

THE DIXIE DOINGS

Summer 2017

Race Schedule- Upcoming

- Jul 15 Club Racing #7
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Aug 5 Club Racing #8
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Aug 12 Youth Racing #6
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Aug 19 Club Racing #9
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Aug 26 Club Racing #10
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Other Club Dates

- Saturdays Open Opti Sailing
- Jul 16 Sunfest @ Wind Creek
- Jul 22 Cruising Activity
11:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Jul 29 5th Anniversary Party
11:00 am - 3:00 pm



Notes from the Commodore

Commodore Allen Kennedy

I hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying our club. Since our last report, we've had several successful events both on and off the water. I'd like to update everyone on items of interest from past, present and future.

Past - Most of you took part in what was a very successful Punchbowl Regatta. The list of volunteers and supporters is too long list here but the overall organization was led by Dick Cline and I think we should all thank him for a great result. Jim Simons led efforts for the McFadden Cup in late May. Jim hosted a reporter on the committee boat and our club racers appeared in the Alexander City Outlook sports page. As president of the DSCYP, Jim has also continued to steward that program into a professionally organized high-caliber outfit. Keith and Jennifer Bennett hosted another very successful Introduction to Sailing event drawing a large crowd of eager new sailors. This is one of the most volunteer-

intensive events that we do and everyone delivered! Thank you.

We held a work party in May which accomplished a good deal. However, our list of tasks outpaced the workers. I would like to appeal to everyone on this topic. We have a wonderful facility that requires some general upkeep in order to be enjoyable when we are there to have fun. As such, we need everyone's participation in this limited number of events. There will always be some conflicts that can't be avoided but in general, we need more participation.

Present – While it isn't visible yet, work is underway to expand the docks for additional space for boats. A large section has been constructed off site and will be delivered when the floating section is complete and launched. This "A" dock is included in the master plan and will be completed later this fall. The wet slips to be located there are partially taken at this point but not fully. Anyone interested should contact Jim Simons. Jim continues to demonstrate his dedication to our club and is leading this construction project.

Future – Later this month we are celebrating our 5th year at this new location on Lake Martin. I can't describe how much hard work and tenacity has gone into getting to this point. I know this is the "future" topic but just take a moment to view the photo albums posted on [our site](#) and you will quickly see just how much has changed here in those few short years. Moving forward, we have more exciting plans ahead and over the next couple of weeks you will see a renewed roadway through the club to repair and improve the areas deteriorated by all of the rain and traffic. As we have grown, our footprint continues to expand, using more of the land. Ron Dettwiler is managing to find space for all of the land-based boats but needs more as membership continues upward. Therefore, over the next few weeks, you will also see clearing of stumps and leveling of unused land to make more usable space.

Finally, if you didn't know, DSC also has a long-range planning committee made up of current board members. This committee changes with each new board and together with normal board of director activities, strives to move our group forward both in the short and the long-term. Our next major milestone will be to design and construct a club house, which will complete the master plan developed by all of the dedicated past and current board members and members of DSC. Look for more updates on this in the near future. I hope you can see, there is always opportunity to lend your particular strengths to moving us forward. If you are interested in becoming more involved in a project, please let me or any board member know. Again, thank you for all that you do to make this sailing club successful. See you all at DSC soon!

Notes from the Vice Commodore

Scott Roberts

We are well into Summer, Alabama weather in the July can be brutal. I hope everyone stays safe on and off the water. I would like for all our members to read our by-laws and understand that DSC has rules in place to follow. These are not just our rules, these are Russel Lands rules.

An exciting event is coming up on July 29th, our 5th anniversary at the current location. DSC will provide meat, and we invite you to bring your favorite dish or desert. Details on the dinner and activities will be coming out soon.

The Fleet Report

Catalina 22 Fleet 96

Dick Cline, Fleet Captain

Wow, it has been years since the last report from the fleet and club! Over three based on what I find on my laptop! Both DSC and Fleet 96 are doing great! Having to move 5 years ago from a fully develop club location of over 50 years to 35 acres of forest with lots to construct and do, does slow down some of the fun stuff! But in July of this year the club will celebrate its 5th anniversary at our spectacular new location. And sailing is again a big deal!

When the club had to shift locations membership went from 84 to 34 and the primary focus of those members was developing the infrastructure to support the future sailing of the club. Right now the progress on that has been great, and more time is available for the fun stuff of C22 sailing. Fleet 96 has grown – we now have 29 members! And the level of activity is great too! They not only own a C22, they sail it.

The example of that is the club has “fleet races” which are any club race where three or more like boats are out there racing. Last year for the entire year there were three or more C22s racing a total of 6 races. In the first 10 race dates this year the fleet has already recorded 15 fleet races with 13 different skippers racing.

