

Windword

 *Boca Ciega* YACHT CLUB

April 2021



www.sailbcyc.org

Chilly March Racing

T A M P A



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Meg Banitch

Stacy Dochoda

John Meyer

Scott Sharlow

Immediate Past Commodore

Cathy Talisman

Flag Officer, Board and other BCYC member phone numbers and email addresses available to club members at www.sailbcyc.org

Windword Newsletter published monthly. Submissions deadline Wednesday following the Monthly General Meeting. Email submissions to Jen Rogers: windword@sailbcyc.org

Boca Ciega Yacht Club & Anchorage
4600 Tifton Drive South • Gulfport, FL 33711
727-321-7295

Mailing address for ALL payments by check:
Boca Ciega Yacht Club
PO Box 530848 | St. Petersburg FL 33747

Commodore's Corner

Submitted by Roger Gilmore, 2021 BCYC Commodore

As you know, Gulfport City Council made known their intent to continue the redevelopment of the Gulfport Marina District, which impacts our yacht club building. We expect to receive word from the city evicting us within 90 days or the June time frame. We have had security issues recently and I would encourage you to remove any personal or other items you may have contributed and want to retain. The security issues mainly involve the codes to the front gate and building doors. Our Security Officer will be disabling the ability to use the codes and I encourage you to carry your club key on visits. If you need a key, contact club Secretary, Jonathan Cornwell.

Meetings are ongoing concerning the future of BCYC. This includes planning space to meet, storage of desired items, how we are going to manage our fleet of vessels, what programs to continue, what programs to put on hold, and the list goes on.

On a good note, as vaccinations continue to roll out to younger age categories, I have asked the Reopening Committee to reevaluate reopening the club for socials. I'm optimistic that the first in-person General Meeting and Potluck will be this month.

Our operation and club activities will continue as our alternate plans are formulated. There is nothing off the table for consideration. BCYC remains your club and we will strive to grow within the mission statement of our club.

Vice Commodore Report

Submitted by Jenn Buckley, 2021 Vice Commodore

I would like to remind everyone that BCYC is more than a location. We are a sailing club that happens to currently reside at 4600 Tifton Drive South. Our origins date back to the 1940's when we were known as the Sunshine City Boat Club and we grew and we changed and we moved and we renamed ourselves. We didn't do it because it was fashionable, we did it because it was practical. We left St Pete for a new location and we made it work because we were a boating club that was more than a location. We built the basin and the marina here in Gulfport and we made ourselves a home. We renamed ourselves and we evolved from a boating club to a sailing club and the tide is swinging us back again.

And we've evolved again and again over the years as our circumstances dictate. We added sail school for adults, Sea Scouts for the kids, youth sailing for the kids of Gulfport, and we created regattas, raft-ups, themed parties, and all kinds of events over the years to sustain our operations and grow our club. Most recently, we've moved operations online.

Commodore's Corner continued on page 6 >>



View this newsletter in full color online at www.sailbcyc.org

April Birthdays

Trish SmallApril 1
Nina BerkheiserApril 2
Robert B Westerfield JrApril 3
Bob CalvilloApril 8
Kathy MaechtleApril 8
James Masson..... April 11

Joy Feininger April 14
Lynda Calvillo..... April 15
Peter Stewart..... April 19
Cindy Fitzgerald April 21
Ricci Honour April 21
Shelagh Roberts..... April 23
Janet Kreutzer April 24
Betty Southard April 24
Joan Mealey..... April 29



Are we missing your birthday?
Please edit your member information in Wild Apricot.

BCYC Merchandise for Sale

Support BCYC and Look Good Too!

Our display case at the club gives you a sampling of items from our ever-changing inventory.

They are available for purchase at monthly club meetings and at some work days and club events.

Please email Beth Berkobein at merchandising@sailbcyc.org, and she will try to accommodate your schedule within reason.

We accept cash or checks only. Checks to be made payable to BCYC. Thank you and smooth sailing!

**THE BCYC STORE IS OPEN!
CONTACT BETH TO SEE THE NEW
BCYC GEAR AVAILABLE.**



View this newsletter in full color online at www.sailbcyc.org

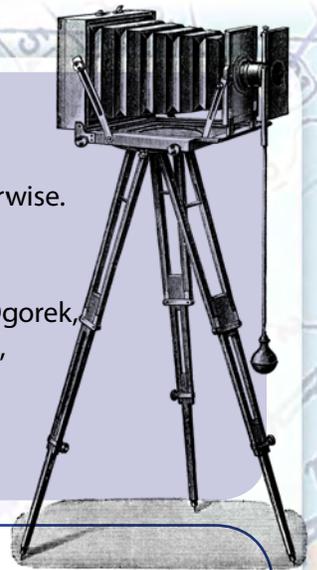


Thanks to Our Photographers!

