



TRADEWINDS

The source of information on the Miami Marine Community

VOLUME 2003 No. 12

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FOCUS

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No sea-lover could look unmoved on the blue rollers of the Gulf Stream and the crystal-clear waters of the reef, of every delicate shade of blue and green, and tinged with every color of the spectrum from the fantastically rich growths on the bottom, visible to the last detail through this incredibly translucent medium. It scarcely resembles northern seawater at all – a cold semi-opaque, grayish-green fluid, which hides the mysteries of the bottom. Drifting over the Florida Reef on a quiet day, one may note all the details of its tropical luxuriance twenty feet below, and feels himself afloat on a sort of liquid light, rather than water, so limpid and brilliant is it.

Commodore Ralph Middleton Munroe,
describing his first visit to the area in 1877

www.marinecouncil.com

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Mike Karcher

BOATER EDUCATION

At April's uncheon meeting, one of the topics of conversation involved a boating accident resulting in the death of two children. A tragedy such as this is a harsh reminder that the sea can be an unforgiving and dangerous place. With the increasing number of boaters on the water, there is an equally growing need for boater safety education. There are several organizations and sailing schools that teach basic boating courses as well as boat operation. Seamanship, however, is an acquired skill. It is something one learns by actually going on the water rather than from "book learning." The best way to learn how to run your boat is to actually go out and do so, hopefully with experienced people to help you "learn the ropes."

On the other hand, boating safety is something that can be taught. A basic checklist of safety requirements may keep you from getting into trouble in the first place.

- 1. Check the Weather.** Between the weather channel, NOAA radio, local news broadcasts and the newspaper, get the weather forecast. Don't go out if it looks like the weather is going to exceed your boat's capabilities.
 - 2. Float Plan.** Before you go out on the water, contact a reliable person who can notify the Coast Guard or other rescue organizations should you not return as scheduled. You are not missing until someone knows you are missing. Give them a description of your vessel, number of people on board, your departure point, destination and when you expect to be back. (There are various float plans on-line that you can print out, complete and leave with someone to use, if necessary, to contact the authorities.)
 - 3. Have a Marine Radio.** While everyone seems to carry a cell phone these days, it doesn't always work. There are dead zones at sea as well as land. The U. S. Coast Guard is always listening, as well as other boats, to marine VHF channels. You want to be able to call them in case of problems.
 - 4. Tool Kit.** Have a tool kit to do minor repairs to rigging, steering systems, engines, so you can get out of trouble yourself, rather than having to rely on others to come and get you.
 - 5. First Aid Kit.** Buy a decent kit and learn how to use it. The Red Cross, as well as other organizations, gives regular courses in first aid to handle various medical problems. The farther out you go at sea, the bigger your kit and the greater your knowledge should be.
 - 6. Towers Insurance.** Should all else fail, there are various towers groups who will be more than happy to come and rescue you should you have some sort of boating incident. Driving around the Bay, you see the yellow boats, the red boats, etc. Shop around with their insurance plans to see which one might suit your needs.
 - 7. Life Jackets.** Should you need a life jacket, nothing else is going to suffice. Have life jackets in adequate numbers for all passengers and crew on your boat. If you have children, get children's size life jackets (especially the ones with the straps between the legs to hold the jacket in place). Store them where they can be easily reached. (A friend of ours would bring his own good life jacket with strobe light and flares attached when he went sailboat racing on other people's boats. While it sometimes annoyed the skipper, our friend stated he had been on a boat that went down once and he wanted to make sure that there were always good life jackets aboard, at least for him.)
 - 8. Fire Extinguishers.** Have fire extinguishers on board and point out to others where they are located. Before going out, conduct a brief orientation, similar to that given by flight attendants where you point out the locations of the life jackets, flares, fire extinguishers, radio, etc.
 - 9. Lights and Flares.** Flare kits, strobe lights and other signaling devices are relatively cheap and will get someone's attention on the water or in the air. You want "them" to be able to find you.
- In summary, I don't think you can teach someone how to "run" the boat in a relatively short course. I do think, however, that you can teach someone, in the words of the Boy Scout motto, to "be prepared" should something go wrong.



Countdown to New Marine Flea Market !

Miami's Only Marine Flea Market ... and so much more.

