

MUSCLE SHOALS SAILING CLUB

LIFTED TACK



April 2015

<http://mssclub.org>

1350 CR 411 Killen AL 35645

April Schedule

**Wed 8th
Board meeting
probably via
telecom**

**Fri 10th & Sat 11th
UNA Outdoor
Adventure Club
outing
Hosted by Andrew
Putnam**

**Sat 18th
Cursing Class led
by Steve Blaizer**

**Sat 25th
Al Sellers/Wilson
Dam Race
PRO Tommy Glenn**

**PLEASE HELP WITH
OUR MEMBERSHIP
CAMPAIGN**

**PRINT THE SAILING
SEMINAR FLYER ON
THE LAST PAGE &
POST ON WORK
BULL ITEN BOARDS.**

Commodore Corner

Commodore Tom didn't have time to submit comments for April. Please accept his apologies. No one can take Tom's place but I'll attempt to fill you in on the latest at the club.

Big thanks to the unsung hero that put a match to the big brush pile. The board and members really appreciate it when a member sees a problem and takes care of it without being asked.

Two club races have been scheduled but none have been held. The first was cancelled for lack of wind and the second for lack of boats... George M had his boat in the water for both so he leads the spring series. What's the old saying: "Just showing up is 90% of winning."



George M & Mark P First, Last, Only & Lonely

It has been suggested that we replace the mast on the committee boat with one of the extra masts. It would be taller and the easier to see on the lake. No other interest has been expressed in the masts. Steve B and Bill P, what do you think of the idea?

Bob K has been scouting the docks for a place to put the ramp for the ribbed inflatable chase boat. We originally wanted to put it in the vacant slip next to the CB but that proved to be too small. We may have to move a member's boat to another slip to install the ramp.

TOMMY G DEVELOPS MSSC FACE BOOK PAGE.

'I've gone off the deep end and made us a Facebook page. I encourage all of you who are on Facebook to like our page and check from time to time to see if there's anything new. And if you want something put on our Facebook page let me know - I'll do my best to keep it current.'

The link is

<https://www.facebook.com/muscleshoalssailingclub>

CPR Class at MSSC

On February 28, a CPR, First Aid and AED use class was taught at MSSC. This is a class that I usually do once or twice a year and is for anyone that will respond to another person in need of help. This class is certified by the American Heart Association and the cards are good for 2 years. All employers, Sailing Instructors, USCG Captain's, Race Committees and generally everybody else needs to know this stuff. The class itself is about 4-5 hours long and there is no written test, like the classes were years ago. The following sailors took the class and for many, it was a review: Tom Cromer, Robert Bijvoet (WYC), Robert Kuehlthau and Robert Locklear (WYC). We tried to get Tom to change his name to Robert, so everybody would have the same name and he wouldn't get singled out for anything! At the end of the day, everybody had a good time and all questions were answered. I learned that with the new upgrade to my cell phone has a "health" app in which you can place all your medical information and be viewed by medical personnel in case of an accident. This type of information is good for doctor's office visits and everything else that impacts you medically. I am continually amazed at patient's that have no idea what drugs they take or why and what it is that they are allergic to. I plan to repeat this class in August when we plan on hosting a USCG Captain's class at MSSC.

RACE COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

On March 21, we had a Race Committee workshop at MSSC. This is for everyone that is on Race Committee, for some it is a review and for others, entirely new information. We covered race courses, signals, timing, handicapping, forms to fill out and the Committee boat itself. Sooner or later, everyone will be on the Race Committee as part of your cooperative agreement as a member of MSSC. It's actually a fun job and we don't expect newer members to know everything about racing when they step onto the Committee boat, so there's always an experienced person, the PRO (Principal Race Officer) in charge. MSSC has other opportunities to help with our programs, all social by the way. The following sailors came to the class and discussion: Dave Seaborg, Jim Farrell, Mark Puckett, Wes Brown and Jerry Petritsch (and son) from WYC. This is an annual class that we try to do prior to starting the racing season in the spring. The Committee boat is in the water and all equipment is back on board ready to go.

MSSC CRUISING CLASS IN APRIL

The next class to be taught at MSSC is a Cruising class on April 18. This is more of a discussion group about the nuances of cruising on the river. We'll go over equipment to have, food, grills, places to go, charts, locking through, railroad bridges, mast clearances, the TennTom Waterway with 12 locks, the Tennessee River and Cruising Guides and anchoring out. Basically, it's just like planning a camping trip except you are on a boat in which sometime marinas are available and sometimes not.

