

The Lifted Tack

WEBSITE: <http://home.hiwaay.net/mssc/>
WebMaster: Charlie Anding

FEBRUARY 27, 2005

COMMODORE'S REPORT

Commodore
Joel VerPlank
766-3652

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

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

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

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

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)
Tony Smith
272-0787

Newsletter Editor
Bob Parrish
740-0131

We had a great turnout at the "Wine and Cheese Party". There was a good presentation of the four clubhouse plans complete with cost estimates and membership requirements for each plan. If you need a copy, please let me know and I will send one to you.

We need to look for prospective members. Members are not required to own a boat. Just as long as a person is interested in the participation and encouragement of sailing, he or she would be most welcome to be sponsored by an existing member. We have plenty of boats and plenty of skippers anxious to have additional people on board to learn the art of sailing.

Get your sailboats cleaned up and ready. The racing season is here. We have club races in March and the "Commodore's Regatta" on April 2 – 3. Get your food reservations in early. We are not just having a dinner; we are going to have a party! Tony Smith will be grilling great food for us; steaks, sausages and all the trimmings. Bud, Miller Lite and red wine will be provided. AND A BAND! (or two) Bring an appetizer along so the sailors can hang out at the bar while dinner is getting set up. ALL THIS FOR \$10 PER PERSON.

For reservations call Joel at 256 766 3652 or Betsy at 256 757 0848 and leave your message on the machine (or joel@verplank.com).

Joel VerPlank, 2/26,05

What's Included Inside . . .

- Page 2—Rick McAdams Appeal for help with the trailers and racks.
- Page 2—Club Workday Announcement
- Page 3—Latest Edition of the Schedule (Byron needs some help filling the blank spaces)
- Page 4—Fleet Building by Nolan Richards
- Page 5—Checklist for Race Committee Personnel
- Page 5—Member Bills
- Page 6—Notes & Asides from the Editor/Publisher

MESSAGE FROM THE SAIL MASTER.

I need your help in identifying the owners of many of the trailers and boats in the dry storage area. There is no documentation on 16 trailers with or without boats and 11 boats in the racks. Some of these trailers and boats look like they have been abandoned.

I'd like to identify the ones that have been abandoned and dispose of them. The space is needed to reorganize the dry storage area and set up assigned parking spaces

If they haven't been abandoned, we want to start collecting the storage fees. The revenue is needed to make the facility improvements wanted by the club members and it's only fair for all members to pay the correct amount.

The trailers all have a number stenciled on the tongue or bow support. A list of these numbers is posted on the clubhouse bulletin board along with a list of the boats in the racks. Please find the number on your trailer and write the needed information on this list. The same for the boats stored in the racks. I'd like to have the owners of these boats/trailers identified by the end of March.

I'm not quite sure what action will be taken after this deadline, but we'll think of something. Maybe we'll take the junky trailers to the scrap yard and auction off the rest. I'm also looking for members to help reorganize the dry boat storage. Please give me a call at 256-767-6610 if interested.

Rick McAdams

NEW DATE FOR WORK DAY

The workday originally scheduled for March 5th has been rescheduled for March 19th. Some of the chores which need to be attended to include:

- Clear privet and other light brush from lower edge of woods
- Stack and burn dry driftwood (Richard has already been at this)
- Collect trash from the back of the slough (bring waders or other "marsh mucking" foot gear)
- Snare and remove sunken and semi-floating driftwood
- Repair door on storage area at south end of Laser Racks
- Rework drainage north of bathrooms
- Replace fence panels around storage area.
- Clear junk from storage area

Bring wheel barrows, rakes, lopping shears, chain saws, heavy grubbing hoes, shovels, pruning saws, old paint thinner or kerosene etc. Come at 0930 and stay 'til around 1430 with a break for lunch which will be provided by the club (bring your own beverages). "Many hands make light work".

