



August 2021

the
channel



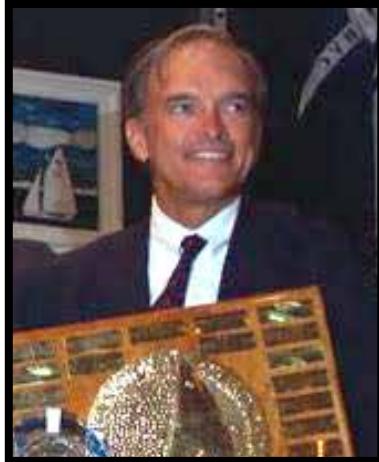
COCONUT GROVE SAILING CLUB
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Sailing Hall of Fame Inductee CONGRATULATIONS to Augie Diaz

The National Sailing Hall of Fame (NSHOF) announced today eleven sailors comprising its 11th class of inductees. The Class of 2021 includes Agustin "Augie" Diaz – Rolex Yachtsman of the Year; Star, Snipe and Laser World Champion; and 505 North American Champion. The Class of 2021 will be formally celebrated on Saturday, October 16, 2021 with an Induction Ceremony in Newport, RI. The event will be held in the newly renovated Armory Building, former site of the international

press corps during the 12 Metre America's Cup era in Newport and future home of The Sailing Museum. The inductees were nominated by sailors from across the United States. Nominations were reviewed by a selection committee comprised of representatives from the NSHOF Board, previous inductees, the sailing media, the sailing industry, community sailing, a maritime museum, the cruising community and US Sailing.

What a wonderful accomplishment for a truly special sailor.



Old Man's Legacy in Miami

by Lynn Fitzpatrick

Published on June 21st, 2021 in Skuttlebutt
Sailing News (reprinted with permission)

Four Miami Snipe fleet crews rarely posted a double-digit score during the 2021 Snipe U.S. National Championship as they took the top four positions during the nine race series held June 17 to 20 in Annapolis, MD.

Ernesto Rodriguez and Kathleen Tocke (1),

Raul Rios and Andrea Riefkohl Gonzalez (2), Enrique Quintero and Charlie Bess (3), Augie Diaz and Barbie Brotons (4) were already world class sailors in the class, with the teams owing a good portion of their success

to one man who was over 1,000 miles south of Annapolis throughout the week, at home in Miami – Gonzalo Diaz Sr., affectionately known as "Viejo" or "Old Man".

At 91-years old, The Old Man got his first Snipe in the mid-1940s and also learned a valuable lesson about fleet building that he and his immediate family and the Snipe "family" have perpetuated.

Old Man sailed out of Miramar Yacht Club in Havana, Cuba, and for a number of years in a row, the club's Commodore Manuel Rasco would donate a Snipe as the prize for Miramar YC's juniors who did not already have a Snipe. Everyone was motivated to sail regularly and



continued on 3

Old Man...continued from 2

improve their skills with such a valuable prize at stake. Soon the fleet grew from a 10-boat to a 20-boat fleet and set the stage for Old Man and his brother to qualify for and do well in Snipe World Championship.

In the early 1960s, Old Man secured a way to get his Snipe and family to flee Cuba. Initially, they landed in Clearwater but eventually moved to Miami where they grew the Snipe fleet on Biscayne Bay. At one point or another, all three of Old Man's children crewed for him. Numerous times, The Old Man crewed for his children – even at Western Hemisphere and World Championships.

The Diaz family also were collecting a large fleet of their own Snipe hulls, spars, and used sails, and with their desire to keep the level of competition high in the local fleet, it sparked Old Man's 'Loan To Own Program' that many good sailors had taken advantage of once they find themselves in Southeast Florida ... or close enough to commute, as in the case of Puerto Rican Raul Rios. When Ernesto Rodriguez (above photo), who was among the top Laser sailors on Cuba's Olympic sailing squad, defected to the United States, he found his way to the Snipe fleet ... or was he recruited?

In any event, when he, or anyone else, signed up for Old Man's program, he/she committed to sail a certain number of days and race a certain number of days. The bogies are intentionally set high and they produce results.

Raul Rios, from Club Nautico de San Juan, Puerto Rico, and a former All-American sailor from Boston College, is currently finishing his doctoral residency in Puerto Rico. When he finds the time, he commutes to Miami, where he takes advantage of another Diaz family

mechanism for growing competition.

Rios stores his boat in Augie Diaz's warehouse, and you can bet when Rios or any other talented sailor suggests he wants to sail a Snipe, the Diaz family and the Miami Snipe fleet will find him or her a crew or skipper, hospitality, and world class competition.

