

The Lifted Tack

<http://home.hiwaay.net/mssc/>

FEBRUARY 24, 2004

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Bob Stagg
533-9894

1st Vice Commodore
(Clubhouse)
Ron Brown
718-3756

2nd Vice Commodore
(Land)
Joel VerPlank
766-3652

3rd Vice-Commodore
(Docks & Racks)
Don Von Tress
931-724-2418

Secretary
(Memberships, etc.)
Willson Jenkins
766-4634

Treasurer
(\$)
Andy Schorr
864-2818

Sail Master
(Training/Sail Camp/
Slips)
Tom Brown
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Fleet Captain
(Racing)
Don McCullough
766-6493

Recreation Officer
(Socials)
Tony Smith
355-6245

Newsletter Editor
Bob Parrish
740-0131

Message from the Commodore

I am sitting wondering what I am doing at my desk when the sun is out and the forecast high for today is 65 degrees. Maybe I should be sailing. The E-mail traffic has really picked up as the sailing season approaches. We have included a wonderful letter from Al Hausmann in this newsletter.

The Wine and Cheese party was a roaring success and I thank everyone for attending. We continue to get new membership applications, even in the Winter time, and that coupled with the enthusiasm shown at the wine and cheese says that this has a potential for a great sailing year at MSSC.

As we prepare for this year's sailing activities we should all remember that we are a volunteer club and therefore the work days are very important. The first work day is scheduled for March 13 with the first race on March 27.

See you on the water!

Workday Notice

A Spring Workday has been scheduled for MSSC on March 13th. We need as many able hands as possible to spiff-up the harbor. docks, grounds, and clubhouse in preparation for the 2004 sail season. All workers would be asked to show up at or around 10 a.m. The club will send out for lunch, but bring your own beverage of choice. Members who have appropriate tools would be urged to bring what they can...rakes, shovels, cleaning equipment, waders for debris removal in the slough, and jet fuel for oxidation of wet driftwood. This would be a perfect time to try out those new chain-saws we got for Christmas and shake off some of the cobwebs we've collected over the winter. Please come and help beautify our swell facilities. No-shows will be subject to irreverent comments.

Thanks, Vice Commodores Von Tress, VerPlank, and Brown

Al Hausmann's Letter

Dear Fellow Sailing Buddies:

I thank you all for allowing me to share what I can only declare was the most exciting, rewarding, hardworking, friendly, fun-loving, variety-paced and wholesome experience of my 72 years of wandering about on God's earth. I wish to thank you all, everyone, for treating my family and me with the best of all things man has been taught to provide his friends and fellow man. This group has been truly unique over the years and you have truly honored me with allowing me to serve you. No other club I've ever belonged to has such an abundance of nice folks all milling about smartly addressing themselves to preserving the simple pleasures and highly competitive nature of sailing. I pray you all see fit to continue the present atmosphere, which abounds at MSSC, and you pay no attention to trying to become a "yacht club".

At any rate my wife, Barb, our kids, Terri, Kim and Rob all thank you for our years with you and submit our tearful adios to so many nice folks.

God Bless

Al

New Member Application

The Board of Governors has received an off-season application for membership from Dave Chadwick, along with several favorable endorsements; and will act upon this matter in due course.

MSSC

Schedule

March 13

Spring Workday

March 27

Spring Race 1

Joel VerPlank,

R. Gillingham,

Russ Kerl

April 3-4

Commodore's

Regatta

Bob Stagg

Gar Bouse

Ron Brown

Bob Bucher

Betsy Kerl

Sue VerPlank

April 17

Spring Race 2

Bill Parkhurst

L. Gautney

Brett Wood

May 1

Spring Race 3

Bob Parrish

R. Alexander

Tom Cromer

News of the St Petersburg NOOD from roving reporter H. Holland

Wednesday...

I could only watch, as they launched *Ultimate Fantasy*. Two days until the start of the St Petersburg NOOD, they were going out to practice and I could only watch. I jumped into the motor-powered chase boat, and followed them to the race area where other U-20's were practicing. They paired up and began testing sail trim, rig tension, and practicing takedowns.

We had a set of new sails by Doyle Boston of Canada, they were untried. Would they be fast? Yes they were as fast as any boat they sailed against, that day. We all felt good about the sails, but we still had not tested against Bob Mc Grath & Don Corey. They were the two top boats last year.

I followed along & took pictures... it wasn't so bad.

Thursday...

More of the same. Practice, Practice, Practice.

Friday...

Day one started off foggy and still and the forecast was for light wind.

About noon we followed the committee boat to the racecourse and the excitement began to build. The Ultimate 20's were to be the first boats to start. We were in the chase boat, but didn't get a good spot for the start.

The gun fired and they were off, Fleet went left while one boat took the right side, and we made a big circle & headed for the windward mark, where we anchored and watched. As the boats came into view # 156 *Ultimate Fantasy* was in the lead. She held the lead around the first mark, and until they called the race because of lack of wind. We towed six boats back to the marina.

Saturday...

A lot of wind. Brad sailed *Fantasy* to a first and a third, Bob McGrath had a first and a second. The third race was canceled because of an approaching squall line. Brad and *Fantasy* had a half-leg lead when they canceled the race.

Sunday...

The day's forecast is for 20 to 30kt wind. We are one point behind but if we can win the first race that will give us a tie. BUT WE DIDN'T WIN the first race, Bob McGrath did; now we are two points behind. They start the next race. We need a first, with Bob third or further back, for us to win. (Please note! By now I don't think of myself as on the chase boat.)

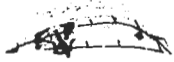
On the start Bob is over early & has to go back while Brad and *Fantasy* lead to the first mark, looks like we have a good chance to win, but we still have to go around again. We start around again & check on Bob, he is sailing really fast, clawing his way toward the front of the pack. Wow this guy doesn't give up; he keeps coming until he is in third place. If he makes it to second place he will win the regatta, & he is coming on strong. But at this point his mast breaks, and he can't finish. Brad goes on to finish first & win the Regatta.

Both boats were using Doyle Boston sails.

The next race is on Lake Norman, March the 13th & 14th, and I will be back on *Fantasy* with Brad & crew.

NOTE!! At the St Pete NOOD there were 193 boats, 15 countries were represented, & the Ultimate 20 was the third largest fleet. I think Melges and J-24's were the two largest classes.

I'll let you know how we do at Lake Norman,
Horace



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Notes and Asides from the Editor/Publisher:

Enclosed is a printout of the current version of the club roster. An enlarged version of this was displayed at the Wine & Cheese Party so corrections could be penciled in. Please check carefully for errors or questionable info, and notify Club Secretary Willson Jenkins by e-mail or snail mail of any needed attention. An updated version or a list of changes will be published approximately mid-season. Please keep your copy of this roster so you can note changes on it when they are published.

Not being blessed with the creative gifts of some of my predecessors, I am more than a little dependent upon others to submit items for publication in this newsletter.

Whenever such items are sent, they should be sent as **attachments** to an e-mail rather than being embodied in the e-mail itself. If you're unsure what is meant by this, please give me a ring at 256-740-0131.

Thanks, Bob Parrish

e-mail: rmparrish3@yahoo.com