

# Tiller Tales

Gulf Stream Sailing Club

December 2015

## FROM THE BRIDGE - MIKE SAWZAK, 2015 COMMODORE



As we wrap up a busy year and my term as Commodore is close to completion, I want to thank all members for their wonderful help and support in 2015! I know this support will carry over to our new 2016 Commodore, Marvin Verble, starting with your attendance at our annual Change of Command at Tropical Isles January 23, 2016.

I am not going anywhere, except for maybe the Bahamas, and plan to continue to be active with club events. The racing program in particular needs new interest and we have several new members with sailboats. Along with them—and our longtime Captains getting out there—we got a race!

I hope you have found more than one reason to be a member (it's membership renewal time) and maybe even refer a friend. See you all at the Change of Command!

— December, 2015

### 2015 Officers

**Commodore**.....Mike Sawzak  
**Vice Commodore**.....Marvin Verble  
**Rear Commodore**..... Gregg Henry  
**Treasurer**.....Betty Lou Webb  
**Secretary**.Rosemary Chelick-Mahon

### 2015 Governing Board

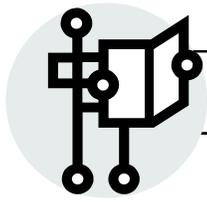
Jacqui Bradley  
Nancy Marsh  
Luis Oliviera  
Jim Webb

### 2015 Committee Chairs

**Audit** .....Marilyn Mamano  
**Crew Pool**.....Open  
**Cruising** .....Gregg Henry  
**Fleet Captain 420s** ..... Open  
**Fleet Captain Sunfish** ..Luis Oliveira  
**Legislative**..... Open  
**Membership**.....Betty Lou Webb  
**Ocean Race** .....Charles Biancardi  
**Program**.....Jim Webb  
**Publicity**.....Jim Webb  
**Small Boat** .....Luis Oliveira  
**Social** .....Rosemary Chelick-Mahon  
**Sunshine** .....Shirley Kaplan  
**Tiller Tales Editor** .....Kay Harrison  
**Trophy**.....Debra Case

### REMINDER

**Our calendar is published  
on the GSC web site,  
[www.gulfstreamsailingclub.org](http://www.gulfstreamsailingclub.org)**



## GULFSTREAM SAILING CLUB NEWS

### *In Loving Memory*

We sadly had to say “Goodbye” to one of our dear and beautiful shipmates recently. Sue Gestasi, devoted wife of Roman Gestasi, passed away on October 24. Sue was an active skier, equestrian, and loved sailing and the sea. Sue was incredibly devoted to her husband and family and always a delightful person to be with. Gulfstream Sailing Club mourns the loss of a member of our family. Sue will be sorely missed by all who knew her.



Our members observed a moment of silence in Sue’s memory at our November Board Meeting and November General Meeting as well as at our annual Halloween gathering. We are thankful for the wonderful friendship. Three cheers...

### **MEMBERSHIP— BETTY LOU WEBB**

GSC would like to welcome the following new members to our club. Please add these members’ numbers to your 2015 GSC directory:

<b>Names</b>	<b>Phone Numbers</b>	<b>Boat Type</b>
Ramon Pi	954 907-6627	
Adam & Lesley Graham	954-868-1053	18' Catalina
Alan Hatch	954 826-8153	40' Passport
Marie Louise Graham	678-234-7930	
Tony Boldt & Michelle Bennett	719-491-1463	36' Fountaine-Pajot MAHE
Ron & Elaine Francis	954-792-8153	

*If your email, phone, or address changes or if you need a new name tag, please contact Betty Lou at [tbird10@bellsouth.net](mailto:tbird10@bellsouth.net) or 954-969-9196.*

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS**—Enclosed is our renewal form for 2016 .  
Please send form in with \$100 by 1/16/2016 after that \$20 late fee.

### **SECRETARY’S REPORT—ROSEMARY CHELICK-MAHON**

The minutes for the General Meetings of GSC are now available on the web.

## FROM YOUR REAR— CHILI COOKOFF 2015

*By Rear Commodore Gregg Henry*

What a day! What a turnout! Eleven chili contestants, five drink entrants, and ten table decorators. The weather was great: blue skies, puffy clouds, a light breeze and no rain!

