

COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB
serving the community since 1945

the channel



APRIL 2012

CLOSE RACING AT CGSC'S MELGES 32 OCEAN REGATTA

CGSC's 2nd Annual Melges 32 Miami Championship regatta was again shore-based at our "Miami Beach Station," Monty's at Miami Beach Marina, with racing on the ocean east of Key Biscayne. It's amazing that our biggest regatta of the year has virtually no outward appearance at CGSC, itself. The event was scheduled over three days, Friday thru Sunday, March 2-4.

26 of these thoroughbred race boats were entered, up substantially from 20 boats in 2011. They represented seven countries. Each boat has a crew of eight. The key crew positions, especially tacticians, are filled by professional racing sailors. The owners are the helmsmen. The result was a star-studded field of sailors at yet another great CGSC regatta.



It ended up a very close regatta, but didn't start out that way. On Friday's first day of racing, Keisuke Suzuki's Swing from Japan, with Jesper Radich as tactician had posted a 1-3-1 = 5 points in light to moderate conditions for a ten point lead over Jason Carroll's Argo and tactician Cameron Appleton with a 3-7-5 = 15. John Porter Full Throttle with Olympic Gold Medalist Jonathan McKee was in third with 11-4-4 = 19 points. In this fleet, a ten point lead is huge – but it did not prove to be sufficient.

Day two at the 2012 Melges 32 Miami Championship awarded Alec Cutler on Hedgehog overnight honors after a fantastic day of racing. Cutler is the only owner that both steers and trims his own main. Three more races were sailed, bringing the total

(continued on 6)



2011-2012
Flag Officers

Commodore.....Ron Rostorfer
Vice Commodore.....Doug Hanks
Rear Commodore.....Sean Connett
Secretary.....Bob Olmedo
Treasurer.....Ron Canizares
Fleet Captain.....Susan Walcutt
Fleet Chaplain.....Bishop C. Schofield
Fleet Surgeon.....Henry Bernstein

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sigrid Beckmann (13) Don Kesler (14)
Henry Bernstein (12) Don Maher (12)
Cathy Buller (13) Javier Prado (13)
Brian Donahue (14) Alyn Pruett (PC)
Jim Fawcett (12) Paul van Puffelen (14)

COMMITTEES

Community Service.....Alyn Pruett, PC
Cruising & Rendezvous... Christian Vargas
Entertainment.....Adrienne Peters
Marketing.....Nancy Cooper
Membership.....Phil Adams
Mooring.....Bill Beavers, PC
Property.....Doug Hanks
Race.....Susan Walcutt
Seamanship.....Marc Buller, PC
Shoreside Regatta.....Richard &
Maryann Etkin
Speakers.....Edward Almeyda
Web.....Robert Olmedo

CHAIRS

Charley Branning PC & Cherie ----Channel
Renny Young -----Library
Bud Price PC -----Strip

INSTRUCTIONAL

Richard Crisler -----Adult Sailing
Paul van Puffelen -----Junior Sailing
Antonio Bejarano and Laura Holz ---Junior
Racing

ADMINISTRATIVE

Ron Rostorfer -----Executive
Tony Battaglia -----Finance
Ron Canizares -----Strategic Development
Ron Canizares -----Lease Administration
Larry Whipple PC-----Nominating
David Kurtz PC-----Bylaws
Bud Price PC-----Protocol

REPRESENTATIVES

BBYRA -----Susan Walcutt
Chamber of Commerce ----Brian Donahue
Pier Seven-----Bill Braddon

FLEET REPRESENTATIVES

PHRF -----Bill Beavers, PC
Ensign -----Doug Hanks
Flying Scot -----Larry Whipple
Snipe -----Gonzalo Diaz, Sr.

2990 South Bayshore Drive
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
Tel. 305-444-4571 Fax 305-444-8958
www.cgsc.org

Volume 67 Issue 10

COMMODORE'S REPORT



Treasurer Appointment. As most Members know, CGSC's outstanding Treasurer Tony Battaglia very sadly lost his long battle with a rare form of blood cancer on February 19th. (Please see elsewhere in this issue.) Your Board of Directors has named Ron Canizares to serve as Treasurer, once again. Ron did an incredible job for the Club in this capacity during fiscal year's 2010 and 2011. Ron had been serving as Assistant to the Treasurer during Tony's final month of hospitalization.

