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July 1, 2009

Editor: Fred Buchas



Summer Fun Edition

A Word From The Commodore - Dan Clark



Greetings and happy summer to all. This is sure my favorite time of the year here. Yes, we miss all our "snow bird" members, but those of us that stick it out know what I mean when I say it is really nice living in a "ghost town". Not only do we have the roads to ourselves but we have the water as well and that includes the dockside lunch places. Love it!

Several of us just got back from an amazing week in Marathon. This was a first for our Club where we rented a big (really big) house and we all stayed landside. Totally we had 6 couples and 2 boats. Our plan was to have 3 boats but Tracy and Diane's boat experienced an unfortunate mechanical issue just as they were leaving the dock and ended up having to transfer all their stuff to their pickup and drive down. Oh well, everything still worked out fine. There was certainly a unanimous agreement that this concept for Club trips was fantastic and we need to plan more of them. Be sure to check out the pictures on the Club web site to see what you missed!

Speaking of planning trips, remember, the new program for the Club is that any member can plan a trip. Just coordinate with Diann and Steve and that's it. We need some ideas for August and September so if there is a place you have wanted to go to, just plan it and we'll follow.

By now you may have received your summer edition of *Anchorline* (also on line) and as you saw, Grady Fest was the feature. I know you share my pride in what our Club pulled off and to make us even prouder, the tradition will continue with Grady Fest 2010. The Fish Tales Club and dealership in Ft. Myers Beach has decided to host Fest next year. The day will be March 20th and it will be held right in the Fish Tales Marina. Many of us

are already making plans to go by boat and spend the weekend. If you want to stay landside, there are motel rooms across the street. This promises to be a super event and one you won't want to miss.

Also, speaking of Grady Fest, we have closed out our account and all bills have been paid. We donated \$2,184 to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund and we designated \$300 to be donated to our Club for all the work that the members did at the event. This money will be used for social activities for the Club. Thanks again!

That's all for now. I hope to see you on the 4th for our annual raft up in Charlotte Harbor and at the Tween Waters weekend on July 31st.

News From The Secretary - Cher Clark



Summer in Paradise Notes



The dog days of summer are upon us but so far we aren't getting rained out of too many activities!



We had our May club meeting at the Clark's where we ordered pizza and had a very brief meeting and some socializing. This seemed to be a terrific format for "off season" meetings.

There was no June meeting due to our many trips.

The July meeting will be part of the "Tween-Waters" activities.

There will be no official August meeting but a get-together at the new Crab Shack or new 4 Points Sheraton would be great. To be announced.

Our regular schedule will resume in September as our seasonal members start trickling back to paradise.

October's meeting will be at the Isles Yacht Club.



Our cruise schedule has been a full one! Thanks to our esteemed Fleet Captains, Steve & Diann. Since the last newsletter we've cruised to Rum Runner's, White Elephant, Roland & Martin, Bradenton, Caledesi, St. Pete, Don Pedro, Sarasota, Marathon and Key West. WOW



July will bring the annual 4th of July raft-up in Charlotte Harbor for lots of eating, socializing and fireworks.





The end of the month (July 31- Aug. 2) will be the annual Tween Waters

weekend. Whether you come for the weekend or as a day trip, this is always a favorite destination. We'll have a dockside social (aka meeting) as part of the activities.

Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss these great trips!



 Remember we are asking for our members to be a big part of the trip and social planning. We all have a chance to share our favorite places with the club and visit new exciting ports of call!

Many  to the Buchas's for starting us out on this new format!

Looking forward to "Great Grady Times"



Cher

An Update From Your Fleet Captains - Steve & Diann Saunders



Hello Boat Club Members,

We are now well into the hot weather, hurricane season, and calm seas (at times). Our Club has planned and taken several trips. In case you have not heard, the Board and your Fleet Captains are asking for the last half of the year for "participants" to choose a trip destination and plan it, with any assistance you require from either Diann or Steve. So far for the rest of the year, there is the July 4th raft up in Charlotte Harbor for the annual fireworks around 7:00 p.m., as the fireworks display goes off at 9:00 p.m. Then, we have scheduled a weekend at 'Tween Waters Inn on Captiva for July 31-August 2nd.

