



**the channel**

**COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB**

**servicing the community since 1945**

**NOVEMBER 2017**

**Peter Branning's  
boat *Lighthouse*  
(located in St.  
Croix) after  
Hurricane Maria**

## COMMODORE'S REPORT

**W**hile we have the luxury of sailing on the Bay year round, Fall is here and the sailing is just getting better. The best conditions of the year run from October through April. The race committee has a full schedule and available positions on their support boats. If you have some time during the day or just need a great excuse to leave the office early, try getting out on the Sunfish. Phil has classes and racing during the week and weekends. If you are looking to sail with family or friends check out the Ensigns and Jolly Roger. Richard can fill in the details and assist you in getting out on the water. Joel with the Beneteau fleet, is ready to get you sailing around the bay. If you are looking for a little competition check in with Bud and the Flying Scots. There is racing on Saturday mornings and scheduled BBYRA racing every month. You can participate as crew or skipper on these fun boats. In addition to One Design racing, there is ORC

(former PHRF) racing every month with BBYRA. It is easy to get on a boat, check in at the bar, some one is always looking for crew for upcoming regattas. Our club is back in operation with our adult, and youth programs in full swing. Naturally the bar and kitchen are open and ready to serve you some of the best food and drink on the Biscayne Bay. In the coming weeks try to take a little time for yourself and do some sailing. See you on the Bay.



Thank you

*Ryan Alexander,*

*Commodore*

*commodore@cgsc.org*



### 2017-2018 Flag Officers

#### BRIDGE:

Commodore	Ryan Alexander
Vice-Commodore	Geoff Sutcliffe
Rear Commodore	James Grupenhoff
Secretary	Rob Carlson
Treasurer	Olivier DeLavalette

#### BOARD:

Richard Etkin ('18)	TBD (19)
Julie Hanrahan ('18)	John Asturias (20)
Erik Noonburg ('18)	Dr, Jennifer Cheney (20)
Nicole Bailey (19)	James Liebl (20)
Frank DeLaurier (19)	Janice Pruet, PC
	Susan Walcott, ex officio

General Manager.....Lauren Simpson

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#### NOTICE

Upcoming CGSC Regattas



**CGSC Annual Cruising Regatta  
& BBYRA Cruising #2  
Saturday, October 21, 2017**

**Halloween Howler  
Saturday & Sunday  
October 28-29, 2017**

**Race Committee Training  
Support Boat Class  
Saturday, November 4, 2017**

**Race Committee Training  
GPS Class  
Saturday, November 11, 2017**

**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

**H**ello Sailors!

Sometimes when I'm thinking (no obvious jokes, please), I get the feeling that sailing is like Coca Cola. Coca Cola survives on its secret syrup recipe that only a few select employees know. Top racers on the bay also have their little secrets, which they share with friends but keep hidden from the competition. Back in the day when I was racing on Finesse, I was always amazed by Billy Beavers, and subsequently Tom Beavers, who would make subtle decisions based on years of experience sailing on the bay. As the foredeck guy it was all beyond me. One time Tom let me on the helm, and he very quickly worked out I could never get Finesse going fast enough ... back to the foredeck I went. The first time I did the Key Largo race JoAnn Mathieu was navigating, and she showed me a couple of places you can shave off 30 seconds on that race ... a race that is often won by less than a minute, so those secrets matter. The Lime Cup is another race that benefits from some hidden tricks. I have recently been involved in the development of some software that helps navigators on long distance races decide

which of the many weather forecasters they should trust - the principle is simple, but hidden deep in the code is a little secret based on some math I learned as an undergraduate in South Africa. And I'm not telling what I did ...

it's my secret! So, that's why sailing is like Coca Cola - a few secrets make the difference between being the best and watching a transom in front of you.

Another reason why sailors like Coca Cola is that it goes well with rum. I'll see you out on the bay, with Coca Cola making Moon Glow go fast, two ways!

*Geoff Sutcliffe,*  
*Vice Commodore*  
*Moonglow - Bristol 30'*  
*vicecommodore@cgsc.org*



## REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

**A**s November arrives and the drier, cooler weather (hopefully) sets in, we enter the prime season for sailing on Biscayne Bay. Accordingly, racing activities are beginning to heat up and there are several events in the coming weeks and months in which you'll have the opportunity to participate as a competitor or as a volunteer on our race committee. Additionally, all of CGSC's boats in our Adult Sailing Program came through Hurricane Irma in good shape and are now rigged and ready for member use again. Do not hesitate to take advantage of this program, whether it be on a Beneteau, Ensign, Flying Scot or Sunfish, as they provide such ease of access to the great sailing venue which is Biscayne Bay. Additionally, if you've been at the club on a weekend recently, you will have noticed that the Youth Sailing Program has cranked up to full speed again, and we look forward to another successful season for the racing teams and the development of the beginners in the

fleet. I know I will be involved in many of these activities, and I hope you all get the most out of your membership at CGSC by doing the same.

*James Grupenhoff,*  
*Rear Commodore*  
*rearcommodore@cgsc.org*



## ADULT SAILING - Back in Action

It's Great to have our instructional programs and member-use programs back up and running after the hard hit our club took from IRMA. Thankfully, with lots of hard work, all of our instructional boats survived IRMA with little or no damage. We owe so much to the hard work of our staff, under the direction of Dock Master, Capt. Duane Smallwood, for their efforts in helping us tow the Ensigns and Jolly Roger to the Coral Gables mangroves and to secure them there, as well as return them afterwards. I was there first hand to help and see their tireless efforts while dealing with all the other needs of our club and our members. The biggest surprise was when we went back to get them and found the rainwater to be above the bench seats, taking hours to bail them out with buckets before we could tow them back. Hats off to our Beneteau member-users for securing both boats successfully, without damage, at the marina. FRANELA, thanks to some good preparation, survived while a motor yacht next to her sunk during the storm. TOGETHER also survived, thanks to good preparation.