Record Night at the Club. Friday evening, March 9th set a record revenue mark of some \$4,000 for our restaurant and bar. This resulted from a combination of beautiful weather, our big Bacardi regatta with lots of competitors hanging around post racing and live music that evening from the Solar Dogs.

Baynanza 2012. This great annual volunteer clean-up event is set for Saturday, April 21st. There are color brochures available at the Club, and further information and registration are available at: <http://www.miamidade.gov/development/baynanza/baynanza-2012.asp>. Peacock Park is one of the clean-up sites. Since the Club is on Park property, I'm asking our Members to include our grounds and shoreline in their clean up efforts.

Fence. Believe it or not, we still are seeking one more permit prior to installing our new powder coated bronze Aluminum picket fence. The fence will run the entire length of the Bayshore Drive side of the property and then along the parking circle from the southwest corner down through the entrance gate. This includes a new gate. The fence is fabricated, and we're just awaiting the permit. It can't come soon enough.

Screwdown Mooring Project. Most Members are aware that our new 15-year lease with the City requires the Club to replace our existing mooring field anchors with screwdown moorings during the first five years. The lease is now nine months old, and we can't plan to complete the project at the 11th hour. So, it's now a 3.5 year project, and time to get started. The Club has accepted a proposal for environmental and permitting consulting services, and the Board has approved a capital expenditure to conduct the necessary field investigations and prepare the permit applications that will take us through June of this year. Permitting is expected to take at least a year. We're planning to actually do the work in the third quarter of 2015.

Springtime Administration. The Nominating Committee under returning Chair Larry Whipple, PC has been selected and posted on the upstairs bulletin board. The Committee has begun their work of developing a slate of candidates for FY '13 who would take office July 1st. The Finance Committee has also started work on the Club's Budget for FY '13.

Calendar Markings. Again, please mark your calendars for the CGSC Annual Meeting on Friday evening, June 1st. This will be followed by the Annual Installation Ceremony and Banquet on Saturday, June 9th.

See you at the Club!
Ron Rostorfer, Commodore

VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

As we enter peak season for the Coconut Grove Sailing Club, our Club House has never been busier. This can be a challenge for our Staff, yet they continue putting in the extra effort to keep you coming back again and again.

Let me point out some new additions to the offerings at the Grove's Nest. As I type this, Chef Ritchie is preparing a new menu to debut this spring. Look for many of your old favorites to stay, but get ready to get hooked on some new favorites, too. Ritchie isn't done there. He also is redesigning our Wednesday menu to revolve around the pasta stations he and his staff wowed us with on New Year's Eve. This is one more excuse to break up your workweek with a visit to the CGSC. Ritchie and Pat have been working hard at this, so please make an effort to support the Grove's Nest with your business. A bustling Club House doesn't come easy, and we want to keep the momentum going from a great year.

We're also gearing the Grove's Nest to be even more of a sailor's haven. We've added a new selection of sailor drinks

(Goombay Smash, anyone?), a large chart showing the waters south of Sands Key, binoculars for checking out the action in the Mooring Field and beyond, new cruising guides and magazines to plot your voyages over a nice meal, and more. (Watch for a fantastic new weather station we hope to get running in the coming weeks.)

I consider the Grove's Nest to be just one more arm of the Club that promotes sailing. No matter where you happen to be on the sailing spectrum – a member determined to take his first Sunfish class or a veteran ocean racer – I hope you'll find the Grove's Nest another reason to love sailing.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Club,

Doug Hanks, Vice Commodore
ensignmiami@gmail.com



REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

ALOHA! , Spring is here but I don't where winter went. I had been looking forward this year one or two sails with a sweater on and some hot chocolate in hand but it's been shorts and iced tea weather. At least we had some nice winds for much of the season, offering our sailors excitement out on the water.