See you at MSSC! By the way, I always invite members from WYC to join us as that promotes cooperation between the clubs. WYC is mainly a social club that puts on a bunch of really good parties during the year and has a low key racing program that is attended by some MSSC members. They come to a lot of our events and we go to a lot of theirs.

CRUSIERS REJOICE

PRO Tommy G has proclaimed the 2015 Wilson Dam race to be a real long distance race. Not another dingy sprint. . There is only one mark, be it windward or leeward. Cruisers can set a spinnaker and actually use for a while. Some use this race to have an “on the water party”

“We haven't been all the way to the dam in a long time, so this year I'm thinking we will honor the memory of the race founder Al Sellers by bringing back his old rule - go all the way to the dam, and if you're not back by 5 then motor back to the club.

So be sure to bring plenty of gas!

If you're not an experienced racer then this is the race for you. It doesn't get any more low key than this. The most important part is remembering to turn around at the dam.”

And if you don't have a boat and want to sail with someone let me know, we'll do our best to hook you up with someone

club. Thanks to Steve Blaizer for bringing it to my attention

The Portsmouth yardstick rule has long been the refuge for sailors and boats on the fringe of North America one-design dingy scene. But this handicapping system is facing an uncertain future.

The US system was first used at the Muscle Shoals Sailing Club in Alabama in 1962. Nolan Richards, a physical chemist and native New Zealander, was one of the prime instigators.

When we had a regatta at Muscle Shoals, I started keeping individual times. And using the British numbers as a starting point, I was able to calculate numbers for other boats like the Thistles, Windmills, Ravens, and Richards first crunched the numbers on an IBM punch-card computer

But now the U.S. Portsmouth handicap is in jeopardy because the data received by the committee has dropped precipitously over the years. Only a dozen clubs across the country submitted data last year. Compared to 90 in 1973. The accuracy of the system and its ability to stay relevant for the new classes depends on a continuous supply of information from a diverse group of clubs.

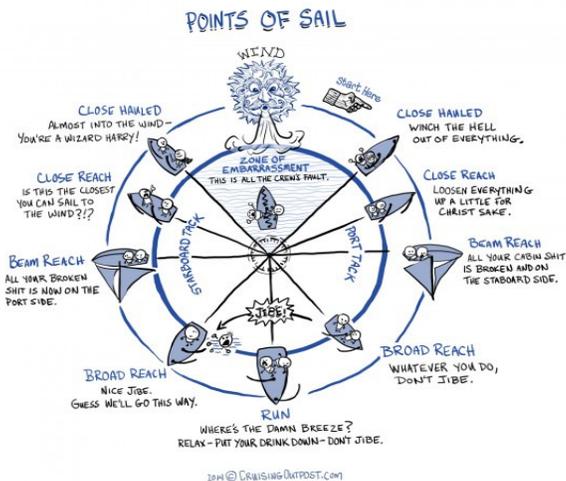
The 200 members of the Percy Priest YC switched exclusively to Portsmouth for its handicapping in 2003. And in the decade since the switch the Portsmouth class has grown to the size where there are enough boats to justify the submission of data to the committee.

“We really should start contributing our results” to the U.S. Sailing” Manner says.

That's an acknowledgement that should make Richards and the legion of nautical tinkers, bygone one-design owners and custom- dingy speed junkies very happy.

PORTSMOUTH HANDICAP SYSTEM FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

The following is a recap of an article in the March 2013 Sailing World. The whole article is attached to the April 2015 Lifted Tack at the



club. Thanks to Steve Blaizer for bringing it to my attention

MSSC ANNUAL SAILING SEMINAR 2015

LEARN TO SAIL IN TWO WEEKENDS

NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY



There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.

- Water Rat, Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

DATE: JUNE 6th & 7th and JUNE 13th & 14th

THIS IS A 4 DAY SEMINAR HELD ON TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKENDS

TIME: 9 TO 5 EACH DAY

PLACE: MUSCLE SHOALS SAILING CLUB ON WILSON LAKE

COST: \$60.00 PER STUDENT WITH A \$20.00 DISCOUNT FOR
EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER

THIS SEMINAR IS DESIGNED FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN
EXPERIENCING THE JOY OF SAILING AND LEARNING BASIC SAILING SKILLS

Must be at least 8 years old to attend

Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult

Space is limited so please register early

**CALL for more information: Tommy Glenn, Chairman 256-883-4709
or email tbglenn@gmail.com**

Or visit our web site at
<http://www.mssclub.org>

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Spring is here, the water is on at the docks
Stop dreaming
Go clean your boat and go sailing

HOW I EXPLAIN SAILING TO MY GUESTS

