

# HAN

### **Coconut Grove Sailing Club**

#### SKIPPER OF THE MONTH

Charlie Fowler was born in [Miami's] Jackson Memorial Hospital in what is now known as the Alamo. As a child, he was a snowbird, wintering with his family in Florida and summering in Hingham, Mass. It was in Hingham that he, at the age of five, learned to sail one fateful

day when his parents put him in a Dwarf and pushed him off the float. Young Charlie started pulling strings and moving the tiller and he was off, Mom and Dad following in a rowboat. Imagine their concern when a storm started to build and Charlie kept on sailing, unresponsive to their repeated calls for him to come back.

From this "do it yourself" beginning, Charlie proceeded to sail in the Hingham Yacht Club regattas for kids, winning many of them to the consternation of the older



(15 year old) boys. In his first race, young Charlie had to wait for the other boys to catch up and show him how to round the marks, in the process of which he fouled another competitor. Although he won the race, he was protested and thrown out. In the afternoon, the kids would sail with the grownups, one of whom was Charlie's grandfather, who in his later years learned to sail in his own 30 Square Meter. Charlie sailed Dwarfs, 110's, Lolly 15's, Stars, Snipes, Flying Scots, Morgan 24's, J 24's, Ranger 29, and other cruising classes.

Charlie, a.k.a. the Bear, sailed in the First Miami Montego Bay Race aboard the Jamaican boat Coho. He has done the Bermuda One-Two Race aboard the Bristol 29.9 Talisman, and several Bermuda Ocean Races from Annapolis to Georgetown, Bermuda. He sailed many early MORC ocean races, and enough of the Great Ocean Races that transverse the Delmarva Peninsula.

The Bear got into sail making about 35 years ago when it became clear to him that new sails made a difference in being competitive with guys like Gonzalo Diaz. In a flash of insight, Charlie says he understood that he would either have to become independently wealthy, make his own sails, or go play golf. And the rest, as they say, is history. He began by making sails on the front porch of his house for 5 years (16 hours to make his first Clearwater pram sail). He got to the point where he knew he didn't know anything, and then went to St. Petersburg to see how the pros did it. He spent a couple of weeks with Levinson, a year at Johnson, and a year in partnership with Eric Fletcher at Criterion Sails (home of the \$15.00 pram sail). Charlie says he felt like Santa Claus dispensing sails all the way down the dock. He left to establish Fowler Sails in 1973. His first loft was in Don Moore's carport, where he finished his first midwinter suit of Snipe sails at 3AM. He then said, "if these go fast, I will get a chance to do this again." At the time he didn't know how prophetic that was to be!

Charlie joined the Coconut Grove Sailing Club in 1967 and has been a willing volunteer on many Committees. He established the Don Q Regatta for Snipes. He served as Chairman of the Entertainment Committee two times and served a term on the Board of Directors. He laid carpet in the Bar, redesigned the Strip to give better access to the Hoist without losing any boat storage spaces. Was Chairman of the Race Committee. He is particularly proud of the accomplishments of many of the youngsters he mentored at the Club. For example, there

is Reid Hutchinson, Eric Stibbitz, Mike Alexander, Louis Verloop, Bobby and Ray Russell, and Jeff Rubin to name a few. These guys crewed with him over the years and are still sailing out of the CGSC today.



#### 2002-2003 Officers and Committee Chairmen

#### Flag Officers

Commodore	. Andrea Stringos
Vice Commodore	Bud Price
Rear Commodore	Manny Pacin
Secretary	Jean Anne Davis
Treasurer	Jeffrey Zirulnick

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Fleet Chaplain	Cal Schofield
Fleet Surgeon Dr	. Nicolaus Martens

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Public Relations Love Levy
Race Will Bourne
RackRob Quinlivan &
Charlie Abell
Strip Karen Young
Web Master Beth Hernandez
Volume 58 Issue 9

## COMMODORE'S REPORT

It was a privilege to be able to participate in the Channel Dedication Ceremony for Past Commodore – **John A. Brennan** on February 8th. More than 75 people showed up to celebrate John's work on the waterfront, including Commissioner **Johnny Winton**, John's family, friends and neighbors, CGSC members, and representatives of the Waterfront Advisory Board, Shake-



a-Leg, the Marine Council, the anchorage, CRYC and BBYC. It is an unusual man who can touch so many lives. Commissioner Winton presented a beautiful plaque, and many people spoke about how John had impacted their lives. The most moving speech, however, came from John's 15-year-old grandson [Daniel] praising him for doing all the little unimportant things in life as well as taking care of the big matters. John, we are so proud of you!

