



MultiMedia

March 2003

The Newsletter of the Florida Offshore Multihull Association

The Commodore's Corner

by Wayne Rutland

I think I was born 1944 in Birmingham Alabama and lived in Alabama and Texas. I worked in construction, odd jobs, bill collection and street muggings. Joined the US Army in 1971 and Special Forces in 1974. I was trained as a heavy weapons leader, sniper, demolitions, and intelligence collection. I was assigned to the Far East, Middle East, and Central America in 11 dirt bag 3rd world countries and propped up 10 dirty right wing governments and helped take down 1 dirty left wing government in both covert and open missions. I made over 400 parachute jumps, fell off the side of a mountain and have been run out of the water by sharks more than once. I have B.A. in History and Political Science that took 10 years of night school between missions (I had a GED when I joined the Army). I retired as a Chief Warrant Officer in 1991.

I work a little at real estate restorations and investments, a polite way of saying I buy junk homes, fix them, then rent or sell them as a slum lord. I met my wife Brenna in 1990 and we married in 1991 (she picked me up, seduced me, then would not leave) and we are soul mates. I have 3 daughters, 1 son and 1 granddaughter and all are pretty good.

We went to Texas and new Mexico and climbed mountains, repelled down caves and 4x4'ed through the desert and rode my Harley everywhere. We got bored and looked for a place to go

have fun and picked Tampa off the map so we could try sailing and be near a military base. I found monohulls boring with hours of boredom and minuets of terror so we got into multihulls and found it was less boring and more terrifying.

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**Special Meeting Date!
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Our Next Meeting

Here's your chance to attend the Miami Strictly Sail boat show without a ticket and without leaving town!

Ron Butler and Kurt Gregory spent the week at the boat show giving folks free boat rides (in conjunction with Discover Sailing) on Kurt Gregory's Corsair F-31 *KeyLime* ... not a bad way to spend a few days. To top off the week, *KeyLime* participated in Multihulls Magazine's "Multihull Challenge" where various multihulls were invited to a sort of "sail-off" in the Atlantic. The participating boats included four cats; a Firebird, Maine Cat 30, True Wind 32, Raider 30, and two trimarans, *Keylime* and the new Corsair 36. Articles and pictures to appear in Multihulls at some point down the road.

Ron & Kurt have lots of pictures of their own and, technology permitting, will share them and their impressions with you at the March meeting. No, Ron will not be doing impressions of Sid.

Speaking of which, we will meet on **Wednesday, March 19th**, gathering at the usual time of 6:00 PM and getting down to the food and agenda by 7:00 PM. We will meet at the Steak and Ale on the West side of US-19 one block South of Gulf-to-Bay (Route 60) in Clearwater.

There will be a choice of three entre's: Grilled Salmon or Hawaiian Chicken at \$17.00 or Prime

Rib at \$19.00. All include their wonderful salad bar, a side dish, tax and tip. A wonderful price for all the good food.

Directions: From the North: Drive South on US 19, past Route 60, then pass the Steak and Ale on your right. Make a hard Right turn onto Druid Street. Drive North about 50 yards, then turn Left (you have no choice), and the first entrance on the right is the Steak and Ale.

From the South. Drive North on US 19. Turn Left at Druid (there is a light), then immediately Right. Drive North about 50 yards, then turn Left (you have no choice), and the first entrance on the right is the Steak and Ale.

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Members receive free classified ads. Commercial classified ads are \$10 per issue, limited to business card size. Club sponsors receive a logo in each issue, as well as a logo and link on the Web page.

FOMA
PO Box 13293
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

FOMA Sponsors



Commodore's Corner

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We have owned 2 monohulls, 1 trimaran, and 4 catamarans and like the cats the best.

I attended a racing seminar and found out that to win you have to have much money, a fast boat, racing sails and a good crew to win races. I seem to be missing 1 or 2 of these things every time I race. Sailing is fun, relaxing, and a little safer than riding a motorcycle or jumping out of a plane. I am a member of FOMA (duh!) , NRA , SCV (Sons of Confederate Veterans), ABATE (motorcycle rights) and the Special Forces Association (former SF members).

If I was a little younger or lighter I would join my 19 year old daughter who is in the Arabian Gulf on her 2nd combat tour with the Navy.

