

the
channel

COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB
serving the community since 1945



August 2010

Summer Fantastic - Camp Fun!!!

Ahoy all, I don't know whether the summer's are getting hotter or I'm just getting older, but man is it hot!

With our regular youth sailing season all wrapped up, that can only mean one thing... SUMMER CAMP, and it's on baby. We actually ended our season as we always do and that's with a parent & kids family funday. This year we didn't have our normal sleepover here at CGSC but did have all the other festivities associated with the last day of the season. We started out by loading all the parents and kids on club powerboats and sailboats and headed for our favorite sandbar to spend the day sunning,

swimming, sailing and just having a relaxed fun day. It is quite the sight to see parents sailing in Opti's with their kids and loving every minute of it, I think the kids get a bigger kick out of being the "Captain"



for parents who have little or no sailing experience. We also had our fleet of Sunfish on hand for some of the racers to get parents out sailing, and of course to capsized their parents whenever they had the opportunity to do so. After spending the better part of the day at the sandbar, it's back to CGSC for the much anticipated, fourth annual "Parents vs. Kids Volleyball Game". This is a tradition we started about four years ago at the Clark Mill's Regatta in



2009 - 2010
Flag Officers

Commodore.....Alyn Pruett
Vice Commodore Ron Rostorfer
Rear Commodore Doug Hanks
Secretary Sean Connett
Treasurer Ron Canizares
Fleet Captain Doug Hanks
Fleet Chaplain Bishop C. Schofield
Fleet Surgeon Dr. Nicolaus Martens

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Owen Brown (11) Nick Martens (PC)
Cathy Buller (13) Philip Messier (11)
Jim Fawcett (12) Bruce Penrod (13)
David Holland (11) Javier Prado (13)

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Adult SailingRichard Crisler
BBYRA Rep..... Ron Rostorfer
By-Laws..... Ron Canizares
C-Gulls..... Anita Hansen, Krisan Lamberti
Chamber of Commerce..... Doug Hanks
Channel EditorCherie Branning
Cruising&Rendezvous..... Janice Pruett
Entertainment..... Doug Hanks
Executive.....Alyn Pruett
Finance..... Ron Canizares
Flying Scot Racing..... Larry Whipple
Future Development..... Marc Buller
House Ron Rostorfer
IT Committee
Laser Racing Peter Branning
Marine Council Rick Rahm
Marine Science Acad.Alyn Pruett
Membership Doug Hanks
Mooring..... Bill Beavers
Opti Racing..... Antonio Bejarano &
..... Gail Pulsford
Orange Bowl Regatta..... Ron Rostorfer
Pier 7 Rep..... Bill Braddon
Property..... Ron Rostorfer
Protocol..... Marc Buller
Public RelationsAlyn Pruett
Race..... Susan Walcutt
Safety & Security Marc Buller
Snipe RacingGonzalo Diaz, Sr.
Strip..... Bud Price
UM Sailing Coordinator Charles Rahn
Web “diva”..... JoAnn Mathieu
Sailing Director..... Nick Mansbach
Club Manager..... Dragan Savin

The “Old Man” racing his Snipe (photo taken by Fried Elliott, friedbits.com) or Laser racing in the Olympic Class Regatta.

COMMODORE’S REPORT



It is an honor to serve as your Commodore this year! By all measures, the past year has been a banner year for the club – thanks to the continuing efforts of you - our members, the Board of Directors, and our leadership team: our learn to sail programs – both for youth and adults have continued to grow and provide a great pool of new club members; our racing program has had an outstanding year – with CGSC hosting and managing more regattas than in any year in recent memory; and our outreach program – taking the word about the fun and sportsmanship of sailing out into our community - has been more successful than ever thanks to the continued efforts of our staff, member volunteers, and our youth sailing participants. As a result of those efforts last year CGSC distributed more than \$5,000 in summer camp scholarships to kids who would otherwise not have been able to attend, and would not have learned how to sail . While much has been accomplished there is still much to do. If there is a theme I would like to describe as our “agenda” for this year it is to “keep the momentum growing”.

As I said at the annual installation dinner, we are a “community of sailors” (a phrase coined by Jim Bigham as I recall), and as such, I hope we can accomplish the following this year.

First and foremost we will expend every effort necessary to conclude a long – term lease agreement with the City of Miami. Our outgoing Commodore Nick Martens worked hard to set the groundwork for this to happen, and it is our job, with his continued help, to ensure this is accomplished. Ron Canizares, our Treasurer and Peter Branning, Board Member, are working hard to move the process along, in close cooperation with City of Miami staff, who continue to be very cooperative.

