

March 2010



The Nauti News

Homestead Yacht Club

www.homesteadyachtclub.com

Our 25th Year of Boating Fun

HYC Saturday Brunch



The Bruch Chefs

Monthly Meeting Reminder

**The next HYC monthly meeting will be on April 5th
at the Redland Country Club**

Commodore's Comments

Hello Everyone!

Again I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who expressed your condolences for the passing of my Mom.

Now to some brighter news: Looking forward to next month's event " Our Pontoon Adventure" on April 24 in Key Largo. Dee Riley tells me we have close to enough for two boats. If you want to come, sign up quick, as there may even be a "wait list". We had a nice turn out for the Brunch-Wine Tasting this past weekend. Thanks to Dave and Anna Giuliani and their " posse", who made it a great event. Bob Larson has become an expert Pancake Cooker! Fun and spirits were had by all!

It was sad to see "Prop Job" leave our Marina and head to it's new home in Destin. Jerry and Vicky Cline are now boatless for a while. It was also sad to see "TT Sharkay" leave and head for its new home in Massachusetts on board a pretty new 48 Riviera. Our new "TT Sharkay" is ready for summer action. Rumor has it that the Giuliani's are ready to change vessels soon. We'll keep you posted on that one.

Those of you that attended the Beach Party at Card Point with BPYC know what a great time we had down there. The place was spotless and the food and bonfire were outstanding. Thank you to BPYC for inviting us.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter weekend. We will be heading up the west coast and on to Orlando. See you all soon at the next meeting or out on the water.



Larry Roesch

Editor's Note

I have just completed the annual updating of the Newsletter mailing list. Hopefully I got all of the addresses correct. If you have an e-mail address that you would like the Newsletter sent to, but do not want the address broadcast to everyone, just let me know. I use BCC addressing for the Newsletter so that everyone does not receive a full list of all recipients.

Recently while searching for some info on the National Park's web site, I ran across some historical info about Biscayne National Park that I found very interesting. That led me to research some Historical Museum of South Florida records for more info. Some of what I found was rather amazing and hard to believe. I have included a short item about the early history of Elliott Key in this Newsletter. Hopefully you will find it interesting.

Bill Zinn, Editor, sunbil@aol.com

Minutes of HYC Meeting on March 1, 2010

Cmdr. Larry opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and announced that Dock Master Mike McCrink would not be speaking this evening. He had called and said he had nothing new to report. Cmdr. Larry checked with park liaison, Buz Strandhagen, who also had nothing to report.

A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from last month's meeting as printed in the newsletter.

The meet and greet was a huge success with 57 people attending and only two of them guests. One person rejoined the club. Peter and Teresa Dean did a great job and everyone had fun. Once again, Peter (also known as the great shopper) saved the club money by returning items not used. Cmdr. Larry also mentioned wanting to send a letter to the Parks Department thanking them for the wonderful job the personnel at Homestead Bayfront did in helping set everything up for the event.

Treasurer's report given by Dee Riley. Beginning balance \$5,774.32, ending balance \$6,042.32. Full report appears in the newsletter.

No news from Dwayne Powell, membership committee. Cmdr. Larry mentioned that he is keeping the boxes at the end of the docks filled with our schedule of events. He further said that Mike McCrink told him the park lost five patrons and only gained two. If you know anyone looking for a place to park their boat, the park has lots of openings.

March event: Black Point Yacht Club has invited us to join them in a beach party outing at Card Point. This is scheduled for March 20th with a back-up plan for the following weekend in case of bad weather.

March 27th Dave and Anna Giuliani are hosting a breakfast brunch. The one they hosted last year was great. It will start at about 11:00 a.m. Dave also advised that he was approached by Luke Thornton, a wine merchant, about holding a wine tasting at the event. The cost of the brunch is \$5.00 and you'll need to pay at the door. Dave asked for a show of hands as to who will be attending and interested in the wine tasting and all thirty people at our meeting said yes. Cmdr. Larry thanked Dave for all the help he gave Peter at the meet and greet.

Special thanks to Sandy Zinn for all the work she did on the rosters. She handed them out at the meeting. Bill Zinn reported on a letter sent to National Park Headquarters inviting the Superintendent to speak at one of our future meetings. If members have specific matters you would like him to address, let Bill know. He mentioned the volunteer program at the park and the status of Stiltsville as two possible items of interest.

