

# ***The Chowder Chatter***

## ***The Official Newsletter of The Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society Cape Coral / Fort Myers, Florida [www.cmcs-sail.org](http://www.cmcs-sail.org)***

Next Full Moon: April 6

P.O. Box 101268, Cape Coral, Fl. 33910

April 2023

### **Commodore's Message**



Commodore Bobby Lee

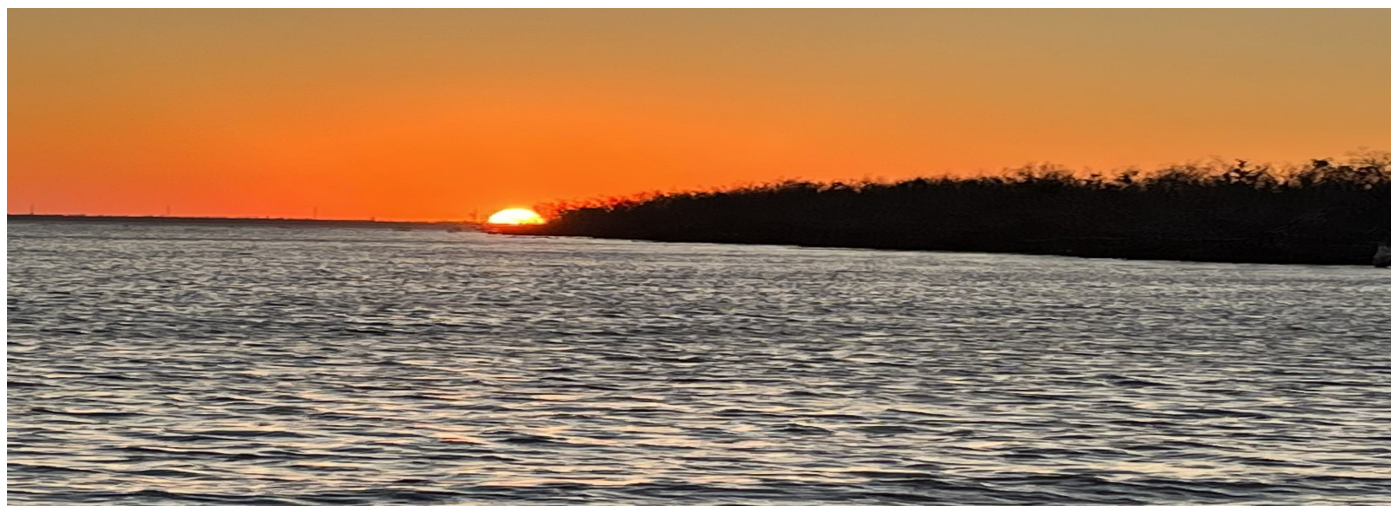
March has been a great month for CMCS. It is rebirth month. Last meeting at Rusty's was great! I watched the members smiling and talking happily. This is the kind of spark that ignites the flames of desire and passion to get out on the water again! The Pim family is off cruising as I write this note. Carol is sending pictures and notes that are awakening the interest in me to get out with my boat.

Lets start planning for the Estebel (Jerry Pim Memorial) Fun Race and Bloody Mary Brunch hosted by the Pim's. This will be the last weekend in April. More details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

You should have received a brief CMCS questionnaire by now. If you haven't done so already, please return it as soon as possible.

Its time to shake out the main and jib and forget the past! YEAH!!

Bobby Lee  
2023 CMCS Commodore  
s/v Sail La Vie



Sunset over St. James City (photo by Carol Pim)

### **2023 CMCS Officers**

Commodore: Bobby Lee

Vice Commodore – Summerset: Bev Duff

Rear Commodore – Racing: Scott Milligan, Art Schuller

Fleet Purser – Julia Robinson

Vice Commodore: Open Position

Rear Commodore – Cruising: Open Position

Fleet Yeoman – Bev Duff

Past Commodore – Gary Blessing

Chowder Chatter Editor—Steve Roake

## **Cruising Updates**

From time to time our members will be updating us on some of our favorite cruising grounds that were damaged by Hurricane Ian. This month, the Pims visited Pelican Bay and Cayo Costa State Park. This is what they found.

"Jason and family spent spring break from March 20 - 24 with me on "Gopher Baroque," my Compac-35. Loaded to the gills with food and drink, we motored to St. James City for the first night, after passing by Little Shell, which is a very small version of its former self. The foliage all along the Miserable Mile was lacking and we saw one barge with several encrusted cars on it. After motor-sailing to Pelican Bay the next day, we noticed the sand spit had many day-trippers, with a few small boats at Dog Beach as well. Only a dozen or so sailboats and powerboats were anchored out in the bay. Sunset was sensational! The next day the dinghy was launched to check out the closed off area which had no docks, just the covered area for the tram. We got hollered at that we were to stay away, since it was a construction site. Again, many of the trees and mangroves were damaged and/or missing. Our trip to Manatee Hole was good, with many manatees hanging around, but all structures were missing. Again, very few boats stayed the night. The sunset was again, amazing. Thursday we headed out to the Tunnel of Love. Most docks and stilt houses were gone or damaged. The tunnel had no cover, just looked like a maze. We gashed a tube of our dinghy right as we turned by the sandy beach, so we sadly turned back, and ate our beach lunch back on the boat. Kristi and Natty kayaked to Manatee Hole to play with the manatee, while Jason and Katie were taking turns sailing the Open Skiff. The last night gave us another spectacular sunset. We headed home with plenty of wind behind us, sailing along on an incoming tide that gave us 8 knots! Home to lots of clean-up!"