Special thanks to our two judges, Debbi and Rachel. We were able to keep them a secret until judging time. Also, thanks to John and Ray from the club for their help in the judging process. It really made it easier and less stressful.

Winners are:

Table decorations – 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Sam, Table 3

1<sup>st</sup> place: Sandra & Sandra, Table 5

Drink concoctions - 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Kay & Phil, Table 11

1<sup>st</sup> place: Rafael & Beverly, Table 9

The Big Prize: The reason we are here, the coveted Chili Award!

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Sam, Table 3

1<sup>st</sup> place: Sandra & Sandra, Table 5.



Good job, and congratulations. Two years ago I made a large chili trophy and gave it to the winner, Lacey. I thought at the time I'd make another for the next year but, due to a lot of reasons, I didn't get one made. This year I got one started but not finished. But, I was able to present the work in process to Sam, last year's winner, who presented it to this year's winners, Sandra, Sandra and crew. I promise to have the perpetual trophy ready for next year!



## SOLO TO ABACO AND BACK

By Mike Sawzak

What a difference a year makes! During a voyage to Abaco in 2014 my 30' Catalina *Bleu Bayou* and crew ran into Tropical Storm Arthur which later turned into a hurricane after it passed through the Bahamas and reached the U.S. mainland. Arthur caught us at Allan Pensacola Cay's tight and shallow anchorage. The damaged sailboat was left under the watchful eyes of



some wonderful residents of Foxtown for two months before I could return and retrieve her.

Forward to 2015, same ocean same islands. I was determined to finish the voyage and make it to the heart of the Abaco's which escaped me the year before. I wanted to make my triumphant return even more challenging by sailing there solo. Yes, solo! Though *Bleu Bayou* is not really set up for solo, like all lines leading to the cockpit and an anchor windlass controlled from the helm, I merrily embarked on the 90 mile crossing of the Gulf Stream to West End on Grand Bahama Island from Port Everglades. It's either feast or famine with the Gulf Stream, as it was famine while I motor sailed in light winds to The Old Bahama Bay Resort Marina after arriving at 10 pm, a 14 hour incident-free crossing.

Next morning I bumped into former Commodore Luis Oliviera clearing customs who was crewing on *Grand Cru* for the Abaco Regatta race week. I was heading to the Regatta also but not to race but as a supporter of the Regatta parties. Got a late start from West End due to weather and finally went through Indian Pass and anchored at Mosquito Cay where I anchored for the second night. Next day in the area of Great Sale Cay I encountered a nasty squall that turned boat 360 degrees with the sails down. On to the familiar Foxtown with a pre-arranged hook up with Stan DeKiel and Debbie Hallmark on *Ryan's Place*. They are Abaco veterans and we all spent a night on shore greeting my Foxtown guardians.

Next morning we had a delightful sail to Green Turtle Cay, the first leg of the Regatta. A free mooring just off the Cay put our boats within dinghy range of just about anywhere on the is-

*Continued on Page 5*

## SOLO TO ABACO — Continued

land. Debbie smartly made reservations for a golf cart from the motherland weeks before so we rode around in style and for the next several days explored the island. Some highpoints of our Green Turtle stay was Brendal's Dive Center where we went to one of the five top reefs in the world! Fed the grouper but not the sharks. How could we miss the Stranded Naked Party with free rum, burgers and dogs donated by some large companies who sponsored the event. I didn't see any naked people, maybe after we departed at sunset.

I took a side trip solo from Green Turtle by ferry and cab to Treasure Cay... not much there such as a town, just a resort. Now I know!!



Off to Great Guana Cay for the second leg of the Regatta and more parties. Another golf cart and adventure tour of the island. Nippers Bar on the bluff overlooking the beach on the ocean side was a lot of fun, even after a ferry full of college kids invaded the place. Since I was solo anchoring was always tricky though with the mooring ball at Great Guana I got lucky.

I never made it to the two more legs of the Regatta, I was already gone from work without any contact and it was time to go sail home. Maybe next year!!!

