



COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB
serving the community since 1945

the channel

MARCH 2012

U.S. OLYMPIANS INSPIRE CGSC JUNIORS

Saturday, January 14th was a special morning at CGSC for our Junior Sailors. All four members of the U.S. International 470 Men's and Women's Olympic Teams were on hand to address the Club Juniors.

With the 2012 London Olympics coming up this summer, most of our Olympic Team in the sailing events had just been selected. This includes the venerable International 470 Class, an Olympic staple for decades. The Class slogan is, "The Boat the World Sails," and for good reason. It is the only Olympic Class in which there is competition for Men's as well as Women's Teams.



Our 2012 International 470 Olympic Team consists of Women's Team Skipper Amanda Clark of Shelter Island, NY, who will be going back for her second Olympics, and crew Sarah Lihan of Fort Lauderdale, in her first Olympics. The 2012 Men's team also represented the U.S. in China in 2008. They are Skipper Stu McNey of Boston and crew Graham Biehl of San Diego.

CGSC was hosting the 2012 470 North American Championships that weekend, and these U.S. Olympic reps had entered and were kind enough to spend a few minutes with our Juniors that morning. The Juniors were spellbound – you could hear a pin drop, as

(continued on 6)



2011-2012 Flag Officers

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

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 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)

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

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

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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

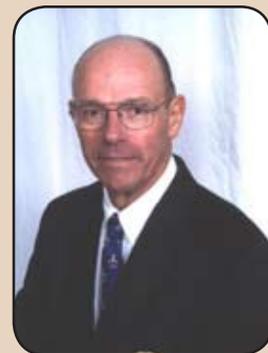
PHRF -----Bill Beavers, PC
 Ensign -----Doug Hanks
 Flying Scot -----Larry Whipple
 Snipe -----Gonzalo Diaz, Sr.

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Volume 67 Issue 9

COMMODORE'S REPORT

Bridge Appointment. As many of you know, CGSC's outstanding Treasurer Tony Battaglia is quite ill with a condition he's been fighting for some eight years. He was hospitalized here around January 17th and is now in an experimental treatment program at a hospital in Boston. Based on his e-mails, he remains in good spirits.



Due to his absence, our equally outstanding former Treasurer Ron Canizares has graciously accepted my appointment as Assistant to the Treasurer and will fulfill this role in Tony's absence. We wish Tony a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back at CGSC.

Almost Done! It was a very enjoyable late afternoon back on Saturday, January 28th when the new Center Dock was dedicated. Please see the article elsewhere in this issue. Our great contractor, Glen Larson of Dock & Marine Construction, started the project on schedule January 2nd and finished on schedule from the standpoint of the Dock going into service. The project was also on budget.

At this mid-February writing, we have the final permit signoff's for plumbing and electric. The final structural permit signoff, for which we need the utility finals in hand, is being scheduled. Dock & Marine is providing and will install vinyl wrapping around our new pilings in the tide range to prevent worm attacks. In addition, the final two full Micromesh deck panels are due in this week and will replace the smaller pieces that were put in place temporarily. So, by the time you read this, the project should be completely finished.

Fence. Again, at this writing, the new fence fabrication is underway, and we're looking for completion in about a month. The powder coated bronze finish looks outstanding. It should be very attractive and a real boost to our community relations.

Springtime Administration. Your Board of Directors has started the process of selecting the Nominating Committee for FY '13 Club leadership positions. The Committee will serve under returning Chair Larry Whipple, PC. The Committee will be posted once selections are made. The slate of candidates for three seats on your Board plus Vice and Rear Commodores, and Secretary and Treasurer positions must be posted in early May, so there is plenty of time.

The Finance Committee will be starting work shortly on the Club's Budget for FY '13. Our Budget process and the Club's performance vs. the Budget have both been very good over the last few years, and we're looking for that to continue.

Calendar Markings. 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. This is one of your Club's few "bursts of protocol" in the words of VC Doug Hanks, and not to be missed.

See you at the Club!

Ron Rostorfer, Commodore

Military Outreach

CGSC Thank you for initiating this very generous program. As a Navy Servicemember who grew up at CGSC, I am prouder than ever to call CGSC my home.

