

Luff n Laff

Happy New Year!!



Cruising & Racing Events

1/3-5/2020 – Fri – Sun – GCSC New Year's Regatta –
NOR/information in newsletter. **Everyone is welcome!**

1/3/2020 – Friday – Skipper's Meeting - Riptide
Brewing Co. at 6:30 – Great place to get on a boat

1/4/2020 - Saturday – New Year's Regatta

1/5/2020 – Sunday - Awards Brunch at Naples Sailing
& Yacht Club, 10 am, \$35 for Brunch

1/18-20/2020 – Sat - Mon – GCSC – Cruise to Pink
Shell Marina on Fort Myer's Beach

Welcoming in the New Year

GCSC Facebook Page -

<https://www.facebook.com/gulfcoastsailingclub/>

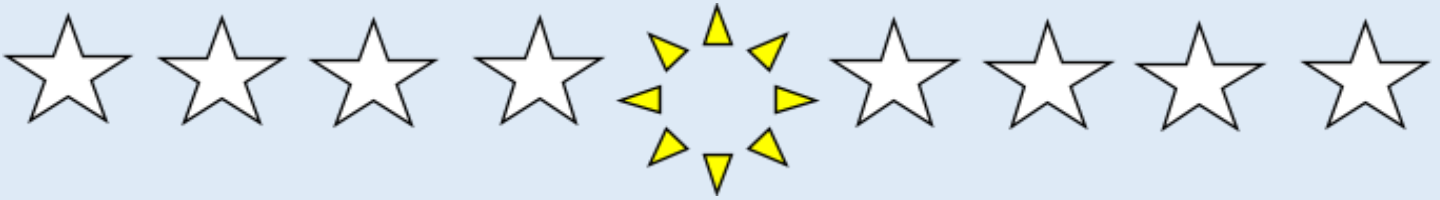


January 2020

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

In this edition (in order)

- **GCSC Commodore Seaby Bess**
- **Bob Diamond – NEW 2019 – 2020**
Calendar of Events
- **Help Wanted:**
Graphic Design & Wordpress
for Communication Team
- **1/3-5/2020 – GCSC New Year's**
Regatta – Weekend of FUN!!
NOR & information in this issue
- **1/8/2020 Wed 6pm - Wed**
Membership Meeting at River
Park Community Center – 301
11th St. N. Naples, FL – Chowder
Competition – Make your best
Chowda! Information Inside.
Everyone is welcome!
- **1/12/2020 – Sun – Sugden Sailing**
at Avalon Park in Naples – We
have a great team planning fun
events for this one.
Sugden Olympics -
- **DATE CHANGE - 1/16/2020 –**
Thurs – Spring Cruise planning
evening
Spring Cruise 2020 – Come to
the planning meeting on January
16th – More information in the Luff
N Laff
- **1/18-20/2020 – Sat – Mon– GCSC**
– MLK Weekend at Pink
Shell Marina on Fort Myers
Beach. – more details later



Betti and I had the honor of reconnecting with family up North last month for a wedding at Starved Rock. We enjoyed a cabin with a fireplace but very much missed our beautiful weather here.

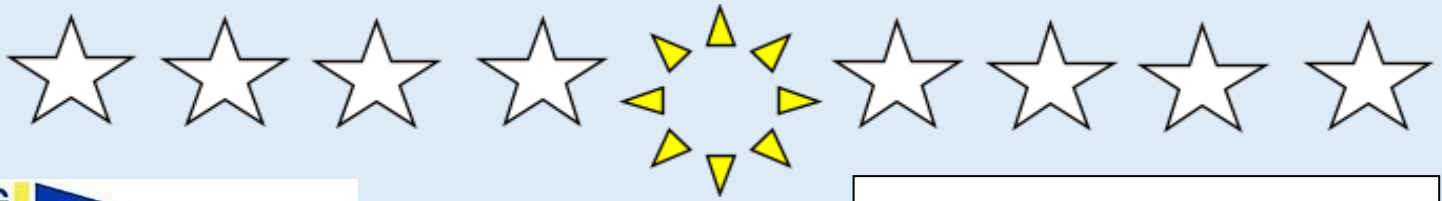
With the New Year we make resolutions and mine is to sail my boat More! As I have said in our meetings I just ask you bring an escort since I am a very happily married man and intend to stay that way. If you have joined our group and have not gotten out on a boat feel free to reach out.

For January we hit the ground running. Our Board meeting takes place at Windstar Country Club at 7:00 pm on January 2nd thanks to Bob Diamond. If you are interested in joining the board or volunteering this is a good place to start to see the inner workings of our club. Everyone is welcome and we meet on the second floor near the front. On January 3rd I will be hosting the Skippers meeting for the New Years Regatta at Riptide Brewery at 6:30. If you are interested in crewing or racing and or need crew this is the meeting to be at. We will go over the sailing instructions and answer any questions you may have. There also will be food provided by the Motor City Food Truck if your interested. Our first 2020 race will take place Saturday January 4th near the Naples Pier. The award ceremony will be at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club Sunday the 5th. You do not have to race to attend the brunch at NSYC. It's a beautiful venue and a great way to meet other people in the club.