Second, we need to continue growing our learn-to-sail programs. Richard Crisler and Nick Mansbach have done a great job, building powerful programs in both youth and adult sailing. We need to continue the growth we have experienced in the past couple of years, which may require bringing in more instructors and boats. One aspect of this effort is to create a “Learn to Swim/Sail” program. This effort is aimed at overcoming the fact that many youth cannot participate in our sailing programs because they cannot swim. We hope to partner with Ransom Everglades School and the City of Miami to make this program a reality this year. A related aspect of this effort will be to create a “learn to sail” program for families. The author Nicholas Hayes (Saving Sailing) believes that the way to “save sailing” is to engage the entire family in the activity. He makes a compelling case. We will work on creating such a program this year. If you would like to participate in these exciting initiatives please contact Richard and / or Nick Mansbach.

Third, we need to continue to maintain our high quality race management efforts. Led by Susan Walcutt, the Race Committee did an incredible job last year. It is because of the great work of our Race Committee members that we have been able to attract high profile regattas, such as the Melges winter series to CGSC. We always need members who are willing to help keep this effort going. Please talk with Susan if you would like to volunteer. While it is hard to imagine expanding our program of races over what we did last year, we will continue to look for opportunities to grow this activity. As I have said before, the races that bring out-of-town participants to CGSC

(commodore continued)

are an important “economic engine” for the City and the Coconut Grove neighborhood.

Fourth, and finally we should all think of ourselves as ambassadors for CGSC. With our new dues and fee structure, membership in CGSC is more affordable than ever. I hope every member will help get the word out about our Club and the great activities we have to offer.

As Past Commodore Larry Whipple said at the annual installation dinner “the more I participate in the Club, the more fun I have”. I wholeheartedly agree with this sentiment. As I wrote in an article posted on the Coconut Grove Grapevine, CGSC will benefit most from members who find ways to “take ownership” of the club, through participation in club sailing and social events and community service activities. Find a way to participate and take ownership of your involvement in the CGSC. If we all contribute to our club – in whatever fashion makes the most sense to you, we can accomplish great things.

See you at the club and on the Bay

Alyn Pruett, Commodore

VICE COMMODORE REPORT

It is an honor to serve as your incoming Vice Commodore, and to be associated with the outstanding people on the Bridge and Board. I’m very much looking forward to this coming year. The Club has made a lot of progress over the last few years, especially last year. It’s an exciting time for our entire membership to be involved in Club events and developments.

The recent renovation of the Crew’s Nest and the greatly improved quality and selection from our Galley service are standout achievements. Along with that is the improved financial performance in these areas. Commodore Alyn Pruett, General Manager Dragan Savan, Chef Tara Abrams and Treasurer Ron Canizares led these efforts and deserve our deep gratitude.

Our Clubhouse and food and beverage service are there for the membership to enjoy, and we need your support to make the whole thing work. So, please come down, get involved in Club activities, and plan on staying for lunch or dinner and a beverage. For the latest on the Club, regularly check our great website at www.cgsc.org.

On a final note, if you have ideas concerning Club improvements or workday projects, please let me know at ronsailon@comcast.net. Let’s make it a great year! See you at the Club.

Ron Rostorfer, Vice Commodore



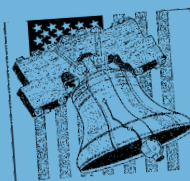
Fabulous 4th Celebration



Dick Crisler's boat Angel won the award for the best decorations.



Above, Alan Creed cooked the burgers and dog.



REAR COMMODORE REPORT

I'm looking forward to a fun year of CGSC sailing as Rear Commodore. This job has one main mission: promote sailing at the Club. That can't be too hard, as our sailing activities have been gaining momentum for several years. From our jam-packed rendezvous schedule, to the Racing 101 series, to our fleet's outstanding showings in the Goom-bay and Key Largo races, to the new Ensign and our busy adult-sailing classes to our resurrected Laser program and our growing Opti fleets, the CGSC once again has proven itself to be the best place for sailors on Biscayne Bay.

As for goals over the next 12 months, I won't outline some of my priorities that center on growing what we've already got. I'll be an active supporter and advocate for our adult and youth sailing classes, the rendezvous and race committees and our CGSC fleets.

But I'd like to hand over the Rear Commodore flag a year from now having added a few things at the CGSC. They are:

FLYING SCOT CLASSES: We used to teach sailing classes in Flying Scots. This year, I'd like to see the Scots join the Ensigns and Sunfish as instructional boats. But I'd also like to see those who take a Scot class be able to use the boats for daysails and races, too. In short, let's build on our very successful "Adopt-a-Scot" program and get even more CGSC members sailing on Flying Scots. Flying Scot racing is one of the great CGSC traditions, but we need to keep sustaining that fleet with new sailors. An active schedule of Flying Scot classes and an expanded roster of Flying Scot sailors will help with that. The good news is that Bud Price, a veteran sailing instructor and Flying Scot racer, is working with Nick and Richard to get a Flying Scot class going this fall. We're hoping it will be the first of many.