The most popular part of the Windword each month is the club photos, candid and otherwise. We want to thank all of you shutterbugs out there who send us such great material. This newsletter wouldn't be the same without you.

This month's contributors are: Cathy Talisman, Mike Cook, Jenn and Tom Buckley, Sheri Ogorek, Jen Rogers, Bill and Bessie Morse, Kathy and Gary Rhoads, Jonathan and Denise Cornwell, Lloyd Masson, Roger Gilmore, Paula Shur, and Dawn Fisher and Cathy Kaiser.

Thanks to you all!



Free Marine Classifieds

Do you have any marine related items you want to purchase, trade or sell? Take a step up from the club bulletin board. Email windword@sailbcyc.org

FOR SALE BY BCYC: Trinka style 2 person hard dinghy. The boat has been left in our storage area and all attempts to find the owner have been fruitless. The boat is available to the highest bidder with a closing date of 15 March. You may inspect the dinghy in the lower section of dinghy rack "C." The wood is in poor condition, it needs a new seat and a portion of the wood gunnel is broken. The fiberglass hull is very used but intact. No oars. If you are interested contact the Fleet Captain Bill Morse or text 727-215-7426.

FOR SALE: Irwin 33; Built 1975; I have owned since 1980; can sleep 4 comfortably; berths for 7 very friendly people! Complete boat, dink, TV, antennae, DVD, galley with 2 burner alcohol stove (pots, pans, plates, towels, even tooth brushes!). Rebuilt Atomic Four engine, life jackets, wet suit, VHF and hand-held radio, hand-held GPS, whisker pole, stainless steel charcoal grill. Asking \$8,500.00. Michael Collins, cell: 813-230-0578; michaelpcollins44@gmail.com

FOR TRADE: 8 HP 4 stroke Yamaha outboard (2002). Runs great. I want to trade for a smaller lighter motor. Mike Pilert. 928-853-9128. mpilert@yahoo.com

WANTED Looking for a 15 lb (approx) Danforth anchor and a used dock box. Please contact Elizabeth Hendricks at 727-999-0900 or EHendricksPR@hotmail.com

BCYC Web Site

www.sailbcyc.org

Be sure to check our web site regularly to sign up for events; for What's Trending Now and calendar updates, weather and tide links, full-color Windword online, Wild Apricot membership features and more.

Advertising Rates

Business Card Ad	Quarter Page Ad	Half Page Ad	Full Page Ad
One Month.....\$15	One Month.....\$30	One Month.....\$45	One Month.....\$60
Three Months.....\$30	Three Months.....\$60	Three Months..... \$100	Three Months..... \$120
Six Months\$50	Six Months \$100	Six Months \$150	Six Months \$200
One Year.....\$75	One Year..... \$150	One Year..... \$250	One Year..... \$300

Submit payment to: BCYC Treasurer, PO Box 530848, St Petersburg, FL 33747

Checks made payable to: BCYC

Questions or ad specs: Call Lee Nell at 215-518-7671 or email advertising@sailbcyc.org

Submit artwork (PDF preferred) to: Jennifer Rogers, windword@sailbcyc.org



TAMPA BAY

Please check web site calendar for updates. Some virtual meetings may change, depending on Covid restriction status.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

April 2021

					1	2	3
						5:30 PM BCYC - Virtual Happy Hour	Cruise to Terra Ceia
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Cruise to Terra Ceia	Virtual Board Meeting 7:00 pm	6:00 PM Gulfport - City Council Meeting			5:30 PM BCYC - Virtual Happy Hour		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Rhumb Runners Winter/Spring Race Series 9 am			5:30 PM BCYC - Virtual Happy Hour		7:00 pm Virtual General Meeting		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
		6:00 PM Gulfport - City Council Meeting	Windword Deadline 12PM		5:30 PM BCYC - Virtual Happy Hour		
25	26	27	28	29	30		
Rhumb Runners Winter/Spring Race Series 9 am					5:30 PM BCYC - Virtual Happy Hour		

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

May 2021

							1
							Cruise TBD
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Cruise TBD	Virtual Board Meeting 7:00 pm				5:30 PM BCYC - Virtual Happy Hour		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
			Windword Deadline 12PM 5:30 PM BCYC - Virtual Happy Hour		7:00 pm Virtual General Meeting		
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29	

To avoid scheduling conflicts, please contact Secretary Jonathan Cornwell for calendar updates. Email: secretary@sailbcyc.org



Welcome!

