. Regatta & TVCC)

MUSCLE SHOALS SAILING CLUB

AUGUST 19-20, 2006

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Muscle Shoals Sailing Club and Flying Scot Fleet 190 will present a race seminar. This event is open to any MSSC member or UAH Charger Sail Club member.

The seminar is free, but reservations are required, as space is limited.
Email your reservation to JJAttorneys@aol.com or call 256-766-4634.

The seminar will focus on:

- (1) How to make your boat go faster;
- (2) Rules of racing;
- (3) Tactics and Strategy;
- (4) How to Start;
- (5) Upwind Leg;
- (6) Downwind Leg; and
- (7) Finishing.

The course is designed for those who know how to sail, but want to learn how to race or want to improve their racing skills. We will utilize North's DVD Sail Tactics, along with practice sailing in our one-design fleet of Scots. Each participant is required to bring their own lunch, pfd, and appropriate clothing.
Enthusiastic participation is encouraged.

Hope to see you there.

**Willson Jenkins
Byron Jamerson
Tommy Glenn**

MEMORIAL DAY CRUISE

After two day of racing in 90 plus weather, I wasn't sure I wanted to go on a raft up. A cold beer, a shower and a nap seemed like a better plan. The problem was this was my great idea so off we went.

Three boats left the club around 2:30 on Sunday heading for Wheeler. Andrew Putnam on his Chrysler 22 along with Grandma Nancy, his mother Theresa and his girlfriend. Four people on a 22-foot boat, three women. I admired his courage. Bob Boucher in his Marine Clipper and my wife and I on the O'Day 27. We motored to the lock and, as luck would have it, the gate was open. Once in we discovered the boats from Wheeler were there too.

It was my wife's first time locking up but with a lot of coaching from the Artemis crew, we managed to tie off to a floating bollard being warned not to use the more convenient fixed ladder. Locking up took about 20 minutes. We said good by to Gar and the gang and started looking for a cove on the North side of the lake. Several were already occupied with sailboats, but one just before the turn into the Wheeler marina was vacant.

I went in first and threw out an anchor. Then Andrew tied off on the port side and Bob on the starboard. We had just settled down when we spotted Brett, his brother Russell and Russell's son coming into the cove on their O'Day 25. They threw out an anchor and pulled along side Bob. Then Brett entertained us by swimming a line over to the west bank and tying several bumpers on it in case a fisherman came by.

By that time we were all really hot so there was a scramble to go swimming. Once we cooled off it was time for dinner and then Brett and his brother regaled us with stores of Florence's more colorful past. Russell found my accent strange and promptly started the southern dictation lessons. Finally, I decided it was time for bed.

The next morning as we were having breakfast (thanks for the coffee Bob,) a tug with a large tow came by. We decided there was no hurry to leave. Bob wanted to go sailing so he left first. Brett had another engagement and started to leave but this was a slow process. He dove into the water to clean the anchor line as Russell pulled it in. But before they could stow it, the anchor locker had to be cleaned and the drain unplugged. They left after completing all their chores. Andrew and I left around noon.

As it was, we were all too early. We met at the head of the lock and rafted up again, everybody jockeying to find room under Brett's sunscreen. There was a two-hour wait before we could lock back down. After we got back to the club, my wife declared there would be no more raft ups in her future until I got a sunscreen. That project went to the top of the list in a hurry.

All in all, it was an enjoyable raft up. We got to know Andrew's family better and meet Russell Woods. But best of all, I now know there are places to anchor out on the Tennessee River. I need to find more places like that cove.

Rick McAdams
Sail Master

2006 Sailing Seminar Report

Enrollment for the 2006 Sailing Seminar started out slowly. Only twelve applications had been received a week before the start. However, the last week saw a deluge of applications and by the start of the Seminar, 31 students had enrolled and 4 were on the waiting list.

The students came from Florida and Mississippi, Birmingham, Hamilton, Huntsville and Decatur as well as the Shoals. Five were teenagers, two were 12 and 8 and three were UAH students from our affiliate the Chargers Sailing Club.