SEAMANSHIP COMMITTEE: One of the great things about this Club is our dedication to improving our sailing skills and knowledge. Yet we don't have a formal arm of the Club to promote this-- no committee or officer who's dedicated to making all of us better sailors. Sean Connett, our new Secretary, has agreed to add this mission to his duties this

year. He'll be chairman of a temporary Seamanship Committee, organizing events aimed at boat-handling skills, safety and sailing knowledge -- from weather forecasting to drills on sailing to your mooring (not recommended, per Club policy, but sometimes required). Sean is already talking about holding a Sailing Rodeo, so it should be fun. I'm hoping at next year's Annual Meeting to propose a bylaw amendment to add Seamanship to our roster of permanent Standing Committees.

FAMILY SAILING CLASSES: There's a big push underway across the country to market sailing as an activity the whole family can not only enjoy together, but can learn together too. Unlike soccer, baseball, ballet, and karate, parents don't need to drop off their kids at sailing class. They can get on the boat and learn, too. This not only helps fill sailing class schedules, but can be a great recruiting tool too as we become the Club where families learn to love sailing together. Carving out time for family sailing lessons will be a challenge, given our busy and growing schedule of adult sailing courses. But I hope we'll be the leader on Biscayne Bay for family sailing classes, a trend sure to grow in the coming years. Alyn cited family sailing classes as a top goal of his during his speech at the Installation Dinner, and I'm eager to work with Richard, Nick, Bruce, Bud and our other instructors to make these classes a CGSC trademark.


I would love to hear what you think about these goals, and what other sailing priorities you think the Club should pursue over the next 12 months. If you can help with any of this -- or have ideas, please (please!) shoot me an e-mail.

Thanks for your support. I look forward to seeing you out on the Bay,


Doug Hanks, Rear Commodore
ensignmiami@gmail.com



GALLEY NEWS

Tuesday Night \$2 Tacos the first Tuesday all others \$1.00
Hot Dogs and all the fix'ins remaining from 6-9 p.m. 

Wednesday Night Caribbean Spice
Every month Chef Tara will feature a few appetizers and main dishes that represent Caribbean cuisine.
Call the office at ext. 18 to inquire about the specials for the month. \$7.50

Thursday Theme Night Burger Fest
Every Thursday, Chef Tara will feature 3 to 4 special burgers that will run for a month. The most popular will become our Commodore's burger on the regular menu and she will create a few more for the Thursday "Fest". \$8.75 

WEEKLY HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday	Bar and Kitchen closed
Tuesday	SOCIAL NIGHT 6-9 pm
Wednesday	Caribbean Night 5-9 pm
Thursday & Friday	Lunch 11am 'til 2 pm Dinner 5 pm 'til 9 pm 
Saturday & Sunday	11am 'til 9 pm

Launch service 24/7 



From The Manager.....

Hot Miami summer is in a full swing.

Summer sailing camp is busy and we are bustling with activities. Number of kids signing up is meeting last years figures and I see this as a great success for the Club, taking in consideration still quite shaky economic climate in the country.

All youngsters finishing their two weeks program leave happy and thirsty for more. Nick and his instructor crew are doing a great job teaching and entertaining. Every young sailor this summer is a potential member of the Club in the future!!

It's been four months since the completion of Club's restaurant and bar renovation and we can with certainty call it a successful one. Tara's new menu is doing very good, new wine list is popular and our monthly specialty beers are selling exceptionally good. And as a result, Food and beverage department turned profitable in the last fiscal year.

For the month of August, I am organizing some changes to our Theme nights. Long running Italian themed Wednesday is becoming "Caribbean Spice Wednesdays" event. Tara is cooking some hearty, spiced and a bit spicy dishes inspired by the free spirit of Caribbean Islands. We'll play some traditional music of the region, together with modern tunes. Straw hats are strongly recommended! We'll have bar specials as well, so come and enjoy the newest Theme night at the Club. On the other hand, Thursday "Burger Fest" will continue, but with completely new, exciting recipes. Come and check it out, I'm sure you'll love it.

I have also introduced bar drink specials on Saturdays and Sundays after 5pm. Check with your bartender, Daniela, Jeff and Geneva what is on the list for the day.

I would also like to use this opportunity to announce that as a result of a popular demand we are going to run specials on drinks every Sunday during the approaching American football season. We'll keep you updated on the promos through Email and through Entertainment page of the web site.

Since our last Wine lecture and tasting I have heard several times that interest exist to do it again soon. So, I am planning "Discover Wine Regions" lecture to take place in September. The date has not been set yet, but I expect to have it on one Thursday in mid September. This time the lecture will be much more concentrated on common knowledge of wine production, regions, varietals and specification of the region. I will introduce between 10 and 14 different wine regions, we'll taste them and learn how to judge and blind-taste wine and ultimately recognized characteristics of the same grape from different region of the World. Keep an eye on web site announcement on exact date of the event.

