



COMMODORE'S REPORT

September is normally a month we try to get back into the sailing groove after a slow summer and vacations. However, this year September brought us back to the reality of living in South Florida during hurricane season. Irma came in early Sunday and hung around for at least 12 hours. The devastation left behind could have been much worse if a direct hit. CGSC suffered a good deal of damage but our members and employees have been working hard to get the club up and running. The first week we were able to open the Groves Nest and kitchen. Each day during the initial cleanup our kitchen staff served food to our employees and volunteers. We estimate there was a 6' storm surge based on the position of our floating docks and the Tartan 30 on our lawn. Fortunately, our storm reserve was intact and we have begun repairs to our utilities and perimeter fence. Our staff is rebuilding our

floating docks using the same floats that we gathered from Bayshore Drive. Our youth program is back to practice in preparation for this fall's regattas. Wednesday night racing has been moved to Saturday morning. Our sailing instruction is back on schedule, the member use programs are up and running with no major damage to the boats. It is good to see our members returning to CGSC and sailing on the Bay.



Thank you

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VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

Hello Sailors!

For the last couple of months I've written about the work that's been going on to improve the club property. Then there was Irma. So, this is my shortest article ever, summarizing in one photograph why I keep coming back for more sailing on the bay! It was taken just south of Billy's

Point one evening of Labor Day weekend. It makes the hard work and rough times totally worth it!

Geoff Sutcliffe,
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Irma ... she came, you saw, we conquered

Hurricane Irma was one of the most significant events in recent club history, maybe just behind the signing of the new lease agreement and the installation of the new mooring field. As the “cone of uncertainty” got closer, and it looked like we might get a direct hit, the club staff and members got their collective act together to make ready. The club staff moved all the boats upstairs into the big room, Lauren’s office contents were moved to the upstairs office, the Grove’s Nest shutters were closed, the coach boats taken to a garage, and everything was strapped down. At the same time boat owners on the mooring field moved their boats to safe haven ... the Coral Gables waterway mangroves, Marine Stadium, Dinner Key, and up the Miami River. It was odd to see the mooring field empty! At the same time youth sailors took their Optis home, and the Scot fleet was trailered away.



The preparations were good (and we have learned a few lessons about things we could have done better). Then she came ...

The sight on Monday morning was astounding ... a boat in the middle of the lawn, north and south dock floats under the club



house, the launch dock behind the club house, ice machines strewn about, lawn all over the place, the tree down, and debris as far as the eye could see. Some parts of our docks had floated across South Bayshore Drive!



The clean up operation immediately went into gear, starting with larger items, separating trash from items we could recover, raking up heaps and heaps of seaweed, moving things back to their place, and taking stock of what had happened.



Heavy machinery was hired and dumpsters ordered to take away the debris. The coaching staff worked as an effective team getting the youth program area back into shape. Members came down with garden tools and energy, proving yet again that many hands make lighter work. The dock staff got busy helping members get their boats back to the mooring field, and working on getting a basic launch operation working within a day. Dragan and the kitchen staff gort a BBQ into gear, so everyone was well fed. It was a wonderful effort that went on for 6 days, culminating with a big push on the Saturday. By then



then place was beginning to bear resemblance to the club we know and love. Raise the flags, get back to sailing!

I have avoided listing the names of all the people who did so much to restore the club in the week after the storm. There were many, and you know who you are. Your efforts are what make CGSC “The Place Where Sailors Belong”.

Thank you.

Geoff Sutcliffe, Vice Commodore



REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

BOATSWAIN: Heigh, me hearts! Cheerly, cheerly, my hearts! Yare, yare! Take in the topsail. Tend to th' master's whistle. Blow till thou burst thy wind, if room enough!

-W.S. – *The Tempest I/I*

We have all taken in the topsail and then some. We have done our best to hide our treasures from the cruel, greedy wind. Some were tucked away in the Coral Gables Waterway and some anchored well at Miami Marine Stadium. Our meeting room was



stacked to the rafters with an assortment of dinghies. Seven Ribs were stowed in a parking garage. At my house, we had an Opti on the floor in my office, a Hobie 16 lashed down between the side of the house and a fence, Flying Scot *Dom's Cadillac* "staked out" in the front yard and the CGSC Launch, too high and wide to fit anywhere else, out on the swale (see below, before and after). Many vessels made it through the torment in fine shape; others, sadly, were lost, and we all mourn for them. However, we shall persevere. We shall be wiser and our resolve much stronger for it the next time Mother Nature threatens us, whether it be next month or another 12 years from now. Cheerly, cheerly, my hearts, indeed...



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YOUTH SAILING

We'd like to extend our gratitude to the Key Biscayne Yacht Club, for letting us sail out of their club. CGSC was not ready yet to have our young sailors sail out at the beginning of the Season. Even though we are competitors at regattas, they didn't hesitate to open their doors to us. True Sportsmanship.



Youth Sailing putting in their share of help to clean up after Hurricane Irma.