For our membership meeting on the 8th we are having a CHOWDA CONTEST, bring it loud and bring it proud if you have a recipe for such. Instead of a speaker we will be talking about the organization as a whole and where we can use some help. On January 15th Bob Diamond is hosting an organizational meeting for a cruise to the Bahamas and Dry Tortugas. Our cruising fleet is going to the Pink Shell in Fort Myers on January 18th- 20th which is a sail to or drive to event. No reason to stay home in the month of January. See you on the water.

Captain Seaby Commodore Seaby captseaby@at-your-command.com 630-327-9772





2019/2020 Season

Southwest Florida Inter-Club

Cruising and Day Sailing Programs

From: GCSC Fleet Captain Cruising - Bob Diamond



Sailing and Boating come in many different flavors so that all of us can easily find a favorite to enjoy.

Saturday, December 14th was the Lighted Holiday Boat Parade in Naples' Harbor. Both the Naples and the Marco Parades were in our December Calendar.



This is a fun event that can be watched from a boat on the water including all the local tour boats or from the shore at the Naples Municipal Docks. If you missed this year's Parade, look for it on Next year's GCSC Calendar. If you own a Sail or Power Boat, think about entering next year's parade. It is Fun for the whole family.

We have Scheduled a full Calendar of Cruising Events for 2020. Please review our Events Calendar and Posters in this Issue. Then, please mark your own personal calendar with the Cruising events you wish to join.

Some upcoming January and February 2020 Highlights :

- 1> **Bahamas and Florida Keyes Cruise Skippers' Meeting** . Open to all Members interested in learning about our March Cruise to the Florida Keys and Exuma Cays, Bahamas. **Thurs. Evening 1/16 7PM -Windstar.**
- 2> **Pink Shell (Fort Myers Beach) Cruise.** This is a Cruise to a Resort Marina Hotel with "Drive To" events at the Marina, the resort Hotel and in town. Sat, Sun & Mon 1/18,19,20 – MLK 3-Day Holiday Weekend.

- 3> **Our “Green Flash” Sunset Cruise on the Keewaydin Queen.** All members welcome – No Fee - 40 seats available and Volunteers of local Clubs given preference. RSVP early for seats. Sunday 2/9.
- 4> **Cruising in Florida, the Bahamas, The Caribbean and the Rest of the World on your Boat or a Charter-** Presented at our February General Meeting Wednesday, 2/12.
- 5> **Panther Key Pre-Cruise Dinner Party at ZAZA Mexican Restaurant on Marco –** All Members welcome – a “Drive To” party. Friday 2/14.
- 6> **Panther Key Holiday Weekend Cruise.** This is a “Sail To” only cruise to an uninhabited Island in the Keys about 25 miles south of Marco via the outside route and for smaller boats, less than half that distance on the inside route.

We anchor in the harbor of Panther Key. Events include a Beach BBQ Lunch and an Evening Beach Bonfire with sundowners. Dink Ferry Service and Skippers instructions provided. All Power and Sail Boats Welcome. Sat, Sun & Mon 2/15,16 & 17.

Please review our Sailing Events Calendar below and **Mark YOUR CALENDAR** with your favorite events. Please see the Sponsoring Club’s Website and Newsletter Posters for actual event details.

Bob Diamond 239 404 4844 rmdiamond@aol.com

You Are Invited



Gulf Coast Sailing Club

Sailing Calendar 2019 / 2020








(As of 12/9/2019)

January 2020

- | | | | |
|--------|---|-----------|--------------|
| 1> 🚌 | New Year’s Cup Regatta Skippers’ Meeting - GCSC | Friday | 1/3 |
| 2> ⚓ | New Year’s Cup Regatta - GCSC | Saturday | 1/4 |
| 3> 🚌 | New Year’s Cup Regatta Awards’ Party - GCSC | Sunday | 1/5 |
| 4> 🚌 | GCSC Members’ Meeting – River Park Com. Center | Wednesday | 1/8 |
| 5> 🚌 | Sugden Lake Sailing and training - GCSC | Sunday | 1/12 |
| 6> 🚌 | Bahamas Cruise Skippers Meeting – GCSC | Thursday | 1/16 |
| 7> ⚓ 🚌 | MLK Weekend Cruise to Pink Shell - GCSC | Sat-Mon | 1/18, 19, 20 |