And a note on parking. As all members now are regular and have a parking sticker, it becomes even more important to have new, green sticker on your car. If you do not have it yet, please, come to the office and Lauren or myself will issue one.

That's all. See you at the Club.....

Dragan Savin

COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB HOSTS SAILBOAT RACING 101 SESSION 2

On July 10th the club hosted session two of the racing 101 series.

This session covered the start and the weather leg, focusing on tactics and rules. It started with a 3 hour lecture followed by a 1 hour social / lunch where the volunteer coaches and skippers could match up with their students. Then it was out to the race course where we had 2 practice races that consisted of a start and a sail upwind to a gate. The goal was to take some of the mystery and intimidation out of the experience. It seemed successful as the starting line was packed with most of the boats on the line on time and moving fast. There were no collisions or major conflicts and lots of smiles. During the end of day review there was a discussion of a close finish and how the rules applied. The group was questioned concerning the difference in their opinion of the start and the perceived chaos from the beginning of the day to the end. The consensus was that it was indeed less intimidating and more deliberate than they had thought. In all 13 boats sailed the practice races carrying 25 students. There was a coach or 2 on every boat. I would like to thank all of the people who supplied boats and coaching time as well as Jo Ann Mathiews and her race committee who put on a great demo of the start in the classroom and ran great practice races. I won't name all of the volunteers who helped put this on but there were around 20 people involved in all. Session three is planned for August 29th. It will cover mark rounding, down wind racing and the finish. To do this right we will need lots of boats and skippers to get the students out on the water. We need boats of any size that can fly a spinnaker. I would like each boat to have enough

crew to show the students how crews work together and be able to sail the boat well with the students help.

Bud Price PC



continued from 1

Clearwater. We were lucky enough to be able to stay at the famed (and haunted) then named, Biltmore hotel, about a fifteen minute drive from Clearwater. Upon arriving at the hotel we were pleasantly surprised by a massive Olympic style swimming pool with a volleyball court adjacent to the pool area, hmmm, how could we best put these great facilities to good use? Thus the birth of the first annual "Parent vs. Kids Volleyball Game". Back then we only had about 7 kids in youth programming so we only played the best of three matches, so to even the score we asked the kids to hand over their PFD's to the parents so they could put them on and hopefully feel a bit encumbered since the kids were still pretty small. We also gave the kids our then 6 foot 5 inch coach, Mike McHugh to even things out a bit more. About halfway through our first match we noticed that we were drawing quite the crowd of guests as spectators and were extremely entertained by the pretty silly looking parents in those PFD's and all the kids laughing, playing and just having a great time. I forgot to mention earlier that there was also a wager agreed to by the parents and kids on what the winners would receive should they be the victor's. After splitting the parents and kids up to give some thought to their wish lists, both parties came back with their wishes. I thought for sure the parents would go for yard work, car washes or general chores, but their request was the should the kids lose that they would have



to put on a "talent show" for the parents, wow, what a great idea. Now, the kids turn... "We all want to have a sleepover in Oscar Coen's room!" (you should have seen the look on Marlena and Oscar Coen, Sr. faces when that was announced), but being the great sports that they are, it was agreed that indeed there would be a sleepover should the kids win. Thank goodness (especially for the Coen's) that the parents won best out of three putting up a valiant effort and winning the first annual "Parent vs. Kids" volleyball game. Although the kids put up a great fight and all were very disappointed about their loss, I announced that even though they weren't victorious would still have a sleepover, only not in Oscar's room, but back at CGSC in tents on the lawn! The cheering seemed to go on forever and there were hugs galore as everyone got their wish. The talent show was



a huge success and all club members that were at CGSC that evening added a great vibe to a really fun event, with plenty of applause and praise for some of the wonderful talent that was demonstrated at the show. With the talent show in the history books it was time for movies and ice cream, then

tooth brushing and finally, lights out.

Those were great times for all and now that most of the kids have gotten older (and wiser) they opted not to do the talent show and sleepover this year, which was OK by me as I was pretty worn out from the days events. Now that we are getting more younger beginning sailors and racers we can all look forward to keeping with this tradition next year.

I'm enclosing some photo's of this years event for you all to enjoy.

As I write this I just realized two things: Only 31 days of summer camp left, I better get back out there with the campers...

That's all for now
Nick

Nick Mansbach
Sailing Director
Coconut Grove Sailing Club
2990 South Bay Shore Drive
Miami, Florida 33133
305-444-4571 Ext. 11
Fax:305.444.8959



Photos by Kit Temple

**Join
CGSC's
Race Committee Team**

A rewarding day on the Bay!