Enrique Qunitero's association with the Diaz family and Snipes tops them all. Old Man fought hard for years to have a Special Juniors division at the U.S. National Championship in which juniors could sail with adults as crew against all junior crews. He argued that if the U.S. Junior champions were going to represent the U.S. at the Junior World Championships, they should be world class and be chosen from a large and highly competitive fleet.

At 13 years old, Qunitero took the helm of a Snipe for the first time at the Florida State Snipe Jr. Championship, with Snipe World Champion Augie Diaz as crew. They won the Championship and in no time, he had his own Snipe. Qunitero won the Snipe Worlds in 2007 as crew, and at the 2021 Snipe Nationals, went into the last day tied with Augie Diaz in third place.



When asked about the Diaz family programs, Augie admits it's a little selfish. "We want to sail against good competition." Selfish? As one who signed up for the Diaz family loan to own program when I landed in Miami, "Thank you for your generosity ... you created a whole lot of amazing sailing careers and sailors who want to give back."



COMMODORE'S REPORT

What a great month of July. We dodged Hurricane / Tropical Storm Elsa and had our first in person large events in over a year. This started with the annual Fourth of July celebration. While we did not have the yearly water slide and fireworks were at a minimum, it was still nice to gather together and celebrate. This was followed by our installation ceremony wherein we thanked outgoing members of the Bridge and Board of Directors and installed new ones. It was a great night of catching up with old friends and dancing to some great 80's music. The month ended with our first in person general meeting in a long time.

If you have read my past articles, August holds a special place in my heart. Setting aside that it is my birthday month, it was also the time of year when we would go on our family vacations and enjoy not being in school. The days were longer and always filled with adventure. As I grew up, August was also the month of getting ready for college football. However, as an adult living in Miami, August sometimes loses its luster in the unbearable heat. It is during those times that I am grateful for being part of the Coconut Grove Sailing Club community. Dodging the summer storms while I head to Hurricane Cove with my family for an afternoon

of relaxation and swimming or sailing down to Stiltsville (imaging what it must have been like in their glory) brings back the feeling of freedom and happiness that only August could provide.

The sailing club is a great place but, like most things, you only get what you give. I challenge and welcome all of you to come down to the club and enjoy it. There is no better time to learn to sail or improve your sailing skills and knowledge with one of our sailing programs. Want to go sailing and meet some great people? Then come down on Wednesday night for the Flying Scot races. As I said during my installation speech, this year is the year the sailing club is back. While sailing did not go away last year, our ability to participate in group activities and share fellowship did. We have a year to catch up on and August is the perfect month to start.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone around the club and on the bay.

*Robert Carlson, Commodore
SV -Grey Wind
vocommodore@cgsc.org*



Installation snap-shots



VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

This past month I've had the pleasure of visiting two very prestigious yacht clubs across the country while sailing in different events. My first stop was in Corpus Christi, Texas where the Finn Nationals were held and the second event was in Marina Del Rey, California at the California Yacht Club where the King of Spain Star boat regatta has been held since 1929. As the newly elected Vice Commodore I look at yacht clubs differently than I have in the past and compare and contrast our club in an effort to both improve and reimagine things we might do differently. I am happy to report that I think we are operating our club quite well!

The first major differences were evident early on and both shared the same plight: they had competing interests that differed from pure sailing and this distracted and dispersed their club's resources. For example at Cal Yacht Club there were tennis courts, a pool, and basically a rowing club within the club. These different sports within the same footprint were competing for space in the parking lot, on the docks, and in the social areas. There was little evidence of much youth sailing at either of these venues and while both clubs were fabulous, there certainly wasn't the energy, the vibrance, and the zest for sailing that we see at our club on a daily basis.

Please don't misunderstand me: these clubs were excellent and they were generous, extremely hospitable, and welcoming. I enjoyed every minute of my time while visiting. What really struck me and what really became obvious while visiting these other great organizations was the specialness of having an affordable Sailing Club in a very expensive city focused purely on sailing with a mission of getting butts on boats on the bay.

We have a great operation, a great group of members, and a staff to go along with it. I

am really proud of our club and the values we teach, the youth that we mentor, and the staff that makes it all come together.

*Dave Martin
Vice Commodore*
vicecommodore@cgsc.org



COME ENJOY

Having a club on the bay
is great and having a food
and bar service like the
club has is even greater.
Come out and enjoy a
great meal, drinks and
relax on the veranda.

REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

While the calendar shouts summer with the Miami rain, humidity, and heat, it seems spiritually more like spring. I hope I am correct in believing we are emerging from the winter of Covid, and for sailing on the bay, that says in a loud, clear voice, we are back. And we are back in way that makes sailing feel like it used to. While restrictions have been lifted for most club activities, many of us continue to be mindful of the new practices we have learned to minimize risk of getting sick and so by combining this awareness with the renewed freedom, let's fill the bay with boats.