February 9th was the start of what we hope will be a new tradition offered to everyone by the Race Committee - the "True Cruising Class" or the t.c.c. Race. **Vice Commodore Bud Price** has come up with an innovative way to handicap cruising boats and the result was an extra 14 boats in the BBYRA races on that day. Retired Bishop - Cal Schofield, took his boat out and told me that it was his 1st Race and that he really enjoyed it. He was particularly pleased when he passed three boats. It's never too late to get the racing bug, so talk to Bud Price if you're interested in participating.

**Rear Commodore Manny Pacin** is busy planning the **Annual Rendezvous** at Elliott Key on April 5th and 6th. The rendezvous is always a wonderful event. Club launches will be available to ferry members to the island, and I'm sure Chuck and Alex will plan a wonderful menu. Manny will need lots of volunteers, so let him know if you are able to help out.

Chef Alex continues to produce marvelous food in the kitchen, with something new every week. Moorings are rapidly filling up, and the Club is bustling with activity. We are clearly a very happy club right now. We do have one significant vulnerability, however, and that is that we still have no Lease with the city of Miami. As you know, we are located on public property. Our raison d'être is community service. If we want to keep our low rates and continue to exist, we will have to expand our community service.

The Future Development Committee [Chairmen: Bill Mauk and Carlos de Zayas) will be hosting a full day retreat with a professional facilitator to help us define who we are, what we do well, and how we can add value to the community and the City. The idea is to approach the City with a well thought out plan. The date for this retreat is still open, but we will keep you informed. We want everyone's input, as the objectives developed in this meeting will probably be the ones that will be presented to the City and if accepted, will become binding to the membership.

## Rendezvous in Bimini!

Join the CGSC & Rendezvous Committee
8 to 11 May
Bimini Blue Water Resort
Alice Town, North Bimini
Leave Thursday night, - Return Sunday morning
Friday Dockside Potluck
Saturday night drinks at The Complete Angler

Skipper's Meeting at Social Night, 8 pm Tuesday 29 April Go - No-Go weather call 8 pm Wed 7 May

It's high season so make reservations ASAP directly:
Bimini Blue Water Resort, 242-347-3166, <40' \$30/night, electricity & water extra, hotel rooms available http://www.safemooring.com/Bahamas\_Bimini65.html
Pre-Cruise Planning Considerations:

- $\cdot$  Please sign up with Chuck Burns in case we need to contact you
- · \$100 Bahamian entry fee for boats with "crew" of up to four
- · Boats 30 feet and larger must obtain \$25 Customs decal. Call 305-536-5262 for location of local office or visit www.cutoms.ustreas.gov/travel/travel/htm to order decal on line.
  - · Make sure you have "Q" & Bahamian courtesy flags.
    Purchase at West Marine or Boat US before trip.
    Questions / Comments / Suggestions:
    Jonathan Milley 305 302-9773

#### In Memorium

#### Nestor Lao

Nestor died on February 4, 2003. Those of you who knew him, know that he was a wonderful guy, a kind and giving person, who truly loved sailing and the Coconut Grove Sailing Club and all it's members. Even while he was battling an aggressive illness, going through the tough times, he came down regularly to the Club to help out. He served on the Board of Directors and was Commodore 1993-94. We shall miss him like we already miss his Morgan 34 appropriately named "Just Pleasure" on the moorings.

## Save the Date!

Call Early to Make Reservations!!!



Coconut Grove Sailing Club's Annual Rendezvous April 5th and 6th, 2003 at Elliott Key

#### LARGE CROWD ATTENDS DEDICATION

The **Brennan Channel Dedication Ceremony** on Saturday, February 8, 2003, was awesome. The many preparations made to show appreciation to Past Commodore **John A. Brennan** for his many volunteer hours at CGSC and on the City's waterfront over the last 40 years really made me proud.

