

# *Tiller Tales*

## **Gulf Stream Sailing club - February 2010**

### **Commodores Report**

**Happy New Year and welcome 2010!** It has a bit of a sci-fi ring to it “2010”.

This year rings in a new decade for the club and plans for an active year. The club has been in existence for 53 yrs and plans exist to make this year a great year. The club has a mix of ocean sailboat owners, lake sailors, power boaters and non boat owner sailors. The plan this year is to get everyone on the water in the type of boat of their choice having fun and being active in club activities.

**The Lake** sailing activities have had a positive push for activities in the past month. We have a new learn to sail instructor who is certified and plans on running US Sailing certified classes. We have over hauled all the outboards at the lake to ensure our ability to access anyone on the water at the lake. We have new club members who have stepped in to assist at the lake. We have many of our existing lake members assisting as always. Donna French, a local resident in Hollywood, has stepped back into the Lake picture and will assist in organizing activities. We are looking at having some “new” Optis donated to the Learn to Sail Kids program. We have a kids and adult learn to sail schedule posted on the Website.

The Lake is a great opportunity for the club. It allows the club and its members to enjoy lake sailing and it allows us to share our love of sailing with children and adults who may not have the opportunity to experience it otherwise.

The America’s Cup antics should be a perfect example of what is happening to sailing and racing. The egos of 2 billionaires has taken a competition on the water and made it into a competition in the courtroom. The constant court battles and ego battles have given people the perspective that sailing is an elitist rich persons sport. We need to take advantage of the Lake and what it can mean to the future of sailing.

**The Club calendar** has been organized and we have plenty of activities for the year.

We have a 5 race series that will stretch over the year for the ocean racing sailors. The races will be posted online and applications will be provided at the general meetings. There will be a fee to participate to help pay for fuel for the committee boat and for awards at the end of the series. The series is stretched out over the year to hopefully allow people to make the time and organize the crew to participate over the series. Boats don’t have to participate in every race but it does improve your chances to earn and award and gain knowledge. The first race of the series will be April 11. The schedule continues with races on May 1, July 18, Sept. 11, and Dec. 4. No one can say they didn’t know or didn’t have enough time to prepare.

How many of you would like to learn a bit more about racing? You don’t need to own a boat to want or need to learn about racing. Do you crew on a boat that races the Hospice Regatta, Commodores Cup, GSC Regatta or Columbus Day? Would you like to understand which mark is the windward, leeward or turning mark? Did you wonder what the heck the “tomato” was during the GSC Regatta? Would you like to not argue with your crew (read spouse) during starts? Would you like to know how to figure out which end is favored” at a start or finish? Well we will have these answers and more. I have had multiple members ask if the club could have a “**Learn to race seminar**”

#### Officers

**Commodore**.....Astrid Hunton

**Vice Commodore**...John Gehrig

**Rear Commodore**...Lee Williams

**Treasurer**.....Linda Gosset

**Secretary**.....Janis Walkow

#### **Governing Board**

Bernie Gartner

Larry Littell

Doris White

#### Committees

#### **Membership**

Shirley Kaplan

Nancy Marsh

Chuck Swinghammer

**Crusing Fleet**.....Open

**Ocean Race** .....Open

**Lake (Learn to Sail, etc)** ....Luis Oliveira

**Social** .....Open

**PRO** .....Chris Woolsey

#### **Events Schedule - see page 3**

Feb 13

Couples Race and Valentines

Raft Up—Lake Sylvia

## Commodores Report (continued)

## The Treasure of Cruising and Racing In South Florida -

Vice Commodore John Gehrig

and your requests have been heard. On Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Lake location in Hollywood, we will have a team of people to answer your questions and give tips and pointers on racing. We are also working on having one of our local sail makers attend a general meeting to discuss the changes in race rules. Please mark your calendar for March 20<sup>th</sup> for the seminar.

In an effort to get more people on the water and enjoying our beautiful venue by water, the club has organized what are called “**Sunday Sails**” or “**Full Moon Sails**”. John and Beverly Schaffer and Nancy Marsh have taken on the planning and calendaring of these sail days. The idea is to get members off the dock and enjoying their boats and also getting non boat owners out on boats. This is a great way to get to know people in a non stressful (non racing) environment. So check the listing at the general meeting for the Sunday Sail days, watch the website and just to get you it on your calendar. Mark Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> for our first Sunday Sail.

