



the **channel**

COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB
serving the community since 1945

January 2006

CGSC LASER FLEET ON THE GO

Cressy Trophy

Hawaii and the Waikiki Yacht Clubs hosted the International Scholastic Sailing Association (ISSA) National High School Single-handed Championship this year. The regatta was held over Thanksgiving weekend. A total of 34 Laser Sailors (17 Full Rig and 17 Radial Sailors) qualified through district elimination events to compete for this year's National title in Hawaii, including 2 Laser Radial sailors from our Laser Group, David Hernandez and Sarah Lihan.

Saturday's race brought 15 to 18 knots of wind from the south along with large 4 to 8 foot seas. The Race Committee completed 9 races on Saturday. But, what a difference a day makes. Sunday's start had to be postponed while the sailors waited for wind. The seas were calm and

the wind was almost non-existent. The Race Committee was able to complete only 2 of the 3 planned Sunday races and they had to abandon one race due to large wind shifts.

Special Congratulations to David Hernandez (4th place in Radial Fleet - only 1 point behind 2nd place) and Sarah

Lihan (8th place in the Radial Fleet - only 10 points behind 5th place). Complete Regatta results can be found at <http://www.highschoolsailingusa.org/NationalsResults/06CressyResults.htm>.

David races with Diamond Head in his sights.



David and Sarah visit Diamond Head while in Hawaii.

Florida State and Gulf Coast Laser Championships

Twelve sailors from the CGSC Laser Fleet competed in the Florida State and Gulf Coast Laser Championships over the weekend of October 22 and 23. The event, hosted by the Edison Sailing Center, was sailed off the beach at the Fort Myers Beach Holiday Inn. For those staying at the Holiday Inn, it was great to park the car on Friday night and not have to get back into it until Sunday afternoon. The event was a great success. The weather was perfect, with a nice 8 to 13 knot breeze and clear blue skies along with moderate

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2005 - 2006 Flag Officers

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*Cover photo of Nick Voss and Andy Rahn
 at the U.S. Snipe Nationals by Fried
 Elliott.*

COMMODORE'S REPORT

Coconut Grove Waterfront Master Plan Members of Sasaki Associates Inc met again with the community and City officials on Dec 15th to discuss the Coconut Grove Waterfront Master Plan. Head consultant Mark Dawson said they had not formulated any plans and were still in the information gathering stage. At this point they are approaching the project with an open mind and the only building commitment for the area is a two story building for the harbormaster. Usage of the conference center is being scrutinized - many people would like to eliminate the conference center completely and that is a possibility. The City is exploring ways to generate the more than two million dollars in annual maintenance charges needed for the park. Fees from the mooring fields and docking areas will help defray these costs. The planning process will take six months and will be completed with input from the various stakeholders.



Questions were raised about the City's proposed 60 x 40 foot fuel dock on Dinner Key Marina's pier seven, adjacent to and jutting out into the Seminole Dock channel area. The fuel dock has already been permitted, a contract has been awarded, and the City Commission has approved it. City officials said that they consider the fuel dock a necessary part of making the Dinner Key marina a full service marina. Local neighborhood groups have complained about the lack of notice and the fact that this should have been included in the Master Plan process. They question the need for another fuel dock facility given that there are two or three other fuel dock facilities nearby on City of Miami property. Commissioner Johnny Winton has agreed to delay building the fuel dock and allow it to be included in the master plan process.

Celebration of Augie Diaz and Pam Kelly's World Cup Victory

The club celebrated Augie and Pam's first place victory at the Snipe World's in Japan with a reception at the club on December 6th. Both Augie and Pam learned to race at CGSC as children. Augie's mother Carmen recalled that the first thing Gonzalo Sr. bought when they arrived from Cuba in the 60s was a pram for the children. Carmen used to fly the starting race flags from the end of the club docks. Our race committee practices have certainly progressed since those times. Augie, a seemingly laid-back competitor who says he races for the sheer joy of sailing, has won the Snipe Worlds twice, has been awarded the Rolex Yachtsman of the Year Trophy, and is a highly ranked Star boat competitor. All this after raising three children and running a full time business! What we most appreciate is his strong commitment to giving back to the sailing community - Augie helps coach the laser youth program at the club and is always willing to help out sailors.

