



# The Lifted Tack

FEBRUARY 27, 2007

## Upcoming Events

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*March 3rd  
Commissioning  
Day/Seminar*

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*March 10th  
Spring Race 1*

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*March 17  
Laser Rigging  
Seminar*

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*March 24th  
Rules Seminar  
A. M.  
Race Seminar  
Afternoon*

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*March 31-April 1  
Commodore's Re-  
gatta*

*Dinner and A  
Movie*

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*April 14  
Spring Race 2  
At Wheeler*

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## COMMODORE'S CORNER

I can tell Spring Fever is here and people are revved up and ready to go! I look forward to the sailing season myself and in participating with many of you in the activities of the Muscle Shoals Sailing Club. We have many new and exciting things on tap for this year, as well as continuing old traditions.

You should have received a schedule by email attachment, listing the activities together with those that have already signed up. We have asked members to sign up for two (2) different activities. You do not need to sign up for "coordinator" nor "food" for Club races. After the two-week period is up, Todd will fill-in the slots on the schedule, and John will post it on our website if he hasn't already done so.

One of the new events that we have already instituted included the Wine-Tasting Party, which occurred in February (see my articles for further details). Also new this year will be a rules seminar, a Committee boat workshop and a race seminar with lunch provided on March 24. Steve Blazier will be heading this up. We will have a Commodore's Regatta on March 31 and April 1, which includes a special dinner and a movie. Also, something new is a spring cruise and picnic lunch. Joel Verplank has volunteered to head this event up. This will be more of an open house, fun cruise where we will pick a location to sail to and eat lunch, or have a picnic. This will give people a chance to come out and simply cruise together.

During the fall, we will have a party on the dock and a DVD concert during the Flying Scot Dixie Challenge, and we get to host the DIYRA



## THE LIFTED TACK

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Portsmouth Championship in conjunction with the Nolan and Helen Richards regatta. This is quite an honor for us. So, we have lots of things going on and I hope you will find something new as well as something old to participate in.

There is something for everybody, whether you race, cruise or just enjoy a social occasion, but we need you to volunteer. After all, this is a volunteer club and as we are not a marina or boat storage yard, thus your participation is expected and appreciated. Remember, the more you put into the Club, the more you will get out of it.

We also have a number of sailors traveling to out-of-town events. Bonnie and I are off to the Flying Scot Mid-Winters on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Joel, John and Todd are off to the Ensign Mid-Winters in mid-March. I hope that many of you will consider traveling and sailing to other locations, not only as a representative of your Club, but to promote one design sailing in general and then invite others to visit here. In that regard, the Flying Scot Fleet will be traveling to Chattanooga the last weekend in April; to Montgomery at a time to be determined; and they will all be visiting us in late August 2007. Wouldn't it be nice to host a regional or district regatta in the future and that in addition to the Flying Scot class, a regatta for thistles, U-20s or day sailors? All it takes is some active participation and planning.

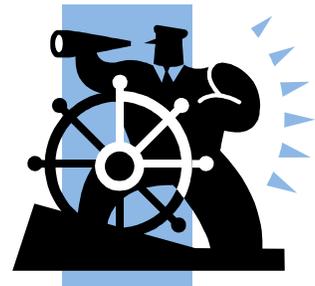
Our finances look good and the Board approved a budget of expected revenue of \$64,300 and expenses of \$59,249 with a \$5,000 surplus. We also have a \$20,000 reserve. We may have to use some of our surplus or reserve to complete a number of projects including the gate and/or dredging in the near future. We will provide more details either thru email or the newsletter, as appropriate.

Please make sure that your email address is current. Many last-minute announcements that don't need or can't be made timely through the newsletter are sent out by email and there are several member families that have changed their email address, or don't have email at all. It is your responsibility to ensure that John Glasscock has your correct email address posted in the "members only" section.

Finally, I want to thank Brett Wood for stepping forward to serve as Secretary and for John agreeing to stay on as the Land Commodore. Nobody volunteered for that last job so he gets to keep it.