February 2020

- | | | | |
|------|---|----------|-----|
| | Super Bowl Sunday 2020 - Good Luck & Have Fun | Sunday | 2/2 |
| 1> 🚌 | Winter Commodore’s Cup Skippers’ Meeting – CMCS | Friday | 2/7 |
| 2> ⚓ | Winter Commodore’s Cup Regatta – CMCS | Saturday | 2/8 |
| 3> 🚌 | Winter Commodore’s Cup Awards Party – CMCS | Saturday | 2/8 |

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------|
| 4>  Sunset Cruise on Keewaydin Queen for Club Volunteers | Sunday | 2/9 |
| 5>  GCSC Members' Meeting – River Park Com. Center | Wed. | 2/12 |
| 6>  GCSC Panther Key Mexican Dinner Party on Marco | Friday | 2/14 |
| 7>  Pres. Day Weekend Cruise to Panther Key - GCSC | Sat-Mon | 2/15,16 & 17 |
| 8>  Sugden Lake Sailing and training - GCSC | Sunday | 2/16 |
| 9>   Bahamas Cruise to Exumas – Will Discuss – Dates Open – Call Bob Diamond 1 239 404 4844 | | |






March 2020





- | | | |
|---|----------|------------------------|
| 1>  Offshore Regatta Skippers' Meeting - GCSC | Friday | 3/6 |
| 2>  Day Sail & Raft Up Champney Bay, Naples - GCSC | Saturday | 3/7 (High Tide @ noon) |
| 3>  Naples to Ft. Myers Offshore Regatta - CMCS | Saturday | 3/7 |
| 4>  Spring Offshore Regatta Awards' Party | Saturday | 3/7 |
| 5>  GCSC Members' Meeting – River Park Com. Center | Wed. | 3/11 |
| 6>  The Classic Regatta Skippers' Meeting - GCSC | Friday | 3/20 |
| 7>  The Classic Regatta – GCSC | Saturday | 3/21 |
| 8>  Classic Regatta Awards Brunch GCSC - NSYC | Sunday | 3/22 |
| 9>  Sugden Lake Sailing and training - GCSC | Sunday | 3/29 |
| 10>  Cayo Costa Cruise – SAMI | Thursday | 3/26,27,28,29 |

April 2020

- | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1>  Bud Light Skippers' Meeting - SAMI | Friday | 4/3 |
| 2>  Bud Light Regatta, Buoy Races – SAMI | Saturday | 4/4 |
| 3>  Bud Light Fun Pursuit Distance Race – SAMI | Sunday | 4/5 |
| 4>  Bud Light Regatta Awards' Dinner – SAMI | Sunday | 4/5 |
| 5>  GCSC Members' Meeting – River Park Com. Center | Wed. | 4/8 |
| 6>  Day Sail & Raft Up Champney Bay, Naples - GCSC
PM) | Saturday | 4/11(High Tide @ 2:45 |
| 7> Easter Sunday 2020 | Sunday | 4/12 |
| 8>  Sugden Lake Sailing and training - GCSC | Sun. | 4/19 |
| 9>  Point South Cruise to Panther Key - CMCS | Thurs.- Tues | 4/16-4/19 |
| 10>   Sanibel Marina Cruise - SAMI | Fri – Sun. | 4/24-26 |
| 11>  Messmer Cup Regatta, Skippers' Meeting - NSYC | Friday | 4/26 |
| 12>  Messmer Cup Regatta - NSYC | Saturday | 4/25 |
| 13>  Messmer Cup Awards Brunch - NSYC | Sunday | 4/26 |

May 2020

- | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|
| 1>  GCSC Members' Meeting – Harold's Place | Wednesday | 5/13 |
| 2>  Most Memorable Regatta, Skippers' Meeting – NSYC | Thursday | 5/14 |
| 3>  Most Memorable Regatta to Tampa Bay* - NSYC | Fri & Sat | 5/15,16 |
| 4>  Most Memorable Regatta Awards' Party - DIYC | Sunday | 5/17 |
| 5>  Return Regatta to Fort Myers*Skippers' Meeting - DIYC | Thursday | 5/21 |

- 6>  Return Regatta to Fort Myers* - NSYC & DIYC Fri & Sat 5/22,23
- 7>  Return Regatta Awards Party – Bonita Bill’s Ft Myers Beach Sunday 5/24
- 8>   Punta Gorda – Fisherman’s Village Cruise - SAMI Thurs.–Tues. 5/21 -26

June to August 2020

See our Summer Events Schedule to be Published in the Spring of 2020.

Notes:

- 1> Please see Sponsoring Club’s Website and Newsletters for actual event details.