Pam Kelly, Augie's crew person, learned to race at CGSC and was part of the CGSC optimist pram Worlds Cup team in her youth. It was great to see that despite taking time off to have a baby, Pam is still winning races. Pam lives in Coconut Grove and is the first woman to win at the Snipe Worlds.

Those who are interested in racing snipes should contact Augie's father, Gonzalo Diaz, Sr. and join the Miami Snipe Fleet.

Moorings News

The board has been reviewing the costs associated with repairing the Hurricane Katrina damage to the moorings field. At this point the costs appear to be substantially lower than estimated thanks to the many dedicated volunteers who have helped out with repairs. The board has voted to credit the savings to all the

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(Commodore report)

members who were assessed damages. We do not know the exact number yet, but the cost savings is substantial. You will receive a letter with further details.

The board has also voted to offer month to month temporary mooring privileges in our mooring field to "members in good standing" of the four other clubs that, along with our club, comprise the Biscayne Bay Yacht Racing Association (BBYRA). BBYRA is the parent organization for organized racing in the bay, and the member clubs help by providing race management services. This temporary reciprocity program will help alleviate boat storage needs while the other BBYRA member clubs repair their storage facilities.

Social Memberships

January marks the second year anniversary of this membership category at the club. Social membership was

offered to City of Miami residents as an affordable way to welcome our neighbors into the club and to introduce non-sailors to the pleasures of the Bay. Social members have now become an important part of the club. They participate as volunteers in all aspects of the club, and have been active in race committee, entertainment committee and moorings committee. Many social members have joined BBYRA racing teams and others have been out on more casual day sails. We are particularly delighted to see some social members buy boats and become full boating members of the club. We welcome more participation, and your ideas for parties and club activities are very welcome. We are a club of volunteers, and many times all it takes to get an activity going is a club member who is interested and willing to work. Now that the hurricane season is finally over we can concentrate on some more "fun" activities. If you are interested in helping out contact Karen Young or Deborah Pepper.

Andrea Pringos
Commodore

Treasurer's Report

Happy New Year to all! Now that we are into a new year, it is time to be sure our financial house is in order. It is never a pleasant subject to talk money, but since the hurricanes, the number of member accounts that have become delinquent has increased substantially. Henceforth, I need to remind you that any member who is sixty [60] days behind in their monthly indebtedness to the Club will have their privileges at the Club suspended. If your account goes unpaid, and you have not called the Club to discuss your Account, our Bylaws state that a member shall be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary action includes "no" further credit or further use of the facilities (including suspension of Launch privileges) and can also include having your boat "locked" to it's Mooring, until your account is paid in full. These actions are necessary and fair to those members who do pay their Club obligations on time.

Before the 2005 Hurricane Season, there were more than 230 boats on the Club moorings. There are now less than 160 boats. Since the income we receive from members who have a boat on a mooring is primary to the Club, you can see our financial house needs help. If you are behind in paying your club billing statement, please make every effort to pay it as soon as possible. If you are unable to pay all that is due the Club, you need to call the Treasurer to arrange a payment plan.

One item that I see on your Monthly Statement which may be confusing, and often causes members to call the Club office

is our Annual Dues. Our Bylaws say that Dues are payable in full July 1st, which is also the beginning of our fiscal year. However, several years ago the Board of Directors voted to allow dues to be paid in Quarterly installments. If you choose to pay your Dues Quarterly, the payments are due on July 1st; October 1st; January 1st; and the

final payment is April 1st. The current Annual Dues plus taxes for regular members is \$614.64. Broken down to four [4] payments, each installment is \$153.66. On your December club statement, if the Dues lines show \$307.32 or less, you are current with your dues. If it is more than \$307.32, you are behind. If you resign your Club Membership anytime during the year, the Bylaws state you are still liable for the full amount of \$614.64. Remember the third installment of \$153.66 is due and payable in the month of January.

You can now pay your club bill with a credit card. Just call or stop by the office with your card information. You can even have the club automatically bill your credit card each month to pay your bill.