Thanks again for your membership and participating in the Muscle Shoals Sailing Club. **It is your club, participate!**

Willson Jenkins



# Fun Stuff From the Recreation Officer

This year's social events will continue to include fellowship and dinner at the major race events, but will also include a few modifications and additions. The Commodore's Regatta, for example, will offer a movie along with dinner. The additions will include additional opportunities for informal gatherings (picnics, parties, etc.) throughout the year. These events will be in the form of additions to events (for example, linked to activities such as the spring and fall club races) and informal (such as picnics, morning



coffee, or just an afternoon when a few folks get together to set on the riverbank to watch the sunset and grill hamburgers). But even informal events require some degree of oversight and planning, so we'll be looking for some folks to step forward and lend a hand. So, be on the lookout for upcoming announcements of these opportunities for some laid-back fun in the sun (or shade).

Larry Gauntney

# Something to Learn!!!

## From the desk of the MSSC Sail Master (education, slip assignments)

I would like to take this opportunity to start this year of sailing information and education by letting you know what to expect. First, myself and others will be inspecting the boat slips whenever we are at the club. We will be looking at the boats, docks and dock lines. We do not have a caretaker anymore and it is up to all of us in the club to keep ours and others boats safe and not damage the boats in adjacent slips

Second, myself and a few volunteers will be in touch with members that appear to need help with their boats and sailing skills. If you do not sail frequently, need a refresher course, need mentoring or need anything to help you get your boat away from the dock, please let me know.

Third, if your boat appears to be a safety hazard or has become derelict, don't be surprised if you are contacted and asked to either fix the problem or remove your boat from the marina. We don't need boats sinking in their slips or breaking loose and bashing into other boats or the docks, causing damage. The club cannot be responsible for your property, but you are responsible for damages that your property causes.

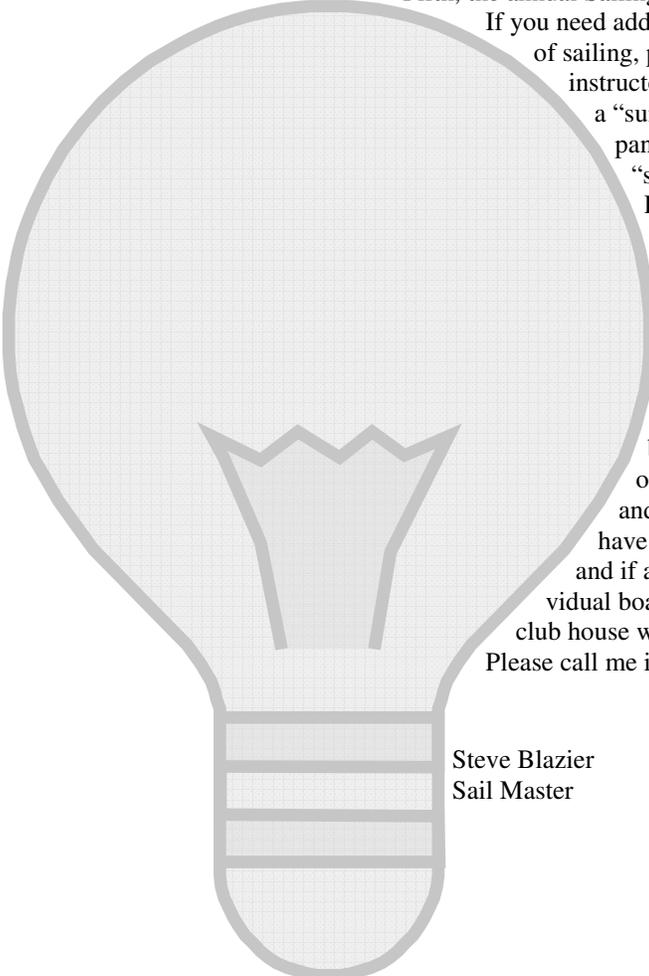
Fourth, upcoming educational seminars: Nolan Richards will be conducting a Laser rigging class on March 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 1 pm. Notice; this does not include an "in the water" session!