GSC members have been invited to the Hillsboro Inlet Sailing **Club's (HISC) annual circle raft up** in Lake Boca on Saturday March 6. You should plan on having your boat there between 11am-2 pm. Boca Inlet is shallow so plan on entering the Intracoastal at Hillsboro Inlet and motoring up to Lake Boca. The Circle Raft up is an amazing event to partake in. Last year there were about 74 boats. The Goodyear Blimp takes pictures. This is a great way to meet new people, see friends and enjoy the excitement. If you have a dingy, you should bring it because at 5pm the dingy raft up occurs inside the circle and everyone passes a dish and has a great time. There will be more information via email. Mark your calendars for March 6. If you don't have a boat, start talking to people who do and get on board!

March 13 there will be a **St Patrick's day party** at the home of Linda Johnson and Al Diran – see Misc. Announcements on page 6. Plan on wearing your best St Patrick's Day outfit; bring your own beverages and a dish to share.

The goal this year is to get more activities occurring and get more members to participate. We have a great start to the goal and the only thing we need now is YOUR smiling face at the event.

Get out and enjoy our beautiful, snowless weather with family and friends. We live in what the rest of the U.S. considers “the tropics” and when one thinks tropics, they see images of palm trees, rum drinks and boats.

Make sure you don't work too hard to live up to that image!

Astrid Hunton — Commodore

I know that I am 'preaching to the choir' here, but being somewhat of a newcomer to the waters of South Florida, I would like to say a few words about what a treasure we all have. Having cruised and raced on the Chesapeake Bay for 20 years, two years ago Barbara and I relocated our J 46, Full Deck, to our home in Ft Lauderdale, and we have discovered the treasure of cruising and racing in South Florida. Bay cruising and ocean cruising have many similarities, but there are also vast differences. While the Chesapeake Bay can be more forgiving than the Atlantic Ocean, preparation is the key for successful boating on any body of water. Preparation includes making sure that the boat and crew are prepared for the conditions that transpire.

We have cruised up and down the Florida coast three times in the past two years discovering how beautiful the coast can be, and how unforgiving the ocean can be if one makes a questionable decision about trying to continue a trip in unfavorable conditions. We experienced a very uncomfortable trip from Hilton Head down the Florida coast making an emergency stop in Port Canaveral as Hurricane IDA created havoc in the Atlantic. On another trip, we had a wonderful overnight reaching cruise to Key West only to have northeasterly winds beating us on the nose for our return trip. Finally we had a blissful week in Key Largo diving some of the most beautiful reefs in the world.

The brochure for our boat uses the term “Racer/Cruiser”, meaning that it does both, but is not perfect at either. We do enjoy participating in an occasional race, and we have discovered how much fun ocean racing can be in South Florida. Our first foray into racing in this area was the 2009 Gulfstream Regatta which turned out to be a wonderful day on the water while enjoying a perfectly run race thanks to the expertise of race committee chair Chris Woolsey. The party after the race at Chuck & Helen Swinghammer's was fantastic. We were then fortunate enough to have Commodore Astrid Hunton and Past Commodore Ross Hunton join us for the Wirth Munroe race from Fort Lauderdale to Lake Worth inlet, and our beam reach back to Fort Lauderdale with Bill and Jacqui Bradley was a highlight of the trip. Astrid and Ross returned to participate in the 35th Annual Fort Lauderdale to Key West Race on Full Deck. If you have not tried it, I can assure you that racing in South Florida is always a positive experience.

GSC is providing a great forum for cruising and racing in the coming year with many small boat races scheduled for the lake and larger boat races scheduled for the ocean. Luis Oliveira has been very busy planning a full schedule of Sunfish races at the lake, members are also welcome to cruise small boats at the lake on weekends, and don't forget our learn to sail classes. The next GSC race on the schedule is the Valentines Day Couples Race & Raft Up on February 13th. We have also scheduled a series of 5 Beer Can races beginning in June. Most importantly, we have scheduled a Sail Seminar to help hone racing and sailing skills and review the rules and racing procedures. We hope to see you out on the course for the Valentines Day Couples Race and Raft Up on February 13th, and at our many events in the near future.

## Sailor's Point Activities – Luis Oliveira

The small boat activities of Gulfstream Sailing Club, take place at Sailor's Point on the North Lake in Hollywood FL, which is adjacent to the Intracoastal and just North of Hollywood Blvd.

The property is open to the public on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to about 3:30 PM and on Sundays for class participants only.

