

# The Lifted Tack

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JANUARY 22, 2005

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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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE

Our greetings to you for the New Year. We have a new little sailor born to our family on Saturday, January 15. Matthew Schuyler Kerl was born to Russell and Betsy Kerl. We are looking forward to the little nipper at the helm of the green boat.

Don't forget to make plans to attend our annual "Wine and Cheese" party. This is always a fun event. It will be held on Saturday, February 12 starting about 4 PM until 7 or 8 in order to allow some to drive slowly and carefully back to Huntsville. We especially want to welcome our newer members who have joined over the past few years. This will be a very important gathering because there will be another questionnaire for you to complete. We will take the club in the direction that the members advise.

The Long Range Planning Committee has made a lot of progress over the past year. There will be a presentation at the party. Their report will help you on your advisory questionnaire.

As your new Commodore, I have three or four goals that I wish to accomplish. The re-enforcement of the sea wall has been budgeted and I want to see it completed as soon as possible. The second project that has not been budgeted, but will take further planning, is the launch ramp. Other clubs are hesitant to participate in our events because of the difficulty for inexperienced people to launch their boats. This will be no small project but I am determined to see this through.

The third objective is to raise our membership to one hundred. Last year's poll clearly stated that 100 members was a reasonable number for the facility that we have. We have a static and aging membership (me included). Plans are underway for the North Alabama community to become more aware of our existence and how to join in on the fun.

### *What's Included Inside . . .*

Page 2&3—Bob Stagg's Discussion of Club House alternatives.

Page 4—Nolan Richards' essay on the knock-down of *Hinemoa*

Page 5—U 20 National Championship Regatta

Page 6—Trailers

New Member Application

More on the Wine & Cheese Party

Page 7 Flotsam & Jetsam

Page 7—First Draft of 2005 Schedule by Byron Jamerson

Page 8—Notes & Asides from the Editor/Publisher

## Concepts for Future Clubhouse

Liz and I have been asked to provide an impartial description of the four concepts that have been proposed for long-range club renovation. We don't know why anyone would think we were actually impartial, but we've tried to capture the main elements of each plan below with a minimum of bias. If we've missed a key element of anyone's concept, we apologize in advance.

Several club members have worked over the last year to come up with concepts that accomplish at least two main objectives: (1) enhance the clubhouse and grounds and (2) improve parking and boat launch facilities. Each concept has some worthy features, and there are some common elements among them. Some concepts have more detail than others. All of the members who have devoted their time and creativity to this project are owed our genuine thanks.

The good news is that the renovation can be done in stages, and elements from each concept can make it into the final long-range plan. We've all been talking about this for a while; now it's time to get club consensus, focus on a plan, and get started. Plan to be at the Wine and Cheese party, where there will be additional plans and details. Be there to share your views!

**General:** All concepts are based on some common assumptions:

- Improve the “curb appeal” and functionality of MSSC facilities and grounds by:
  - Upgrading the interior and exterior appearance of the clubhouse (from painting as a minimum to replacing the building as a maximum, with lots of options in between)
  - Enhancing waterfront appearance by
    - removing all scrub trees and bushes that block our view
    - enhancing shoreline appearance and functionality by improving the seawall
    - adding deck over seawall
  - Improving comfort level of clubhouse by improving cooling and heating capability and other amenities
- Improve the dinghy facilities so that all club members have “equal” access to the lake including the addition of
  - New ramp and dinghy dock on the lake
  - Extended boat parking
  - Separate trailer storage
- Establish a boat maintenance area
- Install automatic gate at club entrance

(continued on next page)

MSSC

Schedule

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*February 12th  
Annual Wine  
and Cheese Party  
4:00 p.m.*

###

*March 5th  
Club Workday  
10:00 a.m.*

###

*March 12th  
Club Race  
Noon*

**Plan A (aka The “Taj Mahal” Architect’s site plan shows it better than bullets)**

- Build new 2-story clubhouse closer to water
- Extend seawall and jetty at the Point with 100 x 100-foot deck
- Build a separate bath house
- Add tennis courts
- Add a swimming pool
- Relocate RV parking
- Expand boat and trailer parking

