



March 2021



the

# channel

COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB

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## COMMODORE'S REPORT

**W**e never expected to be under pandemic restrictions for so long. It's been a year, what a year. Despite the impact of the pandemic CGSC's sailing continues to thrive at an unprecedented level, adult sailing activity including adult classes, the various club one design groups, are all in great demand. It's good that we can sail socially distanced, and that people have embraced sailing as a safe outdoor sport. Our membership continues to grow, with most new members joining to sail.

We were rightly concerned that the pandemic and subsequent restrictions would have a significant adverse impact on the club's mission and finances. However, Youth and Adult sailing have continued to operate at high levels, well in excess of our expectations.

The main adverse impact on the club has been the reductions imposed on the Grove's nest occupancy and the regular social happy hours we spent together – I really miss that aspect of the club. Even with the capacity limitations Dragan and co have done a tremendous job

running and operating so we remain profitable. Good job folks, and thanks.

Our ability to remain open has in no small way been due to the willingness of our members and guests to follow covid protocols. Occasionally someone forgets but in most cases they mask up and distance when reminded. Thanks everyone. I know it's been a long time, but we still need to continue to be observant and cautious. Go sail - it's a great time of year, not too hot, and fairly windy.



*Jim Green, Commodore*  
[commodore@cgsc.org](mailto:commodore@cgsc.org)  
Bali Ha'i

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## Flying Scots

**T**he February 7th Flying Scot Fleet race was a memorable one for several reasons.

First of all it was the largest attendance in the fleet history with 17 boats on the line. Second the wind was just about perfect. And the race committee set great courses.

Jim and Cheyrl Signor came up from Key Largo to show the fleet how it is done with a first place score of 1,1,2. A new competitor Patrick Ryne introduced himself to the fleet with a 2,2,1 for second place. Bud, Bill and Gary managed a 3rd place with a score of 6,3,5. Obie and Paul came in 4th with a 3,4,10. Francois sailing with Jennifer took 5th with a 9,6,6.

With the fleet so large and so tight, a small mistake can put a lot of boats in front of you. So. The key to a better finish is no major mistakes and consistent sailing.

Andi, sailing with her daughter and her daugh-

ter's boyfriend (his first time on a Scot) tied with Doug and Alex for 6/7 with Doug and Alex winning the tie breaker.

8th was Jim. Andy and Evan

9th Keith and Yvette Davids who missed the first race

10th Philippe and Jason

11th Ryan and Karla

12th Oliver, Luca and Daniel

13th Joerg and Richard

14th AHCENE and Andres

15th Shawn and Mike

16th New boat owners Eileen and Sachin

17th Luis with new crew. They missed the last race because of equipment failure.

Bud





## REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

**L**ast month I wrote about the Olympians and their connection to the club. This month I'd like to talk about the future Olympians. That's right, our incredible Youth Program!

I think it is very important that our club, and other club's like ours, develop strong ties to sailing for the health and future of our sport. The kids in our Youth Program learn skills and develop habits that will help them way beyond the race course. Our Youth Programs help the kids develop a true sense of sportsmanship, a strong work ethic, camaraderie with their fellow teammates, self reliance, grit, toughness, and pride. These are very valuable life skills no matter what a young person's calling is in the future.

Recently I sat down with Alberto Olivo, CGSC's Youth Sailing Director, about how the programs were going and what he sees for the future. He expressed great admiration for the coaches and the kids. He is very happy with the expert level of coaching and the quality instruction that the kids are receiving and couldn't stop talking about how it is all coming together - how the kids and the coaches really work well together. He thinks this is the reason the youth programs are at capacity. He said in the overall parents are happy to let the coaches coach and let the kids learn and grow within the program that has been designed specifically for their age, skill set, and physical abilities. He stressed that he is especially proud of the fact that our programs are available to nearly all income levels and that we have a very diverse and welcoming group. All of this was truly refreshing and surprising for me to hear! I've been around sailing a long long time but what? Parents are getting along with their kid's coaches? Kids are having fun? No Opti-mom/dad struggles shoreside? Of course there is the occasional dust up as there always will be but by and large he was super optimistic about our program and the high levels of parental participation and support which really means a lot to him. He said without this positive, supportive, agreeable group, his job would be much more challenging than it already is. I think we've all heard stories of the occasional soccer parent who goes over the top