Happy sails to you,

Jo-An Piszenny,
Treasurer



(Lasers continued from 1)

temperatures. A total of 75 Laser Sailors (21 Full Rigs, 40 Radials and 14 Laser 4.7s) attended the event. Congratulations to the following Laser Sailors from our group:

Laser Full Rig Fleet (21 Boats)

3rd Place - Luke Lawrence

Laser Radial Fleet (40 Boats)

- 1st Place - David Hernandez
- 4th Place - Sarah Lihan
- 9th Place - Nick Voss
- 11th Place - Zack Kelchner
- 13th Place - Andrew Fox
- 14th Place - Paul Lloyd-James
- 18th Place - Alaina Bussell
- 19th Place - AJ McGlannan
- 23rd Place - Arielle deLisser

Laser 4.7 Fleet (14 Boats)

- 8th Place - Simon Lloyd-James
- 12th Place - Catie Skipp

Complete Regatta results for all fleets can be found at http://www.edisonsailingcenter.org/RR_Results.htm.

2005 Laser Radial Worlds in Brazil

Special Congratulations to Brad Funk, one of our main Laser Coaches, for winning the Silver Metal at this year's Laser Radial Worlds Championship. Brad Funk, who normally competes in a Laser Full rig, raced in the Radial World Championship in the men's fleet, where he finished in second place. The male World Champion is Eduardo Couto of Brazil, with Blair Mclay of New Zealand taking third.



Brad Funk racing in the 2005 Radial Worlds

In the Woman's division, US sailors Paige Railey (Clearwater, FL) and Anna Tunnicliffe (now living in Fort Lauderdale), won the Gold and Bronze metals respectively.

Full results can be found at <http://www.laserinternational.org/wrad2005/Results/index.htm>

Back at Home

The Laser group continues to support and participate in the BBYRA One-Design Line-up. We hope to continue to grow Laser participation in these local events. Details can be found on their web site at www.bbyra.net.

The Orange Bowl Regatta is coming and twenty two sailors turned out for three days of practice the weekend before Christmas. The session was coached by Brad Funk and Brett Davis.

Jose Hernandez



David Hernandez wins the Florida State and Gulf Coast Laser Radial Championship.



Radial Fleet at the Ft. Myers Regatta.



Waiting for wind at a Sunday practice.



The Laser fleet held an informative clic with coaches Brad and Brett to prepare for the Orange Bowl.



More Pictures from Hawaii



Sarah and David at the Cressy Laser Radials.



Cressy Nation Laser Fleet.



Sarah sails the course with Diamond Head in the background.



Sarah's boat disappears in the trough of a wave in Hawaii.



Sarah and David fight the swells in Hawaii.



David (#23) and Sarah (#25) battle in the Cressy fleet.

Snipe Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship Coming to Miami

Kick-off meeting for Snipe Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship Organization Jan 15th 6 pm at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club.

For the first time in its 55-year history, the Snipe Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship will be held in Miami. This international sailing championship event will be contested on Biscayne Bay and will draw over 100 of North America's, South America's and Asia's best sailors to Miami this coming October, not to mention regatta organizers, international governing body representatives, friends, family and spectators.

As the Gateway to the Americas, Miami and the Coconut Grove Sailing Club will have its opportunity to shine by hosting not only a world class regatta but also all of the landside events that will make the championship that much more memorable and enjoyable to all regatta participants. CGSC has an aura in the Snipe class and is renown for the excellence of the annual DON-Q Regatta. Attracting and hosting an international caliber event is one of the highlighted elements of CGSC's five year master plan and we need your help. As one of the strongest Snipe fleets in the world, we owe it to the Snipe class to make this a memorable, Class building and fleet building event. Being available to practice with members of the fleet who have qualified for this prestigious event in addition to being on one or many of the committees needed to make the racing, parties, dinners, registration, and merchandise sales run smoothly and profitably will be greatly appreciated by the local fleet, district, national and international members who are lending a hand.

The deed of gift for the regatta has been modified this year to allow for as many as 50 teams. With many of the teams

traveling long distances and shipping costs rising, one of the biggest hurdles it to corral 50 top flight boats from the US, Canada and the Bahamas so that they land in Miami from October 21st through October 26th. Thankfully, a volunteer team from around the country and the Bahamas has stepped up to the task and regattas have been scheduled to encourage Snipe sailors to bring their racing machines to Miami during October.