Bob Parrish, 2/27/05

MSSC
Schedule

###

March 12th
Spring Race 1
Noon

###

March 19th
Club Workday

March 26th
Spring Race 2
Noon

###

April 2nd & 3rd
Commodore's
Regatta
Joel VerPlank
Russ Kerl

###

April 9th
Spring Race 3
AT WHEELER
(more info in
March Lifted
Tack)

###

April 23rd
Horace Bramm
Cup
Willson Jenkins
Tony Smith
Jamie Lynch

MSSC Sailing Schedule 2005

Date	Event	Coordinator	PRO	Race Committee	Food
12-Mar	Spring Race 1	Byron Jamerson	Byron Jamerson	Tom Cromer	NA
19-Mar	Work Day	Ron, John, Don	NA	NA	Cathy Bucher
26-Mar	Spring Race 2				NA
2-3 Apr	Commodore's Regatta	Joel Verplank	Russ Kerl		
9-Apr	Spring Race 3 at Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler	NA
23-Apr	Horace Bramm Cup	Willson Jenkins	Tony Smith	Willson/Tony	Jamie Lynch
7-May	AI Sellers Dam Race	Horace Holland			Jane and Barbara Glenn
14-15 May	Portsmouth Championship	DIYRA	Browns Creek	Guntersville, AL	
21-May	Spring Race 4	Gar Bouse	Gar Bouse	Glenn Miller	NA
May 28 - 29	Confederate Admirals Regatta	Steve Blazier		Frank McCollum	Barbara McCollum Karen
4-Jun	Spring Race 5	Horace Holland	Horace Holland	Don McCollough	McCollough
11-12 Jun	Sail Camp	Rick McAdams	Bob Bucher	Ron Brown	NA
18-19 Jun	Sail Camp	Rick McAdams	Bob Bucher	Brett Wood	Cathy Bucher
4-Jul	Independence Day	Tony Smith	Bob Stagg		
27-28 Aug	Vice Commodore's Regatta	Ron Brown	Bob Bucher		Betsy Kerl Sue VerPlank
10-Sep	Fall Series 1	Charlie Anding	Horace Holland	Nolan Richards	NA
17-18 Sep	TVCC	Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler
1-Oct	Fall Series 2	Horace Holland	Tommy Glenn	Hayden Glenn	NA
8-Oct	Fall Series 3 (with Wheeler)	Richard Gillingham	Richard Gillingham		NA
Oct 15 - 16	Little America's Cup	Dave Seborg			
29-Oct	Fall Series 4	Tom Brown	Tom Brown		NA
12-Nov	Fall Series 5	Bill Parkhurst	Bill Parkhurst	Larry Gautney	NA
12-Nov	Annual Meeting	Joel Verplank	NA	NA	Pot Luck-Berry/Stagg

FLEET BUILDING

Nolan E. Richards

It's somewhat of a dichotomy; the U.S. version of the Portsmouth Yardstick for handicap racing of dinghies began in the Muscle Shoals Sailing Club in 1961. The first regatta ever held and scored using the Portsmouth System in North America was at MSSC, the Little America's Cup of 1962 when there were fleets in the club. Specifically we had Thistles, Day Sailers and Windmills. Today, we still use the Portsmouth System (PHS) to correct times but where are our fleets?

Incidentally, as the co-author of the PHS, I wrote in *One Design & Offshore Yachtsman* magazine, (1965), Vol. 7, No.1, pp 41-42; "Perhaps the most important aspect of Portsmouth Numbers is that the improving sailor has a frame of reference in his club open handicap racing record to gauge his performance; his enthusiasm is maintained to the extent that he/she joins or forms a one-design fleet. With that transition, the sailor need have no further concern for Portsmouth Numbers."

Fleets come from fleet building activities.