on the sidelines yelling at referees or the baseball parent harassing the coach wondering why their kid doesn't get as much field time as they think they should. No so, Alberto assures me! He thinks this is one of the best parental groups he's seen in quite a while and he feels their support everytime they come up to him and thank him and his team for his hard work.

Kudos to all the Youth Sailing Programs and thank you, Alberto! Good luck to you and all the kids who were selected to compete at the Opti Mid-Winters by the Optimist Dinghy Association coming up in a few weeks!

*Dave Martin,*  
*Rear Commodore*  
rearcommodore@cgsc.org



## Ensign Fleet

On the last Saturday in January, the CGSC Ensign fleet rallied like never before.

The event was our Fleet 8 Winter Rally, a group sail for the official Biscayne Bay Fleet of the national Ensign Class Association. We picked a gilded destination for the rally — the waters off the historic Vizcaya Mansion. Six Ensigns made the Jan. 30 sail from Brennan's Channel to Deering Channel and back on a moderate easterly breeze.

Our fleet that day: Butterfly, The Crisler, Echo, El Gusto, Foundation, and Woolly Bully. Richard Crisler, our adult Sailing Chair and lead keelboat instructor, is confident that the Rally saw the most Ensigns on Biscayne Bay since the Castle Harbor Sailing School retired its Ensign fleet in the early 2000s.

The soft start was noon-ish off Brennans, and the

various Ensigns crossed courses with each other in the upwind trip past Donovan's. That gave way to a brisk sail to the start of Deering Channel off Vizcaya. Then most of the fleet heaved-to for some food, drinks and relaxation.

The trip home eventually took us off the wind for the return sail down Brennans and into the CGSC mooring field — completing a rally that lasted a little longer than two hours.

Of course, there was an impromptu gathering at the Grove's Nest to review the day's Ensign sailing. Lots to talk about.

We're planning another Ensign Fleet 8 Rally in the spring.

Doug Hanks, PC

CGSC Ensign Fleet Representative





## CGSC HOSTS 2021 I-420 NORTH AMERICAN'S

**T**he Class. CGSC has hosted the I-420 US Nationals during our Annual Open Orange Bowl Regatta for years, followed over MLK Weekend by the Class's North American Championship. These are key events for the Class, which is the youth trainer for the Olympic 470 Class, hence the training ground for our Olympic athletes/representatives in future Olympic Games. Frankly, it's an honor for our Club, and a responsible undertaking to assure quality US future Olympic sailor/athletes capable of winning Olympic Medals.

Racing. This year's event occurred over the January 16-18 weekend, with 29 I-420 teams competing from widespread origins across the country. The event started with excellent conditions on Saturday, Day 1 for the regatta. At that time, the forecast for the following two days was a bit problematic, so our RC planned on four races during opening day. That proved fortuitous. Like other performance racing classes, the I-420 have a rule allowing "pumping, rocking and ooching," a normal violation of Racing Rules of Sailing Rule 42, to occur if winds attain a certain level. For the I-420's, that wind speed is 13 knots. Fortunately, that was the case for three of the four races sailed on Day 1, so excellent performance sailing for the day.

Sunday...not so much. The wind was light, Race 5 was started, but the wind got even lighter. Two boats eventually finished. The Sailing Instructions specified a "finish window" of 15 minutes following the first finisher's time. Boats not finishing within the 15 minutes were scored Did Not Finish. The Race Committee considered abandoning the race, but a little puff came up and blew 14 more boats across the line within the finish window. So, with that, the race stood – 16 finishers inside the window, 13 did not.

