

# the channel

COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB  
serving the community since 1945



JANUARY 2017

## PROBABLY CGSC'S BEST REGATTA EVER!! INCREDIBLE MELGES 24 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP!

**T**he 2016 Melges 24 World Championship, just concluded on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, was incredibly successful. The 74 competing teams enjoyed fantastic racing conditions on the ocean east of Bear Cut, starting with big breeze, big seas on the first two days, "Chamber of Commerce" conditions on Day 3, a light air race on Day 5, and two final moderate air races on the final 5<sup>th</sup> day of the regatta. So, a variety of conditions provided a true test of sailing skill for this World Championship. CGSC's race management work was, in a word, flawless. This included a three-RC Boat starting line! It can't get much better, especially for a World Championship. What a regatta!



The Melges 24. The Melges 24 was the original sportboat class. It spawned an industry, and in addition, transformed Melges Boatworks from a long-time builder of inland lake scows (lots of fun there, too) to the innovator and leader of sportboat racing worldwide. After that came the Melges 32 and 20, the J70, C&C 30 One Design, Farr 280, and several others. The Melges 24 is still the most widely sailed

sportboat around the world. Over 350 sailors from 14 countries on four continents competed in this event. At that, this was, in terms of the number of individual participants, the largest World Championship ever conducted in Miami!

Interest in the Melges 24 Class had fallen off in recent years. Very good boats were on the market at reasonable prices, and were purchased by amateur teams and their owners. (There are no limits regarding professional racing sailors in the Class.) This resulted in a resurgence of "Corinthian" teams as evidenced by this event: 74 entries, of which a whopping 37 were Corinthian.

Results. This was to be an extremely competitive regatta, with World Champions and Olympic Medalists scattered throughout the fleet, and coaching on nearby power boats. A 6<sup>th</sup> place average over the 12 races with one throw-out should have been good enough to win...and it was. However, Ireland's Conor Clark on Embarr averaged under 3.5 and won the event by a

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## COMMODORE'S REPORT

**H**appy New Year everyone! I hope that you had a joyful holiday season and have all resolved to enjoy more time at the club and on the bay this coming year, and most important - get involved in our club! There are many ways to have a positive impact. There are also many benefits to being a member.

Many visitors will be returning to Coconut Grove in January and CGSC plays host to the 470 and 420 North American Championships, and the ISAF Sailing World Cup. Sailors, coaches and family members will be spending time at our club and in our community. Introduce yourselves and make them feel welcome. Give them a lift up the hill to the store or recommend your favorite spots in the Grove to visit or join you. The best advertising for any business or club is through word of mouth, and a few kind words or deeds can lead to an invitation to their home club in return.

Ride your bike, take an Uber or share rides to make less impact on our parking lot. New parking stickers are available in the office but there is no guarantee you will get a spot. Past Commodore Ron Rostorfer always says "our parking sticker is a hunting license" for a parking space.

Volunteer for our hardworking Race Committee. A lot of effort goes into making the regattas and races on the Bay successful, so get involved. The majority of our members do not own a sailboat but joined the club because they enjoy sailing, want to go sailing or want to learn how to sail. Take someone out sailing or offer to crew.

Thanks to Past Commodore Doug Hanks and Alex Wolfe for helping out with our speaker and film series which continues on Wednesday, January 11th with a presentation from Matthew Lapidés and his Northeast Dory which he bikes to the Bay. Wednesday, January 18th, we will feature our next film "The Island President". This is the story of President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives and his struggle to save his country and everyone in it. Come out to the club for Dragan's Wednesday dinner special and stay for these presentations.

It's also time to start planning our Adventure Rendezvous. Past Commodore Alyn Pruett has volunteered to teach all interested cruisers how to safely cross the Gulf Stream and will be leading a number of sessions on navigation, safety, provisioning and destinations. Come share your own adventure stories if you're a pro or sign up to

help Alyn do a session. If you are not already on the cruisers email list, contact Karen at [karen.e.arndt@gmail.com](mailto:karen.e.arndt@gmail.com) so that she can keep you posted on upcoming Rendezvous events in the Bay and cruising meetings.



Lastly, I would like to invite you to join our monthly trip to Clarrington Island Saturday, January 21st. Spend the morning on the island, bring your favorite gardening or trash pick up tool and dig for the amazing treasures brought to the island by King Tide. Look for colorful "drift cards" which are being released as part of the Biscayne Bay Drift Card Study, a collaborative community science project. You will be rewarded by a free lunch and free brew donated by Biscayne Bay Brewery.

I look forward to seeing you at the club or on the Bay.