St. Petersburg NOOD Non-Race

by Doran Cushing

While not invited (actually, FOMA and Multihulls in general were un-invited) to the St. Pete NOOD this year, multihullers were well represented on several monohulls.

With Robbie Daniel trimming and calling tactics and myself on the main, the J/105 Stampede won the six-boat (5 racing) J/105 class. Other multihullers were racing and doing well in the Melges 24 class and on various boats in the 160-boat fleet.

For Contour Owners

Hello, my name is Jim Granitsas and I am a member of the New England Multihull Association and own a Contour 34. A few of us are trying to develop an owners network for the exchange of information, ideas, etc. about our Contours.

I understand there is a Contour in your association and was hoping you would pass this information along to the owner(s).

Thank you and fair winds.

Jim Granitsas

3 Old Bray Street

Gloucester, MA 01930

E-mail: jimgranitsas@hotmail.com

Telephone 978-283-0522, fax 781-595-5702.

Contour 34, *Celtic Try*

Marine Yard Sale to Benefit ECSAR

The 17th Annual Marine Yard Sale to benefit Eckerd College Search and Rescue will be held on Saturday, March 22nd from 9:00 AM until Noon. The sale will be located at the Waterfront area of Eckerd College.

Power boats, sailboats and marine equipment will be sold at discounted rates. Raffle prizes. For info, call 727 864 8288.

Special April Meeting

On Tuesday April 29th (please note that the date is **not** our normal Tuesday) We will meet at the Oriental Super Buffet restaurant, located at 2456 Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard (Route 60) in Clearwater. This is about 1/4 of a mile west of US 19 on Gulf-to-Bay. In other words, it's on Route 60 between US 19 and Belcher Road (phone 727-725-2083). We'll want everyone seated by about 7:00 PM, but the cocktail hour will start at 6:00 PM. While we welcome any and all to our meetings, a special invitation is extended to the Clearwater Sailing Center members and the members of Clearwater Yacht Club.

Sid has recruited a very special guest speaker for this meeting. Claiborne Young, author of several excellent cruising guides to the southeast, brings his traveling show to our humble tent. Even if you don't plan to sail the areas described in his guides, you should pick one up and read it. These guides are interesting reading by themselves. You can cruise in your mind for hours reading Claiborne's books. As fascinating as his books are, he is even more charming as a speaker. You don't want to miss this one. Claiborne's autographed books will be available for sale at the meeting.

As always guests are invited but this time we would like nonmembers to call Sid Zipperman in advance just so we can better gauge the head count. Sid can be reached at 727-736-9462

As a side note: At the March meeting we will decide what area we would like Claiborne to focus his talk on. We can choose between 5 subject areas. Florida's East Coast, Florida's West Coast, the Keys, the St. John's River, or the Okeechobee Waterway. Make your choice known to Sid so that he can let Claiborne know what to prepare for us.

It's a Small World

by Colin Povey

It's a small world, and I have the proof.

It started when we received a letter from Uganda in the mail last year. Now, I don't know about you, but receiving a letter from Africa is not an everyday occurrence in our house.

We opened the envelope, and it was an application from a couple in Uganda to join FOMA! You may remember this occurred in March of 2002. Then again, you may not. The couple indicated that they were from Florida, but living in Uganda at present. They thought they would be retiring in a few years and returning to our area, so they wanted to get a head start by joining FOMA. A wonderful idea, of course!

We mentioned in the March 2002 *MultiMedia*, as you no doubt will remember (grin). Anyway, I never thought of it again.

Then, a few weeks ago, I had a chance to go to the Miami Boat Show. Marie was taking a refresher course in nursing (even though she is a full-time student in Nursing, she still needs to take other courses to keep her license-isn't that a kicker) in Ft. Lauderdale. It was a slow week at work, so I decided to go with her, and while she was in class, I could go to the boat show.

So there I was, on preview day, sitting on the new Corsair 36 (more on the boat later) talking to Steve Marsh (the Corsair dealer in Florida) when this attractive couple climb on board and join the conversation. They spend about thirty minutes talking to Steve about the boat, how long does it take to rig, how well does it trailer, what options are available, and the like. They were about to

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It's a Small World

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leave when Steve, who it seemed vaguely knew them from a previous conversation, asked them where they lived now. They said Uganda. My jaw dropped. It couldn't be our members from Uganda, could it? But then again, just how many people live in Uganda and are interested in multihull boats? So, I opened my big mouth and said, "Excuse me, but are you members of FOMA?"