On Monday, the Bay was glassed over as the RC took position. However, a breeze began pushing out from the Grove shoreline. Light but steady racing conditions prevailed, and three quality races were sailed. So, a total of 8 of 9 scheduled races were sailed.

Winners. Clearly winning the regatta were Thomas Sitzmann and Luke Woodworth of Outfit Sailing on Long Island Sound with 11 points. That was 15 points better than 2<sup>nd</sup> place Freddie Parkin and Thomas Whidden of Riverside YC (read: grandson of North Sails President Tom Whidden, who was at the event). The top girls team were Vanessa Lahrkamp and Katherine McNamara of American YC. They were 4<sup>th</sup> overall, and only 5 points out of 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Race Committee. CGSC's Race Committee did a good job managing the racing, and received many complements from the competitors, coaches



*continued on pg 6*

and spectating families. Ron Rostorfer PC was the PRO, with Kathy Gunst, Martha Ledesma and Dottie Rostorfer aboard the Club's Angler 24 serving as Signal Boat. Up to windward were RC Chair Susan Walcutt with Stacy Morris, Steve Herman, Dan Lent and Dick Pober. The Pin Boat Race Officer was Rick Klein with Miguel Morales and Allen Cox. The Finish Boat crew were Julie Hanrahan, Liz Balbin and Saralee Lamb. A happy group of competitors, coaches and families

gathered at the Club for the awards presentation as the event drew to a close. Ron Rostorfer





## BIG FLEET FOR COMODORO RASCO SNIPES

**I**t was a record number of entrants in a single class regatta at CGSC this winter, Covid affected season. Some 31 Snipes entered to compete in the very long-standing, 52nd Comodoro Rasco Snipe Class Regatta at our Club. Miami Snipes has done a great job of promoting and growing the Class in recent years, and fleets like this are the result.

Event and Entries. The "Rasco" (a past Commodore of Miramar YC in Cuba) is a five-race, no throw-out regatta. This year, it took place on Saturday-Sunday, January 30-31, 2021. Entries included two-time past Snipe World Champion and CGSC Member Augie Diaz, Snipe Champions Ernesto Rodriguez and Peter Commette, as well as a host of younger, serious competitors. The Rasco is normally thought of as a "local" regatta, but this year, entries hailed from ports as distant as Puerto Rico, San Diego, San Francisco, Annapolis, Philadelphia, Newport, RI, and Cleveland. Sailors want to race!

Racing. The weekend didn't feature big breeze, but the breeze was easily good enough. Three windward-

leeward courses were sailed on Saturday. Young Snipe champion Raul Rios and crew Jose Diaz won the day with a 1-6-1, but only due to Ernesto Rodriguez having an OCS (over the start line early) in Race 1, which he followed with a 1-2 in Races 2 and 3.



*continued on pages 8 & 9*



Rasco continued from 7

Winning Teams. Races 4 and 5 were sailed on Sunday. Another Windward-Leeward followed by an "Olympic" Course, which is a triangle followed by a windward-leeward. Ernesto continued with two "bullets" for the day, but ended up 6<sup>th</sup> overall due to the OCS. He was actually tied on points with Augie Diaz, who finished 7<sup>th</sup> with the tie-breaker. Meanwhile, Raul and Jose's 7-3 was good enough to seal the regatta victory with 18 points. Four points back was young female skipper Taylor Scheuermann sailing with Maru Urban. Enrique Quintero and Diego Escobar were 3<sup>rd</sup> with 25 points followed by Peter and Connie Commette in 4<sup>th</sup> with 29 points. Every race in the regatta was won by either Raul Rios or Ernesto Rodriguez.

