

## channel



September 2013

## BIMINI RENDEZVOUS

**T**he southeast wind was light and the sky clear as we hauled our anchors aboard off No Name Harbor at 4 AM. As we headed out Biscayne Channel however the waves kicked up to a steep chop as the outgoing tide worked against the southeast breeze. Once outside the channel however, the seas calmed down and we found ourselves motoring into a very calm and surprisingly slow-moving Gulf Stream. Later – when the sun came up on a beautiful day - we knew it was going to be an easy crossing to Bimini. This was fortuitous as it was the first crossing for several of the six boats in our flotilla, which included SV Breezen, Angelina, Zepherous, Anam Cara, Osita and Effortless.

And so began the CGSC 2013 “Spirit of Adventure” rendezvous to Bimini.

Our group of cruisers – both very experienced and novice – had been preparing for this trip for many weeks. We convened weekly meetings in May and early June in which we reviewed all aspects

of preparation for the trip including medical preparedness, boat preparation for heavy weather, navigating across the Gulf Stream, as well as navigating Bahamian Customs and Immigration. Our preparations concluded with a “Safety Day” that included a mini-course in CPR, a first aid course, a US Coast Guard Vessel inspection, and demonstration/test firing of flares and fire extinguishers. I am happy to report that ten vessels were inspected and all passed. Those boats now carry a USCG decal that certifies they meet federal vessel safety requirements – a valuable piece of “insurance” should the Coast Guard happen to stop them.



The evening before our departure crews loaded supplies, dinghys, PFD’s, and provisions and headed to anchor off No Name Harbor in preparation for our early departure the next day. The light winds and calm seas made for a near-record crossing of 8-1/2 hours! SV Breezen – captain Mitch Pierce - took the lead in his Catalina

*continued on 4*





2013-2014

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Volume 69 Issue 3

# COMMODORE'S REPORT

**S**ummer is in our wake and we sail ahead into a new season of sailing on Biscayne Bay.



I want to begin with congratulating all of those individuals who were involved in this year's Summer Camp Team. We had a record numbers of participants this year and every time I spoke to a parent about the camp, all I heard was praise for the entire crew. I am extremely proud of our coaches, our counselors and our volunteers who all made this Summer Camp Season exceptionally successful. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to the CGSC.

September signals the start of a busier regatta season and I am looking forward to seeing our lawn covered with drying sails and our docks filled with boats. We will once again play host to our own CGSC racers, other local sailors from around Biscayne Bay and of course sailors visiting from out of town. Please help me extend a welcoming handshake to our guests and show them why we say that the CGSC is where sailors belong.

Also this fall, I expect to see more cruising rendezvous' and raft ups on Biscayne Bay and perhaps other waters a little further away from the CGSC. One of my favorite things to do on Saturday or Sunday is to take Fiji out for a sail and then join up with friends at a quiet anchorage to enjoy the fellowship of sailors. If anyone is interested in knowing more about our rendezvous' please contact either of our rendezvous chair persons, Chiara Manton or Rob Carlson. You can find their email addresses on the CGSC website. Also keep an eye on our Facebook page for any last minute raft up plans.

I hope to see you around the club and on the bay.

Fair Winds,

*Sean Connett, Commodore*

sean.connett@cgsc.org

## *In Memorium*

Bruce Schneider passed away on August 8, 2013 from a rare degenerative neuro-muscular disorder which he had for many years. As a club member since 1993, he was on Race Committee (often as the PRO). He raced and involved in Cruising/Rendezvous. He participated in many work weekends and worked with staff and members during Hurricane evacuations. Bruce is survived by his wife Denise and stepdaughter Lorelei. He kept his 30 ft Morgan "Unwinder" on the moorings. During the 1990s he raced his boat "Juice", a J-24. A memorial will be held in October.



## VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

**A**s I sit with my coffee in Antigua on this late summer morning, I recall my summer reading packed with our sailors cruising to the Bahamas, racing in Scotland, competing in Boston, boating on Sanibel and Captiva Islands and cruising down Island in the Eastern Caribbean. I am reflecting on how lucky we are to have CGSC right in our backyard. Growing up in Northern Minnesota sailing was seasonal to put it mildly and the culture homogenized to say the least. One of the things that make CGSC so special is that our membership comes from all over the place and from all walks of life, but we meet and find community and commonality over our love for the water. That, my friends, makes the whole much bigger than

the sum of its parts.

As we move into another season packed with activities, we strive to do our part in making the club a world class locale. We bring our experiences from our travels and our homes together to create a synergy that is hard to duplicate in any other way. And on top of that we do it twelve months a year! See you at the club and on the bay.



*Paul van Puffelen, Vice Commodore*  
paulvp@cgsc.org

## REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

**S**ummer is coming to an end, but not the sailing in CGSC. Sailors from all ages and sizes make it to our club every single day of the week. Our Summer Camp has been an unprecedented hit with a total of around 300 spots filled and over 20 scholarships awarded. Truly incredible numbers thanks to the dedication of our fantastic coaches downstairs. Many of these kids had never sailed before and have now "encouraged" their parents to become CGSC members and sign them up for our Fall season. What a way to increase our sailing family in the bay!

Some of our young sailors have been going to far away regattas such as the British Nationals in Scotland, the New England Championships in Maine and the West Coast Regattas in Oregon. True ambassadors for CGSC!! On a personal note, I had the opportunity to travel to Largs, Scotland with the US National team and see our sailors proudly display our burgee among sailors from the UK, Spain and Ireland to name a few. What a proud moment to hear people that knew CGSC comment and praise our club as "most-friendly", "just absolutely fantastic", "bloody brilliant place" and "a true jewel in Biscayne Bay". I was thanked by a gentleman for being the most hospitable club he had ever been to. It made me tear up and suddenly feel homesick!

The adult sailors have been very busy too. CGSC held its famous Commodore's Cup with several classes competing while having too much fun. The PHRF class saw Django, Bali Hai and Tiburon take honors, while Sunday Morning, Fiji and Osita took the podium in the PHRF non-spinnaker class. The Flying Scots saw Air America, Lady Hope and Being There take the top 3 spots, while Killer Fish, Kat2 and Agua Ardiente did their part in the Sunfish category. Congratulations to all for great sailing and top notch fun!

So Summer will come to an end, but not the heat and passion for sailing among our members. If you are thinking about joining a class, now is the time! From learn to sail to racing

... classes are open and waiting for you. Do not miss the Racing 101 seminar on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Or go ahead and get a private class with any of our fantastic instructors. For youngsters, the Junior Commodore Regatta is on September 28<sup>th</sup> so sign up quickly. If it is still too hot out there for you, come up and watch the America's Cup in our fantastic bar with a cold drink and the best views of the bay! Looking forward to seeing you soon at CGSC!

Fair Winds and Following Seas

*Sigrid Beckman,*  
Rear Commodore



### CGSC Sunday Fun Race

**W**e had six boats out for the last 1D BBYRA race of the 2012/2013 season on 6/22/13. Henry Bernstein was 1st, Jose Hernandez was 2nd, Bud Price was 3rd, Larry Whipple was 4th, Richard Etkin was 5th and Ryan Alexander was 6th. Keep on sailing Ryan! We also had two CGSC Sunday Fun Races on 6/16 & 7/14 with a lot of Scots and another race on 8/25/13. The CGSC Commodore's Cup on 7/20/13, was interrupted by a strong storm and three Flying Scots were knocked down with two of them getting their masts bent. No one was seriously hurt and the masts were straightened.

There were the CGSC Single-handed race on 8/10 and the CGSC Double-handed race on 8/11/13. Results will be in the next CGSC Channel. See you on the bay!

*Whip*



continued from 1

445, while the rest of the flotilla motored/motor-sailed in a close group. This pattern continued until Effortless' crew hooked a Mahi Mahi about 12 miles out from Bimini and strayed off course a bit in order to land the 8 lb fish.