Also, for the months of July - the 17th, August 28th, and September 18th, we have Friday Night Fests at the Van Wezel in Sarasota. Other than that, we welcome any suggestions, await your participation in your Club, and will assist as needed.

Speaking of activities.....the second three months of the year have come and gone. In April, there was the weekend at Roland Martins fish camp and a luncheon at The White Elephant in Englewood. For May, we had a boat trip to Cape Coral's RumRunner's Restaurant, which was enjoyed by all who attended. Also, on Mother's Day weekend, Judy Buchas organized a weekend trip to Caldesi State Park, with stopovers in the St. Pete and Clearwater marinas that sounded like a great time, as reported by all that attended, either by the overnights or the day-visitors. Then, at the end of May, we had a group go to the Hyatt in Sarasota where we enjoyed a trip to Mote Marine, drinks,

the pool, and games of Rumicube, introduced to Diann and Michelle by Linda Muller - now Diann and Michelle are hooked and this is going to be a staple at any future group outing. We ended May with a picnic at Don Pedro State Park, with around 33 Boat Club members including some guests. The weather was great and so were the fixings. The month of June started with a trip to Marathon, planned by the Fred & Judy Buchas and Dan & Cher Clark at a beautiful home on the bayside where they, along with 4 other couples, all enjoyed some diving, fishing, and cooking of the caught fish. To end June, we had a group just return from Key West where we stayed at the Galleon Marina and Resort. Key West was great with cocktails, some fishing and shopping. The last night, our fishing paid off with a Yellowtail Snapper dinner feast for the group, with some leftovers for the local dock-cat.

Our journey to and from Key West on the water left much to be desired due to some bad weather and technical boat problems, which challenged each captain's boating skills, but it was surpassed by the great company and conversation enjoyed by all along the way.

So...as you can see...we need some events offered and planned to wind up the summer - into fall to keep our groups going. So stay tuned, looking forward to hearing from you, and hopefully we will all catch up along the way.

Your Fleet Captains,
Steve and Diann Saunders

Our Vice Commodore - Burt Walburg



Burt's Top Ten Quirky Boating Tips:

- Prior to leaving dock check engine water flow.
- Per recommendation of Dan Clark, sound horn each and every time you are on the boat to keep mechanical parts working properly.
- Instruct guests on the location of all safety gear.
- Take time out to familiarize your First Mate as to the basic operation of the boat,

proper use of the VHF radio, EPRIB operation should it ever become necessary and how to determine vessel location, lat and lon's, to relay in case of an emergency on board.

- When approaching a dock always throw the eye end of the line to the person on the dock allowing your First Mate to adjust and secure to an onboard cleat, by having control on the tension of the line both you and your First Mate will look like pro's.
- Remember to check the expiration date on your flares.
- Should you need to use your First Aid kit remember to replenish.
- Set up a simple maintenance log, for those using Micro-Soft Outlook this is fairly simple alerting one to up-coming tasks, changing fuel liters, checking hoses, making sure all floats work on bilge pumps etc.
- Spray sea cocks with a silicone spray to prevent corrosion, something I never did until I learned of someone having to replace a number of these in what could have easily been prevented.
- And remember when packing the boat or car for a couple night stay or cruise, reduce half of what your First Mate has packed excluding the necessary safety gear. A recent trip being a current example of how many things were never touched, a life saver for one's back!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Burton L. Wahlburg

The Safety Scene - Fred Buchas



GPS Navigation Safety

Have you ever thought about how much you depend on your GPS navigation system? If you were off shore, beyond the sight of land and your GPS quit, would you be in trouble? How about if that happened in bad weather or after dark?

I know we all have a compass and maybe even a chart or two but for most of us (myself included), it would be considerably more difficult to navigate safely under these conditions.

Consequently I believe that the best solution for this potential problem is to have a backup GPS system.

I have an old GPS from a previous boat complete with an antenna and wiring harness that I bring along when I embark on longer trips. It could be mounted fairly quickly and could safely get me back from the Keys or some other long trip. I also have a hand held GPS but it doesn't work too well under my hardtop and the screen is tiny. I recently purchased some great GPS software for my iPhone. It was very inexpensive and has the same detail as most good chart plotters. It also works completely independent of cell phone reception and it has a screen that is at least twice as large as my hand held GPS. Okay, clearly I'm a gadget guy! Most "normal" people don't have that many redundant GPS systems. All you really need is any one of the above items to increase your navigation safety level.

