

The Lifted Tack

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2006

A Message from the Commodore

I congratulate all MSSC members and their families who turned out at our Special Meeting last Saturday. There was a very polite and spirited discussion of the motion to be voted upon. 45 of our 68 members voted. The final count was 25 Yes, 15 No and 5 Abstain (these totals include the twelve mail-in votes which divided: 7 Yes and 5 No). The dues will now increase by \$300 per year. Included in the motion is a provision for members to budget their dues and fees on a quarterly basis. The newly amended By-Laws will be posted on the MSSC website. Please take time to read them since this is the true guide from which the club is run

I am happy to report that the Board decided in its February meeting to allocate the extra income this year to an additional payment on the harbor loan. The Launch Ramp and Seawall project is in full swing. More on that in this issue of *The Lifted Tack*.

The Board has approved purchase of four *Vanguard 420* sailboats. Money is being contributed to the Club for this purpose. This is a major development towards a high school and college sailing program. We already have the UAH Sailing Club at MSSC. More on this further on in *The Lifted Tack*.

Paying off our indebtedness early is a significant change made possible by the dues increase. Additional improvements can now be considered, and we look to the membership for suggestions on how to prioritize future projects. This is an important and exciting time to be a member of Muscle Shoals Sailing Club. We sincerely hope that all current members will be able and willing to absorb the increase in annual dues. If that is not the case, please consider the option of applying for Inactive Status. Due to the change in dues structure, the Board is waiving the December 31 deadline for application for Inactive Status. Written applications must be in the Secretary's hands prior to March 14, which is the date of our next Board meeting.

Sincerely, Joel VerPlank, Commodore, 256 766 3652 or joel@verplank.com

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)
Les Snider
766-6904

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

DIYRA Report and *Vanguard 420s*

By Willson Jenkins

I attended the annual DIYRA meeting held at Privateer Yacht Club in Chattanooga, TN on behalf of MSSC this past January. “DIYRA”, for those of you unfamiliar with U.S. Sailing, stands for Dixie Inland Yacht Racing Association and is our regional organization of U.S. Sailing. DIYRA basically consists of sailing clubs in Tennessee, Georgia and most of Alabama.

We meet once a year to discuss regional sailing issues, coordinate calendars, and develop the sailing schedule for U.S Sailing’s men, women, juniors. and match racing events in our area.

The most important news that came out of the meeting were that the DIYRA Portsmouth Championship will be held at the Highland Yacht Club on Woods Reservoir, near Tullahoma, TN the weekend of May 20th , and 21st , 2006. This regatta is about a 2.5 hour drive from the Shoals. Woods Reservoir is north and east of Winchester, TN. Camping on site is encouraged during this event. This would be a good regatta for our centerboard boats to attend and for those of you who like to camp. We will have extra dinghies available for traveling including a *Flying Scot* and *Vanguard 420s*. See below.

During the DIYRA meeting, Lake Lanier Sailing Club announced that it was selling it’s entire fleet of used *Vanguard 420s*. They are buying all new boats. LLSC had five boats to sell. These boats are about 13 years old and were used by high school and college students as well as some adults sailing solo.

The *Vanguard 420* is a dinghy. Its about 13’9” in length and it weighs about 230 lbs. A standard “club” rig consists of a main and jib. The boat can also be rigged with a trapeze and spinnaker. The price of the boats ranged from \$600 to \$750 a piece. The price of a new 420 by comparison is around \$7,000 and the class association web site has used boats listed for around \$5,500.

MSSC
Schedule

Saturday,
February 25th
Early Spring
Work Day

Saturday,
March 4th
Commissioning
Day

Saturday,
March 11th
Spring Race 1
Byron Jamerson

March 17-18
UAH Spring
Break
Sail-away
Glenn Miller

Saturday,
March 25th
Spring Race 2
Tommy Glenn

April 1-2
Commodore’s
Regatta
Joel VerPlank,
Bob Stagg,
Et al

Good news travel fast; thus, by the time I got back from the meeting, the Birmingham Sailing Club had already purchased one of five and Knoxville wanted at least two more if not the all the remaining 420s. I got in touch with Joel and Horace and we contacted LLSC and made our bid to take them all or whatever was left.