The usual Gold Fleet suspects – Keith Bennett and Mickey Richardson – have been on the road to regattas and doing great! In March Mickey won the Region 3 Championship, for the 8th time as I recall, and in the eight races in the Nationals in June, with 20 boats racing in Gold Fleet, Keith finished all 8 races in the top ten, and tied for second with two others, and Mickey finished in the top 10 in 6 races to finish 8th. Great performances in really strong winds most of the event.

The other positive part of Fleet 96 has been the growth in participation by the Silver Fleet level racers. In the Punch Bowl the usual suspects were racing in Gold, but in addition to them 8 fleet members entered and raced in Silver Fleet, including being there for a VERY wet Sunday – LOL. Good to see the members growing in their skills and being on the water sharing the fun of having a C22.

That’s it for this time. Will work hard to not go 3 years before the next report! Looking forward to maybe seeing other reports on how and what other fleets are doing – so can “borrow” the good ideas!

Punch Bowl #55

Grits #2 - Regatta for 2017

Dick Cline, Regatta Chairman

“WOW was that an awesome day!” “Hey why did we come in so early, we should have done another race it was so perfect” – those are just a sample of the comments made at the dinner tables on Saturday night at the Dixie Sailing Clubs 55th annual Punch Bowl Regatta. Which will go down as one of the all time fun events. The answer to that second comment was “Because you have already done four races and been out here almost 5 hours! But it was a truly perfect day – sunshine, 86 degrees, 10- 15 winds all day, a lake so big there were no white caps, and not even any power boats around!

Now if you are a club member, you know how often you check the weather, and get pretty good at guessing what might happen. So when everyone looked at the forecast for 86 degrees for the high on Saturday and 63 the high on Sunday it was clear that overnight and early Sunday morning might be “interesting”. It was. But more on that in a bit.

The Great Racing In The South (GRITS) series for 2017 kicked off with the Region 3 Championship at Lake Murray S.C. and the turnout was very small. So there was a slight concern about how many would be at the club for our Punch Bowl – not a worry! For the C22 segment there were 5 Gold Fleet racers and 8 Silver Fleet racers. In addition to that was the Handicap Fleet of 4 totally different types of boats, and 4 more Auburn 420 boats for that fleet, put 21 boats out there racing!

Saturday was awesome. The plan for the regatta was three races on Saturday and then weather permitting, two more on Sunday. Most all had seen the possible forecast for Sunday, so a fourth race was run on Saturday in case it was a no go on Sunday.



DSC Gold Fleet racers included Keith Bennett, current Region 3 Champion and two time Gold Fleet National Champion Mickey Richardson, and Mark Cline. Racing with them was Justin Chambers, current Gold Fleet National Champion and Reid Collins, both from Lake Lanier Sailing Club. Silver Fleet DSC sailors were Allen Kennedy, Ed Loewenstein, Ron Jenkie, Ron Dettwiler, Scott Roberts, Bobby Edmond, and John Turner. They were joined by C. J. Brustowicz from New Orleans.

Handicap Fleet had a real mix of styles and sizes of boats, ranging from Randall Haire in a small MC Scow to Mike Pair in a Hunter 260. They were joined by Dave Hilgendorf on his Compac 23 and Roger Smith in his Catalina 25. Four Auburn sailing team members shared skipper duty on their 420's.

Well Sunday morning came, and so did the weather. As I stood on the dock, Race Chairman Randy McDaniel stood in the wind and soaking rain, with skippers from Gold, Silver and Handicap fleets and said "That's it, no more in this!" Which was greeted by all there with a chorus of "What are you talking about, the winds are great, it's only some rain!" Randy said – "Well all right then, lets go racing" and so they did! The view from the pavilion was spectacular – you could actually see the boats in the fog and heavy rain every now and then! And yes they did do both races!

When all was done and calculated the trophies were handed out – not that they were hungry after the morning's fun but 45 hot dogs went in about 15 minutes, not to mention BBQ from the night before and some liquid refreshments. C 22 Gold Fleet was won by National Champion Justin Chambers with 5 firsts and 1 second in the 6 races for total points of 7. Reid Collins and Keith Bennett battled it out for second, with Keith taking it, total points of 11, and Reid 12. Mark Cline was 4th and Mickey Richardson 5th. Silver Fleet was won by Commodore Allen, followed by Ron Jenkie in 2nd and C. J. Brustowicz in third. Handicap Fleet was won by Mike Pair, with Randall second, and Roger third.

