

Tiller Tales

Gulf Stream Sailing club - March 2011

From The Helm - Commodore John Gehrig

As I look forward to an exciting year as Commodore of Gulfstream Sailing Club, I have sought the advice of our many past commodores and have been reminded that a club is only as successful as the volunteers that make things happen. The Change of Command was held at Lighthouse Point Yacht and Racquet Club, and it was a gala event with great food, music and comraderie. Many volunteers had a hand in making the evening a great success, and their contributions enabled us all to enjoy a memorable evening. I am very fortunate to begin this year with an extremely talented and enthusiastic Bridge, Board, Committee Chairs, and numerous volunteers.



The New 2011 Officers

from left, Adeel Arshed, Janis Walkow, Lee Williams, John Gehrig, Helen Swinghammer.

New 2011 Officers

Commodore.....John Gehrig
Vice Commodore...Lee Williams
Rear Commodore...Adeel Arshed
Treasurer...Helen Swinghammer
Secretary.....Janis Walkow

New 2011 Governing Board

Larry Littell
Joanne Salvadore
Doris White

New 2011 Committee Chairs

Membership....Betty Lou Webb
Crusing Fleet...Gregg Henry
Ocean RaceLee Williams
LakeLuis Oliveira
Social ...Adeel Arshed
PROChris Woolsey

Our bylaws state that “the object of the Gulfstream Sailing Club shall be to develop, encourage, and stimulate interest in sailing in the Fort Lauderdale area, to promote fellowship and comraderie among sailors in this area, and visiting sailors, and by all possible means to promote the interest and pleasures of the members.”

From the Helm (continued from page 1)

With that in mind, we have put together a calendar with events that are intended to appeal to the wide variety of interests expressed by our members. I would like to highlight some of the scheduled events and solicit your input into ways to make the schedule even better.

Our March events promise to be quite entertaining highlighted by the the Great Circle Raft-up in Boca Lake on March 5th, the St. Patty's Party on March 19th at the Gehrig's house, and the Dinghy Run on March 26th. Luis also has a full schedule of Sunfish and Opti races at the lake. Other activities and events include:

- o Weekly Social Hour (formerly Sailing & Margaritas) moved to Tuesdays at Maracas
- o A full schedule of Sunfish Races and Opti Races at the Lake
- o Kids and Adult Learn to Sail
- o St Patty's Day Party
- o Jazz Brunch
- o Cruise to Bill Bird Marina in Haulover with a chili cookoff and flare demonstration
- o Another Dinghy Run
- o Cruise to Bimini
- o Land Cruise (remember the bar hopping bus ??)
- o Summer Solstice at the Beach
- o Mid Summer (formerly Post Bahamas) Pool Party
- o Beach Bash
- o Beer Can Race Series including a Lady Skipper Race
- o Sunday Sails
- o Hillsboro to Lake Worth Inlet Race with Hillsboro Inlet Sailing Club + Raft-up Party in Lake Worth.
- o Boatathalon
- o Pitcairn Race (Full Moon)
- o Gulfstream Regatta
- o Big Boat - Little Boat Regatta (at the Lake)
- o Commodore's Cup Race and Party

I hope that you share my enthusiasm for the wide variety of activities that we have scheduled, and will participate in as many of them as possible. We have a great nucleus to make every one of our events a success and I encourage you to volunteer to make them even better. We have put the current calendar of activites on the GSC web site (<http://gulfstreamsailingclub.org>). Check occasionally for any last minute changes. I look forward to an interesting and enjoyable year with everyone both on and off the water.

John Gehrig - GSC Commodore

THE GEHRIG FAMILY GULFSTREAM SAILING CLUB ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Saturday, March 19th at 6:00 PM

83 Royal Palm Drive

Fort Lauderdale

Please join us for a wee bit o' Irish fun .

There will be lots of food and drinks, including Corned Beef & Cabbage with all the fixings and some Guinness Beer for strength! Feel free to bring your favorite Irish dish, appetizer, dessert, or libation, or just come in your finest Irish attire.

Parking: Plenty of street parking is available. Space is also available for boats if you're coming by water, but please call for a slip reservation so that proper arrangements can be made.

Hope to see everyone here on March 19th! Don't forget to wear green!

Please confirm your attendance no later than March 14th by contacting John Gehrig at:
(410) 952-2920 or johngehrig@comcast.net.