April 24th Pontoon Adventure: Dee Riley had sign up sheets on the table as they need a head count in order to be sure they have the right size boat. She further mentioned that a box lunch was available which she recommended as stopping at a restaurant with a big

group could be time consuming. Stopping for a drink was not ruled out. Nest Key is one of the stops planned for the trip. Final cost to be determined later.

May 15: Raft up picnic at Buccaneer Point, Key Largo hosted by Mario and Sonia Espineira.

June 12th: Italian Night Party B-dock hosted by Jerry and Vicky Cline.

Cmdr. Larry advised that information on Peacock Embroidery and ordering from them has been placed on our web site.

50/50 of \$38.00 won by Sharon Roesch. Cmdr. Larry mentioned that Art Thornton donated the roll of tickets we are currently using for 50/50.

Vicky Cline announced that she was aware of a female Yorkie needing adoption. If you're interested give her a call.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Strandhagen, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Homestead Bay front Yacht Club

BEGINNING BALANCE February 1, 2010: 5774.32

INCOME:

50/50	39.00
DUES	240.00
Store	89.00
Total:	368.00

EXPENSES:

Meeting room fee	100.00
Total:	100.00

ENDING BALANCE February 28, 2010: 6042.32

SUBMITTED BY: Dee Riley, TREASURER

Note: The February event was late in the month and will be reported in the March Treasurer's Report.

PONTOON BOAT ADVENTURE ANCHORAGE RESORT, KEY LARGO

APRIL 24, 2010

Dockage \$2.00 per ft. or Hotel rooms \$180.00 both plus tax
Call 305-451-0500 to make your Reservations

Pontoon Boats will leave from PonTunes (next door to Anchorage) at 10:00 a.m.

Our all day adventure will include such ports of call as Senor Frijoles, Nest Key, and Caribbean Club. (schedule subject to change at Captain's discretion)

Bring your own libations and we will provide lunch on board.

PREPARE FOR A HYC FUN IN THE SUN ADVENTURE

IMPORTANT!!!

Call Ted /Dee at 305-598-4724, or Email Dee at Dee11654@aol.com for reservations.

We will NOT be able to accommodate anyone who does not have a reservation, due to limited space on each boat.

The cost will be \$20 per person

Elliott Key

It is hard to believe that what looks from our boats like mostly a mangrove jungle was once a small community and a thriving pineapple plantation. In 1882, the Sweeting family settled on northern Elliott Key, in the vicinity of University Dock. The Sweetings were British Bahamians who moved from Harbour Island to Key West in 1866. They moved from Key West to Elliott Key because it reminded them of where they had lived in the Bahamas. They initially filed a homestead claim for 154.4 acres of land and then later bought an additional 85.4 acres, giving them nearly 240 acres of land. The Sweetings raised tomatoes and limes, but their primary crop was pineapples. Approximately 100 acres of their land was devoted to the growing of pineapples which were shipped to New York, Boston, and Key West for sale. Their homestead eventually grew into a small community of at least six family homes, two workers quarters, a small store, a packing house, a Dade County one room school house and a hurricane shelter. The fortified shelter was built on the highest spot on northern Elliott Key. They also built several docks along the ocean side of Elliott Key, where the boats would dock to pick up shipments of pineapples. Eventually the Sweetings decided to build their own boats to transport their pineapples, limes and tomatoes to market. They hired boat carpenters from Key West and brought them to Elliott Key where they built two twin mast schooners using mostly mahogany lumber cut from trees on the

island. After the hulls were built, they were fitted with temporary sails and sailed to Key West for final construction. The first vessel, the *Mt. Vernon*, was completed in 1901, weighed 49 tons and was 65 feet long. This is probably the largest schooner ever built in the Florida Keys outside of Key West. The other vessel, the *Mt Pleasant*, was built in 1902, weighed 25 tons and was 50 feet long. The Sweetings also owned two 36 foot schooners which they had bought and in 1918, they bought the *Vole*, a gas engine powered boat that they used for coastal trading and for family trips to the mainland. The Sweeting family lived on the island for approximately 50 years. Asa Sweeting, the man who filed the original homestead claim for the land, is buried on Elliott Key, almost due east of University Dock.

Meet & Greet Photos



Brunch Photos



Reminder: Additional Photos of HYC events are posted on our web site.