In March, we hosted some big sailing events and I am very proud of all of the hard work everyone put in so that the CGSC could prove once again that the CGSC is where sailors belong. From the beginning sailors to the seasoned professionals, our CGSC volunteers and staff provided them with the first class experience we are known for. If you have never gotten involved with our sailing programs or are looking for an opportunity to lend your club a hand come down and get involved. You'll be glad you did.

While always looking towards the future of the CGSC, I would like all of us to remember and appreciate the CGSC's past. Go into the Groves Nest from time to time and look at the photographs on the wall. You will see our first club house up there but did you know that in the beginning the first meetings of the CGSC were held at the Coconut Grove Elementary School? The founding members were mostly local Coconut Grove residents who wanted to form an organization to sponsor and run races for adults and children. In 1946 the CGSC received a lease and moved to its present location. Without the dedication and hard work of the first members of our club, and all of those who have followed, there wouldn't be the tremendously successful sailing programs that we have today or the incredible facilities that we can all enjoy. It is therefore our duty to ensure that we keep the tradition of sailing and volunteerism alive and well in the CGSC community so that future generations can share in this great club.

Speaking of Traditions, next month is the HOLOKAI – 2012

ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS. If you have a boat or can find a berth on a friend's boat, you must not miss this highly anticipated annual event. Our Polynesian theme this year will be punctuated by a rising full moon during our luau and a bonfire complete with hula dancing. You can't miss this one folks.

Aloha

Sean Connett, Rear Commodore
sean.connett@cgcs.org



CGSC RACE COMMITTEE SPRING TRAINING!

Saturday, April 14
GPS Use and Race Course Geometry

Sunday, April 15
Support Boat Operator Training
Contact Susan Walcutt, walcutts@bellsouth.net

Saturday, April 21
US Sailing One Day Race Management Seminar
Register online @ US Sailing website
(www.ussailing.org/calendar)
Contact Jo Ann Mathieu, joann.mathieu@gmail.com

GREAT MELGES WINTER SERIES FINALE!

Forty Audi Melges 20's and twenty-one Melges 24's were on hand for CGSC's final Melges Miami Winter Series event of 2011-12, the Bacardi Miami Sailing Week. Racing occurred Thursday through Saturday, March 8-10. The 40 Audi Melges 20's tied our entry record set in December's Gold Cup Regatta, and 21 Melges 24's was their best showing over the three years of these events. So, some 61 boats, in total. That's big.

Sailing conditions on Biscayne Bay for this year's Bacardi were outstanding. Thursday was a breezy day with winds in the high 'teens and lots of exciting racing (and spectating!). Friday was low to mid 'teens and provided great conditions for the four races sailed. That left one light-air race to conclude the regatta on Saturday. So, a little bit of everything.

Competition in both fleets was fierce. However, CGSC's Michael Kiss sailing Bacio led the AM20's wire-to-wire, winning four of the eight races and the regatta. Three-time U.S. Olympian Chris Rast and Willie McBride were crewing. Going into the final race, Bacio held a four point lead over CGSC's Paul Reilly and his Red Sky. Marcus Eagan sailing Cajun Underwriting was another three points back in third.

Red Sky bet on a stronger breeze from the right for the first beat and came up short – way short. They rounded the top mark deep in the fleet. Meanwhile, Bacio and Cajun Underwriting were running 1-2. On the second beat, Red Sky went right again, and this time it paid off. They passed some 20 boats and sailed to a 6th place finish. This tied Cajun's series score, and Red Sky won the tie-break to hold second for the regatta. Italy's Luca Lalli was fourth.

In the Melges 24 fleet, it was a European affair, with Blu Moon from Switzerland, Audi from Italy and Embarr from Ireland showing the way. Franco Rossini's Blu Moon held a three point lead over Riccardo Simoneschi's Audi going into the final race. However, that lead wasn't good enough for Blue Moon. As CGSC's Race





Committee Signal Boat crew stood by in awe, Blu Moon repeatedly attacked Audi before the start, forcing two fouls on Audi and eventually driving them back to an 11th place finish while Blu Moon won the race and the regatta. Audi held second for the event over Embarr. Californian Kristen Lane aboard Brick House was fourth.