--  
Carol Pim  
s/v Gopher Baroque



What's left of the State Park docks



Typical destruction on Cayo Costa



What little remains of Little Shell Island in the Slow zone of the Caloosahatchee



## **Member News**

Keep fellow members informed of your story. We all have some stories to tell—whether it's about sailing, Ian or your travel adventures.

Send the newsletter editor your story for publishing in the newsletter. Your fellow members would enjoy hearing about you.

Send your news to: [steve@theroakes.com](mailto:steve@theroakes.com).

This month's story to share comes from an adventure shared by the Misenheimers about a trip to the Bahama's in 1983.

"In 1983 we cruised with Gopher Baroque, Jerry and Carol's Pearson 35, along with Celebration, Bob and Betty Kayusa, Winter Hawk, Bob and Jeanie Westcott and Daemuraz, Phil and Liz Vail. Destination Abaco Bahamas.

It was our first trip but not for the other boats. We were to follow Jerry and Carol. When I questioned Jerry about the route through the inside of Florida Bay; destination Mia Marina in Miami, he said Not to worry. He thought we could get through the inside route. Gopher drew 3' 9" and Obsession our Islander drew 6'. Well, we soon found out that we were not destined to go on the inside route. After running aground two times we went back to Channel Five and ran up the Hawk Channel to Miami.

We arrived way behind the other boats and discovered that we were not charging our batteries. Jerry helped me pull the alternator and regulator off and we got a taxi to have it checked out. The other boats left for the Abacos and Jerry and Carol stayed an extra day with us at Mia Marina and we did get the problem fixed.

That night we left Miami around 9 P.M. to cross the Gulf Stream for West End. At first light I see Jerry looking through his binoculars toward the South. I call on the radio and he says I think I see Great Isaac Light in the distance to our South. Of course we had no GPS or Loran then so we plotted a course - allowed for the Gulf Stream current 15 to 20 degrees and went for it. We later found out that Gopher's compass was off 20 degrees. Back to the other three boats - Winter Hawk blew her engine and was towed by Daemuraz back to West Palm. Celebration then decided to go home by the Okeechobee route - they ended up hitting a steel marker that had been knocked down and almost sinking their boat.

Daemuraz finally caught up with us in the Abacos. That was our first trip to the Bahamas with Jerry and Carol and believe me we learned a lot. Jerry was a seat of your pants kind of sailor and it was always an adventure to travel with Gopher Baroque. In keeping with Jerry's dry sense of humor, I called that adventure the Jerryatric cruise.

Bill and Mary Misenheimer



Salvaging hurricane damaged vehicles in the Caloosahatchee  
(photo by Carol Pim March, 2023)

## **Membership and Recruitment**

Ahoy, sailors!

Here we are, the first quarter of 2023 is behind us. What lies ahead for CMCS?

It's been a tough six months since Hurricane Ian tore through southwest Florida, destroying much in its path. Finding the pieces and putting it back together is proving to be a real challenge. Some pieces will come back and be stronger. Some pieces will come back but be different. And some pieces won't be back at all. That's the heartbreaker.

Our Commodore shared with us the sad fact that Fort Myers Sailing Club has disbanded for the time being. Too much loss, too many boats gone, not enough energy to rebuild right now. Many of our favorite stomping grounds (in our case, sailing grounds) suffered horrendous loss. It may be a while before cruising to a marina will return as a favorite pastime. Due to the significant loss of racing boats, our racing program is on hiatus.

That brings us to one of the best parts of CMCS, camaraderie! We do know how to do that well, for sure. However, at this point we are without a meeting place to hold many of our favorite events. And, we need someone to step forward to coordinate those events. Think Shrimp Boil, Chili Cook-off, etc. The coordinator does not have to do all the work, just find willing hands to make it happen.

We also need to think about a slate of officers for 2024. It seems like a long way off, but before you know it, December will be here. All positions will be open most likely.

As a member of CMCS, you can be as active as you choose. For the club to continue, willing members will need to come forward to take on leadership roles. Start asking yourself what your talents are that could be used by the club. How can you serve CMCS?

Just a reminder, we all need to read our emails from CMCS. That's how you will be notified of meetings, events, any changes that come along. We have a website that is a good source of that kind of info, but the tricky part comes when a change occurs. Also, be sure the contact info for you is current. If you change phone numbers or email addresses, you may not receive notifications in a timely manner.

