

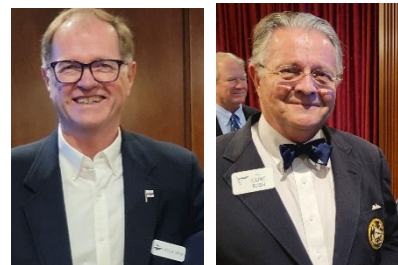
BY LAND

Balmy Florida, Turned Blustery

Florida's Winter months (almost by definition) are benevolent to the cruising mariner ... swaying palms, balmy temps and pleasant breezes.

Except when this subtropical paradise has (along with neighboring states) been chain-sawed by two hurricanes. Rubble from *Milton* and *Helene* (the disagreeable duo) is still being swept out by some in CCA's southernmost Station -- homes being rebuilt, vessels repaired.

Nevertheless, outgoing RC **Atle Moe** (St. Pete) and incoming RC **Clint Bush** (Miami) and their respective teams continued a tradition of camaraderie, achievement and inspired sea-tales.



Atle Moe and Clint Bush



Steve and Doris Colgate

To wit: The Station's Jan. 18 annual meeting at St. Pete YC.

Highlight was hearing the extraordinary life of **Steve and Doris Colgate**, the legendary couple who created -- and have led for more than 60 years -- the *Offshore Sailing School*, with four centers, two in Florida, two in the B.V.I. The tale was told by the couple themselves, members of our Station who reside in Ft. Myers.

Steve, 90 this year, presented a spellbinding look back over the couple's storied career. They've sailed every ocean, graduated over 160,000 sailors from their programs, and received many lifetime achievement honors.

When Steve concluded, he looked across at Doris and said quietly "I owe it all to you." The room erupted in a thumping standing ovation.

The Ayes Have It

The annual meeting also saw a change-of-watch by acclimation with incoming RC **Bush** leading a team consisting of secretary **Eric Thyrré**; treasurer **O. Kendall Hege**; and historian **Russell Hoadley**. Club VC **Chace Anderson** brought greetings, saying his goal is to visit every Station during the year. He underscored the (a) importance of CCA's Safety at Sea program, (b) significance of cruising programs, and (c) need to increase membership. The 2025 national goal is 1-2% growth, he announced.



Chace Anderson

For Whom the Bell Tolls

In a sober reflection, outgoing RC **Moe** read the names of the Station's Final Voyagers as outgoing Historian **Gerry Douglas** tolled eight bells for **John A. Wills** (4/1/2024), **Bruce Kessler** (4/4/2024), **Thomas O. Otto** (6/7/2024), **Pamela K. Wall** (8/2/2024) and **William W. Wilhelm** (10/11/2024).

Additionally, on Mar 15, **Sally Murphy** reported that her husband, **Charles Theodore (Ted) Murphy** crossed the bar on his final voyage Mar 11 at his Mangrove Bay home in Jupiter. He previously had been a member of the Boston Station.

Elsewhere Ashore ...

Through the winter, Florida Station's three "population centers" (Miami, St. Pete and Vero Beach), stayed busy with 10 shoreside events – Luncheons in Vero Jan. 8, Feb. 12 & Mar 14; in Miami Feb. 27; and St. Pete, Jan. 17, Feb. 14 & Mar 14.



Joel Taliaferro taps 'the Keg'

Conviviality marked the most traditional of these, the *Rum Keg* Jan. 17, held at the spectacular high-rise condo of RC **Moe** and his spouse **Kristina Thyrrre**, overlooking a sparkling Tampa Bay. Former RC **Joel Taliaferro**, in charge of *The Keg*, had it well-charged indeed, and rollicking good fellowship was had by all.



Vero Luncheon Group with RC Bush

AT SEA

What's a "Dinghy Dame?"

Despite hurricane harassment, members were able to get afloat now and then. In Tampa, **Russ and Mary Anne Hoadley** hosted a group of "Dinghy Dames" (Davis Island YC women's sailing group) for a "Big Boat Day on the Bay" aboard *sv Blue Heron*, their Catalina 425.



Hoadleys with some 'Dinghy Dames'

Fulfilling a Dream

Members **Al and Fran Lima** (St. Pete) are prepping their *sv Jade*, a CSY 44, for a Bahamas cruise, pursuant to a retirement-dream exploration of much more distant shores.

"Storms, Sharks and Pirates"

And, at the Mar 14 lunch, Circumnavigators **Charlie and**



Heather and Charles Lalanne

Heather Lalanne reprised their three-year sojourn aboard the storied 65-foot schooner *Appledore*, already widely known when first sailed around the globe by her designer-builder **Herb Smith**.

The Lalannes, in a humor-spiced presentation, explained that every sailing travelogue is dull if it fails to include "storms, sharks and pirates." Their voyage had all three.



Topsail Schooner 'Appledore'

Using fabulous old video footage, they focused on the first ... dramatically describing a 4-day *Force 10* passage through the Agulhas Current approaching Durban on the east coast of South Africa.

With a rapt audience watching the wave trains on the big screen -- the yawing and pitching aboard their stout topsail schooner -- more than one luncheon plate was pushed away! The Lalannes, in the future, promised other stories ... especially of sharks and pirates.

Submitted by Russ Hoadley, FL Station Historian

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