Very Respectfully,
 Grant Garcia, LCDR, USN

VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

It's time to get some more boats up on the wall! A few years ago, when we redid the Grove's Nest, there was much consternation over our famed wall of CGSC sailboat photos. We were losing wall space, so we had to cull out old photos. And we realized we really didn't have enough wall to accommodate all our members with boats at the Club. So we fretted and fretted, and hoped there wouldn't be too many hurt feelings if we had to turn away boat photos for lack of space on the newly painted walls. Well.... that really wasn't a problem. We still have plenty of space.

Let's change that. As Vice Commodore, I am hereby offering this invitation to ALL Sailing Club members with sailboats: bring us your photos! We want them on the wall. In the past, we have limited that wall to CGSC sailboats on Club moorings. But enough time has passed that anyone with a boat at the Club has had their chance to get a spot on the wall. So we're going to open the wall to our entire fleet.

Here are the rules:

1. Adults only. A bar is not the place for photos of Optis, etc. (If there is interest, I'd like to find a spot in the CGSC for our youth sailors in action, though.)
2. It must be a photo of a boat under sail.
3. The sailboat must be currently owned by a CGSC

REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

I would like to start off by thanking everyone who took part in the Coconut Grove Art Festival club promotion weekend. The three days over President's Weekend have become very productive for us in finding new mooring renters, new sailing students and of course, new members. With that in mind, I will assume that some people reading the Channel this month are doing so for the first time and are new members to the CGSC so, WELCOME ABOARD. You haven't heard already, you will soon learn that "Coconut Grove Sailing Club is Where Sailors Belong". We are glad you are here to share in that great tradition.

The March calendar is packed with sailing events and we are very excited to be hosting some of the more prestigious regattas on the water. The Melges 32 Miami Championship scheduled on the first weekend of March is an offshore regatta, with the race course east of Key Biscayne. Our highly regarded Race Committee has been once again asked to manage the race and there will certainly be some exciting competition.

In Mid-March, the CGSC will be once again, hosting the XVL Don Q Rum Keg Snipe Regatta and this event will also bring top competitors to our club. For those who aren't familiar with the Snipe, it is 15 1/2 foot one design sailing dinghy that, while not an Olympic Class boat, it has introduced many Olympic Sailors to racing. An international class, the Snipe is also

member.

4. Sailboats may be stored anywhere in the South Florida area. No photos of that sloop you keep in your parents' cottage on the Chesapeake, please.

4. It must show most of the boat. No close-ups of the skipper, crew, etc.

5. Dimensions are 8x10, VERTICAL.

6. We supply the frame.

7. Give us a duplicate for our archives with your name and contact info.

8. Drop off photos in an envelope with your name and contact info. You can give them to a bartender or the Office.

Our upcoming Annual Rendezvous is a great time to arrange a mutual boat photo-shot with fellow sailors. Ask around. And if you race Key Largo, you are bound to see your boat in some fantastic photos. No photo-shopping to the front of the fleet, though!

Let me know if you have any questions. I'm looking forward to seeing our photo fleet grow.

Doug Hanks

Vice Commodore

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highly recognized as a family oriented class often bringing two or three generations of family members on the same race course. The class motto is "Serious Sailing, Serious Fun", and I encourage anyone interested in learning more about the International Snipe Class to come down and see these boats and their crews in action.

The CGSC Annual Rendezvous "HOLO-KAI" is well in the planning stages and it promises to be a highlight of the season and should be reason enough for our members who don't own sailboats to go right out and buy one. This year's "HOLO-KAI" is the first weekend in May and just like years past, we will be heading our bows south and meeting for a weekend of fun, activities, food and beverage on Elliott Key. Our Polynesian theme will offer grass skirts, barbecued pig, an as yet to be decided Tropical Drink and of course, we have arranged for there to be a full moon rising during the luau. This weekend is not to be missed!

