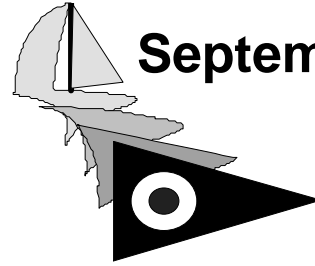


MELBOURNE YACHT CLUB

TELL-TALE

September 2006



<http://www.melbourneyachtclub.com>

Officers and Board

Commodore

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Youth Marlene Sassaman 768-0046

Fleet Phil Spletter 773-5848

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Newsletter Editors

tell-tale@melbourneyachtclub.com

Sherry Beckett 779-3024

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SEPTEMBER

- 1 TGIF September Birthdays
- 3 Small Boat Sunday
- 4 Labor Day
- 6 General Meeting
- 8 Fall Rum Race #4
- 9 Marker 21 Cruise
- 14 Thursday Night Spinnaker Race
- 17 Small Boat Sunday
- 22 Fall Rum Race #5
- 23-24 Mermaid Regatta
- 28 Thursday Night Spinnaker Race

OCTOBER

- 1 Small Boat Sunday
- 4 General Meeting
- 6 Fall Rum Race #6
- 7 Full-Moon Marker 21 Cruise
- 15 Small Boat Sunday
- 20 Fall Rum Race #7
- 21-22 Fall Regatta Small Boats
- 26 Fall Regatta Pram Race
- 27 Fall Regatta Rebel Rally
- 28-29 Fall Regatta Big Boats

The Party Line

TGIF—Every Friday - TGIFs are held every Friday evening in the clubhouse. Birthdays are celebrated on the first TGIF of the month. Peter will have a cake ordered and delivered for the October 6 TGIF, but he will be out of town and needs someone to lead the event.

Special Full-Moon Cruise to Marker 21—October 7

Our cruises to Marker 21 are usually the second Saturday of the month, but we thought it would be nice to take advantage of the full moon in October on the first Saturday. Peter will be out of town, so we need a volunteer, or group of volunteers, to lead this event. As usual, MYC will provide the firewood, hot dogs, and marshmallows for s'mores. It's a rare opportunity to have a full moon on the weekend, and the last time we did this everyone had a great time. Please contact Peter at windinmesails@earthlink.net or call 727-7725 and let him know ASAP if you would like to lead this.



Other Cruises to Marker 21 - Cruises to Marker 21 are usually scheduled for the second Saturday of every month. After October, the next one will be November 11. MYC provides the firewood, hot dogs, and marshmallows for s'mores. There is no cost and no reservations are needed, just show up and have a good time. Again, Peter is the point of contact if you would like to lead the event.

Kayaking—First Saturday - Both of our kayak trip organizers are out of town for the summer. So, we need someone to volunteer to organize an outing on the first Saturday of every month. Please contact Peter Aydelotte if you would like to organize and lead a kayak trip.

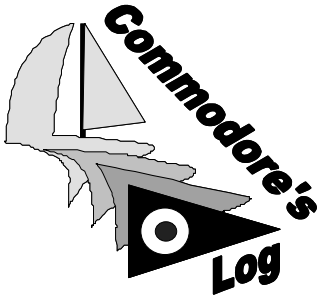
28th Annual Mermaid Regatta—23-24 September - The Mermaid Regatta has a 'Beach Party' theme this year. Along with good, competitive sailing there will be door prizes, hula and limbo contests, good food, and dancing. Last year's format of big boats on Saturday and small boats on Sunday was so successful that we are going to do that again this year. For more details, see the flier later in this newsletter or visit the website <http://www.sail-race.com/myc/mermaid.htm>.

Fall Regatta—21-29 October - Put this on your calendars now. See the website <http://www.sail-race.com/myc/fallregatta.htm> for details.