"Why, yes." Was the puzzled response. So I said, "Well, my name is Colin, and I'm your newsletter editor!" What ensued was a round of handclaps, hugging, and a lot of terrific grins. Here they fly thousands of miles to get to the States for a vacation and to go to the boat show and house hunting, and they run into one of the few people in FOMA, and one of the few who probably remembered we had a member in Uganda!

Anyway, they are retiring on October

31st of this year, and will be returning to this area, probably around Sarasota. They currently own a Stiletto, but are looking to upgrade to a bigger boat, and are leaning towards a Corsair in the 31, 33, or 36.

They are looking forward to attending FOMA meetings, and I can already tell they will fit in with us like a glove. So, let's all look forward to saying 'Hello!' to Tom and Linda Bragaw in a few months, probably at either the November or December meeting. If you want to say 'Hello' before they physical show up, you can e-mail them at: tom@go-sail.net.

So, while we will be gaining a pair of active sailing members this winter, FOMA will be losing it's international status. Oh well, you can't have everything.

Tom and Linda Bragaw



Our Yucatan Vacation

by Wayne and Brenna Rutland

We left Tampa about 5:00 PM Friday the 31 of January 2003 on the Yucatan Express a ship that sails from Tampa to the port of Progreso on the north coast of the Yucatan peninsular. The trip takes about 36 hours so we arrived around 8:00 AM Sunday morning and it was about an hour to clear customs. The ship is set up to carry 1,000 passengers and 200 vehicles. We had about 200 passengers and maybe 25 vehicles on the way down. You can upgrade your rooms from a small cabin without a head to a large apartment like suite. We went with the first upgrade and got a window and a head so I would not have to stagger down the hall 3 or 4 times a night. The ship has a casino, 2 hot tubs, snack bar, an open air bar on the upper deck, and a pretty good buffet restaurant that serves four times a day. The entertainment is limited - a show or comedian at night, a movie and some sort of goofy class in the day like Yoga or napkin folding, but they also offer some good seminars like basic Spanish and customs. I saw a lot of money being lost in the casino since the only TV on the ship was in the casino bar and it was on CNN so we could watch the news. We hung out on the upper deck and in the hot tubs during the day and wandered around the ship at night looking at the shows and talking to the fellow travelers some of who were really strange. The trip is a bit boring - sort of like being in jail, you hang out and try to stay out of trouble in between meals - like drinking high priced beer on your credit card and having a heart attack when you see the bill. I have to say the crew and all the staff were great and they seem to be well trained and very friendly.

The pier at Progreso is supposed to be the longest in the world, and it is a cheap 4 peso bus ride to

town so you can get to the bus station to catch a bus to Merida, the capital and biggest city in the Yucatan. Merida is an old colonial city with a central plaza that has a lot of cultural events on Sundays. It's a nice place to walk around and absorb the atmosphere, like cops in military armored vests and cut off M-16 assault rifles patrolling the plaza and a whole bunch of other cops in cars and motorcycles with sub-machine guns - makes you wonder huh?

Anyway, the town is nice and clean but I think the food was overpriced and only so-so. Merida has a lot of tourists, especially Canadians and Europeans so that is maybe why the prices are so high. We stayed two days at the Best Western hotel and it was a nice but dull place with a lousy restaurant and a high \$70 a night price tag. On Monday, the desk clerk set us up with a side trip to the Mayan ruins at Uuxmal and we took off with our driver who was acted like he was king of the road in a big old Chevy Suburban with a monster 350 V-8 tearing down the 2 lane road.

At Uuxmal we had a guide who talked all about the Mayans and the ruins and for some reason kept down-playing the extremely violent culture - like human sacrifices, ball games where the winners or the losers lost both their heads and other body parts. He was pointing to some carvings in a doorway where he said the warriors were dancing and I said bullshit; they were fighting as you could plainly see. It was a great day and I talked Brenna into climbing up the pyramid and she got scared when she looked down had to come back down sliding on her butt the 100 plus steps.

Our Yucatan Vacation

We had a good Mayan lunch at the ruins and returned to town.