A backup chart plotter for under \$40

As if I didn't already have enough GPS systems I recently came up with a way to build an amazingly functional chart plotter for very little money. This assumes that you have a laptop that you can use for this purpose.

The system basically consists of a laptop, a USB GPS receiver, navigational chart files and chart plotter software.

The only item here that will cost you anything other than the laptop is the GPS receiver and I purchased mine for \$36.95. The navigational chart files are available free from NOAA and the chart plotter software is also free.

Even if you don't need to build a backup chart plotter, the NOAA site is a great source for free chart downloads and sources for the necessary viewer software. These charts can be very useful for trip planning at your computer prior to creating routes and waypoints on your GPS.

Below are the links for the NOAA charts, GPS software and GPS receiver.

- 1) GPS receiver for laptop. (\$36.95)
GlobalSat BU-353 USB GPS Receiver <http://www.buygpsnow.com/bu-353-353-bu-globalsat-gps-mouse-water-proof-receiver-sirf-starii-usb-gps-water-bu-353-waas-455.aspx>
- 2) GPS chart plotter software. (FREE)
SeaClear II <http://www.sping.com/seaclear/>
- 3) NOAA Charts. (FREE)
Download RNC Charts <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/>

Go to "Download files by state".
Zoom to Florida and click in it.
Select download RNC Charts.

You could ultimately get the whole country this way but Florida alone is a large download and how far do you really plan to travel?

The only tricky spot I found was getting the GPS receiver to talk to the software and getting the chart plotter software to initially access the chart files. All of these issues were resolved pretty quickly.

Remember this software is using raster charts (RNC) so they look just like the paper charts, not like your chart plotter.

At the NOAA site you will also see ENC chart downloads. These are electronic versions of the paper charts and look very similar to our chart plotter charts. The SeaClear II software will not read ENC charts. I did find software that will read ENC charts but it only reads ENC charts and does not seem to be as full featured as SeaClear II.

Contact me if you need any more info on this subject.

Fred Buchas

A Report From The Treasurer - John Semple



We have 57 dues paying boats so far this year and a positive bank balance.

From Our Web Master - Dan Eisenberg



On our recent trip down to Marathon we encountered rough seas. Our Journey 258 took a lot of sea water over the bow. As a result we identified several areas prone to leaks. As salt water and boat interiors (including electronics) don't mix we needed to fix the leaks. At the dock we used a hose to track down where the leaks were coming from. Below is a description of the leaks and the fixes.

Port holes

Water was getting in around the window gaskets. We ordered and installed new gaskets. The windows still leaked.

A little investigation showed that the window was not pressing against the gasket hard enough to form a proper seal.

We noticed that the handles on the windows have a little plastic screw in the middle

that is used to adjust this pressure.

By turning those screws the window seal eventually became water tight.

Hatch

The hatch seal was also leaking. Replacing that gasket fixed the problem.

Horn

We noticed water dripping down the side of the cabin ceiling and isolated the source to the horn mount.

We had recently replaced the horn but did not seal it beyond using the supplied gasket. To stop that leak it was necessary to apply marine caulk across the gasket, on the attachment screws and around the wire.

Control Panel

The metal panel holding the speed, RPM and fuel gages was removed to add additional electronics.

This panel uses threaded rivets for fasteners. These rivets corroded to the screws and had to be sawed out.

Just putting in bigger screws didn't do the trick.

We eventually wound up using expanding rubber fasteners (from True Value) and replacing the gasket with weather stripping.





In summary, weather, time and repairs lead to small leaks. Spending some time with a hose to isolate them can help you make the necessary adjustments/fixes.

Dan

Other Items & Member News

Member Contributions

The following articles of interest were submitted by Doug & Cat Cox:

[Abandon ship or not](#)

[Storm Survival Strategies](#)

[Cruising Quandries](#)

From The Editor

It is possible that some of the new 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 welcome any feedback either positive or negative concerning the new design.



Thanks to Doug & Cat Cox for their safety related newsletter contributions in this edition and as always thanks to our regular contributors.

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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