Twenty students filled out the evaluation survey. Of those, the average age was 45 not including the teens or younger. Fifty percent heard about the seminar from friends and 35 percent saw the ad and articles in the Times Daily. The two from Mississippi found us on the internet. The only negative comment was a toilet problem in the women's restroom and a mix up in boat assignment on the first day.

I hope all of you had a chance to read the great article on sailing the Tennessee River in the May edition of the Shoals Magazine. It was written by our own Andy Keenum and had several wonderful color pictures.

Again I have the club members to thank for all their help. It was their effort and friendly interaction with the students that make this seminar a success. A special thanks to those who taught the classes, Willson Jenkins, Nolan Richards, Steve Blazer, Jim Loew, Tommy Glenn, Byron Jamerson and Bill Parkhurst. Andrew Putnam and Casey Swilley demonstrated the correct way to recover from a capsizing,

Another big thanks to all the members who took students out in their boats. They are too many to mention by name and I'm afraid I'd leave some out if I tried. I have to admit it was nerve racking not knowing how many boats would be available each day. But when I counted the numbers of boats needed and the number available, it always came out right. I'm not sure how that happened but I am thankful.

Mark Smith a student from Mississippi brought his Boston Whaler with him. He is an accomplished sailor and took the class to keep his friend, T.J. Coker, company. He not only paid for the class but also took students out each day. Many thanks, Mark. The winds were erratic the first day and he gave us an unscheduled capsizing demonstration. Mark and his students were rescued by Bob Stagg in the safety boat and were none the worse for the experience, a little wet but at least they had a chance to cool off.

The weather was hot both weekends. The second Saturday afternoon there was no wind and the water instruction turned into a swim party. The younger students sailing the Lasers must have practiced the capsizing drill six or seven times. After a dip in the river everybody felt better.

The last day Sharman Gillingham prepared a Lasagna lunch that everyone had been looking forward to the whole weekend. After lunch, Steve gave the test and most passed. Steve tells me nineteen students will receive their Red Cross Certificate. Jake Rabalais completed his Boy Scout sailing requirements and earned his merit badge.

By this time I had lost my voice and was being called squeaky. I had to rely on other people to speak for me. Talk about lost in translation.

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We have received several Class A memberships and two Jr. members from the sailing seminar. All students can apply the course fee against the first year's membership if they send their application in within 90 days of completing the course. This will take us to the start of the fall racing season so there is the potential to receive some more.

We also invited the students who were interested in racing out for the last race of the spring series. Three students showed up to crew but the race was cancelled because only two boats were prepared to race.

Again a "WELL DONE" to all the members that made this event a success.

Rick McAdams
Sail Master

(Ed. Note: Anyone who has ever organized or helped with Sail Camp over the years knows this is a big job. Rick knocked it out of the park this year. We should probably commission an oil portrait of Rick in an admiral's uniform and hang it on the club wall with a nice plaque. Short of that, at least give Rick a sip of your beer when next you see him.)

Now Heed This From The Sail Master

If you have been out to the club lately, you may have noticed the dry storage for boats/trailers has been reorganized. All the empty trailers are now parked along the East property line. Trailers with boats are lined up in a row from West to East about 25 feet from the North tree line. There is now a lane along the tree line that will permit you to pull your boats through when parking them.

Please keep this lane and both ends of the line free. This is important to continue allowing access to both sides of the row of boats on trailers.

I would also ask you not to park boats on trailers close to the clubhouse or R.V. parking unless authorized by the Sail Master.

One club member informed me he would prefer to move his own boat. Please let me know if you feel the same way and I'll note it on the trailer identification list.



Notice how our parking area is now organized. Here we see that someone blocked the lane and caused problems.

2006 CONFEDERATE ADMIRAL'S REGATTA

On May 27&28, 2006 MSSC had the 45th annual Confederate Admiral's Regatta. All those in attendance had a really great time, all those not in attendance helped to pay for a really great time. More on that later, in this article.