Local Sailing Clubs:

CMCS – Caloosahatchee Marching & Chowder Society – www.cmcs-sail.org

DIYC - Davis Island Yacht Club www.diyc.org

GCSC - Gulf Coast Sailing Club www.gulfcoastsailingclub.com





MIYC – Marco Island Yacht Club – www.marcoislandyachtclub.net

NSYC – Naples Sailing & Yacht Club – www.thensyc.com

NYC – Naples Yacht Club – www.naplesyc.com

SAMI- Sailing Association of Marco Island – www.samisailor.org

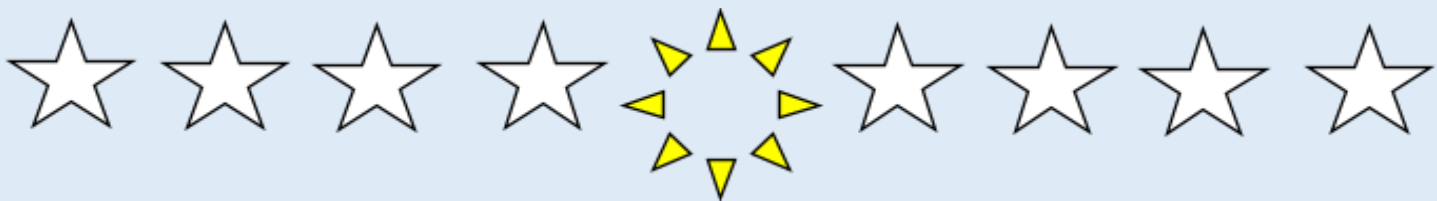
SPYC – St. Petersburg Yacht Club - www.spyc.org

- 2>  The Sail Boat icon indicates an event that requires a boat to participate. Power Boats are welcome on Cruises, Raft Ups and as spectator or support vessels for Sail Boat races.
-  The Automobile icon indicates an event that can be driven to. These events offer a great way to participate even if you are not a boat owner or on a crew. All GCSC Members and Members of affiliated Clubs are welcome to join in the fun at all of our events.
- 3> * The May Regattas to/from Tampa Bay will have a “Cruiser Sail Along” with FREE Dockage in Tampa Bay for both Racers and Cruisers.
- 4>   Bahamas Cruise to Exumas – Will Discuss – Dates Open – Call Bob Diamond 1 239 404 4844



Awards Brunch at the Naples Sailing & Yacht Club for the Naples Offshore Regatta in December





Many thanks go out to all those who volunteered to serve on the Board and those who volunteered to help out with committees for next year. Please think about how you can help as we need your help to be successful.

Commodore - Seaby Bess
Vice Commodore - Chuck Downton
Rear Commodore - John Steiner
Treasurer - Paul Carlson
Secretary - Roseann Smith
Membership Committee--- Terry Nauck & Joan Kachel
Fleet Captain – Racing---Frank Brown
Fleet Captain—Cruising---Bob Diamond
Race Committee---Susan Watkins, Chair
Sugden Coordinator – Vedran Vicevic
Speaking/Events Coordinator – Chuck Downton
Land Side Food Service--- Shelly Russo and Jeff Gage, Chairs
Public Relations -----Vicki Livingston, Chair
Social Media – Roseanne Catalano Smith
Webmaster -- Cliff Elam
Communications Coordinator — Jonnie Westerop

As you know but might not appreciate fully, the Gulf Coast Sailing Club exists because of its wonderful volunteers. Each year we, the club members, select officers from the membership to guide our club forward but many more volunteers are needed for the club to survive and thrive. Please visit the Club's web page at www.gulfcoastsailingclub.org to check out events coming up.



GCSC Christmas Party 2019



Help Wanted: Graphic Design & WordPress

We have a great group of volunteers on our Communications Team for GCSC and need of a few more skilled supporters.

Graphic Design: We need help in formatting and design for our various event collateral such as 'flyers' for digital emails, print and promotional items (T-shirts). It would be helpful to have a simple 'plug and play' design that we can just use to update information for our various activities such as the monthly Sugden Sundays or meetings. If you have access to software for design and are willing to spend some of your time volunteering with the Communications team... we really will love to have your help!

Web WordPress: There is lots of information on our website and we want to make it easier and better. At some point in the next few months, we will likely develop a new site with Club Express and their template that is award-winning for organizations like ours. However, we need more volunteers with some experience in WordPress to make our new site look great by uploading content and maintaining content. Please help!

Email or call Vicki Livingston at vlivingston33@gmail.com or 414 688 9000 if you want to get involved!