Fair Winds –

Sean Connett

Rear Commodore

sean.connett@cgcs.org



2012 (XLIII ANNUAL) COMODORO RASCO SNIPE REGATTA

Nineteen boats registered for this Regatta, but all the way from Rhode Island, Carol Cronin and Kim Couranz came to show us how to do it! and they were the best with LA BOMBA too! Blowing pretty good on Saturday with Easterly winds (15 to 20) and Southeasterly on Sunday (10), I tell you, you can't ask for anything more! Biscayne Bay at its best!

Take a look at the results: Carol and Kim in first, Hal and Amy from Jacksonville in second, Eric Heim from San Diego with Alan Capellin in third. The most improved Snipe Sailors from Palm Beach, Freddie and Dorian Sambolin won the Bill Aicardi Trophy. I love husband and wife sailing together and after the races they kiss each other!! That is true love! And that also shows that Freddie is a gentleman! Two of our best sailors, Ernesto Rodriguez and Brian Kamilar ran into problems, OCS and breakdown respectively.

Kudos to the Coconut Grove Sailing Club Race Committee that ran perfect races with perfect courses, Olympic and

Windward/leeward. Super PRO Susan Walcutt with her team: Marvin Schenker, Dottie Rostorfer, Jo Ann Mathieu, Veronic Aghayan, Helene Schenker, Marybeth Pearson, Jaime Ramon, scorer and line spotter (Bad for Ernesto he was caught over the line!!), Captain Bill Braddon. On Mark and Pin boats: George Bradley, Suzanne Roberts, Geoff Sutcliff, Larry Whipple, Kit Temple, Jim Waldron and all the way from Naples, my old friend snipe sailor Dave Lence. What a team!! This has to be one of the best RC's in a long time!!!

All the first three boat team members and Freddie and Dorian drank from La Bomba while we all sang LA BOMBA VA, LA BOMBABA. But, outstanding was our diva Kim Couranz. Carol, to my surprise, did a very good job singing and drinking LA BOMBA! Now it is going to be a competition between Carol and Kim to see who does the best.

La Bomba is not the only attraction of this Regatta. Carmen's Lasagna is also! And one more time she scored A+ this year. Keep on Carmita!!!



CGSC Vice Commodore Doug Hanks presenting trophies to the WINNERS Carol Cronin and Kim Couranz



CGSC Vice Commodore Doug Hanks presenting trophies to 2nd place Hal Gilreath and Amy Benner



GSC Vice Commodore Doug Hanks presenting trophies to 3rd place Eric Heim and Alan Capellin



Carol Cronin drinking LABOMBA test trial. Kim Couranz drinking LA BOMBA test trial



Aicardi winners Freddie and Dorian Sambolin.



The Race Participants

CENTER DOCK DEDICATION!

It was a very happy gathering on the CGSC lawn and along the railing of the upper deck late in the afternoon of Saturday, January 28th. A big crowd of Members and guests were there for the Dedication of CGSC's new Center Dock. Appetizers were served under the canopy tent, and a bar was set up on the lawn, as well. CGSC General Manager Pat Tully installed a big "Grand Opening" ceremonial ribbon across the Dock entrance.

CGSC Commodore Ron Rostorfer presided over the dedication ceremony and introduced Vice Commodore Doug Hanks and Rear Commodore Sean Connett. The first order of business was to welcome special guests Bill and Jill Smoak from Coral Reef and Biscayne Bay YC's. Bill has been the driving force behind the Biscayne Bay Yacht Racing Association for decades. He was awarded an Honorary Membership in CGSC for his dedication to the sport.

Ron thanked the Board and the Membership for their approvals of the project back in August and September. He also recognized past Treasurer Ron Canizares for his efforts in securing the Club's new 15-year lease that was signed back in July. This made it much easier to justify the project – the second largest capital investment in the Club's history.

Special recognition went to immediate Past Commodore Alyn Pruett for getting the project design and permitting process started back in the fall of 2010. The old dock, built in 1980 had failed twice. Something needed to be done, but we had no realistic expectation at the time of getting a long-term lease with the City. Environmental and permitting consultant Kirk Lofgren was engaged to get these matters underway. Eventually, six separate permits were obtained in order to start the project.