Contact Susan Walcutt
walcutts@bellsouth.net
305.297.7757

West Grove Youth Groups: Making a Difference for Island Park in the Sun

Nicole Hospital-Medina, University of Miami,
Graduate Student & Island Volunteer

Island E, located just off of the Sailing Club, used to be nicknamed “Dead Dog Island,” like some castaway’s nightmare or a pirate’s dream. Needless to say, it was the type of island you couldn’t walk barefoot on, and you had to make sure your sleeves were thick enough for branch webs and mosquito colonies. Now, you can easily beach your boat just in front of the wooden picnic table. The table is one of many on the Island, one of many sweet lunch spots near a coconut palm tree with a view of the glorious bay. You can manage a walk through the native foliage, without the pesky exotic intruders clawing at your legs. Now, you can admire the foliage that loyally belongs to Biscayne Bay and learn about them from the signs posted along the sandy trails. This on-going transformation is being made possible



by Ransom Everglades School, The Coconut Grove Sailing Club and the many volunteer groups and organizations that visit Island E.

On July 10, 2010, a sunny Saturday morning, youth church groups from Greater St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal, Macedonia Baptist, Shady Grove Baptist and Greater Faith Temple all came together to make a difference for our Bay’s island E. The 35 young volunteers along with their adult chaperones, Launa Faria, Kehmisha Reid, Jason Wood, Anthony Porcher and Joe Washington, met with Nick Mansbach at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club along with Carlos Medina of Ransom Everglades School Waterfront. A short history was given of Miami’s spoil islands. Then, all concerned combined their equipment, means, time and hearts to give Island E a little attention and love.

The expedition began on a flotilla of four boats for a waterside tour of the spoil islands noting Islands B and C for their finished look. A manatee sighting excited the group and as the flotilla approached Island E, some of the children glanced at the glassy harbor with apprehension, some with excitement. Indeed, this would be an adventure for them all. They disembarked from the makeshift fleet like brand new colonizers, sure they were here to fulfill a task, but unsure of how or where the task would be completed.

Upon arrival Capt. Carlos Medina of Ransom Everglades School designated jobs for all. We divided the group into smaller work crews, assigned each an adult chaperone, and gave each crew a specific task. Each child had a pair of sturdy gloves, a shovel and a thick layer of OFF bug spray. Some walked along the path clearing dead weeds from the trail and then

tossing them on to the mangrove roots to make delicious compost. One group dedicated itself to removing old palm fronds. Another trimmed the low, overhead branches. A hardy group cleared the large fire pit area of unwanted weed growth. Others walked along the shore of the island with garbage bags collecting any bit of plastic.

“How did all this get here?” they asked me. I swiped my forehead and answered, “The tide and . . . humans.” Slowly, their sweaty, frustrated faces became faces of concern and awareness. After a hot march along the beach, I stopped. “Let’s take a break and swim!”

With six garbage bags full of plastic that had been washed ashore, we marched back to our picnic table. Coconut Grove Sailing Club’s Dwayne Smallwood was kind enough to bring fresh water to the Island. After a long morning of sincere and hard island care work, the children enjoyed the benefits that a clean and beautiful island park can provide. Island E, though only a few yards from the Sailing Club, felt like a million miles away. That is what an island park in the sun should feel like!



ADULT SAILING REPORT

The summer months have been good to your Adult Training program. Classes have been several and full, and clinics continue to be well attended. We have conducted several two-hour coaching sessions, especially popular on the longer summer evenings with daylight, and we continue to test and award the US Sailing Basic Keelboat Certification to qualified keelboat students. We continue to see a lot of interest coming from previous social members and many new members, and our effective web site continues to draw students from outside the club, often resulting in eventual new memberships. The Member Boat Use program continues to add qualified users to our lists, and our "workhorse" keelboat, PAT, with her shiny, newly painted topsides and new name on transom continues to see increased use, especially by certified new club members.

US Sailing certified instructors, Bruce Penrod and Javier Prado, shared duties in our most recent monthly Learn-to-Sail class, taught on the Sunfish fleet. This was a full class, and I received lots of very favorable testimonials from students, some of whom are already joining our weekly clinic activities. Thanks Javier and Bruce for your dedication and service and for helping fulfill the CGSC mission of bringing people into sailing with safety and smiles.

When we started our weekly clinics over three years ago, I was very enthusiastic about it, but wondered how long would we be able to maintain the interest of the participants. Six months? A year?.... Well, three years and still going strong says a lot for our dedicated Sunfish sailors and the support the club has given this program. If you can sail a Sunfish, you can enjoy this weekly event at a minimal cost. You'll have fun and meet new people. During the summer,

the fun starts at 4PM, ending at 7PM, every Thursday. We have at least ten boats available each week, or you may bring your own Sunfish. At a recent July clinic, past-commodore Larry Whipple, brought his Flying Scot to the clinic and sailed with and around the Sunfish fleet, demonstrating some nifty shallow-water sailing. Afterwards, Larry invited the group to the strip for a "tour" of the Scot and to promote the Flying Scot fleet to the small boat sailors coming along. Thanks, Larry, for your interest, support and participation.

