

# REPEATER

Tuscaloosa  
Sailing Club  
2024  
Board of  
Governors

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**Past Commodore**

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**Race Day, spring 2024:** Veteran sailors Paul and Mary LeBlanc win again.

## COMMODORE'S COMMENT

# Serenity now at TSC, 2024



**Commodore Randy Mecredy** kicks things off at the Labor Day Fish Fry.

**As sailors,** it is not often that we wish for calm while we're at the Club. Out on the water we want a good, steady breeze and maybe an occasional gust of wind to add a little excitement to our day. However, over the past nine months, it has been my hope that you have experienced calmness, peacefulness, and serenity at Tuscaloosa Sailing Club.

Last year presented itself with many challenges and difficulties – it seemed like every time we turned around, something was either broken, or in the process of breaking and in need of repair or replacement. This year, so far, we have not experienced as many problems and have managed to make a lot of the repairs.

The Club and grounds look as good as I have seen them in 10 or 15 years. Water lines have been fixed, and brush and limbs in the boatyard and along the road and grounds perimeter have been removed; the Clubhouse is tidy; the basement is clutter-free;

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## Commodore's comment, cont'd.

the area around the Clubhouse is clear of brush; shrubs are trimmed; the area along the creek has been kept clear; lake grass from the swimming area to the launch dock has been removed; the approach and deck boards leading out to the T-dock have been replaced; the grounds have been well maintained; and several derelict boats have been removed from the boatyard.

All of this is the product of our dedicated members who have been willing to put in a few hours on one or two Saturdays a month to make sure that the grounds and facilities are clean, inviting, and welcoming for all of our members to have a place to escape the stress and anxiety of our daily lives. As commodore, my goals for this year have been to build unity through fellowship and food; promote trust through honest and open discussions; and instill stewardship in our members so that our Club may be something we can all be proud of for many years to come. I encourage you to come out to the work days, participate in the social events, take part in the racing, become an active sailor, and enjoy the tranquility of our Club!

*Randy Mecredy*  
Commodore



**Derigging after a spring race:** Sailors fold up their sails on a resurfaced dock.

## Treasurer: Club ship-shape financially, but let's aim to bring on more crew

**The 3rd quarter** of the Fiscal Year has come to a close, and I'm happy to report that Tuscaloosa Sailing Club is well within its 2024 budget. Revenues, at \$28,400, are slightly above budget, despite the fact that we did not pick up as many new members this year as we hoped. More importantly, we have been able to control expenditures, and they are somewhat below budget. This has allowed us to begin to build back the reserve and emergency funds that were depleted last year due to large, unexpected expenses including repairs to the ice maker and new water heater. The assessment for the dock repair brought in more than \$6,500, and most of the docks have been

repaired. However, there was more damage to the docks than originally estimated, and some additional funds will be needed to complete the work. This shortfall could be drawn from the deferred maintenance fund.

Overall, the club is operating on a firm financial footing in 2024, and we will continue to carefully monitor and control expenditures. But prices for everything continue to rise, and for the Club to continue operating effectively and conducting proper maintenance, it is important to increase revenues by recruiting new members.

*John Nasir*  
Treasurer



**Treasurer John Nasir** working and playing at the Cinco de Mayo social.

## TSC SAILING AND RACE DAYS



**At left:** Sergio Fabi and Ron Lepianka bring it on in after a race, with cold beverages in hand.

**Below:** Pat Huet pilots the race boat.



## Boatyard clearing

**One abandoned cruiser gone** and one more to go! A big thank you to Ron Lepianka, John Nasir and Gail Masterson for disposing of one of our eyesores from the boatyard. We look forward to the other abandoned eyesore disappearing soon.

*Bill Spence  
Harbor Master*

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## Minutes & more

**Taking minutes** for TSC board meetings is a little like taking a short course on the club, with instruction about the club's history, its people, its policies, facilities and operations—and even its geography (wow, the waterline is high!). I've learned a lot.

My start on this gig was made much easier by Anita Lanford, who rocked this job for several years before I started. Anita graciously pulled together an extensive handbook and has patiently answered questions. Thanks, Anita! I look forward to serving again in 2025-26.

*Wilson Lowrey  
Secretary*

## The sailing's sweet: Come on out!

### **Racing this fall has been great!**

Nice breezes and beautiful days.  
Wonderful camaraderie!

Paul and Mary have proven to be difficult to beat this year! They make it look easy. I guess that comes after sailing together a few seasons.

We have had strong new challengers, however. Sagy, Dorit, Anna, and Sergio are coming on strong, making the competition tight. It is common for the races to be quite close now.

