

THE CHOWDER CHATTER

Monthly Newsletter of
the Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society

Next Full Moon: May 23rd

May 2005

CAN IT GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS?

Welcome to another great chapter of the **Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society**. We are becoming more famous each day thanks to our great membership. Did you see the fantastic article on the entire back page of the Tuesday, April 19, 2005 *News-Press*?

There were CMCS members **Brad Collins, Steve Romaine and Cecil Hazen** smiling as they continued to prepare for the **24th National Hospice Regatta Championship** in Annapolis, Maryland. Missing from the photo were **Scott Milligan**, and CMCS hats. Their J105 racer finished 11 out of 19 boats. There were many sailing professionals from around the country competing in the races. We could not be any more proud of our crew.

We are continuing to plow ahead with our own racing program under the guidance of our Rear Commodore of Racing **Diane Fowler**. **Diane** showed us the awards for racing winners at the last membership meeting. They were beautiful acrylic wine glasses with first, second and third place imprinted on the outside. Races coming up are the *Santweenie Race* and the *Estebel Night Race*. If you are a racer or interested in racing, lets go. Do not miss the racing "tips" class one hour before the regular skipper and crew meeting on Thursdays before a race.

We are cruising like crazy so come on board. Recently completed were the Mosquito Coast Cruise to Little Shark River, the *GCSC Charity Regatta* in Naples and the *Sanibel Bight Cruise*. On top of us right now is the *Santweenie Cruise* followed by the *cruise to Tampa Bay* in early May. We are looking for 15 boats to participate in the Tampa Bay Cruise. For you procrastinators, how about filling that baby up with some fuel and lets go sailing.

The last general membership meeting was a great one. Were you there? Our set-up



COMMODORE
**Russell
Vance**

239-574-4704

crew for open grill night did an outstanding job. A great big thanks to our volunteers **Don Czech and JoAnn Nucifora, Paul and Andrea Perisho, Rick Ragnitt and Debra George, Jay and Kathy Light and John and Susan Reekie**, with special directions and blueprints provided by **Monica and Darrell Smith**. The decorations were super, the open dishes very special, and plenty of hot grilled delights.

Our speakers at the meeting were **Steve and Doris Colgate**. They are without a doubt, among the most famous race/cruisers in the world. They quoted from their new book, *Fast Track to Cruising*, many insightful tips on sail trimming and anchoring. Our members purchased about 20 copies of their interesting book, graciously signed by the **Colgates**. In case you do not know, **Steve and Doris**, over the past several years, have provided us with our largest donation for *Summerset* – the *Offshore Sailing School* certificate. As we have done with past speakers, we presented the **Colgates** with a **CMCS** burgee in appreciation for their presentation. At this moment we also invited **Steve and Doris** to be **honorary members** of our club. They graciously accepted to the applause of our members and guests. It does not get any better than this.

Let's have a great **CMCS 2005**. Your support is essential for our success. 

Thanks to all, Russell



VICE
COMMODORE



Elise Missall ~ 239-489-0422

Sail The Tradition – Summerset!!!!

Here is the latest and the greatest about the 40th annual Summerset Regatta...you remember that Regatta, which takes place September 3rd thru September 5th, 2005??

Skipper's Meeting

- at the ClubhouseThursday, Sept. 1
- Race to NaplesSaturday, Sept. 3
- Cocktail Party at the
Comfort Inn, NaplesSaturday, Sept 3
- Off-Shore RacesSunday, Sept. 4, Naples
- Awards Dinner,
Naples Sailing & Yacht ClubSunday, Sept. 4
- Sail homeMonday, Sept. 5

We have reserved 30 rooms at the *Comfort Inn* for Saturday and Sunday night. You **MUST** call your reservation in with your own credit card to *Comfort Inn* at 649-5800. Tell them you are with **CMCS** and are making your reservation. Rates are:

- King or Double room w/water view\$89.00
 - King or Double room w/city view\$75.00
- Deadline for reservations is no later than August 7th, 2005.**

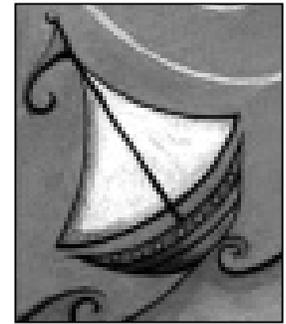
For those of you who are docked way up river, Salty Sam's has moorings right outside their facility at a cost of \$9.00 per night. So, if you choose you can tie up to a mooring on Friday, Sept. 2 in order to be out to the course on time. They are on a first come, first serve basis and Salty Sam's will not take advance reservations. However, you can call the day before. We are also working on being able to call in your reservation with a credit card.

We are gathering \$250.00 sponsors and thus far have four generous contributors. The push is on for \$100.00 sponsors for the T-shirt and Door Prizes. Door prizes, ideally, should be in the \$25 to \$50 range. Surely, each of us know someone who is willing to donate a prize and get their product/name out there. Let's make this a **CMCS** team effort to have the best 40th Summerset Regatta in history. 