Special thanks went to our outstanding current Treasurer, Tony Battaglia, for his role as Executive Engineer on the project. Tony was as involved as anyone at CGSC in the development and execution of the project. Member and attorney Nic Ware wrote the dock construction contract, and Member and contractor Kay Statz served as CGSC's Representative (inspector) under

the contract. CGSC's Chief Engineer, Tom Reese, was our daily "eyes and ears" on the project, with assistance from Waterfront Director Nick Mansbach. GM Pat Tully guided the electric and plumbing bid process.

And then, there is our great dock construction contractor, Glen Larson of Dock & Marine Construction. Glen and his crew were great to work with and always had the best interests of CGSC at heart. Maybe that's why Glen is the third generation of his family to head the company. The project started on time on January 2nd, and Glen delivered a quality structure on time and on budget.

With that, Alyn and Ron stepped behind the "Grand Opening" ribbon. Ron cut the ribbon and declared CGSC's new Center Dock "IN SERVICE!"

After that, Ron introduced Member Geoff Sutcliffe. Geoff headed a project to secure decking from the old dock, cut them into trophy-sized pieces and attached a small plate to each reading, "Coconut Grove Sailing Club – The Wooden Dock, 1980 – 2011." They were really neat, and were sold to interested attendees in exchange for their contribution to CGSC's Junior Sailing Program. Thanks also to Members Rennie Young and Brian Duplisea for their help with this.



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they say. One after another, Amanda, Graham, Stu and Sarah took turns telling our Juniors about how they started sailing and racing, and how they went from their beginning days to Olympic glory. All had sailed Opti's like our Juniors at some point. Again and again, they stressed staying with it and trying to get a little better every day. They were all encouraging, supportive and inspirational.

One happy note was the reunion of Sarah Lihan with her former Opti Coach in Ft. Lauderdale, Debby Ryder, who happened to be on our Race Committee that day. They hadn't seen each other since the Opti days for Sarah.

Graham whispered to one of the hosts that if they had Sharpies, they could sign life jackets, hats, etc. of our Juniors. The Sharpies appeared, the announcement was made, and the Juniors clustered around our Olympians for autographs. One of the Juniors was heard to proclaim, "I'm sleeping in this life jacket tonight!" They'll remember this for a while.



DUTCH SWEEP CGSC'S 470 NORTH AMERICANS

It was the 2012 470 Class North American Championships, but apparently nobody told the two Dutch Olympic-bound teams as they won both the Men's/Mixed and Women's Classes. The regatta was sailed January 13-15 under a nice variety of conditions over the three racing days. All eight scheduled races were completed.

This was CGSC's second year hosting these North Americans, and the Class would like us to continue. It's an ideal regatta for CGSC since the boats live at the US Sailing Center up the street. That minimizes the upland impact at the Club.

The scoring system allowed for a boat's worst score to be dropped. As an indication of how well they sailed, the Dutch Men's team of Sven and Kalle Coster dropped a 2nd place! The Women's event was closer, with Lisa Westerhof and Lobke Berkhout taking a four point victory.

Second place in each Class went to the US 2012 Olympic Teams. Stu McNay and Graham Biehl are returning to the Olympics after sailing the last Olympics in China. For the Women, Skipper Amanda Clark is a returning Olympian while crew Sarah Lihan will be in her first Olympics this summer.

The Austrian team of Matthias Schmid and Florian Reichstaedter were 3rd in the Men's class while Swedes Lisa Ericson and Astrid Gabriellsson took bronze for the Women. Matthias and Florian were at the Club Saturday evening and were very complimentary about our Club and the treatment they were afforded here.

All in all, 22 teams competed. That's down from 53 last year due to the Olympic cycle. Last year, Olympic trials were upcoming and everyone was keyed up. Now that the selections have been made for most countries, many competitors are back in grad school, etc. All in all, seven countries were represented this year.

CGSC's Race Committee did another fine job on the water. A trapezoid course was utilized for each race. Rear Commodore Sean Connett and his O'Day 35 Fiji were Signal Boat. Commodore Ron Rostorfer was PRO. The Signal Boat crew included Timers Marvin Schenker and Dorian Goldberg, Flag

Signalers Barbara Safiullin and Veronic Aghayan and Recorders Suzie Harbour, Helene Schenker and Harriet Ottenheimer. Jo Ann Mathieu was the Scorer.