- **Used Boat and Watercraft Showcase**
- **Boater Information Expo**
- **Boat Services Expo**
- **Seafood Village and Music**

The Marine Flea Market part of the event is selling out fast! Our exhibitors include suppliers of fishing rods, lures and other supplies, diving gear, amazing cleaning products and tools, water systems for boats, marine electronics, other boat gear and spare parts, boat decorations, nautical gifts, marine art, clothing, towels, sunglasses, other on-the-water provisions and many unusual items. Service and product suppliers include towing and vessel assistance providers, boat lettering, marine electronics and water systems.

We encourage companies that provide important boater services to participate. Our goal is to **stimulate and support** the local boating economy by **connecting** boaters and boat owners with the providers of services, products and information they need! The big boat shows are too expensive for most small marine companies to exhibit. For this reason, we have made the **Boat Services Expo** spaces especially cost-effective.

Do you provide services that boaters need?

- Canvas, Captains, Cleaning, Electrical, Engines, Fiberglass, Financing, Loans, Maintenance, Outboards, Painting, Repair, Repowering, Rigging, Storage, Surveys, Transportation, Troubleshooting

... Then you need to be here.

Only \$100 for a 5' x 10' space—\$150 for a 10' x 10' space
This is a cost-effective way to get your business message to thousands of boaters and discuss their projects.

We also want to ensure the participation of all local resources for boater information and assistance. Our participants so far are key cornerstones for the local boating community and vital to ongoing efforts to protect Biscayne Bay and the Miami River for all who enjoy spending time and making their livelihood on the water.

Tips from Experts, Prizes and Sponsors

There will be a variety of door prizes given away both days of the event, and local experts in fishing, boats and boating equipment will be giving 30-minute **Quick Tip** sessions that boaters won't want to miss. The schedule for these sessions will be posted at the main entrance.

We want to thank our sponsors, including **Shell Lumber**, **The Islands of The Bahamas**, and **Towboat U.S.** The Islands of The Bahamas will be giving away two free fishing trips including lodging at Bahamas' resorts. **Boat Trader Magazine** is supporting the Used Boat and Watercraft Showcase. Finally, we continue to appreciate the support given by our media and marketing partners, **Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation**, the #1 Spanish-language radio company in the U.S., and **The IAC Group**. HBC is promoting the Miami Marine Expo & Flea Market® to 720,000 listeners via its four local

radio stations (AMOR 107.5 FM, SALSA 98.3 FM, Radio Mambi 710 AM and WQBA 1140 AM) and its Spanish-language web-site www.Netmio.com. It will also give away a Caribbean Getaway for six through a radio contest on its FM stations. The IAC Group has been invaluable in helping us with graphics design, effective print communications and public relations. The event will also be promoted on ZETA 94.9 FM's Paul and Young Ron morning show, featuring **Paul Castronovo**, a well-known supporter of the local marine community.



www.miamimarine.info

June 7-8, 2003

Coconut Grove Expo Center

2700 S. Bayshore Drive

Coconut Grove, Florida

Saturday, June 7 9 am – 6 pm

Sunday, June 8 9 am – 4 pm

Multiple Attractions:

- **Marine Flea Market**
- **Used Boat & Watercraft Showcase**
- **Boat Services Expo**
- **Boater Information Expo**

A two day event dedicated to supporting our growing Miami-Dade's boating community and economy:

- Improve **boating safety**.
- Protect **natural resources**.
- Promote **tourism and economic growth**.
- Increase access to insurance, financing and other boater **information and boat services**.
- Encourage growing Hispanic **boat ownership**.
- Develop **family boating** events and activities.

MARINE COUNCIL LUNCHEON

- STATUS OF THE MIAMI RIVER



The April 2 Marine Council Luncheon at the Rusty Pelican was informative, entertaining and tasty. With Dave Miller as our guest speaker, we couldn't go wrong. Dave not only is the Managing Director of the Miami River Commission, he is the past Commanding Officer of the US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office

on Miami Beach. We were lucky to keep him in Miami when he retired from the Coast Guard.