Anyone interested putting together an MYC event, contact our Entertainment Chair, Peter Aydelotte, at windinmesails@earthlink.net

MYC Calendar Online

<http://melbourneyachtclub.com/MemberDatabase/calendar.php3>



It has been a quiet month; however that is all likely to change shortly. The Renovation Committee reported that the building contractor had the plans to the point where we were ready to apply for permitting. That had me scrambling to provide notarized letters to the city requesting the issuance of permits. Meanwhile, I received an email from Chris Reynolds at his summer retreat in the UK. Chris sent me a short article that indicates there may soon be a drastic down-turn in the US housing construction market in 2007. The author suggests that, as a result, the price of materials will drop dramatically. I discussed this with the Board and the Renovation Committee. At my request, the Renovation Committee provided us with the following status report and response to Chris's message. (I shortened it to fit):

"Where we are and the cost estimate - The design phase is virtually complete. The cost estimate that we received earlier was not a final estimate, but rather an early estimate for us to gauge the scope of the current project. The quote was actually within the upper end of what we had budgeted, even with the increased mortgage rates, but did not allow for sufficient contingency. This is the issue we have been addressing with the proposed modifications to the bar area north wall.

The market - One of author's overriding concerns is the slowing housing market and its impact on the timing for our project. Currently, the residential market is suffering significant declines, but it appears that the commercial market remains very robust. That is borne out by the fact that Facciobene is continuing to enjoy a huge back log of commercial projects as is Miorelli who were the only two commercial contractors to even indicate a willingness to take on our project.

It appears interest rates have stabilized which will eliminate a potential problem that concerned us. Material costs have stabilized or are even declining slightly based on a little anecdotal evidence, which we should be able to use to our advantage as we negotiate the construction contract and budget.

What we should do - Complete the design phase and apply for our building permit, which is underway as of this writing. Then, immediately enter into construction contract negotiations, using all the arguments in our favor to get the best deal possible. We should be willing to walk away if we want to be sure we are getting the best deal. But if we can negotiate a contract within our budget at this time we should go ahead with the project now. Delaying the project because of broad market fears is likely to not be in our best interests. If we wait some undefined period, the design product will age and need to be reviewed and potentially modified to meet the needs of a future time or different contractor, all at added cost. Even with a broad market decline we could easily consume any potential cost reduction with these new expenses.

In the final analysis the reason to modify the club is to enhance the quality of the MYC experience. If it can be done within our budget, we should do it now.

The Board agrees with the Renovation Committee that this is the best plan of action to follow. I want to thank Chris for alerting us to the potential market changes. Having this information will help us in negotiating the best possible deal for the club renovation. If you would like to read the article that Chris sent to me, as of this writing it can still be found at:

http://money.cnn.com/2006/08/09/news/companies/toll_brothers/index.htm?cnn=yes .

Finally, we have heard from Hynes Properties, LLC about the Tire Store. They have agreed to continue to rent the property to us on a month-to-month basis. I have also received permission from them allowing us to paint the building and I am working on getting the OK for us to remove the sign on the northeast corner of the Tire Store property.

As usual, if there is anything you see that we need or need to do, please send me an email at ross2629@bellsouth.net (the best way), or catch me at a TGIF as I am usually there.

Ross Herbert, Commodore

BULLETIN BOARD

Youth

Big Kids Learn to Sail

Sure, watching kids learn to sail is a heart warming experience, but witnessing an adult's face light up when their little boat does what they want it to do is priceless. So it was with the adult sailing class. Thirteen men and women attended the first session. Whether they were sailing in a pram, a sunfish, a laser, or one of the big monohulls, everyone was respectful of their limited knowledge and the potential danger of an accidental jibe. Or was it a tack? To these novice sailors every direction was taken seriously. As each session progressed, confidence grew. Our wandering sailor, Eve finally figured out how to sail within a prescribed area of the river. MYC's very own Winnie Lambert won her first race, skippering alone in a Sunfish! The following week Winnie was challenged by Sharon Kelly, the great Peruvian hiker. It was really exciting to watch these ladies sport their competitive side. Mike, Shawn, Jennifer, and Corrine enjoyed sailing with their 'significant others.' Each admitted that being forced to take the helm in a boat by themselves proved to be their real accomplishment.

As a sailing instructor I learned 3 valuable lessons: (a) two adults can fit in a pram, (b) John MacNeil is the sail committee extraordinaire, and (c) we need calming voices like Simon Koumijian's.

Learning to crew is valuable whether you are on a cruise or racing in world class competition. If you want a truly winning team, you need to take the helm. It is the only way to understand why crew need to do what they are doing. I urge all boat owners to insist your crew take a small boat sailing course. Here's an idea instead of practicing only on your big boat, have a small boat sailing day when each crew member takes out a pram, a sunfish, or a laser. John MacNeil, Simon Koumijian and I can easily be talked into assisting you organizing a fun teaching-your-crew-how-to-sail day.