Commodore **Andrea Stringos** and General Manager **Chuck Burns** and his staff, hosted a first class event. The City's Waterfront Advisory Board and Chairman **Robert Parente**, with his Administrative Assistant **Yvonne Page**, did a great job coordinating the ceremony. City Commissioner **Johnny Winton** and his son complemented the occasion with their official presence. **Mike Lovelady** tastefully designed the dedication marker. The keeper trophy is a picture of Channel Marker #16 with the Clubhouse in the



background, beautifully etched in glass. And, the plontoon boats that were available for those who wanted to travel to the ribbon cutting ceremony on a stable platform were provided by

CGSC with **Wil Bourne** at the helm, and by Shake-A-Leg with **Harry Horrigan** at the helm.

All the above, including Past Commodore **John Pistorino** and more than a dozen club members took the time to take their boats off the mooring to encircle the flotilla at the mark when John cut the

ribbon. The flotilla also included the Marine Patrol with **Art Serig** and two of the City's "go fast" vessels that made a spectacular contribution to a great day.

In all honors, it is important to make note of the contribution by those behind the scene. For example, former Marina's Manager Alfredo Rodriguez [deceased] who contributed the layout diagram for the channel; Dick Bunnell of Bunnell Foundation, Inc., the City's marine contractor, drove the straight pilings. These folks made access to Dinner Key and the Sailing Club easy today. You old tim-



ers will remember the maze in the anchorage and how difficult it was to keep from snagging an anchor rode coming into the Club at night?

There were at least 15 amateur photographers and three professionals taking photos during the ceremony and at the ribbon cutting. Club member **Jim Clark**, who is also Station Manager of the City's TV Station, made a video of the event. In all more than 75 supporters gathered in the General Meeting Room to congratulate John.

THANK YOU everyone who made it happen, those who attended, and those who stepped to the podium to personally shower John with their lovely words. He was overwhelmed and deeply touched by this event.

Deborah A. Mitchell Editor

#### RACE COMMITTEE REPORT

January saw a flurry of racing beginning with the BBYRA One Design Regatta followed by the Rolex Miami Olympic Classes Regatta which got underway at the end of the month, with Dick Reinke as Chairman. The circle run by CGSC consisted of the 2.4M class out of Shake-A-Leg and the Men's and Women's Mistral class out of CGSC. The Mistral's & 2.4M's sailed a W/L course for the first race with the black flag employed after a series of general recall's. The rest of the series saw the Mistral's sailing the trapezoid course with their finishes down wind. The 2.4M's finished upwind throughout the 4 day series of races which saw numerous wind shifts and course changes. The Mistral's were held at the club Thursday waiting for their mandatory 5 knot minimum until well after noon and ultimately limited their number of races. See <a href="https://www.ussailing.org">www.ussailing.org</a> for details.

The 1st Race Committee party of the year was held at CGSC with the Mark Crumich Modern Jazz Quartet Friday Night - January 31st. Keep an eye out for our next party in late March in conjunction with the Coral Cup.

The Comodoro Rasco Snipe regatta overlapped the OCR on Saturday the 1st of February. We had two separate Race Committees on the water at the same time, and used every piece of equipment we had. Saturday our winds were light and shifty. Check out a great write up at <a href="http://snipeus.org">http://snipeus.org</a>.

We then hosted the BBYRA Cruising Regatta February 9th. We had a large fleet including Bud Price's "True Cruising Class" [TCC] with 15 boats in a pursuit format. The PHRF 1&2 fleets sailed a 1.0nm long W/L course twice around finishing down wind. PHRF 3 and the J-24's sailed the shorter .75nm W/L course. PHRF 4 sailed to the long mark 3 times around. The ARF sailed the perimeter of the bay around marks "T & N", while the TCC fleet sailed the perimeter going to "B,K,N,V". PHRF 1,2,3, & J-24 sailed a second race as the breeze started to lay down. The bay was full of spinnakers, what a beautiful sight. Check out the results of the racing at <a href="www.bbyra.net">www.bbyra.net</a> and contact me at bournew@bellsouth.net for limited pics.