Up to windward were Race Chair Susan Walcutt and her Contender with Rick Klein and Bernie Meier and Freddie Sambolin. The Pin Boat was skippered by Kit Temple with Jim Waldron crewing. The Gate/Finish Boat was skippered by Dennis Jansma and Phil Factor. Dottie Rostorfer was the Navigator, Dennis Dunkelberger was crew and Debbie Ryder handled the Recording. Sadly, Dennis Dunkelberger passed away suddenly in the meantime. He was an active member of the CGSC Race Committee and the Club in general.



Adult Sailing

Your Adult Sailing Committee and the club's adult classes and activities are off to a good start for 2012. Usually, we experience a slowdown during "winter" months, but that has had little effect this season. Classes at all levels are continuing, with both members and the general public taking advantage of all the classes and activities we offer, from Sunfish Learn-to-Sail classes all the way through the steps to Basic Bareboating. One of the most pleasant occurrences has been the strong growth of our Sunfish clinics. For the last few weeks, our traditionally lightly filled "winter" clinics have been filled to capacity with waiting lists every week for the regular Thursday Sunfish clinics. As a result, we have just started a second weekly Sunfish clinic on Tuesday mornings. We are focusing on the newest, lesser experienced Sunfish class graduates, novices and those who might be a little "rusty" with their small-boat skills. We feature developing the newly learned sailing skills through practice on special courses, then conclude the clinic with some fun racing to help measure each individual's progress. Our first Tuesday clinic was Valentine's Day, and participants gave it rave reviews and promised to continue. If you would like to be included in the weekly invitations for these clinics, just send an email or call Richard at the contact information below.

Member-Use Program - Our Member-Use program continues to grow with members getting certified or qualified to use the various levels of club fleet boats that are available, which include Sunfish, Ensign 23' keelboats, and our Beneteau 26.5 cruiser. The club's kayaks do not require qualification

or certification, but there are restrictions. If interested, check out the Member Use Guidelines on our website.

Thanks to those member-users who are working within the guidelines and helping us to keep our boats in "STUDENT-READY" condition. There are prescribed procedures for check-out, use and check-in of member-user vessels. Our fleet is primarily available because they are used for student classes and activities. All member-users must return the used vessel to Student-Ready condition. This means boats, sails, lines, equipment, everything. Even the knots and coiling used when de-rigging the boats are specified. Costs to use these vessels remain low because members monitor this program through their cooperation and compliance. I have been embarrassed more than once when arriving at an Ensign with a student only to find that it has been carelessly de-rigged, with loose lines, improperly rolled jib, flapping halyards, missing knots, etc. Our user log gives us last-user information. If you have checked out a vessel and do not find it in Student-Ready condition, please report it to the dock office, who will in-turn contact the Adult Sailing Committee. Past programs have failed, but this current Member-User program is a working success. Help us keep it that way. Thanks!!!

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

Richard Crisler, Chairman
Adult Sailing Committee
305-342-4775 – cell
crisler@mindspring.com



Audi Melges 20/29er/29erXX Regatta Weekend

By Joy Dunigan

A record-breaking 38 Audi Melges 20 teams raced in the 2012 Miami Winter Regatta, Event No. 2 in a series of three, hosted by Coconut Grove Sailing Club (CGSC). This was our ninth Audi Melges 20 regatta. It's pretty amazing to see how far this class has come.

The field of competitors was littered with sailing legends and youth alike. From the legendary Dave Ullman sailing with Doug McLean on Dark Star, to the teenage Alex Post helming Vaya Con Dios, from Paul Reilly's Red Sky to the all-girl team aboard Rhonda Joyce's Batteries Not Required, this fleet showcases diversified talent and aspiring potential at its very best.