March General Members

Nathan Harrison
St. Petersburg, FL
Boat: none
Interests/skills: Building/
Grounds, Community Events,
Cruising, Racing, Carpentry,
Woodworking, Laser
Cutting, 3d printing, CNC



Josh Warden
St. Petersburg, FL
Boat: none
Interests/skills: Kayaking,
Paddle Boarding, Racing and
Sail School

*We need your photo!
Please send to
windword@sailbcyc.org
and we will print it in
the May issue.
Thanks!*



March Provisional Members

Jeremy & Eleasha Espinoza
Brooksville, FL
Boat: Jensen 34
Name: Shady Lady
Interests/skills: Cooking,
generally handy, has ability to
make technical drawings of
parts needing to be fabricated
and has knowledge of metals.

*We need your photo!
Please send to
windword@sailbcyc.org
and we will print it in
the May issue.
Thanks!*

David Koenig
St. Petersburg, FL
Boat: O'Day Daysailor 17'
Interests/skills: Cruising, Rac-
ing, Sail School (volunteer), has
US Sailing Small Boat Level 1
Instructor Certification.

*We need your photo!
Please send to
windword@sailbcyc.org
and we will print it in
the May issue.
Thanks!*

We still need photos from July new members David & Kristina Bowles, Dairo Negrini and Justin & Kristin Ruzinok and February new members Cody & Kristi Deuter. We want to meet you!

Commodore's Corner

Continued from page 2

When Covid hit, we became more virtual. And now it's time for us to explore new options to continue to evolve.

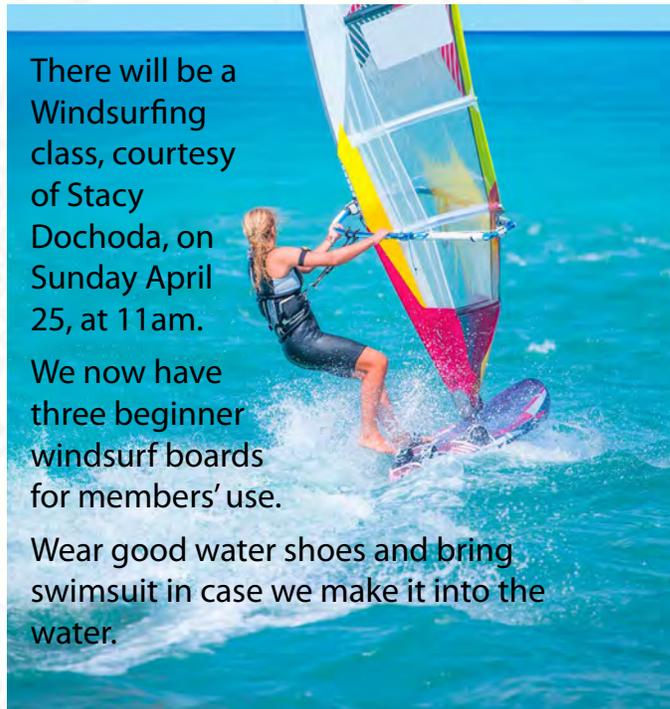
I would invite everyone to reflect on what it was that made you get involved with BCYC in the first place. Was it sail school? Was it the easy access to the bay? Was it through your kids in Sea Scouts or youth sailing? Was it the camaraderie of fellow-sailing or boating enthusiasts? Whatever it was that enticed you to join, I would encourage you to think about whether or not that would translate to a new location or even a shared location. I think the friendships I've made here will withstand a change in venue whether it's down the street or across town.

Why? Because BCYC is not just an address it's so much more than that! It's a club of like-minded individuals that knows no bounds.

There will be a
Windsurfing
class, courtesy
of Stacy
Dochoda, on
Sunday April
25, at 11am.

We now have
three beginner
windsurf boards
for members' use.

Wear good water shoes and bring
swimsuit in case we make it into the
water.



TAMPA BAY

BCYC Submersible Pump Instructions

Submitted by Mike Cook

As the expression goes “the best bilge pump of all is a bucket in the hands of a frightened sailor”, but sometimes more extreme means are called for. So, Fleet Captain Bill Morse has secured a new 120v submersible pump for emergency use, should a vessel be taking on water. The pump is stored in the Workroom, hanging on the peg board, and has a discharge hose with it. The power cord is only 8', so grab an extension cord from the workroom when there's an emergency. Power to the vessel should already have been turned off.



