



May 2011

Editor: Fred Buchas



Spring/Summer Edition

► A Word From The Commodore - Donna Strich



Goodbye Spring – Hello Summer!

I hope everyone had a Happy Easter! First, I want to say THANK YOU to our outgoing officers! All of your efforts and service are much appreciated. Second, I want to welcome our new watch of officers! We have a great group of people. I already appreciate all their efforts in continuing to keep the Tarpon Coast Grady-White Boat Club the best!

We have some great activities planned which are all posted on our [Club Calendar](#). We have a great opportunity coming up to host some Wounded Warriors at our annual picnic and show how much we appreciate their service to our country! Be sure to sign up for some (or ALL) of our events. Our [club web](#) site is a wealth of information so be sure to “bookmark” it and check it from time to time!

As we head into the summer months, some of our larger events slow down a bit as some of our part-time members head back. Be on the lookout for more impromptu raft ups and dinner invites. Also, I hope our part-time members have a great summer and we look forward to your return!

This is my first article for the *Navigator* as the new Commodore. Since my husband Ron and I have only been members for a little over a year and have not met all of our members, I should properly introduce myself and give a little personal background. I was born and lived on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi (Pascagoula) before moving to Florida in 2007. I graduated from the Univ. of Southern

Mississippi with a Master's in Business. I worked for Chevron Corporation at the Pascagoula Refinery facility for 23 years before retiring to move to Florida with Ron. I had various positions in my career – Financial Analyst, Foreign Trade Zone Administrator, Business Planning Analyst and Management Team. I have a 24 year old son, Eric, who now lives and works in California as an Aerospace Engineer with Northrop Grumman. I also have a step-daughter (Ron's daughter) Shannon, 25, who lives and works in Denver. I have been boating and fishing on the Gulf my entire life. I had a 26 foot boat back in the late 90's in Mississippi – I ran it in the Gulf (yes, I did docking and everything!). Ron (from Colorado) and I married in 2005 about a month before Hurricane Katrina hit – we rode out the hurricane which flooded my house (we had a 17ft storm surge). We then spent the next 16 months putting my house back together while continuing our careers. I don't know what I would have done without Ron – he is my hero. We have been told we took "build a life together" too literally. Ron and I make our home in Florida, but he still has property in the mountains of Colorado and we spend a few months each year at the ranch. Besides fishing, I like to hunt and enjoy photography. So that is my life in a nutshell – I hope I get to meet more of you this year!

As always, if you have an idea for a trip or event – please feel free to send it to me or any of our officers. If you want to take the lead on pulling a trip together, please do, but you can also just submit an idea and our Fleet Captains Rick and Michelle will handle working it.

I would like to end on a safety note...this time of year a lot of us are entertaining family and friends over spring breaks, holidays and over the summer, so please be safe on the water! Ensure you have enough life vests for all the visiting people on your boat with the proper fit – small children require smaller vests!

Thanks for being a Tarpon Coast Grady-White Boat Club member and I am looking forward to a great year of boating with all of you!

► News From The Secretary - Ron Strich



Secretary's Report

Ron Strich
ronstrich@comcast.net

Membership

Our club currently has 39 members. In 2010 we saw 18 of our members leave and 10 new members sign on. Thus far in 2011 we have had 9 members leave and 4 new members sign on. None of our new members have come via Ingman Marine. I would like to hear from you whether or not we should work on recruiting new members into our club. I have a few ideas on how to recruit some new members, including Doug and Cat Cox (complete with Viking hat) boarding vessels on the inter-coastal between Sanibel and Venice Inlet on weekends, but I'd like to

hear your desires and ideas as well.

Officers and Board Members

As of March 5th, we have a new slate of officers and board members as follows:

Commodore*	Donna Strich
Vice Commodore*	Steve Saunders
Secretary*	Ron Strich
Treasurer*	John Westlund
Fleet Captains*	Rick & Michelle Riordin
Safety Officer*	Bob Mayes
Board Member at Large	Dan Clark
Board Member at Large	Frank Muller

*Also a Board Member

New Member Sponsors

At the Board Meeting on April 20th, we discussed the idea of assigning current members to act as sponsors for new members that join the club. The idea is to help new members to meet current members faster and be assimilated into our club much quicker. Part of the sponsor responsibility is to invite new members to events, introduce them around, and make sure they quickly feel a part of our little group.

Since our Commodore doesn't like any of the names I've come up with for this program, we would like your ideas to name our new member sponsor program. The winning entry will win a very valuable "prize" at our next meeting. If you are interested in sponsoring one of our new members, please let me know and I will work through the process with you.

