

It's spring
Unfurl those
sails, sailors

BY KATHY SHELL, News staff writer

"How Crewed," a sailboat belonging to the Harry C. Reich family, is usually well crewed indeed — by the Reich's seven children.

In fact their boat is often so sufficiently equipped that, according to Mrs. Reich, the family is "loaned out" to complete the crews of fellow sailors of the Birmingham Sailing Club on Lake Logan Martin.

THE CLUB'S SUMMER sailing season officially opens with a series of races beginning June 29 and running through September 21. Weekly races are on the agenda.

With the spring season already underway, an Ironman Regatta, competitive sailing involving local members as well as out-of-town visitors, is planned for May 10 and 11. About 100 boats, including 50 from the local club, are expected to join the competition.

According to Reich, the vast majority of sailors are just now beginning to invade the area after an absence during the winter months. These summer sailors have a surprise in store.

LAST FALL the club house pavillion was completely enclosed and is large enough now for the dances planned after the regatta and other special races. Large felt nautical insignia have been used to spell out words of special interest to the approximately 90 club members, and these colorful splashes add to the decor.

Reich personally qualifies as more than a summer sailor. He sails throughout the winter months, calling off adventures only in freezing weather. Mrs. Reich says that these winter expeditions are often too much for her, but points out that one reason their sport is sailing is because it's completely a family affair.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT with the sport began with the name of the boat being selected in family competition. That's stiff competition in a family of nine.

Now the teenagers are active crewmen, and Reich jokingly says that some have deserted, feeling that their services have obtained professional status and that they now require an invitation to sail.

But he doesn't let them go without him. And why should he be with such avid young sailors as David and Liz on hand.