Your Adult Sailing Committee, along with our sailing director, Nick, is working with Bud Price to establish a regularly scheduled "advanced dinghy" course to be taught on the Flying Scots within the guidelines of US Sailing. We have met and are well into the planning stages with more information to follow.

As you can see below, we have eleven (11) scheduled days of classes and activities. Private classes and private coaching is available on mutually agreeable dates / times through contact with the director or the chairman.

Thanks to our officers, members and staff and students for the continuing support of your Adult Training Program. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to get involved as a volunteer or participant, please contact Richard (below) or Nick at extension 11.

Sail Often..... Sail Safely.....

Richard Crisler, Chairman
 Adult Training Committee
 305-342-4775
 crisler@mindspring.com



AUGUST ADULT CLASS / ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

1	Monthly Small Boat Clinic / Rendezvous at the Sandbar – 9AM – 3PM
5, 12, 19, 26	Weekly Sunfish Clinics – 4PM – 7PM
14-15	Learn-to-Sail weekend class for Sunfish 9AM – 4:30PM both days
14-15	Basic Keelboat Course – 9AM – 4:30PM both days
21-22	Basic Keelboat Course – 9AM – 4:30PM both days

August 2010

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SUMMER CAMP SESSION #4 Week2						
July 26	27 6 pm Taco Night	28 5 pm Caribbean Spice Wednesdays	29 12 pm Rotary Club 4pm Adult Sunfish Clinic 5 pm Burgerfest	30 Band: Brosia Quartet	31	1 9am Sm. Boat Clinic Rendezvous at Sandbar
SUMMER CAMP SESSION #5 Week 1						
9	10 6 pm Dollar Dogs 7:30 Sea Scouts	11 5 pm Caribbean Spice Wednesdays	12 12 pm Rotary Club 4pm Adult Sunfish Clinic 5 pm Burgerfest	13 Band: Funky Blue Tones	14 11am Single Handed Race 5pm Race Annual Cmt. Party	15 9am Learn to Sail-Sunfish Class 9am Basic Keelboat Course
SUMMER CAMP SESSION #5 Week 2						
16	17 6 pm Dollar Dogs	18 5 pm Caribbean Spice Wednesdays	19 12 pm Rotary Club 4pm Adult Sunfish Clinic 5 pm Burgerfest	20 Band: Really Thick Milk Shakes	21	22 9am Basic Keelboat Course
23	24 6 pm Dollar Dogs 7:30 Sea Scouts	25 5 pm Caribbean Spice Wednesdays	26 12 pm Rotary Club 4pm Adult Sunfish Clinic 5 pm Burgerfest 6:30pm General Mtg. 7:30pm Board Mtg.	27 Band: Seven Mile Bridge	27	29
30	31 6 pm Taco Night	September 1 5 pm Caribbean Spice Wednesdays	2 12 pm Rotary Club 4pm Adult Sunfish Clinic 5 pm Burgerfest	3 Band: Out of Order	4 Laser/420/Flying Jr. Red/White/Blue Fleet Green Fleet Beg.Level Youth	5

UNLIKELY ROUTE TO A PODIUM FINISH!

By V/C Ron Rostorfer

The biennial Newport (RI) to Bermuda Race is the “holy grail” of North American East Coast ocean racing, with close to 200 boats racing 635 nautical miles across the Gulf Stream to the “Onion Patch.” Wanting to sail the Race, I found myself e-mailing and speaking with Joe Murray, skipper of the C&C 41 Avenir from Bristol Yacht Club, Bristol, RI. We seemed to hit it off on the phone. Dottie and I owned a C&C 34 on the Great Lakes in the 80’s. He had owned the 41 for seven years, and grew up sailing on his father’s 34.

Newport-Bermuda is an invitational race, and yachts submit applications that hopefully lead to the prized invitation. Turned out the Race organizers wanted to see someone with Newport-Bermuda Race experience on board. Two of Joe’s crew had done a couple of Marion (MA) to Bermuda cruising yacht races, but none had raced the Newport-Bermuda, which only recognizes its own. I was happy to sign on and fill the gap, with four N-B Races done, and things moved forward from there.

Trouble at the Outset

At the end of April, I went to Bristol for a weekend of boat work. Not good! We were taking the shrink wrap and frame off the deck with the boat on the hard and the rudder out. For the last N-B Race, on a Santa Cruz 52 that didn’t return this year, we sailed 50 miles on Long Island Sound from the yard to the dock on April 7th, and then did two distance races before the Bermuda Race. Avenir had a steep mountain to climb, with seven weeks to the June 18th start.