Race Committee. CGSC's Race Committee did another great job with race management for this event. We were once again fortunate to attract US Sailing Certified National Race Officer Shannon Bush, who travelled over from Texas to be our Principal Race Officer for the Rasco. Special thanks go to our Signal Boat owners, Mario and Margarita Bermudez for their assistance and use of their Sailcat 32 sloop as our Signal Boat. They were great! The rest of the Signal Boat crew included Deputy Race Officer Andi Hoffman, Timer Dottie Rostorfer, Recorder Connie Bradley, and Flag Signalers Mark Barbaric and Susan Mohorcic. The Pin Boat was CGSC's Key Largo with Regatta Chair Ron Rostorfer PC as Race Officer and Martha Ledesma and

Carol Cottrell aboard. The Gate Boat was CGSC's Contender 23 with Race Officer George Bradley along with Allen Cox and Miguel Morales. Up to windward on the CSGC Angler 24 were Race Officer and RC Chair Susan Walcutt with Bill Quesenberry, Mike Stephens, Kathy Gunst and Denise Schneider.





Rasco continued from 8

Trophies. A very happy group of Snipe sailors gathered on the CGSC lawn for a live trophy presentation Sunday afternoon. Two chairs were set up in front of the attendees for 91-year old Miami Snipe patriarch Gonzalo Diaz and wife, Carmen (parents of Augie). Virtually the entire crowd stopped by to great this great Snipe couple. All in all, it was another excellent CGSC regatta, and great Snipe event. Next up for the Snipes at CGSC, the return of the historic Snipe Don Q Rum regatta, Friday thru Sunday, April 9-11. Shannon says she'll be back!  
Ron Rostorfer



First Place - Skipper Raul Rios and Jose Diaz crew, both from Puerto Rico.

2nd Place - Skipper Taylor Scheuermann of CRYC and crew Mark Urban from Yacht Club de Bahia, Brasil.



3rd Place - Diego Escobar crew from SanDiego YC and Skipper Enrique Quintero from CRYC.



4th Place - Peter and Connie Commette from Lauderdale YC.

COMODORO  
RASCO  
SNiPE  
WINNERS



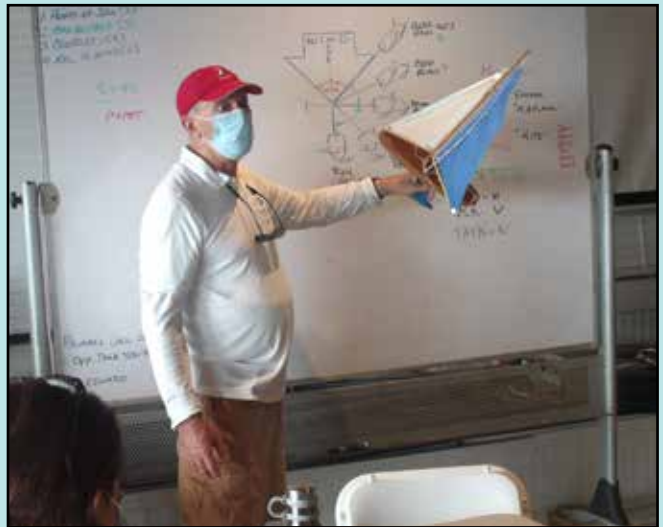
5th Place - From Lauderdale YC Arthur Blodgett skipper and Gracie Howie crew.

Photos by Andi Hoffman



## ADULT SAILING

**H**ow often have you heard someone say “I always wanted to learn how to sail”? Well, your Adult Keelboat and Sunfish instructional programs are hearing it more than ever. It is obvious from the Covid situation that people are wanting to get outside for recreation and hobbies and many have more time available for themselves, also due to Covid, to take advantage of learning to sail. Evidence of that is now, in early February, our very popular BASIC KEELBOAT Class is sold out into April 2021, and instructor involved classes, coaching and testing are at an all-time high, keeping our four active USSA certified instructors accommodating students seven days a week. This also creates a big administrative job dealing with phone calls, in person inquiries at the club office, registrations/reservations, preparing rosters, collections and more, and we have Jesse Chimerakis, CGSC Office Manager, to thank for doing such a great job to keep us running administratively. We are grateful for his services. In addition to the keelboat activity, the Adult Sunfish LTS (Learn-to-Sail) program continues to grow, both in students and effectiveness of classes, under the direction of certified instructor Marc Pendaries. Our newest instructor, Marika De Nie, is now getting involved with Sunfish instructions. She is truly a successful addition to our instructor staff. Recently all three of our Ensign instructional boats, participated in our largest ever gathering, an Ensign Rally. In addition to our three club boats, there are now