Presently we offer year round learn to sail classes for kids and adults as well as a Sunfish racing program for adults.

Classes take a total of 18 hours given in (3) days for adults and (6) days for kids and are limited to 10 students on a first come first serve basis. Registration for all classes is done at Sailor's Point the Saturday before the first day of class for kids and the day of the first class for adults. A schedule for the kid's class is posted at [www.gulfstreamsailingclub.org](http://www.gulfstreamsailingclub.org) and the next three adult classes are scheduled for:

Feb 6, 13 and 20

Mar 20, 21 and Apr 3

Apr 17, 24 and May 2

The Sunfish racing program has four series Winter Spring Summer and Fall; each series has four race days and each race day five races, for a total of 80 individual races.

Trophies are awarded to the top three of each series and the Winter Spring and Fall series count for the overall score of the year.

The fleet is divided in "A" and "C" fleets where "A" fleet is for the more experienced sailors and "C" fleet for the novice. Both fleets start at the same time and "C" races a slightly shorter course.

Besides these four series we race the Commodore's cup in December and also host the sailing event of the South Florida Senior Games, both are one day events that usually attract a good number of sailors.

### Boat Rental Fees for Both Optimist and Sunfish:

\$10.00 per boat per day for non club members and \$5.00 for club members.

### Learn to Sail Fees for Kids and Adults:

\$165.00 per person; City of Hollywood residents and Club members - \$110.00

### Requirements:

Able to swim (Swim test 1<sup>st</sup> day); Closed toed shoes (rubber soles); Clothing you would not mind getting wet in for the first day; Sun screen, water and something to eat for lunch

### Sailor's Point Address:

921 N. Northlake Dr.  
Hollywood, FL 33019

### Directions to Sailor's Point are:

From I-95 get off on Sheridan St. and go East to Federal Hwy., at Federal go South (right) to Johnson St., at Johnson go East (left) to 10th Ave., at 10<sup>th</sup> go South (right) to Northlake Drive, at N. L. Dr. go East (left) to end of Northlake Drive, then South (right) to gate into Sailors Point.

The sailing conditions at North Lake are about perfect for small boat sailing, its protected waters make it the ideal teaching grounds and the property has very good facilities and excellent water access via two sparkly pressure cleaned boat ramps.

Come sail with us, fun is guaranteed.

## Schedule of events Feb-March 2010

2/13/2010 - Couples Race 11AM start North of Port Everglades  
Valentine's Raft up – about 3PM Lake Sylvia, following the Race

If you want a ride to the raft up let Astrid know

2/27/2010 - Chili Cook-off to be rescheduled

### Lake Winter III

2/28 /2010 – Sunday Sail watch your e-mail or let John Schaefer know if you are interested in taking your boat out or going on another boat.

3/1/2010 – Board Meeting 7:30PM Open to all

See board member for details

3/6/2010 – Hillsboro Inlet Sailing Club Circle Raft Up

Lake Boca – raft will begin at noon, HISC COC at 6PM

3/9/2010 – General Meeting 7:00PM Downtowner

Bob Meagher from Doyle/Super Sail makers will discuss recent changes to race rules.

3/13/2010 – St Patrick's Day Party hosted by Linda Johnson and Al Diran (see details in Misc. Announcements)

3/20/2010 – Sail Seminar- Learn to Race at the Lake 11AM.

3/21/2010 – Sunday Sail

3/27/2010 – Fort Lauderdale to Hillsboro Race

### Lake Winter IV



Linda - Special Club "thank you" for Astrid

## 2010 Change of Command — Laurence Littell aka Captain Larry

In a world fast paced there is one evening a year you should plan to attend. The annual Change of Command dinner/dance and awards evening is a very special night. This is the moment to slow it all down a notch, dress to the nigh and to feel like more of a formal yacht-tee for an evening. This year specially was an evening to remember. The Lighthouse Point Yacht Club is as upscale and lovely as it is low key and friendly. What a great evening! Always a moment to linger in conversation with sailing friends, always an evening to show appreciation to the hardest working members, this year did not disappoint. But more than a good meal with friends in a splendid club, we all danced, we all sang and we had a very good time! The DJ this year managed to rouse us from our chairs and shame us into a challenging 'sing-off' buoys against the gulls followed by a dance challenge. Now some ladies need no encouragement to find the dance floor but sometimes us enigmatic fellas are less inclined to risk embarrassment. Well the DJ would have none of it! It was impossible to avoid our enthusiasm as we wandered from popular melodies to exotic dance routines. Very fun indeed! If you spent the night in less activity you missed a better time...

