

MAIN SHEET

Sailing Singles of South Florida

Newsletter



Up Coming Events

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MAIN SHEET CONTEST

WRITE UP YOUR WORST or BEST SAILING ADVENTURE AND SUBMIT IT TO
Karen.Dynamic@Me.com
 Winning Story will be printed in the following Newsletter.



Mardi Gras Masquerade Party

Carol Rappaport hosted a fabulous party to celebrate Mardi Gras! Our Single Sailors took advantage of the opportunity to dress up and PARTY!

Go to our [Facebook](#) page or website to view all the photos. Thank you Carol for your incredible hospitality! It was another fabulous event building many memories for our members.



SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA



The One That Got Away at the Circle Raft Up!

By Mike Sawsak

It all began with a north wind. Just great, Bleu Bayou just happened to be heading north from Port Everglades to Lake Boca for the Hillsboro Inlet Sailing Club's annual 2014 Change of Command Circle Raft Up. With the wind on our nose we motor sailed to Hillsboro Inlet where the fun began.

An outgoing tide was flowing rapidly through the Hillsboro Inlet and the narrow bridge guarding the entrance to the Intracoastal Waterway. It was like a fast flowing river! Bleu Bayou limped through the open bridge against the ripping current at 1.5 knots. We barely missed an outgoing vessel who surfed out and was not in control, a very near miss. Moments later, after we cleared the bridge but our hearts still pumping fast, an outbound sailboat was attempting to wait for the inbound traffic to clear. The current turned her 180 degrees and they lost control. They actually went through the bridge backwards...stern first. I'll never forget watching a furled jib going through the bridge last as if it was the backstay. I have a boat full of witnesses and a lot of power boat radio chatter congratulating the captain on a successful, although unusual and accidental, maneuver.

Two more bridges then we approached the building circle raft up. The raftmaster Hal was very diligent in monitoring his radio with concise instructions on where and how to join the raft up. The circle was closed with a lot of winching and very little drama and luckily with not too much wind!! That's when I celebrated the closing of the circle by waving the Spanish Mackerel I had caught trolling. My pride instantly vanished as all eyes were on me. The fish escaped my grip and plummeted back to where it came from! Laughter erupted around me. The one that got away!!! No spirit was dampened as our events continued.

The Change of Command ceremony was next, although there was some difficulty raising the flag up the dinghy mast. The present and past Commodores finally sorted it out and up it went as the circle spectators waited patiently hoisting their drinks. The traditional HISC appetizer exchange was next with everyone in their dinghies passing trays of yummys around. Afterwards we all retired to either party, walk the circle or really retire for the night. HISC must have a group of new members...one particular boat danced and partied into the night!! Sunday morning was Mimosa and Mrs. T's Bloody Mary time!!!!

Between 11:30 to 12 noon the circle began breaking up and we all headed in our own directions. Bleu Bayou headed south on the ICW, this time surfing outbound in the ripping outgoing tide through the Hillsboro inlet. We enjoyed the most wonderful and pleasant sail back to Ft Lauderdale. Sail speed 5.5 knots steady with a 10-15 knot easterly wind. Looking forward to next years raft up. Thank you HISC for another awesome and successful circle raft up and a job well done!!!!



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SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Adventures with Captain Bizarro by Karen Foster

A Storm Sailing Expedition (Part 2 of 2)

Sailing! That's what you thought this was all about! It was great. We learned storm sailing by doing it. Our captain wasn't that great at teaching us about how to trim our sails. He'd just stick his head out the companion way and tells us to keep the sails quiet while he was trying to sleep. He'd also ask us not to talk on our watches if he was trying to sleep. So there was a whole lot of whispering and real quiet watches.

Our first leg was 16 days at sea without seeing another boat or land. Once we got to shore we waited on the boat for two hours since we were told the Captain had to clear us through customs before we could go ashore. He came back and told us about customs and going to the post office and the nice stamps they had. They had gone to the bank, rented bikes and picked up some bread; all while we waited to get the word that we could go ashore.

I thought Jim was going to explode while the Captain was explaining his activities on shore while we all sat there in the sweltering heat waiting. It was such a control thing. It was too late for the crew to get to the bank and get any money. They didn't take US currency. Fortunately, the stores around town extended us credit until the bank did open the following afternoon.