While the pump has the capacity to pump 2500 gal/hr, and a lift of 15', the discharge rate is significantly reduced with a higher lift. So if practical, discharge to the cockpit, versus overboard.

Ensure the Gulfport Marina has been called at (727) 893-1071. They have substantial resources, are very incentivised to help and avoid a fuel or oil spill.

Finally, please return the pump cleaned, (pump fresh water through it) and dried to the Workroom after use, and let Tony know about any flag implications.

Update: Yulie Borealis was seen with a lower waterline, and taking on water.

Tony was alerted and left a message with the owner. The family came down and there was no power for the bilge. I provided the pump from the workroom and it worked great - 15 gpm is a lot of water. The pump we have puts out so much more than a 12v

bilge pump.

Not a club member, but glad pump was there to be used - glad everyone came through.

Neptune Grill



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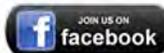
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Rhumb Runner Racing Report

Submitted by Paula Shur,
Rhumb Runner Race Chairman

The Rhumb Runners are most appreciative of the efforts of Mark Rother, Roger Gilmore, Bill Morse and everyone else who has helped with maintenance on the Capris. Roger kindly updated us on the availability of Capri #1 and Capri #2 before our race day.

Roger also offered safety boat training to Lezlee Kramer. Cathy Talisman volunteered as first mate. Sheri Ogorek and Jimmy Meyer took out S/V Celebration as our signal boat.

Eight Sunfish raced on February 28th. Although the sustained SSE wind for the first two races was 8 - 10 kts, the gusts were significantly higher.

For the first two races PRO SarahBeth Reeves selected the Windward offset Leeward course, which has a gate. Since several of the sailors expected this course for Sunfish Masters and Midwinters, they appreciated an opportunity to practice choosing which gate to round.

When the wind laid down to about 5 kts for the third race and shifted to SSW, SarahBeth switched to the Modified Olympic course. The racers handled the Sunday boat wakes and gusts while navigating the variety of courses.

Thank you Sheri Ogorek for taking video of the starts, a great educational tool.

Our March 14th race day was a great success.

Two Capris and Four Sunfish sailed three races on the Modified Olympic course in 6 - 7 kts of breeze and lots of warm sunshine. The Modified Olympic course combines the triangle and the windward / leeward course. It also provides some fleet separation when we have both Sunfish and Capris on the same course.

The light air, boat wakes, and current provided lots of racing challenges. Finding the breeze, riding the wakes, and avoiding the disturbed air was key to sailing a fast race.

Rhumb Runners are excited to announce we have extended our series to include April 11 and April 25.

Sail fast, live slow, and never be afraid to get your butt wet!



TAMPA BAY



TAMPA BAY



Club Race Day March 2021

Submitted by Barb Meyer

This past weekend was busy for BCYC. The Clam Bayou clean up on Saturday, followed by the Blessing of the Fleet Sunday morning, then the encore—Club Racing!

Jimmy and I hopped from Celebration in the morning to Sanity Clause in the afternoon, so we had a wonderful time on the water, cold or not.

Don and Jen Rogers volunteered their boat for Race Committee, and we were grateful for the protection the Bimini provided from the damp wind.

This month's the course was a little easier to manage as we only had to drop the windward mark and not so many A's and B's! But what made it fun was that Mark Rother added a downwind finish. The participating boats were the same cast of characters except for two additional Capris and Fanta-Sea who by the way finished second (uncorrected) twice.

The starts were a little more interesting as there were three larger boats vying for position on the line. A few "starboards" hollered, but no collisions.

Winds started out NNW at 7 knots and continued to build throughout the afternoon, gusting to 14 and higher at times. There was broaching, lots of headers and lifts but no Sandbar Jacuzzi this time.

The races were over, and it was time to head in, the anchor's up, then _____!

After that, _____!

Everyone knows that what happens on the RC boat stays on the RC boat.

Back on shore I found Mark to answer a few scoring questions for me. To my embarrassment, the boat we were cheering for was not Fanta-Sea but Sea Bean, a Helms 24 owned by guest Gresham Cash, who called me "maam." What we saw was Bobby Calvillo and David Henshaw as crew! Maybe I deserved the "maam" along with a new pair of glasses.