The following is a summary of his excellent presentation:

MIAMI RIVER DREDGING

- The Miami River was last dredged in 1993. The center of the River is approximately 15 feet deep while the sides are so silted in that some of the ships docked there sit on the bottom and list over at low tide.
- As the Miami River is a Federal Navigation Channel, the Army Corps of Engineers say that it must be dredged up to 16-17 feet at mean low water. The largest ship currently using the River is 290' long. Dredging will allow longer ships, as it will be easier to turn them as they travel up and down the meandering River.
- The dredging is funded by a cost share ration of 80% federal and 20% local. To date, the federal government has appropriated \$28 million and the state almost \$7 million.
- The Assistant Secretary of the Army will authorize the project. The first step is a Request For Proposal (RFP), which will go out for 45 days. There will be a 60-day evaluation period to select a contractor and then they will issue the notice to proceed. The Army Corps of Engineers is the Project Officer and will make the final selection based by best value to the government rather than low bidder. The dredging is expected to begin by the middle of September.
- An option of the project is an environmental dredging or cleansing of the River outside of the federal channel (bank to bank), but it must be funded 100% by local funds as it is not part of the federal channel.
- There is also an impact on utilities that cross under the River, such as the phone lines, electric wires, sewer and water pipes as they must be 6' below the River bottom.

URBAN INFILL PLAN

- The Miami River Commission worked on this jointly with the County and City of Miami.
- It was a two-year process to develop a comprehensive plan to improve the Miami River. The plan recognizes three sections of the River.
- The first is from the mouth of the River to the 5th Street Bridge. The plan in this area is to have a 20' wide Riverwalk along the River, and all new structures must be set back 50' from the River bank.
- The second section is from the 5th Street Bridge to 22nd Avenue. This is a mixed-use and residential area with parks. The focus there is neighborhood safety with economic incentives to make the River accessible to the public.
- The 3rd section goes from 22nd Avenue up to Miami International Airport. The goal is to enhance this water dependent marine industrial area.
- In total, there are 64 recommendations in the plan to revitalize the River and the plan is currently going through city and county approval.

GREENWAY

- There is approximately \$6.5 million in grants from the City of Miami and the Trust for Public Lands to help design and construct the Riverwalk, which will improve the riverfront neighborhoods and link them together.

BLUEWAY

- The goal is to enhance dockage on the River.

STORMWATER

- There is a 69 square mile watershed of industrial and urban property that drains into the Miami River contributing 80% of the River contamination.
- The goal is to have a clean River and change the perception of the River.
- The Miami River Commission is working with the city to have a River clean-up vessel that would be available to remove oil sheens and bacteria, pick up trash and inject oxygen into the water.

BRIDGES

- The 2nd Avenue Bridge will be finished within 45 days. It will be the second longest bascule bridge in the world. The former bridge at that site had a 70' horizontal clearance and restricted navigation. The new one has no structure in the River to block ship transit or interfere with flood control. The Riverwalk will go under the bridge. The combination of the dredging and the new 2nd Avenue bridge will open up the



River to new industries.

- The 5th Street Bridge is the next one that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is studying to replace. It has a 75' horizontal clearance but is skewed to the channel, resulting in a 65' actual navigation channel.
- The Miami River Commission's report on Comparing Costs of Options for Reconstruction of the 12th and 27th Avenue Bridges Over the Miami River (on www.marinecouncil.com in PDF format) compares the long term costs of bridges vs. tunnels and reveals that tunnels are more cost effective in the long run.

BRIDGE CURFEW

The current curfew of bridge openings of 7:30am-9:30am and 4:30pm-6:00pm are unique in the US, making the Miami River the only place that has restrictions on tugs and tows. The US Coast Guard is now reviewing the curfew regulations with an eye to eliminating curfews for tugs and tows.



THIS IS A LUCKY BOAT

When the 78-foot yacht, Three D of Guernsey, ran aground in Hollywood's John Lloyd Beach State Park, it might have been a major embarrassment for the Captain, but it was not as bad as it could have been. Why? It did not happen in Biscayne National Park. The Park has broad authority and narrow jurisdiction. The Resource and Visitor Protection Rangers can arrest and fine boaters who destroy any mangroves, seagrass or coral reefs. And, even if there was no damage, they also have the authority to arrest violators of any state or federal law including DUI.