The Bacardi event marked the end to the 2012 Audi Melges 20 Miami Winter Series. Over 50 teams participated (54 to be exact) in the three-part MWS. On top of the ranking scoreboard was 28-year old Luca Lalli on BLinsailing.com, two points ahead of Michael Kiss in second. Paul Reilly celebrated third.

CGSC's Shore-side Regatta Committee under Richard Etkin and our Club Staff turned in another excellent job, earning lots of praise from the competitors. The Club rented spaces on the parking circle to make up for the three regatta vehicles that were allowed to park inside the gate, supplemental launch service sped Members and competitors alike to and from their boats, while GM Pat Tully, Chef Richie and his crew and Jeff, Dennis and the bar staff kept the appetizers and drinks coming.



This was CGSC's tenth Audi Melges 20 event. Mike and Karen Castleberry's Tartan 372 Imagine has served as our Signal Boat for every one of them. Andy Burdick, President of Melges Performance Sailboats, presented them with a special

award at the Skippers' Meeting on Wednesday evening. Bruce Golison from California was PRO. The rest of the Signal Boat crew included Marvin Schenker, Jo Ann Mathieu, Margo Golison and Steve Washburn. Up to windward were CGSC RC Chair Susan Walcutt and her Contender, with Bruce Bingman, Dottie Rostorfer, Debbie Ryder, Marybeth Pearson, Michelle Wood, Kit Temple and Jim Waldron. The Gate Boat crew was Ed Liberty, Niall O'Brien, Taran Teague, and Ryan Alexander. David Kurtz PC and his Robalo were Pin Boat, with Nancy Rogachenko and Commodore Ron Rostorfer aboard.



Photos provided by Joy Dunigan
joy.dunigan@joysavannah.com

to six. That allowed for one race to be discarded under the scoring system. Ahead by one very slim point, with a 6-1-3 posting for the day, Cutler led the fleet with 17 points. Tactician Richard Clarke is Canada's designated Olympic Star Class helmsman in the upcoming London Olympics, while Mike Wolfs, Star Silver Medalist crew from the Athens Olympics was also aboard – pretty good company.

Full Throttle was in second, only one point behind with daily scores of 2-7-1 which tied Hedgehog for the day. Friday's leader Keisuke Suzuki aboard Swing dropped back to third, posting a 2-24-11 for the day, even after dropping the 24th. Teams had been greeted with breezier conditions in the 15-18 knots range on day two along with more sunshine and temps in the upper 80s (F), making for more fun and whole lot of speed, especially downwind. It was a truly spectacular day of sailboat racing on the ocean in Miami's winter season.

The reason for the regatta being sailed in southerlies for the first two days was, of course, due to an approaching cold front forecast for mid-day Sunday. Sure enough, Sunday dawned with a strong SW flow and an intensifying and strengthening front expected around noon. CGSC's Mark Boat, Race Chair Susan Walcutt's Contender, was dispatched to the race area in order to provide on-scene wind reports. By 0845, gusts were already exceeding Melges 32 Class guidelines, with only stronger winds in the offing. Racing for the day was abandoned, giving Hedgehog their one-point victory over Full Throttle. Swing was another six points back in 3rd.

CGSC's Race Committee for this regatta was augmented again this year by International Race Officer Hank Stuart from Rochester YC, NY. Hank's a pleasure to work with and gets our entire team enthused with quality race management. CGSC Commodore Ron Rostorfer was Deputy Race



Officer. The Signal Boat was old friend Henry Chau's Edgewater 27 from CRYC. The rest of the Signal Boat crew included Timer Dottie Rostorfer, Flag Signaler's Debbie Ryder and Esther DiLeo and Recorder Nancy Rogachenko.

Up to windward in the ocean was Susan's Contender with Jeff Butzer, Larry Whipple PC, Peter Skipp, Dorian Goldberg and David Bannister. Our Pin Boat was Robalo owned by David Kurtz PC with George Bradley as Race Officer, along with Bernie Meier and Scott Findley. CGSC's Gate Boat was a chartered Protector 28 skippered by veteran Dennis Jansma, with Debbie Jansma, Ryan Alexander and 1st Responder Bonnie Padgett aboard. The Protector doubled as our Safety Boat.