It had about all you could ask for in a regatta – wind, sunshine, rain, fog, more wind, great food, great stories around the tables Saturday after racing, and everyone seeming very happy to have been there. If you were there you know what a blast it was. And if you missed it – make sure your plans next spring include being in Punch Bowl 56!

Youth Sailing Program

Jim Simons

This Spring, the DSCYP conducted a series of instructional and sailing events introducing sailing to offspring of DSC members and non-members.

A couple of key events demonstrated the potential that the DSCYP brings to DSC. Beginning last season, Ethan Childers had crewed a few times for Ron Jenkie and Allen Kennedy. He had recently bought a used Laser and entered the McFadden Trophy Regatta on Memorial Day weekend. He finished 3rd, in a fleet of 13 boats. Quite an accomplishment. His sisters raced in another Laser.

Ainsley O'Connor had been sailing at the Girl Scout camp a few years, but she wanted to sail more frequently. She sailed with us one Saturday, then decided to join DSC as a Junior member. Of course, at that point her father Dan did the right thing, and bought her a used Laser. So, congratulations to Ainsley as the first DSCYP member to join DSC as a Junior member.

The Childers kids are using their savings to buy used lasers, also. Sailing has really turned into a family affair for them.

Within the past week, Stephanie found a good used laser in Athens, GA, and Merry donated the 2 Wisconsin Lasers. So, we now have a fleet of 6 Lasers, not counting the hulk, 7 Optis and one lonely Sunfish. We have two inflatables, with one still needing to have the transom reglued to the tubes. The DSCYP is in the market for a small 4-cycle outboard with an integral tank. Short shaft is OK. If you have one to sell, or preferably donate please contact us.

The kids will be training for the next couple of weekends to be ready for the 5th Anniversary Regatta. This year our goal is to have 3 fleets racing; Lasers, Optis and Sunfish. It should be wild, and colorful.

Cheryl and Callie donated their Neptune 24 to the DSCYP. She is a sound craft in good condition. The bottom has blisters. So, anyone who is not apprehensive about sanding blisters for a week or two, could end up with a solid cruising boat. Once I spent some time with her, it became evident from little details that she was designed to handle offshore sailing. She was docked at Quantico MWR, so she at least spent time on the Potomac, and maybe the Chesapeake. I know the area well. If you know of someone who may be interested, please ask them to contact Dick Cline.

The DSCYP has been contacted by the Lyman Ward Military Academy, the Naval Junior ROTC unit at the Benjamin Russell HS in Alex City, and the Valiant Cross School in Montgomery. Each is interested in exposing their students to sailing. While we will continue to explore this alternative, we don't expect any specific actions at the club until the Fall.

Within the national youth sailing community, we have seen many articles which decry the decline of youth participation after high school, or college. The kids don't transition to larger boats. Of course, they would probably like to be able to buy a big boat, but starting a career, family, etc. might prevent that course. Time and again, the programs that are successful making sailing a lifelong avocation, are the programs that encourage youth to crew on big boats. Of course, our C22s are not really "big" boats, but they are big enough and require another level of skill. To pick on Ethan, he started crewing with Allen and then Ron J. As both finished well when Ethan was crewing, he was suddenly in demand. His sisters like to crew, also. So, if you are short crew on any particular Saturday, don't hesitate to look around for one of our youth. They will enjoy the opportunity, and you will also.

Jim Simons, President
Dixie Sailing Club Youth Program
334-546-0224 Cell

From the Harbormaster

Jim Simons

Hurricane Preparation – Once again, we are well into hurricane season. While we don't get much this far from the coast, it only takes one. When it happens, you need to have already done the preparations, as the night before is much too late. If you have a trailer, you should probably get the boat out and on that trailer. If you don't have a trailer, you will need to have enough line to tie your boat off to 4-5 trees.

Your mooring ball will not be enough to resist the wind. Any hatches that might come loose should be secured. Won't it be interesting to have a spider web of lines across the slough? The problem with the line is that you would need a lot of it and you would already have bought it before the hurricane is approaching. So, please plan for what you would do, now. Later is too late. Of course, the boats could be damaged on shore also. Thus, simply placing it on a trailer will not be enough. Perhaps nesting them all together might be a solution? We should be talking about this. Hopefully, it will all be unnecessary talk. It's been about 20 years since we had a significant event this far north. If a storm approaches, then we will all need to be working together to safeguard our boats, and the DSC facilities.