Sail The Tradition, Elise



LADIES
BRIDGE CLUB



Mary Lou Mullins ~ 239-541-2479

Lite The Nite...

The *Ladies Bridge Club* will meet on Thursday, May 5, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. **Dee Vaigl** will be our hostess and **Captain Jim Vaigl** will present *Lite The Nite*. Learn the meaning of light configurations on inland and offshore waters with mnemonics – a clever and poetic way to remember the various lights. **Jim** has put together a 24-page full-color booklet for each in attendance to keep onboard as a quick reference while sailing at night.

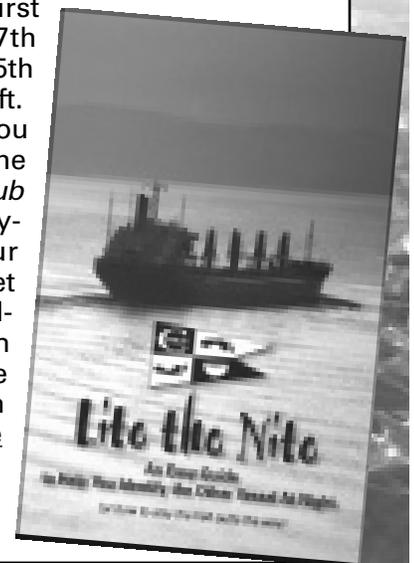
Since several club members will be taking the summer off – sailing North or down to the *Virgins* or over to the *Bahamas*, this informative and fun meeting will “enlighten” and ready you for the night watch.

In “lite” of the night, please bring a “lite” hors d’oeuvre to share – perhaps one you learned how to prepare at last month’s meeting when **Danny Hazen** shared her plethora of recipes.

Directions to **Jim and Dee’s** home at 2824 SW 47th Terrace, Cape Coral: Take Cape Coral Parkway West to almost the very end (approx 5 miles from C.C. Bridge) to Sands Blvd. (1 mi. past Chiquita). Turn right onto Sands then turn left at the first street (SW 47th Terrace) to the 5th house on the left.

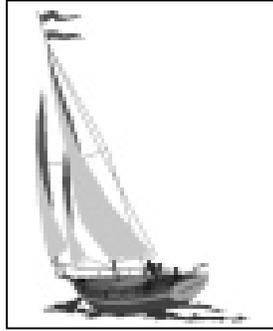
For those of you new to **CMCS**, the *Ladies Bridge Club* will **NOT** be playing cards! Our goal is to meet and share knowledge and learn to be more self-sufficient in sailing. Please join us.

Mary Lou





TAMPA BAY
CRUISE
CAPTAINS



Mel Rudd ~ 239-540-9358
and Ray Gherardini ~ 239-540-0116

Cruise to Tampa Bay
May 9 - 19, 2005

Back by popular demand! Cruise north to Venice, Sarasota, Manatee River and into Tampa Bay. Great Marinas, anchorages, towns to explore and fine dining available. Finish off the Stone Crab season at Moore's in Longboat Key.

For more information, call Mel or Ray. 🚩

Submitted by Editor, Dee Vaigl



DANGER ISLAND
CRUISE
CAPTAIN



Robert Macomber ~ 239-283-6076

Cruise (Expedition) to MY Island
DANGER ISLAND
Memorial Day Weekend, 2005

To: His Excellency, Commodore of the CMCS
Russel Vance, and All CMCS Fleet Officers
& Vessel Captains

Fr: His Excellency, Robert N. Macomber
Governor-for-Life of Danger Island,
San Carlos Bay, Republic of De Nile

Please accept this most sincere invitation to visit my Island on **Memorial Day Weekend, 2005**. All of the Island people and creatures look forward to your visit each year—some with more relish than others, some without

any condiments — and have planned a particularly appealing time this year:

Friday evening after sunset, an impromptu gathering will assemble on the beach, with impromptu music, impromptu conversation and impromptu drinking.

Saturday morning the **Prestigious Black Tie Croquet Tournament** will start precisely at 11:03 am (*Danger Island Standard Time-DIST*) —all vessels are invited to send forth their very best athlete, the only criteria being that they wear some type of black tie. As always, I will decide the rules of competition.

Saturday afternoon, informal racing with **Sunfish** and **general lollygagging around** will take place, with the **Chowder Competition** starting exactly at 4:51pm (*DIST*). All vessels are cordially invited to have their ship's cook display their finest chowder for the evaluation and consumption of the fleet sailors. Extremely valuable prizes will be awarded for *Best Taste, Best Display and Most Original*.

After this sumptuous feast, a **sand castle building competition** will be held at *Sandy Point*, beside the Lagoon. Prizes will be awarded for *Best and Worst Sandcastle*.

At Sunset, the **Annual Memorial Ceremony** will take place at *Sandy Point*, with the traditional **wail of the Conch Shell** by all hands.

After the sun goes down, the **lighting of the previously built sandcastles** will take place, with prizes for the *Most Magnificent Castle and the Most Dismal Castle Failure*.