The return I just doubled back on the same route and followed the bread crumbs along with Ryan's Place. The return crossing of the Gulfstream again was light wind and motor sailed. I had some difficulty getting out of the famous current. With little wind my trusty Atomic 4 gas engine couldn't push me out of the current and I finally ended up in Boca Raton, not my port. Port Everglades is my port and the wind picked up and my adventure was over way after midnight, three hundred miles and 14 days later.

Would I sail this trip solo again? Maybe! To be honest, it would not have been possible without my trusty Raymarine auto pilot working flawlessly. Just to raise the ancient main sail halyard with it flapping on the outside of the mast while I hoisted at the mast was a challenge. I really relied on Ray and asked for his help often!

Future sails? Can't wait to order a Cuba Libre...in Cuba of course!

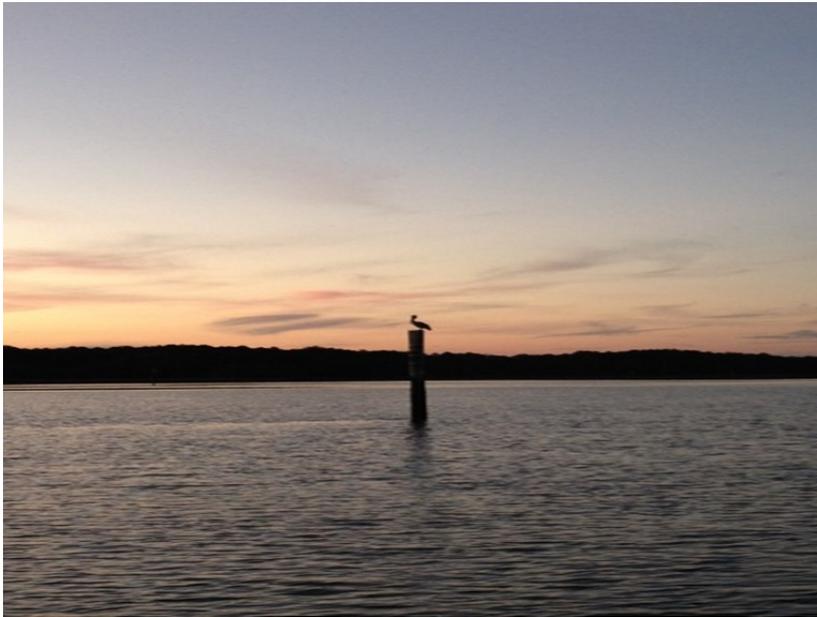
## NIGHT VISITORS

By Kay Dolliver Harrison

An excerpt from "Under the Boom," a sailing blog about the first voyage of *SV Catmandu* down the ICW from Annapolis to St. Augustine in the fall of 2013.

*"What mystery is the sea, whose stirrings speak of a hidden soul beneath."*

- Herman Melville



Our days in Georgia are spent motoring through winding creeks, watching the depth. Phil is singing Country Western songs: "Shoaling, shoaling, shoaling (Rawhide)" and "Back in the Channel Again." The weather has finally turned warmer and we have sun every day. Our first stop after our night aground is Skull Creek Marina, where we share the dock

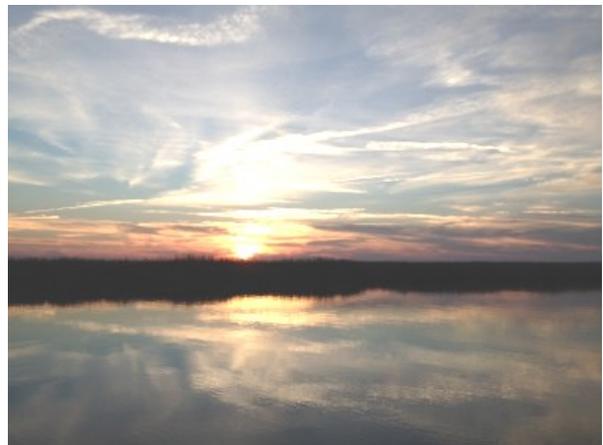
with big awkward pelicans and one Great Blue Heron who wasn't afraid to perch about six feet away in the dusk.

Queen Bess Creek is our anchorage for the following evening, and presents us with an incredible sunset. We sit in the cockpit watching the sun go down.