► Your Fleet Captains - Rick & Michelle Riordan



Fleet Captain Report

Rick & Michelle Riordan

Earlier this year (at and again shortly after our annual club meeting) we polled the group for preferences on boat trips for the coming year. The results of that voting indicate a mix of interests, from short local trips to occasional long journeys, including both coasts of Florida. However, the clear favorite was the local area, and the turnout we had for the recent "marina hopping" sortie April 1st through the 5th (8 boats) was further evidence of that.

Here is a summary of our current "on-the-water" event calendar for the coming calendar year:

As of April 25th

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Dates	Destination	Contact / Coordinator	Comments
May 7 - 20	Summerland Key	Dan Eisenberg / Rick	house rentals close to Marathon
May 13 - 16	Sarasota	Diann Saunders	hanging out at the Hyatt
May 25	Don Pedro Island	Ben Knisely / Donna	we'll host Wounded Warriors
June 10 - 13 or 17 - 20	Local marina hopping	Rick Riordan	see local list of options (tentative)
July 4	Harbor fireworks	Rick Riordan	option for 3 Sisters / local weekend
August	Looking for local ideas	TBD	
Sep 2 - 6	Stuart (Pirate's Cove)	Rick Riordan	long Labor Day weekend
October	Looking for ideas	TBD	
November	Looking for ideas	TBD	day trip to Useppa (tentative)
December	Looking for ideas	TBD	

For the May 7 – 20 Keys trip we have 6 couples signed up; while the house we rented is at capacity, there are plenty of lodging options close by for any who would like to join up with the gang, even if only for a day or two. A boat is not required, as we'll have two down there. Contact Dan Eisenberg or Rick if you're interested, and we'll get you the information.

For the May 25th event at Don Pedro Ben Knisely has arranged for us to host a cadre of very special guests: a small group of Wounded Warriors will join us for a relaxing day on the island beaches as part of their recovery / R&R program. More information will soon follow via emails.

If you are interested in the local June journey to various local marinas, be sure to drop a line to Rick / Michelle. Right now we're leaning towards the earlier dates (10th to 13th) given feedback thus far. The current plan is to keep it to 4 days or less, with options to jump in or out at any point. Potential stops include:

- Uncle Henry's Marina (north end of Gasparilla Island)
- Boca Grande Marina (about 1nm south of 3 Sisters on Gasparilla Island)
- Fish Tale Marina (south end of Estero Island/Fort Myers Beach)

We'll also have a July 4th raft-up in Charlotte Harbor for a front row seat at the annual fireworks display at Fisherman's Village. First fuse is scheduled for 9PM, but we usually head there an hour or two before that to get a good anchorage between the bridges.

The Labor Day weekend trip (Sep 2 – 6) to Stuart on the east coast also has room for folks to join. Currently we have Cox and Riordan as participants. This is another event where we have room for some passengers aboard *Tide Pirate*, or you can drive over and crash at the marina motel and join us for fishing & other holiday relaxation.

A later-in-the-year west coast trip is likely to be scheduled as well, pending interest levels....some destinations that have been proposed:

- Longboat Key Marina or Anna Maria Island or Regatta Pointe Marina....all are roughly 45 to 55 nm north of Boca Grande

Pass, with lots of interesting side trip options, and an "inside" routing is available;

- Esplanade Marina (Marco Island)....about 55nm south of Boca, and a combination of "inside" and "outside" routing would be available.

As always, if you have suggestions for other dates or destinations, send them along to us and we'll be happy to help coordinate.

*Rick & Michelle Riordan
TCGWBC, Fort Myers, FL
April 2011*

► Our Vice Commodore - Steve Saunders



From Steve Saunders

I am glad to have the opportunity to serve as the Tarpon Coast Grady-White boat club Vice Commodore. This sounds like having the duties of the Vice President, standby until called upon. Well, I believe that, as Donna is proving, we are now being led by another great Commodore. When Ben took the helm as the first Commodore, we jumped off to a great start and set the pace for clubs, under the Grady-White name. Then Dan stepped up and for three years he, with the help of Cher, raised the bar even higher.

But I think the start to this new term is showing that we again have some of the finest members and a new Commodore that is forward thinking and wants to make this a club others would want to replicate.

With that said I want each member to be proud of our events and welcome your neighbors and family to each event you can. Knowing that under the leadership of Donna and a well seasoned board you will certainly find many events you'll want to attend and in some cases offer you input and assistance to add other interesting and great boating adventures.

Join me in welcoming Donna as our new Commodore and participate in all the events you can.