Safe sailing to all,

*Marlene Sassaman, Youth
(aka Captain Sass)*

MYC Board/Officer Email Addresses

@melbourneyachtclub.com

mycboard@
commodore@
vicecommodore@
rearcommodore@
treasurer@
secretary@
dockmaster@
entertainment@
fleet@
membership@
youth@

NEW Newsletter address:

myc-news@

Your Mother Doesn't Live Here

Remember the sign in your college dorm that said "Your Mother doesn't live here—please clean up after yourself"?

Please keep that in mind when you're leaving a table in the bar—take a minute to clean up after yourself and your friends...

Eve in the Pram and Sueann in the Sunfish plying the Indian River Lagoon with their new sailing skills



Got a contribution for the newsletter?

E-mail it to:
tell-tale@

melbourneyachtclub.com

Please include your name & phone number.

Also include captions with any pictures you submit including names, dates, places, etc

Dockmaster Report

Musings on Ernesto:

The major event for this past month was Ernesto. Although it turned into pretty much a non-event, it was a good dry run for us to do our hurricane preparations. When all was said and done, the club was in good shape for the onset of the storm, but it wasn't pretty getting there. Overall, I would give us a C+. The major short-coming was missing the time line by a lot. At the end of the 18-hour window following the posting of the official hurricane warning, we were in pretty sad shape. I would estimate that less than 20% of the boats stored at the club were properly secured.

Allowing for the fact that the storm slowed down and we had more time after the 18-hour window, I would offer the following observations: A number of folks contacted me and let me know that they were definitely coming to secure their vessels and what time they expected to be there. That is fine with me if I know your plans and agree to them.

By Tuesday afternoon, most of the club was secured properly with a few exceptions. The dock committee and fleets did not secure the prams, lasers, and sunfish per the policy. The house committee made up for this. The other problem area was the boats stored on the northwest hillside. Few, if any, of the owners moved their vessels to the east yard as required or even made any attempt to secure the loose parts on them.

Overall, it was projected to be a minimal storm from the beginning and perhaps that explains the slow response. We should all remember how quickly these storms can intensify. Last year alone we had several storms grow from Cat 1 or 2 to 4 or 5 in 12 hours. We cannot be lulled into security. Just think how different things would have been if we awoke Tuesday morning to find the storm had become a Cat 4 overnight and the preparations weren't done. Now all of a sudden all this boat preparation had to be done along with preparing your house and possibly making evacuation arrangements also and only 12-18 hour to do so. That is why we agreed to the current policy so that we wouldn't be faced with those hard choices at the last minute.

I am making arrangements to be able to get messages to the membership more quickly and frequently. I also ask that as storms begin to threaten, that you check your e-mail frequently to get directions from the dockmaster as we move through the timelines and you can communicate your plans back.

Thanks again to all who did get us prepared in the end and to the house committee for their final preparations of the shortcomings they uncovered. Let's all hope we are done with this for this year and can go about enjoying our boats again.

Bob Bagnell, Dockmaster

Membership Report

New Members:

Michael & Jane McClain, sponsored by Jerry Ross.

Barbara McIntyre, sponsored by Jerry Ross

Richard & Sharon Krubel, sponsored by Michael & Tandy Copps

James & Becky Henry, sponsored by Rochelle Yates

Ron & Carol Osler, sponsored by Steve Shippee.

David Gibbon, sponsored by Art Ahrens.

New Nominations:

Dave Levinthal, sponsored by Rochelle Yates.

Dave has been sailboat racing since 1968. He was a member of the Santa Monica Yacht Club from youth to 2003, and his father was commodore of SMYC in 1995. Dave has raced Sabot's, Lasers, 470's, 420's and lots of big boats. He also piloted a Shock 35 for 5 years. He moved to Florida in 2001 and purchased Nissens Body Shop located in Palm Bay. Dave lives in Indian Harbor Beach, and wants to get back into racing at MYC along with his two children. He presently sails with Jim Henry on Mouse.

Membership Data: Resident = 166, Non Resident = 25, Corinthian = 14, Honorary = 13

I have additional membership cards, for members who have a need for a second card, also new Club Bureaus with MYC red logo are in our ships locker.

Stephen Shippee, Membership

Sailing Duettes Meet Surfer Dudes at Beach Party!