We got credit at a grocery store where we bought a bottle of wine and headed to the beach, escaping the Captain's world. For the first time in 16 days, we could consume something other than water or tea. We were smart enough to know we needed a cork screw but as we sat down on the beach realized we didn't have any glasses. For the first time in my life I was swigging wine from a bottle. Almost 50 years old and drinking wine on the beach from a brown paper bag. We enjoyed a glorious sunset while we bitched to each other about the Captain. I had asked the Captain if Jim and I could spend a night on the island at a hotel. I told him I was dying to have a bath. He said "No, we've tried that once before and it just doesn't work. It's too disruptive."

I promised we would be extremely good about returning on time and wouldn't be disruptive in anyway. I was told NO. If we wanted to, we could leave the expedition at this point, (As if that wouldn't have been disruptive.) but that it just wouldn't work. I quickly retorted, "No, I can't leave the expedition just yet because I still haven't learned the main things I've come to learn, like Man Overboard and storm sailing techniques." I walked away.

The island was great and the people were so wonderful. They brought us bananas, and huge grapefruits (pamplemousse). The island was so clean and organized. I intend to return to Ruruto someday when the humpback whales are there. You can snorkel and dive with humpbacks!

Jim and I had dinner at a lovely hotel and we ended up telling our crew all about it. The next night we all had dinner at the hotel where the regular hotel guests entertained us with stories. It was so much fun trying to converse in broken French. Somehow the room was filled with laughter all evening regardless of the communication difficulties. The rest of our crew was so grateful to have an evening off the boat with such wonderful people. They figured Jim and I really knew how to travel. We always go for the best! (Continued on Page 4 / Photos on Page 8)



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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

SSSF Members with April Birthdays: Elaine Gershenovich 4/2, Siri Pilitsis 4/6, Charlie Burga 4/8, Gabriela Manley 4/11, Angela Glad 4/12, Bill Seed 4/15, Bill Roberts 4/16, Bob Mifsud 4/17, Mike Sawzak & John Baird 4/21, Ron Kulick 4/29. Join us at our Thursday Night Social at Lauderdale Grill at 6:30 pm on the March 27th to celebrate our April Birthdays. Thank you Marialda Cabral for donating the Birthday cake!

SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

(Continued from Page 3)

The Captain had been trying, since arriving on the island to get 10 5-gallon jugs filled with water. However, all his knowledge and connections only lead him to a restaurant that could do it for about \$175 dollars. So he had decided to do without getting any water. Jim just talked with the owner of the hotel that had been feeding us and doing our laundry and they offered to do it for nothing. So they helped us fill and lug all our jugs into their truck and then down to the boat. The Captain seemed a wee bit thankful but also seemed "One-upped."

We sailed to a couple of different islands. Huahine, Moorea, and Tahiti. Each island being just a wonderful adventure with lots to see. Don't ever let anyone tell you there are all sorts of incredibly beautiful Tahitian girls on these islands. Poor Shawn, a young financial advisor or consultant from San Francisco, quickly realized that they were only on the postcards. But the people are very nice.

Approaching the islands was always a real trip. Our Captain would make us stand on the pulpits, by the mast, so we could get better vision of any possible coral heads. We'd be standing up there for more than half an hour sometimes with water depths too deep to register on our depth sounder. It was embarrassing sometimes as other boats went by. The Captain considered this getting experience doing coral navigation. We were to pay close attention to the changing color of the water. It was "Overkill X Ten!"

Docking and anchoring were embarrassing to me too. Jim is so experienced that when we pull up to a dock, any dock, on the Sea Monkey or any other boat we've chartered, it goes as smooth as laying a baby in a cradle. Of course, Jim allows the life lines to be lowered so I just hop off with the bow line and take it to a cleat while Jim, with the motor in neutral, leaves the helm and walks through the "gate" with the stern line. Captain Bizarro stresses all the complications of every place we docked or anchored. Then he dumps the anchor without even backing down on it or he'll tie up to a dock where all the tension is on one spring line and never even bother to correct it.

Each time we got to get off the boat it was like our crew bonded more and we were all madly wanting to escape from our Captain's grip. As soon as we were dropped ashore we would huddle around the dock and break out wine and cashews and nuts. We'd all trash the Captain, going over all the crazy things that were said or done and marvel in amazement how "Captina" could handle it. Clicking our "Wal*Mart Style" juice glasses of poor quality cabernet, we would drink up a bottle or two while scouting the horizon to make sure the Captain wasn't in sight.

One night, after the crew was out playing just a little too late, we got punished. A little passive aggressive behavior came out. The Captain decided that our anchor wasn't secure and with the winds picking up we were all going to have to do one hour anchor watches. After all, he and Captina had spent the whole night on board fearing the anchor could break lose and put the boat up on the sand just 50 feet away.