Now next year will - of course - be even better... because you will be there with us... I am looking forward to it.



The Global Award



## 2010 GSC Change of Command Awards

The “Small Boat Sportsman Award” is presented each year to the lake skipper who generated the most enthusiasm, does the most dirty work, etc. Owing a boat is not necessary. This year’s award goes to.....Mike Limuti.

The “Annual Cruising Award” is presented annually to the yacht captain and crew that best exemplify the spirit of cruising throughout the year. This year’s award goes to John and Bev Schaeffer on Permanent Vacation.

The “Annual Blue Water Cruising Award” is presented each year to the Gulfstream Sailing Club member that has, during the previous year, taken his own boat on the most significant cruising voyage (not as part of an organized race). Consideration should be given to the total distance traveled, longest single passage, exceptional seamanship, navigation and ports-of-call that may not have been previously visited by the skipper. Further, the recipient must have shared his/her experiences with the club by means of either a Tiller Tales article or a talk or slide show presentation to the club. This year’s award is shared by two very special sailors who enjoy every journey they take and are always willing to share their boat and friendship with anyone. Awarded to Al Diran & Linda Johnson .

Introducing a new perpetual “The Adventure Award” This trophy goes to the boat that had the most adventure while “cruising” during the year. For 2009, the trophy will be presented to Caretta, Steve Dublin. Caretta took quite an adventure to the Dominican Republic and back. The weather was not friendly; funds ran low before the destination was reach which affected the beer budget and when the destination was reached, pretty much everyone was ready to go home. The trip back didn’t bode any better with a lightning strike at Chubb in the Berrys. Through all of that the crew of Carretta persevered and all the crew came home safe with great stories to tell. Coretta’s story will be published in the near future so we can all read about it. Caretta’s “adventure” included many club members” Steve Dublin, Lucy Dublin, Joe Merchburger, Mary Merchburger, and Andy Cool.

The Outstanding Ocean Race Committee Service Award is presented to the club member who in the opinion of the race management committee performed the most service to the ocean race committee during the year. This year’s award goes to Chris Woolsey

The Ocean Sportsman Award is presented to the ocean skipper considered by the race committee to have come out consistently without necessarily being a winner and to have shown consistent good sportsmanship and enthusiasm. This year we present this award to a couple , Scott Lindars and Robyn Medlin.

The Global Award is presented each year to the club member who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors has contributed the most in the way of service to the club during the past year. It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we present this award to a very deserving club member, Helen Swinghammer .



The Adventure Award



Outstanding Ocean Race Committee Service Award



Ocean Sportsman Award

## Miscellaneous Announcements

### Welcome Aboard! We'd like to welcome the following new members to GSC :

Raleigh Susskind (954.462.5846)

Patricia Pelton (954.894.9324) and son Lucas Ryan (14)

Give them a call and invite them on your boat for one of our events.

Membership Committee—Nancy Marsh , Chuck Swinghammer, and Shirley Kaplan



John Gehrig's J-46 **Full Deck** 15 miles from finish Fort Lauderdale/Key West Race.

Onboard , Vice Commodore John Gehrig (owner), Commodore Astrid Hunton,

Past commodore Ross Hunton

It was cold and damp, low of 48 that night.

Other GSC boats in the race, Dan Whelan- Wind Pirate, Jasmine- John Evans, Dave Wallace- Bandana - didn't race due to bridge blocking river access. Mike Rush-Patriot- didn't race due to broken mast in early January

## Saint Patty's Day Party

When: March 13, 2010 5PM until -

Where: Linda Johnson and Al Diran's Home

1000 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Fort Lauderdale, Fl

What: The wearing of the Green

Prizes for best Irish joke

Food by Club Members

The hosts will provide Soup, Corn Beef and cabbage, Sheppard's Pie

Please bring your choice of beverage and an appropriate appetizer or dessert to share

# MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY -

## Beverly Schaefer

After spending a wonderful New Year's weekend at Lake Boca with members of the Hillsboro Sailing Club and the rest of the "Woodstock" group, PERMANENT VACATION was headed back south to Port Everglades. The weather was good but cool, with Northeast winds at about 10 -12 knots after a cold front had moved through. So, we decided to go out Hillsboro Inlet and sail back to Port Everglades. Our crew for this trip was Mary Ann Hernandez and Patricia Somers. Monitoring the VHF Channel 16, as all good sailors should do when sailing out in the ocean, even off the coast, at approximately 1300 hours, we heard a Mayday call. "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, this is the sailing vessel Patriot." Coast Guard answer, "What is the nature of your emergency? Patriot: "We are approximately ¾ mile off Fort Lauderdale Beach. We have been demasted. We have one person injured with a severe laceration to his forehead but have medical personal onboard."



