



Rocky Fork Sailing Club

The Jibsheet

June 2024 | #169

Upcoming Events

June 9 - Race 4 12:30 p.m.

June 15 - Pirate Potluck

June 29 Races 5 & 6

New Members for 2024

These are our new members this year. If you see them, be friendly and introduce yourself.

If you are new but we are missing your name or boat name, please let me know

John & Kimberly Daulton

SV The River Sings

Tara Epplen

Crew/Associate Member

Mary Lou Fritz

Crew/Associate Member

Greg and Martina Kuttler

SV This Side Up

Nathan & Suzy Schneider

SV Reflections

Bob & Robyn Smith

SV Badmudda

Commodore's Corner

by Bill Parker



The 2024 sailing season is in full swing and it has been good to see boats out on the water. Our Spring Regatta was a success and photos have been posted to our groups.io site with more to come, I hope. If you have a login for that, you can go see them. Ok, enough nagging. For those who do have a login, to look at the photos or to upload more, go to the photos link where there is a folder for May 2024 Regatta.

June promises more fun on the lake with racing on Sunday the 9th (the Mark Shockey Memorial Race) and two races on Saturday the 29th. Remember, you don't have to race your boat to go racing, there are always racers looking for crew. If you do want to give racing a try on your boat, you will get plenty of advice from your fellow racers.

For those of you interested in volunteering, we will be power washing the picnic shelter and tables on the 15th at 10AM in advance of the potluck.

Your Scrivener-at-Sea

by Jon Hill

I received a lot of support with articles this month and I am truly grateful. As you all know, our clubs sends out a lot of emails. If you are emailing something for the jibsheet please put "Article" in the title. That will help me keep track of things. Thanks!

I will be on a sailing trip from 6/10 to 6/25. More details are in my article below. I will have very limited internet access for most of the trip. Should you need anything, I am leaving Bill Parker in charge. I have an amazing photo of him that I have been forbidden from sharing here. It is my screen saver so just ask next time you see me

Be good for mom. Don't think I am afraid to pull this boat over and come back there because I will!

Jon Hill
Scrivener at Sea

We have had an officer change this month. Shiri Ayalon, who has been a stalwart member of the Club and has served as our Purser, is leaving the Club for personal reasons. She will be sorely missed. I am very pleased Drew Hadley has agreed to take over as Purser and look forward to working with him.

In practical matters, the lock combinations have been changed on docks 3-7. You should have received a notice from the Park if you are on those docks. Combinations for docks 1&2 have not changed, and won't until the new locks are put on. This is unlikely to happen before the first week of July.

There you have it, a rundown of what to expect in June. I look forward to seeing you on the water or at the Potluck, hopefully both!

Cheeseburger and Social Committee by Bill Parker

We had a great time at Cheeseburger in Paradise, if you missed it you missed it. About 50 people attended, and many of us went to the after party at the Klein's. The renovated Overlook is now an excellent facility, much improved.

I want to thank all who helped, it is that help that makes these events possible. I particularly want to thank Marcia and Rod, they planned well and worked hard.

We have Pirate Potluck on the 15th . While we won't be giving a prize for costumes, we do encourage you to come in your best pirate regalia. Who knows, your picture might make the Jibsheet! We always have a good selection of yummy dishes in the Potluck and we urge you to bring yours. We need more pirate volunteers. If you want to coordinate on what to bring, Lin Klein is the point person for this event.

(Scrivener's note: if you are interested in helping out both me, and the social committee, we need someone to act as a reporter for the social committee events. You would take pictures and write a short article like this for the Jibsheet. Please contact the Scrivener for details)

Sailing the Florida Keys (Part 1) by Howard & Kathy Staley

(This article was written for the Trailer/Sailor Association's magazine, Clipper Snips)

Ahoy..... Admiral (or Sweetie or Honey, etc.), how about us sailing the Florida Keys?

Away from the blinding snow, the biting wind, and chilling cold. Away from our wood stove's cozy fire, from the beautiful white snow, from watching the birds huddled on the window feeders. Away from

traffic jams, from cars skidding on icy pavement, from snow shovels, rock salt, cinders and sand.

Away from snuggling under down-comforters piled high on the bed, from walks through new fallen snow, and, oh oh,..... away from enjoying the first hint of spring..... should it arrive before we return.