The Racing Chair position remains open, and Mark Rother has been working each month to get RC boats and crew. A group of members got together and bantered around some ideas to increase participation and to solve Mark's monthly search for help. Plans are in the makin'.

Staying high and dry,
Babs





March Race Results

Race 1

Name	Rating	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	Corrected Time	Position
Bob A Bouy	260		50:52:34	40.82	6
Claudia Gail	270		50:30:19	40.03	4
Typhoon Doc	318		In place		9
Godzilla	180		42:31:25	37.86	1
Typhoon White	318		57:12:25	42.83	7
Capri 2 Walters	261		60:42:00	48.65	8
Capri 3 Pilert	261		50:48:76	40.71	5
Capri 6 Stan	261		49:10:07	39.41	3
Sea Bean	246		47:56:07	39.13	2

Race 2

Name	Rating	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	Corrected Time	Position
Bob A Bouy	260		47:38:98	38.22	2
Claudia Gail	270		52:53:79	41.91	4
Typhoon Doc	318		58:48:43	44.03	7
Godzilla	180		DNS		9
Capri 2 Walters	261		56:34:33	45.33	8
Capri 3 Pilert	261		53:16:00	42.68	5
Capri 6 Stan	261		45:08:09	36.17	1
Sea Bean	246		47:16:52	38.59	3
Typhoon White	318		57:02:74	42.71	6

Club Cruise to Beer Can Island

Submitted by Richard Capt. Sandbar Walters

To help relieve the frustration we have all felt to get back to life as it once was before the world pandemic, we set sail to one of our club's most favorite anchorages. For our March 13 & 14th club cruise that destination was Beer Can Island which is located between Apollo Beach and MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa Bay.

The island normally is occupied by a dozen or so partying power boaters but by dusk they skedaddle and leave the island to us. This weekend as we approached the island it looked like half of Tampa Bay was at Beer Can. Instead of a dozen or so boats there must have been over a couple hundred of all types packed closely together with hordes of partying people aboard, in the water, and on the beach. Various types of music were blaring from the boats and everyone wanted to make sure you heard their music whether you wanted to or not. We had a hard time anchoring anywhere close to the island as we usually do.

We were shocked to see how many people were there and not until later we realized it was Spring Break. Bring on the massive Covid spreader event that we all had tried to avoid. Showing skin was in and wearing masks was out.

With our intrepid nature as sailors we made way to the island in our dinghies with more clothing than most, our preferred libations, and beach chairs in hope to outlast the massive partying crowd. Could we make it to dusk we wondered? Besides we had a preplanned dinner by Scott Sharlow our Cruise Director on the north side of the island that featured Sliders, you know those little greasy cheeseburgers of your youth that you could eat by the dozen.

Having had their Covid shots, Don and Jen Rogers from Sanity Clause bravely took point for our group to dinghy to the island to scope out where the dinner was to be served. Word got back to us and we all started making our way to the north end past the mine field of anchored boats, partying Spring Breakers, and the constant motion of boats going to and from the island.

We have to give Jonathan Cornwell the he-man or is it he-person award for "rowing" his sweetheart Denise straight to the north end—not by the shortest route but by going completely around the whole island. We figure he was working on PR for the club and speaking with people as he went along. Dianne Benedetti and Capt. Sandbar were stowaways on Seafari with Kathy and Gary Rhoads. Gary and Sandbar brought the chairs and other things to the island and then Gary went back for the ladies. Bill and Bessie Morse on Grace were already on their way to shore.

The Slider spread that the island group made us was very good and we didn't have to eat a dozen to prove anything. With it came sodas, chips and great fruit kabobs. Thanks goes out to Dave Parker and his food staff at the island and Cole Weaver, one of the owners of the island, who made us all feel welcome.



Before I forget and talk about pasties... no not the British pastry either, you need to know a bit more about Beer Can Island (aka Pine Key). A while ago a few guys and gals bought the island from a family that had owned it for generations. It has been truly an expensive venture for these folks, while battling with Hillsborough County for permits and the ability to run a business



and more importantly, to preserve the island as it is. Currently they are dealing with massive erosion and working to develop a living shoreline to help build the island back up. So please go to their website at beer-can-island.myshopify.com. You can get a Silver Membership for free which we did since we only go once or twice a year but they can certainly use more financial support if you know people who would visit the island more often.