Following the lighting of the castles, the **Fleet Bonfire** will be lit and the annual **Danger Island Survivor Trivia Contest** will take place. This grueling intellectual test of knowledge will be capped by awarding to the winner the title of *Smartest Survivor of Danger Island*. Then, instantaneously at 9:42pm (*DIST*), we will all begin the notorious **Mid-Night Trek** across to the far side of the Island and the **Dreaded Land of the Mau-Mau's**. Afterward, hangers-on will stay on the beach until the wee hours discussing the problems of the world and coming up with solutions, all of which must seem at least somewhat logical at the time.

On Sunday morning at 9:01am, on the nose (*DIST*), survivors of the night before will gather on the beach and try to remember the solutions to the world's problems they came up with the night before. They will then do a final clean up of the Island (*Do not leave any trash on MY ISLAND or you will incur my displeasure, be captured and then tortured by my ever-so-secret police*). Following that all vessels will weigh anchor at 10:30am, on the dot (*DIST*), and proceed in an orderly fashion

(continued on page 5)



**BLOODY MARY
BRUNCH
HOST & CHEF**

Al Eastman ~ 239-540-1944



Did that get your attention?? Additional drinks can be purchased for \$.50. There will be an amazing array of yummys for your gustatory pleasure, and you will think you are at the Hyatt in Bonita Springs! Fresh fruits, juices, sweet rolls, muffins, breads, home made surprises, eggs Parisienne (cheese, eggs, chives, sour cream), bacon, sausage; the works.

Door Prizes for Mom's! Remember, if you come without a reservation expect to pay *double...double...double...\$12.00.*

BE THERE OR BE HUNGRY

Complete the coupon below and send in **NO LATER THAN MAY 4 PLEASE**, along with a check for **\$6.00 per person.**

I would be pleased to have 5/6 helpers for this event. 

Host and Eggs Chef, Al

**BLOODY MARY & COFFEE
BRUNCH
MOTHER'S DAY – MAY 8TH 10:00 AM**

**OK SAILORS, BLOODY MARY DRINKS &
COFFEE DRINKS ARE ON CMCS!!
(at least the first 2 drinks)**

HELP WANTED

Available for this one-time event and maybe more throughout the year the 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. shift on Mother's Day.

NEEDED:

2 BARTENDERS

2 HOSTESS'S WITH THE MOSTEST

2 COOKS

NO EXPERIENCE NEED • PAY = GOOD TIME

FOR WORK PLEASE CALL MONICA 699-9678 or Email: dmsmithsailing@swfla.rr.com

**CMCS BLOODY MARY & COFFEE BRUNCH RESERVATIONS
MOTHER'S DAY — SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2005 • 10 AM**

Names of person(s) attending: _____

Drink preferred (check one): _____ Bloody Mary _____ Bailey's _____ Kahlua

Amount enclosed @ \$6.00/person \$ _____

Kindly make checks payable to CMCS and mail to:
Al Eastman, 1120 S E 46th St, Unit 1-C, Cape Coral, FL 33904

The **deadline for reservations is Monday, May 4th.** Reservations at the door will be charged \$12.00 per person.
 (Note: Price includes two Bloody Marys or 2 Coffee Drinks each. Additional will be \$.50.)

ATTENTION RACERS: NOR'S & RACE ENTRY FORMS

can be found and downloaded from the CMCS website: www.cmcs-sail.org



REAR
COMMODORE
RACING



Diane Fowler ~ 239-540-0016

Fabulous Racing Going On!!

Wow! Has this been the winter/spring to race, or WHAT? Fabulous winds every weekend! If you have not raced or crewed for a race, YOU ARE MISSING OUT!

The annual *Caloosa Cup River (Rat) Race* was held Saturday, March 19. Our club had 4 entries against Ft. Myers Sailing Club's 6 entries (top 4 boats scored), and Cape C Sailing Club's 4 entries. Overall, **we got 2nd place**, FMSC got 1st, and CCSC got 3rd. Results for OUR RACERS: **#1 Desperado, Cecil Hazen, #5 Sand Dollar, Cindy Naumann, #9, Trust Me, Kim Brown, and #11, Bam, Sam Torcia.** THANKS to all who participated! **Cecil Hazen** was awarded the **OVERALL trophy**, since he came in FIRST

IN BOTH races that day! Great job!

WINE GLASS TROPHIES ARRIVED!! Many were presented for past races at our meeting on April 12. Many are still left UNCLAIMED in my trunk! Please contact me to receive your trophy, OR COME TO NEXT mtg on May10. These trophies are beautiful and practical!

BIG THANKS to **Carol Robinson**, who sponsored our *FREE Racing Rules Seminar* at Northern Trust Bank March 30. 29 attended. We enjoyed sodas, snacks & LEARNED a lot! **Dale Jepsen** had 2 men from *Gulf Coast Sailing Club* who learned how to be a PRO. We still need 2-3 more PRO's from OUR club. Call **Diane** for details. This is FREE & FUN!