Don't ask me why he didn't fix it right the first time. He, also, always felt he couldn't leave the boat unattended. He made off hand remarks about "he doesn't know of any Tahitian who can't swim." I am almost positive no one would have done anything to the boat. It can be locked and secured and I was offended by his lack of faith in these people who were all so kind and generous. Maybe one would need to be more careful in Papeete, but not on the smaller islands. Speaking of Tahiti... (Continued on page 7 / Photos on Page 8)

Spinnaker Sponsors

There are now four levels of donation: Platinum: \$100.00, Gold: \$50.00, Silver: \$35.00, Bronze: \$20.00. If you see your donation is up for renewal, please rejoin (and upgrade if you can).

				Platinum – \$100.00					
James Buckmaster and Kathleen Eppler - March 2014									
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Rudy and Arlene Sprenger – July 2013					Mollie Meyers – September 2013				
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To become a Spinnaker Sponsor, donate \$20.00, \$35.00, \$50.00 or \$100.00 to the club which allows the club to provide more activities for its members. **WE NEED MORE SPONSORS. As you can see, a lot of memberships have expired. Please join or rejoin!**

SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

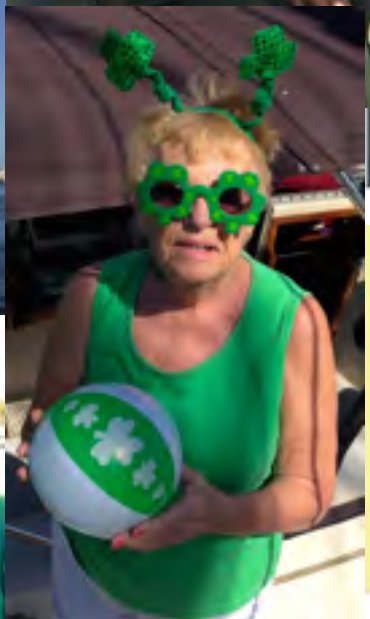
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Schedule of Events APRIL

APRIL 3rd General Meeting
Universal Palms Hotel. 7:30 pm
Bring Your Auction Items!

APRIL 6th Riverwalk Sunday Jazz Brunch 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
 Downtown Fort Lauderdale on the Riverwalk. Bring a dish to share!
 Great music, food and fun!

APRIL 10th Weekly social.
 Lauderdale Grille 6:30 pm 1901
 Cordova Rd, FLL

APRIL 12TH FULL MOON PARTY
 7:00 pm at Karen Foster's
 1370 S. Ocean Blvd,
 Pompano Beach, FL 33062

Don't Forget to RSVP!!!

APRIL 12th Departure to the Keys and the Dry Tortugas
Check with your Captain

APRIL 17th Weekly social.
 Lauderdale Grille 6:30 pm. Enjoy
 Their Bloody Marys! Best in Town

APRIL 24th Weekly social.
 Lauderdale Grille. 6:30 pm Come
 out and celebrate our May
 Birthdays!

SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Message From the Helm:

It's been a great first quarter. Membership is up with a high percentage of members rejoining; new members are coming in on a regular basis and our fleet of boats is increasing.

Our attempt at using [Meetup](#) has brought in a few members..by the way, you are all invited to join our [Meetup group](#) and type something about why you love the club. We currently have 24 members in our group. We all need to join so people realize the strength of our club. The Circle Raft up with the Hillsboro Inlet Sail Club was a great success with 25% of the boats being SSSF members.

I'm in communication with the commodores of both the Gulf Stream Sail Club and Hillsboro Inlet Sail Club. The plan is to have more joint activities like the Circle Raft up and Boatathalon scheduled for later in the year and we are hoping to add some additional events. Any ideas we could use to bring the clubs together for events will be considered. You've all heard about the Keys trip that James Bradford is putting together to the Dry Tortugas in April and there is talk of a Memorial Day trip to Bimini and an Abaco's trip for the regatta in July.

Your board is working hard to keep the club up beat with more fun times. We've had great parties and great raft ups with lots more of each in the works. Be on the lookout for the Hospice Regatta, May 17th.

Commodore Stan Dekiel



YOUR 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Boat Owners Representative	James Bradford	boatownersrepsssf@sailingsingles.org

SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Adventures with Captain Bizarro (Continued from Page 4)

DIFFERENT CUSTOMS

In Tahiti the last child born is charged with taking care of the parents so, regardless of whether or not it is a girl, it is dressed like a girl and treated like a female all its life. Most of these men, who were brought up as women, end up in the service industry, working at hotels, restaurants and bars.