I have had the pleasure of having my sister, Sue, who had not sailed for many years, crew for me recently. I did not know how fiercely competitive she is!

I encourage anyone who wants to improve their sailing skills to start racing. Crewing for someone is a great way to start.

Everyone is simply out to have fun and very willing to help new racers.... until they get too good.

I greatly appreciate the help of members who have run races including Pat Huet, Jon Shemwell, Pat Ferguson, Tom and Carol Russell, John and Peggy Nasir, and Ben Andrus. They have been entered into the raffle for DePalma's gift certificate. The drawing will be at the Winter Banquet!

There are sure to be nice days in December and January, so I hope we can have some unofficial races. Another great way to get started. Please let me know if you are interested. If you are not on the Tuscaloosa Sailing Club GroupMe list, I recommend getting on the list so you know when races may "pop up."

*John Dishuck, Race Chair*

# Social chair: Thanks, all! TSC events take a village

## First, I would like to thank

Bette Huet for “showing me the ropes” when I assisted her as Social Chair for TSC several years ago. Next, I would like to thank Peggy Nasir for helping me as well as the volunteers who magically came forward at each social event to do various tasks. They are the folks who organize the tables, bring all the “stuff” we need from the clubhouse to the pavilion, wash dishes, clean up, etc. Thanks also to our “chefs” who cook for designated events. While many members are enjoying the breezes under the pavilion or in the water, cooling off, our cooks are enduring the heat of the grill as they share their culinary talents with us.

A great big thank-you goes to the various members who helped clean out the clubhouse! We got rid of things that were not being used, and



**Happy Fourth!** The LeBlancs, Drakes and Huets enjoy good weather, great friends, delicious locally prepped BBQ—and maybe a little dessert.



**Captain Paul Bradford**, fish-fry chef extraordinaire, chills after a hot afternoon’s work at the fryer.

as a result, we have better organized cabinets! As you can see, it takes a village to put on social events for our members! In my opinion this is time well spent as these kinds of interactions help us all get know one another – friendships are formed, and memories are made.

Our social calendar’s familiar rhythm coincides with the seasons and various holidays. Highlights, of course, are the big cookouts, Memorial Day shrimp boil, Fourth of July bar-b-q and the Labor Day fish fry.

We are utilizing our clubhouse for the annual meeting where new policies, bylaws and club issues are discussed. Last year we also held the Commodore’s banquet

there—a necessary move for budget “belt tightening.” It also had the side effect of a cozier atmosphere for these events.

I think it would be wise to think of the social chair position as a social coordinator with members designated to help with certain events. Folks lead such busy lives in the world we live in today, it may be time to have a goal of “sharing the load” for this position.

I also recommend that we think of activities to add to our repertoire at our social events, such as a corn hole tournament, horseshoes, kayak race, paddleboard race, etc.

*Linda Albritton*  
*Social Chair*

## Report from the grounds

**We have had a very successful year** maintaining the grounds at the Sailing Club. This is a result of the monthly turn out of our club members. We have worked to ensure that the perimeter of the boatyard remains free of brush. We have maintained the drainage ditch, and the grass is cut on a regular basis. We will be working on cleaning the gutters to the clubhouse this month. After workdays, lunch has been provided this year from different club members. This has been a wonderful way to end a workday. There is always plenty of work each month, and I encourage members to come out—typically, the third Saturday of the month.

*Pressley Albritton  
Grounds Chair*



**June evening work:** Project Chair David Skelton and John Nasir work on a dock.



**Dock-tors at work:** John Shemwell, Sage Cohen and John Dishuck build out the t-dock, one board at a time.

## Vice Commodore: Work parties are about camaraderie, belonging

**As someone who attends** about half of the work party days, I must say that I look forward to those I can attend. We work hard, but doing the work side by side with fellow members—sharing laughter and stories—makes the morning go by fast. More importantly, it brings a sense of belonging.

A club, by definition, is a group of individuals who come together for a common purpose, united by shared interests and goals. In our sailing club, that purpose is not just to enjoy the water, but also to be a community with real connections among members. Whether it's maintaining our fleet, organizing events, or beautifying our facilities, these efforts cultivate the camaraderie that lies at the heart of our membership.

Some who come to work parties can do less physical work than others. Yet, doing what they can, each contributes and belongs. Believe me, just hearing members there say “good morning” boosts my spirits. So, don't be deterred if a full morning is too much, or like me, your calendar makes it hard to get there. Come when you can. You'll be glad you did. We all will.

*John Shemwell, Vice Commodore*