After docking at Brown's marina and Big Game Club, the captains headed off to customs and the crews settled in for a leisurely afternoon. The rest of the day was spent relaxing and exploring some of the island and a swim at Radio Beach. After the swim we stopped at Sherry's place



on the bluff overlooking the Gulf Stream and enjoyed a couple of Kaliks while renewing our friendship with her and her new husband Eric. That evening we had a pot luck dinner at the marina.

Saturday morning the wind had picked up considerably so we decided to stay on the

"inside" and head across the banks to the mysterious and hard-to-find Healing Hole. With a mangrove shoreline that all looks virtually the same, and numerous creeks cutting into the impenetrable forest, you have to

know exactly where to enter the East Bimini shoreline to make your way along the sometimes very narrow and sometimes very wide creek that leads to the Healing Hole. This trip proved to be a major shakedown voyage for some of the dinks – which endured engine carburetor problems, drain plug failure and flooding, and multiple refueling stops

due to the small size of internal engine fuel tanks! One crew was towed the whole way in their dink, which in the end did not make their trip any easier as they had to fend-off from mangrove roots and branches along the narrow stretches of the winding creek. Once there we all walked the final stretch through a narrow mangrove-lined trench into the Healing Hole itself, which is a nearly-circular clearing with a fresh-water spring in the middle of the mangrove forest. We like to think that this is the Fountain of Youth that Ponce de Leon was reportedly looking for when he came to Bimini in 1513. Believe it if you will, or not, but we all felt better after we left this remote, magical place! Everyone pitched in to help – towing, bailing, jury-rigging, to get us back to Alice Town, where we stopped at Joe's Friendly Conch Shack. We pulled our dinks up on his sand beach among the underwater baskets where he stores his day's supply of conch. Nothing beats a bowl of super-fresh conch salad, spiced with Joe's homemade pepper sauce, accompanied by conch fritters and cold Kaliks on a beautiful Saturday afternoon!



That evening some of the crew hitched a ride in a pick-up truck and headed for Sara's restaurant in Bailey Town - which Joe reported to have the best cracked conch on the Island. However, finding Sara a bit overwhelmed with guests, we walked down the street and stopped at Edith's – another local favorite. We dined on cracked conch, whole snapper and snapper filets that were excellent. Having met Edith on one of our previous trips to Bimini we asked if she could call us a taxi to take us back to Brown's. She insisted that she would give us a ride home and called her daughter to come over and pick us up. Turns out it was the same pick-up that had given us a ride earlier in the evening! Edith – after having just cooked us a wonderful dinner - and her daughter gave us a ride home. This is how friendly the Biminities are.



Sunday again proved too windy for a snorkeling trip to Bimini Road – the lost City of Atlantis – so we did some more Island exploring on foot. It is hard to get lost in Alice Town – with only two main roads – the Kings Highway running along-side the harbor, and the Queens Highway running along the bluff overlooking the Gulf Stream. We stopped and took a tour of Ashley Saunders' creation – The Dolphin House. Ashley – the local historian - has transformed what was originally an ordinary two story concrete block house into a work of art covered with items found on the Bimini beaches and or recycled from other local building projects. The walls in the upper level apartment – all covered with mosaics of found and recycled materials, and designed around a different "theme", are beautiful and made even more



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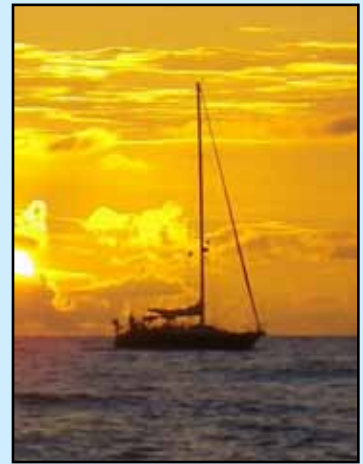




interesting when accompanied by Ashley's stories about the objects and where the many different pieces came from. This wonderful spot is available for rental – for all those who

rest of the week and had an uneventful crossing on Sunday – arriving at CGSC docks at around 5 pm.