We got word in early February that Knoxville had backed out so we made the down payment to hold them until the Board had a chance to consider purchasing the fleet. I am pleased to inform you that the Board did agree to purchase all four boats (\$2550), one of which is rigged with a trapeze and spinnaker. The boats do not come with covers or dollies. The Board agreed to purchase two covers at this time. Thus, we will store two boats on club trailers with the covers "on" with sails stored inside the cover and mast up which will allow a member to launch a boat that's ready to go. We will investigate adding dollies and or a small lift at the party dock as optional launching methods.

LLSC told us to make launching as easy as possible in order to encourage use by teenagers, women and college students. The other two boats will be placed on the laser rack, in reserve and will be likewise available when the need arises. As funds become available we can purchase more covers, trailers or dollies.

I want to congratulate the Board on its wise decision to invest in a Jr. and College program. This will provide UAH with a great jump start in their sailing program. These boats are also available for general use by members and during our club's Sailing Seminar. We have long needed club boats that are easy to sail by one person or by young adults in order to help attract members who don't own a sailboat and want to avoid the hassles and expense of ownership. This timely and significant purchase goes a long way to solving that problem. I also want to thank Joel and Horace for helping make this possible.

We will take delivery of our boats sometime in February.

Finally, MSSC announced that the 2006 TVCC will be held at Wheeler on September 30th and October 1st. We have host duties this year.

MSSC Workday

Saturday, February 25, 2006

9AM until we're Finished

MSSC Needs You!!!

What will We do?
Improve Our Club Facilities and Work Together

Bob Bucher 1st Vice Commodore

- Clubhouse Maintenance

John Glasscock 2nd Vice Commodore

- Prepare Ramp and Riverbank for Grass Seed
- Needed : Flat Rakes, Wheelbarrows, Shovels, and Gloves

Les Snider Dockmaster

- Removal of Trees and Logs around the Docks and Channel
- Cleanup debris North of A Dock
- Check dock fasteners, structurals, water/electrical runs, etc.
- Measurements for future "Shopping List" improvements
- Needed : rubber boots, waders, gloves, hooks, chainsaws, etc.

Rick McAdams Sailmaster

- Laser Assembly and Storage Shed Cleanup

Larry Gautney Recreation Officer

- Food and Drink for Hungry Sailors
- Please let Larry know you will be here working and eating.
- No one needs to go hungry or thirsty.

Notes from the Sail Master

The Marina rules have been revised. Most have been edited for clarity, two have been eliminated and a new one put in place.

Rules 13 and 15 have been eliminated. Thirteen concerns motorboats. The only motorboats creating problems have been fishing boats and they don't read our rules. Fifteen concerns sunbathing only on the party dock. Again I haven't seen a problem and who wants to discourage sunbathing.

The new one sets up a procedure for administrating a waiting list for slips. It reads:

“The Sail Master will establish a waiting list in the event there are no slips available. You must be a Class A member in good standing to be on the waiting list. The member at the top of the list shall have first choice of a vacant slip. If he chooses not to claim this slip, the choice will go to the second name on the list and so on. The members whose name is first on the list will retain his standing on the list and can be assigned the next available slip.”

The harbor is now full. There are no vacant slips. Any member anticipating the need for a slip should place his name on the waiting list now.

A complete list of the revised rules can be seen and downloaded from our web site. <http://home.hiwaay.net/~mssc/>.

We'll also have a framed copy on display in the Clubhouse.

The Sailing Seminar is scheduled for the weekends of June 3-4 and June 10-11.

Thanks to all who helped make last year's sailing seminar a success. I'm counting on your help again this year. More information will be forthcoming closer to June. The Web site has been updated with this year's Sailing Seminar flyers, applications etc.

Rick McAdams, Sail Master

P.S. With the impending arrival of the 420's, we've begun to ask ourselves if we maybe have too many club-owned boats to be satisfactorily maintained by our "Volunteer" organization. There's some thought of having one or more of them "adopted" for one season only by boatless Class A members. If you think you might be interested in being a temporary "foster parent" you should contact Rick McAdams at 767-6610.

COMMISSIONING DAY

A TIME TO COME TOGETHER TO CLEAN YOUR BOAT, HELP EACH OTHER WITH REPAIRS AND GET READY FOR THE 2006 SAILING SEASON

A MSSC tradition we're trying to revive. It's a good time to connect with friends after a long cold winter. We can talk about sailing, racing and prepare for the coming season.