We have less than a week left of our time together, and only two days until we get to our agreed-upon stopping place, Brunswick, GA. Our vacation time is over, and I'll have to return to my life in NH.

"I feel so badly that we didn't get you to Florida," I say quietly. "I still think we could have made it."

I can see he is thinking. "How many miles is it from Brunswick to St. Augustine?"



## UNDER THE BOOM, Night Visitors—*Continued*

We go below and check the chart book. “It’s a hundred and ten,” I say. “Two long days.”

The wheels start to turn. Then the wheels come off of Plan C (Phil at a marina in Georgia for the winter, and Kay back in NH), and suddenly Plan B is a possibility. We will be in Brunswick on Tuesday. We can be in St. Augustine by Thursday night. Phil’s face lights up.

“We can do it!” He is so excited, I can’t bear to remind him that I just bought a non-refundable plane ticket home from Savannah. I’ll worry about that later. We are happy.



The next day, a dolphin breaches right off our port bow and lingers alongside us. It’s a good omen. We pull into our anchorage at Queens Island, in view of the red and white striped Sapelo Island Lighthouse. Dolphins are swimming around the mouth of the creek, and Phil catches a fin in a photo. Finally, some evidence. And another sunset to remember.

The night is warm and clear. Since there’s no moon, the stars are brilliant and the Milky Way is visible above us. Phil lies on his back in the cockpit looking for shooting stars, but my attention is drawn to the water. I hear soft rippling sounds, as if someone is dangling her feet in the water. I peer into the dark ripples, but can’t see anything. Then, from just a few feet away, I hear a loud huff. It scares me; it is strangely human, as if someone is letting out an exasperated sigh.

“What is that?” I whisper. We are quiet for a while, listening. Another huff, farther off, breaks the silence.

“Dolphins breathing!” Phil whispers, and we hear another one. They are all around us in the dark water, and as I scan the surface, I see a reflection of our cockpit lantern in a round circle. An eye. They are watching us, too. Like so many moments of this adventure I’m on, this is an experience I will never forget. We sit for a long time under the stars, listening to the breathing of dolphins.

## NEWS FROM THE LAKE

*By Luis Oliveira*

Sailing at the Lake is getting more and more unpredictable, the NE breeze, which we had last Saturday, gets severely affected by the Margarita Ville building, one could be in a "hole" dead in the water with hardly any wind and 20 feet away someone else could be hiking out, on their toe nails in a 20 knots gust, coming around the building.

Then to make matters even more interesting, big boaters have discovered North Lake, last Saturday there were 13 boats anchored out. If you didn't pay attention and tacked on a header, before looking where you were tacking to, you could be tacking into an anchored boat or a long anchor line that would gladly snatch your daggerboard... Racing at the Lake these days will test your sailing skills.

Regardless, we all had fun and it was very competitive racing, all the way to last race.

A big thanks to the "Judge" (Marty Ottenheimer) and Dennis Zimmerman for doing Race Committee, the starts were about perfect... I guess there wasn't enough beer on board the race committee boat... He...He.

Here are the Race Results for the Sunfish Commodore's Cup, sailed on Dec. 12 at the Lake.

### A Fleet

Name	Results	Points	Place
Luis Oliveira	2, 2, 1, 3, 1	6 pts	1st
Bob Weinstein	1, 1, 2, 4, 3	7 pts	2nd
Tom Borenius	5, 4, 3, 1, 4	12 pts	3rd
Sam Kafoury	3, 7, 7, 2, 2	14 pts	4th
Jack Loving	4, 3, 5, 6, 6	18 pts	5th
Vito Mannino	dnf, 5, 4, 5, 5	19 pts	6th
Richard Goldstein	dnf, 6, 6, 7, 7	26 pts	7th

### B Fleet

Marco Pinho	1, 1, 2, 1, 2	5 pts	1st
Sam Bukel	dns, 2, 1, 2, 1	6 pts	2nd
Paul Silva	2, 3, dnf, dns, dns	17 pts	3rd
Gus Cannamero	dns, dns. dns, dns, dns	24 pts	4th

Next race day is Jan 9th Winter I, see you all at the Lake.