A lot happened on this trip: engine problems, dinghy mishaps, dragging anchors, and high winds. In our experience this is the “norm” on any cruise. In spite of these issues, our entire flotilla made it safely to Bimini and back home again – with plenty



of new experiences and stories to tell. Most importantly we all learned that cruising is about being self-sufficient, resourceful, and safe, while having a good time. We are proud that CGSC has sailors of such caliber among our membership. We hope you will join us in future CGSC cruising journeys.

See you on the Bay and at the Club

*Janice and Alyn Pruett*

want a room ashore when staying in Bimini!

Monday, two of our flotilla – Osita and Zepherous - headed back to Miami. Leaving at about 8 am, we later heard – via text message - that they made it back late in the afternoon . Zepherous made it in spite of an engine problem, which required them to make the last forty miles into Miami under sail alone. Monday afternoon the rest of our flotilla decided to head south to Gun Cay, in preparation for a crossing back to Miami the next day. Having seen the forecast for the rest of the week we all felt that it would be good to get across before the weather / wind picked up.

The trip to Gun Cay is only about 10 miles, but was quite rough due to high winds and seas. Fortunately when we got to Gun we found that the anchorage – on the east side of the Cay - was quite calm in spite of the strong east/southeasterly winds, thanks to the extensive flats to the southeast. We were all set for the evening – having all stowed our dinks for the trip home in the morning, when the wind picked up due to a storm off to the east. One minute Breezen was nearly abeam of Effortless, and the next, it had drug anchor, pulling Angelina with her onto the beach – aground. While there was a few minutes of chaos, captain Mitch launched his dink and with the help of Geoff Sutcliffe kedged off the sandy bottom back into deeper water. Angelina, which was fouled in Breezen's anchor rode managed to get clear and also escaped the grounding. While not a calm evening the outcome was a good one - although none of the crews slept well afterward.

The next morning, with crews dead-tired from watching the grounding event unfold and standing anchor watch the rest of the night, all vessels except for Breezen decided to return to Bimini to rest and regroup. Breezen decided to head back with SV Brouhah – another sailboat on anchor at Gun that evening.

After a day spent resting at Bimini, SV Effortless and Angelina decided to head home on Wednesday July 3, to avoid possible worse conditions on Saturday / Sunday. Leaving at around 8 am we had an uneventful – beautiful – crossing with SE winds of 15 + and seas of 3-5 feet. SV Anam Cara remained in Bimini through the

**THE FLORIDA STATE SNIPE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP will be hosted again by the CGSC on September 8 and 9. The Deed requires de skipper to be a Junior (not 22 year old before December 31 of this year) but the crew can be anyone. Please, email Snipe Fleet Captain Gonzalo Diaz [gecmdiaz@gmail.com](mailto:gecmdiaz@gmail.com) if you would like to participate. The Snipe Fleet boat owners will make an effort to provide boats and crews. There is not much time so, act quickly!**

NOTICE

Upcoming CGSC Regattas

Sunday Fun Race

August 25, 2013

FL State Jr Snipe Championship

September 7-8, 2013

CGSC Annual Jr Commodore's Cup

September 28, 2013

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CGSC Annual PHRF Regatta

October 20, 2013

SEE NOTICES OF RACE AND REGISTRATION FORMS ON RACE BULLETIN BOARD DOWNSTAIRS OR AT [WWW.CGSC.ORG](http://WWW.CGSC.ORG) FOR BBYRA 2013 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS VISIT THEIR WEBSITE [WWW.BBYRA.NET](http://WWW.BBYRA.NET)



# Hurricane Preparedness

**H**i All,

CGSC Hurricane Chant: June - too soon, July - stand by, August - a must, September - most ever, October - not over, November - remember.