Cost Projection: \$1,000,000 to be partially funded by selling or leasing property on right side of road at top of hill (8 lots totaling approximately 4.4 acres)

**Plan B**

- Add two-story extension to existing clubhouse
  - Top floor to accommodate large observation lounge and rooms for office, board room, and storage
  - Bottom floor includes relocated bathrooms and kitchen and large open space for meetings and social functions
- Add new exterior finish to existing and extended building
- Air condition (and heat) all space (existing and new area) with 10-ton air & heat pump
- Replace current screened porch with glassed-in Florida room
- New configuration would accommodate up to 200 people

Cost Projection \$461,000

**Plan C**

- Replace existing storage building with 40’ x 40’ covered pavilion with second-story viewing platform
- Convert porch to air-conditioned Florida room
- Stucco and paint exterior of building
- Relocate showers to separate bath house with dressing area and toilets (existing restrooms to remain)
- Add walled courtyard with arched entrance to become main clubhouse entrance
- General renovation of existing club house including new windows and furnishings

Cost Projection: \$300,000

**Plan D (Minimalist Approach)**

- Air condition existing clubhouse
- Convert porch to glassed-in Florida room
- Add courtyard entrance to clubhouse
- Add concrete Bar-be-que area in front of storage building
- Enlarge storage building
- Add concrete slab behind storage building for boat maintenance

Cost Projection: \$40,000

## When to pay attention.

Throughout our lives we are repeatedly either encouraged or ordered to pay attention.

Whilst growing up, it is either our parents, our teachers or our peers in school sport teams. Then it is the person we may be courting, (university professors couldn't care less if you paid attention or not), the officer giving one a driving test, your initiation with, of all things, "a Boss", who may have a great influence on your not attracting your banker's attention. penultimately, it's your spouse; ultimately one's inner voice and Omnipotent God.

But in between there's one's recreation and hobbies which can present undesirable consequences and even serious danger absent "attention".

Let me suggest that for us sailors we need to pay attention to many things. Oh, yes, there's the obvious; wind, waves, current, presence of converging boats, barges, little details like compatibility of crew, cleanliness of bottom, sail shape and trim, is the spinnaker hooked up correctly, balance, the tell tales, is there enough beer on board?

I can attest that there is at least something else; keep your head **in** the boat!

There is some jocularity floating around that a certain notorious Day Sailer adopted a very unusual posture, uncharacteristically slow during a recent (historically) important regatta. It's true. *Hinemoa* did not go beyond horizontal due to the crew, Dr. Mark Shulman, **paying attention** to one surprised skipper's order, "Get on the centerboard!" We were able to self- rescue *Hinemoa*- something of which a Day Sailer is not supposed to be capable.

The cause was **not** too much wind; it was **inattention**. I did not like the adjustment of the traveler height for the conditions, reached back with the intent of adjusting it taking my focus off the sails, wind and con of the boat, left the main cleated and there was a puff. In a flash, I was most surprised to see water coming over the coamings – a most unnatural state of affairs. It kept coming, so the dear old boat slowly laid down for an unscheduled bath. We appreciated the offers of help from fellow sailors but we felt we could manage.

No matter what you sail, make sure the bailer is tied to something!

For those who have an aversion to unscheduled bathing in Wilson Lake and think dinghies are an invitation to such baptisms, dispel your fears; the water in Wilson Lake is pretty clean, totally recyclable and only your pride is likely to suffer.

There was adequate time, but only just enough energy, to bail the 500 odd gallons of misplaced Wilson Lake before the first race but we made it.

The moral of this little submission is: **Pay attention to everything; the skipper keep his head in the boat.**

Nolan Richards, Nov. 2004

(the following material was excerpted from the website for the U20 class: <http://www.u20class.org/U20racing/nationals04.html>)

## **“Brad Boston Wins 2004 Ultimate 20 Nationals**

(and Horace came within a whisker of being second , Ed.)