## CHECK THE LABEL—AND YOUR BODY

*By Jim Webb*

Even as sailors in South Florida, only a small percentage of us know what “broad spectrum” on a sunblock label means. Only about a quarter of the general public understands what “SPF” is, even though it is particularly important here in South Florida, especially if you are boater.

For the benefit of all GSC members, I wanted to relay the information on sunscreens that I recently read in Boat US magazine and relay a recent personal episode with skin cancer to drive home the importance of regular visits to a dermatologist.

“Broad spectrum” means that the sunscreen is designed to protect you from a variety of ultraviolet rays, while the SPF value indicates the level of sunburn protection provided. The higher the SPF number is, the greater the protection it provides from sunburn. But high SPF values only identify the protection provided by the sunscreen from UVB rays, and don’t indicate any protection from UVA rays.

While radiation from both UVA and UVB rays play a role in the development of skin cancer, UVA rays are considered a bigger problem because they are present year round and can penetrate clouds and windows. Exposure to UVA rays is also a major cause of skin aging, wrinkling and tanning, while UVB’s are the culprit behind sunburn.

So for the best protection, look for the words “broad spectrum” on the sunblock label in addition to the SPF level.

The following story highlights the importance of regular cancer checkups, especially for us sailors. A member of our family who gets inspected annually by a dermatologist went for their annual checkup. The doctor discovered a spot that was about the size of a pin head on their forehead just below the hairline. A biopsy proved it to be basal cell cancer. This was something that was easily overlooked by everyone but the trained professional.

It was a big surprise to learn that the majority of the cancer was hidden below the surface of the skin like a root. The cancerous area that had to be removed was bigger in diameter than a quarter and quite deep. If left untreated, the cancer could easily spread to other organs, including the brain, and be terminal.

Hopefully those who have put off that checkup by a dermatologist will be motivated by this article to get a checkup, which should include the scalp!



## LABOR DAY SAIL TO MIAMI 2015

By Gregg Henry

On the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of September, also known as Labor Day weekend, four boats from our club sailed down to Miami and anchored at the Marine Stadium: Blue Pearl, Alberta Rose, Bleu Bayou and Mi Sirena. Catmandu gave a valiant try but with engine problems, had to turn back.

Saturday night we all gathered on Blue Pearl, the mother ship, for sundowners. After that, all went their own way for dinner and sleep. Sunday, everyone did their own thing: swimming, talking, fixing and exploring. That afternoon, all gathered on Mi Sirena for sundowners, which turned into dinner. (Kay and Phil arrived by car and got a dinghy ride to Mi Sirena.) Mike arrived late but with two extra people. A young couple from Germany were staying on a neighboring boat. Great kids! They spoke English very well and fit right in.

We had 12 people on board Mi Sirena for “Wisconsin Style” brats and pan fried, frozen French fries. “If you apply enough booze before dinner, everyone will love it.”

Monday morning all gathered on Bleu Bayou for breakfast. Charles made pancakes that were yummy!

Monday noonish we all broke up. Sam and Poopdeck drove home, Phil and Kay drove home. Mickey-Mike and crew motored out to sail home, leaving Alberta Rose and Mi Sirena to head south... Another story!

## WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE



*Jim Mahon and Rosemary Chelick-Mahon's Alberta Rose served as a control boat for the 2015 Winterfest boat parade, and hosted a GSC raft-up. Also pictured: Mari Brito, Ben Bowen, Ben's father Bill and Andrea Keyser.*

## GSC HALLOWEEN PARTY



## PITCAIRN RACE RESULTS

Boat Name	Pos	Captain	Boat Manufacturer	Club Rating	Finish Time	Elapsed time	Time Adjustmnt	Corrected Time	Place
Commotion	2	Ross Hunton		123	20:53:30	3:53:30	0:57:24	2:56:06	1
Bandana	1	Dave Wallace	Oyster 48	93	20:53:05	3:53:05	0:43:24	3:09:41	2
Bleu Bayou	3	Mike Sawzak	Catalina 30	221	22:55:25	5:55:25	1:43:08	4:12:17	3

**GSC WISHES YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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From: Gulfstream Sailing Club  
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