We had several of our racers participate in the *GCSC Charity Regatta* (April 2-3), the *PG Lukemia Cup* (April 9-10), *SAMI Bud Light Regatta* (April 16-17), and *Messmer Cup* (April 23-24). Also, we had **Steve Romaine, Cecil Hazen, Scott Milligan and Brad Collins** represent us in Annapolis MD!

Looking ahead, we have the *Estebel NIGHT RACE*, May 7 (skipper's meeting May 5, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.), *Key West Rendezvous* late May, and **Forrest Banks** is getting ready to do the *St. Pete to Isla Mujeres, Mexico* race on April 29. **Sailing instructions & entry forms ONLINE.**

See you ON THE WATER, SO MUCH RACING, SO LITTLE TIME, EH? 🏴‍☠️

Diane

(continued from page 3)

Cruise (Expedition) to ...DANGER ISLAND Memorial Day Weekend, 2005

to the bustling metropolis of *St. James, on Pine Island*, about 2 & ? miles away, where they will anchor off the town and dingy into the **Waterfront Restaurant** for lunch at 11:15 am, no later (*Pine Island Approximate Time-PIAT*). Failure to get to the restaurant early may result in you begging for food on the streets, since there won't be any more seats inside. Everyone will get their own lunch.

After lunch, at more or less 1:58 pm (*PIAT*), a dinghy **tour from the anchorage thru the jungle creeks** will be held. Just follow the dinghies. Then, at exactly 3:12 pm (*PIAT*), the fleet will weigh those damn anchors and steam/sail the 3 miles to **Sanibel Bight**, opposite **York Island**, where they will anchor for the night, with frolicking in and on the water will be the order of the afternoon. Impromptu gatherings aboard various vessels that evening will ensue, with the last contents of the rum lockers being poured down the

throats of those who have thus far resisted temptation.

On Monday morning, sick call will be announced and normal shipboard duties and work suspended. Vessels will return to their home ports somehow, and all hands will spend the day and following week recuperating.

It is my wish, and therefor my command, that all **CMCS** sailors have more fun than their mothers would ever allow them while visiting our Islands. It is my further wish, and therefor my command, that all sea stories emanating from this weekend of debouchery must contain at least 10% truth, or perception of truth.

Said and done this 19th day of March, 2005, by *His Excellency, Robert N. Macomber, Governor-for-Life of Danger Island, in San Carlos Bay, in the Republic of De Nile....* 🏴‍☠️

Robert N. Macomber, Rexus Hornious



Sunfish



**SUNFISH
GURU**

John Kremski ~ 239-277-9352

Lee County Parks Has Provided the Fleet with Temporary Location

We had our first race at the new (temporary) *Edison Sailing Center* on the north shore park, US 41. We will be sailing out of the park while the new clubhouse is being built, and **Lee County Parks** has set up a pretty nice location

to tide us over, with gazebos, storage building, and fenced area to lock stuff up while we are out on the water. (we will have private porta-pottis next time!)

A nice easterly breeze, 10-15 knots provided some great racing for the eight boat fleet. **Brian Wohlfson** from Fort Lauderdale (10 points) bested **Jack Scragg** (14 points) and **Jim Somers** (21 points) with **Sharon Del Bianco** moving up to fourth place (28 points). **Cindy Scragg**, **Diana Corbett**, and **John Kremski** handled the race committee duties.

Next *Fort Myers Race* is May 15. noon skipper meeting and 1 pm start. Entry fee of \$10 donated to the youth program, use of club boats \$10. If you want to use a club boat, please let me know in advance, so I can reserve one for you - we have booked all seven boats up twice now! 🚩

**See you on the race course!
John Kremski, CCIM**

Fort Myers Sunfish Results April 18, 2005

***	Name.....	SCORE	Class Number	RC_1	RC_2	RC_3	RC_4	RC_5	RC_6
001:	Brian Wohlfson	10	79258	3	1	1	1	3	1
002:	Jack Scragg	14	79360	1	2	2	3	1	5
003:	Jim Somers	21	78528	4	4	7	2	2	2
004:	Sharon Del Bianco	28	79105	2	3	6	4	7	6
005:	Michael Mierewa	31	76819	8	7	4	5	4	3
006:	Phil Newhinney	36	79380	7	6	5	6	5	7
007:	Chip Pfalz	39	78654	5	5	1	8	DNS	DNS
008:	Forrest Banks	39	79108	6	8	8	7	6	4

Event of a Lifetime for 5 Local Guys!

Good competition, great wind, excellent teamwork, super parties, 8 races, and sailing for a cause. All these factors came together April 15-17 in Annapolis, MD at the *National Hospice Regatta*. Racing was held in donated J105's in cool, windy condotions for the qualifying 19 regional winners. J105 owners **Jack Biddle**, winning regionally over 200 local racers and **Phil Lotz** have competed for years on 105's—neither winning this regatta. Stu Johnstone of J-boat fame joined the crew of **David Rockefeller, Jr.**, finishing 9th. Other pros and local Annapolis regular crew raced. The SWFL entry performed well considering our combined experience racing J105's which was little to nothing prior to the regatta. We led the fleet one race at the leeward mark, our best race finish was 5th and after 8 races, we finished 8th overall.