Aside from getting the boats here, there are countless other tasks, and we need your help. The list below will give you an idea of all of the things that need to be buttoned down to make this a successful regatta. **You have a talent we can use!** Come joins us and lend a hand, meet old and new friends and help us make this a wonderful event.

Scoring,
Measurement
Borrowed boats- identifying, insurance, shipping
Boatwright
Judges, PRO, RC support
Trophies
Sponsorship
Registration
Social Committee- entertainment, meals
Web site development
Housing
Merchandise design and sales

Help us hold up CGSC and Miami's reputation as a World Class sailing venue and a place for Serious Sailing Serious FUN

Lynn Fitzpatrick and Kay Voss

"NEW" Mooring Agreement for 2006

Please READ and mark your calendar!

Everyone who has a vessel in the CGSC Mooring Area "must" attend the Mooring Tenants Meeting to be held at Club.

**When: Wednesday, January 25, 2006,
7:30PM**

A new License Agreement for Mooring a vessel at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club was read and approved by the Board of Directors at the December Meeting. In order that everyone who keeps a vessel on a mooring at the CGSC fully understands their duty and responsibility to our Club, to the City of Miami, and fellow members, the owner [or owners] must attend this meeting as we prepare for the 2006 Hurricane Season. The purpose of the meeting is to review the new document with each one of you. You must sign this new "License Agreement for Mooring" at this meeting to assure your vessel has a mooring at the Club for the calendar year 2006.

Easter Seals Spend A Day at CGSC

The club held a one-day after-school sailing class for the Easter Seals of Miami last month. The kids came out and were ready to go sailing. They were taught how to rig a pram and finding the wind during a land drill. Then they were able to take turns sailing off the dock for their first sail. The kids sailed a reaching course and down wind. A volunteer swim teacher from MDCPS tested the kids before they came out to our site. The kids were able to sail for a half an hour and came in just as the sun was going down. We are planning on having a couple other visits from them next year when the water gets a little warmer.

The kids sit on the dock watch a demonstration of sailing a reaching course off the dock.



Rigging a sail and parts of the boat on land before they set sail!

A sailor turns around for a picture.



The kids learn how to find the wind

The kids are let off the dock for their first sail



Cruising & Rendezvous

Hello Fellow Sailors,

As the New year begins, I look forward to spending more time at the club and on the Bay. We left our little Grove house of 22 years and now have a view of the Bay from our new home across the street from the sailing club. I'll keep a watchful eye on the goings on along the waterfront, and try to help insure that the new plans for the Coconut Grove waterfront reflect the needs and wishes of the community and our club.

Our next Abacos planning meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 13th at the club. Please join us as we prepare for our early summer adventure. We are planning a three week trip and want our boats to be in ship shape for the crossing and island hopping once we cross. A stop in Bimini is planned on the way back to visit our friends at the Compleat Angler.

Our next Rendezvous is tentatively scheduled at the

Miami Yacht Club in mid January. I'm waiting for final approval from their Commodore regarding the date and will get back to you on that. We had a great raftup in their anchorage last year and many club members, social and regular drove over and enjoyed the facilities. At one point it looked more like CGSC than MYC at the bar. An added bonus was waking up to the implosion of one of Miami's downtown buildings Sunday morning! Hope you can join us for this fun event again - although we can't guarantee another implosion.

We're planning our Progressive Dinner for February. This proved to be one of our most popular events last year. We were able to include many social members and it allowed owners of boats on the moorings to showcase their vessels and culinary talents. Please let me know if you will be participating in this event. RSVP's required.

Happy New Year
Janice Pruett

Youth Sailing and Community Programs

Learn to Sail Classes

We have a smaller level one class this month, but the intermediate class is getting bigger. I have hired two coaches for these classes to add a third level. The club would like to welcome aboard Mark Davis and Carla Aronsohn. The kids have been sailing to the close sandbar for swim testing and practicing all points of sail. We will continue to have classes until winter break and start up again in January. **The cost of the classes is \$75 per child for the three Saturdays. Please contact Britt Price at britt@cgsc.org or 305-444-4571 ext. 11 to schedule classes.**

The schedule is as follows for next Year!