Some of these, which come to mind, include;

- Several people have to like the boat,
- Those people have to show a welcoming attitude to inquirers and newcomers,
- Someone in that fleet should have a strong appreciation for the boat's advantageous characteristics and how to make it go better, safely, and for the national fleet administration,
- That person or those persons must be mentors of others in the fleet with less experience and the normal initial difficulty, even reluctance, to absorb and apply this knowledge,
- The leadership of the fleet should schedule social events such as "raft up" picnics, fun pursuit races to a picnic spot, dry land instruction sessions about the boat centered around a bit of a party or some videos,
- Everyone should be encouraged to adopt Corinthian (sportsmanlike) conduct, on and off the water and help one another in critiquing rigging, layout of controls, sail set up, strategies, etc.,
- There should be a "champion" for the mission of the fleet and at least an informal structure within the fleet; someone volunteering to keep track of the members and even a telephone tree,
- Participation in regionals or traveling to other sailing clubs should be encouraged and recognized within the membership of the home club.

In our club we have 13 Lasers, 4 Day Sailers, 3 Sunfish and Snipes, at least 2 Flying Scots. We may be a club in search of a one-design keelboat fleet. Keelboat/cruiser skippers know that more sensitive sailing skills are frequently developed through sailing a dinghy (just review the credentials of all the America Cup and Big Boat series helms people) but the joys and satisfaction and intense camaraderie of fleet racing are not limited to dinghies. Let's rededicate ourselves to enhancing and recreating the club's vitality in multiple (and contrasting economic levels) fleets that prevailed 40 years ago.

MUSCLE SHOALS SAILING CLUB

Nolan E. Richards, 1/23/05

Checklist for Race Committee Personnel

- Have you called your colleagues a few days in advance to see if everyone is “on board”?
- Check the weather forecast to get some advance idea of anticipated conditions,
- Go out to the club with a couple of gallons of gas on the assumption that the fuel tank may not have been topped up.
- Is the event of sufficient import that you should have an extra boat for both safety and mark-moving support?
- Arrive at the club at least 2 to 2 and half hours before the scheduled so that your team is not rushed for inflating marks, checking out the RC boat and course deciding/setting procedures.
- Copy of “Join the Race Committee” if conceded helpful.
- Equipment checklist;
 - Sailing instructions,
 - Flags,
 - Timers, including backup stopwatch,
 - Forms, calculator, pencils, clip board,
 - Portsmouth number tables,
 - Binoculars, loud hailer,
 - Hand bearing compass,
 - Wool on a wire, (something to indicate the wind direction),
 - If you need radio communication, are they working?
 - Rule book (U.S. Sailing, 2005-08).

Personal needs:

- liquids,
- sun protection,
- weather protection for contingency,
- munchies.

MEMBER BILLS

A snafu in the passing of the baton from last year’s Treasurer to the current Treasurer has delayed the mailing of the annual statements which were suppose to have gone out on the 15th of February.. You will still have six weeks to get your payments in before becoming delinquent, but we hope you will pay at your earliest convenience after receiving your statement..

Bob Parrish, 2/27/05, for the Board of Governors

The Lifted Tack

MUSCLE SHOALS SAILING CLUB
c/o 3271 Old Chisholm Rd, # 1116 C
Florence, AL 35630-1028

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



THE LIFTED TACK

Notes and Asides from the Editor/Publisher:

First a welcome aboard for our newest member family, the Fite's. Ernie was on hand for the Wine and Cheese Party, but Carol was unable to be there. We look forward to seeing them around the Club.

Second, an update on the Honor Roll of members who have volunteered to receive *The Lifted Tack* electronically thus saving trees, storage space, copying charges, postage cost, and labor:

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	Les Snider			

Any member who would like to join this group can email: rmparrish3@yahoo.com

Remember, we are not talking about sending the newsletter directly to you by email, but sending you an email notice that the latest issue has been posted on the club's website where you can view it immediately, download/copy parts of it, and always know exactly where to find it throughout the year. Furthermore, The Board recognizes that some members have particular reasons for continuing to receive their copy of the newsletter by snail mail.

Lastly, be sure to mark your calendars for:

Spring Race 1 on March 12th

Workday on March 19th

Spring Race 2 on March 26th

And The Commodore's Regatta and Party on April 2nd & 3rd