Each us us are grateful to all of you who supported *Hospice* and our effort. 60 people pledged or have already donated. If you did not sign-up and would still like to donate to *Hospice*, please call **Steve** at 482-6280. 🚩

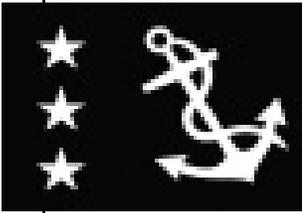
Steve Romaine, Cecil Hazen, Steve Wallace, Scott Milligan, and Brad Collins

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ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL**

2005 NATIONAL HOSPICE REGATTA CHAMPIONSHIP

APRIL 15-17, 2005 ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND

#1	CHARLES, FLA	STEVE ROMAINE	FRIEDT	800	CALYPSO'S SPELL	7	8					70
			SATURDAY	800#1	JAVA		9	5	11	10		
			SUNDAY	328	JAY BOAT					8	14	



MEMBERSHIP

Nancy Donaldson

239-540-4730

10 New Members!

Don't forget to add the following information about these new members to your new 2005 calendar. I

Linda Raymond and Michael Cain

18339 Cutlass Dr., Fort Myers Beach. 454-9693. They recently relocated from Sedona, Arizona where they have been desert rats for the last 12 years. They also live in Indiana in the Summer where they water ski and enjoy sailing on a lake. They are interested in crewing & social events.

Honorary Members

Steve and Doris Colgate

Famous race/cruisers and owners of the world renown *Offshore Sailing School*, **Steve and Doris** graciously accepted our invitation to become honorary members of **CMCS**. In case you do not know, **Steve and Doris**, over the past several

years, have provided us with our largest donation for *Summerset* – the *Offshore Sailing School* certificate. 17 year residents of SW Florida, the Colgate's reside at 15400 Catalpa Cove Lane, Ft. Myers, FL 33908.

Al and Marta Grunsky

13496 Caribbean Blvd., Fort Myers, 777-1355. **Marta** was our speaker at the March meeting where we all go to learn of her sailing adventures from Seattle to the Caymans. They are interested in cruising, social and crewing (but only on Sundays). They have a custom built 37' cutter named **Altair**.

Joseph C. Jones, Jr.

1300 Lee Street, Fort Myers, 822-0114. **Joe** is a retired NYC spanish teacher and has traveled to Europe, Russia and Central America and is interested in cruising and socials.

James Luccisano

8140 College Parkway, #104, Fort Myers, 267-4042. **Jim** is interested in crusing, racing, social and crewing. He also is the proud new owner of Wiley & Marla Parker's boat, **NO SHEETS**. Marla said he HAD to join!!!

Michael and Diane Pfaff

5936 SW 1st Avenue, Cape Coral, 542-4059. They have an *Island Spirit* named **Katiekat**. They are looking forward to cruising with their teenage daughter, **Katie**.

Welcome aboard! Hope to see you on the water and at social activities throughout the year. ■

Nancy

ATTENTION JUNE & EARLY JULY CRUISE CAPTAINS:

The following captains and their "crew" are the June Cruise Captains. I will need your article and (please) a photo of yourself (selves) e-mailed to me no later than Saturday May 25th at Noon:

Dry Tortugas Cruise (June):

Ron and Shirley Maddix

Cruise to Franklin Locks (July 1-4):

Russell and Kathleen Vance

Send me any pertinent info for the fleet and don't forget your "follow-up" story when you return. ■

Dee Vaigl

"LOOKING FOR CREW - OR FOR A BOAT?"

As a 3-year "crew only" member of **CMCS**, I can tell you all that this is a great club, and the racing is terrific. If you haven't had a chance to get out for one of our weekends, I'd like to strongly encourage you to join the next one. Need crew to help you out, or want to race but don't have the boat? Give me a call and I'll try to put you together with someone who needs you. And don't forget: *the skippers' meeting*

for each race is the Thursday prior. If you're available to crew, certainly come to the meeting and talk to the skippers. You don't need lots of experience (sometimes you don't need ANY!), and it's a great way to learn more about sailing. To reach me, call 671-0882 or e-mail me at traysailor@yahoo.com ■

Terrie Ray, CMCS "Sailmate"

Marketplace

Let's thank our fellow sailors and friends for supporting our newsletter, by supporting their businesses! And, don't forget to tell them you saw them in *Chowder Chatter!*

Editor's Note:

At the end of each classified and display ad, you will note a number in parentheses. This number correlates with the first of the month the ad will be deleted from the newsletter. (For instance, a 12 denotes December 1st). All classified ads will be run in the *Chowder Chatter* for not more than 3 consecutive months. It is your responsibility to notify the editor if you wish your ad to appear another 3 months. All display advertisers will be billed either on a 6-month or annual basis. 



Sellstate Priority Realty Network, Inc.
1631 Del Prado Blvd. South, Unit 405
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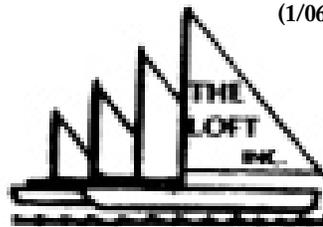


Diane Fowler
CRS, GRI
(7/05)

MISSING ALBUMS PLEASE HELP!