We still have a few positions available for the Coral Cup coming up March 22 & 23 and are looking for volunteers to come out and join in the fun. Bruce Schneider will be running the Don-Q Snipe regatta March 28-30 from Rob Quinlivin's yacht *Sainte*' which promises to be another wonderful event.

My thanks to all the wonderful Race Committee volunteers.

Have Fun and Sail Fast, Wil Bourne, RC Chairman

### 2003 Comodoro Rasco Regatta

It has been an exceptionally cold winter this year, so it is not surprising that a flock of Snipe sailors made their way to Miami for some Coconut Grove style frostbiting. It was warm and wonderful. John MacRae all the way from Boston and Barb Evans from Annapolis, sailed consistently, winning the last race and taking top honors in a highly competitive fleet.

Saturday morning the wind was out of the NW @ 10-15 knots and everyone expected it to go right and "die". We sailed out with the wind behind us and found a little corner of the bay between the Windsurfers and the Lasers. Bill Schoenberg and Dave Hiebert went to the left corner, caught a 30 degree shift and reached to the windward mark well in front of everyone, and took the 1st Race. Peter Commette and his daughter, Morgan, were over early in the 2nd Race, dove back to clear themselves and were forced to the right. They sailed to the corner to get free air and were rewarded with their own private 20 degree shift. They sailed to the first mark crossing everyone. They extended their lead, putting on an impressive show of boat speed. Hal Gilreath and James Liebel put it together, winning the last race of the day, and the fleet sailed in after a delightful day on the bay.

On Sunday we ran out with poles set and found Etchels and a PHRF fleet also on the bay, but there was plenty of room since the MOCR was completed. Augie Diaz competed in the Star Class all week, but sailed with Sheehan Commette just Sunday leading all three legs of the 4th Race, finishing in 1st Place. The last leg found Augie and Sheehan far to the left, and the Old Man and Martin far to the right, but John MacRae and Barb Evans consistently found some pressure up the middle-left, and took the last race winning the series.

The traditional award ceremony for the Rasco Regatta was held singing "La Bomba" while the winners drink a special brew created by the Diaz family. John MacRae amazed the fleet with his baritone projection, and Barb Evans gave the old mug a valiant effort. Peter Commette drained the bucket to put an end to the singing. We all thanked the Diaz family, the **Coconut Grove Sailing Club**, and their "terrific volunteers" for another perfect Regatta.

Bill Welch, M.D. Snipe U.S. National Secretaryz



From Left to Right: John MacRae (Boston), Barbara Evans (Annapolis) 1<sup>st</sup> Rasco. John Kehoe 2<sup>nd</sup> Aicardi Fleet. Morgan Commette, Pete Commette (Ft Lauderdale) 3<sup>rd</sup> Rasco. Hal Gilreath (Jacksonville), James Liebel (Jacksonville) 2<sup>nd</sup> Rasco.



Nick Voss approaches the finish line.

#### Coconut Grove Sailing Club 2003Comodoro Rasco Regatta Feb 1-2, 2003 Final Results

	Sail #	Skipper/Crew	From	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	29727	John MacRae & Barbara Evans	Boston	2	6	2	4	0.75	14.8
2	29990	Hal Gilreath & James Liebel	Jacksonville	3	2	0.75	6	5	16.8
3	29114	Peter & Morgan Commette	Lauderdale	7	0.75	3	5	10	25.8
4	29400	Bill Schoenberg & David Hiebert	Lauderdale	0.75	5	5	8	7	25.8
5	29992	Gonzalo Diaz & Martin Hermida	CGSC	5	3	8	7	4	27
6	28672	Jim Richter & Watt Duffy	Indianapolis	8	4	4	3	12	31
7	26900	Ken Voss & Nick/Kara Voss	CGSC	4	10	6	10	3	33
8	29955	Sherry Welch & Diane Fowler	St. Petersburg	9	8	10	12	8	47
9	26466	Jamie Escalante & Alonzo Escalante	CGSC	11	9	11	9	9	49
10	28810	Augie Diaz & Sheehan Commette	CGSC	16	16	16	0.75	2	50.8
11	24973	David Morehouse & John Kehoe	CGSC	6	12	13	13	11	55
12	16606	George Szabo & Lynn Fitzpatrick	San Diego	16	16	16	2	6	56
13	28466	Robin Baker & Janet Plitt	Palm Beach	10	7	9	16	16	58
14	28814	Greg Saldania & Lynn Fitzpatrick	CGSC	13	11	7	16	16	63
15	23623	Alex Ravelo & Ben Arcia	CGSC	14	13	12	11	13	63
16	29963	Robert Ramirez & Nick Olivera	CGSC	12	14	16	16	16	74