On Tuesday, we took a bus to the old colonial town of Valladolid near the large ruins of Chichen Itza. That place is huge, buildings and temples everywhere with the largest pyramid in the Yucatan. We walked around and we were amazed at the size of it all, the guides claim all the buildings were temples and palaces for the high priests and gods- I think they were hotels since there were so many of them. And since this is where the Mayan 'Super Bowl' of the ball games were held they obviously needed places for people to sleep. Many players lost their heads and other body parts in these games. The old Mayans threw a lot of men, women, kids and valuables into a large sink hole full of water near the main temple, so the gods would make the rains come and the crops grow. It did not work since the crops failed and the people starved, so they all moved away to the jungle and their descendants still live there today.

We caught a ride back to town in a 9-passenger van that had 18 people aboard so we all had a fun time feeling each other up on way back to the hotel. The town of Valladolid has 2 good hotels and the best food and prices of the whole trip. The hotels were around \$30, the food was under \$8 a meal, and the beer was a buck a bottle. We hopped a 1st class bus the next day to Cancun to meet a friend, and some dirtbag kid crapped in his pants so it was a smelly 3-hour ride. We were to deliver some parts for his Esprit catamaran.

I met Vincent on the Stiletto website and he was in dire need of a mainsail, so I sold him my old patched mainsail and brought it down on the boat, and he was a happy camper since his was

patched with duct tape and looked like it had been used to cleaned up oil spills. He took us snorkeling one day and we sailed 6 miles to Isla de Mujeres the next day for lunch on the beach. Cancun has way too many gringos and other tourists and the prices are too high. The place was very busy and the hotel zone on the gulf was hotel after hotel for miles-it looked like Miami Beach, full of cars, trucks and buses all day long.

We returned to Valladolid and went to a large cenote (sinkhole) in town. The Yucatan has no above ground rivers, all are underground and all the sinkholes fill with water. The cenotes are really awesome and the Florida sinkholes are just tiny pot holes compared to them; many are over 200 feet deep with 200 feet of water in them and they were the main source of water for many years. You can walk down to the bottom and go swimming in some and divers have found bones, gold, chopped off heads, and pottery in many of them.

The first-class bus back to Merida was full and we had to take the second-class bus back to the city. Wow, was that a fun rids. The bus was full and we had standing room only, also some of the local Indians had been shopping and had bags and bags of corn and beans, boxes in their hands, sniveling kids, and were eating as they stood over you. A little old lady smelt real bad, and she was gagging Brenna and the other people around her. A young dude was flirting with Brenna, I think he liked her hair. In addition, a cute Indian girl kept looking and batting her eyelashes at me, so it was an interesting four-hour ride to Merida.

We were leaving the bus station when a man speaking good English gave us a flyer about his hostel (hostels are cheaper than hotels but some

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Our Yucatan Vacation

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have rooms and some have only bunks). He had a room & bath with 20-foot high ceilings and two-foot thick walls in a house his family owned for 200 years for \$14 a night. We said OK and he gave us a ride to the place, what a deal! The old house was comfortable and there were grungy European hippie types all over the place planning their trips in search of life experiences and doobys. We walked around town looking for a place to eat and found a pizza made by hand and cooked in front of us the old classic way. We moved to a beautiful old hotel with air and a courtyard for \$30 the next day and this was shopping day for Brenna, I had to change more money since she kept finding good deals. Ugh!

On Saturday night Merida closes off the streets and has bands playing around the university area so it is a big street party with tables set up on the streets and different music on each corner until 2:00 AM. On Sunday we took a bus back to Progreso to meet the boat, we had several hours to kill so we went to the beach and hung out at beach front cafes drinking and eating up the last of our pesos. Well, we got to the ship trashed and found our rooms and the ship left at 6:00 PM. We arrived in Tampa on Tuesday about 8:00 AM and the trip was over.

Some comments on the trip: We saw an ad in the paper for the Yucatan express is why we went on the trip and I wanted to see the Mayan ruins, I speak a lot of bad Spanish so it was fairly easy for me to get around the country without a guide or a tour. Merida had the worst food and the highest prices. Valladolid had the best food and good hotel rates. Cancun is like the tourist traps in the US and the hotels close off most beaches. The

ruins were great as were the cenotes but you need to be in good shape to climb them and we did a lot of walking to the buses and hotels dragging our bags. Progreso has a good beach and nice cafes at the beach. The ship is seems well maintained and most the people working I talked to were from Costa Rica, Columbia and the Caribbean. The ship's hostess Audrey was good and could sing like a professional. I found many Canadians on the ship and in country-they are hiding from the snow you know. The whole trip cost about \$2000 for the two of us, which includes the ship and taxes of around \$750. The ship is in Tampa from November to April then returns to Maine for the summer. It was a great vacation and I would recommend it to anyone.