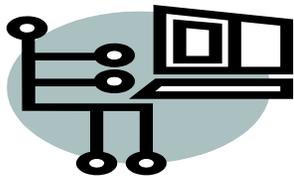


Expect Corned Beef and Cabbage, sorry crabs were eaten

Notes From the Editor

A lot of GSC events have taken place since the last TillerTales was published. Some of those events are reported here. In the next couple of weeks, pictures from the 2010 Boatathlon will be posted on the GSC website. We have collected about 2000 pictures and they need to be “culled” and shrunk for the PC screen. Your editor attended the 2011 Change of Command, where the decorations, flowers, dancing, food and camaraderie were great !! The GSC members and the new Bridge gave a resounding “Thank You!” to Astrid Hunton for her three years as Commodore. She received a gold necklace anchor as a memento from the club. Astrid in turn bestowed fuzzy yellow GSC thankyou blankets to several club members who have helped her keep the club going the past few years. Many awards (with attendant trophies) were awarded to active members of our fine club. You can view pictures of the award presentations and people having fun at the Change of Command on our web site under Photos .

Franz Walkow - Editor



Turkey Trot Cruising Race Report

Saturday morning started as being rainy but it cleared up before 9 am and the cruising race was held as per the notice, beside the crisp low 52 degree temperature, the wind and waves were not as dreary as per the weather forecast. As a matter of fact, it turned out to be a great sailing day with the sun peering out in the early afternoon. (This is something to think about in the future for sailing events). After a brief 10 minute delay in hopes to seeing more participation, the race started and finished with 3 entries:

Finishing in First Place: Full Deck, skippered by John Gehrig and two crew members flying it's spinnaker all the way on the return leg, (So much for the forecast, A?) followed not too far behind in a respectful Second place by Bonnie, skippered by Al Diran, and in hot pursuit with all it's sails up finishing in 3rd place; Permanent Vacation, skippered by John Schaffer.

Unfortunately we did not see any Single sailors participating in the race but 6 of they're boats were nicely snuggled at Lake Sylvia waiting for the race boats arrival. There were lots of food, beverages and fun to be had and offered by all.

Congratulations and thank you all for your participation. Again, we hope to see you all at our next events. “The more the merrier”.

Lee Williams, Vice Commodore, “crewing on PV” as In Sync is being re-fitted.

Recife, Brazil to Trinidad Aboard FATBOY, Leopard 46 Cat— Luis Oliveira

This past September/October both I and my wife Helena spent 4.5 weeks helping a friend (Nuno Pinho also a Lake sailor) his wife Patricia, four year old Gabriel and grandpa Mr. Pinho take “FatBoy” a Leopard 46 cat from Recife, Northern Brazil to Trinidad as part of a series of legs to take “FatBoy” from Cape Town where it was delivered to Nuno in July, all the way home in Fort Lauderdale.

The first part of the trip was a 300 mile dash to Fernando Noronha (FN) situated NE of Recife. This short leg was timed so we could participate in the XXII REFENO (Recife – Fernando Noronha) regatta, a popular fun race that attracts sailors from all over South America. The race started Sep 25 and took us 34 hours and 35 minutes under pretty rough weather, with as much as 28 knots of wind and waves on the nose, that resulted in three out of the six crew members, including myself, in getting pretty badly sea sick and threatening to get on a plane back home. But as with most sailors we quickly forgot our misery under sail and happily go for more torture. Out of 136 boats FatBoy finished 12th overall and third in the class, not bad for a cruising catamaran loaded for a 20 day passage.

FN is a protected sanctuary Island with only about 4,000 residents and incredibly beautiful beaches in protected coves. Some of the beaches are of difficult access such the Sancho beach where one has to go down a metal ladder in a vertical shaft in the rock for about 50', which then comes out about half way to rock steps down the side of the cliff. We stayed in FN for four days, enough to get to know most every corner of the island using our rented beach buggy for transportation and dine in just about all the restaurants available.

We departed FN on Oct 1st heading NW for the 2,000 mile crossing to Trinidad, with the www.ugrib.com site calling for 20 to 10 knots from the ESE all the way to the Equator, where it was expected to die down to 5 knots and gradually picking back up to 10/15 after the doldrums. The prediction was about perfect and with 2.5 knots of current pushing us along, FatBoy was doing 6/7 knots downwind with the parasailor alone in 12/13 knots of wind. The night of October 9th, at this point about 85 miles off the coast of Suriname, started out like any other night basically uneventful until Helena's shift. The main job at night during the shifts is to keep an eye on the radar that was set to come on every 10 minutes, in one of those loops it picked up a large mass to Port side...near panic set in, what to do thought Helena? Call Luis that wasn't feeling too good or the Captain that had just gone down to his quarters, she opted for the Captain, good thing because I slept through all the action of the night. Nuno determined that the mass was a squall coming and changed course to avoid it.