Level 1 (Beginner)

January 7th, 14th & 21st

9:00am – 12:00pm

February 4th, 11th & 18th

9:00am – 12:00pm

March 4th, 11th, & 18

9:00am – 12:00pm

April 1st, 8th & 15th

9:00am – 12:00pm

Level 2 (Intermediate)

January 7th, 14th, & 21st

1:00pm – 4:00pm

February 4th, 11th, & 18th

1:00pm- 4:00pm

March 4th, 11th, & 18th

1:00pm – 4:00pm

April 1st, 8th, & 15th

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Green Fleet

Natalie Bellini is our newly hired coach and Mike Abell has decided to move up and coach the green fleet. We have been having joint practices with KBYC when they have enough kids to come out on our double practice weekends. The kids have their first regatta December 17th & 18th at MYC. This will be their first regatta this year. I will have the results next



Mike Abell giving a chalk talk to the Green Fleet before sailing out.

months' issue. The team has plenty of support from the parents who make it all possible. We have also held a clinic for the kids to prepare for Orange Bowl. The coach for the clinic was Eric Aronsohn along with Devon from the KBYC. The club had a great turnout for the Orange Bowl Regatta last

year also, with the help of Maryellen Blanco and Natalie Bellini coaching the green fleet and CJ Abell, assisting with our advanced fleet.



Green Fleet practicing for the Fall Harvest Regatta.

After-school Programs

Ransom Middle

This was a great winter session for this group. The kids all had a chance to come out twice a week and learn to sail. The kids were able to sail on several courses and even compete in a couple fun races against their teachers and the sailing director. This session we had a total of 38 kids who have sailed from our club since September this year. This program was designed to teach the kids from the middle



Sailing out of the harbor for practice on the bay.

school to sail before entering their upper school and participate in their racing program. The kids learn to sail in our Clearwater Prams, Sunfish and Optimists. The club had plenty of no wind days this winter, so the kids have also learned to Kayak.

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Students practicing land drills before heading out for a module two class.

Ransom Middle Cruising around in light air!

Britt Price

The next session starts up again after the first of the year. I would also like to give special thanks to the teachers and waterfront manager who make this program work so well. They come out after school and help with everything from getting the boats ready to coaching. These special people are Ms. Morris, Mr. D'Alembert and Carlos Medina. Thanks again.

St. Stephen's

The sailing club has completed its first session with St. Stephens's first and second grade after-school program. This is the first time we have allowed kids under the age of 8 participate as a class. The kids had a great time learning to sail and kayaking. They were able to explore several different islands around the bay and sail in open water. There are several people I would also like to thank from this group who have been helping me get the kids ready and coaching on the water with me for two years now. St. Stephens was the first after-school program we started. I would like to take time in this article to thank Quin Booth, Kit Ferrer, Coach Katherine, and Coach Zack. I know I am missing several people, but these teachers came out and helped teach and organize for the longest time. The kids had their Awards Ceremony last month before winter break. It was a great time and all the kids were excited. I look forward to seeing you all next Year for more adventures on the Bay.



Hanging out on the dock for a break between fun races.



Sailing in style back to the dock

MDCPS

The club has been busy with the school system last month with different schools coming out to participate in several activities Monday thru Thursdays. On days there is no wind we kayak or canoe to different locations and snorkel and collect marine life. The schools that came out last month included North Miami Beach Senior, South Miami High, American High, Turner Teach and Rivera Middle. These classes start up in full swing again in January.



The kids practice their manovers in the harbor before setting out to Mystery Island.

Anchor's Away Ceremony

The Club supported the annual Anchor's Away Ceremony again this year at Oleta State Park in North Miami. The club has always been able and willing to help Dr. Greenberg and Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The club had our 7 Access Dinghies, one powerboat and the sailing Director to help with the Kick Off. The instructors from MDCPS and CGSC coached the kids for North Miami Senior and South Miami High sail a reaching course in the background during the ceremony. This allowed everyone attending to see these boats in action. The club received two more Access Dinghies from this event brining our number of boats to nine. The event was a great experience where the ESE kids could sail around and show everyone the skills they have learned. I also want to give thanks to Tim Madigan for volunteering to tow the club skiff up and back from the club, and Phil Kellet for being the club representative.



Module one class takes a break for a group photo.