five member owned Ensigns, comprising Fleet #8 of the Ensign Class Association. The Rally was a great success under the leadership and direction of our Fleet #8 Captain, former commodore, Doug Hanks, a true Ensign lover. See Doug's article in this issue of the CHANNEL.



We are in real need of US Sailing certified Adult Instructors at C.G.S.C. It can be an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable service to the club, for which you are paid. Also, it makes a great and productive activity in retirement for energetic, qualified individuals. If interested, I encourage you to contact me for the particulars. US Sailing is the largest governing body in sailing. We are a proudly accredited USSA instructional facility at CGSC. Get involved. Enjoy the rewards of teaching others.

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



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Richard Crisler  
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305-342-4775  
Alex Fox

## INTERNATIONAL MELGES 20 MIAMI WINTER SERIES EVENT 2, DEC. 4,5,6, 2020

**A**lthough it was officially titled “Event 2,” thanks to COVID the Melges 20 Winter Series kicked off with Event 2, the first event of the season to actually take place, which was held over three days December 4-6, 2020. It was my pleasure to serve as the PRO for the regatta, in the absence of Blake Middleton who has had that honor for the six seasons before this. (Blake decided that travelling in these times was not a prudent thing to do, and as much as he was missed, no one could argue much with that thought).

In planning the regatta, COVID also had a profound effect on the composition of the race committee who teamed together to bring the races off. The Sailing Instructions were written to virtually eliminate the flying of signal flags from the committee’s signal boat. A new, automated timer/sound system also meant that both the sounds and the timing could be done by a single person. In the end, this allowed a four-person group to comfortably carry out all of the jobs which need to be done on the signal boat. We limited the crews on the pin and gate boats to just two, and on the windward mark boat to only three. Rotations of crews were also kept to a minimum, so as to further reduce any possible exposure for the volunteers on board.

As a result, we were “oversubscribed” by volunteers for the event. Things ran smoothly, but it is our hope that as pandemic conditions improve, we will be able to expand the size of volunteer crew for Event 3 and have more people involved, just as we have had in the past. It was thought that we might have ten competitors who would brave the current situation and decide to sail,

but only nine completed the registration process, and only seven of those dedicated crews arrived in Miami to be part of the event. The first race was scheduled to start at 1100 hours on Friday, December 4. However, just as we were about to begin the starting sequence, a twenty-degree shift arrived, moving the wind from the 130-degree direction it had maintained for more than an hour, over to 150 degrees. Satisfied that this 8 to 10 knot breeze would hold for long enough to get our first race off, we again went into sequence, and started the first race about fifteen minutes after it had been scheduled. When the sailors had completed two laps of the .8-mile course, the finish line was first crossed by James Wilson’s Oleander, followed by Daniel Thielman’s Kuai, Jennifer Canestra’s Ghost rider, and Steve Boho’s The 300 in fourth.

The wind stayed steady, allowing us to start a second race right away. This time the wind’s direction held steady, but its strength started to diminish, holding at around seven knots. Alexis Michas in Midnight Sun was better suited to this lighter breeze, and he took and built a respectable lead which he held to win the race. Wilson’s Oleander came second, Thielman’s Kuai third, and Canestra’s Ghost rider in fourth.