CHECKING OUT

Our last day on the boat couldn't come soon enough. I really seriously considered telling the Captain that he could take his test and shove it. I refrained. However, the correcting process was self-correct. It made it much easier on all of us. The test was really asking for a lot more detail than I ever cared to put into my gray matter. The last question on the test was what did I learn that was of most value. My response was I learned a lot about strange psychological experiences. It wasn't mine, but the Captain's. It was like being stuck on the boat with Jack Nicholson's character in "As Good As It Gets."

The Captain left to check us into customs in Tahiti while we took our test. We all were completed and were packed and ready for our "Freedom" before he returned. So as a little token of our friendship Jim and I presented each crew member with their "Wal*mart Style juice glass" that had doubled as their wine glass. Jim had smuggled them off and on the boat each time. Each had a green strip of tape with their name on it, just like our One liter water bottles that we had been given for the trip. Merle, Caroline's husband, whom Jim and I had scared when we jumped out from behind some palms one dark night, got two baby wipes in his, for those times when the pooh is scared out of you. We got our certificates and we were done!!!!!!!!!!!!

Life on a boat doesn't have to be lived like that anymore than life in our homes would require us to use the Sear's catalogue for wiping our butts. We knew this boat trip would be challenging and that we'd need time to recover. We just had no idea how passionate we would feel about getting off that boat. Bora Bora was our reward; a well deserved reward after that trip. Besides, we couldn't get this close to Bora Bora and not go check it out.

BORA BORA

This is the closest place to "Heaven on Earth." We had reservations at the new Sheraton Hotel, Bora Bora Nui. As soon as you land the staff will greet you with a lei and take your baggage claim tickets from you. No need to wait for your luggage; they will get it. They bring you out to a luxurious yacht and while scenic videos are playing in the cabin they register you and provide you with cold water and a chocolate cake. This all takes place as the yacht heads pass incredible scenery to the hotel. We cruise 10-15 minutes through this azure blue lagoon to the lobby of the hotel.

We are greeted at the dock by musicians strumming some island music, as we are whisked away by a hostess in a golf cart who takes us to our "Over the water bungalow." She explains where everything is on the resort property from the different restaurants and lounges, to the shops and business center. She gives us the hours of the Health and Fitness center where we can schedule our massages. The gardens are incredible. The buildings are fabulous! There are beaches, pools, kayaks, Hobie Cats, all at our disposal. Snorkeling gear is provided in our rooms and there's a deck, with a shower off our bungalow.

There's coral and fish below our bungalow. The only rule here, according to our hostess is, "You have to feed the fish."

They leave French rolls out to tear apart and throw to the fish. As she opens the door to our bungalow I am taken back by the beauty of the décor and furniture. Immediately, she shows us around and tells us about the glass end tables that open up so you can throw food to the fish below. Oh, and if you want to feed the fish while bathing in their huge soaking tub, there is a glass panel the length of the tub that can be lifted up so you can drop the bread down to the fish below. At night it all lights up for you. I've stayed at five star hotels before, but this beats any place I've ever stay. Truly an incredible place.

At dinner time we had French Polynesian dancers perform for us. The food and service were top rate.

We took a snorkeling trip the next day and snorkeled with rays, sharks, eels and octopus. I've never had so many sharks around me before. What a kick! The water and coral were phenomenal.

We could only afford two days there, and that was at deeply discounted rate; over \$600 a night. (It's typically \$1200.) So next we were off to Rangirora.

RANGIRORA

Okay, so we are totally spoiling ourselves at this point. Another "over the water bungalow." This however is much older hotel and is nothing compared to the Bora Bora Nui. We wanted to get more diving in and Rangirora was the number one spot in the whole South Pacific. There we dove with sharks, dolphin, eels, turtles and all sorts of other tropical fish. I miss Bora Bora.

From there it was back to Tahiti and then home to Anchorage. It was great to arrive in Anchorage seeing it green and light past 11:00 pm. It didn't take long to get depressed though. I only get depressed until I figure out the next trip.

I feel so blessed and spoiled! God's created such an incredible world for us, here on earth. I have seen so much, but I want to see it all. What an incredible gift it is to travel and see all the beauty of the mountains, oceans and skies. Enjoying every sunset and all that's around us. Enjoying every moment.

