



# Tiller Tales

September 2008

## Message From The Helm

This is the first e-version of Tiller Tales! Franz Walkow has agreed to edit and send this electronic version to all GSC members. It will also be in a print version available at the monthly meetings. We are grateful to Franz for taking on this task and know that members will support him by submitting articles and ideas for the Tiller Tales. GSC can only grow and thrive when its members become involved in activities of the club.

Thanks, Franz from the helm and the GSC membership! - Drew Siegle

### Officers

- Commodore.....Drew Siegle
- Vice Commodore...Astrid Hunton
- Rear Commodore...Gil Snyder
- Treasurer.....Gary Pirtle
- Secretary.....Sue Rineer

### Governing Board

- Bill Bradley
- Roman Gastesi
- Bernie Gartner

## Bathing Beauties from 2007 Beach Bash



## ABACOS TRIP—2008

**Caretta, Maitiki and Amara**, our Catalina flotilla, with Steve and Lucy, Joe and Mary, and Gil and Sue aboard, had lots of “adventures” in the Abacos this year. We certainly had our equipment problems and weather concerns, Bertha took her time in deciding where she was going, but we used our motors less than in the past and had a rewarding sailing adventure. We had a great sail to Great Sale, sailed across the Gulf Stream, and sailed from Hopetown to Spanish Cay. We also enjoyed the beaches at Double Breasted and Baker’s Bay, where they’re building a new huge resort and golf club and you can only walk on the beach to the high water mark, great She-crab Soup at Spanish Cay, wonderful Red Snapper caught by Joe and cooked to perfection by Mary, great trips through the Whale, gift shopping and the “flavor” of Man-o-War and Hopetown, and the camaraderie of being together. We conquered what ever Mother Nature threw at us, and she did send us lots of storms, functioned with little sleep due to the storms, and made decisions together about Bertha and our itinerary. We kept reminding each other that “Attitude makes the difference between and ordeal and an adventure” and in spite of some equipment and weather problems, we did have an adventure. We **are** fortunate to have been able to sail with friends and share our “adventures”. We hope more Gulf Stream boats will “Come Sail with Us” next year.



## Minutes of August GSC General Meeting

The GSC met at the Downtowner, we had a great meeting and some good conversation about sailing, hope YOU were there. If not, here's what you missed.

Kevin Kerwin and his Boatathalon crew introduced us to several characters who may have committed murder. Come to the Boatathalon on September 13th to figure out "who done it". Register your boat by the 25th of August and sign up for dinner by September 9th. Go to the GSC website [www.Gulfstreamsailingclub.org](http://www.Gulfstreamsailingclub.org) for the latest details and registration forms. A chance to "sail" the ICW and have lots of fun!!

We had three visitors hoping to "Sail With Us". If you need crew contact Janis and Franz Walkow at [Janis@walkow.com](mailto:Janis@walkow.com).

Luis Oliviera shared the Lake activities. The next race is August 23rd. There are two classes of racers so don't worry if you're not great at it. No adult Learn to Race classes have been scheduled, but will be if there's interest, so let Luis know if you'd like to learn how to sail at the lake. Soon we will need more personnel at the Lake just to help out, we hope YOU will volunteer. "Come Sail With Us" at the Lake.

Tiller Tales will resume publication in September. Franz Walkow will produce an on-line version and a printed version available at the general meeting. September's issue will share the summer adventures of all of the sailors who did "Come Sail With Us".

Recognition of those boats who have been racing and sailing on our Saturday Sail nights was given to Bandana, Takalani, Tail Spinner, Commotion, Wind Pirate, Reverie, Cabo Frio and Blue Hwy. They received a GSC cooler to help have more fun on the water. See you "out there" on Saturday nights? Why not "Come Sail With Us"?

Other opportunities to sail include: Bimini on Labor Day weekend, contact Susan Thompson at [Nautisue@a1.com](mailto:Nautisue@a1.com) for info; Biscayne Bay on Labor Day weekend, contact Gil Snyder at [Niedobry52@aol.com](mailto:Niedobry52@aol.com); Columbus Day Regatta in Miami, contact Astrid Hunton at [Strid@mindspring.com](mailto:Strid@mindspring.com); Gulfstream Regatta on November 8th, more details to follow. Lots of opportunities to "Come Sail With Us"!

We discussed the anchoring legislation that may influence how long we can anchor in non navigable waters. Bev Shaefer has more information. It's important for us as individuals and as GSC to keep informed about this issue.

We also discussed Amendment #6 on the ballot. This amendment also has consequences for boaters in FTL. Contact MIA SF at [www.miasf.org](http://www.miasf.org) for more details and information about voting on this issue.