The weather, as predicted, was light and variable, but otherwise clear and warm. Of course, this followed about 3 weeks of windy & great sailing weather (useful for training). If you've looked at the pictures on the website, it was a race in slow motion. No wonder that sailing isn't a good spectator sport! All the boat crews did say that they enjoyed all 4 races, even though the winds were light. It takes a real sailor to sail in light air, anybody can sail in heavy air! This would have been a good exercise for novice sailors.

Our Race Committee did an outstanding job of dealing with light & shifty winds. I have to thank Don McCullough, Frank McCollum and corporate sponsor, Cecil Denton for a job well done. The Food Committee headed by Karen McCullough and pick-up volunteers, delivered a very tasty dinner with snacks and breakfast.

The entertainment was provided by "Replay", a band that included Byron Jamerson on sax. They provided several hours of flawless music and had several of us up dancing. In addition, our refreshments provided by the Race Committee seemed to make a perfect evening. We had all the ingredients: good food, music, best friends and last, but not least, a table of fine trophies.

The results are as follows:

Spinnaker fleet:	Non Spinnaker fleet:	Dingy fleet:
1. Gar Bouse, Olson 25	1. Andy Wayne, Star	1. Tommy Glenn, Thistle
2. Paul Wunch, Capri 30	2. Russ Kerl, Ensign	2. Nolan Richards, Daysailor
3. Jan Bijvoet, X99	3. Kevin Baker, Catalina 22	3. Dave Seaborg, Daysailor
4. Steve Blazier, J30	4. Rick McAdams, O-Day 27	4. Byron Jamerson, Flying Scott
5. David Tosch, C&C31 (new Member)	5. Yves Morrisette, J80	

Stats: 14 boats, 48 dinners and 1 corporate sponsor (Cecil Denton, Investments). Once again we did not break even and the trend is this: the event gets better and the participation gets worse. I want all members (especially the new ones and the student members) to know that all of our regattas are actually social events with a bunch of sailing thrown in. We encourage racing to help make sailors better sailors. Yes, there are a lot of rules, but for the most part, they are rules of the road. If anyone has any suggestions that will actually help to increase participation, let me know.

Steve Blazier
Regatta Coordinator
Confederate Admiral's Regatta, MSSC



Muscle Shoals Sail Club

Invites you to the

Vice Commodore's Regatta and the Dixie Scot Challenge

August 25 – 27, 2006

Party Friday Night (see below)

Registration Begins at 10:00 a.m. Saturday.

Race Time Saturday is 12:30

Race Time Sunday is 9:30

Registration Fee: \$ 15 Flying Scot: \$20

*Bring you lunch for Saturday and join us for happy hour after the races and. followed by dinner at 6:30. **BYOB.***

Dinner: \$12.00 per person.

*Reservations: email to jjattorneys@aol.com or by calling 710-0135
(Please call by Thursday, August 24)*

Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert

A Continental Breakfast will be provided on Sunday morning.

Contact: Bob Bucher 757-7200 or 366-1863 or Willson Jenkins 710-0135

Welcome to the Flying Scot Fleets of Privateer and Dixie

There will be a party at the Jenkins lake house Friday night at 6:30 p.m. Address is 1260 Wheeler View Drive, MS.

From Florence or Lauderdale County you need to go River Road in Colbert County which is the first exit off of the Patton Island Bridge. Go to Ford City or like your going to the Robert Trent Jones Golf courses and go through the four way stop sign heading east. Go for another 5 miles and the turn is on the left just before the turn to the old Point Restaurant. Go north and keeping going, as we are the second to the last house on this road. From Huntsville or from the east, take 101 over Wheeler dam and exit to the right on the road like your going to Double Head. Go past the resort until the road ends. Take a right, as this is River Road. Go for about 2 miles and just past the turn to the Point there is another road, Turn right or north as this is Wheeler View Drive. Please call 446-6245 if you're lost or 710-0135:

The Lifted Tack

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



THE LIFTED TACK



More pictures from a past TVCC regatta thanks to Charlie Anding. Get ready...The next TVCC regatta is September 30—October 1.