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July 2009



The Nauti News

Homestead Yacht Club

www.homesteadyachtclub.com

Our 23rd Year of Boating Fun

Bahamas Voyage



During July, twelve club members on four boats, along with some friends and family members, visited the Bahamas. Here several members, with virtually identical dinghies, are enjoying the lovely beach at Shroud Cay.

Reminder: Next club meeting is on Monday, August 3rd

Commodore's Comments

Hello Everyone:

I hope everyone's summer is going as nicely as ours! **Sharkay**, along with **Happy Ours**, **Great Escape**, and **What Next** had a great trip to the Bahamas. They were joined by three other boats, which were not member boats, but came along too. The trip started out uneventful for **Sharkay**, but the rest of the Flotilla had some pretty rough weather and delayed their departure for 24 hours. Unfortunately once again **Prop Job** had to abort their trip, as the weather didn't cooperate for them. The following members made the trip: Bob and Lois Deane, Ray and Isabel Vega, Derek and Anna Boos and Family, Dan and Ceci Hitchcock, Neil and Cindy Burell, and Larry and Sharon Roesch and our family who met us at Atlantis. The vessel **What Next** seems to be appropriately named, as they had their share of interesting happenings. Ask them about it when you see them! The high light of our trip was being able to spend a couple of days at Atlantis. It was fun to see our kids and grand kids all get together with us for a fun time. We all certainly enjoyed the new Dolphin Cay Atlantis.



We also spent many hours in our dingy exploring the beautiful scenery and waters of the Bahamas. Probably one of the prettiest beaches is at Shroud Cay. The sand was like powdered sugar. Body surfing in the swift current from the creek was fun too. We all spent three days in the Exuma Land Sea Park on Anchor Balls. The park staff had a special bonfire for us! Of course it is nice to have a very good crew like on **Happy Ours**.





We were reminded by "Nurse Betty" aka Cindy Burell that we should all carry a good first aid kit on our Dinghies. She had to put her kit to good use when a member of our group stepped on a conch shell while playing with the sharks at Compass Cay. We all got pretty good at fixing propellers in the wild.

With so many beaches, there simply was not enough time to play on all of them.

Hope to see many of you at Redland for our August 3 Meeting.

Please get out and enjoy the water.

Commodore Larry Roesch



Editor's Notes

There wasn't a club meeting in July and thus there are no meeting minutes or Treasurer's report in this newsletter.

I attended two Park Service public meetings during July to review proposed plans for Biscayne National Park. To say there was a lack of public interest is putting it mildly. At the first meeting, Park employees outnumbered members of the public by at least two to one. At the second meeting the ratio was about even. A brief summary of the meetings is included later in this newsletter.

Bill Zinn, Editor, sunbil@aol.com

BUY AMERICAN

Article # 7- Dwayne Powell

After a lot of fun in Myrtle Beach, we decided to stop for a little rest at the St. James Plantation Marina at Southport, North Carolina. It turned out to be a perfect choice as other than some nice people Southport was sort of quiet. It is a typical southern town with some lovely old homes. Leaving St. James Plantation we enter the rather wide Cape Fear River and for the next 10 miles note the numerous markers and channels. In this area a chartplotter is almost a must. Once back in the ICW the 17-mile trip to Wrightsville Beach is pretty much a straight shot. In Wrightsville we stayed at the Seapath Yacht Club Marina. Below is a photo Charlene took of the marina as we left. Ten seconds later my engine lost all its oil and we just managed to get back to the dock. Only recently have I determined a faulty oil pressure regulator valve was the culprit.



Wrightsville Beach is a rather busy area and has a very nice beach. This is the metro area of Wilmington, North Carolina, which is a large National Historical Registry district. However, we decided to enjoy the beach and catch Wilmington another day. Should you decide to go, I recommend the Historical Docks located in the middle of the local historical homes and museums. While at the Seapath Marina the below pictured boat docked in front of us. Something about it looked familiar. I wonder why?



Next Club Event Cruise to Plantation Yacht Harbor

Vice Commodore Ray Vega is the host of our August Event and is planning a Cruise to the all new Plantation Yacht Harbor in Islamorada on August 22nd. Some folks might choose to go on Friday. There will be sign up sheets at our meeting. The price per foot is \$2.50 and includes power and water. There are a limited number of slips available. Please call or email him if you plan to go. You will need to contact the Marina directly to make your reservation. Their number is 305-852-2381 ask for Tim and tell him you are with the Homestead Yacht Club Group. You'll need to give a credit card number and there is a 48 hour cancellation. There will be more details at the Monday Meeting. If you wish to drive down and join us, you'll need to notify Ray Vega as he will need to give the park a list of members who are coming in so they won't be charged an entrance fee.

Biscayne National Park Plans

By Bill Zinn

During July, the Park Service held public meetings to discuss two proposed plans for changes in Biscayne National Park. One plan concerns Mooring Buoys and Markers within the park and the other plan addresses the establishment of Marine Reserve Zones in the park. In plain language, a Marine Reserve Zone is a No Fishing/No Take Zone. These were the first public meetings on both plans and at this point they are pretty much just looking for ideas of what the public would like to see included and excluded from the plans. I attended the meetings held in Homestead. Meetings were also held in Miami and Key Largo. Following are my observations/comments regarding the two meetings:

Mooring Buoy and Marker Plan: Even if you consider the Miami Herald reporter and the two Dade county representatives as members of the public, the Park Service employees still far outnumbered the public members attending. The mooring buoy portion of the plan is mainly directed toward the ship wrecks and other popular diving areas on the reef east of Elliott Key. It was suggested that in addition to installing additional mooring buoys, areas where it is safe to anchor without destroying the coral should be clearly marked. There was also discussion about possibly trying to control crowding in the vicinity of University Dock by installing and requiring the use of mooring buoys. The reason for the Marker portion of the plan was never clearly explained. They indicated that the responsibility for maintaining the markers, buoys, and signage within the park is already spelled out by various rules, regulations, and agreements. It was hinted that by including this in the Park's plan, it may be easier to get funding to accomplish it. The only thing that everyone seemed to agree upon was that the Featherbeds need to be more clearly marked.

Marine Reserve Zones: The purpose of these No Fishing/No Taking zones is to protect the fish population and enable Park visitors to view a natural reef with big fish. They presented numerous charts and graphs showing how the size and number of various fish types has continually declined over the years. Boating, snorkeling, diving, etc would still be permitted in the zones, just fishing and lobstering would not be permitted. A representative of the professional fishing captains complained that the fishing people are being unfairly picked on and that if these zones are necessary, then they should be no entry zones and not just no fishing zones. The general consensus was that if the zones must be established, they should be in a limited area east of Elliott Key and encompass some of the ship wrecks. One attendee also suggested that the Park start charging a user fee by requiring boaters in the Park to display some sort of sticker purchased from the Park. This would supposedly limit the number of people at the sand bar on weekends.

The Park Service will now put together initial drafts of the plans and then additional public meetings will be held.

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