CGSC's Melges 32 Race Committee at Miami Beach Marina on Saturday, March 3rd. Front row, left to right, Deputy Race Officer Ron Rostorfer, Bernie Meier, Dorian Goldberg, Race Chair Susan Walcutt, David Kurtz PC, Dottie Rostorfer, Deb Jansma, Esther DiLeo, Nancy Rogachenko. Back row, Peter Skipp, George Bradley, Henry Chau, Jeff Butzer, Debbie Ryder, Dennis Jansma, Ryan Alexander and Principal Race Officer Hank Stuart.



*Photos provided by Joy Dunigan
joy.dunigan@joysavannah.com*

Aloha Kamaheles (Travelers)!

It time for the CGSC 2012 ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS HOLOKAI. On the afternoon of MAY 4th, we will wehe ka pe'a (open the sail) and head south the Elliott Key. The HOLOKAI will lana (be anchored) in position 25° 27.2' North 080° 12.1 West, just west of the Elliott Key Harbor and Park Ranger Station.

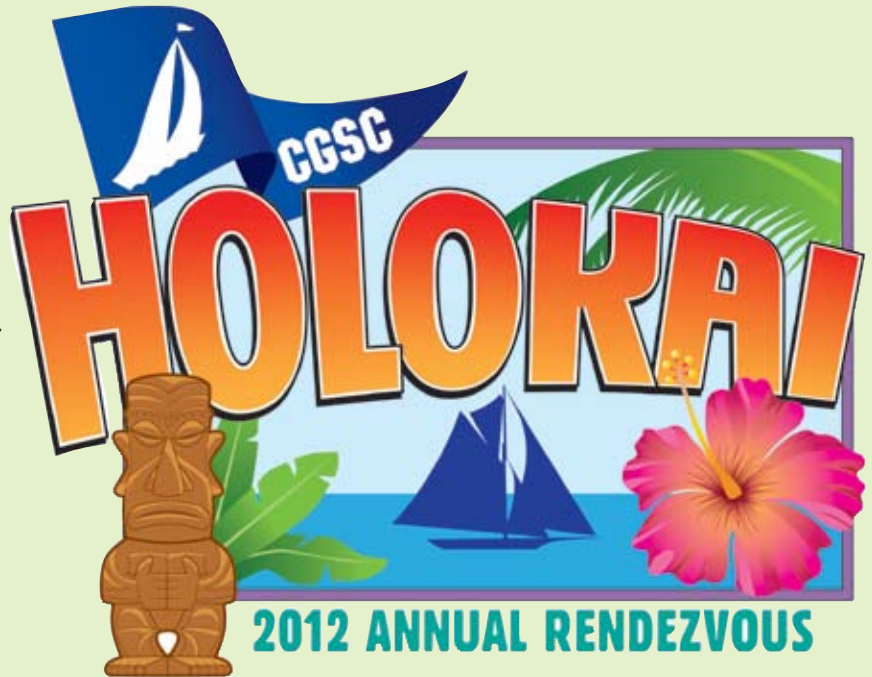
On the first night and weather permitting of course there will be a raft up out on the water where we will enjoy some BEAN SOUP (A longtime CGSC Favorite). Everyone is encouraged to bring some food to share as well. If the weather does not cooperate, you should plan to feed your crew on board your own boat, so be prepared.

On Saturday morning, we will ho'opae (go ashore) and begin our fun filled day of HOLOKAI. Throughout the day there will be toy boat building, Polynesian canoe races, coconut boat races, a treasure hunt, some leisure time and of course some hula dancing. We are ready to give out prizes all day. There will also be lunch served, beverages available, ice cold beer, and a signature Polynesian "punch" that will be sure to become a sought after drink at the Groves Nest for years to come.