Biscayne National Park Discovery Series Lectures at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club

Biscayne National Park will once again be presenting monthly lectures on the park's diverse resources. The Discovery Series, hosted by the Coconut Grove Sailing Club at 2990 South Bayshore Drive, takes place at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month from January through April 2006. The series is free and open to the public. Topics for this 6th year of the popular series are:

January 11 Restoring Biscayne Bay

Presented by Sarah Bellmund, Biscayne National Park

Decades ago, freshwater springs welled up from the bottom of Biscayne Bay...but no more. The same water delivery problems which have threatened the Everglades also affect Biscayne National Park. Join Park Ecologist Sarah Bellmund for a discussion on how the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will benefit Miami-Dade County's "other" national park.

February 8 It's a mountain...It's a Landmark...

No, It's a Landfill!

Presented by German Hernandez, Miami-Dade Solid Waste Department.

From almost any point in beautiful Biscayne National Park you can spot an unmistakable landmark, the South Dade Landfill, also known as "Mt. Trashmore." Learn how it operates, how it serves our community and about its conservation features.

March 8 Biscayne National Park's Maritime Heritage Trail

Presented by Brenda Lanzendorf and David Choate, Biscayne National Park

South Florida's maritime history is full of unfinished voyages, their tragic stories on hold for decades even centuries. Their physical remains will soon be open to visitors as part of the park's Maritime Heritage Trail. Learn how this "shipwreck trail," unprecedented within the National Park System, will provide visitors an amazing recreational and educational experience.

April 12 Getting Bizarre in Biscayne

Presented by Bob Showler, Biscayne National Park

Biscayne National Park is about biodiversity. More species of fish alone exist here than all the fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals combined in Yellowstone. With so much life, some truly remarkable and often bizarre natural stories can be told about how plants and animals survive...and how they've crossed paths with people.

Details of Discovery Series lectures and other events sponsored by the park, including glass bottom boat and snorkeling trips, guided canoe trips, excursions to Elliott and Boca Chita Key, and monthly Family Fun Fests, are available by clicking on the Activities Calendar link on the park's website at www.nps.gov/bisc/, or by calling the park's visitor center at 305-230-7275, extension 0-

NPS-EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Kitchen Hours



Thursday

11:00am – 8:00pm

Friday & Saturday

11:00am- 9:00pm

Sunday

11:00am – 8:00pm

Thursday Night Special

New York Strip Steak Dinner

\$10.00 Between 6-8 PM

You need to call ahead to reserve yours.

Support the Coconut Grove Sailing Foundation thru United Way Contribution

The Coconut Grove Sailing Foundation was founded by a group of club members with the purpose of supporting sailing programs on Biscayne Bay. If you make an annual United Way donation, you may wish to designate it on behalf of the Coconut Grove Sailing Foundation. You may also remember the Foundation in your estate planning.

The Coconut Grove Sailing Foundation is a charitable organization pursuant to Sec 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax ID EIN#65-107-3893, FL registration Number 12776. P.O. Box 331835, Coconut Grove, FL 33233-1835

Cruising Training in the UK

Sailing conditions in British waters are generally much more challenging than in Florida; 25-35 ft tides and 5 knot tidal streams are common, and because of this it is much more common for cruisers to take cruising training courses. These courses are regulated by the Royal Yachting Association, the RYA.

The RYA is basically a club with 100,000 members that regulates almost all aspects of recreational sail and power boat training in the UK. The Government has even delegated, to the RYA, the power to award commercial licenses up to 200 tons. The RYA was founded in 1875 as the Yacht Racing Association. In 1968 it initiated its training programs and started to license sailing schools and sail training programs run by yacht clubs. There are now hundreds of RYA schools throughout the world. In 1971 it initiated a panel to grant the qualification of Yachtmaster which is commercially endorsable as a 200 ton license recognized world wide as the 'Gold Standard'. Almost all UK sailing clubs are RYA accredited sail training schools, one as prestigious as Coconut Grove Sailing Club would certainly be an accredited school.

The RYA training is a graduated system of both theory and practical courses that place emphasis on seamanship and the accumulation of experience that culminates with obtaining the Yachtmaster qualification. While it is possible to take an accelerated course and pass the Yachtmaster exam after a full time course of 3 weeks of theory, 4 months of sea training and a minimum of 3500 sea miles most cruisers take several years to achieve the level of expertise to pass the Yachtmaster exam. The final exam is a two day on-the-water practical exam with no allowance made for the fact that it might be blowing a gale of 40 knots.