Shirley Maddix, CMCS Club Historian of 2003 created three photo albums that year.

She has asked and searched everywhere and cannot find them. Perhaps you are keeping them safe. Please check your closet, your bottom dresser drawer or the attic. If you have them, either call Shirley at 482-0481 or bring them to May's meeting on the 10th at 7:30 p.m.



(1/06)

17851 Pine Ridge Rd., #2
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
239-466-6857

CAROL L. BEERS, Owner
JEFF OSBORNE, Manager

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CUSTOM COVERS • SAIL REPAIRS
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SAVE DOLLARS

\$\$\$\$\$

Boat US provides all bonafide members of CMCS a special cooperating group rate. When establishing a new or renewing your Boat US Membership, use this code:

**CMCS Group #
GA82335B.**

\$\$\$\$\$

Boats – Gear – Miscellaneous For Sale

For Sale: Chase The Clouds. 1998 Catalina 36 MK II (We've gone bigger) 1,044 engine hrs. Well equipped. Call for info. \$99,500.00.
Bob Duff 278-5551, 850-8701. (8)

For Sale: Kerma Run Windsurfer. 12'2" big board with centerboard. Includes 6.0 m sail and harness. Great for learning. \$300. Call: **Scott Milligan (863) 612-1044** or email **scottmilligan@earthlink.net (7)**

For Sale: Aquaterra P'heimer sit-on-top kayak. 14'1" x 26". Self bailing scupper holes, bow and stern hatches, adjustable foot braces,

padded seat with backrest and integrated storage pack, fishing pole holder, cup holder. Includes 8' Werner graphite paddle. \$350. Call: **Scott Milligan (863) 612-1044** or email **scottmilligan@earthlink.net (7)**

FOR SALE: 12 ft length / 2.5" dia. Spinnaker pole in excellent shape and working order used on 30' sailboat. \$75.00. Please contact **Al Eastman 540-1944 (6)**

WANTED: WHISKER POLE for 30' sailboat. Please contact **Al Eastman 540-1944 (6)**

Ned Christensen is FINALLY home — Welcome Back!!

After an interesting trip on the return from the Caribbean to Cape Coral, we arrived here at home last night at about 5:00. Just in time for cocktails fortunately.

As it turned out, gerring to a computer to do emails in Puerto Rico was a real challenge. At the Puerto Del Ray Marina, the closest computer that was usable was over two miles away. In Salinas, the internet terminal was only a mile and a half away...one way. Besides, I had my hands full trying to build a replacement rudder for the boat. So, this is the first time since we left P.R. on the return that I have had a chance to use a computer.

At Salinas, I began the process of making a fiberglass replacement for the rudder. First I found a machine shop to make me a new rudder shaft. Since there was no thick walled stainless steel tubing to be had, the new rudder stock was made out of a piece of 1 1/2" SS propeller shaft. After much welding, and molding and glassing, alas a new rudder. Everything was going well so far. After trimming the foam that was peeking out from the edges of the rudder, I returned to the boat for installation. That went smoothly also. Everything is still going well.

The wind was good, and as we hit about 14 knots, I heard a "bump!" The glassed portion of the rudder that I had spent a week building just disintegrated! All that remained was the stainless steel portion. Shift to plan "B." We motored into Ponce, PR, and up to the fuel dock and asked the attendants about welding or machine shops. Jackpot! The fuel dock guy called a machine shop operator/ welder, who told me that he would come to the fuel dock within half an hour. Sure enough, he was there just as the

fuel dock closed for the evening at 5:pm. So, for a lot of reasons, I asked Juan, (his real name), if he could cut a piece of aluminum to conform to the aft shape and size of the original rudder, and bolt that piece onto the flanges of the new rudder shaft. The next morning, Juan showed up with the "new rudder." It even looked like a rudder. We installed the thing at the fuel dock, with minimal difficulty. So, we left for home.....again.

The first three days, we really cooked. We traveled 194, 204 and 190 miles respectively for the three days. We were wing and wing for over 48 hours during this period. Then reality set in. The wind stopped and we motor sailed for the next three days just to maintain 5 knots.

Now for the last bit of adversity on the voyage. As we departed Marco Island and turned north for home, with the first reef in the mainsail, we were really making good time. For the first 10 minutes! I heard another "bump, or pop" and the mainsail began to go slack. Did the main halyard break? No, the headboard had just separated from the rest of the mainsail!! Crap, what next? So, we helped the mainsail to come all the way down and secured it to the boom. We sailed the rest of the way home on jib alone. Beating all the way, and trying to stay relatively close to the coast to stay out of the biggest waves. As I said, we got here safely at cocktail hour last night. I was glad to get that cocktail.

The good news is that we are home. Safe and secure. And glad to be home.