All of the day's events will lead us to the 2012 HOLOKAI LUAU. Will there be a roasted pig at the LUAU? Well it wouldn't be a LUAU if there wasn't a roasted pig so "YES"! There will also be vegetables, POI, and other good foods available. Also, if you haven't heard already, on Saturday night, during the HOLOKAI LUAU, a full moon will rise at 7:35 and it should give us quite a show. You really don't want to miss that! In order to encourage proper attire for the LUAU, we will have a Hawaiian Shirt and Dress contest!

With Saturday done, we will return to our boats, lay down our heads on our pillows and watch the moon as it continues its journey through the night sky. Wow! We will be sleeping under the stars and the full moon on an early May night on Biscayne Bay. Does it get any better?

Sunday morning its back to shore for a light breakfast and



then a cleanup of the grounds and when that is done, we can all get back out to our boats, ka i na liu (bail water out of the bilge) if necessary and wehe ka pe'a (open the sail). It's then a convoy home to CGSC. Keep in mind that I have yet to see a convoy that didn't become a race, so you may want to keep an eye on the boat behind you. They may be trying to take your wind and pass you.

HOLOKAI – MAY 4th, 5th and 6th

Elliott Key - 25° 27.2' North 080° 12.1 West

Prices – Adults and Children over 8: \$30.00 (third child is free)

Children under 8: Free

Make your reservations with Lauren at the CGSC Main Office: officeassistant@cgsc.org

SUMER CAMP DATES

Session 1 – June 11 thru June 22

Session 2 – June 25 thru July 6

Session 3 – July 9 thru July 20

Session 4 – July 23 thru August 3

Session 5 – August 6 thru August 17

Gold Medalist Anna Tunnicliffe Breezes to CGSC Match Race Win

Coconut Grove Sailing Club hosted our first ever Miami Invitational Match Race Open Grade 2 Event, Friday thru Sunday, February 24-26. Ten teams from five nations raced in the event, which included both Women's and Men's entries. These teams represented many of the best in the world with London Olympic berth contenders, selected London Olympic representatives and other world-ranking teams competing.

There was the good, and then the really, really good. US China Olympic Laser Radial Gold Medalist Anna Tunnicliffe is leading several competitive US women's competitors for the yet-to-be-determined US London Olympic berth. She is the No. 1 ranked women's match race skipper in the world.

This event is "self contained" in that it comes with its own Race Committee, Umpires and associated support boats. CGSC was the host club. The event boats were the Olympic Elliott 6 M's.

After round-robins during most of the first two days, it came down to the quarter finals, semi finals and finals. Anna won her quarter-final match, and then swept her semi-finals and finals, posting 2-0 scores in the best of three for each event. In the Semi's, she bested the Netherland's Mandy Mulder, the world's No. 15 ranked woman. Then, in the finals, she defeated the men's No. 10 ranked Ruben Corbett of New Zealand by the same 2-0 score. Sunday's quarter-final wrap-up, semi's and finals were sailed in a hard breeze. The prestart maneuvers are mind-bending, and the racing was very exciting to watch.

She not only is favored to win the US Women's Match Racing London Olympic berth, but at this point would have to be favored to win her second Olympic Gold Medal in two tries. She's the whole package of a competitive racing sailor, but still took time to talk to CGSC Members and Juniors on Saturday evening in the Main Room – passing her Gold Medal around the room, to boot.



Beginning Next Wednesday March 14th
CGSC \$11.95 Pasta Creation Station
5:00pm-9:00pm

A Special Wednesday Night Ala Carte Menu Available Too!
Chef Ritchie will prepare your favorite pasta dishes at the
Creation Station in the Main Room

Selections include:

Fettuccini, Linguini,
Alfredo, Marinara, Primavera,
Shrimp, Chicken, Sausage,
Caesar Salad

Just to name a few!

Happy Hour Drink Specials
5:00pm – 7:00pm

From The Manager...

With the success of our Arts Festival and Boat show booths at the end of February, our March Club activity has been remarkable. Not only did we take in many new members during that weekend, but the residual effect is quite obvious from an operational standpoint. Our membership base is still growing as a result and our Learn to Sail Program is bursting at the seams with new students.