Peter Commette drains the "BOMBA" cup.

## March 2003 - Coconut Grove Sailing Club Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	Tuesday Nights Social Night riday/Saturday/Sunday Open 11:00 a.m 8:00 p.	m.				Bacardi Cup Sun-Fri CRYC Guardian Ad Litem 9-4
2	Guardian Ad Litem 5:30-9	4 Social Night	Guardian Ad Litem 5:30-9	Coconut Grove Rotary 12:15 pm	7	8 BBYRA One Design MYC
9	10 Office & Bar Closed	11 Social Night Lightning Midwinters Dinner	12 Biscayne Bay Discovery Series 7pm	Coconut Grove Rotary 12:15 pm Guardian Ad Litem 5:30-9	14 St. Patrick's Day Party	BBYRA Cruising #3 BBYC
16	17 Office & Bar Closed	18 Social Night	19 Central Grove Homeowners Assoc.	20 Coconut Grove Rotary 12:15 pm Board Meeting	21	22 9th Annual WYRA Coral Cup Sat-Sun
<sup>23</sup> / <sub>30</sub>	24/31 Office & Bar Closed	25 Social Night	26 Venture Sailing Club 7pm	Coconut Grove Rotary 12:15 pm Biscayne Bay Sailing Club	28 General Meeting Don Q Rum Snipe Friday - Sunday	29 s Regatta



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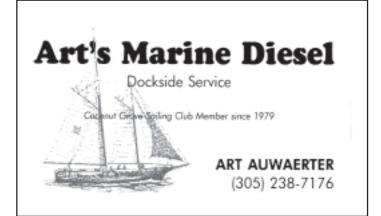
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### **ADULT SAILING**

In past years, we have often canceled Adult Learnto-Sail classes in January, because of historically low at-



Students practicing balance and trim

tendance. However, we did conduct a successful class this year on January 11th and 12th. It amazes me just how FAST my students can upright a capsized SunFish during our drill on the first day of class. I'm sure it has a lot to do with the water temperature being in the 60's, and a hot-water shower waiting for them shore side. Since I'm in the water with each of them, I appreciate their "haste", to boot! Thanks to new [club] member, Joe Horgan, for his coaching assistance during this class.

Unfortunately, our Adult Learn-to-Sail class scheduled on February 8th and 9th was canceled, because the Club facilities were overloaded that weekend. Thanks to Rob Quinlivan, we did reinstate our very popular Adult Sailing Clinics after the holiday respite.

Our fleet of Seitech Dock Trailers was down to [only] two working dollies. So, the Adult Sailing Committee, chaired by Rob Quinlivan, purchased parts for all the broken trailers and spent hours repairing and repainting them. We now have six (6) working trailers. Many other people besides the Adult Learn-to-Sail students use these dollies. So, we ask that you PLEASE help us keep them in working condition. The best rule of thumb for their use is "not to overload them with heavy dinghies". They are designed to carry 150 lb. or less, that is a Laser, SunFish and/or similar boats. They are not for youth "buggy rides" either. We also recommend that you do not leave your boats stored on these trailers. The trailers do belong to the Club and are for use by all members. Help us maintain them in working order, Please. Thanks to Rob Quinlivan for his hard work and for taking charge of this project. Fair Winds and Safe Sailing,

Richard Crisler



Students, instructors and member coaches meet to plan their day on the water.

## Mark your Calendar

The Discovery Lecture Series presented courtesy of the Biscayne Bay National Park Service will be held on the 2nd Wednesday through May in the General Meeting Room.