DATE: MARCH 4, 2006

TIME: 9:00 AM TILL WHENEVER

RACING SEMINAR: 9:30 AM

A short racing seminar will be held during which we'll discuss the starting sequence, how the courses are laid out, how to read the course board and a few basic racing rules. A must for members new to racing.

LUNCH: Bring your favorite pot of chili and we'll vote on which is the best. The winner has bragging rights for the year. The club will provide beer and soft drinks.

New members are encouraged to attend. It will give you a chance to meet some of the members, make new friends, learn more about racing and find out who needs crew. Skippers are always looking for crew.

Bob Stagg will be available to conduct a courtesy safety check of your boat. Please see his article for more details

Climbing harnesses and help will be available for those needing to make repairs that require climbing the mast. I'm one of those. (No beer until you're down from the mast)

Contact Rick McAdams with questions at:

rmmkpm@aol.com

Or 256-767-6610

Is Your Boat Safe? (or How To Be Secure – and Avoid a Ticket)

As we prepare for the upcoming boating season, it is always good to review the Federal and State requirements for our boats. Although adhering to these requirements won't prevent you from being stopped and inspected, your inspection will be a lot more pleasant, and you can avoid getting a ticket if you meet all these rules. Hopefully this will also give you a better understanding of both mandatory and recommended safety items that should be onboard your boat. Here they are:

- First you should have a current registration on board with the registration decal and number affixed to each side of the bow.
- If your boat has a cabin or an enclosed area for storage of fuel, you must have proper ventilation and one or more Coast Guard approved fire extinguishers.
- If your boat has an outboard of more than 50 HP and is less than 24-feet long, your motor must have an emergency cut-off switch.
- All boats 16 feet or more in length must have a sounding device (horn or whistle).
- There must be a Type I, II, III, or IV PFD (personal flotation device) for each person on board. If your boat is 16 feet or longer, you must also have a type IV throwable device (cushion, ring, etc.). If you have a child 8 years of age or younger, they must be wearing their PFD. (Note: if you have a type V PFD (SOSpenders) you must wear it for it to count!)
- All boats 16 feet or more in length must carry Visual Distress signals (such as flares) if you plan to operate at night, unless the boat doesn't have a motor. Note: If you carry flares, they must be USCG approved, and the expiration date stamped on them must not have passed.
- If you have a cruiser with a head, its overboard discharge valve must be disabled.
- If your cruiser is over 26 feet, you must have a pollution placard. You must also have a MARPOL trash placard. (You can get both of these from Boat US or West Marine.)
- Although not a inspection item you are expected to know and comply with the "rules of the road"

Additional equipment which is encouraged but is not mandatory includes:

- A marine radio
- Bilge pump, bailer, and/or bucket
- Anchor and line – some racing classes require this
- First Aid kit
- A capacity plate (You don't want to overload your boat.)

In an effort to educate the boating public on boating safety, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadron offer a courtesy Vessel Safety Check (VSC) to all boaters. I will be glad to perform this check for anyone who is interested. Inspection takes about 30 minutes, and I will be available on Commissioning Day. When you pass this inspection, your boat will receive a VSC sticker. Some insurance companies will provide a discount if your boat has passed a VSC.

Bob Stagg

Land Improvements

It has been talked about for years and has been the curse of all who have put a boat in the water at the Muscle Shoals Sailing Club. We have put the old ramp in our past and can now look forward to the joy of a new boat launching future. Our new ramp reaches 35 feet into the water, with no gaps to stick a wheel, and has over 5 feet of depth at winter's low pool. The ramp reaches 75 feet from the water to the top of the hill for an approach to the water that will give the most backing challenged sailor room to maneuver. This project also offered an opportunity to improve our riverside bank by using the concrete, rock, and soil removed from the ramp to fill the steep slope by the river. The brush on the riverside was removed at that time at no additional cost to the club. I will e-mail the members to announce the day that the ramp will be opened for use, concrete must dry.

The seawall project will be started soon. Bubba's Marine worked quickly on the ramp and I anticipate similar completion on the seawall. These projects have created a need for many hands with rakes, wheelbarrows, and shovels on workday, February 25th, to prepare the bare earth for grass seeding. I look forward to all of your assistance with this task.