Soon we will have the GSC website updated and you will be able to get all this information there, but until then use these contacts for information. Janis Walkow will keep the website up-to-date so you will be up-to-date too.

We will discuss safety issues at our future meetings. "What would you do if....?" issues will be considered and ideas shared by GSC members and guest speakers.

Be sure to come and share your sailing expertise! We miss you when you're not there!

FINALLY, BEACH BASH!! Saturday, at the Rush residence. Lots of fun in the sun and floating and swimming in the Atlantic. Bring an insulated cup for your libations, which will be provided, and \$5.00 for expenses. Check out Astrid's e-mail which will be in your in-box before Saturday.

- Sue Rineer, secretary for the GSC Board

## My First Sailboat

It was one of those sweet, lazy summer days that you can experience only up north in Pennsylvania. The year was 1968, I had just graduated high school, I had missed the draft and I had an entire summer to taste life before going off to college. Through a string of events, my future brother-in-law had come into possession of two new Super Snark sailboats that had “fallen off a truck” (note: my future brother-in-law was the type of guy who could get you anything, anywhere, any time with no questions asked.) So, for \$75, I purchased my first sailboat. It was a fine looking 12-footer with 45 sq. ft of sail that, although not stated in the manual, I was sure that it could whisk me away to the far-flung corners of the world, or at least the corners of the local reservoir.

Having never been on a sailboat, I read the manual front to back several times and repeatedly set the mast and sail until I could do it in the dark, which at that time, I did not know that this ability would come in very handy in the near future. From what I read, sailing would be a breeze (no pun intended.) Once the sail was up, you hold the boom line in one hand, the rudder in the other and you’re sailing. It couldn’t be easier!

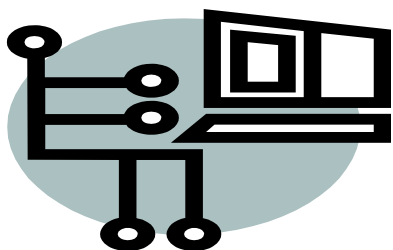
The next day was a perfect day for sailing. A brisk summer breeze rolling off the top of the hills, surfing over the treetops and rippling across the warm waters of Marine State Park made a sound that called to me. It was the sound of freedom; freedom from my land-locked existence. After loading the boat on top of my car, I headed out for what I was sure to be an experience and a start of a new life.

Arriving at the reservoir, I unloaded the boat and set it in the water by the dock. As I setup the mast, boom and sail, I could see all the fishermen on the shore and at the end of dock were watching me, not with curiosity, but with envy. Here was a young man who had it all, a means to break the bonds that bind man to shore and to venture forward; for all fishermen know that the really big fish are “out there” somewhere. Once setup, I boarded my vessel, pushed off the dock and tensioned the mainsheet (just as the manual had instructed.) I WAS SAILING! OH, I WAS SAILING!

Three hours later, as dusk began to fall, the shore-bound fishermen were still watching me; now not with envy, but with whimsical curiosity. I had actually sailed backward about two hundred yards into a small cove. The boat’s manual mentioned nothing about how to sail into the wind. In the fading daylight, I finally landed my boat among the cattails, and after dismantling all of the hardware, I walked back to my car carrying the mast, sail, boom, rudder and centerboard. Another round trip through the muddy wetland was made carrying the boat to the car. I loading everything and drove home.

Needless to say, it was a long summer with many self-taught lessons on sailing. One of the concepts that I learned during that long ago summer was one that every sailor knows: Once the wind fills your sails and lifts your heart, you are a sailor for life.

- Tom Thompson, Jr.



### Notes From The Editor

Well, it’s a beginning !!! Much thanks to the folks that contributed articles. I know that many of us sailors have had adventures this year, especially since there was a lot of unusual weather in the Bahamas this year. Janis and I enjoyed February in the Exumas (love those waterslides at Atlantis), sailing off the coast of Venezuela during March and back to the Exumas for April to go north through all our favorite spots in the Abacos. In those three months, we experienced an unusual number of days with high winds (25-35 knots). Apparently, that is the norm off of Venezuela (article about that trip coming soon), but not in our experience of seven annual trips to the the Bahamas. The Labor Day Weekend trip to Bimini became the rush to Miami and back to avoid HANNA and impending IKE.

I want to mention, as our Commodore Drew did in a recent e-mail, that Astrid has been carrying a heavy load of duties for the club. We should all get out and both thank and help her with lots of volunteering !!

We enjoyed our annual POST BAHAMAS PARTY, which we opened up to the entire club...had about 25 people enjoy a beautiful day beside our condos large pool.

CIAO for now.

- Franz Walkow