After dinner we decided to move further south on the island and, as suspected, a lot of the Spring Breakers were leaving as the sun was going down. Gary and Sandbar noticed Bill was having issues getting his motor to start as we kept circling just off the beach. He couldn't find his dead man key for his outboard. That's that little contraption that you push under the ignition switch and tie to yourself in case you fall overboard to kill the engine. Well he couldn't find it so as a good Sea Scout leader does, he didn't let it slow him down.

He mounted the oars he had aboard as backup and rowed over to the other side where some of the ladies

had already gathered. As we walked the dinghies up on the beach Sandbar told Bessie that Bill couldn't get the motor started. Her eyes got big while laughing and said, "That's because I have the key with me." That's what a good partner is for, keeping you from losing things. We proceeded to set up our chairs and pour our favorite libation. Some of the Spring Breakers had not given up partying. Dianne noticed a young woman not far from us was only wearing pasties as a top. She jabbed Sandbar to have a look, of course he acted like he didn't notice her. Kathy Rhoads said, "Is that legal?" Sandbar replied, "I figure so because the Sheriff boat has gone back and forth not far away and has not said a word."



The sun dissolved itself into the horizon and the sky broadcasted a beautiful array of colors as we have been blessed with so many times in our little piece of paradise. Eventually most had left with only a few people at the other end of the island who were camping overnight and had a camp fire going. We didn't make a fire ourselves as we usually do as the owners asked us not to while they dealt with the county restrictions. Next time we hope to be able to bring firewood.

The next club cruise will be to Terra Ceia on April 3rd and 4th. This is one of our favorite anchoring cruise destinations. There is no place to go ashore but it's a really nice secluded anchorage. Far away from Beer Can! At times we raft up and choose a party boat, but look on the website for specific details or call Scott Sharlow.

Get out there and go cruising,
Capt. Sandbar



Beer Can Cruise, continued next page>>

TAMPA BAY



Beer Can Island Cruise, continued from previous page



BCYC Pitches In With Clam Bayou CleanUp

Submitted by Jonathan Cornwell, PR Chair

This article originally appeared on the BCYC Facebook page

Wolfgang, Karen, and others! Thank you for organizing this event! Y'all do so much for this community. Council members Paul Ray and April Thanos! Great to see you out there. Congratulations BCYC member Lisa Glaser



for winning the Bounty on the Trash with a haul of over 60 pounds! Thank you to all the other volunteers from Gulfport and nearby who came out to enhance the natural beauty of one of the jewels of Pinellas County, a county almost completely built out and with so few parks, preserves, and other wild(ish) spaces given the scope of the permanent and migratory wildlife that lives in this area. When you look at the oyster shoals alone inside Clam Bayou and think about how much they save the rest of Boca Ciega Bay from being overwhelmed with suburban runoff by filtering the water entering the Bay, you can appreciate a bit more how important removing all this trash from the Bayou is to all of us who live in, and visit, Gulfport and the beauty of our waters.

So proud of BCYC! We had a GOOD turnout and we made a great contribution to what may have been a record-setting 550+ pounds of trash hauled out of Clam Bayou by all participants! Check out the barnacle-encrusted door BCYC member Harold Small hauled out of the Bayou **BALANCED ON HIS KAYAK** because it was too water-logged to float! There was a tire and also a barnacle-crusted plastic bucket among the other large trash collected. But >>BY FAR<< the most common trash were Mylar-type plastic wrappers, drinking straws, and plastic bottles that wash in with the tide and get embedded deep in the thick of the mangrove roots. Also, whoever is smoking those plastic tip cigarillos

needs to put the tips in their pockets and in trash cans when they're done smoking. They are small enough to be swallowed by the birds of the bayou, and get trapped in their throats and digestive systems. There must have been hundreds of those plastic cigarillo tips pulled out of the Bayou.



Blessing of the Fleet

Hi All,

Below are the thoughtful words written by Joye Swisher for this years' blessing of the fleet.

Joye started off with some prose pertinent to sailors and vessels, which is below.

