

September 2003

# The Nauti News



## Homestead Yacht Club

Our 17<sup>th</sup> Year of Boating Fun

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### Commodore's Corner

Hi everyone.

The trip to Sunset Harbor was uneventful for most of the boats that arrived on Friday (except for thunderstorms and the Commodore's boat trying to broadside Sharkay when coming in). The group then decided to have a nice quiet dinner at OOPA's. Now if you haven't been to OOPA's then you don't know what you were missing, the music was anything but soft and the dancing was on your table. If you weren't dancing on your table then the belly dancer was, which was quite a sight. Of course you were free to join her (in dancing that is). I recommend OOPA's only if you go with a crowd.

Saturday we enjoyed a quiet morning on the dock with lunch provided ala Sharkay. Sharon and Larry provided hotdogs with all the fixings and we gathered on the back of Linda C Too to chow down. That night Lee Cowan (Bob was away) brought out all sorts of goodies for the barbeque and several HYC members gave her a hand to set up everything by the pool. Larry was the cook (with George Mayer helping?) and the steaks were excellent. Lee made salad, macaroni salad, and more. The desserts were great, just ask Stan about the Flan and me about the mango cheesecake.

There was more than enough food for everybody but much was wasted because several members made reservations and did not attend or bother to call and cancel. Those members will be assessed the \$10.00 per person for the reservations that were not canceled. Everybody has a phone and a member's phone book, so there is no reason that you can't call and let someone know that you are not going to attend an event that you signed up for. Remember that each event we have is sponsored by a HYC member and that they put a lot of work in it for your enjoyment.

I hope to see all of you down at Hawks Cay, even if you just drive down for the day and dinner. That's all from me for now, so may your winds be light and your seas smooth.

Commodore Bill



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## Next Monthly Meeting

Due to the Labor Day holiday and our event at Hawks Cay, the September meeting has been moved to the second Monday of the month, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Redland Country Club. Please confirm your attendance with Ely.

## Editor's Note

This Newsletter contains a couple of articles based on news items and info contained on web sites. Thanks to Larry for bringing the new weather broadcast info to my attention. I try to include an item or two like this, that I think may be of interest to Club members, in each Newsletter. If you see any such items, please let me know and I will try to include them in the next issue.

Please remember to let me know if you change your email address. Also don't forget about our web site ([www.homesteadyachtclub.com](http://www.homesteadyachtclub.com)) where past issues of the Newsletter, info about upcoming events, etc can be found.

Bill Zinn, [sunbil@aol.com](mailto:sunbil@aol.com)

## New South Dade Weather Radio

A new NOAA Weather Radio transmitter began broadcasting on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The new transmitter, WNG-663, is sponsored by Florida Power and Light Co and is located in Princeton. It transmits on a frequency of 162.425 megahertz (weather channel 4 on your marine radio) from the Miami Weather Forecast Office. Programming on the new radio is targeted toward people in south Dade County including Biscayne and Everglades National Parks. Of course boaters in these areas and the upper Keys will also benefit from the new transmitter site.

Most of the above information was obtained from the web site of the National Weather Service office in Miami. This web site ([www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl)) contains considerable interesting and useful information. In addition to present and forecast weather information, there are radar and satellite presentations and some interesting info/articles on past weather events. At present they have photographs of the August 12<sup>th</sup> waterspouts seen in Biscayne Bay as well as an article about the September 16, 1928 Hurricane which caused Lake Okeechobee to flood a significant portion of south Florida. The Category 4 storm, known as the Okeechobee Hurricane, hit Palm Beach County and then passed over Lake Okeechobee. As it passed over the Lake, it pushed the water against the south shore of the Lake, causing the levee to give way. As a result, an area along the south end of the Lake, approximately 75 miles long and six miles deep was flooded. It is now estimated that at least 2,500 people were killed. The exact number will never be known, but in Palm Beach there are two markers for mass graves of victims, one containing 69

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and the other 674. Also, in Martin County there is a marker for a mass grave containing about 1,600 victims. It is estimated that the storm did 25 million dollars in damage. Translated into today's dollars, that would be about 61 BILLION. As a result of this flood, the present 31 foot high dike was built around the Lake. The article also contains numerous photographs taken after the storm.

## **Sand Bar Raid**

According to newspaper and TV reports, the Park Service, aided by other law enforcement agencies, finally raided and has hopefully put an end to the rowdy, organized parties that were being held at the Sand Bar near Elliott Key every Sunday afternoon. On Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>, Park Rangers, along with Coast Guard, Marine Patrol, and Homestead Police Officers, raided the party and issued numerous citations including under age drinking, public intoxication, littering, and failure to obtain a permit for the event. The Parties, organized and advertised by a Miami club owner, were described by him in a recent Miami Herald article as PG events. Well the obvious under age drinking, fighting, and open use of drugs that we recently witnessed during a Sunday afternoon visit to the Sand Bar certainly didn't seem to qualify for PG. A major concern since these events began has been the widespread use of glass bottles. There have been numerous reports of people being cut by broken bottles in the sand following these events. Hopefully this Park Service action will return the Sand Bar to the enjoyable place that most of us remember.

## **Sunshine News**

Once again, no news is good news. Remember to let Carol Timmons know if you have any news.

## **The Three-Hour Tour???**

Monday, June 16, 2003, in Great Harbor started out like any other cruising day. Sharkay and Instedda's crews began the day over a breakfast aboard Instedda, while we debated our plans for the day. We finally agreed to go to a private beach on Hoffman Cay, in spite of the windy conditions. After a rough dinghy ride of fifteen miles, we reached our destination. The beautiful beach was totally isolated, except for a few local lizards, so we walked, floated, and even gathered some conch. George suggested we pull anchors and head south in search of the famed Blue Hole. After a few false attempts up brush-covered trails, we finally found the right path and hiked up a hill to find the spectacular view of the Blue Hole. Kudos to George because it was well worth the effort and the water was cool and refreshing.