Soon after this and the Captain gone again, a bright light showed up no more than half a mile in front of “FatBoy”...now this was very serious, the Captain was called again and lightning fast action was taken, the course was changed 20 degrees and we just missed a fishing boat. As soon as the boat passed us we noticed their lights went out and it disappeared fast into the dark night...was it really a fishing boat we kept wondering... How did this happen how did the sophisticated Radar of FatBoy miss the fishing boat? At this point we wanted to sail Balbi style...standing at the bow with a flash light trying to see our way to Trinidad. Kudos to Helena for alert eyes and fast mind, you saved us from a possible major disaster...and still

Brazil to Trinidad (continued)

I'm sleeping through it all. Balbi was a crew member of the previous two legs that had never been on a sail boat before. The next day as the breeze gradually died down and we had to resort to the iron sail for a couple of days and we decided to take advantage of it and move ourselves further out to sea and away from the fishing boats...or whatever boats off the coast of Suriname.

Other than the above incident, a close encounter with a ship that passed by so close we could hear the engines, a parasailor sheet that snapped off, the trip was basically uneventful with just about perfect weather. We arrived in Trinidad on October 13th late at night and carefully, it was a very dark night and all we could see was the massive rocky coast on our Port side, made our way to the Chaguaramas where we anchored in the middle of this confusion of oil platform ships, supply boats and pleasure boats. A few days Later "FatBoy" was on stands at the Peake Marina all cleaned up and ready for the final trip home. It was a memorable trip and both I and Helena are very thankful for the opportunity that Nuno and his wife Patricia provided us.

Luis Oliveira — Lake Everything

GSC Burgee in Bora Bora—Betty Lou and Jim Webb

laorana ("Hello" in Polynesian)



While bareboat sailing in the Society Islands of French Polynesia, Jim and Betty Lou Webb stopped in at the Bora Bora Yacht Club and presented the Gulfstream Sailing Club burgee to the owners. The club's burgee now hangs from the ceiling of the Bora Bora Yacht Club bar with dozens of other burgees from around the world.

We sailed a Sunsail 38 ft Lagoon Catamaran from Raiatea to Tahaa, Bora Bora and Huahine and back to Raiatea. No place we visited was more appropriate to add the club's burgee than the Bora Bora Yacht Club. After our sailing adventure, we stayed in resorts in Tahiti (black sand beaches) and Moorea (the most beautiful island) to complete our tour of the Society Islands.



GSC CHALLENGES ALLIGATOR ALLEY— Beverly Schaefer

On October 16, 2010, 5 boats from Gulfstream Sailing Club traversed and sought alligators on the infamous Alligator Alley, a stretch of water way that runs in what used to be swampland, running from just south of SR 84 at what is currently known as Bradford Marine and the SR 84 bridge, through the wilderness behind SR 441 and onto the Dania Cutoff Canal. As late as the 1970's this area of Fort Lauderdale was known for a number of alligators in this region. With growth and population, the numbers have decreased significantly. In fact, the brave members of Gulfstream willing to traverse this section of the South Florida waterways did not see one alligator.

The five boats included TT S/Y Permanent Vacation, John and Beverly Schaefer , TT /FULL DECK, John and Barbara Gehring, TT/WAYWARD WIND, with new members Phil and Judy Raia, RIVER ROSE, Mary Ann Hernandez, with crew of Denise Johns and Rear Commodore, Lee Williams, and Linda Gossett aboard Little Bit, with mascots Cody & Casey and crew of Jacquie and Bill Bradley.

The day started clear, sunny and temps around the high 70's from Lake Sylvia which escalated to the low 80's. PERMANENT VACATION and WAYWARD WIND anchored for the weekend. Later joined by John and Barbara, Linda, Bill, Jackie, Cody & Casey, all headed off on our adventure. Mary Ann joined us at the New River junction. At times, the three dinks banded together and traversed the river as a tri-dink?

After a scenic route along the South Fork of the New River, we finally crossed under the SR 84 Bridge into the unknown territory of Alligator Alley. When entering Alligator Alley, proceed with caution. There are many shallows and the channel is marked with private markers.



Stay well to the center. WE DIDN'T SEE ONE ALLIGATOR, but after picking up our speed, we did have several fish jumping in front of the boats, almost jumping into our boats, finally turning into the Dania Cutoff Canal. Passing Boaters Park, we docked at the Rustic Inn Crab House for lunch,

GSC Challenges Alligator Alley (continued)

While everyone came equipped with beverages and snacks for the trip, all were looking forward to a good lunch at The Rustic Inn. We all tied up dockside and headed into the cool air conditioned dining room for lunch. What a GREAT LUNCH! Garlic Crabs, Golden Crabs, Crab Cakes, Conch Chowder, Fish Sandwiches, and an assortment of other seafood goodies.