We consider the CGSC Hurricane Prep. Seminar instructions helpful for securing boats when implemented. So feel free to request this info. at any time whether or not you attended. Some essential things are:

HAVE YOUR OWN HURRICANE PLAN FRESH IN MIND:

1) Keep adequate CLEAN fuel, filters clean and run engine 1/2 hour weekly: make sure the boat works! Have THREE (3) LARGE STORM anchors. Danforths are good here; so are Fortress/Guardians. Nat Herreshoff : "Plows belong in the cornfield." I think that's true here unless they're very large for the boat. Delta's aren't tops, and small anchors (12# - steel) are useless for big boats in storms. DO NOT USE WIMPY ANCHORS AS YOUR BOAT AND OTHERS WILL BE DAMAGED, AND YOU WILL BE UNPOPULAR! Have at least 100 ft. of line with chain for each anchor, and chafing gear.

2) Keep boat bottom and propeller clean. Explore the safe-sites BEFOREHAND.

3) Know how to perform all the steps and get early agreement with AT LEAST ONE FRIEND TO HELP YOU; this may involve favors of some kind: whining, bribes, refreshments, stimulus's, whatever, but get it done!

4) Before or ASAP after a Hurricane Watch or Warning is announced by NOAA take the three (3) equipped anchors aboard (lashed on deck is O.K.). Examples: 40# Danforth, 30# folding grapnel; 13# Guardian. Go to one of the following locations, and anchor far away from other boats - at least five (5) boat lengths. Place largest anchor to where strongest wind is expected, probably SE, and the other two 120 degrees on the BOW each side with 10:1 scope maximum; too much line allows boats to "sail at anchor", jerk madly, get loose and damage yours and other boats, plus may monopolize the anchorage (hooking). A dinghy and with extra hands is really helpful, but a swimmer with a float for the last anchor can do it. Secure chafing gear in place.

Sites are:

1 - West of Star Island and east of Palm and Hibiscus: 3 bridges N of CGSC: Rickenbacker, Dodge Island, McArthur, then right past the Miami Yacht Club to the Flagler Memorial and right.

2 - Marine Stadium: Thru Rickenbacker and right past Rusty Pelican to stbd. to far end and out from the Rowing Club; get WELL INSIDE the stadium, but away from other boats.

3 - No Name Harbor - Key Biscayne - Bill Baggs State Park

4 - Coral Gables Waterway mangroves: south past Four Way Channel and into the Waterway: take 1st left to the end. This is a preferred spot for many; four rules apply:

1- Do not anchor nor attach lines across canals. 2- Do

not tie up to private property.

3- Do not attach to mangrove trunks, but walking anchors well into the mangrove roots is O.K.

4- Everyone is responsible for damages they cause. Method: nose the boat near the mangroves but afloat, walk an anchor(s) into the mangroves, then angle stern anchors to position the boat and

hold it out from the mangroves in case of surge. Note: These canals are scoured by tidal current and offer POOR HOLDING. A heavy kelleet, say 30+ #, on the stern lines is essential.

5) Minimize windage: Remove biminis, sails and dorades; lower boom. Lash tiller/wheel 45 degrees off center and boom 45 degrees on the other side to minimize sailing.

6) It's a motor trip, so check packing flange for drip afterward and adjust if necessary. Pump bilge, check head and thru-valves, turn power off but leave auto-bilge pump on if you have one, lock boat and set alarm. TAPE OR OTHERWISE SECURE A ZIPLOC BAG IN THE COCKPIT with contact info: Name(s), celfone and other tel #'s, email, etc. The USCG has asked for this.

7) Check boats often in following days and notify others ASAP if boats are NOT O.K.

Cooperation helps keep boats safe, minimizes problems and makes work easier. It helps to share a motorized dinghy or ride, and get someone with a van or truck for pick-up near the Miami Yacht Club, Watson Island boat ramp (parking fee \$8/day), Rowing Club, No Name Harbor or Gables Waterway: Cocoplum Blvd. Also, read the CGSC Manager's e-mails for launch service to sights. "All for one, and one for all!", and all will be O.K. It gets easier once we get into it. This is not an exclusive thing; anybody can be a part, CGSC member or not. Get in touch with others going to the same place; hand-held VHF's and celfone's help. PLEASE BE AWARE, per Board ruling, boats on CGSC moorings:

Should boat owners fail to take proper safety precautions, CGSC staff at the direction of the GM and Waterfront Coordinator, and per Florida law, may but are not required to take steps to better secure vessels. Boat owners will be charged for these services. This unavoidable step was a long time coming: loose furling jibs and biminis/dodgers are the main problems.

