

# Muscle Shoals Sailing Club

## LIFTED TACK

MAY 3, 2010

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ISSUE:

## Commodore's Comments



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### Letter from the Commodore

I promise that it's going to stop raining one of these days and, well, we do *need* the rain, and - as a former TVA employee - I know this will help Valley hydropower production. Our Golden 50th Anniversary is to be celebrated all year and our first batch of custom t-shirts are ordered and will be available by mid-May. Thanks to Randy and Karen Myers' son-in-law for drawing our 50th logo.

The **Al Sellers' Regatta** (April 2nd) was great! Bob Parrish did a great job of coordination and ordered up good sailing weather. Fifteen boats enjoyed plenty of sun and wind and a course that was long enough to stretch our sailing legs. With west-southwest winds gusting into the upper teens and a long fetch resulting in short, steep waves, there was plenty of "crash tacking" going on during the upwind leg to a mark off Turtle Point Country Club. It was a relief to finally round the mark for a long run back down to MSSC and then beyond to the first red nun and thence back to MSSC for a whiz-bang finish. Most boats finished about 4 hours after their pursuit-style start. Jim Farrell and Horace Holland had major equipment failures which ended their day prematurely. Gar Bouse took home a well-deserved 1st place trophy in his Olsen 25 followed by Paul Wunsch in 2nd (Capri 30) and Tommy Glenn 3rd (San Juan 24). Wrapping the day up with a wonderful dinner provided by Margie and Keri Kingsley we had the best Al Sellers' Regatta in recent memory. More importantly, I think the Sellers' family would agree.

Our wonderful Caretaker - **Chris Francis** - is leaving us and moving to a landlubber apartment in Florence. She will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by her many friends for all that she did for the Club during her tenure. Chris is a class act, to be sure. The MSSC Board is officially "recruiting" a new Caretaker so please keep your eyes and ears open for someone with an RV, good people skills and an interest in living on the lake! In the interim, it is important that the Club Gate is secured every evening. Unless some Club Member is still there - and willing to lock the gate - please make sure to lock the gate when you leave. Better safe than sorry.

The **Confederate Admirals' Regatta** is just a month away and Steve Blazier promises to make it another memorable event with an Irish Band, Killian's Red beer and an Irish themed dinner to follow. Steve's doing the coordination, Barbara Glenn doin' the cooking and Bob Parrish assisting on the race course. We still need a primary race officer (PRO) so we're asking for a volunteer to serve in this important role.

Following the Confederate Admirals' Regatta is our annual two-weekend **Sail Seminar**. The class size is limited to 20 so if you, your family or your friends would like to participate in this event, please contact Tommy Glenn sooner rather than later to secure your reservations. As always, we're counting on all members to come out to help teach and sail. Since these weekends will be very busy, we request that you not sail unless you are sailing as part of the Sail Seminar. This will help keep the docks open for the Seminar use and allow for optimal use of our facilities.

Also at the last Board Meeting, Horace Holland updated the Board and the Finance Committee on the status of the slough dredging and the potential acquisition of the lot behind the club. As it now stands, Horace is prepared to purchase the lot; build - at his expense - seven or eight additional deep-water slips on the backside of Dock A; and, rent these new slips out to new or existing MSSC Members at a premium price. The new slip fees will be significantly more than the existing Club slip fees (currently \$24 per foot per year) thereby assuring that the Club slips are preferentially filled first. Horace will keep the slip-fees generated by these new slips and the Club will keep the Membership dues and other fees generated by Club use. Also, the MSSC will have a 10-year option to purchase the lot from Horace for cost plus 7% per annum (compounded). Since our Club growth limited by slip availability, this is an excellent way to have an option to "build" MSSC. The right-of-way provided by the Club will also open the back part of our land for other Club uses. This projected plan is a clearly a win (for MSSC) - a win (for Bubba Cole) - and a win (for Horace) with lots of upside potential for very minimal financial risk to MSSC.

Steve Blazier presented MSSC with a check for **\$1033** for the use of the Club for the "Captain's Class" this past February. Steve hopes that the Club might be used for more of these events. Finally, high-fives and shout-outs to Mike Tutich and Ken Renfro for acquiring and delivering the pavers for the area in front of the storage shed. There's a little more work to be done to join the pavement with the ramp and to run a walkway to the shed door. A wonderful improvement indeed. Hope to see you all on the water sometime soon.