All my best, Steve Saunders

► Our Safety Officer - Bob Mayes

SAFETY REPORT



As many of you have heard by now, the Coast Guard has been stopping boats for safety checks. This can be done at your own dock by the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

A Vessel Safety Check is a courtesy examination of your boat (Vessel) to verify the presence and condition of certain Safety Equipment required by State and Federal regulations. The Vessel Examiner is a trained specialist and is a member of the United States Power Squadrons or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. They will also make certain recommendations and discuss certain safety issues that will make you a safer boater.

This is not boarding or a law enforcement issue. No citations will be given as a result of this encounter. You will be supplied with a copy of your evaluation so that you may follow some of the suggestions given. Vessels that pass will be able to display the distinctive VSC decal. This does not exempt you from law enforcement boarding, but you can be prepared to make this a positive encounter.

The following items are what will be checked;

- Numbers/Registration
- PFD – Life Jackets
- Fire Extinguishers
- Ventilation
- Backfire Flame Arrester (inboards only)
- Sound Producing Device
- Navigation Lights
- Visual Distress Signals
- Sanitation Device
- No Unsafe Conditions
- Other Legal Requirements
- Fuel System
- Electrical Installation
- Galley Installation

For a free inspection call your local Coast Guard Auxiliary.

▶ A Report From The Treasurer - John Westlund

From The Treasurer

Greetings to all from your new Treasurer. I only hope I can do as good a job as John Semple. John had everything well organized so the transition has been relatively pain free. We will miss John and Sue, both for John's financial skills and their smiling faces at club activities.

By the time you read this newsletter, the club bank account will be



revised to accommodate the new officers. The current balance is a little over \$1400. We have 40 members, including several new comers.

Enjoy your summer and safe boating!

► Welcome New Members Bill & Terri

Meet New Members: Bill Hayes and Terri Merkli

Hi. My name is Bill and I'm excited to be your long distance member. I am 56 and have lived in Indiana my whole life. I've always loved boats, and have owned 2 Grady Whites. Besides Florida, I enjoy cruising the Great Lakes, and my current Gulfstream 23 is my favorite boat that I've owned.





I have played music for 30 years in the Indianapolis area. I have performed with several club bands and have toured with blues artist-Doctor Duke Tumatote, 80's rocker-Henry Lee Summer, and my current band is The Flying Toasters (www.theflyingtoasters.com). We have a great fan base, big production, and I get to perform with my son, Jason, and my best friends. I met my wonderful girlfriend, Terri, through the Indy music scene. She is an accomplished bass player, and she enjoys boating (lucky me). She has two lovely daughters and has an extensive background in insurance.





We are both looking forward to participating in future club events.

Thanks,
Bill & Terri

► Welcome New Members Jeff, Sara & Family

Meet New Members: Jeff & Sara Johnson
and Children: Cassandra, Carla, and Stefan

Jeff and Sara Johnson live in Nokomis Florida. Their three children are Cassandra, Carla, and Stefan (ages 19, 17, & 14). Jeff grew up in the Venice area with his brother Chris (Another member of the Tarpon Coast Boat Club) and Sara is from Madrid, Spain.



Jeff is a Chiropractor and Sara is a Pharmacist. Sara's love is tennis and Jeff enjoys anything to do with the water (especially scuba diving). Carla and Stefan race sailboats (optimist, lasers, and 420's) around the state of Florida. Cassandra is busy at the University of Florida.



The family took their Grady 360 throughout the Berry and Abacos islands, Bahamas 6 months after receiving their Grady. They are all looking forward to becoming involved with Tarpon Coast Grady White Club.

▶ Member Contributions & Editor Notes

From The Editor

Fred Buchas



It is possible that some of the newsletter design features such as the sliding "accordion menus" may not function properly in all browsers. They will not function if you have elected to turn off "JavaScript" in your browser preferences.

I also now include a .pdf version of this newsletter as an attachment to the newsletter email that goes out with each new issue. This could be helpful for offline viewing or if your browser has any problems with our web version. These files are also available at our website under "Newsletter Archives".

Thanks to all of our contributors for this issue. Not only did we have a new slate of officers but we also had contributions from new members.

I plan on getting back to our old schedule of publishing at the beginning of every third month. This will mean that our next issue will be out at the beginning of August and I would ask that you get your contributions to me by the middle of July.



I'll continue to look for member contributions. It could be almost anything that would be of interest to the membership. It could include your personal fishing or cruising stories or just information about hot fishing spots, dining or cruising destinations etc. Another suggestion has been to post club members marine items for sale.

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