Remember; Attitude... the difference between an ordeal and an adventure. ■

*Ned Christensen
Passion III*

WFLPHRF News

The 2004-2005 year ends in July with the Annual Meeting, the primary function being to report on the status of the organization to the membership at large and to elect officers and committee members for the new year. The meeting is also the event at which the Boat of the Year awards are handed out for all 4 of the **WFLPHRF** regions. While not quite confirmed yet, it will likely be held in Sarasota again as it is roughly the halfway point of the entire **WFLPHRF** territory. Details on exactly where and when will be forthcoming and posted on the website: westfloridaphrf.org.

The nominating committee has been approved and begun making initial contact with those who have expressed an interest in either a

board member or committee member position. **Wiley Parker** (332-0499) and **Ron Euler** (777-5093) are both on the nominating committee to insure local, SWFL representation. Nominations are due by the end of May.

Rating committee business is almost entirely handled by e-mail with only 2-3 physical meetings a year anticipated. The information needed for making decisions is typically put together by the rating committee chairman and then sent out for discussion and eventual voting. Board business is also handled by e-mail but does require physically meeting 4-6 times a year. If you are interested, or know of anyone who'd make a good candidate, please contact **Wiley** or **Ron** or the website directly. ■ **Wiley**



**FLORIDA KEYS
CRUISE
CAPTAIN**



Mel Rudd ~ 239-540-9358

**FLORIDA KEYS CRUISE
MARCH 20-27, 2005.**

Is Panther Key One of the Keys?

We started out with six boats... *Windy City, Kestral, Sea Isle, Shannon, Whiskers, and Sea Puppy*, bound for the Keys. We all sailed hard on the wind in 10- 15 knots SSE. all the way to *Marco Island* and anchored in *Factory Bay*.

Next day some were going on the outside and some on the inside, up the *Marco R.*, Toward *Shark R.*. Seas were 3-5' and winds were building but I was able to sail most of the way to *Cape Romono Light*. My radio had quit and all I had was the hand held, which wasn't picking up all the transmissions. I picked up a crab trap about an hour after rounding *Cape Romono Shoal* and, in the seas, couldn't get in the water to dislodge it. Managed to cut the trap away and we sailed on. I somehow heard a transmission that the other boats had diverted to *Indian Key*, and I altered course for *Indian Key* as well. Saved about 15 KM. We sailed into the anchorage and then were able to get loose of the crab pot line around the prop.

Weighed anchor and headed out for *Little Shark R.* with winds on the nose again! Sometime while I was getting my main down and the time we got anchored, "*Junior*" my dinghy, decided to go missing! After a diligent search for "*Junior*", we settled in to

"Happy Hour" on *Sea Puppy*. We decided that instead of beating into the wind and seas any more we would go to *Everglades City* and tie up and relax.

We set out for *Indian Key* again and about 1/2 way there (some 17 miles), my Crew spotted a small boat way out there. I didn't even look and said, "yea, some people come a long way out in small boats". About ten minutes later, *Windy City* called on the radio and said they spotted "*Junior*". AMAZING! Thanks to "*Rescue Ray*" for spotting it that far off. *Everglades City* was great. We went to get fuel for the fleet, at the *Tico Fish Factory*, by dinghy, then went to dinner at a local restaraunt.

The next day we ate lunch at a great little seafood market up the *Barron River*. Most of us went by dinghy, but you can walk. After lunch we went exploring the upper river.

We were down to four boats by now as *Whisper*, I heard, went to *Shark R.*, and then on to the *Keys*. *Sea Isle* went to *Marco*.

We set out from *Everglades City* bound for *Panther Key* where we anchored and had "Happy Hour" on the beach. Full moon was spectacular that night!

From there, we decided to try to ride the tides on the inside to *Marco* by way of *Coon Key*. I had no trouble with the draft on the way there and it was very enjoyable trip at almost high tide.. We anchored back in *Factory Bay* and after lunch on our boats, we all went ashore in *Marco Marina* where there is a ship's store, and a quaint little bar "*Jack's Lookout*". From there we dinghied to *Snook Inn* for more partying.

Winds were still brisk in the morning when we set out from *Marco Is.* Under *Genoa* alone, we sailed in 5-7' seas and a reported 20-25 Knot winds from the south! Saw gusts somewhat higher. At least we got to sail home! What a ride surfing off the waves at 7+ knots at times. We hit the 4pm opening of the bridge and up the river we went. Another 250 miles under the keel.

Many thanks to all who participated, I hope you all had as good a time as I did! Maybe we will go the OTHER way soon! 

Mel Rudd

May Summerset & Board Meeting Venue Changed

May Summerset Committee Meeting and the May Board of Directors Meeting will be held on May 25th at Bob & Karen Gerry's house instead of the clubhouse. The Summerset meeting will start at 6:30 pm. The Board of Directors Meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

Bob & Karen's address is 1309 Melaleuca Lane (located off McGregor, north of Colonial, south of the Edison Ford estates, on the River side), Fort Myers. Phone: 275-4827.

SPECIAL THANs!