Wednesday's \$11.95 Pasta Creation Station has been sensational right from the start. Chef Richie and the culinary staff will continue preparing your favorite pasta dishes right before your eyes, from 5pm-9pm, with Happy Hour pricing from 5pm-7pm. Be sure to stop in and see what the buzz is all about.

The popularity of Live Music Fridays has reached an all-time high, thanks to our new menu, drink specials and the best Bands in the Grove.

As the Regatta season winds down I would like to thank the Race Committees, Board of Directors and the General Membership for their support with these important events. The last few months of Regattas have been extraordinary and I assure you that none of it could have been possible without everyone involved. We should all be proud of our sailing club.

Enjoy the Club...Pat.

TONY BATTAGLIA

As most CGSC Members have become aware, our outstanding Treasurer, Tony Battaglia, passed away on February 19th after a nine-year battle with multiple myeloma, a rare cancer of the blood. Tony was only 62 years of age.

Tony loved Coconut Grove Sailing Club, and his contributions to the Club were extremely valuable. He was instrumental in the success of our new Center Dock Project; he developed the Club's new purchase order system, and created numerous 5-year cash flow scenarios to aid our planning – especially considering the forthcoming huge screw-down mooring project. All that was in addition to his regular duties as Treasurer.

Tony owned the Cal 35 sloop Heartset. He frequently volunteered Heartset for CGSC Race Committee Signal Boat duties, and enjoyed cruising in the Bahamas and Florida Keys.

Tony grew up on Long Island where he developed his sailing, diving and cooking skills as a youth. He was an Industrial Engineering graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). Tony's career was in manufacturing – he worked in several locations as a plant engineer specializing in aircraft tires. He rose through the ranks to become President and Chief Executive Officer of Thompson Aircraft Tire Company in Miami.

Tony and his top management team performed a leveraged buy-out of the company from its parent and ran it as owner-managers for several years. It was during those years that

he developed his considerable financial expertise. He led the construction and operation of company manufacturing plants on three continents. The company was eventually sold and Tony retired.

Tony was not just active with his Treasurer duties at CGSC. He was on the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries, and was Chair of the Board's Budget and Finance Committee. He maintained a consulting practice in which he advised clients around the world on the acquisition of manufacturing plants and companies. He also served with distinction on the Coconut Grove Waterfront Advisory Board. Yet, with all that, and in spite of his disease, he always made himself available to attend meetings and work for the Club.

Tony was a management, financial and engineering expert and an intellectual. He had a great sense of humor and a ready smile. He was without pretense, and seemed to be happy just being regarded as a regular guy even though he most certainly was not. He was soft spoken – I don't recall him ever raising his voice. He was an accomplished business executive, sailor, diver and chef. He was one of the finest people I have ever known. He is sorely missed at CGSC, especially by me.

A Life Celebration Service was conducted at CGSC on Saturday, March 24th, attended by Tony's family and many friends. His ashes were scattered on the Bay.

Ron Rostorfer
Commodore

George Washington's Birthday Regatta

The annual renewal of the Washington's Birthday Regatta first organized by Commodore Ralph Munroe in 1887 was held on Saturday, February 25 near the entrance to Brennan's channel in Biscayne Bay, a short sail from Barnacle Historical State Park, which hosted the event. Coconut Grove Sailing Club's former Commodore, Alan Pruet, also chair of this event, steered his own 40-year-old ketch Effortless as the signal boat. CGSC also supplied the race committee personnel. George Bradley, assisted by Ron Rostorfer, acted as the PRO of the event. Marvin Schenker served as the timer, Veronica Ghayan and Michelle Wood raised and lowered the flags, and Esther DiLeo recorded the finishes. Joanne Mathieu served as scorer. Kit Temple, assisted by Jim Waldron and Glenn Newland, operated the pin boat, while Jaime Ramon, with Marybeth Pearson and Pedro Corredoira on board, had charge of the windward and gybe marks.