While this was going on, a companion regatta for the now Melges-built 29ers and 29erXX's was being sailed on Friday thru Sunday of the same weekend, February 10 – 12. CGSC's Race Committee took responsibility for the Audi Melges 20 race course, and "subcontracted" the 29er/29erXX course to Coral Reef YC's RC. CGSC provided PRO Ross Cameron from Kingston, ON, Canada as well as a Signal Boat Recorder each day. Most of the Audi Melges 20's, along with all of the 29erXX's were based at CGSC, while the conventional 29ers and remaining AM 20's were based at the USSailing Center or elsewhere. Ideal planning conditions on Saturday left every team grinning ear-to-ear. The confirmed top speed

was 16.9 kts recorded by Reilly's AM 20 Red Sky. Sweet.

The event name says it all. Winter. Teams awoke to cold temperatures and seriously big breeze for the final day of racing. The early breeze was so intense that the RC decided to postpone on land for an hour, if anything, to simply allow it to warm up a little. The first race of the day delivered more victory for Lalli, securing the regatta win. With the commencement of the last and final race of the event, Lalli had all but officially won the event. However, he won the last race, as well.

Meanwhile, on the 29er and 29erXX race course: the 29ers completed eight races with a fairly dominating performance by Skipper Christopher Williford and Crew Kai Friesecke winning by five points over second place Cody Stansky and Scot Ewing. The 29erXX Class, an Olympic berth contender for the 2016 Rio Olympics saw New Zealanders Alexandra Mahloney and Molly Meech sail an excellent regatta for a tie-breaker win vs. Paris Henken & Matt Pistay.

— Melges events happen because a dedicated and experienced team of individuals come together to make the best event possible. Without the ^{Coconut Grove} continued on 10



Photos provided by John Payne Photography

Sailing Club team, Melges USA, Melges Europe and everyone in between, the events simply would not be possible.

Again, on the 29er/29erXX race course, the Race Committee was primarily from Coral Reef YC. CGSC provided PRO Ross Cameron, Sherry Pearsall and Marybeth Pearson. On the Audi Melges 20 course, our Signal Boat, as has been the case for all nine of our AM 20 events going back to 2009 was Mike and Karen Castleberry's beautiful Tartan 372 Imagine. Bruce Golison from California was again the PRO. Marvin Schenker and Dottie Rostorfer were the timers. Helene Schenker and Emy Martinez handled the flags, Jo Ann Mathieu was the Recorder and Steve Washburn from California was the scorer. Up to windward were Freddie Sambolin, Dorian Goldberg, Susan Walcutt, Kit Temple and VC Doug Hanks. The Gate Boat was skippered by Dennis Jansma, with Taran Teague, Debi Jansma, Bonnie Padgett and Rick Klein aboard. The Pin Boat was skippered by David Kurtz PC, with Ron Rostorfer and Nancy Rogachenko aboard.



Photos provided by Kit Temple

John Kretschmer at the CGSC

I am pretty sure if you blow the dust off that old mariner's dictionary, and look up the phrase "nautical raconteur," you will find an ancient sketch of John Kretschmer's face.

The popular cruising author returned to the CGSC for a talk on the best blue-water cruising boats. But those who attended the standing-room only talk learned the boats part was something of a second act for Kretschmer. First, he walked us through a series of sailor tales (some just this side of off-color) that had everyone howling with laughter and admiring that somebody can make a living having so much on boats.

I won't try to recall the yarns in this space. At one point, he had the choice between getting a gymnastics coach fired or buying a sailboat. And there was an awkward moment in a Caribbean airport where he seemed to be the only one who thought George Clooney was a guy named Karl. Suffice it to say, the guy has some tales to tell. Next time, we might just pay him to sit at the Grove's Nest bar for an evening.

Kretschmer lives on the speaker circuit, so he has this particular talk down to a science. It ends with him walking the crowd through a slideshow of 25 cruising boats suitable for ocean crossings. He flashes a new photo on the screen, then asks the crowd to guess the make of the boat. Kretschmer seemed genuinely impressed at how well the CGSC crowd did at calling out each vessel. His stop at the Chicago Yacht Club. Ahem. Not so much.

We had tons of fun with him, and also had great luck with our marketing efforts. We had paid to send out e-mail invites to local subscribers of Cruising World and Yachting magazine, and ended up with about 20 guests for the evening. Several left with membership applications in hand! Let's hope a mooring application is in their future, as well.