On March 24<sup>th</sup> I will be conducting a racing rules seminar in the morning and a race committee workshop in the afternoon. Due to the length of material, we will start at 9 am, have lunch at the club and then conclude after the program is complete in the afternoon. Anyone that races, wants to race, or is curious about what sailboat racing and race committee functions are all about, needs to attend. We are placing members on the race committees for the races, whether you signed up or not. Everyone must share the workload of all chores in order for our programs to work; besides, we have a lot of fun.

Fifth, the annual Sailing Seminar will be the first two weekends (June 2, 3 and 9, 10) of June.

If you need additional training or refresher training from your current knowledge base of sailing, please sign up early, the class size will be limited by the number of instructors that volunteer. The club members will have priority and, this is not a "summer camp" so we are not in the business of taking care of unaccompanied children. Club members will receive a discount; this includes "student" status or junior members. This course follows the American Red Cross Basic Sailing program and has a lot of information to deliver to the participants in addition to hands on sailing experiences.

Please, everyone come and inspect your boats and dock lines, over 50% of the boats have dock lines that are too small. Many have dock line chafing in progress, some have loose cleats and both are future problems for someone, we don't want it to be you. The spring storm season rapidly is approaching and all boat owners should check their boats and trailers frequently. Anyone with a boat on a trailer (dry sail-ors) are not immune from damage, check the position of your trailer and make sure everything is OK and nothing is missing. Remember, we have no security at the club, so we all need to frequent the club property and if anything looks wrong, call one of the officers or in the case of an individual boat, a map of the slips and dry storage is on the bulletin board inside the club house with the owner on it & call them (a membership roster is there also). Please call me if you need help, Steve Blazier, 256.766.3031.



Steve Blazier  
Sail Master

# Tennessee River Sunset



**Submit Pictures to :**  
**John Glasscock**  
**Lifted Tack Editor**  
**[joglass@comcast.net](mailto:joglass@comcast.net)**

**Commodore**  
Willson Jenkins  
766-4634

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

**2nd Vice Commodore**  
(Land)

**3rd Vice-Commodore**  
(Docks & Racks)  
Rick Millberger  
767-3252

**Secretary**  
(Memberships, etc.)  
Brett Wood

**Treasurer**  
(S)  
Scott Hickman  
757-8355

**Sail Master**  
(Training/Sail Camp/  
Slips)  
Steve Blazier  
766-3031

**Fleet Captain**  
(Racing)  
Todd Travers  
764-8811

**Recreation Officer**  
(Socials)  
LarryGautney  
767-0467

**Newsletter Editor**  
John Glasscock  
710-1960

<b>MSSC Sailing Schedule 2007</b>						
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		Miller	N/A	
17-Mar	Laser Rigging Seminar	Nolan Richards				
24-Mar	Rates Seminar, Moring Committee Boat workshop, Race Seminar - Afternoon(Lunch at club)	Steve Blazier	N/A	N/A		
31Mar-1 Apr	Commodore's Regatta Dinner and a movie	Willson Jenkins	Kerl	Tom Comer	Barbara Glenn,Nancy Gautney	
14-Apr	Wheeler Vice Commodore's Regatta at Wheeler	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
21-Apr	Horace Bramm Cup, 1-day Regatta					
5-May	Al Seller's Dam Race	Gillinghams	N. Richards	Hickman	Jane Glenn	
19-May	Fun Cruise and Picnic Lunch	Joel VerPlank	N/A	N/A	N/A	
26-27 May	Confederate Admiral's Regatta	Steve Blazier				
28-May	Memorial Day Raft Up		N/A	N/A	N/A	
2-3 Jun	Sail Camp		N/A	N/A	N/A	
9-10 Jun	Sail Camp		N/A	N/A	N/A	
23-Jun	Spring Race 2	Holland			N/A	
30-Jun	Spring Race 3				N/A	
25-26 Aug	Vice-Commodore's Regatta/Flying Scot Due Design/Diea Scot Challenge- Perot Road Party with concert.	Jenkins-Flying Scot,Bucher-V.C.	Gar Bouse	Hayden Glenn,Randy Stout	Willson Jenkins,Bacher	
3-Sep	Labor Day Weekend Raft Up		N/A	N/A	N/A	
8-Sep	Fall Race 1	N/A	Holland		N/A	
22-Sep	Fall Race 2	N/A	Jamerson	Glenn, Keidel	N/A	
29-Sep	Sunset/Moonlight Fun Cruise	VerPlank	N/A	N/A	N/A	
6-7 Oct	TVCC at Wheeler	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
13-14 Oct	Nolan and Helen Richards Regatta a/k/a Little America's Cup DIYRA Portsmouth Regatta		Blazier	Terry Yost	Yost, Gillingham	
24-Oct	Fall Race 3	N/A			N/A	
10-Nov	Fall Race 4/Annual Meeting	N/A	Tom Brown	Parkhurst, Glenn	N/A	