Rose Ann Hoffman & Paul Steinman have gone North. They extend their thanks and gratitude to everyone in **CMCS** for their friendship and hospitality and are looking forward to seeing everyone in October.



COMMODORE
Russell Vance
239-574-4704



Cruising Along With the Best

Our cruising schedule has really stepped up since the early April *Chowder Chatter*. First of all we had the unbelievable *Mosquito Coast Cruise to Little Shark River* the week of March 20th. Unable to make the *Keys* in the time allotted due to the head winds, the sailors headed for the *Little Shark River, Panther Key and the Rod and Gun Club in Everglades City*. Unfortunately, when the wind was not ruling, the mosquito's were, so it became an ear slapping week. A special thanks to **Mel Rudd and Ray Gherardini** for all their hard work in planning this cruise to the *Keys*.

The April 1st cruise to Naples for the *Gulf Coast Sailing Club's Charity Regatta* was another in your face 20-knot wind directly out of the south with no letup. It was great to see **Spindrift**, with **Dick and Mary Lou Mullins** aboard, along with **Kestrel II, Thor's Hammer and Shadowfax**. The wind continued throughout Saturday and Saturday night, canceling the race. Sunday was a little better, allowing time for three races, however, the cruisers were tied down allowing for three days of partying. **Ben and Carolyn Preston** did a great job in setting up the dockage, party schedule, and a cruise and anchorage for Sunday, however the weather ruled again. Thanks to **Ben and Carolyn** for stepping up to the plate for us. We did manage to sail home in 15 to 20 knot winds out of (you know where) the Northeast. No big surprise, the wind gods were waiting for us.

The April 15th cruise to *Sanibel Bight, York Island and Merwin Key* was another windy so and so. However, we fooled the heavy northeast wind by sailing south down the

river and through *Pine Island Sound to York Island*. Yes I said sailed. We moved the anchorage from *Sanibel Bight to York Island* due to the wind. This condition continued throughout the night with 20 plus knot winds. The following **CMCS** troops were hanging on:

**Shadowfax • Thor's Hammer
IX • Island Time
Sea Isle • Windy City
KatieKat • Trust Me? (Overnight)**

Armed with plenty of foul weather gear, we dinghied to the *Waterfront Restaurant* for lunch on Saturday. With us were brand spanking new members **Michael and Diane Pfaff** and their daughter **Katie**. This **CMCS** crew has a beautiful catamaran named **Katiekat**. We had a few members present we would have liked to hide from the **Pfaffs**, however they would have been exposed sooner or later. After lunch we had a dinghy ride into the *Pine Island jungle* lead by our famous dinghy explorer **Waite** (prepare to make a quick u-turn) **Alexander**. As usual we returned to our yachts without any gas or libations.

Late Saturday we weighed anchor (12 pounds), and headed to *Merwin Key* in an attempt to hide from the windy weather. The *Key* was a better weather hole than *York Island*, however we could feel the wind throughout the night. *Merwin Key* is a favorite anchorage of **Waite and Mary Alexander**, and now of all of us who have been there. The long anchorage has 10 to 12 feet of water almost up to the shoreline. The *Key* is located directly across the channel from **Danger (Picnic) Island**. The entrance off the channel is tricky, so check your chart with **Waite** before you head in. Due to the weather the **Wazoo Cup races** had to be cancelled however the **CMCS World Championship Trivial Pursuit Contest** was alive and well. The three team results are being calculated as we go to press.

Also coming up is the great super cruise to *Tampa Bay* headed up by **Mel Rudd and Ben and Carolyn Preston**. Scheduled to begin May 9th, this cruise, voted the best of the best last year, should last 10 to 11 days. Contact **Mel** (540-9358) soon if you are interested in cruising along. ■

Russell

GET WELL SOON!

John Guzetta is home recuperating after a short stay in the hospital. Hurry back, John—Board Meetings aren't the same without your advice and expertise. We all miss you!





CMCS Chowder Chatter

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Keeping "the Fleet" informed for over 32 years.

May at a Glance...

May 5.....6:30 p.m.	"Rookie" Skipper's Seminar
May 5.....7:30 p.m.	Estebel Night Race Skipper/Crew Meeting
May 7	Estebel Night Race
May 8..... ALL DAY	MOTHER'S DAY
May 8.....10:00 a.m.	Bloody Mary Brunch
May 9 - 19	Tampa Bay Cruise
May 10.....7:30 p.m.	CMCS Membership Meeting
May 15.....Noon	Sunfish Races
May 25.....6:30 p.m.	Summerset Meeting (Bob Gerry's home)
May 25.....7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting (Bob Gerry's home)
May 27 - 30	Danger Island Cruise/Expedition
May 30..... ALL DAY	MEMORIAL DAY
❖ May 15 - 19	Key West Rendezvous (KWSC)

Early June Activities...

June 26:30 p.m.	"Rookie" Skipper's Seminar
June 27:30 p.m.	Skipper's Seminar
June 56:30 p.m.	Ladies' Day Race
❖ Non-CMCS Club Race	

Deadline for June Issue – May 25th Noon
(E-mail articles & news to d.vaigl@att.net)