Other members of the Communication Team include:

Newsletter Luff N' Laugh - Jonnie Westerop

Facebook- Rosanne Smith

Photography - Roseanne Smith, Frank & Mae Brown, Jonnie Westerop

Writers - Alison O'Reilly, Vicki Livingston, Juanita Carlson

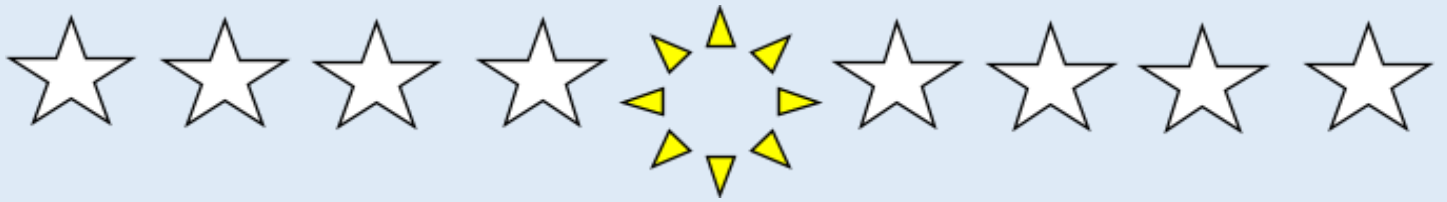
Meet Up, Surveys and Media Database (now doing flyers too!) - Maurice Scully and Vicki Livingston

Website Development - Cliff Elam

Vicki Livingston (oversight) and Chuck Downton (Rear Commodore) leadership.

Join us! Team will have a get together in January





GCSC New Year's Race Skippers Meeting

GCS New Year's Race Skippers meeting



Friday, January 3rd, 2019

6:30 pm in the beer garden

987 3rd Ave N Naples, FL 34102

Motor City Food truck will be there also



Any questions contact Seaby Bess 630-327-9772

Captseaby@at-your-command.com

If you are looking to crew, or for crew this is the meeting to attend

Notice of Race

Gulf Coast Sailing Club in cooperation with NSYC.

New Year's Regatta

Saturday, January 4, 2020

1. Management:

The organizing authority for this regatta is the GCSC. GCSC will have the authority to interpret the conditions governing the event, assign boats to classes and reserve the right to reject the entry of any entrant as governed by the rules as defined in the current *Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*.

2. Rules:

The regatta is governed by the rules as defined in the current *Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*, the class rules of the West Florida Performance Handicap Racing Federation (WFPHRF), this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.

3. Eligibility:

The race is open to mono-hull and multi-hull sailing boats measuring a minimum overall length of Nineteen feet (19').

4. Classes:

4.1 For purposes of scoring and awards, one-design classes shall have a minimum of five entries. One-design classes will be assigned to Class III and will have a separate start and will be scored separately.

4.2 All other classes shall have a minimum of three entries and will be divided as follows:

4.2.1 For starts on the race course, the classes will be divided as follows: Class I – PHRF Spinnaker Class; Class II-PHRF True Cruising and Non-Spinnaker Class. Depending on the number of entrants in each class, the Race Committee may choose to divide Class I and/or Class II and provide separate starts that correspond to the classes as delineated in 4.2.2.

4.2.2 For scoring purposes, the classes will be divided as follows: PHRF Spinnaker A, PHRF Spinnaker B; PHRF True Cruising and PHRF Non-Spinnaker

5. Scoring:

PHRF handicaps will apply and be scored time-on-distance.

6. Racing Area and Course:

6.1 The racing area will be on the Gulf of Mexico in the vicinity the Naples Municipal Pier.

6.2 The Race Committee will announce on VHF the course for each race and each class.

6.2 The course will be windward/leeward or triangle courses with marks that could include both drop marks and navigation marks.

7. Schedule for Racing and Awards

7.1 Friday, January 3: Skippers meeting at 6pm at the Riptide Brewing Co.

7.1 Saturday, January 4: The intended time of the first warning signal is 0955.

7.2 The Race Committee will attempt to run at least five (5) races and could run more races for one class than for others.

7.3 No warning signal will be made after 1600 hrs.

7.4 Sunday, January 5, 2018 at 1000: Awards Presentation and Breakfast Buffet will be held at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club and is open to racers and GCSC members. The club is located at 896 River Point Drive - Naples, FL 34102 - Tel: (239s-774-0424).

8. Awards

8.1 Awards for a class with three to four boats registered will be limited to a first-place award.

8.2 Awards for a class with three boats registered will be limited to awards for first and second place.

8.3 Awards for a class with more than six boats registered will be limited to awards for first, second and third place.

9. Dockage

For overnight dockage, you may contact:

Naples City Docks (239-213-3070) or Naples Sailing and Yacht Club, "Amanda Wellington" (239-774-2649).

10 Entries and Fees

- Regatta Entry fee is \$85.00 per boat (Includes one awards brunch buffet)
- ADDITIONAL awards brunch buffets will cost \$35.00 CASH per person, and are payable as cash/check at the door at Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. No credit cards will be accepted.
- There will be a cash bar.

10.1 Send entry form, payment, and documents to Gulf Coast Sailing Club at the address below or register online at www.gulfcoastsailingclub.org or at <http://swflsail.com/single-race-entry/>.