We knew Patriot was one of our club boats so, after monitoring the conversation further, headed out to their location. It would take us almost an hour to get there. Fortunately, a local charter boat was in the area to render assistance and within 10 minutes, was on site.

We continued to monitor conversations between Patriot and USCG and determined there was no imminent danger of loss of life. The injured party was medically attended to by a physician onboard and was conscious and alert. We proceeded on to their location.

Upon arriving, it was a sad sight to see. The mast was broken in half and laying across the stern with the sail dragging in the water. There were many people onboard sitting on the deck and trampoline, but all seemed to be healthy and in good spirits. (As good as could be)

Congratulations to the Captain of Patriot for several things he did right.

- Called his Mayday properly and promptly

- Informed the USCG of the situation (could not hear lat & long but approximate position)

- Advised USCG of injuries, but also advised of proficient medical staff onboard

- When asked if towing/salvage was needed, promptly advised that arrangements had been made and salvage was NOT necessary. (apparently had immediately made his own arrangements with appropriate towing company)

We circled the boat twice and it was apparent that they were just waiting for a recovery vessel. If any passengers were taken off earlier by the charter boat, we were not aware.

After leaving the location and heading back into Port Everglades, we noticed the big Tow Boat US vessel, equipped with crane, exiting the channel. Our guess was that he was headed out to assist Patriot.

### Lessons learned:

Always monitor channel 16 when out at sea, even if you're just off the coast. You never know who/what you might hear. It may just be someone you know or a diver you've just passed. Regardless, as a boat Captain, you have a responsibility to assist.

Render assistance whenever possible.

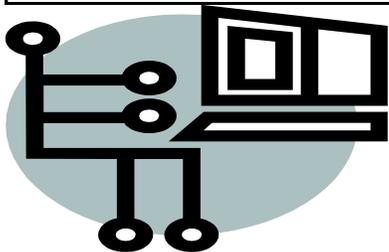
Standby the distressed vessel until you are sure your assistance is no longer needed. You may be the only radio communications available to relay actual conditions. We have been in several situations where standing by is the only thing you can do until emergency assistance arrives.

Fortunately, Patriot had medical staff onboard. Were they equipped with proper medical supplies? PERMANENT VACATION carries a full medical bag, including suture equipment. What do you carry besides first aid ointment and band aids? If you're cruising off shore, think about it.

Hopefully, Patriot is in the repair yard getting a new mast and will be up and sailing soon.



## Notes From the Editor – Franz Walkow



We are sorry that we missed the Change of Command, but we had a relaxing two week cruise on the 120,000 ton Grand Princess. We visited Aruba, Barbados, Curascau, St Kitts, Trinidad, St. Thomas, San Juan and Grand Turk. We last visited many of these islands on NO WORRIES, our Island Packet 40, in 1993. Brought back lots of memories.

This brings to mind our current visitor from Germany, Heiko Schoenigh and wife Karin. Heiko was my sailing mentor around Cape Cod, forty years ago !!! He owned a Pearson Vanguard 32, which I helped sail back from Bermuda in a hurricane. The waves were much taller than the mast, but I was too inexperienced to know that this was not normal ocean cruising or that I should be afraid. I thought it was really neat to slide down the side of the waves. Having not seen Heiko in about 30 years, I was anxious to greet him. We talked late into the night about our past experiences together, it felt like he had never left.

Anyhow, his welcome visit has also brought back many wonderful memories and an appreciation of the wonderful avocation that sailing can be.

### The New Gulfstream Classified

One of our members, Kadir Ulkealan has a dock for rent. It is behind a private home with plenty of parking space in the Seven Isles section of Fort Lauderdale. He has sixty feet of dock space , it is on the Middle River, last house on the canal. Asking \$500 per month plus water and electric. Address is 2435 Aqua Vista Blvd. Go through the Las Olas bridge and the 17th Street bridge and you are going out the Port Evergaldes inlet. He can be reached at 954-663-6003 or ulkealan@aol.com