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Melbourne Yacht Club 28TH MERMAID REGATTA September 23 & 24, 2006

Two days of great racing on the beautiful Indian River Lagoon for Women Only*

Saturday—PHRF Spinnaker and Nonspinnaker • **Sunday**—Sunfish, Laser, and Monohull Portsmouth**

**Female skipper and all girl crew required on all boats. One male "observer only" permitted on board PHRF boats if desired.*

***Additional one-design classes offered if requested before September 14. Four boats constitute a class.*

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, Sept. 19

6:30 p.m. Racing Rules and Tactics Seminar by Jim Edwards. Pizza available

Saturday, Sept. 23 PHRF Spinnaker and Nonspinnaker

9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Registration
11:00 a.m. Skippers' meeting
12:30 p.m. First start
3:30 p.m. Boats greeted at dock by surfer dudes bearing liquid refreshment
4:00 p.m. Bar opens
5:30 p.m. Surfing music provided by DJ (Phoenix Entertainment)
6:00 p.m. Beach Party begins and Dinner served
7:00 p.m. Awards and Raffle (Littlest Mermaid award presented Sunday)

Sunday, Sept. 24 One-Design Monohulls

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Registration
11:00 a.m. Skippers' meeting
Noon First start
2:30 p.m. Boats greeted at dock by surfer dudes bearing liquid refreshment
3:00 p.m. Bar opens/Hot dogs served
3:00 p.m. Awards and Raffle

Entry Fees

\$40 PHRF (includes one dinner/additional dinners \$12)
\$20 One-Designs

Housing

Housing available in member's homes. See our Web site, listed below, for camping or hotel information.

Shirts

(choice of women's pink polo, pink scoop neck tee or men's gray polo)

Shirts available for pick-up at regatta but must be ordered in advance. See our Web site below for style and size information.

Saturday Night Beach Party

Dinner Menu

Choice of Bitchin' Burger or Cool Chick sandwich served w/Cowabunga Clam Chowder, fresh veggies, chips and brownies \$12/person

(Advance reservations appreciated.)

Please specify burger or chicken.)

Entertainment includes

Limbo Contest

Hula Contest

After-Dinner Dancing

Beach Party Music by
Phoenix Entertainment DJs

For more details see our Web site: www.sail-race.com/myc/mermaid.htm

For more information, contact Phil Spletter/Regatta Chairman/Fleet Captain 321-773-5848/pspletter@cfl.rr.com

For housing, dinner and shirt reservations, contact Fleet Captain above or Rachele Ross 321-254-8326/jerryrachele@earthlink.net)

Fleet Report

Preparations are well underway for the Mermaid Regatta. The weekend begins on Tuesday night (my kind of weekend!), September 19, with a seminar given by Jim Edwards. In between the big boat racing on Saturday and the small boat racing on Sunday, Rachele Ross has a surf/beach theme party planned. Since Rachele is planning the party, you know you won't want to miss it. John Fox is leading the RC for Saturday and Gerry Moores is putting things together for Sunday so good racing is assured.



Dave Noble is working hard to put together a top notch Fall Regatta Race Week so make plans to sail and/or help with that one as well.

The rest of the usual racing activities are chugging along with good turn outs for all, especially the Friday night Rum Racing and Sunday afternoon small boat sailing. With fall approaching, we need to decide if and how to continue the Thursday night spinnaker racing that we experimented with this summer. We have been averaging about 5 boats per race and the vibe that I pick up indicates that those who sail are having a good time. Over the next few weeks I'll be seeking input and trying to figure out the best way to continue or if this be a summer only series. If you have any thoughts, please let me know.

One final word about safety at these events. MYC organizes these races but each skipper is responsible for the well being of their boat and crew. This is especially true for the Thursday and Friday night races that do not have a RC. Our summertime weather conditions can change quickly so please use your best judgment.

See you at the club and on the water!

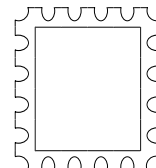
Phil Spletter, Fleet Captain

**MELBOURNE
YACHT CLUB**



1202 E. RIVER DR., MELBOURNE, FL 32901

**FIRST
CLASS
MAIL**



The Tell Tale is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Yacht Club. Deadline for submissions is the first Wednesday of the month. All MYC members are encouraged to submit articles or notices of interest to the Club.