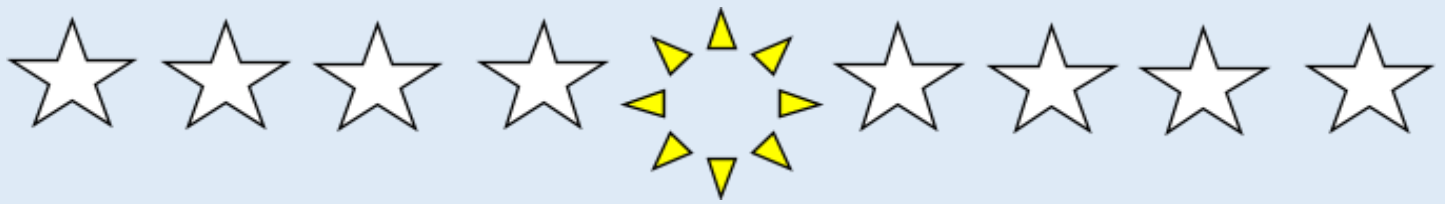
10.3 Address for entry forms, documents, and payments:

Gulf Coast Sailing Club
P.O. Box 2121
Naples, FL 34106

11. REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The deadline for entries is midnight January 2, 2019. Mailed entries must be received by midnight January 2, 2019.

Link to sign up <http://swflsail.com/single-race-entry/>



Membership meeting -

River Park Community Center

Address: 301 11th Street N. Naples, FL



January 8, 2019 - Wednesday - 6 pm

Chowder Contest

We are having a Chowda Contest for this month's membership meeting. We need at least 6 chowder chefs – any type of chowder is welcome: Clam, Seafood, Chicken, Corn, White, Red, etc. Other members can bring a dessert to share. BYOB (beer or wine)

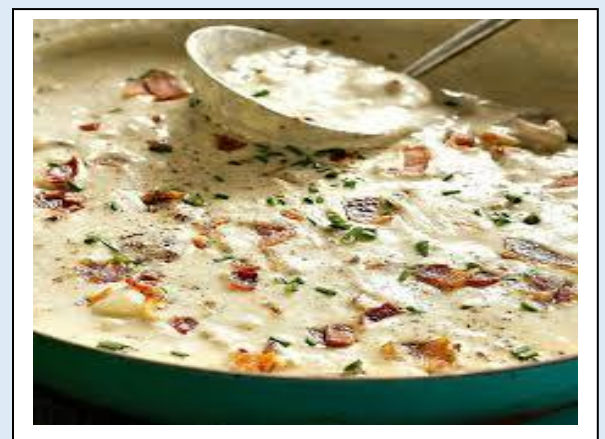


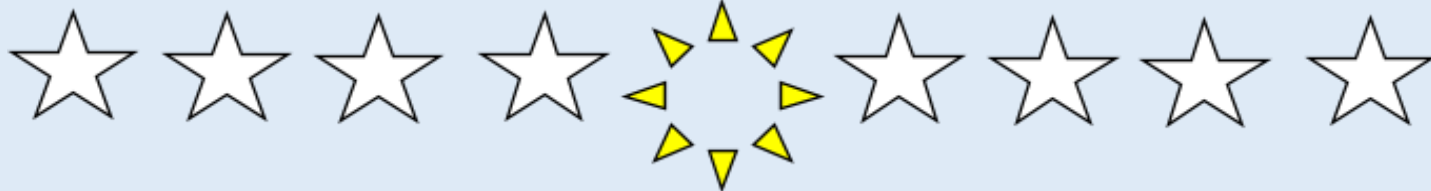
Contact Colleen & Fred Hall at fbcmhall@icloud.com if you want to join the contest. **Prizes!**

We are also having a **“Get to know Gulf Coast Club” presentation** at this Membership Meeting. We'll discuss opportunities in the club, different activities our club supports (like Sugden Sailing), and ways to get more involved with this fun club.

Come learn more about Gulf Coast Sailing Club and eat some great chowder, vote for your favorite and enjoy another fun evening with fellow sailors.

Everyone is welcome!!





IT's ANOTHER GCSC SUNDAY PICNIC & SAILING

Sunday, January 12, 2020 12-3pm

HEY! Don't feel left out if you don't know how to sail! These are great family events for all **GCSC members**, your family, your friends, your neighbors, and any member of the Naples community who you feel may be interested in sailing. Try Model Boat SAILING following a demonstration & live hands on practice.

HEY! HEY!! Whether you own a sailboat or not, plan to bring your spouse, a friend and your kids to Lake Avalon, **Sugden Park Sailing Center SUNDAYS** for a picnic in the park including Water Sports & SAILING!. If you don't know how to sail, but; would like to learn or if you know how to sail but would like to learn more, we will have sailing instructors available to assist you!

