

COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB
serving the community since 1945

the channel



AUGUST 2015

4th of July Party



COMMODORE'S REPORT

It's August and even though the sweltering heat continues and we are in the midst of a record drought, there has been no drought of activity and fun at the Club.

This past month saw our annual July 4th festivities, the annual Installation dinner, the Commodore's Cup, continued record numbers in youth summer camp, continuing sold out adult sailing classes and very importantly, the start of the new mooring field project.

The July 4th festivities were oversold but yet again, GM Lauren Simpson, Chef Ritchie and everyone else accommodated all the members and made it happen. Thank you all. Installation dinner was a week later and another successful CGSC function. The weather cooperated and wasn't too oppressive, Lauren & Co put wonderful touches on the event, Jeffrey Timmons concocted a unique take on a mojito for the Commodore Cocktail and the dinner that Chef Ritchie prepared was superb (maybe we can get that ribeye steak on the menu..... hint hint).

The July and August editions of the Channel are always shortened and I know you would rather look at pictures of Club events than read my words (trust me, so would I), so let me try to briefly wrap up with a mooring field update.

We asked about 35 boat owners to move off their moorings by July 5 and everyone did so - thank you! Construction began with some mobilization on July 6 and the project began in earnest on July 8. Within a day and a half, about 40 old moorings had been removed and within a few workdays after that, about 40 new anchor moorings

had been installed. As I write this and as we head into the third week of July, we should be done with the first half of the project by the end of this week. If this pace continues, we hope to finish the project ahead of schedule. Keep your fingers crossed!



We knew there would be some inconveniences with this project (but so far there are no dumpsters needed and there has been very little upland impact). I do want to thank every member that has a boat on a city mooring. Change is difficult, even if for a short time, and conditions at times may not be ideal. We appreciate your patience and I am hopeful we can stay ahead of schedule. Also, if you've waited longer than usual for the launch, thank you for the continued patience. We've added staff to help alleviate the wait times and I hope that is working.

It's August. It's hot outside. But come to the Club. Go for a sail. Use a kayak or paddleboard. Enjoy the breeze on the deck for lunch or dinner. It's your Club to enjoy so come make the most of it.

See you at the Club!


Jeffrey Flanagan, Commodore
Commodore@cgsc.org
Golden Greek, Catalina 27'

REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

Why do we sail? It is much easier to turn the key and speed off on a power boat. The actual act of power boating has been subjected to testing by primates and they found the challenge to be on par with peeling a banana. However, when presented with the opportunity to command a sailing vessel, the average ape is unable to complete the task of harnessing the wind, to propel a sailing craft through the water, to a destination of choice, at a velocity only limited by the physics of hull design. Fortunately, humans can with practice, fulfill the mission of sailing.

As we see our sailors leave the dock in their respective craft, I am reminded by something I read; "Sailing makes better people, racing makes better sailors". As sailors we are constantly striving to improve our skills. I encourage each one of us to fulfill our destiny. Get out on the water and evolve.

Ryan Alexander, Rear Commodore
Flying Scot Beijaflor



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VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

Summer has been anything but lazy around the sailing club this month. When Effortless entered the mooring field upon our return from 3 weeks of cruising the Abaco Islands we noticed big changes. The mooring field had a new look and if you enter the club from the street you will find the city parking circle outside our gate under construction as well. Fortunately the city has provided us access without too much disruption and we will benefit from the additional spaces that the parking lot will provide once it's completed.

The mooring field project continues with little disruption to the clubhouse and property. Come down for lunch on a Thursday or Friday and watch the action from the upstairs balcony. Special thanks go out to all those with boats on moorings for your patience during this project, especially those who have been moved to the city mooring field. Launch wait times and rides have increased. While waiting for the launch takes the opportunity to introduce yourself and get to know other club members.

We've had a very successful summer camp this year with record numbers of campers for all sessions. The coaches and counselors have been very busy and the club has provided hundreds of children the opportunity to safely learn to sail, experience the beauty of Biscayne Bay, Clarington Island, the sand bar and of course "The Ice Cream Truck". As of this writing we have provided scholarships to include twenty six additional children from the community in our program.

Chef Richie says to look forward to the new summer menu which will include fresh local ingredients and healthy alternatives. Look for Paleo lettuce wraps, cool soups and fresh vegetables. No worries, the regular favorite will stay on the menu. Take advantage of our happy hour specials from 4 to 6 and almost guaranteed parking spot! Check out the newly renovated Marker 18 Bar and its new brews!

Lastly, I want to remind everyone of the sleeping giant, Hurricane Season. (And I don't mean UM football) Please make sure your boat engines are in good working order in the event that we need to evacuate. The winds can pick up quickly during the summer squalls so make sure

CHANNEL REMINDER:

September brings the return of the larger Channel with more club news and information. A friendly reminder that all articles, pictures and announcements must be submitted by the 10th of the previous month in order to appear in the next issue.

your lines, sails and Biminis are secure as well. Hopefully you were able to attend one of our hurricane evacuation seminars to help you prepare in the event of a storm.

Each month throughout the year I would like to introduce you to a member of our staff. Some staff are very visible to all the members and others have specialized skills or duties that you may not be familiar with. This month I would like to introduce you to Joan Antonio Mier (Coach Tony) Tony and his family came to Miami 2 years ago from Cuba and he started working at the club first as a dock hand/launch driver. He currently serves as a youth coach and summer camp staff member. He



coaches the club's green fleet, the second tier after beginners and his team consists of 8 to 11 year olds. He prepares them for competitive racing and regattas throughout the state including Upper Keys Sailing Club, Ft. Lauderdale Yacht Club, Jensen Beach, Ft. Myers and Tampa. Two of his team members are moving up to red, white and blue next season. He is the "Fleet's plastic surgeon." On the day I interviewed him he was working on the Flying Juniors. These boats are used for older campers, youth racers and the UM sailing team. CGSC is the sponsor club and home base for the University of Miami sailing team and their boats will be in top sailing shape when the team returns in the fall thanks to his efforts. Tony says the best part of his job is coaching the green fleet. His goal as a coach is to one day see one of his kids compete and win first place for CGSC in a national youth championship. Thank you Tony!

Janice Pruett
Vice Commodore



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