

*Sailing Singles
of Southwest Florida*

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February 2007

Dear Sailors;

Many of our Sailing Singles club members are vociferously contributing to our newsletter! You guys are great, I barely have to write anything at all. A few comments however are in order. Thanks to Captain Bligh, oops, Captain McPherson for making me @#\$\$%^*** PAY ATTENTION. I learned a lot while crewing for him, how to make sauerkraut, change an impeller and the difference between up wind and down wind (Da).

I knew that Chuck Gallagher was a world traveler and a great Captain, but I didn't know that he is a brilliant sailing instructor and an active Power Squadron participant. He will be a hard act to follow in our next educational series.

Be sure to attend the next Business Meeting on February 15th (the 3rd Thursday of each month) @ 7pm. Please come early & enjoy Bonita Bill's fare because our meeting room is graciously provided "pro-bono". These meetings enable us to visit & plan our upcoming events.

If anyone knows where our club burgees have disappeared to please contact either George Nemes or Deena Kirkey.

Who's Who

Commodore:	George Nemes
Vice Commodore:	Deena Kirkey
Secretary:	Martha Robinson
Treasurer:	Connie Trowbridge
Membership:	Evelyn Hoop
Cruise Committee Spokesman:	Ken Schneider
Directors:	Ron Mueller
	Ann Lieberman
Telephone:	Joan Kachel
Newsletter Editor:	Joy Hansen
Website Editor:	Ken Schneider

Upcoming Sails

Day sails: February 10th and/or 11th

LaBelle Swamp Cabbage Festival: February 24th and 25th.

Bob Yahn may take his boat. There are free slips at the LaBelle city docks but space is very limited.

Start planning now for a 10 day trip to the Dry Tortugas and Key West, 4/21-4/30.

Contact Ken Schneider to grab your spot.

Don't forget that Bob Weisman conducts private sailing lessons. He only has 30 years of sailing experience, but I hear he is a pretty nifty Captain.

George Lewis provides basic lessons aboard his vessel "Moments Notice" the second Wednesday of every month. Give George a call to set up an appointment and for further details, (239)464-1586

Happy Birthday!

Mary Burch 02/05
Bob Yahn 02/08
Evelyn Hoop 02/27

Barbara Rumpolt 02/05
Darlene Kittinger 02/18

Member Notes,

Publicity For Our Club, By Mary Burch

For those members who have not seen the latest editions of the Ft. Myers Beach papers, there was an article with pictures and descriptions of the Ft.

Myers Beach Parade winners. One of our boats, "BRIGHT STAR", placed third in the sail division. Our club now has a trophy which will be presented to our Commodore at the next membership meeting January 18th The article with pictures will be available for members to read. It certainly is an unusual & exciting route thru the canals. This year the Boardwalk Caper Canal was filled with lots of cheering observers. The second, narrower canal, was "party alley" with cheering & decorations in almost every other home. The excitement came when all our boats were ordered to "halt and keep our position". As the lead boat veered towards the end of the canal, shouts of "help" were heard from the

woman who had fallen from a dock into the water. She had been struggling to keep afloat for over 30 minutes. One of the crew from the second boat jumped into the water and with the help of a life line and a ladder and the woman was brought safely to shore. What a story! At the same time another 42' sailboat from Boardwalk Caper radioed that they were aground in the canal that the parade route followed to the main harbor. Fun and games ensued trying to get around him and not ground ourselves . It was very dark because we had no moon to guide us.

However, it was a fun time with almost all of our boats participating.

Later that week "BRIGHT STAR" sailed with the Boardwalk Caper Sailing Group for 3 days. Another decoration contest was held there and first prize went to... "BRIGHT STAR". The prize was a Boardwalk Caper initialed shirt.

A special thanks to all members who shared tasty dogs and those who were such a great help in the kitchen, especially the great big burgers by Paul. Also, a big big thanks to our Commodore Gheorghe and Paul Moran who three days prior to the parade spent an afternoon constructing the blue Xmas Star that won the two prizes. They butted heads a few times making constructive decisions, however they persevered and poof... a BLUE BEAUTY!