However, on the plus side was the crew, all from Bristol YC. Joe’s twin brother Bob, along with virtual marine professional John Post were the Watch Captains, Marion-Bermuda veteran Evan Granoff was Navigator, one of his crew Dr. Dennis McCool, a noted pulmonologist, would be the Medic, along with the locally well known Joe Brito, Jr. and Jayson LaPorte, a Navy civilian sonar specialist. The standing joke was that if you didn’t get what you wanted over the phone, tell them you’re Joe Brito!

Climbing the Mountain

Over the next seven weeks, Joe Murray gave unstintingly of his time, effort and treasure to get us to the start line. In addition, the crew stepped up and took on responsibility for various tasks, led by Evan and John. I organized the project list, and began ticking off items as they were completed. The Race inspection was successfully conducted, and we had our “safety sail” to complete Race required safety drills and instruction on Memorial Day. Overnight on June 5-6, we did a practice sail in the ocean off Newport, RI, sailing out some 60 miles, tacking at 0400, and returning to Bristol YC in the early afternoon. The crew worked well together, and quickly settled into the watch schedule that we would use for the Race. I got the distinct feeling that we could actually make it to Bermuda.

Avenir did sail a couple of the Bristol YC Wednesday night races, with some of the Bermuda Race crew aboard. In addition, on the Nav prep side, Joe had retained Jenifer Clark’s Gulf Stream for current, weather, and routing advice. Jenifer’s advance Gulf Stream information was sent around to the crew, and Evan in particular was digesting the material

and initiating discussions that involved several of us.

Final Steps

Two days before the start, on Wednesday, June 16th, Joe and John brought Avenir from Bristol to Newport. The next day, we loaded provisions, while the last of the boat projects, mounting the life raft canister, was completed. Friday morning, John and Evan attended Jenifer’s final Gulf Stream and weather briefing, while the perishables came aboard. Special thanks go to Joe Murray’s wife Linda, Elizabeth Granoff and Betty Brito for their dinner and dessert offerings, along with a great sausage lasagna dish from Roberto’s Restaurant in Bristol, a crew favorite. All Race requirements had been met, and we were as ready as we were going to get.

Interesting this year was the near consensus on how to handle the Gulf Stream and associated eddies. There was clearly a warm eddy north of the Gulf Stream that was worth pursuing west of the rhumbline. Then, the Gulf Stream itself had a huge meander to the SE along the rhumb that was an obvious favorable target. Usually, the GS is moving NE across the rhumb, and is more hinderance than help. Below the Stream, in “Happy Valley,” there were cold eddies to deal with.

In terms of wind, the Race forecast was for light to moderate southwesterlies – not great, but not bad. The classic Newport-Bermuda Race is a close reach on starboard tack in SW winds due to the influence of the Azores-Bermuda High. That’s nothing like the past two Races – we flew every spinnaker we brought in 2006, and beat all the way in 2008.

We’re Off!

Finally, a bit before noon on Friday, June 18th, we cast off from the dock with the Bristol wives waving goodbye before they headed down to Castle Hill to watch the start. We had been assigned to Class 2, starting at 1410. Of the fifteen boats in the Class, we owed time to the slowest rated four boats, while the rest owed us time. We were happy with that.

Space precludes an in-depth profile of each crew member, but twins Joe and Bob Murray deserve special mention. Together since birth, they put themselves through college waiting tables, majored in Business, and set out to own their own business right after graduation. Today, they run a very successful outdoor advertising company while still only in their mid-40’s. In addition to racing Avenir, they are avid windsurfers, and along with John Post, amateur hockey players. They’re great guys, fit, trim, and know what they’re doing - a true American success story. So, not surprisingly, Joe was aggressive on the start line, and we had a good start down near the pin end of the line.

The Plan

Once off the line, Evan ordered a course to the correct side of the warm eddy, and from there to the top of the SE Gulf Stream meander. In the Stream, we would ride the 3-4 knot axis current to the SE until cutting diagonally across the southern part of the stream in 1-2 knots on a direct course for the finish off St. David’s Head.

Success in the Race involves sailing fast in the right direction to the right waypoint while monitoring the sea temperature and comparing boat speed and compass heading to GPS

speed over ground and course over ground. When the water temperature warms up and the speed over ground is well over the boat speed, you know you're in the right place. The Race takes days, but it's decided by minutes and hours, so there's never time to waste.

The Reality

Every boat in the Race was issued a transponder, with positions and standings regularly updated on the Race website. We picked up the warm eddy north of the Stream and got a 1.5 knot boost from the current. However, Saturday morning arrived with drifting conditions before a light southerly settled in. Our position in the fleet that morning was "so-so."

We worked south on starboard tack towards the Stream, but east of the top of the meander we were shooting for. What's more, we were being headed, even though the forecast was for eventual SW-W winds. Our watch was on deck, and Bob, Dennis and I were discussing the advisability of a tack. About that time, Evan came up the companionway from his nav desk and said, "Guys, I'm thinking about tacking." Case closed, helm over.