\*\* Regattas Should Strive for at Least 3 People on Race Committee Duty. No Food or Coordinator for Club Races.\*\*

## THE ANNUAL DIYRA MEETING

The annual DIYRA meeting was held on Saturday, January 20, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, at the Privateer Yacht Club. I went as MSSC's delegate. Also present were representatives from Concord (near Knoxville); Rome Sailing Club; Lake Lanier Sailing Club; Percy Priest (Nashville); Brown's Creek (Guntersville); Wheeler; Atlanta Yacht Club; and Privateer.

The most important discussion we had that affects MSSC is that we have been selected to host the DIYRA Portsmouth Championship Regatta for 2007. We will run this regatta in conjunction with the Nolan and Helen Richards Regatta a/k/a Little America's Cup on October 13, 14 of 2007. This is a tremendous honor for our Club to host and we can make as big a deal or as little of a deal out of it as we want to. Although DIYRA has been around for a while, this regatta has not. In some years, it has been well attended, and other years it hasn't. The key to making a good event is to get notice out, publicize the event, and try to make it as easy as possible for our visiting sailors to attend. Thus, we choose the weekend following the TVCC hoping that the Chattanooga crowd would drive over and leave their boats at our club following the regatta at Wheeler the weekend before.

We will also have Nolan do a presentation on the Portsmouth handicap and we will try and have a speaker, possibly a Sail Maker or Race Program, the Friday evening before the race.

We will also try to have a football game party that Saturday evening as I am sure there will be some big college football game that weekend on television and we don't want people to miss a regatta because of a night game.

I am often asked, "What is DIYRA?" For those of you who are not "in the know" or may have forgotten, DIYRA is our area, regional governing organization and part of U.S. Sailing. DIYRA, "Dixie Inland Yacht Racing Association", is basically made up of the inland yacht and sail clubs in Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia. Some sailing clubs belong both to DIYRA and possibly to another regional organization; for example, Birmingham belongs to both DIYRA and the Gulf Yachting Association (GYA).

DIYRA is one of four areas that make up Area D within the U.S. Sailing jurisdiction. U.S. Sailing has a number of national team and individual sailing championships and U.S. Sailing qualifies participants through its regional regattas for these national events. There are national championship for team events in women and men sailing; solo championships for men and women; and youth sailing championships for one, two and three person teams.

Each of the regional groups within Area D is responsible for hosting one of the semi-final championships for our area. We try to host the semifinal and quarterfinal regattas in order to avoid sending people from our area to our national event based upon resume. Sometimes there are insufficient numbers within Area D to do so, so we have to resort to a resume, but, when possible, we like to have a regatta to determine a representative. Take for instance, this year, in the women's match race event (Prince of Wales Cup), the official national championship boat is the Ultimate 20. If this had been thought-out ahead of time, we could have possibly had an all-women's team compete in the Area D semifinals. For 2009, the official U.S. Sailing Championship boat for both the women and men will be the Flying Scot, so we have got time to get our teams together.

