

FROM THE COMMODORE

by Joe San Martin

Merry Christmas Everyone! It's so good to see our Snowbirds here in time to meet Santa on his Southern route. Thanks to Santa's helpers Paul and Priscilla Whittall and friends, there is a lovely tree for Santa to sit under while presents are given to our little ones. I can't wait to see how Santa arrives this year. We've had him come on various boats including a beach cat, a Seaplane, a helicopter, and last year on a water ski. It must be good exercise to carry that toy bag on a water ski because Santa looked pretty fit last year.

We have some sad news: I got word last month that Tom Keery passed away. Tom and Connie have been members since 1992. On behalf of the Club I offer our condolences to Connie and the Keery family and friends.

Our Wednesday night dinners have been well attended and Pat and crew are doing a fine job. If you haven't already, better make your reservations soon.

You may have noticed the driveway looks a lot better. Thanks to former Commodore Karen Stanton's efforts and persistence it has been repaved. One of the crew doing

the paving told our Manager, Kiomie Pedrini, that it was about time we did it and that he was with the crew that paved it last. When Kiomie asked what year that was, the answer was 1974. At that rate we won't have to do it again until around 2035.

We had a great Around St. Croix race this year, and although the second day was rough and some boats didn't finish, including mine. It was a good demonstration of the sailing skills walking around the Club.

Maestro Lew Westerman led the pack in the George Silver built/designed Charis Plus. Rumor has it that speeds up to 14 knots were reached going upwind.

Even more amazing, two little J-24's sailing short handed had a tight race in heavy seas and howling winds. Hopefully, the next time Jeff and Doug will have full crews. Speaking of next year, Lewellen, next time it's "no more Mr. Niceguy".

Our St. Croix International Regatta will be held from February 18th through the 20th. If you would like to help out contact Ivan Diaz for Powerboat work, and for all else contact Julie San Martin. This is the largest Regatta of its kind that is still run by volunteers; and it is the first leg of the Caribbean Ocean Racing Triangle, a series of three Regattas including

Culebra, and the BVI Spring Regatta. Whether you are sailing or helping out, or just looking it's lots of fun and great company. Treat yourself this year and be there. That's all for now, see you at the Club.

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13TH INTERNATIONAL ST. CROIX REGATTA READY TO ROLL

by Chris Goodier

IT'S REGATTA TIME! Our 13th St. Croix International Regatta will be underway shortly during Presidents' Weekend, February 18 – 20, 2006. Cartons of shirts, hats and other regatta merchandise are arriving thanks to Millie Johnson's early efforts, posters are up with member Jane Akin's painting as the centerpiece, and volunteers have been scheduled by Barbara Blank to deliver our club's famous hospitality, known throughout the Caribbean.

Bright yellow booklets with the weekend's schedule are at the club and around town, thanks to good work by Karen Stanton and her tireless advertising committee—pick one up if you haven't seen it yet. You'll enjoy photos from last year's event and whet your appetite for our club's biggest weekend of the year. Many thanks are due to the members and community

businesses that placed ads in the booklet.

It's not too late to volunteer—Regatta Director Julie San Martin suggests that you ask around during the Cruzan Rum party, since some openings always pop up at the last minute.

And what a party it will be -- on Friday, February 17 at 6 p.m., thanks to Cruzan Rum, our annual party coordinator Leslie Cramer, and our hard-working Anchor Catering staff. The buffet will be bountiful, the rum will flow, and the Xpress Band, will play.

ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

You don't have to be a sailor or a volunteer to enjoy this party, planned to kick things off with a bang every year.

But the fun won't stop there – come by for dancing with Jazzy Blue on Saturday evening and Outlaws in Paradise on Sunday, around 6 p.m. both days. And don't miss the awards ceremonies – for the Opti junior sailors on Sunday at 4 p.m., and for the big kids on Monday at 3 p.m.

How could we do the regatta without our friends at Innovative, who are sponsoring the event once again this year? When you see Holland Redfield around town or at the regatta,

let him know how much you appreciate their support.

Meanwhile, a reminder to our sailors--this year, we launch the return of CORT, the Caribbean Ocean Racing Triangle series of races last held in 2003 which will now include, in addition to St. Croix, the Culebra International Regatta March 17 – 19 and the British Virgin Islands Spring Regatta March 31 – April 2.

Interested in sailing in the CORT series? Pay your CORT entry fee of \$50 (in addition to the standard fees charged for the individual races) by February 17 during our registration. CORT awards happen at the end of the BVI Spring Regatta in Tortola on Sunday, April 2. Take a look at

www.sailcort.com

for more details. Entry forms, fees, and a program of events for both the International Regatta and the Valentine Optimist Regatta will be posted on

www.stcroixyc.com

and Club manager Kiomie Pedrini is also available to answer members' questions at 773-9531 or

stcroixyc@vitelcom.net.

FROM THE MANAGER

by Kiomie Pedrini

On September 16, 2005, the St. Croix Yacht Club sponsored a happy hour, Hurricane Bash to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. On the eve of the anniversary of Hurricane Hugo and in the shadow of Katrina's devastation, members and their guests came together to share their hurricane survival stories and many, who had opened their pocket books before, did so again in the hopes that each donation would make a difference in the lives of a survivor. Members danced the night away to the fluid sounds of Splash as they thanked their lucky stars that the storms have spared us this year to date. They also participated in a 50/50 raffle, where the winner would have the opportunity to win half of the pot of money raised, if their raffle ticket was chosen. Cheryl Smith was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle. We would like to share our sincere thanks as Cheryl graciously donated her winnings from the 50/50 raffle back to the Hurricane Katrina Fund. We also want to thank all those who wrote checks to the Salvation Army, totaling over \$2000.00 in funds raised.