After a few beers for the guys and bottles of champagne for the girls we decided it was time to head back to the marina, as happy hour was approaching and it would soon be time for a real cocktail. We boarded our

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dinghies and headed for the marina across the flats. Unfortunately, our timing was a bit off and we got stranded high and dry between Hoffman Cay and Great Harbor marina. As it was a full moon, the tide was exceptionally low and although we could see green water ahead, we just couldn't get to it. For several hours, without libations, ideas, and eventually energy, we dragged our dinghies around the flats in search of green water and a passage out. As the sun began to set, Larry finally made VHF radio contact to alert someone to our predicament. Unfortunately, they were in Chubb Cay, some thirty miles away. The good news was after three hours on the bank, the tide finally began to rise. After many pulled muscles, scrapes and bruises, we thought we were finally home free.

Reaching deeper water, both dinghies got on a plane. However, it was not to be; Sharkay's dinghy had another agenda. Looking off the stern of Instedda's dinghy, we noticed Larry and Sharon's dinghy flashing a light and dropping back. Instedda turned back, only to find Sharkay's motor had crapped out. Now the situations became more critical, as the sun is disappearing and we are towing Sharkay's dinghy at about 4 knots. Still, in relatively good spirits, we optimistically waited for the full moon to rise and guide us home. But, the moon failed to make an appearance. With Sharkay in tow, we slowly headed for what we hoped was familiar territory. But without waypoints in the GPS, glasses to read them, or a spotlight, once again we were in deep shit. By this time, it was approaching 10:30 p.m. We were all very tired, hungry, and thirsty. George sensed that we were close to our destination so we stopped the dinghies and got next to each other to re-evaluate our location and set a course. Peter spotted the marker into the cut and we thought we were finally home free. Not quite!

As we were crossing the harbor toward the marina, out of nowhere, came a 35-foot Contender at full speed, search lights aimed at the shoreline. They came within five feet of Sharkay's dinghy before spotting them in tow. After that nerve-racking experience, we finally reached our boats and booze at the marina. Without question, it was the best drink of the trip! It is sure to be a birthday that George will always remember!

Teresa Dean

## Minutes of Homestead Bayfront Yacht Club August Meeting

Commodore Bill Clemons called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, August 4, 2003.

Charlene Powell was unable to attend so Bill Clemons presented the treasurer's report for the month of July 2003, which showed an ending balance of \$6468.27. He reported the following income for July: membership dues \$.00; Ship's Store \$309.00; 50/50 \$51.00, and event collection of \$ 200.00 (Bimini) for a total income of \$560.00. Expenses for July were \$53.50, All American Engraving (Bimini Trophy); Bimini Cocktail Party \$ 330.00; Seaborn Canvas \$ 354.75 (ships store); Total Expenses= \$ 738.25 Ending Balance= \$ 6290.02

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Bill Zinn, Newsletter Editor, said there was nothing new to report at this time.

Larry Roesch, the Webmaster, had nothing new to report also.

Park Liaison, Buz Strandhagen, reported on the Hurricane meeting at Black Point. **MAKE SURE YOUR INSURANCE IS PAID!!** Also, be sure that you tie up your boat properly or the insurer may not pay a claim. NOAA reported to Buzz that the weather channel will be back with a broader range by the end of the month. Sharon had previously reported that they were unable to get the weather reports. Buzz also talked to Kathy about the card passes for the gate. Still pending that outcome..... Be careful of personal vehicles, etc, as there is not a lot of patrol at the dock. Janie is recovering and should be back soon.

Membership committee chairperson George Mayer reported a total of 54 members. Also, new members Michael & Carol Pinkerton were presented their burgee.

Sunshine Committee member Carol Timmons reported no news is good news

Linda Clemmons operator of the Ship's Store had nothing new to report except buy, buy, buy.

New Business:

Buz's birthday was Saturday, August 2. A very special cake was served to buzz. Peter Dean was also acknowledged for his birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Cowan is hosting the Sunset Harbor event on Miami Beach. Nine boats are signed up so far with a head count of 22. There will be a steak cook out and it's a BYOB at \$ 10 per person. Also, there are a lot of good restaurants nearby to visit.

Hawks Cay was discussed- guests will be charged \$ 32.00 per person for the Saturday night dinner. There is a good anchorage if you plan to attend and have not reserved a slip.

Art Muina announced Ocktoberfest would be on October 25<sup>th</sup>. He has had difficulty getting the musician. More info at the next meeting.

Next meeting was scheduled for Sept. 1. Buzz moved to change to the 8<sup>th</sup> instead as many members would be at Hawks Cay. That motion was accepted.

Ken Coffee told an interesting story of running aground and having to retain an attorney due to a \$ 648,000 tow bill, which was a percentage of the boats worth. He stressed that you need a signed contract from the tow company or else it becomes a salvage job. Other situations were presented that could put your boat in jeopardy.

Old Business: A round of applause for Ida and Geronimo for another successful Bimini Bash!!

Vickie Klein won the 50-50 of \$ 58.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Teresa Dean, Secretary

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**New Members**



Michael & Carol Pinkerton

**Happy Birthday Buz**



Buz's Special Cake

**Sunset Harbor Event Photos**



Table Dancing



Dance Lessons

Additional Photos have been posted to the Photo Island Web site. To view them, go to: [www.photoisland.com](http://www.photoisland.com) use Visitor ID: sunbil Passwords: hyc