*Janice Pruett, Commodore*  
SV Effortless  
Coconut Grove Sailing Club  
"Where sailors and friends belong"

### NOTICE

#### Upcoming CGSC Regattas

#### JANUARY

- 7 BBYRA OD#5
- 14-16 470-420 North American  
Championship
- 23-27 ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami

#### FEBRUARY

- 3-5 Audi Melges 20 Winter Series 2
- 11-12 Commodore Rasco Snipes
- 25 Barnacle Regatta

SEE NOTICES OF RACE AND REGISTRATION  
FORMS ON  
RACE BULLETIN BOARD DOWNSTAIRS  
OR AT [WWW.CGSC.ORG](http://WWW.CGSC.ORG)  
FOR BBYRA 2014-15 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS  
VISIT THEIR WEBSITE @ [WWW.BBYRA.NET](http://WWW.BBYRA.NET)

## VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

On a recent Biscayne Bay outing with winds forecast 13 - 17 kts gusting to 20+ kts my crew and I had just this thought as we left the dock. Leaving the channel we proceeded across the Bay to the starting line, hosted by Key Biscayne. It was wet puffy and bumpy, normal conditions for November through April on the Bay. Passing thru 2 foot waves in a boat that sits barely 12" above the water pretty much guarantees that the entire crew is soaked by the time we exit the channel. The grey skies ensured that there would be no complaints of overheating this day. Approaching the committee boat after a couple of gluteal tightening spinnaker sets and jibes we checked in and got the distance, mark letter and starting order. We regularly have 3 to 5 different classes of boats on the race course at the same time, and today was no different. There were Etchells, J-24's, Flying Scots, and Lasers with just an "X" and "Y" weather mark. Generally speaking the Race Committee assigns distances to separate different classes and minimize mayhem on the race course. Participants will tell you it never works, and that the RC was out of their mind, at least until the race is over. The lead up to the start of each race appears to be total confusion with the different classes and sizes of boats vying for a preferred starting position. The reality is that there is a type of loose, undefinable order in place. The upwind legs allow racers to concentrate on boat speed and pointing to varying degrees of success. At the weather mark the world as you know it begins to unravel. The mark rounding demands that you pay equal attention to the other classes that are approaching from starboard, as the boats attempting to squeeze their way portside past the buoy. The relaxing down wind leg, with each boat in every class overpowered, passing and jibing until the kite drop at the leeward mark; allows crews and skippers approximately a second and a half to reflect on the days events. The leeward buoy beckons and we all try to round at the same time. J-24's run down on us stealing our wind pressure and deflating our spinnakers. The Etchells, have rounded and are headed upwind toward the weather mark, threatening to cut us in half with their "pointy" hulls as they cross the fleets. The Laser, oh the Lasers, don't get me started on the Lasers.

The second upwind leg affords us a chance to correct errors on the first leg and maximize or lose any gain we may have extracted on the down wind leg. The

confusion and craziness at the weather mark are welcome as we round and head down to the finish line. For the last hour we have been wet, trying to focus on boat speed, navigating natural and mechanical waves, bailing as needed, trying to keep the boat on it's feet, all while maintaining a civil onboard atmosphere. All of this pales in comparison to the finish. We are going to drop our spinnakers and pack at least 10 - 12 boats from different classes into a space that is clearly too small, with in the span of a few seconds. That was race one, we have two more races to go. To the uninitiated, todays events show that sailors are mentally unstable or just plain crazy. While at the dock and bar afterwards the expanse of smiles and sound of laughter proves that we are indeed "mad". Let's go sailing.

Thank you

*Ryan Alexander*

*Vice Commodore*

*vicecommodore@cgsc*



### Flying Scot Racing

The 4th OD race of the season was 11/5/16, the KBYC 1D Regatta. There were 8 boats registered. Here are the final

Name	SKIPPER	SAIL	POS
LA	Jim Signor	5566	1
		49	2
	Joerg Reinhold/Richard Etkin	3423	3
Lady Hope	Henry Bernstein	5321	4
Been There	Lorie Messer	4595	5
Beija Flor	Ryan Alexander	075	6
Pearl	Greg McPhee	5123	7
I Gone	Obie Smith	6109	8

The next BBYRA race OD#5 run by CGSC on 1/7/17.

See you there. Sail FAST!

Larry Whipple  
Fleet 90 Captain



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whopping 31 points! Conor's not-so-secret weapon was US Olympic 470 helm Stu McNay steering the boat, with his Olympic crew and CGSC Member Dave Hughes calling tactics (they were 4<sup>th</sup> in Rio, just missing a medal). They trashed the field. Second was the Italian team of Gian Luca Perego aboard Maidollis 3 edging out the US's Brian Porter and his Full Throttle team which included former CGSC Honorary Member Andy Burdick of Melges Performance Sailboats. The top Corinthian team was the Italian Taki 4.