This year, DIYRA will be hosting the semi-final round for Area D for the youth championships. That is, the one, two and three person youth qualifying events. The Atlanta Yacht Club has volunteered to host the event and they intend to run the regatta utilizing Lasers and possibly, 420s.

The quarter-finals for our area will be run at Highland Yacht Club and participants are encouraged to bring their own boats and clubs can place an entry into the either the men's or women's category if they want to. We have asked Highland to do this event at their Spring regatta, which is usually in May.

We also support DIYRA because it is our regional racing organization among other clubs similar to ours. We share information on how to conduct races; give each other notice of excess equipment (that is how we learned about the 420s last year); and generally come together to try to work out issues that are of concern to all clubs.

At this conference, we also talked about having a certified racing officer program sometime in April to be held at Privateer. Look for more details in March if this is going to come together.

We also agreed that there needs to be more coordination among the yacht clubs and we are going to build a new website to be hosted by the Birmingham Sail Club. The current website was hosted by Percy Priest, but it is being taken down and will be re-formatted. The purpose of using the DIYRA website is to see all the other regattas you can attend throughout the southeast as well as to have club contacts for each.

Finally, we elected Scott Cline from Privateer as our DIYRA Commodore and myself as secretary. I will let you know as more events become pertinent.

If you have any questions about DIYRA or about regional racing throughout the southeast, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Willson Jenkins



## WINE TASTING PARTY

As many of you know, MSSC had a Wine Tasting Party in early February. In attendance were approximately 36 members of the Club and approximately 4 non-member guests. Overall, we had an excellent gathering, a great social, and a good wine-tasting event.

This was a blind wine tasting, meaning participants were only told the varietal of the wine they tasted. They were told nothing about the origin of the wine, its price, nor were they allowed to see the wine label so as not to be influenced by the artwork or the name on label. We tasted four (4) varietals. Two whites, two reds. The wines in order of tasting were: "The Crossing, Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2005", "Petra Chardonnay 2005", "The Crossing, Marlborough Pinot Noir 2005" and "Pillar Box Red 2005," a blend of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

We asked each participant to rate the wines on a scale of 1-10, with "10" being the best and "1" being the worst. Our rating system was defined as follows:

- 10 Points - A wine to die for; this wine would leave you speechless.
- 9 Points - An excellent wine; I want it and I want it now.
- 8 Points - A very good wine; I would give it as a gift.
- 7 Points - A good wine; I would buy it, but I wouldn't give it as a gift.
- 6 Points - Slightly above average wine.
- 5 Points - Average; okay.
- 4 Points - I'll cook with it and drink it if I have nothing else.
- 3 Points - I'd cook with it, but I wouldn't drink it.
- 2 Points - I'd give it to a wino.
- 1 Point - I wouldn't give it to a wino.

Based upon the above stated criteria, we sampled each wine in 30-minute intervals with cheese and bread for the first two wines and a meat dish for the last two. It was interesting to see the make-up of the group and how the same group had, in general, the same range of scores. The harshest critics in general were the Gillinghams and the Stouts. They sat at the same table. I found this somewhat amusing because the Gillinghams, currently wine growers, did not seem to like any of the wines I had chosen. When I asked Richard about this, he simply replied: "I just grow the stuff. I don't have to like it." I found that odd, it's kind of like a rancher saying he doesn't like beef. Maybe he just didn't like my beef.

On the other hand, the Richards and their guests from New Zealand pretty much liked all the wines and could tell from where the wines originated. They had above-average palates and could identify many of the underlying flavors and smells displayed in each of the wines.

As far as the scoring went, all the wines scored within one point of each other and all were scored above average. The lowest scoring wine was "The Crossing, Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2005" with an average score of 6.35. It's a New Zealand

wine from the north end of the South Island. It had one rating of "9"; a large number of "7" and "8" ratings and a few below average ratings. This wine costs \$16.00. It is one of my favorite wines. I gave it an "8." Try it on a hot sunny day with some concord grapes and white cheese.