The first level of training is an introduction to sailing titled 'Competent Crew' which is 5 days on the water learning which rope to pull and how to helm a boat. Actually few people take this course and they get the requisite experience by sailing as crew with friends or members of the yacht club.

The second level of training, 'Day Skipper', is the minimum qualification required by charter companies and their insurers. Day Skipper consists of approximately 40-50 hours of class work and 5 days and nights on the water. The theory portion covers all aspects of sailing knowledge and navigation. Because the tides in British waters, especially the English Channel, are complex a great deal of time is spent on calculating tidal sets and drifts and how they complicate basic navigation. There are places in England and France that when the tide goes out not only is the harbor totally dry it is a mile from the sea. On the western tip of the Cherbourg Peninsular, at high springs, the tide flows at 9 knots...boats have been seen to be going backwards at 4 knots under full sail in a strong breeze!

The practical portion of Day Skipper covers all the necessary practical skills such as navigation, sail handling, mooring, anchoring and includes 4 hours of night sailing. The students will sail 150-300 miles in 5 days and the experience might include sailing in 30+ knots in protected waters. The maximum number of students per boat is four.

After completing Day Skipper most people cruise for a

few years and slowly build up their experience level. Most yacht clubs offer crewing opportunities for members and the one I was a member of organized yearly off-shore trips so that members could get experience with an instructor on board. Our trips were either a 550 mile round trip in the Irish Sea or a 400 mile trip to Holland or France. More than a third of the time these trips encountered sustained wind in excess of 30 knots and were true blue water experiences. In order to qualify for the practical exams the student must complete a series of 60+ mile trips on the rhumb line both as crew and skipper so these trips were divided up into 60-70 mile legs with each the students taking it in turns to be skipper. The navigation was all done without GPS.

Once the cruising sailor has accumulated enough experience they can then take the practical tests that allow them to obtain commercial licenses. While it is not mandatory to take the theory courses most sailors take a week long theory course that is almost identical to the US 100 ton theory course. This course then allows the candidate to take the practical courses without having to take a theory test during the practical on-the-water test.

There are two levels of practical exams, the first is 'Coastal Skipper' which is the equivalent of the US Coast Guard '6 pack' and requires about half the practical experience that is required to take 'Yachtmaster', which is a 200 ton offshore ticket. The practical tests take from 24 to 48 hours and are comprised of sailing skills, navigating and general seamanship and at least a third of the test takes place at night. There is a great emphasis on the candidate's ability to command the boat and manage the crew. The exam usually takes place on a boat provided by the candidate who must provide an adequate crew but it is actually easier to take a preparatory course with a sailing school and take the practical exam with three other candidates taking it in turns to be crew or skipper on the school boat.

The practical test for Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster are essentially identical but to pass Yachtmaster the candidate must perform at a much higher level and demonstrate complete control of the boat and crew irrespective of the weather conditions. The test includes: finding unlit buoys in the dark and a fog exercise where the candidate must find a specific buoy or post up to 3-4 miles away by navigating blind from the chart table. All the navigation is by estimated position, without the use of GPS, allowing for the strong tidal cross currents that predominate in British waters.

The highest qualification awarded is Yachtmaster Ocean which requires a Yachtmaster to complete an 800 mile off-shore passage using celestial navigation. The candidate then presents his navigation work to a shore based examiner during a two hour oral exam. There are less than 2500 Yachtmasters Ocean worldwide.

A further incentive to obtain RYA qualifications is that increasingly, in the UK, the charter companies and their insurers are requiring formal qualifications as evidence of competency to charter a boat. They use a point system, Day Skipper is one point, Coastal Skipper is two points and

(continued on 12)

(continued from 11)