*The sea will delight us and surprise us.
At times, even terrify us-
And then again, will fill us with wonder.
She will disappoint us and confound us,
Tickle our muse, present us with mysteries,
And harbor lifetimes of secrets.*

*It is no wonder we love her,
Depend on her, cherish her, battle her
And always yield to her.*

*And the wind-
It can be fickle, with power undaunted,
Its gifts obliging and mean, its mercy discreet.
So we watch her,
Wary, hopeful, nervous, impatient.*

*Creator, we look at our own limitations-
We see the fragility of life,
We acknowledge the inevitability of error,
The consequences of haste decisions,
The outcome of desperation.*

*So we turn to you
In humility, in wonder, boldness, and hope.
Teach us to nurture our sense of wonder
Remind us to practice respect, to discipline our grasp,
To watch out for each other.
Be aware our lesser natures,
Bring forth our good judgment
Our charity, our faithfulness to love.*

*Creator, sail with those who go forth.
Taste the salt of their tears
And the richness of their joy.
Be merciful to them,
That they might cherish your compassion
And delight in your pleasure.*

*And when they return,
Make fast their lines*

*Make honest their rewards
Make light their feet
Make delicious their tables
Make tender their bonds
Until the clouds part,
The rainbow reaches across the sky,
And we are reunited with you.*

As the boats passed the Gulfport Municipal Pier, Joye recited the following blessing on channel 72.

*Bless the skippers and the crew of _____
Along with all that sail out with them,
May they experience fair winds, favorable seas
And enjoy a safe journey home.*

We are all thankful and grateful to Joye for blessing our members and our boats on Sunday, March 21st, 2021.

Several boats were blessed in their slips, including all of the Capris, and the smaller boats on the beach. All boats in both marinas were blessed.

The following crews and vessels sailed past the pier for their blessing.

Sheri and Rick Ogorek, aboard Celebration
Dianne Benedetti and crew aboard SeaGal
Don and Jen Rogers and crew aboard Sanity Clause
Elizabeth Hendricks and crew aboard Claudia Gail
Ellen and Bob White aboard Joy
Richard Walters aboard Capri #2
Yvonne aboard Buoy Oh Buoy
Staci and AJ Dochoda aboard Salty II

The following were crew aboard vessels.

Beth Berkobein
Francis Damico
Charlene and Charles Turner

There were 2 vessels where I don't have the names of their crews.

Spontaneity
Just Perfect

I'm sure there were other individuals whose names I did not have for this article. Please pardon me for this.

A representative of The Gabber, named Gabrielle, also joined us on the pier to gather information for an article. She was very kind and spoke with Joye, Dave, Lloyd, Cathy, and Guy. We explained this is something the club has done annually for many years. We described differing vessel types and that the club has been a part of Gulfport for more than 56 years. *The above was the appropriate part of the article for the Windword.*



(Now it's Guy's turn)

It was a dark and stormy night...

Actually, it was the second day of spring, it was daytime, the weather was perfect, not too hot, not too cold, this one was just right, a bit overcast which bald men prefer because their shiny spots get less sunburned. This year, I wanted to do something a little different with a sacrifice. But the City refused to issue a permit. They also said "good luck finding one in this town". I'm not sure what they meant, though they were very nice and showed personal interest.

The captains meeting was announced for 09:30.

The captains meeting was also announced for 10:00.

This is BCYC we're talking about. We wouldn't want to break tradition, get it right the first time, and stick to the plan.

So, a bunch of masked but faithful folks hung around the west tables on the front patio and enjoyed conversation and mirth. "When is the meeting going to start?" was heard and answered several times. But it actually did start at 10:00 on the dot.

Names of vessels were checked and put on the list. As always, there's a few faithful what don't cotton to internet spread sheets, who just suit up, show up, sign up, and get blessed. This is no problem and is part of herding the cats towards their blessing. It's also common for boats to just show up.

The instructions for the blessing were a slow and stately pass from east to west, monitor 72, self-announce, in no particular order. Then the faithful manned or womaned their vessels and headed out of the harbor. I've found if you don't try to organize the cats, everything goes much better.

As it turned out, the winds picked up and were south. It was an easy broad reach to the pier, winds a-beam port tack by the pier, and then close trimmed for the exit. It sounds better when you don't mention diesel engines, doesn't it?

Unfortunately, Tony doesn't get to award any flags for this blessing. There were no mishaps or gear failure of any kind either reported or observed. Even in the Blessing of the Fleet, nothing is sacred where our Flag Officer is concerned.

A special pat on the back goes to Richard Walters aboard Capri #2 and the Dachodas' aboard Salty II who did NOT use the iron genny for their blessing. Salty II

had up full sail and made their pass at hull speed. You guys rock!

But there is a God and miracles do occur. The whole time Gabrielle, the reporter from the Gabber, was with us on the pier, Guy (moi) said nothing inappropriate. But I did do acupuncture on my sprained tongue when I got home to relieve the pain from it being so brutally restrained. She even asked two or three times if there was anything I'd like to say or add. I just replied without choking, "No, that's all I can think of." Which is a big fat juicy lie all by itself, but I can go to confession later. I've got a priest on speed-dial. Though I do make monthly payments for his silence. Regardless, I'm pretty sure this doesn't void the warranty on my boats blessing.