What followed was a romping port tack in a building breeze that took us SW to the westerly header. Back to starboard and on to the Stream. The wind continued to build, and we shortened down to the No. 3, followed by first one reef and then another. That night we spent over five hours under the No. 3 alone, with the main furled. The next morning, we were reported second in Class!

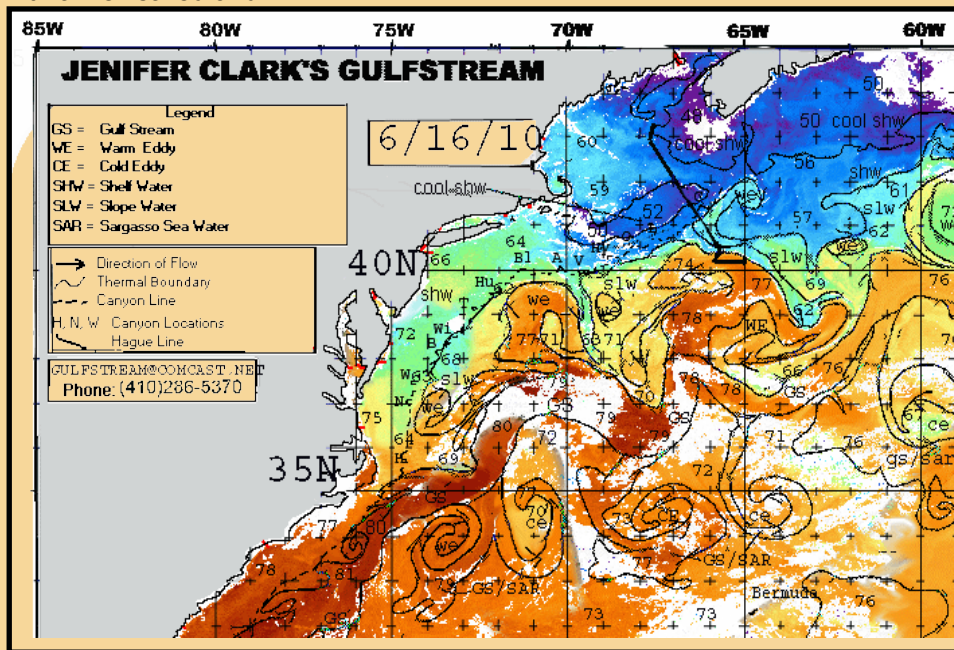
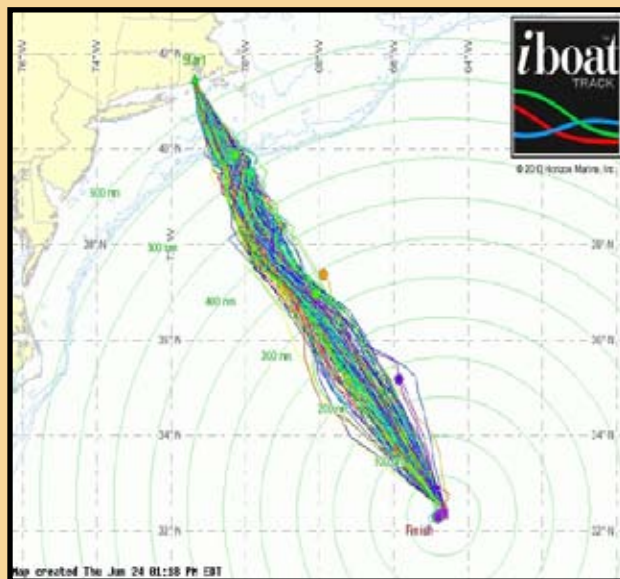
The Finish

Avenir played the Gulf Stream about as planned, and soon emerged into Happy Valley. The hours and miles flew by as we continued directly toward the finish with sheets cracked on starboard tack – the classic conditions. We also enjoyed a continuing 1.5 knot kick from the current, and for once, our ETA kept advancing instead of the more usual opposite condition. An "0-dark thirty" projected finish Wednesday morning became a late afternoon finish Tuesday.

Bermuda appeared on our starboard bow Tuesday afternoon, and boats began popping up on the horizon as the fleet converged on Kitchen Shoals Light, about five miles north of the finish. We rounded Kitchen even with a well-sailed and very heavily campaigned J-44 – a great sign. Turns out one of our competitor's transponder had failed, and we had been third in Class, all along. We heard them call in their finish about fifteen minutes before we crossed the line, a bit after 1730 EDT.

It had been an outstanding Bermuda Race on a fine boat with a great crew. We arrived at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club about the same time as the wives, so all could share in our somewhat incredible achievement. A podium finish for a stock boat essentially full of amateur first-timers, and we knew that others had tried for 20 years without success to accomplish that. It was a very sweet time.

Did we actually get to the podium at the Prize Giving? See next month's issue for "Gale Force Return Passage!"



2010 Installation Festivities

