

# **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 23 Pink Moon

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

April 2024

## Commodore's Message



Commodore Bobby Lee

Good things are happening with CMCS

Our River Racing program is doing fine. As we all know, it takes time for new activities to grow into a regular routine. This one will last!

The meeting at Rusty's was excellent. Thanks go out to Vice Commodore Seaby for the great speakers. This was no exception. It is great looking around the room and seeing so many smiling faces.

Cruising is the next thing to get started. Our plan is to have a monthly cruise somewhere close enough to get to the anchorage in a few hours. Bring dinchies to enjoy happy hours and exploring as we used to. Watch for announcements coming soon.

We had more than 30 members at the March meeting! Yeha!  
Bobby Lee



### **Six Bells**

Frances Ann Chapman

"Fran"

December 1, 1932 - March 16, 2024

Fran was the first mate on various sailboats named "Wa Wa" with her husband John Guzzetta starting in 1978 with CMCS. They raced and cruised all over Florida. She also took the helm as captain a time or two on a ladies' day race and a spinnaker race. Her son Chris Hoyt crewed many times and has been their constant companion for many years. She is greatly missed and forever loved by many..

We thought you would like to see a photo of both Fran and John who is also waving from the stern rail in the Heavens..



Tom Horner  
S/V EROICA  
Rear Commodore of Racing

**The Estebel Race and Bloody Mary Brunch should be on all racing, cruising, socializing calendars. May 4 & 5, 2024 at Pink Shell Marina.**

**Make your reservations ASAP**

**Next Meeting  
Rusty's  
April 16, 2024  
6:30 socialize. 7PM meeting  
Meetings are always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the  
Month**

We will have guests from Edison Sailing Center, and will announce our giving amounts of Summer-set proceeds to ESC and other local youth sailing operations

Special Hurricane Prep guest speaker, too!

## Conquistador Cup Regatta

42 boats registered to participate in the long - running Conquistador Cup Regatta hosted by the Punta Gorda Sailing Club March 1-3. The regatta included WFPHRF [West Florida Performance Handicap Fleet] boats and Harbor 20 One Design boats. On-the-water competition took place in northern Charlotte Harbor just off familiar Fisherman's Village. Land-side activities were held at the Punta Gorda Boat Club facility and included a Skipper's get-together with pizza, beer, and wine on Friday, a well attended BBQ Dinner Saturday evening, and a mid-afternoon Awards Party featuring the renowned Conquistadors in full regalia. PGSC Commodore John Grubbs commanded the room with his wit, humor, and presentations to the winners.

The race course included a circle of 4 fleets namely spinnaker, non-spinnaker, cruiser, and multihull. The Saturday buoy races were sailed in 5-10 knots of wind with good competitive fervor. The Sunday Reverse-Start (ie Pursuit or Swedish Start) course, after experiencing a postponement, was shortened to accommodate the lighter air. It was a fun race enjoyed by the participants with each boat receiving its own GPS start-time. My boat, EROICA, with her crew of 8 enjoyed a good race with lots of laughter and party fixins'. We took our time getting back to our local dock provided for us in Charlotte Harbor. I am glad CMCS supported the PGSC CCR with 4 boats and crew of CMCS members participating in the regatta. Congratulations are in good order to Jason Pim and his S2 7.9 Echoschmecko, Art Schuler and his Tartan 33 Radiant, Roger Horton and his modified Seaward 32, Eric & Holly Milbrandt and their Ranger 28 Lone Ranger, and modestly Yours Truly and my Tartan 33 EROICA. You've gotta love what you do and do what you love!

Our Commodore Bobby Lee is ready to run another of our informal River Races. Although, not as big, just as much fun! Bring your boat, a crew of friends, eats and drinks, and enjoy our monthly on-the-water get-togethers. CMCS has about 43 members and welcomes you to help build our membership by inviting your friends to go Saturday sailing!