As a thank you, we bought Joye and David lunch at O'Maddys afterwards.

Humbly submitted in love and service, and blessings to all,

Guy O'Connor
s/v The Rachel



Blessing of the Fleet, continued next page>>

Blessing of the Fleet, continued from previous page





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TAMPA BAY



Our February Sailing Trip on Tranquility

Submitted by Harold and Trish Small

In late February Trish and I took our sailing catamaran, "Tranquility" in search of new adventures. We grabbed



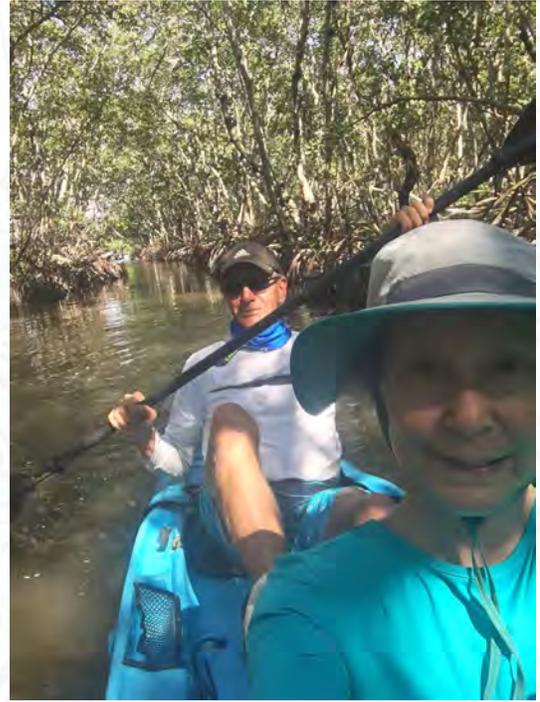
a six-day window of good weather forecasts and headed south. We got as far as Venice the first night.

The second and third nights we stayed at Cayo Costa, one of our favorites. Two highlights were dinghying in the "Manatee Hole", a small cove filled with 15-20 manatees. We got so close that some bumped our dinghy. They are not very smart, but we love them. We also walked through the State Park to the beach. Lastly, we kayaked at the southern end of Cayo Costa through a mangrove tunnel called, "the tunnel of love."

Our next stop was Boca Grande, where we snugged into a shallow anchorage across from Whidden's Marina. We marveled at the large yachts with staff and no owners. What a life.

From there we went back to the gulf and sailed north to Venice. We ducked in and headed north, (our first time), and anchored in Blackburn Bay next to a home now listed for sale for only \$19.9 million.

We then motored up the ICW, hanging a left in Sarasota to drop our hook near Lido Key. We kayaked the mangrove tunnel trails on Lido Key and then later tied



it in the bushes near St Armands Circle. We walked the shops, grabbed dinner at the Crab & Fin and ice cream at Kilwins. We found our way back to our kayak and then back to our boat.

To our pleasant surprise we were able to safely head straight out of Big Sarasota Pass the next morning by simply following fishing boats as they headed west into the gulf.

We had good winds to Egmont, but then had to motor the rest of our way home.

The favorable winds, no rain and chilly nights gave for pleasant anchorages on our trip that made for great memories.



TAMPA BAY

February Sunset/Full Moon Cruise



And the Scouts Race on the Bay



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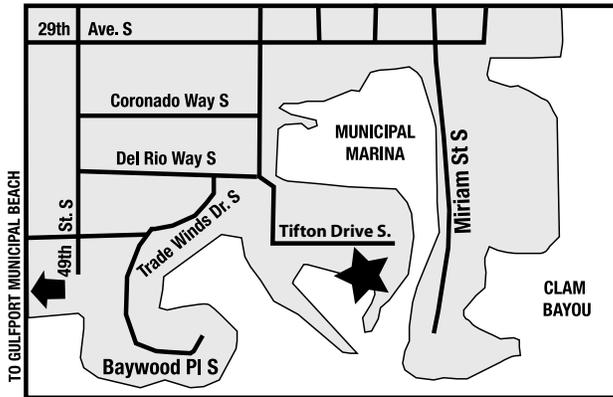
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Map Courtesy of Mike McGrail, AnchorsAway Graphics

We never tire of our sunset photos



Photo courtesy of Cathy Talisman: February Sunset/Moonrise Cruise