

June 2010



The Nauti News

Homestead Yacht Club

www.homesteadyachtclub.com

Our 25th Year of Boating Fun

Commodore's Comments

Hello Everyone:

As everyone gets ready for summer vacation, don't forget your boat. The Dock Master at Homestead told me we have already had two boats go down in heavy rain. Please check all your hoses and bilge pumps before going on extended vacations when the boat will not be attended to.

A special thanks to Sonia and Mario and Cindy and Neil for hosting a small, but fun group at the Anchorage on June 12. We had 3 boats and about 15 people who attended. Vice Commodore Dave brought corn for a corn roast. Fun was had by all.

A couple of our members are already enjoying the Bahamas (Eleuthera) this month, and many more are leaving in the next few days (Exumas). I hope everyone has an enjoyable trip, and hope to see many of you over there. Smooth Sailing.



Larry Roesch

Meeting Reminder

**There will not be a Club meeting in July.
Our next meeting will be on August 2nd**

Editor's Notes

Based on the comments I have received from Club members, I assume that most of you enjoyed getting to listen to and ask questions of Park Superintendent Mark Lewis at our last meeting. A recap of his comments is included later in this Newsletter.

As mentioned often before, if you have any information or photos that you think might be of interest to other members, just email them to me and I will try to include them in the newsletter. If possible, please have the text files be in .doc format and photos be in .jpg format.

Bill Zinn, Editor, sunbil@aol.com

Minutes of HOMESTEAD YACHT CLUB June 2010 Meeting

The Homestead Yacht Club meeting was called to order at 7:10PM, June 7th, 2010 by Commodore Larry Roesch.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Mark Lewis, Superintendent of Biscayne National Park. Mr Lewis explained the Park Services responsibility to maintain the Park, in it's natural state, for future generations . He discussed the decline in the number and size of fish in the Park and planned changes to address that and other problems. He also addressed the Gulf oil spill, plans for Stiltsville, the Park's volunteer program, and the conduct/attitude of Park Rangers.

Membership: Dwayne Powell, Membership Chairman said the wording in the minutes should be changed from "members" to "memberships". He reported that we are getting several boats arriving in the marina and should produce some members for the club.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance: \$5385.29, Ending Balance: \$4922.79

Marina Liason: Buz and Claire are in Texas. Reported from Mike: The "Beach House" Snack Bar is to be torn down and it will be replaced with new bath houses in approximately nine months. The marina is also getting new water and sewer treatments.

Newsletter: Nothing to report.

Roster: Sandy asked that if you have any changes, please let her know.

Sunshine: Jan had nothing to report.

Events: Thanks to Jerry and Vicky Cline for the fantastic **Italian Feast Event**. Food was great, weather was great. This was a free event for members and the Commodore emphasized that it was "unacceptable" that people who said they were coming did not call or show up. The club paid for food that had to be discarded.

Possibly a "**Summer Night Raft-up**" in August...anyone want to chair this event?

The "**Key Largo Raftup**" to possibly change to the Anchorage, you will be notified if slips are available.

Labor Day Weekend: The Sammarco's are in charge of the Labor Day event at Sunset Harbor. Make your plans, more to come.

Meeting: There will not be a meeting in July as many club members will be out of town. The next meeting is August 2nd.

50/50: Jackpot was \$25.00

Those going to the Bahamas, you must get your LBO card. As of January 10, 2010, a Float Plan is mandatory. A Float Plan is optional if within the United States. You can get your LBO password online to avoid having to check in at Miami. To get your LBO, you have to make an appointment with Immigration.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Ted Newlan, second by Bill Clemons. Adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted by: Charlene Powell (substituting for Secretary Claire Strandhagen)

TREASURER'S REPORT

HOMESTEAD Bay front YACHT CLUB

BEGINNING BALANCE MAY 1, 2010: 5385.29

INCOME:

50/50	36.00
Event	35.00
Total:	71.00

EXPENSES:

Event	334.50
Web Hosting Fee	99.00
Room Fee	100.00
Total:	533.50

ENDING BALANCE May 31, 2010: 4922.79

SUBMITTED BY: Dee Riley, TREASURER

NOTE: The Italian event had an income of \$35.00, and expense of \$334.50. The cost to the club was \$299.50. The event was attended by 17 members and 8 guests.

Park Super Addresses HYC

Biscayne National Park Superintendent Mark Lewis was the guest speaker at the Homestead Yacht Club's June meeting. He addressed present Park activities, plans for the future, and also responded to member's questions.

He began by explaining that the Park seems to have a serious identity crisis. Their research has shown that many people in the Miami area do not even know where the Park is located, much less what facilities/attractions the Park has. Highlights of his other comments are as follows:



Park Management: The Park Service is responsible for maintaining the Park in such a manner that our grandchildren's grandchildren can enjoy it as nature created it. He pointed out that in some instances, they have not done the best job of meeting that responsibility. The status of the fish population in the Bay was cited as an example. Years ago when he was a ranger at Everglades National Park, he used to fish often in the Bay and almost always saw big fish. Now it is unusual to see a legal size fish, much less a big fish. A new General Management plan and a Fishery Management Plan are being developed to address maintenance and hopefully restoration of some of the Park's resources. These plans will include such things as boating speed zones and fish "no take" zones. One of the no take zones will probably be on the east (ocean) side of Elliott Key, extending north from Ceasars Creek. He pointed out that obviously

not everyone will like these new rules/restrictions, but they are essential to meeting their responsibility to preserve the Park for future generations.

Gulf Oil Spill: Mr Lewis stated that the National Park's Incident Management team is in place and that there is continuous sampling of the areas around Biscayne National Park, Everglades National Park and the Dry Tortugas. Contingency plans and equipment are in place in case oil slicks, tar balls, oil sheens, etc are detected.

Boca Chita: In response to several questions/comments regarding visiting Boca Chita, docking there, over night docking, etc, Mr Lewis clarified that the fee charged there is an over night usage fee and not a docking fee. The rules regarding use of the facility are posted in the shelter by the dock. So far as he knows, there is no restriction on the playing of radios, on or off the vessel, unless someone complains. If that happens then it is up to the Ranger to evaluate the situation and resolve it. Several members commented favorably about the volunteer who assists in managing the facilities. Mr Lewis thanked them for their comments and took the opportunity to urge members to look into the Park's volunteer program. He stated that it is an excellent way to support your Park and they certainly welcome the help.

Stiltsville: After a short history of Stiltsville and how the Park gained ownership, he addressed the present status. A non-profit organization, the Stiltsville Trust, has been formed to assist the Park in management and oversight of the buildings. The goal is to have the buildings available for use by individuals and organizations. The hope is to eventually have a web site where people could request reservations. A major problem not yet resolved is what to charge for use of the facilities. The charge will have to cover insurance as well as the cost of a full time ranger while the building is being used. They hope to have this issue resolved soon.

Ranger Conduct: There were several question/comments regarding the attitude/conduct of Park Rangers, especially at Boca Chita. Mr Lewis explained that there is a Chief Ranger who is responsible for all of the Rangers; however, they are all ultimately his responsibility. He is especially concerned if some are being disrespectful as that reflects negatively on all of the Park employees. He stated that if you get a ticket from a ranger that you feel you do not deserve, that is between you and the judge, "I am not in the ticket fixing business"; however, if a ranger is disrespectful or projects a generally poor attitude, he wants to know. Business cards containing his direct phone number were made available for HYC members.

HYC event at Cat Cay in Bahamas in 2000