CGSC Race Management. CGSC's excellent Race Committee once again teamed with professional Principal Race Officer Anderson Reggio for on-water race management. The results were stellar. This may have been CGSC's finest effort ever regarding race management. Sprinkled throughout our RC team were National, Regional and Club level US Sailing Certified Race Officers, a Certified Power Boat Instructor, and USCG Licensed Masters up to 200 tons. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our private boat owners who volunteered for the event. First among equals is Ev Hoffman with his Grady-White 33 serving as Signal Boat. RC Chair Susan Walcutt's Contender was a

weather mark boat, along with new CGSC Member Tom Giesler's Protector. The Safety Boat was Gary Ellis's Sport Craft 25, and the Jury Boat was Dave Frazier's Angler. Couldn't have done this event without them and our great team.

The Signal Boat crew included Timer Dottie Rostorfer, co-skipper Julie Hanrahan, and Recorders Connie Bradley and Saralee Lamb. On the Protector, way upwind, was Race Officer Ron Rostorfer PC, mark handlers Patrick McLister and Allen Cox, and recorders Emy Martinez and Cathy Buller. The Contender as short weather mark had Race Officer Sicotte Hamilton, Mark handlers Rick Klein, James Liebl, Obie Smith and Joel Krieger and recorder Carol Cottrell.

The Mid-Line Boat Race Officer was George Bradley, with Race Manager Blake Middleton, skipper Debbie Ryder, line sighter Nancy Rogachenko and Don Poole. Our Pin Boat skipper was Dennis Jansma with recorder Debi Jansma, and Race Officer/Class Competition Director John Abel with Judie Abel crewing. The Safety Boat crews were Medics Carl Updyke and Dave Frazier with diver Bernie Meier.

For further information, go to: <http://www.melges24worlds.com/> and <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=1352>





## Melges 24

Melges 24 photographs compliments of Richard Pober.

## REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

Hello Sailors!

I was sitting having a Rum and Coke (the sailor's choice) with a couple of club friends last night, and got to talking about the dock staff at the club. Duane and his team provide a key service at the club, helping sailors get out on to the bay sailing. There are some very obvious things we see them do ...driving the launch, helping the youth sailors get their boats in the water, working on the strip, assisting the coaches, etc. Behind the scenes they provide other services, cleaning the grounds, maintaining the moorings, doing mechanical repairs, etc. This article is dedicated to them!

The head of the team is Duane Smallwood. Duane is from North Carolina, but has been in Miami for as long as I can remember. Duane has been working at the club since 2005, and became the head dock master in 2007.

The most senior of the dock staff is Pat Parnter - you know him - whistling Pat. Pat is from Jamaica, etc. Pat has been on the dock staff for 10 years! We all know Pat for his consistently pleasant and smiling demeanor, friendly greeting, and cool conversation. He's always happy to see sailors, and never gets upset when we're in a boisterous mood.

At the other end of the seniority scale is Alfonso Perez, who comes from the Dominican Republic. What always strikes me about Alfonso is his professional manner, and deep knowledge of a very wide range of topics - try having a conversation with him about flying, for example!

Christian Rodiles is the firecracker of the dock staff. Christian is from Miami, and joined the dock staff a few years ago. Christian's energy is infectious, always happy to work hard and "get R done".

Alex Perez has been on the dock staff for 3 years, and we all know him for his van and his dog Cosmo. Alex is from Puerto Rico. He's a sailor too!

Lastly there's Juan Suarez. Apparently he works 24/7 for the club - he's always around! Like Alex,

Juan is from Puerto Rico. He joined the dock staff 18 months ago. Here's a guy who does more different jobs than anyone, working for the club, and then working on boats in his own time. He lives on a boat call "The Yat".



So, that's the dock staff. They help us sail, deliver us from evil, and save our souls when we've had too much fun (or our engines die in Brennan's Channel). Thank you to all of them!

See you out on the bay!

