



The Doings

Of the Dixie Sailing Club

November 2015

Commodore's Corner *By Commodore Roger Smith*

We continue to have guest visits and inquiries about Dixie Sailing Club through the internet. Mark and Susan Cline have completed the new web site for the club. Very well done! When an email comes into the site a copy is sent to the commodore and the secretary. The commodore responds to the email and a copy is sent to the secretary. This has proven to work well. We answer questions and invite the family to come and visit the club. Members have a chance to meet the guests and they usually go for a ride on a sailboat. The new members continue to have lots of excitement and positive attitudes. We are very fortunate to have so many new members. Club members have put great effort into the new floating dock A. This dock will be the first attempt for our club with "wet slips". We will ask you're input at the annual meeting on pricing. Jim Simons, Mark Cline, and Ron Dettwiler are preparing the implementation of these docks for all members. Keith Bennett has created a water tower at the boat lift. This tower will be used for pressure washing the boats, especially, their hulls. The new "youth program" has given birth and is in the infant stage at this point. The new "Youth Board" has been formed and will have their first meeting in November. We will have the Club Championship November 7th! Everyone needs to compete and have fun sailing. The Christmas Party will be December 5th and will be better than ever! I have been very impressed with the bush clearing and grass cutting at the club. We bring guests almost every week and the appearance of the club continues to be first class. When we have a floor under the pole barn and grass from the bathrooms down to the water's edge our meeting place will be wonderful.

Thank you, to the many members that have spent considerable time and effort to create a club to enjoy as a sailing family! Thank you, to the members that represented our club at regattas and won many honors. I invite our sailing members that have not been with us this summer to come and be the main sail to our expansion and growth.

Roger

From the Vice Commodore's Loft

By Vice Commodore Ron Jenkie

October was a very productive month at the club. After a cruise and potluck held on the first weekend, we followed with a great long distance cruise weekend number two. A well-attended work party was held on the third weekend and many projects were completed on floats, docks, walkway ramps, and committee boat cleanup. And then last weekend we were back out on the race course for a fun day of racing.

Please keep up with Jim Simons' reports as to plans and progress on the dock float projects, fill and rip rap to prevent shore erosion, cement slab for the pavilion, and yard project between bathrooms and pavilion.

November will also be an active month at the club. The Club Championships will be held on the 7th. No land activities are associated with this race. Saturday, November 21st is the date for our Annual Meeting. Please make sure that you plan to come to this event. We will have Board of Directors officer reports that include past, present, and future plans for club development. This event will be held at the club pavilion unless weather causes us to choose an alternate location. And to encourage attendance, we will have another of DSC's famous pot-luck dinners. Please let me know what you plan to bring by emailing me at rjenkie@gmail.com or calling at 334-546-3483.

Our final event of the year for the club will be our annual Christmas party on Saturday, 5th of December. The Bennett's have again graciously offered to host this event. More details about this party to include meal plans, etc. will be posted later.

Ron

Rear Commodore's Report

By Rear Commodore Keith Bennett

Well, the fall sailing series is coming to a close. We have one club race day left on October 31 and we will finish up with the Club Championship on November 7. Everyone is eligible to race in this year's championship regardless of the number of races participated in during the year. So please come out and race.

As my term as Rear Commodore comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone for fulfilling their race assignments this past year. With very few exceptions we have always had enough people on hand to conduct races. I would also like to thank Dick Cline for his excellent work keeping track of the race results.

In looking back as we wrap things up I have to say the participation on the race course has been very good as well. The usual suspects are always out there along with a lot of new faces. I am always glad to see new people racing and try to encourage them not to give up just because they don't do well at first. Sailboat racing is a process and as with most things, it has a learning curve.

When I joined the club back in 1992 I had been sailing for a number of years and thought of myself as a pretty good sailor. I could get where I wanted to go and back without any problems. Then I got on the race course and found there was an entire side of sailing I didn't know anything about. For the first year at the end of the day all the other racers would be on shore, with their boats put away, and sipping on a beverage while I was still trying to finish the race. But I stayed the course and saw myself improve with every outing.

My point being, don't get discouraged and don't give up. We have all been there. The sailors at this club are among the best in the southeast. They will help you, encourage you, answer your questions, and do their best to help make you a better sailor (until you start beating them, then you are on your own!).

I am looking forward to finishing the season and moving on the next year. Hope to see you on the water.

Keith

Treasurer's Report

By Treasurer Dick Cline

It is early November when you read this – so those of you that get your dues bills every month should be seeing something in the mail soon if not already. This note is my parting "Thank You" to all the members that have made my job so easy this past year. And that bill you got will most likely be the last one I send out. November 21st is the Annual Meeting and election of new board members and that includes a new Treasurer for 2016.