The third place wine was the "Petra Chardonnay 2005". This is a California wine from the central coastal region. It received an average score of 6.47. It had two ratings of "9"; a number of "7" and "8" ratings and a few below average ratings. The Chardonnay was my favorite wine and it was the only one I rated at a "9". I kind of "cheated" with this wine, and I drank it with some ham and cheese, although I told everybody else they were not supposed to. I forgot my own rule and yet it was quite a good pairing. This wine costs \$14.65.

The second place wine was the "The Crossing, Marlborough Pinot Noir 2005." Again, a New Zealand wine from the north end of the South Island. It's score average was 6.74. It had one rating of "9", but it had more above average scores than the other two wines mentioned previously. This wine costs \$16.00. I gave it a "7." The winner, and the least expensive wine was the "Pillar Box Red". It's an Austrian wine that displayed a deep, dark purple color, and was full bodied with a good finish. At only \$10.29, this wine is an excellent value. It was rated a 91 (on a scale 100) by Robert Parker of the magazine, *Wine Spectator*. He is considered the gold standard of wine tasters, so I knew this wine would be good and it was reflected in the score. This wine averaged a 7.09, and had 6 ratings of a number "9"; It also had a large number of "7" and "8" ratings, and a few below average scores. I gave it an "8."

Most of these wines can be found at "Great Spirits" in Huntsville and surprisingly, "The Crossing" can be found in limited quantities at "Southern Family Market" in the Cloverdale Shopping Center.

We paired food with the wine to help with the tasting. I found that the food pairing greatly improved the drink-ability of the wines, as many other people did.

To celebrate our winner, that is "Pillar Box Red", during the Saturday night Commodore's Regatta dinner, we will plan the meal utilizing this wine both for consumption and in the meat sauce. So if you did not get a chance to taste it or you really liked it, then this will be a good event for you to attend. If you didn't like it, give it a second chance, as I think the food pairing that I have planned will be more than adequate to make up for any deficiency you might have perceived.

Again, we enjoyed doing this event. It was a new twist on an old favorite. We have several more "new twists" planned for later in the year. So stay tuned and get involved.

Willson

# COMMISSIONING DAY and NAUTICAL SWAP MEET

**COME OUT AND CLEAN UP YOUR BOAT  
GOOD SAILING WEATHER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

It's a time to connect with friends after a long cold winter. We can tell tall tales of sailing while we help each other ready our boats for the coming season

**CLEAN OUT YOUR BASEMENT, GARAGE AND CLOSET AND BRING THAT OLD BOAT STUFF TO  
MSSC'S FIRST ANNUAL NAUTICAL SWAP MEET**

Your old blocks, cleat, sails, boats or what ever you have, might be just what another members needs. You may even find something you can use.

**DATE:** MARCH 3, 2007

**TIME:** 9:00 AM TILL WHENEVER

**LUNCH:** The club will provide pizza and soft drinks. Bring your own adult refreshments

New members are encouraged to attend. It's a chance to meet some of the members, make new friends, and find out who needs crew for the spring racing season. We're always looking for crew.

Climbing harnesses and help will be available

**Contact Rick McAdams with questions at:**

**[rmmkpm@aol.com](mailto:rmmkpm@aol.com)**

**Or**

**256-767-6610**



# *The Lifted Tack*

**MUSCLE SHOALS SAILING CLUB**  
*c/o 1719 Nassau Blvd.*  
*Florence, AL 35630*

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



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## THE LIFTED TACK

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### ***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 six 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	Floud Hauffee	Scott Hickman	Matthew Massey	

See All The Pictures in COLOR at [www.sailmssc.com](http://www.sailmssc.com) . Sign up for this group by email: [joglass@comcast.net](mailto:joglass@comcast.net)

March 31st is the last day for payments of 2007 dues and fees to be in the hands of the Treasurer. Else a penalty of 5% per month or part-month will be incurred.

Members paying quarterly have payment for first quarter due by February 28th.