### ***Twenty four U20s represent largest fleet assembled to date***

Brad Boston claimed first place in the 2004 Ultimate 20 National Championships over the largest group of Ultimate 20s ever assembled in the fleet’s history. Boston earned a clear victory with a low-point total of only 12 points, ahead of BJ Jones, Horace Holland, Bob Aman, and Steve Stollman, in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th places respectively.

The fleet represented not only the largest group[ of Ultimates, but quite possibly the most widely traveled, with boats and skippers from Ontario, Canada, Alabama, Oregon, Florida, Michigan, Texas, Ohio, Georgia, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania.

Twenty four U20s entered and sailed in this seven race regatta consisting of varying weather conditions over the course of three days. Light to moderate winds with pouring rain most of the day on Friday allowed for two races. Saturday opened up with cold winds of 20 knots gusting to 30 with four wild races involving plenty of action, some equipment failures, a couple of injuries (not too serious) and many tired sailors (Don Corey who was out of action due to a broken foot even admits to getting tired holding his binoculars watching the excitement at the weather mark). Sunday was very cold and windy with no one complaining about only one race. The club house was warm with the fireplace in full operation for the “tailgate” on Thursday evening, Class banquet and meeting on Friday, BBQ on Saturday and awards on Sunday.

Several first time U20 one design sailors mixed it up with several boat loads of pros (and everybody else in between) making for one terrific regatta. Hopefully they will all come back in ‘05 to make it bigger and better.

This one will definitely go down in the U20 history book with much thanks to the sponsors, all those who attended and participated, the many who helped plan and pull it off, and the superb work of the race committee.

• . . . results follow:

Skipper	Race #1	Race #2	Race #3	Race #4	Race #5	Race #6	Race #7	Total Points
Brad Boston	1	4	1	1	2	1	2	12
BJ Jones	6	5	2	3	3	2	10	31
Horace Holland	4	2	4	4	4	10	5	33
Bob Aman	2	6	25	2	1	3	1	40
Steven Stollman	9	14	7	7	5	6	3	51
Richard Hunt	7	16	3	8	8	4	11	57”

## ***Amendments to the By Laws Approved at 11/13/04 A.G.M.***

Section B (3):

Fees charged on annual basis for storage:

1. Trailer with boat in the harbor and paying slip rental: \$50 This is in addition to the slip rental fee of \$24 per foot.
2. Boat stored on land with trailer: \$125.

Also to add a new section as B(4):

All trailers stored on land without a boat must belong to a member and the boat must be in the water and paying a slip rental fee to the club in order for the members to store a trailer on land. All trailers stored on land with or without a boat attached must have proper identification information attached to the trailer and easily visible. Trailers without proper identification or that do not belong to a member or that do not have a boat paying slip rental will be removed and disposed of after reasonable notice. The Board of Governors is authorized to adopt rules and regulations to enforce these provisions.

(Editor's Note: Rick McAdams is planning to stencil a number on the tongue of each trailer before the Wine & Cheese party. It is mandatory that each trailer number be matched with a member name during the time period beginning with the Wine & Cheese and ending with the March 5th Workday. Rick will post a copy of his list on the bulletin board so trailer owners can up-date it any time. Rick's phone number is 767-6610)

### ***New Application for Membership***

The Club has recently received an application for Class A membership from Ernest Fite, and it will be acted upon by The Board in due course. Ernie is a recently-appointed member of The Florence Planning Commission, is sponsored by Rick McAdams, and lives with his wife, Carol, at 212 Harrington Lane. We hope everyone will get a chance to meet them at the Wine & Cheese Party February 12th.

Bob Parrish, 1/23/05

### ***More About the Wine & Cheese Party***

It's thought by many to be MSSC's premier social event, and is regularly attended by most of the "regulars". Despite the event's name, its libations and comestibles are not rigidly circumscribed (the late Dr. Horace Bramm usually brought a small keg of Heineken's and a plate of cocktail sausages). Others might bring Diet Coke and a bowl of raw veggies or a couple of bottles of Perrier with brie and water crackers or Coor's and pretzel sticks. Joel says he is bringing five pounds of shrimp so you'd best not be late or it might be all gone.

