



MultiMedia

September 2006

The Newsletter of the Florida Offshore Multihull Association

The Vice Commodore's Corner

Capsized!

Or the Tale of the Long Suffering Brenna

by

Wayne Rutland, Vice Commodore

Well I finally did it, I flipped a cat in Tampa Bay.

To begin, lets talk about the boat, it is a 21' by 8.5' Jarcat. It has a cabin with a double, single, and room for a port-a-potty and a small galley. We have 2 head sails and a tall main plus a trailer. It was custom built in the keys using the West system by a European cabinet maker and finished in 1997. I put on a new motor and put it in the water to check it out. The first sail was pretty good-5 or 6 knots of wind and the boat was sailing at 5 or 6 knots. On the second sail we had Brenna, my son, his friend-both in their 20s', and I aboard. The friend had never been on a sailboat before.

It started as an OK trip until I tried to use both head sails and they tangled up when we tried to tack, so we rolled them up to untangle them. We were in irons and it would not get out with just the main. And then I saw a nasty black cloud screaming across the bay. I put the motor down so we could turn and run, and then the storm hit us on the starboard side of the boat, The boat

went over so fast only two of us had time to jump off. The other two were in the cabin and cockpit when it went.

After I came up I started hollering for Brenna since she went under, and of course she was the smallest and I have found women seem to get hurt easier than men. I found her 20 feet from the rear of the boat flopping around, somewhat stressfully, and went and pulled her to the to the boat. I sent my son back into the cabin to find the life preservers, but he was having problems locating them, so I poked my head in and pointed them out to him. He handed them out and, then Brenna started having a fit about her purse, so he had to stay and find it. He found it and handed it out before the cabin went further under.

We then tried to put on the life jackets and found that it was not easy to put on one in the water with a 3 to 4 foot chop, so it became a real fun

—Continued on Page 3

Articles In This Issue

Next Meeting

FOMA Shirt Sale

Upcomign Race Season

Our Next Meeting

FOMA is starting the fall meeting and racing season off with a bang this year!

Uncle Sid has lined up a very special speaker for our September meeting, one that we will all want to see and hear.

Hank Epstein has spent many years sailing around this globe, and while sailing around, also has done a fair bit of diving and underwater photography. Hank is going to be giving us a talk and slide show on the fabulous Galapagos Islands.

Discovered in 1535, this group of 19 islands and 107 rocks and islets became famous around the world in 1859 with the publication of *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin, which laid out the theory of evolution.

With pictures from above and below the water line, I am sure this will be an amazing show.

So, let's all get together on Tuesday, September 19th at Applebee's in Tri-City Plaza (intersection of US 19 and East Bay Drive) for an evening of fun, food, enjoyment, and education. Happy hour starts at 6:00 PM and Dinner around 7:00 PM.

See you there!

FOMA Shirt Sale

Wayne Rutland is coordinating a sale of FOMA shirts. They were a big hit the last they were offered for sale several years ago, but time has gotten to most of them by now, so it's time to get new ones.

Wayne will be ordering them after the September meeting, so you can see Wayne at the September meeting, or contact him at sfbker@msn.com or 813-837-5281.

Golf shirts will be approximately \$20 and ladies tank tops will be approximately \$15.

Sizes will run from small to xxx large. So, if you want a new FOMA shirt, contact Wayne ASAP!

MultiMedia - The monthly newsletter of the Florida Offshore Multihull Association (FOMA), a non-profit sailing organization on the West coast of Florida. Copyright 2006, all rights reserved. Permission to reprint articles is granted, as long as credit is included and a copy is sent to FOMA. Published most months (except August), and distributed free of charge to our members. Colin Povey, editor.

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
c/o Colin Povey
2961 Longbrooke Way
Clearwater, FL 33760-1720

FOMA Sponsors



The Vice Commodore's Corner

time. Brenna had her purse around her neck which acted like a 20 pound anchor, and for some reason keep looking at the waves, which naturally swamped her more. We finally got everyone in a vest, then looked around to find the boat sailing away, upside down, leaving us behind! We swam as fast as we could and finally got to the boat and proceeded to cling to it. By now the boat has turned turtle and was a perfect raft, 2 hulls out of the water and all else under. It was raining like we were in one of those major tropical depressions they talk about on TV, and the only warm place was in the water.