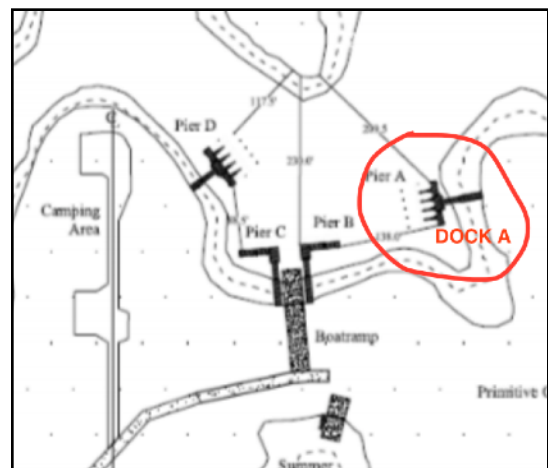
Transient Mooring – The mooring that Ricky Ayers established is designated as the DSC transient mooring. The concept is that members and new members may need a mooring for a limited time. Thus, the harbormaster allows use of the mooring upon request. Use is for a limited amount of time, so that it is not abused. Just ask first, please.

Dan Conniff's Mooring – Dan is leaving the club in the near future. Thus, his mooring will become available to any member who wants to buy it from him. The DSC harbormaster designates mooring locations, but the member owns the anchor, ground tackle and buoy. If you are interested see Dan, and if a deal is struck, please tell me. His two boats are also for sale.

Boats on Docks – Please note that member boats may not be tied at any of the club docks, if the member is not on the club property. Why? Well, most everyone would like to leave their boat at the dock for a few days, when they really didn't have the time to put it on the trailer in the boat yard. The rub is that everyone would like to do it, and then everyone else would be inconvenienced. The other part of this is potential damage to the dock. If you leave the property for a few hours or a few days then a storm could occur, and you would not know of the storm, or perhaps not care. However, as these docks are not designed for the unusual loads that occur during storms, the dock could be damaged. The damage might not even be apparent, until another storm event when the whole dock was carried away. We just don't need that exposure.

Dock A Construction – The floats and walkway will be set in place this Fall. The steel walkway has been completed, but will not be delivered until the main float is constructed. The main float will be constructed again at the hoist, and the walkway will be set on top of it before launching the main float. The same process we used for Dock D. We will have a contractor building the new main float, side floats and finger floats at the hoist.

Closure of the Boat Hoist – As you might surmise from the above paragraph, at some time soon, the hoist will close for construction of the Dock A floats. The contractor will be much quicker than me. So, I don't expect it to be closed more than 3 weeks, and most likely less. In any case, the actual dates will be communicated to the Yardmaster, Ron Dettwiler, and he will send out a notice. All are reminded to



always coordinate use of the hoist with Ron D. Only Ron can tell you it's OK to use the hoist. You might be disappointed, if someone has already reserved the hoist with Ron, when you wanted to use it.

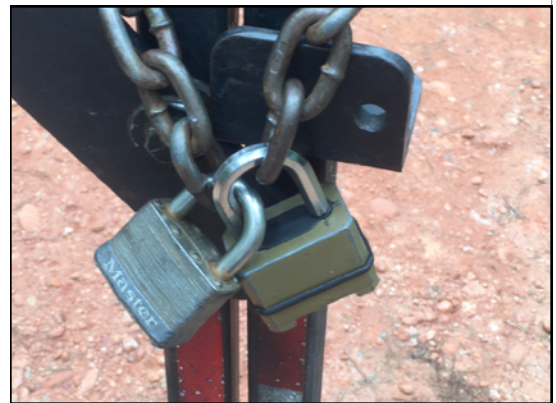
Wet Slip Waiting List – The harbormaster maintains a list of the club members who have indicated in writing or by email that they are interested in a wet slip. Verbal requests are ignored. To refresh everyone, once a wet slip becomes available, the harbormaster will notify the next member on the waiting list. The member will then notify the DSC Secretary that he/she is requesting the change in membership classification from Regular to Wet Slip. The Secretary places this before the DSC Board. After approval, the treasurer is notified of the change for dues billing, and the harbormaster is notified to open the wet slip to the member. Thus, if you are interested in a wet slip, for the additional fee of \$40 per month, please drop me an email.

From the Yard Master

Ron Dettwiler

How do you secure a property so both the landlord and the tenant have access to it but no else does? The solution is elegant in its simplicity! You lock the padlocks together!

Russell Lands (the landlord) and DSC (the tenant) both need access to a secured parcel of land (our club). How do you do that? Take one piece of chain and put Russell Land's padlock on the last link at one end, and DSC's padlock on the other end. But before you close the shackle* of the DSC padlock, put it through the Russell padlock shackle and then close it.



Please remember to secure the gate if you're at the club but will be out of sight of the gate. Also, if everyone's at the ramp or pavilion and no one is in the boat yard, secure the gate. Thanks!

**The upside down "U" or "C" shaped thingy (depending on your perspective).*