

REPEATER

Tuscaloosa Sailing Club 2025 Board of Governors

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Apprenticeship Sailing Day 2025: Old hands introduce new hands to the waters.

COMMODORE'S COMMENT: TSC 2025

A never ending campaign



**Commodore
Jon Shemwell**
in full regalia

When I think about the hardworking members who have kept our club going—this year and over the years—I think in terms of the immortal words of Winston Churchill: “In no club before have so few toiled so much to cover so many bases.” Maintaining our club may not be the Battle of Britain, but at times, it has sure felt like it.

The Tuscaloosa Sailing Club is blessed with an impressive array of assets—our motorboats, club sailboats, grounds, docks, machinery, buildings, and the clubhouse with all its appliances and systems. But these assets require constant attention. Dock floats leak, decks rot and splinter, motors don't start, pipes leak, streams clog, grass

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Derigging lessons: New sailors learn at Apprenticeship Sailing Day.

Treasurer: Smooth sailing now, rising costs on the horizon

As 2025 draws to a close, Tuscaloosa Sailing Club is in a good financial position. We have gained a few new members, carefully watched expenses and are consequently on track to end the year on budget. With no major unexpected expenses, we have made substantial progress toward rebuilding our deferred maintenance fund, which had been depleted by the dock project. While the Club is currently meeting all of its obligations and is able to maintain the grounds and club boats, prices continue to rise. For example, the water supplier has announced a 9 percent increase for 2026 and because of increased usage, our electricity bill is running almost 50 percent higher than last year. The Club has not increased dues for three years. It may be time to consider a small increase to adjust for continuing inflation in order to ensure the Club remains on sustainable financial footing and can continue to provide a safe, enjoyable experience for all members.

John Nasir, Treasurer



Treasurer John Nasir breaks down the numbers for club members.

Commodore, cont'd.

grows, and sticks wash in. The list goes on, and none of it repairs itself. The challenge is not just what must be done, but how few are available to do it.

Even short-handed, we've accomplished a lot this year, a tribute to the talents and commitment of club members. Among the many accomplishments: We resurfaced our splintering docks; removed derelict boats from our boatyard; fixed a power sink in our campground; fixed sources of damp in our sail loft; and maintained our fields and shoreline, trim and clean. I suppose that in any church or club, about a tenth of the people are active in keeping things on track. We often out-perform that benchmark, but that still leaves too few doing too much. Though we may keep up the battle, burnout is a risk. The simple truth is that we need more members.

The good news: This year we increased our membership by more than 10%. If we could maintain that pace, we would double our membership in seven years. What will it take to get there? I'm not entirely sure, but we have promising leads. Last spring's "Apprenticeship Sailing Day" event brought in several new members; perhaps we should make it an annual tradition. Personally, I think we would attract more prospective sailors if getting boats into the water were easier—less about trucks and trailers, more about sailing. And we've talked for a long time about welcoming more non-sailing members who would appreciate the community and the lake. Maybe we should reopen that conversation.

If we want our club to thrive far into the future, growing our membership is not just helpful—it's essential. We had some good fortune growing this year. Let's keep the momentum going.

Jon Shemwell, Commodore

TSC ON THE WATER



In 2025, the Spring and Fall race seasons and a special “Apprenticeship Sailing Day” showcased our club’s welcoming sailing community.



KEEPING THE CLUB BEAUTIFUL

Grounds Chair: Good work deserves good food



Harrison Lanford is a long blade of grass’ worst nightmare.

We had another successful year maintaining the grounds at the Sailing Club. This success is due to the hard work and dedication of the members who participate in our monthly work parties. Work parties are generally held on the third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon. There is plenty of work each month, and we encourage everyone to join us on Saturdays.

This year, we worked to ensure the perimeter of the boatyard remained free of brush, maintained the drainage ditch, cleared the perimeter

of the clubhouse, cleaned the gutters, and regularly cut the grass. We also continue to keep our equipment maintained, which includes ride-on mowers, push mowers, weed eaters, and various other tools.

We have continued the tradition of feeding our members after work parties. It has been a pleasant way to end a productive morning, and special thanks go out to the members who hosted meals this year.