The club programs have been supported through this period by incredible management from members, staff, and the volunteers who manage the diverse ways the Coconut Grove Sailing Club puts butts in boats on the bay.

We are looking forward to an active regatta season run by our crack Race Committee. I am especially encouraged by the interest and growth in the youth regattas that have been expanded over the last few seasons. The experience of Covid has taught us to improve

systems. The virtual protest room will continue into the 2021/2022 season, allowing us to draw experienced talent outside our local region.

The Flying Scot fleet continues to mount impressive activity that supports new sailors and racing veterans. Beside the Flying Scots there are other boats for the one design sailor. The last year has seen more activity for the laser and sunfish classes which we will further encourage this year.

For cruisers and keel boat sailors, the club is constantly looking to maintain the quality of the fleet. Adding to the fleet is always under consideration, and hopefully we will see new (to us) boats before the end of the sailing year.

Ideas are always welcome. Anything you would like to pass along about our sailing programs in the form of questions, observations, or suggestions, please let me know. My direct person email is richard.etkin@gmail.com.

*Richard Elkin
Rear Commodore
rearcommodore@cgc.org*

Miami RC Sailing Squadron Tuesday Night Races Are Back at CGSC



Flying Scots

Below are the latest results of the Flying Scot summer series. As you can see we have 15 boats regularly racing.

Wednesday nights are back in full swing with 8 boats the week of 7/7. Saturday racing clinics are building steam. We are always looking for skippers to help get the new participants out and back safely and give them a chance to see what racing is about. We are going to start video recording again to provide further instruction. Anyone who might be interested should contact me.

Bud



Cummulative Flying Scot Summer Series Results

		June 13th	June 27th
4926	Dashing White Sargeant	Rynne Family	1
6220	Bionic	Bud/Gary/Bill	3
5622	ZOOM	Francois	4
49	Dida	Phillipe/Jason	2
6161	Bandit	Alex	5
6075	Bejia Flor	Ryan Alexander	8
5982	Cool Change	Keith/Yvette Davids	13
5675	Mad Dog	Jim, Andy, Evan	7
6109	igone	Obie	6
3423	Scarface	Joerg/Richard	10
6138	Nolo Contendre	Andi/Pamela	9
5220	Air America	Eileen	12
4832	Phoenix	Bruno	11
75	Maggie May	Victor Sopena	13
5246	Cupable	Ollie Buckwell	13



Adult Sailing July Class



4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION



2021 Goombay Regatta

May 28, 2021

Congratularions to these winners:

Racing

1st Arista	MarkKamilar
2nd Victoria	Alexander Birukoff
3rd Lil White Magic	Joey Kolisch

Cruising/Racing

1st Sunquest	Wilfredo Paredes
2nd TooTooToo	Lorie Messer

Cruising/Non-Spinnaker

1st Sacrosanct	Al Otero
2nd Coraggio	Chris Carlton

FLYING SCOT FLEET

AFlying Scot was donated to our club. The story behind it is so typical of the Flying Scot group I felt I had to share it. Sally Russel and her husband started fleet 90 at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club in the 90's. Shortly after they started racing, they realized they could not race together so they purchased a second boat. She and her husband and their kids raced Scots for the next few decades. Sally, now 83, decided that it was probably time to stop racing.

The Flying Scots are racing on Wednesday nights and have training sessions on Saturdays. The fleet is growing and having a great time sailing.

CGSC Commodore's Ships Wheel

Here is the Commodore Ships Wheel which came from a steam powered sidewheeled vessel called "Uncas". It holds the names of past commodores as special tribute. The wheel was donated to the Sailing Club by Walter van Pelt whose Civil War grandfather had salvaged it when the ship was broken up in 1914.

Renny Young

(More information available in the July Channel.)



NOTICE
Upcoming CGSC Regattas

Single Handed Regatta
August 07, 2021

Double Handed Regatta
Sugust 08, 2021

Dinghy Summer Series #5
August 14, 2021

Flying Scot Summer Series #5
August 15, 2021

Dinghy Summer Series #6
August 28, 2021

Flying Scot Summer Series #6
August 29, 2021, 2021

FOR BBYRA 2020-2021 NOTICE OF RACE &
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS VISIT THEIR WEBSITE
@ WWW.BBYRA.NET



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Sailing club

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Vice Commodore	Dave Martin
Rear Commodore	Richard Elkin
Secretary	Doreen Fischer
Treasurer	Olivier de Lavalette

Carlos Beckman (22)	Tom Santoro (23)
Elizabeth Bernstein (22)	Bob Aiken (24)
Priska Urban (22)	Jeffrey Flanagan (24)
Jennifer Cheney (23)	Keith Henrich (24)
Henry Gomez (23)	James Green, PC

BOARD:

Susan Walcott, ex officio
General Manager.....Lauren Simpson

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