With full stomachs, we headed back up the Dania Cutoff Canal or the ICW. The US 1 bridge proved to be a challenge for all dinks. With the tide running in and a clearance of about 11 feet, it was full throttle just to get through the bridge. TT Wayward Wind had spun a hub on his prop earlier and couldn't get up enough power to get through against the rushing current. TT PERMANENT VACATION was able to grab their painter and successfully pull them through the current into safe waters, proceeding to the ICW.

As we entered the ICW, the three dinks broke apart and proceeded north on the ICW back to Lake Sylvia. Approaching Port Everglades, the cruise ship, EURODAM was getting underway and, according to USCG regulations, we had to hang back and maintain a 300 foot distance while they traversed the ICW up to the turning basin and channel to open waters. The kids in the USCG security boat were having a ball circling the cruise ship and zigzagging back and forth behind them at some serious high speeds, keeping all boats away. Good to know none of our cruise ships will be attacked by GSC dinghies.



The EURODAM finally made its turn into the channel and we proceeded to cross the turning basin, only to have the mega cruise ship, OASIS, leave their dock and proceed out to the channel. Everyone proceeded to cross the basin at warp speed in order to cross before the Oasis made it off the dock. Phil, having spun the hub on his prop earlier, was having difficulty making speed across the basin. (I could only envision Captain Ron!) Fortunately, with USCG and Boat US standing by, they made it across safely and we all headed back to Lake Sylvia.

While John, Barbara, Linda, Jackie, Bill, Mary Ann, Denise, and Lee, all headed back to their docks, John, Bev, Phil and Judy, proceeded back to their boats anchored at Lake Sylvia and had a wonderful evening and great breakfast the following morning.

In all, a great weekend was had by all. We're looking forward to the next dink run, possibly the Middle River Loop.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2011— Copied from GSC Website

MARCH

3/5-6 2011 Hillsboro Circle Raft-up Contact Hal Steward @ 954.242.5985 to confirm
3/5 Sunfish Winter Series: Race #4 11:00 AM @ Sailor's Point
3/6 Opti Winter Series: Race #5 12:30 PM @ Sailor's Point
3/7 Board Meeting
3/8 General Membership Meeting 8:00 PM @ Downtowner Saloon, Ft. Lauderdale
3/19 2011 St. Patrick's Day House Party @ Commodore Gehrig's home
3/20 Opti Winter Series: Race #6 12:30 PM @ Sailor's Point
3/26 Dinghy Run Sunrise Bay to Colohatchee Park
3/26 Sunfish Spring Series: Race #1 11:00 AM @ Sailor's Point

APRIL

4/3 Opti Spring Series: Race #1 12:30 PM @ Sailor's Point
4/4 Board Meeting
4/5 Happy Hour & Dinner 6:00 PM @ Maracas Bar & Grill
4/12 General Membership Meeting 8:00 PM @ Downtowner Saloon, Ft. Lauderdale
4/16 Cruise to Haulover/Oleta
4/16 Sunfish Spring Series: Race #2 11:00 AM @ Sailor's Point
4/17 Opti Spring Series: Race #2 12:30 PM @ Sailor's Point
4/19 Happy Hour & Dinner 6:00 PM @ Maracas Bar & Grill
4/26 Happy Hour & Dinner 6:00 PM @ Maracas Bar & Grill
4/30 Ocean Race Hillsboro to Palm Beach, sponsored by HISC

MAY

5/1 Opti Spring Series: Race #3 12:30 PM @ Sailor's Point
5/2 Board Meeting
5/3 Happy Hour & Dinner 6:00 PM @ Maracas Bar & Grill
5/7 Sunfish Spring Series: Race #3 11:00 AM @ Sailor's Point
5/10 General Membership Meeting 8:00 PM @ Downtowner Saloon, Ft. Lauderdale
5/14 Hospice Regatta
5/15 Opti Spring Series: Race #4 12:30 PM @ Sailor's Point
5/17 Happy Hour & Dinner 6:00 PM @ Maracas Bar & Grill
5/19-30 2011 Cruise to Bimini/Bahamas
5/21 Sunfish Spring Series: Race #4 11:00 AM @ Sailor's Point
5/24 Happy Hour & Dinner 6:00 PM @ Maracas Bar & Grill
5/31 Happy Hour & Dinner 6:00 PM @ Maracas Bar & Grill