Seventeen classic sailboats, all of historic design and many of vintage manufacture, entered the event, although only fifteen took to the water to compete. The winds came out of

the southeast for the first two races at a steady five to seven knots, making for near-perfect conditions for these boats. Preston Wetters, in his beautiful two-masted Halcyon, won the first two races, the first in a tight match, and the second with a

much more comfortable lead. However, at the start of the third and final race of the day the rudder on his boat came apart, and he was forced to retire. This opened up the field, and in a building breeze that rapidly shifted to the left, Louis LaFontisee took the third race in his Elise. When the scores were tallied, Jack Full and Bill Tenny sailed their Egrets to fourth and fifth respectively, Rob Rogerson took third with Anginga, Louis LaFontisee captured second, and Dave Westphal took home the Commodore Munroe trophy, winning for the second year in a row.

The racing was followed by the traditional chowder party and awards ceremony at the Barnacle, where the food and camaraderie were excellent, as always.

George Bradley
gcb Bradley@me.com

717-350-6664



Adult Sailing

We are encouraged, actually excited, about the continued growth in the Adult Sailing programs, from the first level of Sunfish programs and clinics, through keelboats and into the cruising and bareboat programs. With this growth comes the parallel growth of the Member-User program. Our Sunfish clinics are at the highest attendance during the first quarter than any previous first quarter this chairman can remember. In fact, in years past, the Sunfish classes barely existed from November through March. Not so this year. Similar attendance is being experienced in our keelboat classes. Our first keelboat class in March was filled to capacity with nine students (three students in each of three boats with one instructor per boat). Of the nine students, five were new members, three were interested in membership and one flew down from New York just to take the class and hopefully get certified, which he did the following Monday before catching a flight that evening. Despite a lot of strong winds and scrambling to reschedule classes and private coaching, we are still seeing growth over previous periods.

Though we have activity at all levels, I wanted to take some space in this month's CHANNEL to explain the growth and sailing opportunities in our Sunfish program. We offer one large Sunfish Learn-to-Sail class each month, normally during the first weekend. For more than five years we have been offering a weekly, three-hour Sunfish clinic, where like-minded sailors can challenge and increase their small-boat skills and enjoy the fun, camaraderie and physical exercise of sailing a lively Sunfish boat. These clinics are on Thursdays from 10AM to 1PM during the cooler months (standard time), then the schedule changes from 4PM to sunset (7PM) for late Spring, Summer and early Fall. This makes the Sunfish available to the Summer camp program and also provides for cooler evening adult sailing during the warmer months.

In late December and early January, we found our Thursday clinic filling to capacity, and we developed "waiting lists" that

were often contacted when there were last minute cancellations (rare). In addition to the growth, we found that some of the sailors who had now been coming for months or even years were real "rock stars", while the brand new sailors from our Sunfish classes were rather intimidated, especially during the significant racing portion of the clinic. Because of the size and racing structure of these clinics, the newer sailors didn't get much attention. As a result, we have started a Second (2nd) weekly clinic at the same time, but on Tuesdays. It is still experimental and needs at least five sailors in order for us to host it. We are appealing to the new or novice sailors with this clinic. There is a lot of personal attention and skill drills and finally some fun racing so that the new sailors can measure their progress. Our first Tuesday clinic was well received, and we will continue to host it as long as we have enough participants.

Finally, we have a monthly Sunfish / Small-Boat event we call our "Sandbar Rendezvous", where club boats can be checked out by members or non-members for a long, fun sail to a nearby sandbar (Matheson or Viscaya) depending on winds. We anchor and tie up after more than an hour's sail to get to the sandbar. We enjoy lunch together, socialize, explore the sandbar and more. All members are encouraged to sail with us on their own dinghies, multi-hulls or small keelboats. Our trip back to the club features a fun "drag race" to Middle Ground and then into the club. After de-rigging, cleaning and storing, we all meet on the verandah for beverages and lots of laughs and a fun debriefing. Event runs from 9AM to 3PM, usually on the last Sunday of the month.

Invitations are sent ahead of each event so that we will know how many to expect. If you would like to join us and have your name added to our invitation list, or if you would like to get checked out on a Sunfish so you can join us, you need only to e-mail or call Richard (see below).

Sail Often..... Sail Safely.....
Enjoy and Protect Our Beautiful Bay.....

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