Due partly to abuse during the storm, the bench seat on our workhorse Ensign, PUFF-DADDY, collapsed under pressure (without injury). Needing an immediate, permanent and safe repair with a big class less than a week away, I called on our friend Roy Hellman for help. Roy, a long-time member, and master with woodwork, directed the complete rebuild to better than new. Roy has often helped the club with many masterful repairs, including work with our aging, but strong, Ensigns. It took us the better part of two days, and the second day was Roy's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. Always smiling and saying, "let's get the job done right". Roy served in the Merchant Marine in WWII, enlisting as a teenager. He was recently part of the Honor Flight to Washington for WWII veterans. Roy is also a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. A Sincere Thank You, Roy!

September saw a complete absence of our group learn-to-sail classes, due to IRMA cancellations, but there were private classes, coaching and testing. We were back on schedule in October, with the next Sunfish class on the weekend of November 4-5, and one group BASIC KEELBOAT Class on November 11-12. Private classes and coaching are available most weekdays and selected weekends. Rigging and safety changes and additions have been completed on JOLLY ROGER, and while still an instructional vessel, it will now be put in service in the member-user program which will later include those with the





BASIC KEELBOAT Certification as well. A short orientation will be needed for the new users. Also look for an announcement regarding our Cruising and Bareboat instruction.

I have been through numerous hurricane watches, warnings and moving of member's boats, notably ANDREW, KATRINA, WILMA and now IRMA. These events create hardships and lots of rebuilding. Every time we have rebuilt and come back stronger Thanks to all of the members who have volunteered their time and muscle to help our great club get back on its feet and to continue the mission we started with more than 70 years ago. With this in mind, please help us out by attending WORK WEEKEND coming up in November..



Sail Often Sail Safely Enjoy and Protect Our Beautiful Bay

Richard Crisler, Chairman  
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*a brief note from Peter Branning*  
**HURRICANE MARIA**

**M**any of CGSC members have shown concern for former members Peter and Martha Branning. They moved several years ago to Saint Croix. When hurricane Irma missed St. Croix but impacted St. John's, Peter and others from St. Croix went to their aid taking supplies in motor boats and evacuating those who wanted to get to St. Croix. But then the unthinkable happened, MARIA. We have few notes from Peter and Martha, but wanted to share what we know.

From Peter

"I am finding old messages on my phone that did not go.

Our neighbor, an experienced hurricane survivor estimated 175mph last night. Horrific experience. All safe and well. House is OK. We still have a roof because we have stays and turnbuckles along the windward side. Still, when we retreated to our neighbors bunker for the storm we said goodbye to our house, which is just slightly up the hill from the windward shore. You can imagine how delighted we were the next day to find it intact. A mast fell on

Lighthouse (Peter's boat) from the adjacent boat and was tangled in the jib halyard. but she is still afloat. Apart from no power, failed water pump, intermittent phone signal, no wifi, thievery and roads washed out confining us to our neighborhood, things are fine."

Continue to think of them as we all put the pieces back together after these horrific storms that have ravaged our communities, whether Texas, Florida or the US Virgin Islands.



## YOUTH SAILING

**H**ello Members, Sailors, and Families of Youth Sailing Programs at CGSC,

So much has happened since the September issue that it is hard to grasp how far we have come since then. Hurricane Irma left us in a bind and thanks to the tireless efforts of the staff, board of directors, flag officers, member volunteers and others we have managed to get our little club back in operation in record time. I know for us in the Youth Sailing side of things we were taken aback at just how much we could have lost in that storm. I'd like to take the time to thank all of the dockstaff and member volunteers, especially our dedicated youth sailing coaches, who worked so hard to get youth sailing back up and running as soon as we humanly could.

Since then, as some of you may know, our previous Youth Director has decided to part ways from CGSC and seek other waters. We wish Koky the best of luck and would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all that he has done for the kids and their families. As a team, we traveled to St. Petersburg for the 2017 USODA Southeast Championship where our up-and-coming team left their mark on St Pete Yacht Club with several kids qualifying for spots in Team Trials and continuing our steady progress in the world of competitive Optimist sailing.

In other news, we are looking forward to a really good season ending in Orange Bowl at the end of 2017, and hope to ring in the new year with some trophies! Time will tell, but I have to say to you all that these kids are putting in a world-class effort to bring CGSC the respect and prestige it deserves on all the racing circuits.

May the wind ever be in your favor,  
-Alberto





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### Moon Dancer

**M**oon Dancer, a Tayana 55, is a Club boat that has provided 'blue water experience' for many crew members. In 2015 Moon Dancer crossed the Pacific from Panama to New Zealand with Club members as crew and recently sailed New Zealand to Fiji with a member, Max Boschetti, as crew.

Moon Dancer is now starting her return voyage...Fiji to the Marshal Islands to Japan to Alaska to Seattle to the Caribbean. There are opportunities for Club members to crew on some of these legs particularly Japan to Alaska in June and Alaska to Seattle in August.

If anyone is interested please contact the General Manager, Lauren.

Members with limited experience are welcome, basically any graduate of Dick's courses or

anyone with reasonable experience is welcome. Nell and I pay all boat and food expenses.

The picture is Nell at the helm leaving Bora Bora.

Phil & Nell Kellett