The St. Croix Yacht Club web site has a new look! Please visit www.stcroixyc.com

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FROM THE FLEET CAPTAIN

by Chris Schreiber

Merry Holidays, everyone! As we roll into the Christmas season, and we all start peeking out and wondering if it's safe to launch our boats yet? As I write this, it's blowing about 30, and I'm happy I'm running late and not worried about my mooring. How's your ground tackle, as the Christmas winds blow?

We've had a pretty active fall, with a very successful One-Design Series, a couple of off island events (that Sue Gibbons has covered elsewhere in this issue - Thanks Sue!) and a great Round the Island Race. We tried to do a Buck Island raftup, but the swell was a little big for comfort. We'll try this one again; it would be fun to do a Sunflower raft one day!

Upcoming we have the Winter One Design starting January 8, come on out and sail, even if just for one day! And then comes the International Regatta and the CORT series--I'm starting to block out my weekends already. Remember, all these events and more are posted on the schedule on the Sailing Bulletin Board in the breezeway.

Another item of interest: We've taken inventory of some of our stuff, and we have several sails available. Specs are on another

page, but many thanks to Bob McIntosh for helping to inventory the collection. If anyone has other items to sell, we can list them in the Scuttlebutt, maybe we should do a Yacht Club classified section? (*I've been trying to promote this for years! ed.*)

So, what's on our wish list for Christmas? We got our new driveway, which looks great! And the website is fantastic, if you haven't checked it out lately! How about a working septic, or a good security system? A new committee boat? A launching ramp? Actually, we're in pretty good shape overall.....this is the time of year to count our blessings, and we have many. Anytime I start getting grumpy, I look out at the water and Buck Island, and realize how lucky I am to live here.....

Merry Christmas and a Fantastic New Year!!

**ANNUAL
MEETING
FEBRUARY 15TH
7PM SHARP. BE
THERE OR HAVE
SOMEONE BRING
YOUR PROXY**

JUNIOR SAILING UPDATE

by Sue Gibbons

This has been a busy fall for some of our junior sailors. Locally, we had one of the biggest One Design fleets ever. We even had some guests from St. Thomas come over and sail in our One Design. Tyler Rice and his mom, Karen, came over in September and sailed a 420. William Bailey came over in October and sailed an Opti and Alex Coyle also came over in October and sailed a 420.

Columbus Day weekend saw a large contingent of St. Croix sailors travel to St. Thomas for their Laser and Opti regatta. If you remember that weekend, you will remember that the conditions were intense. Winds were gusting well over 25 mph.

Sailing on Saturday was delayed until the afternoon due to the heavy winds and threats of lightning. The waves were so big that when an Opti was in the trough, you couldn't even see the hull or the sail. Lots of Lasers were going over and, unfortunately, there was also some broken equipment.

In spite of the weather, the race committee was able to get in 5 races for the fleets of 9 Optimists and 28 Lasers.

St. Croix results:

Optimists:

Billy Gibbons – 1st overall; 1st in blue fleet

Mack Bryan – 2nd in white fleet

Challis Diaz – 4th in white fleet

Lasers:

Jae Tonachel – 1st in 4.7

Morgan Bryan – 3rd in 4.7

Chris Schreiber, Sr. – 4th in Radial

Felice Quigley – 5th in Radial

Sydney Jones – 8th in Radial

Christopher Schreiber, Jr. – 12th in Radial

Beecher Higby – 5th in Standard

Josh Curtis – 8th in Standard

Ryan Murphy – 12th in Standard

Also traveling over to coach and add support were Doug DeReu and Tim Pitts.

In November, a group of sailors traveled to Ponce, PR for their first annual Youth International Regatta, which had Laser and Opti sailors from the USVI, BVI, PR and Curacao.

This dinghy event used to be part of their Discover the Caribbean Series, which included the big boats. This year, however, they split the youth event to extend it to a three-day regatta and highlight the kids. The weather for the event was beautiful as is the venue.

The race committee was able to run 11 races for the fleets of 35 Optimists and 7 Lasers. We wish Ponce Yacht & Fishing Club success as they will be hosting the Optimist North Americans in July 2006.

St. Croix results:

Optimists:

Billy Gibbons – 9th overall; 6th in blue fleet

Morgan Bryan – 15th overall; 9th in blue fleet

Mack Bryan – 16th overall; 4th in white fleet

Challis Diaz – 18th overall; 6th in white fleet

Lasers:

Ryan Murphy – 1st in Standard

Sydney Jones – 2nd in Radial



(cont. page 3, from the Club Manager)

and give us your feed back, ideas and opinions. Visit us every week to see the Wednesday Night Buffet menu and to see what exciting

entertainment events are going on. Keep abreast of our regatta schedules and see results almost as soon as they happen. Get the most current information on the Junior Sailing Program and see how those representing us are doing, all over the globe. The Board is hoping that this new web site will be a hand on tool to help locals and mainlanders alike, stay connected to their Yacht Club community. Special thanks to Christina Lannen at Lannen Designs for facilitating the completion of this project.

Two reminders:

Applications for Buck Island Reef National Monument can be filled out and submitted to the National Park Service, at 2100 Church Street, #100, St. Croix, USVI 00820. Any questions, please call (340)-773-1460.

With all the recent rain, please check your boats regularly. Automatic bilge pumps only work if your battery is not dead, so swing by and give your vessel a check to be sure she is not sitting low in the water. If you are unable to do so yourself, please make arrangements with the manager to check on your vessel.

Be an active part of your Yacht Club Community. Please feel free to email me at stcroixyc@vitelcom.net