Peace, love & sailing, Bill

## The Shoals Venerates Betty Martin on Earth Day

Earth Day, but how about “Water Day or “Air Day”?

The Betty Martin Memorial in Tuscumbia, where Earth Day is to be kicked off this year, is recognized by that symbol for her dedication and caring for the environment.

What we, of MSSC should know, she should be equally remembered and honored for her accomplishments and contributions in space and on the water. Betty was a WAC pilot during World War II and spent many years ferrying or delivering bombers either from their point of manufacture or between bases, That’s how she met Jack who was a bomber pilot in the Burma-China campaign and he flew the Hump many times.

The Martins moved to a lovely home on Ridgecliff Drive (Sky Park) when Jack became regional manager for Piper Aircraft. He had access to a Piper Comanche 400, which was a pretty potent plane.

In the second year of MSSC, Betty took an interest in sailing and bought a Windmill, which, because of her knowledge of aerodynamics and sensitive feel with her fingers, she learned to sail well very quickly. Her crew for some time was a Dutch chemical engineer, Corstiaan Simone.

In this period the family suffered an especially sad loss. Daughter Francie, 14, had a spinal problem that surgeons in Chicago believed they could alleviate. Unfortunately, she dies under the anesthetic before any operating could start. She was one of those rare people that could not tolerate anesthetics! Despite this tragedy, their support of MSSC continued.

So while Betty sailed, Jack and his beloved aluminum cruiser, “Lucretia” magnanimously volunteered as MSSC’s almost continuous Race Committeeman. We were spoiled in this manner for at least four years. It was during the Confederate Admirals Regatta, July 1965, I think, that little Jeannie with her Dad on the RC boat screamed. “Daddy, they are all falling over!” That was the occasion when at possibly our most well attended regatta (about 60 boats), a line squall came through and about 20 % of the boats capsized. (There is a story about this in an old Lifted Tack).

The Martin’s generosity did not stop with being active in both sailing and running races. In November each year while they lived at Sky Park (they moved to Peytonia Points), they put on a party for all of MSSC at their lakeside home, which had majestic views over Lake Wilson. Jack and Betty donated the Nolan Richards trophy to the club, which was to be awarded to the annual winner of the open dinghy fleet.

In later life, Betty’s back problem curtailed her adventures on the water so she dedicated herself to her efforts emphasizing beautification of the Shoals, which she began advocating in the mid-1960’s. That grew into a consuming interest, joined by many locals, in environmental conservation.

So, MSSC can also celebrate “ Betty Martin”, but “on the water!”

Nolan Richards  
24<sup>th</sup> March

## RACE NOTES:

The 2011 schedule has been posted to the website ([www.mssclub.org](http://www.mssclub.org))

The results of the Wilson Dam Race (2011) were sent out earlier as an attachment to an email. It was a great turnout, and a good day of racing. Glenn Miller will also add this to the web-page. We plan to track all race results on the web this year (including both Club Races, and Regattas).

The 1st club race was cancelled due to weather. The 2nd club race was held on April 23rd. There were 3 races held in 15+mph winds. We had 4 boats with about 15 people participating. The results and club race Series Point Standings were sent out as an attachment to all members and are posted on the website.

The sail Seminar will be June 4 & 5 and 11 & 12. Tommy Glenn will be looking to several members to volunteer to take students out for practice sails. Please consider helping out. And sharing your knowledge and love of sailing with potential new members. There will be emails to follow to ask for volunteers so everyone sign up.

### *EDITOR'S NOTE:*

*Hope everyone enjoys this smaller version of the Lifted Tack. Hope everyone was safe during the storms of the past week. If anyone knows of anyone within our sailing family or others that need some assistance please let me or some of our members know. I am really thankful my son and his family that live in Harvest only had to deal with power outages and no other loss at all. Hope to see you at the club soon. Always open to suggestions to make our Lifted Tack better.*

*Thanks,*

*Jan Clemons*

### Sailing Quote:

"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails."

**Directory of MSSC Board Members**  
**Who to Contact with your Questions or Concerns**

Commodore	Bill Parkhurst	AQBill@aol.com 256-386-2793
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<i>(Please let him know if you plan to store a boat/trailer in the boat yard)</i>		
Harbor Master	Mike Hofmann	michael.hofmann@LpL.com 256-436-0770
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