*Geoff Sutcliffe, Rear Commodore*  
Moonglow  
rearcommodore@cgsc



### 2015-2016 Flag Officers

#### BRIDGE:

Commodore	Janice Prueett
Vice-Commodore	Ryan Alexander
Rear Commodore	Geoff Sutcliffe
Secretary	James Grupenhoff
Treasurer	Olivier DeLavalette

#### BOARD:

Ed Almeyda ('17)	Nicole Bailey (19)
Patricia Murphey ('17)	Rob Carlson (19)
Richard Etkin ('18)	Frank DeLaurier (19)
Julie Hanrahan ('18)	Jeffrey Flanagan, PC
Erik Noonburg ('18)	

General Manager.....Lauren Simpson

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Volume 72

Issue 7

## ADULT SAILING REPORT

**W**e hope all have enjoyed the Holidays and are looking forward to a safe and successful Sailing New Year. We are certainly looking forward to an even bigger and more successful year with our Adult Training and Certification Programs at C.G.S.C. Despite one of the most disruptive years, weather-wise, we still managed to hold most of our classes as scheduled (some rescheduled) and see a record number of Certifications earned from BASIC KEELBOAT, through BASIC CRUISING and BAREBOAT CRUISING. The new structure of our Beneteau Member-Use program has certainly sparked more interest with members wanting to get certified to use our Ensign and Keelboat fleets through our US Sailing Keelboat Certification System. Congratulations to member Bill Randall and new member Scott Blackwell, who successfully completed Capt. Bruce Penrod's BASIC CRUISING Course and received their certifications.

For those members, and non-members, wanting Cruising and Bareboat classes for certification, our next two classes are BAREBOAT CRUISING on January 13-16 (four day course with certification) and BASIC CRUISING on January 27-29 (three day course with certification). BASIC CRUISING requires the BASIC KEELBOAT Certification as a prerequisite and normally is held before BASIC BAREBOAT, which requires BASIC CRUISING as a prerequisite, however, for these January classes we are holding the Bareboat class first due to the backlog of Basic Cruising Certified students, wanting to complete their training with Bareboat Cruising. To sign up for one of these courses, please contact Capt. Bruce Penrod at [bapenrod29@msn.com](mailto:bapenrod29@msn.com) or 814-341-0094.

Explanations of all of our US Sailing Keelboat Certification System classes can be found online, as well as information regarding our Adult Sunfish Learn-to-Sail and Flying Scot classes.

For January, our monthly Sunfish Learn-to-Sail class is held the first weekend of the month, January 7-8. Our US Sailing BASIC KEELBOAT Class will be held twice, first on the weekend of January 14-15, then again on January 21-22. For the Sunfish class, contact certified instructor Phil Adams, [phil@cgsc.org](mailto:phil@cgsc.org). For BASIC KEELBOAT Classes, contact Richard, [richardc@cgsc.org](mailto:richardc@cgsc.org).

Finally thanks to all those who participated in the WORK WEEKEND projects involving our two Beneteau Cruising boats and our Ensign keelboat training fleet. Your hard work is evident and appreciated by all who use these vessels. Are you interested in becoming a US Sailing certified sailing instructor? If so, contact Richard for details.

Sail Often    Sail Safely    Enjoy and Protect Our Beautiful Bay

Richard Crisler, Adult Training Chairman  
305-342-4775    [richardc@cgsc.org](mailto:richardc@cgsc.org)



## YOUTH SAILING

There are seven amazingly talented girls on the CGSC youth sailing team spreading girl power throughout the club. On any given weekend you may find them rigging their sails with care, launching their boats with strength, sailing on the water with laser focus, or jumping in the mix with abandon. All are strong; all are beautiful; and all are here to win. Meet the girls of Green Fleet, Red White and Blue and Laser.

“I’m not afraid of storms, for I’m learning to sail my ship.” – Louisa May Alcott

Since the beginning of the season, CGSC green fleet girls have consistently placed in the top 20 in every regatta, making them the top girl sailors around. At Key Biscayne Sophie de Leon Urban brought a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish to CGSC – the highest placement among the green fleet girls. She is joined near the top by her teammates Carolina Zager, Isabela Kellett, Marea Casciola and Sara Ortiz Vey. Coach Alberto Olivo has steered these competitors and they are a force on the water. We expect big things from these girls as they fine tune their skills. Watch out Red, White and Blue... here they come!

Of course, Red, White and Blue already has their own star in Maya Conway. Maya joined CGSC this season from KBYC and has already qualified for the National Development team and has been invited by TEAM USA to compete in international Regattas. Way to go Maya! She’s definitely one to watch as she continues to train and improve with Coach Koky Gutierrez on her side.

And we can’t forget our star girl on the Laser team, Emma Asturias. Emma started sailing on Lasers just one year ago

and has had to work harder than some of her veteran sailor teammates. Without the experience of Opti sailing, and barely weighing 100 pounds (the required weight for Lasers), Emma’s hard work and determined spirit has earned her the respect of her teammates and Coach Tony. Thank you girls! We are proud to harness your extraordinary girl power on the CGSC team.