Pressly Albritton, Grounds

Social chair: Events reflect Club's heart and humor

As another season draws to a close on our beloved lake, it's time to drop anchor and look back on all the wonderful events we've shared. From sunny deck lunches to cozy evenings in the clubhouse, our sailing community once again proved that good food and good friends make the best crew.

Our wonderful events included Cinco de Mayo, with tacos, margaritas, and laughter flowing as freely as the wind. Then came our Memorial Day Shrimp Boil, where mountains of shrimp, corn, and sausage brought everyone together for a feast worthy of our finest galley. In our recruiting events, we fired up the grills for juicy hamburgers and sizzling brats, fueling conversation and warm welcomes for new members joining the fleet. At our Fourth of July celebration, the scent of grilled chicken mingled with lake breezes. And our Labor Day Potluck, wow! Each contribution, from treasured family recipes to desserts that vanished faster than a



Past Commodore Randy Mecredy and Peggy Nasir let their eats settle.

downwind spinnaker reflected the heart and humor of the club. To everyone who brought dishes, poured drinks, and stayed late to clean, your efforts kept our gatherings shipshape.

A huge thank-you to our amazing cooks—Randy, Ron & Cynthia,

Fred & Mike, John and all our potluck cooks who kept the galley running smoothly. Thank you for making this year's social season as memorable as a perfect day on the lake. Here's to fair winds, full plates, and friendships that sail on.

Dorit Cohen, Social Chair



Enjoying the dockside view and Spring sunshine at TSC.

Vice Commodore looks ahead for TSC & UA

The role of Vice Commodore has few specific duties other than attending Board meetings and planning for next year when I become Commodore, so I have little to report in that role other than our plans to continue to expand membership and improve the club's physical and financial state.

However, I also serve as advisor of the University of Alabama (UA) Sailing Club, which is quite active now. The big news is that the current president, Stephanie Griffin, and fellow club leaders have

achieved a long-held goal to become a member of the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA), which serves a similar role to the NCAA in other collegiate sports. This is a critical step in creating a competitive racing team. The UA club is now trying to organize races against nearby universities this spring. The biggest goal is fundraising in hopes of buying a FJ or 420 or similar class of boat raced in the ICSA.

Fred Andrus, Vice Commodore

Club projects: Much accomplished, much to do

We've made great progress on club projects in 2025.

Boats were cut up and hauled away. Extraneous metal was discarded, including two keels that netted the club quite a bit of cash. Harrison got the riding lawnmower working again; kudos to him! The docks were finished, a project spanning three previous commodores' terms. We removed the tree that was rubbing against the clubhouse.

We fixed the ice maker, replacing a leaky shut-off valve and installing a PVC drain line, thereby solving the chronic dampness problem in the clubhouse basement.

In the boatyard, ALL of the rubbish tires that had accumulated have been collected and disposed of. John Nasir cleaned up the sails for the club boats, and he paired and marked them so all boats are now useable. Kudos to John too!

We have an ambitious agenda for ongoing and future projects: hauling old wheels and tires to the next metal recycling; cleaning up and cleaning out the tools/parts shed and mower shed; replacing rot damage on the clubhouse's north-side wall and repainting/caulking;



End of the dock: Paul Bradford and Pat Huet—and many others not shown here—work to put the finishing touches on the three-year dock project.

fixing or discarding the footbridge spanning the small drain creek; doing glass work on the club's Optimus sailboat under the shelter; painting the lower three feet of the clubhouse basement; figuring out the best way to cap gas cans while ensuring we don't lose caps/spouts; removing the

front tires on the other riding mower and replacing rims/seals or tubes; and possibly repairing a broken water line in the boatyard. So, great progress this year and no shortage of projects in 2026!

*Ron Lepianka,
Projects Chair*

Club Secretary: Behind the scenes but with a front-row seat

TSC has had a vibrant year: Active recruiting efforts, onboarding of new members, completion of ambitious tasks, and plenty of opportunities for food and fellowship.

The secretary helps process things behind the scenes but also has a front-row seat, recording the Club's

meetings, greeting new members, and sharing news of events. I've enjoyed serving over the last two years, working with and learning from our impressive, dedicated Board members. I look forward to easing the transition for the next secretary.

Wilson Lowrey, Secretary