FOMA Events Calendar

March 16 - Michelob Cup Race

March 19 - FOMA March Meeting

March 23-24 - Southwest Florida Charity Regatta, Naples Florida

April 6-7 - April Fooler Cruise to Bahia Beach

April 12 - FOMA Frolic New Date

April 29 - SPECIAL NIGHT - FOMA Meeting, Oriental Super Buffet, Route 60, Clearwater

May 3 - Tampa Bay to Cuba Race

The Racing Quarter

Michelob Cup

This is to announce the 21st Annual and the Largest regatta on Florida's West Coast, the Michelob Cup or 'Jimmy Burns Memorial Regatta'.

Race Date: Saturday, March 22, 2003.

Registration booklets are available from the Treasure Island T&YC Dockmaster at:
Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club
400 Treasure Island Causeway
Treasure Island, Florida
Club: (727) 367-4511, Fax: (727) 367-2632
E-Mail: tityc@ij.net. Web:
www.tityc.com>www.tityc.com

The Skipper's meeting will be on Friday, March 21. You can also contact Beth Pennington at w.westflaphrf2@verizon.net for more information.

Gasparilla Results

Pos.	Boat	PHRF	Corrected Time
1	Strider	-24	3:04:48
2	Trimatic	75	3:33:12
3	Tricycle	21	3:44:15
4	Wave Dancer	99	3:51:51
5	El Nino	21	3:58:52
	DNF Tres Magnifique		

Strider Returns With a Bang!

by Sid Zipperman

After a short stint in Washington, with a cosmetic surgeon, Steve Steakley's *Strider* (a modified Stiletto 30) has returned to Tampa Bay. Boosting new equipment including an apparent wind instrument for a rotating mast and various titanium blocks costing thousands of dollars, the old gal's face lift has worked wonders. Tampa Sailing Squadron's Gasparilla Regatta was sailed on February 8th. It was a cold, windy day, which reminded some of us of our Northern heritage. The eighteen-and-a-half-mile course features a long spinnaker run from Apollo Beach to the Pier in St. Petersburg, where Strider hit 18+ knots. This is discouraging to the competition that was doing 16 knots and falling back. Steakley's bombshell finished 55 minutes ahead of Sid's F-28R and smashed the field with a -24 PHRF rating. "Just wait till he sees his next rating change", chortled Sid.

Thank goodness, the TSS served up hot corn chowder and garlic bread to the frozen sailors shortly after landing. The friendly folks at the yacht club are just outstanding hosts. Also, thank you to Andrew Roedig trailering his F-24 from the Ft. Myers area to race with us, and finish in second place on a corrected time. Finally, it was nice to see our new member Gordon Gillette and his family racing their new F-28R.

FOMA Dues

This is your LAST CHANCE to renew your FOMA Dues in time to receive a FOMA Directory, which we should have available at the April Meeting!

We must receive your renewal by the March meeting to ensure your name is in the 2003 Directory, which is scheduled to be available at the April meeting!

To join or renew, please complete the form (so we can check our database), attach a check made out to FOMA, and mail to the address shown opposite.

FOMA

Florida Offshore Multihull Association Membership Form

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Boat Type: _____ Length: _____ Sail #: _____

Boat Name: _____

Are you Available For Crew? Yes / No Sailing Experience _____ years

Sailing Interests: Cruising / Racing / Other

Skills I have that could help FOMA: _____

I prefer to receive my newsletter via: The Web (preferred) snail mail

Comments: _____

Annual Dues

Our annual dues are due every January.

\$30 Family

\$100 Sponsor (includes a logo in every newsletter and a link on the web page)

Make checks payable to **FOMA** and mail with this form to:

Darlene Myers
2701 Country Woods Lane
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

If you have any membership questions, Darlene can be reached at ktmyers@gte.net or (727)733-1569

**Special Meeting Date!
See Inside for Details**

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