Gratefully, Captain Mary

New Years Sail, by Paul Moran

Hello Sailors,

The participants in the Sailing-Singles New Years sail gathered on the morning of December 30th in a variety of places to board their boats and ready themselves for a weekend of fun and revelry. Some, like Captain John and the good ship "Snafu III", were under way long before the rest but still joined up around noon off of Ft. Myers Beach. Fairly good sailing was enjoyed by all for most of the remainder of Saturday until the wind sort of died late in the afternoon. By then the decision was reached by a majority of the skippers to head for the area off Sanibel near the causeway and to raft up for the evening. Having explained in an earlier journal the excitement and anticipation that proximity to happy hour and food stuffs raises upon the crew, it will not surprise you that "Bright Star" and her captain Mary led the parade to the anchorage. Fates were kind this day and the anchoring went off without a hitch and soon there were four boats rafting off the high rent area. As the sun sank in the west happy hour commenced and all began to enjoy the great rewards of belonging to the Sailing-Singles group. While most of the group enjoyed themselves topside a dedicated bunch of ladies under took the task of fashioning a dinner out of the available foodstuffs in "Bright Star's" galley. Shortly after eating all that was visible "Snafu III" broke off of the raft and headed for a buoy in the harbor at Matanzas Pass to spent the night there. Might be something funny going on here as it seems suspicious that two dubious actors stole away with a good looking damsel for themselves. The remaining boats readied themselves for the night, "Sloop De Jour", "Toy Boy II" and "Bright Star". Naturally, the crew of one of the boats couldn't just go to bed without a long bout of Uno and SkipBo but finally everyone settled down for a good night's sleep, as if that was possible being next to a rather noisy tin can. Sunday dawned bright and beautiful for the last day of the year, breakfast was quickly enjoyed and plans were drawn to enjoy as much sailing as possible. While staying generally in the area off

of Ft. Myers Beach and reaching south as far as Bonita Beach all the sail boats performed as to be expected. The plan had been to heave to off of Ft. Myers Beach and raft again to enjoy ourselves and wait for the fireworks later in the evening but nature didn't see fit to follow though. Even though the wind had died in the late afternoon, shortly after beginning to raft up the wind and sea began to act up, the "Sloop De Jour" decided to test everyone's seamanship ability by snapping her bow line while tied up alongside "Bright Star". Around this time a Coast Guard vessel came by and their sailors inquired as to whether Captain Gib and "Toy Boy II" were perhaps a popup camper which had drifted away from a KOA Camp Ground somewhere in the area. Not to be deterred a second attempt was made to raft and while experiencing a wild ride the brave ladies again began to prepare dinner. Alas, the sea was running way too high and wild for safety and the decision was made to break up and retreat to safer areas. "Snafu III" again went to its buoy in the harbor while "Toy Boy II", "Sloop De Jour" and "Bright Star" opted to return to their respective docks. After reaching safety, dinner was presented and enjoyed, courage was rebuilt and the decision was reached to again take "Bright Star" out and while motoring stand off the beach and enjoy the firework display. Fortunately there were no more surprises and after enjoying the show she returned to dock and with everyone wishing each other and all of you a HAPPY NEW YEAR some of us retired for the evening.

The participants were:

Toy Boy II
Captain Gib Strasburg
Darlene Kittinger

Snafu III
Captain John McPherson
Commodore George Nemes
Joy Hansen

Sloop De Jour
Captain Deena Kirkey
Ann Lieberman

Bright Star
Captain Mary Burch
Leila Anderson
Jan Hladik
Joan Kachel
Paul Moran

Get Well Soon

Let's Take the month of February to remember our fellow sailor Pequetti who is magnificently fighting the big "C". Some of the new members haven't had the pleasure of meeting her so I am publishing her picture for all of us to enjoy.



Anyone wishing to submit an article for March's newsletter please call Joy or send her an email joynell1776@yahoo.com by the 10th of February.

Coming next month:

Classifieds for members only, for nautical items only. No, you cannot place an ad for your old Chevy here. Contact Joy or Ken if you wish to place an ad in our newsletter.

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