



Tiller Tales

Gulf Stream Sailing club - July 2011

From The Helm - Commodore John Gehrig

I cannot stress how much fun it is to finally “get away from the pier” and set sail with a day-to-day itinerary. After a wonderful 30-day vacation cruising the Bahamas in June 2010, we returned for a 45-day cruise this year. The plan was to join Gulfstream Sailing Club for the annual Memorial Day Cruise to Bimini, then meander to the Exumas, and finally end the cruise in the Abacos participating in ‘Regatta Time in the Abacos.’

With full fuel, full water tanks, and refrigerator and freezer loaded to capacity, we set out in Full Deck across the Straits of Florida to Bimini. The five boats from Gulfstream Sailing Club (Full Deck, Commotion, Permanent Vacation, Ryan’s Place, and Wayward Wind) as well as 5 boats from Sailing Singles arrived in Bimini on May 27th for three days of dinghy rides, fish fries, beach parties, sand and sun. Last month’s TillerTales has our ship’s log of the Bimini trip and our sail to the Exumas.

We had a thrilling vacation in the Exumas, visiting Normans, Warderick Wells, the swimming pigs at Big Majors, Staniel Cay and Black Point for shopping and dining, and sailing down to explore



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
Cruising Fleet...Gregg Henry
Ocean RaceLee Williams
LakeLuis Oliveira
Social ...Adeel Arshed
PROChris Woolsey

Heads up

**Annual Beach Bash–
Aug 6th @ the Rushes**

**Monthly General
Members Mtg Aug 9th
@ The Downtowner**

Georgetown and Long Island. Then sailing over to Eleuthera and north to the Abacos.

After some sightseeing in Hopetown and provisioning in Marsh Harbor, we headed up to Green Turtle to enjoy 'Regatta Time in the Abacos'. The first day was spent on Fiddle Cay at the famous Cheeseburger in Paradise Party sponsored by Stranded Naked Bathing Suit Company. We saw many of our Gulfstream Sailing Club friends at



the party, including Ross and Astrid (Commotion), Lee and Tina (In Sync), Tom and Susan (Soon Reach), Dan and Tracy (Wind Pirate), John and Bev (Permanent Vacation), Debi and Stan (Ryan's Place), Phil and Judy (Wayward Wind), and Steffi (Moorings Charter). We entered Full Deck in two races, won one and came in 2nd in the other for the lead in the series !! It was a great time. Unfortunately, due to schedule constraints, we had to head home after these two races and four fun filled awards-ceremonies and parties. We arrived home late Friday night, July 8th.

This year we traveled in the Bahamas for 6 spectacular weeks. Logging over 900 nautical miles, we visited many new places, including Bimini, the Berry Islands, Georgetown, Long Island, Eleuthera, Harbour Island, Royal Island, and "Regatta Time in the Abacos". We also traveled back to some of our favorite places in the Exumas. We made new friends along the way and had fun with our GSC friends. We were very fortunate to travel for many weeks with our new friends, Scott and Heather, who have been traveling to the Bahamas for 25 years on their sailboat. They took us to places that we would not have ventured on our own. Everywhere we traveled, the Bahamian people of all ages greeted us warmly. The highlights of our vacation included beautiful sunsets, stunning beaches, breath taking water colors from Exuma blue to Abaco green to deep blue Ocean, snorkeling on some of the prettiest reefs in the world, swimming in the world's deepest blue hole, and happy hour times talking with the local Bahamians, new friends and "old" friends.

"Getting away from the pier" is really why we own a sailboat and belong to Gulfstream Sailing Club. I look forward to our next adventure aboard Full Deck.

John Gehrig - Commodore

Walkow's Post Bahamas Pool Party - July 16th

The Walkow's did host a pool party after the Abacos cruisers/racers returned.

Franz did cook up too many of his famous RIBS, and some burgers and dogs. Janis did make up some of her famous potato salad. Twenty seven people showed up to enjoy this opportunity to have some fun. And as in years past, everyone brought a dish or desert to share, And as usual, we had great weather, great conversation and too much food. We even got into the pool !!!



Franz Walkow—Editor



Bonnie's Sail from Norfolk/Prosmouth , VA to New York

Bonnie is an SS 48' yawl owned by Albert Diran and Linda Johnson who are members of both the MYC and GSC. We spend our summers cruising and living aboard the Bonnie. In the winter, when not cruising, Bonnie is moored outside the MYC where we enjoy the club and restaurant and close friendships with members of the club. Our winter home is in Fort Lauderdale where we participate in the many sailing activities of the GSC and spend countless hours with our many good friends, fellow GSC members. It is our hope that members of these two clubs will get to know each other through sailing and the sharing club activities.