Yachtmaster is four points; a skipper and crew must have a total of four points to be allowed to charter a boat. They would be unlikely to authorize an Irish Sea crossing or an English Channel crossing with out a Coastal Skipper or a Yachtmaster aboard. Not only are the tides complex but on the French side both the north and south bound separation zones have a constant 24 hour stream of large freighters, making 12 knots, only one to two miles apart. Crossing a busy traffic lane, at night, in bad weather is a challenge irrespective of ones level of competency. Once you get to France the entries into the French ports such as St. Malo can be very challenging, the

marked channel into St. Malo is 2-3 miles of rocks, doglegs, ferries and French fishing boats intent on ramming any English boat they get in their sights all with the added complication of a 35 ft tidal range. If you log onto the following internet address you will get some idea of why it is worth sailing to St Malo and the reasons you have to be able to work out what happens when the tide goes out.

http://www.condorferries.co.uk/dest_malo/malo_intro_m.htm

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OUTBOARD MOTOR FOR SALE: Environmentally friendly Honda 4 Stroke 2 HP outboard motor, Air Cooled, weighs only 30 pounds, centrifugal clutch model...this version new is valued at \$920. This 2002/03 Engine has very light use. Asking only \$600. Call Jennifer, 305-807-1484, or Joe, 305-968-2426.

1983 CATALINA 27" LONG SHOT" Many extras including VHS, GPS chart plotter, auto helm, roller furling. Price: \$8000 or best offer Located Coconut Grove Sailing Club Contact: Jerry Stein- H. 561- 627-5884 C. 305-775-0786-email- gstein21@aol.com

Month 2

"Footloose" For Sale. 1967 Morgan – 34 ft. Yanmar Diesel Engine, Repowered in '98, Sail Inventory: New Main, Roller Furler Genoa, Spinnaker. Custom Cockpit & Salon Cushions. Dodger, Bimini, & Protective Canopy. Canvas Covers for Brightwork. VHF and Instruments. Auto Pilot. All new Paint in 2005 – Bottom, Freeboard, & Exterior Deck. Perfect for Cruising. Priced to Sell at \$19,500. On a Mooring at Coconut Grove Sailing Club Call Nick @ 305-439-8258.

OPTIMIST SAILBOAT FOR SALE: McLaughlin Optimist Club Racer bought in February 2004 – sailed for one year (has not sailed since February 2005) – Great Condition (Simon is now sailing Lasers) AND New Olympic Racing Sail (Blue) (used for 4 regattas) ALSO Available at no extra charge for purchaser:- Pair of good sailing hiking boots size: 41/42 ASKING \$2500 or BEST OFFER (exchange for Laser sailboat would be considered) Call Maureen or Peter at 954-384-5328 OR email Maureen at mloydjames@jwu.edu.

25 Pound Plow anchor, \$150. Call 305 772 3655

1998 HUNTER 240, good condition 24 foot, \$8000 obo. Sean 305 324 7100.

Month 3

For Sale: Avon 8' dingy. Rover 2.80 Plywood floor. Inflatable keel. Very good condition. \$550.00 Jim Fawcett 305-235-2650.

25' Cape Dory (1982). Excellent condition, sleeps 4, standing headroom, Yanmar diesel, bimini, many upgrades including sail covers, sails, roller furling genoa, VHF, compass, toilet. 6 opening ports, Bimini and Dodger. E-amil: Mayras1957@aol.com or 305-610-0988. Asking \$17,500.

SNIPES FOR SALE OR RENT: Miami Snipe Fleet #7 (Chartered in 1932) Fleet is willing to help the new members to get fast and further develop their boat handling, tactical and boat tuning skills. It is a boat for young and old! Call Gonzalo Diaz, Sr. and join the Miami Snipe Fleet. 305-667-0492 (best 8-10PM) Work: 305-702-8526 (best 4-6PM)

Classified Advertising Policy Classified advertising is for club members in good standing and is limited to personally owned items that are for sale. Ads will be run for 3 months and then will be dropped from the listing, unless the advertiser calls the Editor to renew for another 3 months. Classified ads should be sent to cebranning@bellsouth.net. A classified ad can be pulled at any time by calling the Editor at (305) 661-2322 or sending an email to the above address..

Deadline: All Ads, articles and pictures for The Channel must be received by the 15th of the month. Please send articles and ads as a Word document and pictures as jpeg attachments to cebranning@bellsouth.net.

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

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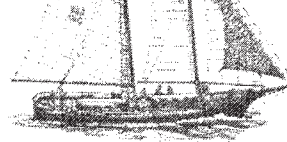
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Photos by Charles Altschul.