On March 12th at 7:30PM our own CGSC member Karen Ryan-Young will lecture on "Ralph Munroe: Biscayne Bay Visionary" in her capacity as Florida State Park Ranger at the Barnacle.





## **Friday** March 14th

**Great Irish Food** 

**Specials on Irish** Beer

\$16.50 tax

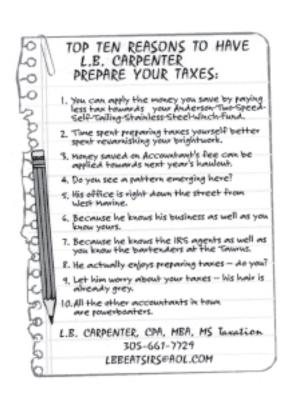
**Don't Miss Out** on The Fun

7:00 p.m.



RESERVE TODAY!!!







#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

#### Month 1

**For Sale** – Falcon 1970/2001 Kenner, "Privateer" [26' x 3.5' x 8'] Full keel. Carbon fiber mast, new sails, Yanmar 2GM20F/2001, Edson rack and pinion steering on 11/4" S.S. shaft. Awl-Grip throughout. Ground tackle, VHF, compass, depth finder, etc. Ready for serious cruising. \$14,000.00. Contact Bill Stewart (305) 858 6427

Snipes for Sale or Rent: The Snipe is the best choice for two person racing dinghy in Biscayne Bay. Since 1978 they have been built sandwich core with Klegecell; They will never delaminate, consequently they last forever, a solid hull and available at bargain prices. Please call Gonzalo Diaz, Sr., Miami Snipe Fleet Captain. *Home* (305) 667-0492 *Work* (305) 642-5144, or e-mail gcdiaz@accesspro.net

For Sail: 1976 Columbia T-26 - *Farside* has a shoal keel, perfect for the Bay, Keys, Bahamas, etc. She is equipped with a swim platform & ladder, enclosed head, onboard water to sink and exterior shower, 2000 Nissan 9.8 Outboard, Bimini Top [stainless tubing], Lazy Jack System, and extras. Upgrades include: a fully battened Main, Jib winches, split/adjustable backstay. There is standing headroom below; a comfortable and seakindly boat. \$6700. Reduced. Contact Don at 305-251- 3078 or dondona@bellsouth.net

#### Month 2

For sale: Optimist-Lange IOD 95 Sail #9346 \$1,800 Contact Jose Hernandez at (305) 271-0148

Miscellaneous Items for Sale:

- 10lb Aluminum Propane Tank w/OPD valve, 6 mos. use, \$50
- · Blue Sea Systems 1-2-All Battery Switch \$5
- Guest 30 Amp Battery Charger, #2530C-60, \$20
- · Motorola 37 Amp alternator, needs rebuilding, free

Contact: Jonathan Milley at (305) 302-9773

#### Month 3

2001 HUNTER 170 DAYBOAT. Hull: White, 17ft, Advanced Composite Plastic, low maintenance. Rigging: Harken. Mainsail. Rollerfurl Jib with UV protection. Centreboard: Adjustable/kick-up. Draft up: 6". Draft down: 4' 6". Rudder: Detachable, kick-up. Engine: Honda 2HP Outboard, 4-stroke -lightweight, low noise. Cover: Removable full-boat storage cover. Trailer: Magic Trail road trailer. With mast supports. Tag: U75VYY. Equipment: Lifting straps. Lifejackets 3 adult, 1 child. Dry storage box, flares etc. Warranties: Boat to Oct 07, engine to Oct 05. Insurance: To Oct 03. See it: In CGSC boat parking bay C12, named 'Isolation'. #FL0624LT. Reason for sale: Reluctant: owner being transferred from Miami. Asking price: REDUCED TO \$5,000 FOR QUICK SALE. Call: Jim & Mary Romanos 305 648 1055

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<u>Commercial Advertising</u> is available for business use by calling the Club Office at (305) 444-4571.

The final deadline for all submissions to the CHANNEL is the 10th of the month. Address all items to the Editor.



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