Humor aside, the idea is to bring yourselves and about one and a half times as much beverage and finger foods as will be enough for your group. We plan to have stick-on name tags so one will be embarrassed about their name-recollection ability.

An administrative chore we try to deal with during the Party is getting the blank spaces filled in on the schedule, and there is usually an enlarged version of what you see on page 7 of this newsletter. Come early and pick your preferred date. Also, be aware that Byron will use his magic marker to assign names to any unclaimed slots (don't let lack of experience keep you from signing up because Byron will also insure that an experienced member is part of every team).

Another feature for this year will be displays of the four plans presented at the AGM, and distribution of a questionnaire seeking detailed input on related questions to help guide future efforts.

## *Flotsam and Jetsam*

At the conclusion of our Annual General Meeting (the most poorly attended one in recent memory) Nolan Richards expressed concern about the downward spiral of participation in the club's activities. Horace Holland has resigned his position as Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee to devote intensive effort to this problem, and he has formed a group including Steve Blazier, Nolan Richards, and Liz Stagg to help with "revitalization". Any member who has a suggestion relative to this effort is asked to pass it on to one of these four.

There have been two meetings of the new Board of Governors. The first meeting was held December 14th at the Clubhouse and was just to get organized. The second meeting was held January 18th in the conference room at Willson Jenkins' law office, and it was devoted mainly to the budget with some brainstorming on "revitalization".

The Long Range Planning Committee met at Hardee's in Rogersville on January 11th to plan for presentations and questionnaires for the Wine & Cheese and to help Bob and Liz Stagg with their article which you have seen on pages two and three of this newsletter.

Posted on the bulletin board is a copy of an index to the last ten years' issues of *Speed & Smarts*, a newsletter for sailors interested in improving their racing skills. Nolan has provided this index, and he is willing to lend copies of back issues to interested members who can phone him or email him.

Bob Parrish, 24 January, 2005

### *Schedule for 2005 as of late January*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>PRO</b>	<b>Race Committee</b>	<b>Food</b>
5-Mar	Work Day	Ron, John, Don			
12-Mar	Spring Race 1	Byron Jamerson			
26-Mar	Spring Race 2				
2-3 Apr	Commodore's Regatta	Joel Verplank			
9-Apr	Spring Race 3 at Wheeler	Wheeler			
23-Apr	Horace Bramm Cup				
7-May	Al Sellers Dam Race				
21-May	Spring Race 4				
May 28 - 29	Confederate Admirals Regatta	Steve B?			
4-Jun	Spring Race 5				
11-12 Jun	Sail Camp	Rick McAdams			
18-19 Jun	Sail Camp	Rick McAdams			
4-Jul	Independence Day	Tony Smith			
27-28 Aug	Vice Commodore's Regatta	Ron Brown			
10-Sep	Fall Series 1				
17-18 Sep	TVCC	Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler
1-Oct	Fall Series 2				
8-Oct	Fall Series 3 (with Wheeler)				
Oct 15 - 16	Little America's Cup				
29-Oct	Fall Series 4				
12-Nov	Fall Series 5				
12-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



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## THE LIFTED TACK

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### *Notes and Asides from the Editor/Publisher:*

First, I would like to “announce” that this publication is taking a cue from the opening paragraph of this month’s *Message from the Commodore*, and will initiate a regular section for announcements of significant events in members’ immediate and extended families. In addition to births, we’re talking about graduations, weddings, scholarships, promotions, awards, etc. If you have some of these from the recent past (say a couple of years, more or less), just send them to me by email or snail mail so I can publish a few in each issue until we get caught up.

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 Stag	Joel VerPlank

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

### **Last but not least, remember to mark your calendars:**

<b>Feb 12th</b>	<b>Wine &amp; Cheese</b>
<b>Mar 5th</b>	<b>Club Workday (bring drinks, Club will provide food)</b>
<b>Mar 12th</b>	<b>Club Race</b>