Tom Horner  
S/V EROICA  
Rear Commodore of Racing



Vice Commodore Seaby Bess

Hello CMCS! Just taking a moment to introduce myself Capt Seaby as your new Vice-Commodore. My apologies for missing a few monthly meetings but Capt Betti and I also teach boating classes on Tuesday nights for the Cape Coral Sail & Power Squadron. Being the VC I am in charge of organizing this years Summerset Regatta which will take place October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> this year.

We are in need of volunteers to call for sponsorships, distribute posters to local venues and marinas, stuff skipper bags and two big ones a mark boat and committee boat. If you have an interest in volunteering email me at [captseaby@at-your-command.com](mailto:captseaby@at-your-command.com)

Last month we had Jenn Downs from Keep Lee County Beautiful speak about the great work their organization does in cleaning up our shorelines and waterways. If you are interested in helping check out their website <https://www.klcb.org/>. They have a well attended event July 5<sup>th</sup> to cleanup the debris from the fireworks.

In April there is a Potluck event at Bev Duff's house on the 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday starting at 1:00 pm. For our monthly meeting we are presenting the proceeds from Summerset in our area to the Edison Sailing Club and hope to have them speak about their endeavors. For May the plan is to have Carl McGrath from CCSAP present on Boat Hurricane Preparedness. Please invite your neighbors and anyone with a boat. This will be a good event to introduce new people to our club

For those looking to cruise, our local partner clubs do encourage other clubs to attend their events. Gulf Coast Sailing Club has a Cruising Cayo Costa from April 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. You can contact Bob Andrieni [cruising@gulfcoastsailingclub.org](mailto:cruising@gulfcoastsailingclub.org), or <https://gulfcoastsailingclub.org> Hope that gets all of you on the water or to attend our meetings. See you out there

Capt Seaby  
Vice Commodore CMCS



**When: Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 1:00 pm**

**Where: Bev Duff's House  
1024 SE 42 Lane  
Cape Coral 33904**

**Bring your own beverage, folding chair  
and swimsuit  
Last names of A-L bring a side and M-Z  
bring a main dish**

I remember the first time experiencing being out in the water and seeing no land any where for hours. It was the summer season I had bought Yacht Betti. Aside from having an 8 inch poured fiberglass from the water line down the entire hull (built to ocean cruise and withstand the impact of micro-bursts; she was wide on the hips (15ft Wide) and long (LOA 47ft). She had a good diesel engine & generator, but no GPS, Radar, nor any Sails (bare poles).

Late August off to follow the Tri-Sate Sailboat Race across the lake to St. Joseph, just to go for the long distance ride. Logic was if something did go wrong, there would be plenty of sailboats around to give a hand. Provisioned the boat and got it ready for a long crossing. Had a hand held GPS, a watch, a compass, charts, navigation tools, plenty of batteries and all the safety equipment that can fit in a sail dry-bag. Off we go, to test yacht Betti and my fortitude.

Departed from North Point Marina at 1800hrs, magnetic heading 110deg, sea states 1 to 3 ft waves, cloudless skies and approaching sunset astern the boat, southwest winds at 5knots gusting to 8knots.

I was full of FEAR (Feeling Excited And Ready). I took the helm the first watch and saw a beautiful sunset at my stern. It got so dark I had to stay alert and hope I was on course. I saw something on the water about 5miles in front of me that looked like fire. I quickly woke up my first mate to and frantically asked him to call the coast guard because I was convinced it was a boat on fire. He quickly came to look at what I was pointing and calmly assured me that it was not a boat on fire. He took the helm and requested for me to go get my camera immediately. With much hesitation, I did what he requested. As I pointed my camera at the fiery boat (so I thought) on the water; the fire got bigger and brilliant red. A red moon surfaced out of the water; lighting up the entire horizon with it fiery red glow.

I was extremely touched; it felt like taking communion with nature. My knees got weak and I fell in a trance. I live for those moments of divinity with nature. I will never forget that incredible moment.

Betti Garcia