HEY! HEY!! HEY!!! ALL FOR ONLY \$15 Single, \$25 Couple, \$30 Entire Family

Come join us for the

SUGDEN LAKE OLYMPICS!

This month for our landside activity, we will set up several classic picnic games for everyone to enjoy. Think hula hoops, water balloons and more.



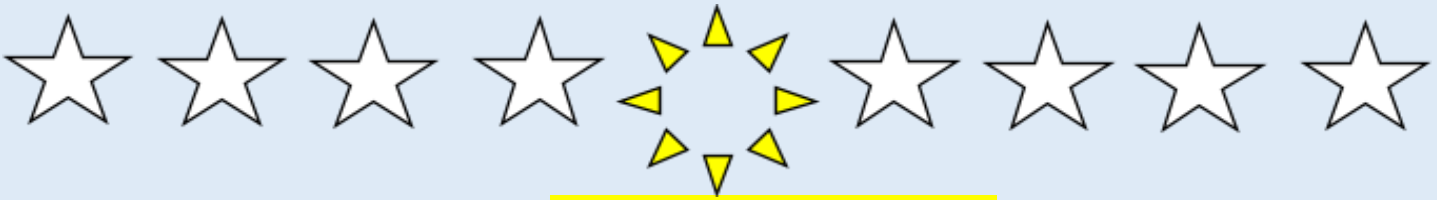
Also, if anyone has a Washers game or Cornhole (bag toss) game and could bring it for the day, please let Frank Ross know (314-372-1392, pfrstl@gmail.com).

Bring your 'A' game and win a prize!

Mark Your 2020 Calendar for January 12th, February 16th,
March 29th, April 19th

Classroom Lessons – Demonstrations –
Boat Rides - On Water Lesson -
Single Hand Sailing - Doubles Sailing –
MOB Recovery TEAM Sailing –
RACE COMMITTEE Experience –
CRUISING SLALOM COURSES –





Gulf Coast Sailing Club

MLK Three-Day Weekend Cruise

Saturday 1/18/20 to Monday 1/20/20

To the Pink Shell Marina Beach Resort Hotel.

This is an Inter-Club Cruising Event

This can be a Drive to Event

The Pink Shell on Fort Myers Beach is about 25 NM from Gordon Pass. About 10 NM more from Marco and about 5 NM shorter from Doctor's Pass.

Sail to Pink Shell on Saturday, January 18th.

BBQ Pot Luck Dinner Saturday Night at 6:00 PM on one of our participating boats or a BBQ on the Marna Deck.

Sunday, January 19th, day at the resort or the take the 75 cent Trolley to tour the island or go to "Times Square".

Dinner at the hotel or on a boat.

Monday, January 15th Sail Home.



If you do not have to rush home, this is an extensive Cruising area that includes Sanibel, Tarpon Point, Ding Darling, Cayo Costa, Cabbage Key, Useppa and more.

We were most fortunate to get a great deal from a great resort for a fun holiday long weekend.

Our Marina slips at the Pink Shell includes, electric, wifi, cable TV, water and pump out.

In addition, each boat gets up to six passes to the resort that includes, beach access, beach chairs, use of three resort type pools, a spa, a gym, kayaks, paddle boards and more.



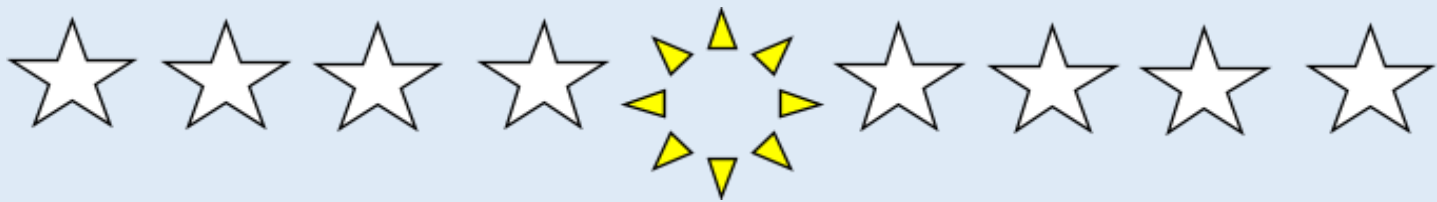
The Hotel has two restaurants. There is a trolley at 75 cents per person that runs the length of the island to other resorts, shops, restaurants and their "Times Square".

Also included is a gas BBQ on the Deck overlooking the Marina with picnic tables and chairs for a BBQ .

For example, at \$3.09 per foot, a 35 foot boat pays \$108.15 per night. If there are 4 folks on board that comes to about \$54.00 per night per couple for a holiday at a full service beach. resort. That is the least expensive holiday resort hotel price, even if you use Trivago.

Please Call the Dock Master , Dave, at 1 888 906 2853 and make your own slip reservations. They are holding slips for us. Tell Dave "Bob Diamond sent you". RESERVE NOW TO GUARANTTEE A SLIP!!!