We hope you will invite friends and acquaintances to try out CMCS. With membership dues waived, the price is right!

Hope to see you out on the water soon!

Jean Blessing, Fleet Recruiter

S/V Jazzy

## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

As noted in the Commodore's message, all members will be receiving one or more questionnaires via e-mail. Please take the time to respond to the questions if you haven't already done so, and return the questionnaire to us.

As of this writing, 23 responses have been received. Of the 23 responses, 12 members indicated their boat was operable, 16 members indicated that they wish to continue while 5 were unsure and 2 did not wish to continue as a member. (There have been a few members who have moved out of the area, which may explain this).

A complete summary will be included in next month's Chowder Chatter.

## **LADIES BRIDGE CLUB**

On Wednesday, March 8, four of us met for lunch at Jason's Deli. Due to the low turnout, we may not be having many more of these events.

Julie Sanders suggested we try something in downtown Fort Myers for a change. The plan for April is to meet at:

10 Twenty-Five Restaurant  
33 Patio de Leon, Ft Myers  
Friday, April 14th at 11:30 AM

<https://www.10twentyfive.net/fort-myers-menu/>

I will need to know how many to plan for call-ahead seating, so let me know if you plan to attend by giving me a call or text at 239-233-0448 by the end of day on Thursday the 13th.

Looking forward to enjoying lunch with the ladies!

Yours truly,  
Joan Perkett,  
Ladies Bridge Club Chairperson  
[donandjoan@mindspring.com](mailto:donandjoan@mindspring.com)





# **CMCS LIBERTY ASHORE OPEN GRILL NIGHT AND POTLUCK**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

**Attention: Please note NEW location for this event  
(CHANGED FROM LAST MONTH)**

**Commodore Bobby Lee's Home  
11201 Lazy Acres Lane  
Fort Myers, FL. 33905**

**This event is free to all members and guests**

CMCS's Liberty Ashore Team will provide the following:

- Hot Grill
- Charcoal or other fuel
- Grilling utensils
- Disposal Plates, Cups, Napkins, and Cutlery
- Condiments

**Grills will be fired up and ready for you to cook the  
protein portion of your meal beginning at 6:30 PM**

**All attendees should plan to bring the following:**

- The protein portion of your meal that you wish to grill
- A Potluck dish to share: vegetable, salad, appetizer or desert (serving 6 people, or more)
- If your last name begins with A-M: a salad, side or appetizer
- If your name begins with N-Z: a dessert
- Your own beverages
- Your own chair (s)

# **Jerry Pim Memorial Estebel Fun Race**

**Saturday, April 29, 2023**  
**(Starting time and starting area to be announced)**

**This event is in need of a committee boat and race committee**  
**(Please contact Carol or Jason Pim if you can help in any way)**

## **Bloody Mary Brunch**

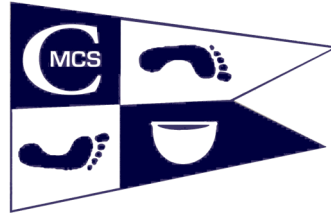
**Sunday, April 30, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**

Home of Carol Pim  
1624 SE 39th Street  
Cape Coral, FL. 33904  
(239) 896-4449  
[gopherb@thepims.com](mailto:gopherb@thepims.com)

This event is free but reservations are required in advance.  
CMCS members do not have to race to attend the brunch.

Please plan to bring a chair if you wish to sit!





## **HAPPENINGS**

April 1	GCSC Bunny Hop Regatta
April 9	Easter
April 11	CMCS Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
April 18	CMCS General Membership Meeting– Open Grill Night
April 22	NSYC Messmer Cup- BOTY
April 23	Chowder Chatter Deadline
April 29	Jerry Pim Memorial Estebel Fun Race
April 30	Bloody Mary Brunch
May 9	CMCS Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
May 16	General Membership Meeting (Location TBA)
May 23	Chowder Chatter Deadline

## **CMCS CHANDLERY**

It's time to gather the boating stuff you no longer need and list it in our newsletter chandlery. The cost is free to members. Text and pictures are welcome. Please try to submit items for sale by the 20th of the month so they can appear in the newsletter.

### **C.M.C.S . CHANDLERY**

#### ***Buy, sell, trade***

Members, to advertise your boating-related items free in the CMCS Chandlery, e-mail Steve Roake, Chowder Chatter Editor at [steve@theroakes.com](mailto:steve@theroakes.com) or use your roster for telephone information.  
Your ad will be listed for 3 months unless you notify me to take your listing out sooner.

Non-members are welcome to advertise their items at a price of \$30.00 for 3 months.

Business cards or business related listings sent in digital format only :

Members: 3 months, \$25.00

Non-members: 3 months, \$50.00

Send a check made out to C.M.C.S. to :

Chowder Chatter Editor, P.O Box 101268, Cape Coral, FL 33910