

Cotton Pickin' Regatta
Delta Sailing Association – Fleet 274
Memphis, Tennessee
September 18–19, 2004

Pos	Sail#	Skipper	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Final
1	15216	Cully Ward	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
2	15010	Dave Young	7	3	6	4	3	4	20
3	14488	Bill Baxter III	9	6		3	13	2	22
4	15100	Brad Currie	13	9		2	2	4	22
5	14645	Bob Cotton	2	5		5	5	7	23
6	15169	Batton Kennon	5	4		7	7	5	24
7	10406	Chan Owen	3	7		4	6	8	28
8	14088	Rick Conaway	8	2		11	13	6	34
9	15128	Max Shelton	4	11		9	3	10	45
10	14666	Crit Currie Jr.	6	10		8	8	13	45
11	14809	Rob Hempel	10	8		10	9	9	46
12	12397	Hugh Teaford	11	12		12	13	11	60

The Cotton Pickin' regatta was one of the best I can remember. Frances had passed through East Tennessee, with all of the rain out of Middle Tennessee by Friday morning, pushed out by a big high pressure coming in from the west, long before we left Nashville for Memphis and Hernando Mississippi. Our expectation was that the high would be dominant and since there had been little change in temperature with the passage of the front, we did not expect any wind to speak of. We were pleasantly surprised when on Saturday the wind was from 6 to 12 all day long.

The races were run by members of the Hobie fleet at the Hernando Yacht Club. Each of the three fleets there helps out when the other has a regatta. It is clear that there is a lot of mutual respect between the members of the fleets, making those of us who were from out of town feel all the more welcome.

With the wind from the northeast the local rule of "sail toward the clubhouse" proved to be a valuable rule to follow. Those who got good starts in the first race were suckered out to the right away from the clubhouse because the Thistles that started before us (so they could get in early to bring lunch back for the rest of us) found really good pressure on that right. Only problem was, the shore effect caused the wind to go left as we approached the mark and those in the good wind to the right found themselves sailing the big banana. We went in for lunch and back out for 3 more in wind that built a little but remained from the same direction and the "go left" rule paid off a lot more than it did not.

My formerly regular crew, Jan (Thompson) Mattix and her husband, Robert agreed to sail with me. After the first day of sailing, it was obvious that the combination of them as crew and our new Allen boat and new sails (guess) were really fast.

Following the races we headed for Dave Dickson's house just down the road for barbeque, beer and conversation. The Dixon's are very generous with their home, their dogs, gardens and humming birds. It seems as though we were all tired because the last guests were leaving about 8:30 and the dearth of stories the next morning would suggest that all went home and to bed, most of us having trouble staying awake through half time of the U.T., Florida game.

Sunday was even more surprising with winds around 15 from the same direction. Going into the final race, there were 5 boats virtually tied for second place .Bill Baxter, Jr. was able to plane a couple of times, causing him to break away from the pack to take second, but Dave Young who sailed with two local and obviously talented female crew Batton Kennon arranged for him, stayed close enough to finish 4th in the race and second in the regatta. Brad Currie had his son, Nate, on board for his first regatta, and Nate seemed to love it as did Brad.

We always love going to lake Arkabutla in the fall. We love the sailing, the cotton fields and the kudzu, but most of all we just like going.