Extra credit goes to our commodore, Ron Rostorfer, who is friends with John and arranged for the talk. It was quite the treat, and John seemed right at home.

Doug Hanks, Vice Commodore

Schedule for Sunfish, Keelboat and Cruising

March:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | Sunfish Thursday Clinics 10AM-1PM |
| 3-4 | Sunfish Learn-to-Sail 9AM-4:30PM |
| 10-11 | Basic Keelboat 9AM-4:30PM |

Schedule for Basic and Bareboat Cruising Classes

March:

| | |
|---------|---|
| 10 & 11 | Basic Cruising, plus 1 day for review/testing |
| 16 -19 | Bareboat Cruising, Middle Keys |

April:

| | |
|--------|---|
| 7 & 8 | Basic Cruising, plus 1 day for review/testing |
| 14 -17 | Bareboat Cruising, Bahamas or Middle Keys |

May:

| | |
|---------|---|
| 12 & 13 | Basic Cruising, plus 1 day for review/testing |
|---------|---|

This schedule may be changed based on conditions.
For more information contact Captain Bruce Penrod 814 341 0094 or bapenrod29@msn.com.

Dennis Dunkelberger

The first time I met Dennis Dunkelberger, he offered a pretty detailed critique of why my plan was about to go wrong.

I had sent out an email asking for people to join the committee planning our Annual Work Weekend. Only Dennis responded. A retired ad exec



who started a handyman business on the side, Dennis offered to take up a project or two. So I sent him my working punch list for the weekend. When we met at a CGSC picnic table, Dennis had the list marked up: these projects were doable, these were hopeless, etc.

I'm sad to say I never really got to know Dennis before he died recently. But I understand from friends that this was pure Dennis: blunt, no-nonsense, and happy to jump into a problem that needed fixing. He didn't just join groups. He got right in the middle of them. He was active in Rotary Club, helping organize the annual CGSC youth regatta for the charity. He was active with Race Committee at the CGSC. And he earned that ultimate CGSC badge of honor: Work Weekend stand-out.

At our first meeting, Dennis quickly set me on the right path to Work Weekend, and then had a simple question for me: "Where do you need the most help?"

Well, I replied, we are hoping to do something to the downstairs bathrooms.... "I'll take care of that."

Boy, didn't he. I had another email in my box that evening. Does the CGSC have an account at Home Depot? He had priced new sinks, and wanted the go-ahead to get some supplies. Dennis knew we needed a new bench for the men's shower, so he built one. He was at the CGSC a week early to start staging the project, loading in lumber and readying for the big redo. He came two days early to work solo, and recruited an amazing team to help.

I can't remember a Work Weekend job so grubby, so ambitious and so needed. Oh, and did I forget to mention we had no power the first day? No matter for Dennis and his team. Work continued. He was the first Work Weekend volunteer to start his task that weekend, and the last to finish.

I remember seeing him a few weeks after at the same picnic table where I met him. He was chatting with a buddy after a long day volunteering for Race Committee. I walked over, patted him on the back, and said "How's our rock-star carpenter?"

He smiled, but didn't dawdle on the flattery. He had another question for me: "What's the one task for the Club that you need the most help on right now?"

Let me think about, I told him.

Dennis-- I wish you were still around for that answer. But thanks for all the help you gave the Club over the years. You leave behind a great example for the rest of us. Well done.

Doug Hanks

Our Sailing Journey Begins...

It does not take long for a landlubber to realize one thing, seasoned sailors are never in short supply of is a good story. Their years of sailing experience have brought them to new places, introduced them to new people and created an array of interesting experiences to share with those new to the sailing world. My wife Sadie and I have a mere seven months as club members and less than fifteen days at sea sailing. So, "What kind of story could a pair of "newbie's" share?" We posed that very question to ourselves after being asked to write an article for The Channel.

While we may not have years of experience and treasure chests of stories to draw from as some of the saltier club members, we have the story of how we went from gazing at sailboats from land to sailing the CGSC member use boats and cruising one of the most beautiful sailing playgrounds in the country...Biscayne Bay. Therefore, if you are interested in learning, sailing and building your own salty stories, CGSC is the place for you and this story may be worth reading.