The Park protects the ecosystems of the mangroves, Biscayne Bay itself, the Florida Keys and the Florida Keys Coral Reef. Being fined in the Biscayne National Park can be any of the three: verbal warning, written warning, or violation fine of \$150 or more. That money goes towards the General Fund. Here are several examples of the Park's authority:

- On November 6, 1996, the motor tanker Igloo Moon, enroute from Saudi Arabia to Houston, Texas with a potentially hazardous cargo, ran hard aground on a coral reef at the north end of Biscayne National Park. On October 18, 2000, the Park was awarded \$1 million in damages to cover the costs of assessing, monitoring and restoring the injuries sustained by the reef.
- A few years ago, the skipper of a 46' Hatteras was arrested three different times by a Park Ranger for DUI within a 3-month period. The first two times, he went to jail. The third time, he was fined \$25,000 and also had to pay \$106,000 restitution to the Park. After he pled guilty, he was also banned from operating a boat in Biscayne National Park, the Everglades, Cypress or Dry Tortuga for three years.
- Last December, the new owner of the Evening Star (with around 7 hours of experience on this particular vessel) ran onto a coral reef. Although the damage assessment is complete, the monetary figure of the fine has not been announced. It is expected to be "significant." The owner had unfamiliarity with the navigational equipment on his new boat and had failure to maintain a proper lookout.

Unfortunately, the main reason why most people run aground is due to a lack of education. They do not know the boating rules for safe navigation. Some rely on technology (GPS) without the backup of charts. The GPS may show point A and point B but it does not show what lies between the points. They do not use their equipment properly. If they have radar, they must use it and have it adjusted frequently to avoid false readings. Boat drivers speed too frequently and use alcohol excessively. With the increase in the size of boats and their engines (the average boat fifteen years ago was 17' long with 90 hp and today it is 28' with twin 250s), it is even more essential for boat owners and drivers to take the time to get educated properly. They seem to forget that boating is no different than driving a car, it is just that the view is better.



ANOTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES

The National Marine Fisheries Service declared the Smalltooth Sawfish as a federally endangered species, the first saltwater fish to decline to that status. The immediate impact is that anyone who kills a sawfish will face stiff federal fines up to \$25,000 as well as possible criminal charges. This will also add more federal scrutiny for coastal development projects, especially in areas around mangroves, the major haunts of sawfish.



The vulnerable Smalltooth Sawfish has long been one of the strangest creatures in the Everglades and Keys. It is a cross of ray and shark that can reach 20 feet and 2,000 pounds. Although it appears scary, its bill gets entangled easily in fishing nets. The survival of the fish is further complicated by its slow reproduction. They reach sexual maturity in 10 to 20 years and then reproduce only every other year.

The state's decade-long gillnet ban has perhaps slowed but not stopped the sawfish decline. Maybe this federal declaration will help save the species.

Hurricane On The Horizon

As this issue goes to print, subtropical storm Anna is churning along at 12 miles an hour in an east-southeast direction some 185 miles south-southeast of Bermuda. This is according to the National Hurricane Center's Advisory Number 3. By the time you read this, Anna will have moved on, hopefully towards open water and will no longer be a threat to anyone. This is an early warning that hurricane season is indeed approaching.

The Marine Council's Annual Hurricane Preparedness for Marine Interests Seminar is scheduled for June 18, 2003. It will take place at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club. There will be a reception from 5:30 until 6:30 with a panel of speakers afterwards. NOAA representatives, United States Coast Guard members and Miami-Dade County professionals will discuss hurricane preparedness and what plans and procedures boat owners and waterfront businesses should take to be ready for the upcoming hurricane season.

Mark the date on your calendar... June 18. This is a chance to not only get ready for the season, but also ask the experts questions as to what you should be doing before the storm. We look forward to seeing you all there.

NEW MEMBER

Alex S. DeBogory, U.S. Foundry (manufacturing), 8351 N.W. 93rd Street, Medley, Florida 33166; 786/402-3536; e-mail: Soebogory@USFoundry.com. Interests: fishing and conservation.



A POSSIBLE WIN FOR THE MIAMI HEAT?

Although the Miami Heat's win/loss record this season is not one of its best, it appears they are trying to make money in another area. They want to build a 20-story apartment tower on valuable waterfront land. Back in 1996, the campaign to voters for the new bayfront arena included drawings of a landscaped park and marina on the public land between the arena and the water. Although the Volvo Ocean Race Round the World used the property last year, it now is vacant, and we find that the Miami Heat has altered their plans for the area. The Urban Environment League and the Sierra Club's Miami chapter are leading an effort to block the new plan. The reason for the Heat's rush is that the agreement with Miami-Dade County that gave the Heat certain development rights to Parcel B expires on June 30.

Critics say that the Heat's plan represents a public giveaway for private gain and a poor use of scarce parkland. The Urban Environment League is calling for a public planning process that would determine how best to redevelop the downtown shoreline as a public attraction, including the Heat parcel, and to ensure that what happens there meshes with plans for a waterfront Baywalk and a museum park at nearby Bicentennial Park. Contact your Miami-Dade Commissioner to save the land for public use.