Because of the lessening wind strength, the call was made to shorten the upwind leg to .65 miles before the start of the third race. Midnight Sun again led the field, followed by Oleander, Kuai, with Devin McGranahan’s Yo Momma in fourth. The fourth and final race of the day began shortly after Race 3 was completed. The third race had hit our target time of just over 40 minutes,



*continued on 13*



but the wind continued to drop, so that the fourth race ran more than 50 minutes. Wilson's Oleander found their from the back to the front of the fleet, followed in by Midnight Sun, Yo Momma, and Steve Boho's The 300.

The weather prognosticators had been predicting for days that Saturday would be a dismal day for sailing, and they were right. Julie Hanrahan and Liz Balbin went out as a canary to look for wind early in the morning, as the decision was made to go into a prolonged postponement of race 5. Julie stayed out for more than two hours, recording the decline of the wind from 3 knots to zero, and the decision was made to postpone all races to Sunday, when it appeared the conditions would be better. With the hope that we might be able to get in the other four races which were scheduled, the race committee was asked to arrive at the club at 0700 on Sunday, with the intention of starting the first race at 0900.

When we arrived at our position in the bay on Sunday morning, everything looked good, with a steady breeze of 6 to 7 knots out of the north, allowing us to set a course with an upwind leg of .7 miles. All of the competitors came out early, and to ensure we could get at least one race off, we went into sequence fifteen minutes early. However, the blowing of our signal horns was all the wind gods needs to turn off the fan. We managed to start race 5 but were forced to abandon it when no boat was able to make the first mark in thirty minutes. We waited for two hours hoping the wind would come up as predicted, and at 1130 saw it come in again at 4 to 5 knots from the southwest. We set up a course with a .5 mile upwind leg and were about to again go into sequence for race 6 when the wind collapsed. As the surface of the bay started to turn glassy, the decision was made to send the fleet in. In the final standings after four races, Wilson in Oleander took the event with 6 points, with Michas/Midnight Sun second with 9, Thielman/Kuai

third with 13, and McGranahan/Yo Momma in fourth with 18. McGranahan had an identical set of results as did Jennifer Canestra in Ghost rider, but was awarded fourth based on the second tie-breaker, having finished ahead in the last race.

My hearty thanks go out to all of the volunteers who stepped up, and in particular to those who had the chance to get onto the water: Ron and Dottie Rostorfer, Connie Bradley, and SaraLee Lamb who helped on the signal boat, which was under the command of its owner, Chris Carlton; Julie Hanrahan and Liz Balbin on pin; Rick Klein, Bill Quesenbury, and Martha Ledesma on gate; and Susan Walcott, Dick Pober, Kathy Gunst, Stacy Morris, Miguel Morales, Susan Mohorcic and Charles Dundee on the weather mark boat. Special thanks for the behind the scenes efforts of Steve Herman, JoAnn Mathieu, Denise Schneider and Richard Etlkin. (Steve also managed to get out on the water with Susan on Friday).

The competitors were pleased. The RC was its usual band of jolly comrades, glad to see familiar faces kept apart too long by the current state of affairs. Hopefully, next time we will be able to see many more.

George Bradley



Photos by Dick Pober



## 2020-2021 Officers

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Rear Commodore	Dave Martin
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Lease Renewal/Expansion	Jeff Flanagan, PC	Commodore
75th Anniversary	Patricia Murphy/Renny Young	Commodore

### NOTICE

#### Upcoming CGSC Regattas

**Melges 20 Miami Winter Series #4  
March 05-07, 2021**

**Miami Sailing Week  
Adult  
March 19-21, 2021**

**Miami Sailing Week  
Youth  
March 27-28, 2021**

**Flying Scot Spring Series #1  
March 28, 2021**

SEE NOTICES OF RACE AND REGISTRATION  
FORMS@ [WWW.CGSC.ORG](http://WWW.CGSC.ORG)  
FOR BBYRA 2019-20 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS  
VISIT THEIR WEBSITE @ [WWW.BBYRA.NE](http://WWW.BBYRA.NE)