The norm for club dues billing in years past was a quarterly bill, payable by the end of the first month of each quarter. This past year as Treasurer I added the capability to receive monthly bills, should the member ask for that, instead of the norm of quarterly bills. Next year, all members will be requested to send in their full annual dues in January if possible. The new Treasurer will take over in January, as I work with them during December to transition to the billing method for the coming year. So just check your club emails to get set for the coming year. And again – thanks to all for their great help in doing the Treasurers duties this year you all paying them on time all the time made it a very easy year!

Dick

2016 DSC Board of Director Nominees

By Secretary Ron Dettwiler

The two nomination committees have submitted the following candidates for the 2016 Board of Directors. Three of the six will be elected to three-year terms at the

DSC Annual Meeting scheduled for November 21, 2015. Candidates in alphabetical order are:

- Ricky Ayers
- Keith Bennett
- Stephanie Childers
- Merry Hardy
- Allen Kennedy
- Scott Roberts

Ron

Small-boat Storage

The small craft rack roof building project is scheduled for late winter.

Rusty Black

Andy Burdick! Zenda U! MAYBE!!

As you look at that title, club members will fall into one of two major groups – one that says “Really!” and “WOW.” Of course the rest will say “Who?” and “Huh?” So to explain! Dixie Sailing Club has a couple of fleets, one being the MC Scows. That boat is made by Melges Performance Sailboats in Zenda, Wisconsin. Andy Burdick is the Melges Vice President, and this past summer he won the MC Scow National Championships, for the 12th time, this time with a crew – his 9 year old son! Also this year, Andy won the C Scow National Championships, with his 11 year old daughter and 9 year old son! Not only does he win championships as the skipper, he is crew on other Melges sailboats, crewing on Full Throttle, the Melges 24 World Championship boat. So all in all, he is one of the best sailors out there these days, and actively supports youth sailing.

Zenda U – never heard of it eh. Well – consider what it would be like to spend two days being taught both in a classroom and on the water, with Andy about 2 feet away from you on the water coaching you! That is what Zenda U is – a two-day awesome race training course, currently taught only twice a year – in early spring at Lake Eustis in Florida, and in the summer at a location in either Wisconsin or Michigan. The courses are two days long, and for 20, and only 20, students! There is always a waiting list for getting into them.

So – what does that have to do with DSC? Merry Hardy is the club MC Fleet Captain, and she has been in contact with Mont Echols III the MC Scow Fleet Captain for the fleet at New Orleans, and they have had Andy say he would be interested in having a Zenda U course late this year or very early next year. And the prime suggested location – Dixie Sailing Club!

Will it happen? Hard to tell as this is being written. But, if it does happen at our club, it will give great visibility to our club and its members. Those that are fleet members in DSC tell you there are two problems with the MC – if you sail one you want one for yourself, they are super fun, and then problem two, there are very few used ones available. Club member Ed Lowenstein had to get his sent down to New Orleans from Connecticut and other club members have driven over 1100 miles to Michigan to get one. Thankfully the club does have one more that can be added to the MC fleet, should there be any interest.

Bottom line – IF the club can get Andy Burdick down here to give a two-day racing clinic that includes on the water one-on-one coaching it would be great to attend, even if not an MC owner, just a sailor that wants to improve. More later as Merry and Mont work on it!

Dick Cline

A couple things we may have forgotten...

- No firearms of any type are allowed on club property. This includes BB and pellet guns. (General Club Policies and Rules)
- Please put your name on your boat trailer. We need to know who to call should we need to move a locked trailer or should someone accidentally damage your boat/trailer.
- If you're at the club and down by the docks or in the pavilion area, please lock the gate. All club members know the combination. If you're having guests meet you at the club, please meet them at the gate vs. leaving the gate open.
- Animals are to be kept ... under control at all times to the extent that no other member shall have reason for complaint. (General Club Policies and Rules)
- Fires in designated areas only! (General Club Policies and Rules)
- The club's committee boat and chase boat are not for your personal use. They are for club business only, such as conducting races, putting down moorings, and the occasional rescue/tow. (General Club Policies and Rules)
- Your children are always welcome at the club. If they are under 18 they must be accompanied by you. If they're over 18 they can be at the club as your guest but again, you must be there. If they're over 18 and want to be at the club without you, they need to join as an Associate, Regular, or Collegiate member.
- Children under 8 years of age must wear a properly secured U. S. Coast Guard-approved PFD at all times while onboard any boat, except when in an enclosed cabin. (Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources – Boating Rules and Regulations)
- PFDs aren't a bad idea for adults either. Even the best adult swimmers can get knocked out of a boat by a swinging boom! Also, strongly suggest using a PFD when in one of the inherently unstable dinghies.
- The dinghies should be left upside down, and tied to a cleat.

- Please don't park at the top of the ramp. It makes it very difficult to launch and retrieve a boat.
- If you've unlocked either of the storage sheds, please re-secure them when you're done.

Ron Dettwiler



Show Our Colors!

Wouldn't you like to display our club burgee while out sailing? Well, now you can! A limited number are available (but more can be ordered) and will be sold for \$20 each. If you'd like to buy one, contact any one of the board members.