Feel free to call or email me (305.546.6727C, [billbeav@gmail.com](mailto:billbeav@gmail.com)) on these matters anytime or see me at the Club. Good Luck to all! Enjoy "Our Place on the Bay". See you there.

Bill Beavers - PC



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## ADULT SAILING REPORT

**W**hile you have not seen our CHANNEL articles over the summer months, rest assured that our Adult Sailing programs have continued at a good rate through the summer. While we experienced the usual slowdown in June and early July that is brought on by no-school and family vacations, we never missed a Sunfish or Keelboat class and the Sunfish clinics continued throughout the summer with the afternoon schedule which follows the summer camp use of the Sunfish. By the first keelboat class in August we were already back to sold-out classes. Also during the summer, CGSC hosted another US Sailing Basic Keelboat Instructor course which netted us one more fully certified keelboat instructor.

Cruising and Bareboat class interest is increasing due to the increased number of keelboat certifications being issued as well as new members coming aboard with some certifications already completed. Our next Cruising Class will be in September, and by October we should be back on a full schedule for the "big-boat" classes.

Our Member-Use program continues to grow in interest as well as adding additional members to the approved lists for the various categories of boats. We still get lots of questions, most of which are answered in the Member Use Guidelines on our website in the adult sailing section. If you want to be approved for use of the Sunfish, for instance, there are a number of ways

to accomplish that, but first, you need to let us know that you want to be approved. No one is assumed to be qualified to use any of the club's training boats without at least asking and taking the necessary steps to gain approval. The Dock Master is provided a list of the approved users of Sunfish, Ensign keelboats, and the Beneteau cruising boats. If your name is not on the list, reservations cannot be made. Member Use is one of the unique and special benefits of membership. We hope you will take advantage of it, and great effort has been put into the program for the benefit of the users as well as maintaining our training boats in consistent "Student-Ready" condition. If your club membership goes back a few years, you will remember that two previous member-use programs were unsuccessful and rendered those select boats to unusable and unsafe conditions. Today's program puts the responsibility with the member, as it should be, and many hundreds of happy and safe hours have been spent on our selected training fleet boats by approved member-users.

If you want more information or assistance to become an approved member-user, please contact me by phone or email below. We are happy to assist you. We are, after all, a SAILING club.

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

Richard Crisler, Chairman – Adult Training  
305-342-4775 cell  
[crisler@mindspring.com](mailto:crisler@mindspring.com)



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**Basic Cruising Class  
Sept 20 to 22**

Register online or for more information you can contact Richard Crisler at 305-342-4775, [crisler@mindspring.com](mailto:crisler@mindspring.com)



**View from the Signal Boat**

**C**ongratulations to the First Place Winners of the 2013 Annual Commodore's Cup:

PHRF	Dkango	Rick Rahm
PHRF Non-Spin	Sunday Morning	Jennifer Wirth
Flying Scot	Air America	Bud Price
Sunfish	Killer Fish	Freddie Sambolin



Look for their names on the Perpetual Trophy in the Trophy case.

The CGSC Race Committee is slowly ramping up for our busy next season. September will be filled with training sessions including a US Sailing Association One Day Race Management Seminar, their test being one of the final steps for RC volunteers to become a PRO (Principal Race Officer).

September also concentrates on our Youth sailors with the Florida State Junior Snipe Championship, September 7-8 and our Junior Commodore's Cup, September 28.

For those sailors who are interested in racing but have never participated, the Club will be presenting its Racing 101 class again this year. Our newly instituted Monthly Sunday afternoon fun races are a low stress way to get used to racing starts and sailing around the Bay. Orientation is at 1pm with the start at 3pm. Check the Club's Calendar for the next event.

Susan Walcutt  
CGSC Race Committee Chair