Written by: Meredith Vey and Hannah Martinez.



### From the Coach:

The Youth sailing have some awesome news to share, four opti sailors have qualified to represent the USA team at the Spring International events, Alex C Bustillo, Maya Conway will be going to Lake Garda, Nico Garcia- Castrillon and Bruno Wencelbalt will be heading to Holland with the USA team, The Laser sailors in the 4.7 class have won two of the regattas that we attended this season with Chris Purcell, he also finished 3<sup>rd</sup> place at District 13 and battled neck to neck with some of the best sailors in the country, Kiril Yakovenko and Jacques Rive also finished in the top ten, the Laser radial Class have also shown some incredible performances and our lead sailor in the radial class finished 9<sup>th</sup> at District 13, I am also very impressed to see how quickly our green



fleeters have developed and made their way up to the top, with James Asturias, finishing every regatta in the top 5, Sophie de Leon consistently in the top ten as well as Somak Shivlani, some of these sailors will be graduating from green fleet into red, white and blue very soon so we can predict a great future for CGSC. Our next big and most important regatta this season will be Orange Bowl, the coaches and myself are looking for a great result to close up a fantastic 2016 fall season, We also want to wish you a Happy New year to all of you parents and sailors and members of CGSC.

Diunieski “Koky” Gutierrez





## ROUGH START FOR MELGES 20 MIAMI WINTER SERIES

Season eight of Coconut Grove Sailing Club's Melges 20 Miami Winter Series got off to a tough start December 9-11 due to a stalled front just south of us. The result, three days of rain and high winds to welcome the fleet back south for the winter. Sort of!

Three races were scheduled and conducted on Day 1, Friday the 9<sup>th</sup>, so off to a good start, regardless. Then Saturday, the wind and weather were a bit over the top. The Race Committee went out to assess conditions leaving the fleet ashore. After enduring conditions for a while, and looking at the various reports and forecasts available, CGSC Race Committee PRO Blake Middleton cancelled racing for the day. So, suddenly, the event is three races (including a drop race) behind with just one day to try and salvage something.

Determination persevered on the final day, Sunday, Dec. 11, with the rain and wind continuing. Blake led our race management team back out onto the Bay, with the fleet following. Three more races were conducted under conditions that bordered on and even occasionally exceeded Class wind limits. Was there attrition – yes. But thankfully, there wasn't demolition! Those competing on this day were pretty stoked and happy with the experience. The fleet labored upwind, but tore downwind in these conditions, "with their hair on fire," as the saying goes. All in all, a good regatta under the circumstances, with no complaints from a tired but exhilarated bunch of competitors at the trophy presentation Sunday afternoon.

Performances at the top of the fleet were exemplary. With six races sailed, each boat was allowed to drop its worst race. After Day 1, Jim Wilson and his *Oleander* posted an excellent 1-3-2 record for six points and a one point lead over Drew Freides aboard *Pacific Yankee* and veteran competitor Dan Thielman aboard *Kuai* with the same score. Then came Sunday. *Pacific Yankee* posted bullets in the first two races, and retired for the day! That put them in a tie with *Oleander* which posted an 11 (dropped) 2-1 for the day. That made it a tie, which *Pacific Yankee* knew it would win the tie-break before sailing home. *Kuai* ended

up third, four points back.

Many thanks to CGSC's Race Committee boat owners, starting with Signal Boat *Bali Ha'i* and owner Jim Green with additional Skipper Bob Welbon. In addition, there was our intrepid Race Committee Chair Susan Walcutt with her Contender 27 upwind on the race course. Besides PRO Blake, our Signal Boat team consisted on Deputy PRO Nancy Rogachenko, Timer Dottie Rostorfer, Recorders Connie Bradley, Andi Hoffman and Saralee Lamb, and Flag Signalers Lorelei Reinman, Veronic Agahayan and Cathy Buller, past Club Secretary.

Upwind with Susan were Race Officer Rick Klein, crew Joerg Reinhold and Marc Allen along with photographer Dick Pober. The Gate/Finish Boat, CGSC's Angler 24, was Skippered by Race Officer George Bradley, with Joel Krieger, Bill Quesenberry, Lovell Luparini and Lisa Harlow. On the Pin Boat, CGSC's Key Largo was Skippered by Cecile Ramirez with Ron Rostorfer, PC as Race Officer and Allen Cox. Both the competitors and the CGSC Race Committee left on Sunday with happiness and satisfaction regarding the Event.





## Melges 20

Photographs compliments  
of Richard Pober.