Our story starts in May 2011 when we moved from Guam to Miami and began searching for a sailing club to take our first lessons. As dive instructors in Guam, we spent many a day on the water, but aboard powerboats teaching dive class, not sailboats. We did however, sail with a friend shortly before leaving (to dive on and clean his hull) and were hooked. Luck was on our side, as we moved into our condo and found CGSC just a few blocks away. First impressions are very important and after our initial website inquiry, I received an immediate call from Bruce Penrod, a US Sailing Instructor from the club. Bruce patiently and thoroughly answered all my questions and agreed to meet us at the club to show us around. Within a week, we signed up for the Basic Keelboat Class, completed our club membership, attended a monthly meeting, and met more members. What we found was a great club at a fantastic location, an amazing view from the Grove's Nest Restaurant, and a very friendly and accepting group of sailors that made a pair of landlubbers on a journey to become sailors feel very welcomed. Did I mention the annual dues are the cheapest in the area and they have Sam Adams on tap...two added bonuses!

As one would guess, you cannot just take out the club boats and sail away...first, you need to know what you are doing! With the help of an incredibly flexible US Sailing program and an AWESOME instructor, the Keelboat Course got us started and we were off sailing the 22' Ensigns at a meager \$7 an hour! After a few ½-day trips around Biscayne Bay (staying close to the club) and struggling to get back to that little mooring ball under sail alone, we found ourselves staring at the CGSC member use boat Franela, a Beneteau 265, wishing we could take her out. Two months later, we



completed the required course, the Basic Cruising Class (our second course with Bruce Penrod) and began discussing buying our first sailboat! If there is such a thing as a "sailing bug", we were bit and bit hard.

The club member boat use program was a VERY inexpensive way for us to build experience and practice the skills we acquired in the Keelboat and Basic Cruising classes. While our initial sail and anchoring was a bit nerve-racking, each sail brought more confidence and more fun! Over the next few months, we only had time for eight more member use days

with Franela, but we found ourselves wanting to learn more and venture farther. Soon enough we cleared our schedules and were off for the 4-day Bareboat Cruising Class the first week of 2012. Again, we chose Bruce Penrod and had another excellent class and our first overnight cruising experience that included 25-knot winds on our return from the Key Largo. It was a great trip and we both felt much more comfortable having an instructor with us as we experienced

some serious wind (well for us anyway) for the first time. Having completed the Bareboat Class, we are now able to use Franela overnight and increase our travel, again for a very low cost. We are planning our first three-day trip now and hope to head to Boca Chita Key by February.

While we are still very new to sailing and have a lifetime of learning in front of us, the education, skills and experience gained in our three courses and our day sails on the club member use boats have set a solid foundation for us to follow our dream of cruising the Caribbean. Our instructor is now also our boat broker and we are in search of our first boat, with hopes to have her in the CGSC mooring field by April! So, while our foulies don't have much salt on them, our logbooks are still on page 1, and our stories may not compare to some of the more seasoned members of the club, Sadie and I have come a long way in the last 7-months on our journey to becoming sailors. We



owe a big thanks to the wonderful staff at CGSC, especially the Dock Hands and Bartenders as they provide top-notch service and assistance with a friendly smile every time we come to the club. And of course, a very special thanks to our instructor, broker, and friend, Bruce Penrod. He is a consummate professional that made every class challenging, fun and well worth our time and money...thanks Bruce! While this article will end, our story has just begun as we keep learning, building our sailing knowledge, and cultivating our own salty stories. If you want to learn to sail, gain sailing experience and create your own stories, it is easy. Just, do what we did... join the club, take some classes and SAIL something!

Matt & Sadie Gosselin



DON'T MISS ST PATRICK'S DAY

AT THE SAILING CLUB

FEATURING

THE LUCKY DOGS BAND

8PM TIL 11PM

MARCH 17, 2012

SPECIAL IRISH

MENU ITEMS



Watch the Channel for information
regarding the upcoming
Annual Rendezvous

It will be the first weekend in May.

Plan now to have your boat in ship-shape order
to attend this great event.