What a decision to have to make!! Well, we made that decision,..... and it was to sail the Keys during the month of March, 2010.

The Florida Keys, an evening view from the water

Here's how our trip went.

The Overall Trip

We left home in late February and returned in early April. The southbound road trip commenced with towing our 24 foot Neptune sailboat, Aeolus, from Cincinnati, to the upper Keys. We launched just south of Florida City.

We then sailed the Intercoastal Waterway (ICW) about 85 miles down the Keys, on the Florida Bay side (North side), to Ohio Key. Ohio Key is about fifteen miles west of Marathon, next to Bahia Honda State Park. Ohio Key was the end of the underway sailing trip. We visited seven ports, spent about six nights at anchor, sailed six days and spent seven weather days in port or at anchor.

At the end of our sailing trip, while the boat was dockside at Ohio Key's Sunshine Marina, we traveled by bus back to Florida City to pick up our van & trailer. We also made several driving day-trips just exploring the Keys, which included visiting Key West. After that it was time to load Aeolus onto the trailer and drive home.

Sailing the Keys was a great, destination oriented sailing trip, the kind we especially like. We saw new ports, traveled new routes, experienced new anchorages and met many people.

We plan to duplicate and expand the journey in 2011, doing more sailing, seeing some of the same ports and also new harbors, communities and anchorages.

Preparation

Preparing for the cruise started activity on several items concurrently. These items included: Charts, Boat Preparation, Equipment Gathering, and Provisioning.

Charts and Cruising Guides

Richardson's Chartbook & Cruising Guide of the Florida Keys covers the sailing area from Ft. Lauderdale to Key West, the Dry Tortugas & Bimini. We also used the NOAA chart number 11451 covering from Miami to Marathon and Florida Bay. We rely on paper charting exclusively since we carry no electronic chart plotting equipment. Our 12 year old Garmin GPS tells us only where we are. Sailing the Keys is almost always within sight of land.

Cruising Guides are invaluable for "reading up" on the next port or anchorage. We used Claiborne Young's Cruising The Florida Keys and Freya Rauscher's Florida Keys and Everglades Cruising Guide.

All charts and cruising guides should be studied and annotated long before your trip, both for trip planning purposes, and for the sheer enjoyment of it. The hours consumed in this endeavor, both in front of a fireplace or in a cozy bed, caused the dank cold darkness of a northern winter to be absolutely enjoyable.

Of course, all our charting tools had to be assembled and put in a convenient easy to use case. Tools such as dividers, parallel rulers, soft lead pencils, sharpeners, a good soft eraser, etc., make navigation much easier.

Equipment Gathering

Equipment gathering is actually kind 'a fun. We gather things for the trip and put them in boxes (usually liquor boxes from Kroger). Each category of items has its own "gathering box". For example, the SAFETY & OPTICAL BOX includes PFD's, flares, distress flag, whistles, Binoculars, etc.

The ELECTRONICS & NAVIGATION BOX has VHF Radios, GPS, Hand Held Compass, Batteries, AC and DC chargers, AM/FM Short Wave Radio, Navigation Tools, Charts, Cruising Guides, Flashlights, etc. There is a Galley Box (for galley equipment), a VeeBerth Box for stuff that goes up there. A Books / Entertainment Box for leisure reading, boat technical manuals, games, camera, CD's, etc., and so on.

Over the month(s) before our trip we simply fill the boxes (that are situated on a spare bedroom's floor). You can easily see what items you have collected, and spot those that are missing.

The filled boxes are transported in the van, rather than the boat, to shift weight off the boat and onto the van, when towing. They are loaded onto the boat at launch time.

Provisioning

Kathy organizes the shipboard meal menu for the whole trip utilizing an Excel spreadsheet. For meals, the sheet tallies the ingredients required, and also tallies our needs for the whole trip. For special meals, like spaghetti, we home-make the sauce and can it in Mason jars. This makes good homemade meals available by simply warming them up on the boat. Pasta meals made with canned tuna, chicken and salmon are also favorites. Even though we have a 5 day cooler, we provision as if we have no refrigeration.

When getting ready for the trip, provisions are placed in their various "gathering boxes" as mentioned on the previous page.