Yep, next trip Monaco Yacht Show on the French Riviera! Une autre BonVoyage!

Executive Summary:

The sailing and islands were fabulous. The Captain was psychotic. Bora Bora is the closest place to Heaven on Earth! (See photos on Page 8)

SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA



[Go to Facebook to View More Pictures](#)

SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Howling at the Moon Party

April 12th, 7:00 pm

Hosted by Karen Foster

1370 S. Ocean Blvd. (Renaissance II)

Pompano Beach, FL 33062

Join us for Karaoke and / or a Beach Walk in search of turtles coming ashore to lay eggs.

Must RSVP to Denise Lush

Parking is limited!

As we've always done in the past, this is a BYOB (bring your own beverages) and a dish to share. The dish you bring will be assigned alphabetically by last name.

P-Z.....Appetizers

A-E.....Desserts

F-K.....Sides Dishes

L-O.....Main Dishes

RSVP to Denise Lush.

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We need to know who is coming. You will have to check in with the Security Guard.

[MAP](#)

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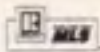
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SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Minutes from February 24, 2014 Board Meeting

Present: Stan, Ken, Nikki, James, Denise,
Dave M, Karen, Dave C

Absent: Fran

Meeting Called to order: 6:30 pm

Adjourned: 8:30pm

Gillian acting as Secretary in Fran's
absence

Vice Commodore:

Ken assured the board the IRS issue would
be resolved as soon as possible. Ken
made a motion not to discuss charities at all
for the next six months. After discussion he
withdrew his motion.

Ken stated he intends to hold the SOS on
May 3rd at Bob Mifsud's home with a
training sail to be held the following day,
May 4th.

Treasurer:


Nikki reported as of Feb 24th we have
\$27,184 in checking. There are outstanding
expenses for end of year gifts, Pink Book
and advertising. She has given Ken all of
the information going back seven years that
he needs to resolve the IRS issue. 2013
taxes will be filed on time.

Social Director:

Denise reported on the upcoming March 8th
party at Carol Rappaport's home. The
50/50 raffle earned \$2,200 last year. Denise
will keep up the momentum with raffles at
every social.

Membership Director:

Ben stated to date there are 159 members.
He discussed getting the Pink Book out in a
timely manner. We have a new Meetup account
and an ad in the Waterfront Times. (Continued
Page 11)



**4th Annual
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Saturday, May 17, 2014 • 11:00 am off the shores of Fort Lauderdale Beach
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SAILING SINGLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

(Minutes Continued from Page 10)

The deadline for all Pink Book submissions will be by the next board meeting.

Newsletter Director:

Karen is asking for news, stories and reports from all members. She plans to issue the newsletter around the 25th of each month. All board members involved in activities will submit a report. She will limit the number of photos for events and direct members to our Facebook page and Website for all the photos. No videos will be posted.

Sailing Director:

Dave M provided an update on the next organized sail for March 15th to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

He estimates 7 boats and stated he received positive feedback on the Valentine Raft up.

Responsibilities are being clarified between the Boat Owners Rep and the Sailing Director, whether or not he should support the HISC circle raft up and how to coordinate future sails to not conflict with other activities. He does not want to develop games for raft ups but will welcome another member to do so. He will have the information board at The Lauderdale Grill on Thursday's by 6:30p.

Boat Owner's Rep:

James described his plan of how the Florida Keys sail trip would evolve. Leaving sometime the first full week of April, The trip will take 2 to 6 weeks depending on each captain's plan. He expects all boats will leave about the same time. Some captains are setting up crew "relays" to participate in parts of the cruise. He'd like to be in Key West to participate in a festival which starts on April 15th.

A Memorial Day cruise is on the back burner but possibly not to Bimini because of the increased costs.

Media Director:

Dave C is requesting bios from each board member. He will update the board photograph. Board members can now make updates to the calendar directly. Email continues to be a problem. Bluehost is letting us down. It has become such a popular provider for inexpensive mailing that is filling with spam and porn and being blacklisted by receiving providers. Alternate providers are being checked out. Any member who knows he/she is not receiving email should contact Dave directly ASAP.

Old Business:

The Super Bowl Party at Jim Buckmasters house was much better than the game we watched but due to the large amount of people there we aggravated an angry toilet system and caused some screen door damage. Jim was gracious enough to donate the cost of any repairs to the club. The board voted to give him a Platinum Spinnaker Sponsorship for the donation.

Next board meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2014

Submitted by Gillian O'Neill, condensed by Stan DeKiel

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