After spending more than a week in Portsmouth changing crew, reprovisioning, visiting friends and local sights, we finally had our ducks in a row: right weather, right crew, full provisions, full water, and fully ready captain and mate. Our new crew consisted of two young couples, Meg and Max, and Caroline and Cole (who has sailed with us before). The 7th of June we motored north on the Elizabeth River toward the southern entrance to the Chesapeake.



We observed our tax dollars at work as we passed the huge naval presence at the naval shipyards. As we approached the Bay Bridge Tunnel we set the main, #3 jib, and mizzen. We sailed out through Thimble Shoals into the great Atlantic and made a heading of 050 degrees toward NYC. We maintained this course for three days and two nights with only an occasional headsail change and addition of the mizzen staysail, depending on the strengthening and lessening of the wind which blew a continual S, SSW. We enjoyed following seas with, at most, 2 foot waves. Thanks be to our weather savvy captain and his ever-ready iPod with wind finder aps Weather Underground (can be found at www.wunderground.com) and his conscientious study of weather channels, and as he puts it, "look at the sky, use your eyes!"

On the 9th of June, we sailed into Sandy Hook Chanel, rounded Sandy Hook and picked up a mooring at the Richmond County Yacht Club. The crew eagerly furled sails, neatened decks, put on sail covers, collected 3 days worth of garbage, called the YC launch service, and headed to the RCYC to rate their showers (a 5* consensus). As I said, the sail was smooth and uneventful with the exception of the appearance of thousands, no, millions, maybe trillions of flies of all ilk: biting, horse, midge, house, etc. We wore out the fly swatter and several crew became experts with the fly gun, the fly gun being a cylindrical apparatus that fits into a pistol grip with a trigger and a spring. The cylinder is webbed like a fly swatter and attaches to the pistol with a tether so after making target, the pistol can be quickly reloaded. All in all, we estimated a total kill of several hundred of the greedy little pests

daily. Ah well, west winds bring what they bring, smooth seas and BUGS.

A sparkling fresh smelling crew, we made champagne toasts to a passage well sailed and followed with an on board feast of lamb shanks, lentils, copious wine, and fresh field greens. Then, finally, time for our highly competitive, favorite boat card game, Scopa! This somewhat ancient Italian card game breeds brief hostilities, quick switches in "leader", jeering, hoots of laughter and finally a winner, all to be forgotten overnight and resumed at the next card playing opportunity.

Morning of the 10th found Captain Al pouring over tide tables and charts of the entrance to the East river and Hell's Gate. We had decided to sail past the Statue of Liberty, up the East River and on to Manhasset Bay. What a trip! Cameras flashing with exclamations of recognition as we passed all the familiar NYC landmarks plus that wonderful excess of energy that comes with "the city" engulfed us. Lady liberty smiled on the crew of the Bonnie, the QE2 looked majestically from her moorings, the UN building reflected the city in her mirrored glass. It was sumptuous.

All told, we spent only a little more than five hours transiting from Sandy Hook through New York Harbor, up the East River, through Hell's Gate, past Throg's Neck to Port Washington in Manhasset

Bay. We picked up a mooring in Port Washington, a lovely little town with rail access to Manhattan, a grocery store and farmers market at the city dock, and a water taxi service to/from the dock. The first two days of mooring are free but you pay a small fee for launch. After the first two days, the mooring is \$25. 00 a day, but the launch is free. The



crew ventured off to "the city" while Al and I enjoy some peace and quiet and time to re-provision the boat for the next (much shorter) leg of the trip to Newport and Narraganset Bay. The two younger of the crew left for Boston by train leaving Al, Linda, Cole and, Caroline aboard to cruise Long Island sound...the subject of the next bit-o-news from the Bonnie.

So, again, fair winds and happy sailing, Al and Linda Johnson

GSC Baby Picture Matching Contest - Franz Walkow— Editor

We have four female GSC member entries this month. That is a contest. First person to e-mail the Editor (franz@walkow.com) with correct matchup of photos ...baby picture to grown up picture, gets a GSC shirt from Ships Store. Male entries will be in August Tiller Tales.



BABY 1



BABY 2



BABY 3



BABY 4



MEMBER 1



MEMBER 2



MEMBER 3



MEMBER 4

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