John O. Glasscock, 2nd Vice Commodore (Land)

2005 Awards

We finished up a good year of sailing with these awards at the Annual Meeting:

Open Champion	Horace Holland
Wilkinson Trophy	Tommy Glenn
Nolan E. Richards Trophy	Willson Jenkins
Junior Champion	Glenn Miller
HOGA Award	Bonnie Jenkins

We should all take note that all of these sailors had mixed results throughout the year. What made the difference was PARTICIPATION. The year end results are calculated on the "high point" scoring system and every point counts. Just by sailing you are assured a minimum of 1 point per race with this system. Come on out this year and maybe your name will be on one of these trophies at the end of the year.

Byron Jamerson, Fleet Captain

MSSC Sailing Schedule 2006

Date	Event	Coordinator	PRO	Race Committee	Food
4-Feb	Wine and Cheese Party	Joel VerPlank	na	na	Pot Luck
25-Feb	Work Day	VC's			
4-Mar	Commissioning Day	McAdams/Jamerson	na	na	
11-Mar	Spring Race 1	Byron Jamerson	Byron Jamerson	Keri/Angi Jamerson	na
17-18 Mar	UAH Spring Break Sail-away	Glenn Miller			
25-Mar	Spring Race 2	Tommy Glenn	Tommy Glenn	Dave Seborg/David May	na
1-2 Apr	Commodore's Regatta	Joel VerPlank	Bob Stagg	Glasscock/Kerl	VerPlank/Kerl/Stagg
15-Apr	Spring Race 3			Glenn Miller	na
22-Apr	Horace Bramm Cup				Barbara McCollum
6-May	Al Sellers Dam Race				Jane Glenn
20-May	Spring Race 4				na
27-28 May	Confederate Admirals Regatta	Steve Blazier	Don McCollough	McCollum/R.Brown	Karen McCollough
29-May	Spring Cruise/Raftup	Rick McAdams	na	na	
3-4 Jun	Sailing Seminar	Rick McAdams		R.Brown/Bucher	
10-11 Jun	Sailing Seminar	Rick McAdams		R.Brown/Bucher	
17-Jun	Spring Race 5	Horace Holland	Horace Holland	Dave Seborg	na
4-Jul	Independence Day				
26-27 Aug	Vice Commodore's Regatta				Willson Jenkins
4-Sep	Fall Cruise/Raftup	Ron Brown	na	na	
9-Sep	Fall Series 1	Horace Holland	Horace Holland		na
23-Sep	Fall Series 2	The Gillingham's	The Gillingham's		na
30-Sep-1-Oct	TVCC	Willson Jenkins	MSSC	MSSC	Wheeler
7-Oct	Fall Series 3	Tommy Glenn	Tommy Glenn	John Keidel	na
14-15 Oct	Little America's Cup			Jeff Compton	
28-Oct	Fall Series 4	Bill Parkhurst	Bill Parkhurst	Larry Gautney	na
11-Nov	Fall Series 5	Tom Brown	Tom Brown	Tom Cromer	na
11-Nov	Annual Meeting	Joel Verplank	na	na	Pot Luck

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 current list of those who have agreed to 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	Les Snider	Ernie Fite	Larry Gautney	Paul Jacobs
Andy Keenum	Bill Parkhurst	The Gillinghams	Bob Kuehlthau	Chris McGraw	Bob Bucher
Peter Loux	Jerry Ferry	Brett Wood			

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

Second, a few words about openness and participation in the governance of our Club. Traditionally, meetings of The Board of Governors are open to attendance by any member (this does not mean you can join in the deliberations during the meeting, but that you may address and/or question the Board afterward). Throughout the past eighteen months or so Joel has appealed for additional volunteers to join the Long Range Planning Committee with very little response. At least once back in the summer, there was a publicized Board Meeting with an announced intent to discuss New clubhouse alternatives, and not a single member other than the Board showed up!

As an experiment in improved communication, I've decided to have a "Letters to the Editor" section in *The Lifted Tack*, and I will write the first one myself to explain why I abstained from the voting in the Special Membership Meeting.

Bob Parrish, Editor/Publisher
(phone me if you have any questions)