Of course, canned goods are a staple. For "fresh foods", we also stock up on cabbage, carrots, potatoes and onions. They last long if kept in a dark airy place on the boat. Also, contrary to popular opinion, eggs, butter and mayonnaise do not require refrigeration.

(continued next month, thanks Howard and Kathy!)

Crewing and Sailing Trips **by Jon Hill**

There are great opportunities for vacations doing that thing we all love, SAILING! Facebook allowed Shiri and I to meet great captains around the country.

We sailed the Columbia River with SeaHawks Steve and the San Juan Islands with SvenDaViking. We explored the Bahamas with Captain Frank and Rafa. In the Bahamas we sailed and sailed with Captain Jim (Shiri got amazingly good at reading the wind on that trip). Many were good people I found in various Facebook groups. Just the same as in our club, many love to sail and just needed crew to help them.

I have 3 sailing trips planned the same way this year. On June 10th I will be flying to West Palm Beach where I will meet Captain Jamie and another crew member. We will then sail to Newport Rhode Island with a little bit of adventure on the way.

Here are a few tips for crewing.

1. There are various crewing websites that charge money. Those can be good because they filter out many of those damn dirty hippies that are just looking for a free boat to stay on. There are also Facebook groups that do a great job of connecting people for free. Some of the groups are private so if you would like an invite, send me an email.
2. People are inviting you into your home/boat. When posting or commenting on FB groups, its important to have a clear photo of your face that is less than a year old as your profile photo. Doing that helps foster trust.
3. When you comment or contact someone about crewing, be brief because the captain will likely have a lot of messages to get through. Mention your experience and offer references (friends from the clubs, other sails you have done and so on). Try to keep it to 4-5 sentences.
4. Include your phone number. Many captains don't have reliable internet so checking Facebook or other websites can be hard for them to do regularly. Including a phone number or Whatsapp number will make things a lot easier for everyone to connect.

5. When you do speak with the Captain, ask what they need help with or what role in the crew would be most beneficial for you to fill.
6. Some Captains want someone that will wait until ordered. Others want someone that will jump in and do what is needed. Ask your Captain which they prefer.

Next month I will share about the satellite communicator I use. It allows me to text and post my routes plus it has SOS features. You can see Shiri and I's Virgin Islands trip on my Garmin page. You can also follow my Atlantic trip from there.

<https://share.garmin.com/share/jonserenitas>

Password is gratitude (all lower case)

Local Vendors! **by Bob Inkrot**

I updated the file on the website and the link is below. I will also put a copy on the bulletin by the guard shack.

I added a great hardware store that is closer than Lowes if Red Barn doesn't have what you need. It is Paint Valley Hardware on the East side of Bainbridge. Huge selection, super staff!

When you shop at local vendors please make sure to mention that you found them through the Rocky Fork Sailing Club.

Local Vendor List on Spreadsheet

Spring Regatta Results! **by Nathan Sernoffsky**

With Race 1 in the books and Races 2&3 cancelled due to lack of wind, the Racing Committee was blessed to have a beautiful day to host the Spring Regatta.

The Spring Regatta was a huge success with 10 boats participating. It was wonderful to have boats join us that do not normally race. The Regatta was a Partner Race where boats were matched up with another boat. The stated objective was to stay as close to your partner boat as possible crossing the Start and Finish lines and rounding the marks.

Starting at the Swim buoys, a westerly wind meant tacking down the lake to the mark at North Beach. Boats ran wing and wing back up the lake. Several teams won the 1000 points for crossing the finish line within a minute of each other. We're not sure what that means except that we had a lot of fun. We were a beautiful sight tacking across the lake.

The Regatta results were as follows"

1st Place:

Nalu and St. Somewhere

2nd Place:

Juno and Millie

Showing:

Golden Road and Serenitas

Destination and Kalista

Amorous and Coelum

Rafting Up:

Tide Dancer and Fiasco came to the Raft Up but were not part of the Race.

Racing and Social committees teamed up after the race to hold an informal raft up at the mooring balls. We even picked up a few extra boats at the raft up to cap off the event. Food was shared, stories were told, and friendships were bolstered.

Thank you to everyone who came out and made this a fun event!

Rocky Fork Sailing Club |
sailrockyfork.com/about