After you get your slip reserved, please contact Bob Diamond at rmdiamond@aol.com so we can coordinate activities.



Spring Cruise 2020 Mid-March to Mid-May

Florida Keys - for a week +/-

Exuma Cays, Bahamas- for two months +/-

You are invited to our Skippers' Meeting
To discuss plans, learn about cruising the Bahamas
& the Florida Keys

Thursday Evening, January 16th

7:00 PM Windstar Club House - 2nd floor Card Room

RSVP Required to gain access at Guard Booth and driving Directions.

Contact Bob Diamond rmdiamond@aol.com

Join Lorelei & Bob Diamond with several other boats (Power and Sail) on a cruise to the Florida Keys and then, if you wish, on to The Exuma Cays in the Bahamas Islands.

All those interested, please contact Bob and Lorelei. We will have a meeting on Thursday evening, January 16th to work out the details our Cruise schedule, routes and harbors to visit. Please contact us to RSVP 1 239 404 4844 rmdiamond@aol.com



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Some preliminary thoughts:

1>Lorelei and I have sailed in the Bahamas many times. There are literally hundreds of islands in the chain. Only a few islands have large hotels and airports. Most of the islands have a few small structures or absolutely no development at all.

2> If you like crystal clear water, beautiful deserted beaches and friendly people, then the Exuma Cays of the Bahamas Islands are for you. We will visit many islands in this chain with small hotels, restaurants, bars and local grocery stores. Others are uninhabited except for some tropical birds on the beaches and multicolored fish in the clear water. Though Hurricanes have ravished some parts of the Bahamas, the Exumas are still O.K. and ready for Cruising.

3> The entire Cruise can be done “Day Sailing” with no overnights required between stops. Because of the areas we will be cruising through, it will be required that some stops will be marinas, some moorings and some anchoring. Depending on the desires of the skippers and the weather, many stops will be longer than one night.



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4> It can take two weeks +/- to get to the Exumas and another two weeks +/- to get back. That is about a month +/- of nice Cruising in Florida & the Bahamas.

We plan to spend about an additional month +/- in the Exumas. Therefore, our entire Cruise will be at least two months long.

However, each boat can proceed as they wish and there is no requirement to always be together. Some boats can just go south with us to Marathon Key in the Mid-Florida Keys and then perhaps to Key West, The Marqueses & Tortugas. Other boats can go with us to Key Biscayne in the Miami Area.

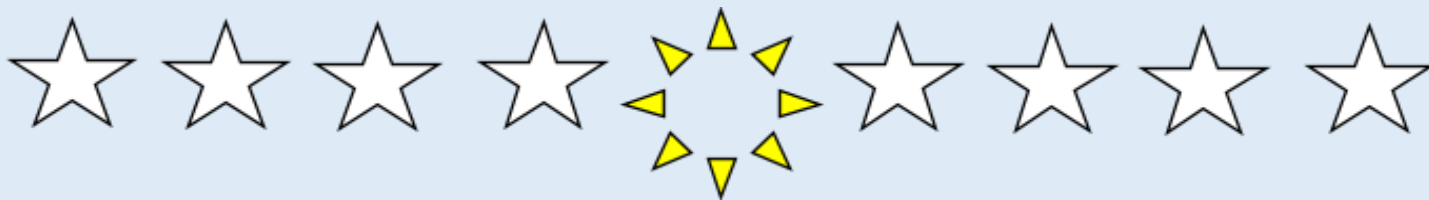
From “No Name” Harbor on Key Biscayne Island (Yes, that is actually the Harbor’s name.), we will sail the 47 NM to cross the Gulf Stream to So. Bimini Island in the Bahamas.

We will wait in No Name Harbor for a weather window for the one day crossing of the Gulf Stream. We have always had a pleasant sail in calm seas and under sunny Skies.



Having a flexible schedule is the best piece of safety equipment a cruiser can possess.

5>Our planned Cruise schedule and route will be determined at our January Skippers' Meeting. However, it will have to be flexible and approximate. to allow for weather and other contingencies.



GULF COAST SAILING CLUB MEMBERSHIP -

Now is the best opportunity to renew your membership for the 2019 - 2020 sailing season and be included in the new membership directory. The annual dues are \$95 for adults and their family members, and \$20 for full time students. **You can now renew and pay on-line at www.gulfcoastsailingclub.org/join/ with your credit card utilizing the PayPal link on the website.** Otherwise, please send completed membership form and check payable to Gulf Coast Sailing Club to: Gulf Coast Sailing Club, Attn: Membership, PO Box 2121, Naples, FL 34106-2121.

Please contact Terry Nauck, Membership Chair, at membership@gulfcoastsailingclub.org if you have any questions.