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(Same Location Since 1943)

SHIPS CALENDAR

- April 27-May 4 Shake-A-Leg Volunteer Appreciation Week
April 30 – Marine Council Surveyors Seminar
May 5 – Miami River Commission at noon, United Way, 3250 SW 3rd Avenue
May 10 – Grove SLAM Fishing Tournament (Shake-A-Leg)
May 13 – City of Miami Waterfront Advisory Board, 6:30pm at Miami City Hall
May 21 – Dade County Firemen's Benevolent Association Fishing Festival (Shake-A-Leg)
June 7-8 – Miami Marine Flea Market and Expo at Dinner Key Convention Center
June 16 - Shake-A-Leg Summer Camp begins
June 18 - Marine Council's Annual Hurricane Preparedness for Marine Interests Seminar
June 23 - Shake-A-Leg After School Programs in Recreation and Education (ASPIRE) begins.

MIAMI RIVERDAY – A CELEBRATION OF OUR RIVER

The seventh annual Miami Riverday was held Saturday, April 5th, in Jose Marti Park. The free festival celebrated the history, culture and heritage of Miami's working river. This fun filled day, co-sponsored by the Marine Council, had something for everyone to enjoy.

Activities included free River Boat Tours, water taxis, a Marine Expo, and historical re-enactors demonstrating 19th Century river businesses and trade. A special treat this year was tours of the Miami Circle narrated by local historians. The Miccosukee Indians were there with authentic food and crafts. Artists displayed and sold their work, a variety of live music was on stage and there was an environmental educational theater performance in the Park's amphitheater. There were 20 environmental education booths, such as Friends of the Everglades and Operation Greenleaves, and several economic development booths such as One Miami, Brickell on the River and NEO Lofts. Children's activities included the Museum of Science, rock climbing, an animal petting zoo, clowns, stilt-walkers and face painters. The Miami River Marine Group introduced a learning to read book titled Mikey the Manatee on the Working River. Mikey also comes on a key chain and as a stuffed animal.

The Miami River is our treasure. Although we only celebrate it on one day, we really value it every day. The Miami River represents our past, present and future. Let us make it the best it can be. Be sure to attend next year's Miami Riverday.



GO ONLINE

www.miamimarine.info

Miami Marine Flea Market and Expo info
www.marinas.com or www.marinafinder.com
www.ovestock.com (check under General Merchandise)
www.dazzled.com/pianolady1/recovery_uscole.htm

Recovery of USS Cole
www.tackletogo.com Marine online shopping
www.coralreef.noaa.gov great NOAA websites

BREAKING WAVES NEWS

A while back, we mentioned that One Miami had proposed an extravagant Riverwalk plan that needed funding assistance from the City of Miami. Well, the Miami Herald reported on April 23, that the city is putting up \$4.1 million to help build the public promenade complete with art, a fountain, a waterfall, sculptures and more. The Riverwalk will wrap around the two One Miami condo towers at the entrance to the Miami River and extend to the edge of Bayfront Park.



FYI - THE REPORT ON COMPARING COSTS OF OPTIONS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE 12TH AND 27TH AVENUE BRIDGES OVER THE MIAMI RIVER (THE TUNNEL STUDY) IS NOW ON OUR WEBSITE – WWW.MARINECOUNCIL.COM



guardian of the marine community

269 Giralda Avenue • Suite 302 • Coral Gables, FL 33134

DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THE DOLDRUMS. JOIN THE MARINE COUNCIL, KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS AND ADVERTISE IN TRADEWINDS!

APPLICATION

MARINE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____ Type of Business _____

Phone/Fax/E-mail _____

Marine Interests _____

Enclosed check amount _____

Signature _____

Membership levels are **Boater/Advocate \$100, Individual Business Owner \$150, Small Business Owner \$250, Corporate \$500**. For more information, please call (305) 856-0206 and ask for Nancy Morgan. With a variety of Marine Council Membership levels available to you, there is one that best suits your individual circumstances. Please complete this application and forward it to us today at 269 Giralda Avenue, Suite 302, Coral Gables, Florida 33134. We look forward to your participation in numerous opportunities for networking, educational programs, seminars and receiving up-to-date information about the marine industry, boating in general, as well as political and governmental issues. We welcome your membership, will appreciate your support and look forward to your active involvement.