I sent my son up on the new raft to wave and shout at the non-existing boats in the storm. We had drifted close to the ship channel and a tanker was there sitting in the channel doing I don't know what. After an hour-and-a-half, two big tug boats came over to look at the dumb asses clinging to an upside down boat in a storm. Well, the damn things are so big they could do nothing, the decks were over 10 feet from the water and all they had were dock lines. They said the Coast guard was searching the tanker and would come after they finished. A while later the Coast Guard arrived with a patrol boat with 2 huge Honda outboards. They pulled Brenna out first and during the process somehow pulled her shorts down almost to her knees. She claimed she had on a bikini under it but it seemed to me all was exposed, so they were happy. When we all were on the boat the guys asked if we had Tow Boat/US or Sea-Tow, and who should they call. I had neither and I knew we had a problem because this was not a tow, this was a salvage, and that can mean half the boats value. I said call anyone, I don't care. They were in the cabin talking and decided

to help us since we were one of them. Brenna's entrance might have helped things along, as well as my being retired Army.

So the boys and I jumped back in and tied a line to the stays and got on the other boat hull, and the monster twin outboards pulled the boat back upright and we jumped off at the last second. Of course, Brenna was in there sweet-talking the 3 Coasties into more help. With their help we pumped the boat out, and they proceeded to pull us to McDill AFB, where we started our adventure from.

These were great guys and Brenna said if she had to be rescued she was glad they were so good looking (huh?).

We lost cell phones, GPS, wallet, all kinds of boat stuff lost and the rudders broke and I had to take the motor to the shop. I estimate \$1500 all told.

So, what caused the problem and where are we on repairs?

1. The mast is too tall. If I keep the boat I will shorten the mast and sail 3 feet.
2. I tried to turn too late with the storm coming faster than I thought, and I should have tried to stay into the wind in irons.
3. The boat is a narrow cat and does not like high winds. We must have had 20 plus knots under the cloud, while we had only 5 or 6 before.

Did I learn any lessons? Yes, tie the beer down so you don't lose it, and bring a waterproof bag to put your high priced toys in. I did not learn to be more careful; I like exiting fun toys, and I now have a story to tell when we are talking around the fire.

2006 Racing Series

The 2006-7 racing season is getting off to a flying start for FOMA with a **'new' old race, the Dunedin Cup**. Renamed the Dunedin Cup and Kiwanis Regatta, this race has been 'opened up' to include many types of boats. The race is scheduled for October 7th.

For over 20 years the Dunedin Cup has been a monohull racing event in the Gulf of Mexico. Today we recognize that our community enjoys many types of boating programs, so for 2006 and in the future, the Dunedin Cup will be held jointly with the Kiwanis, providing an opportunity for different boating organizations to participate in one great event.

This years Cup Race will also consist of separate races for monohulls, catamarans, Pearson Ensigns, Sea Pearls, Sunfish and Optimist Prams, a variety of kayaks and outriggers.

The race is being used as a fund raiser to build a 'Boundless Playground', a playground where children with and without disabilities can play together. Millions of children in the US have disabilities that prevent them from using normal playgrounds, so the Dunedin Boat Club and Kiwanis are teaming up to raise money for this playground.

For more information see the following web site: <http://www.dunedincup.org/welcome.htm>

The next promising race is the opening race of the West Florida PHRF series races. The Bradenton Yacht Club Fall 2006 Kick-Off regatta open the 'Boat of the Year' series of races for 2006. The Bradenton race is being held on September 22-24, this coming weekend. Registration must occur by 5:00 PM on Thursday. This race welcomes off-shore multihulls, so it is a good one for us.

Now, **if you have any interest in racing, mark you calendars NOW for the weekend of November 5th for the Davis Island Yacht Club Classic**. Why, well first off, DIYC has been very open to FOMA for many years, without question the most welcoming yacht club in the area. **They actually have a FOMA class scheduled for this race, as well as a 'True Cruising' class.** What could be better than that!

Second, for some reason, **this race has been moved to Clearwater**, so no more day required for most of us to get all the way to Davis Island.

More information can be found at: <http://www.diy.org/contentdetail.asp?ContentID=349>

Information on other upcoming races can be found at: <http://www.westfloridaphrf.org/regatta/index.htm>

FOMA Shirt Sale

Wayne Rutland is coordinating a sale of FOMA shirts. They were a big hit the last they were offered for sale several years ago, but time has gotten to most of them by now, so it's time to get new ones.

Wayne will be ordering them after the September meeting, so you can see Wayne at the September meeting, or contact him at sfbker@msn.com or 813-837-5281.

Golf shirts will be approximately \$20 and ladies tank tops will be approximately \$15.

Sizes will run from small to XXX large. So, if you want a new FOMA shirt, contact Wayne ASAP!