



FORT LAUDERDALE MARINERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

April 2008

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, April 3

Registration 11:30 am

Lunch 12:00 pm

Cost \$20.00

Location—

Café Vico
1125 North Federal Hwy
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33304

Lunch is served "family style"-
no need to select an entrée!

Lunch includes:

Salad
Chicken Marsala
Lobster Ravioli with Lobster Cream Sauce
Baked Snapper with Lemon Caper Sauce
Tiramisu for dessert

Please join us for good conversation, an interesting speaker and a pleasant lunch. See you there!

RSVP requested no later than March 31 to

Matthew Valcourt at

mjv@fowler-white.com
305-789-9280

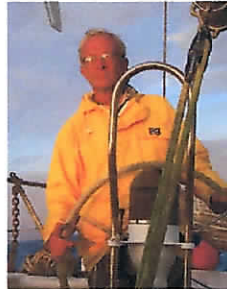


Officers 2008:

Skipper: Nancy Chambers
First Mate: Bill Johnson
Purser: Laura Sherrod
Yeoman: Tina Cardone
Bosun: Matthew Valcourt
Program Director: Mark Brown
Activities Chair: Kristene Lundblad
Seminar Chair: Dick Basom
Seminar Co-Chair: Chris Karentz
Historian: Shary Patton

April 3, 2008 Luncheon — Mr. Alan Bogotay, Guest Speaker

Alan Bogotay has been a Fort Lauderdale resident since 1991. He recently retired from the yacht sales, management and charter business.



Before moving to Florida, Mr. Bogotay was active in commercial real estate development in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, and, going back even further, was an executive in several management consulting and research firms.

He is a native of Ohio and a 1961 graduate of Williams College. For the past six months, Mr. Bogotay chaired the Program Committee of the Fort Lauderdale Maritime Museum.

The Fort Lauderdale Maritime Museum is located on the north bank of the New River, just one block from the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and the Museum of Science and Discovery. It is two blocks from the Opera Society and the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society and three blocks from the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art. It is on the RiverWalk, in the Arts and Entertainment District of downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Announcements!

"LADIES, LET'S GO FISHING!"@ SEMINAR-MARCH 28-30- The "Ladies, Let's Go Fishing!" seminar series will conduct its Ft. Lauderdale seminar at Ramada Inn Airport on March 28-30, 2008. Other activities will be held nearby at the Marina Bay docks, with Sunday fishing departures from Radisson Bahia Mar. Hosted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and presented by Mercury Outboards, the weekend event emphasizes conservation and features classroom sessions, hands-on skill practice and an optional angling adventure.

Registration for the seminar is \$145 per person, including instruction, use of equipment, hands-on training, Welcome Reception, meals, T-shirts and more. The Fishing Adventure, with tackle provided, costs an additional \$35 to \$115, depending upon the category of charter vessel selected.

For more information, call (954) 475-9068, email info@ladiesletsstofishing.com or visit www.ladiesletsstofishing.com.

MARINERS CLUB PICNIC-April 12, 2008- The Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club Annual Picnic will be held at Snyder Park on April 12 from 12 PM-4 PM. Food and fun will be had by all. Included in the fun will be a bounce house, rock wall and sumo wrestling! See flyer enclosed!



PLYWOOD REGATTA-APRIL 19-20, 2008- The Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) proudly presents the 12th Annual Plywood Regatta, a two-day boat building event that introduces young marine enthusiasts and the community to the craft of boat building and the excitement of recreational boating. On April 19th-20th at the Dania Beach City Marina, more than 200 middle, high school and marine technical school students will attempt to build a sea-worthy vessel on Day One using simple hand-tools and only the supplied materials of plywood, fast cure caulk and tie wraps. Once the boats are completed, they are decorated. On Day Two, the boats and their crew line up and race in a series of heats to win the coveted FORT LAUDERDALE MARINERS CLUB TROPHY!

All Plywood Regatta proceeds benefit South Florida marine industry education programs and the Plywood Regatta Scholarship Fund. MIASF is inviting your company to support the 12th Annual Plywood Regatta and be a major part of this unique event. While supporting the youth marine education and marine industry workforce development, you can promote your brand, products and services to thousands of potential customers.

You may contact Shary Patton, Co-Chair at (954) 452-2720 if you have any questions or would like to confirm your support for the upcoming event. We look forward to your participation and another successful year for the MIASF Annual Plywood Regatta.



Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club
PO Box 21750
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-1750
www.ftlmc.org



Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club

About Us

The Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club is dedicated to the promotion of ethical business practices among the seagoing community as well as the circulation of accurate and useful information to the boating community. Our membership includes both professional and leisure boating enthusiasts as well as industry experts and professionals in many disciplines from around the world.

Join Us

We welcome your interest in the Mariners Club and invite you to become an active member to the benefit of each of us individually and all of us as a community. The easiest way to join is to attend a monthly meeting as a guest of a current member. Request an application form from an officer, complete it and mail it with your check for \$50.00 to the Mariners Club for consideration by the membership committee. Two sponsors are required.

If you want to join and do not know an active member, contact Bill Johnson, 954-492-3457 or email Bill at wjohnson@gmm-law.com.

Please visit our website at www.ftlmc.org to find out more about us!



Mock Pirate Ship Sinks:

The Treasure Seeker, a tourist attraction at the St. Petersburg, FL Pier, sank during its owners' attempted move to the Virgin Islands.



For almost two years, the mock pirate ship for tourists, with its dangling skeletons and decorative sails, was tied up snug and secure at St. Petersburg's Pier, FL. Last month, the Treasure Seeker finally got its chance to ply the high seas. Ray Hixon, and his son, Tripp, voyaged south to the Virgin Islands where they hoped to continue their pirate adventures with tourists from the visiting cruise ships. But just south of the Turks and Caicos Islands, it became clear there would be no more "Yo ho ho" aboard the Treasure Seeker. The 65-year-old ship sank in 7,000 feet of water.

It was dark on the Caribbean the night of Feb. 26, so dark that Capt. Tripp Hixon could barely make out his hand in front of his face on the deck of the Treasure Seeker. But he could feel the waves building rapidly as a fierce wind seemed to come out of nowhere. Before long, the 65-foot Treasure Seeker was struggling against 22-foot waves, rolling port to starboard at 70-degree angles, wave after wave. So violent was the movement, Hixon said, the rudder poked out of the water and he could hear the air being sucked beneath the boat.

Five people were on board the 65-foot diesel-powered vessel, including Tripp Hixon, his 60-year-old father and owner of the boat, Ray Hixon, Tripp's grandfather, 80-year-old Webster Knight, and two other men. They were headed to the Virgin Islands for a fresh start. Ray Hixon spent 30 years as a traveling furniture salesman before he retired and bought the pirate replica in South Carolina several years ago. Tripp Hixon, who had just graduated from the University of North Florida, joined his dad in the business.

They were about a day and a half from St. Thomas, their destination, when they were pounded by rough seas. The next morning the sun rose about 6 a.m., and Tripp Hixon began to relax a little. He could see the seas calming down.

Suddenly there was another problem. The engine room filled with thick smoke. Water was coming in through the exhaust and flooding the engine room. The boat has a bilge pump, but it wasn't keeping up with the incoming water. Tripp and his dad got two additional pumps running, each capable of moving 2,200 gallons an hour. The water kept rising. Tripp Hixon ran up to the cabin and woke everyone up, then back below again. The water was 4 feet deep. "We were like, let's get out of here, let's go," Tripp recalled.

He got on the radio and called mayday. He also activated his Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon EPIRB, a device that emits a distress signal and a GPS location. By this time, the boat was just south of the Turks and Caicos Islands and east of Great Inagua, Bahamas.

A sailing vessel from the Turks and Caicos, the 104-foot schooner Juliet, heard the mayday. The Juliet was about 13 miles away and crammed with tourists headed out on a dive trip, but they began a 3 1/2-hour journey to reach the Treasure Seeker, according to the Juliet's owner, John Beltramo, 39.

All five people on board the pirate ship got into a dinghy they tied up to the pirate boat and waited in their life jackets. "That's the biggest mistake people make," Tripp Hixon said. "You can't leave the boat or no one will find you." As they sat in the dinghy, there wasn't much talk. They watched their dreams sink slowly into the waves. "We watched that boat go down, foot by foot," Tripp Hixon said. "It went down, bow first, swoosh," Tripp Hixon recalled.

Despite financial difficulties, the Hixons have a line on another pirate ship. "It's a piratey-looking boat," Tripp Hixon said. "We're trying to buy it and start from ground zero." They hope to fix it up and head to the Virgin Islands again.

By Leonora LaPeter Anton, Times Staff Writer, photo courtesy Tripp Hixon
Published March 9, 2008

Nautical Term of the Month:

Irish Hurricane: an up and down wind indicated in the slapping of sails and gear caused by ship's motion when in light winds or calms a/k/a Paddy's Gale.

Thanks, Matt, for your contribution!