



MultiMedia

September 2003

The Newsletter of the Florida Offshore Multihull Association

From The Editor

by Colin Povey

46° 07' South, 169 57' East

32° 02' South, 115 46' East

These points represent the furthest point South and West, respectively, that we recorded on our trusty, well-traveled GPS during our recent trip to Australia and New Zealand. This same GPS made the trip with us a couple of years ago to England, where I put it on the 0° meridian in Greenwich. The first was a point on a road that we drove from Dunedin to Queenstown, New Zealand. The second, my second cousin's apartment in Fremantle, Western Australia, near Perth.

The second point is more than 9800 nautical miles from our house. It's also 33 hours of air travel to get there. And let me tell you, that 14.5 hour trip from San Francisco to Sydney is a killer.

I am not going to bore you with a travel log of our trip. But I will relate a couple of nautical items.

First, while in Perth, we visited the Royal Perth Yacht Club (RPYC). You may have heard of this organization before. In 1987, they were the first challenger to defeat the USA for the America's Cup, the first successful challenge in 137 years. Now, we expected an organization like the St. Pete Yacht Club, you know, big, posh, and snobbish. Well, they are big (they have two club houses, one in Perth, and the Fremantle annex clubhouse,

where the mega yachts that draw a lot of water are based. And they have over 2,000 members. Yes, they are professional, with a large full-time staff, and even a glossy newsletter (don't get any ideas-editor). But they were distinctly **not** snobbish. We were invited in for a drink at the bar, we swapped a FOMA burgee for a RPYC burgee, we bought some souvenirs from their store, we were taken on a tour of the facility, etc. In short, we were treated like friends and fellow sailors. If you travel to Perth on a regular basis, it turns out that they have a type of membership for people who live outside Western Australia. For Aus\$200/year (US\$133), you can obtain a visiting membership, which entitles you to all the benefits of the club, full use

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Our Next Meeting

The next meeting will be September 16th. Our usual third Tuesday (for a change) of the month!

We'll meet at the Leverock's restaurant on the west side of US 19 just south of Park Blvd. (use the Gandy Bridge if coming from Tampa) and go past the shopping mall known as Park Place, that's the one that used to be called Pinellas Square Mall. Confused? Anyway, cocktails will commence about 6:00 PM and we would like to have everyone seated by 7:00 PM.

Our speaker will be Ken Clark.

See you there.

Dinner will be from a banquet menu with 4 choices;

Top Sirloin

Seafood Platter

Onion Crusted Salmon

Fried Shrimp

Each entree includes 2 sides, non alcoholic beverage and hot bread. The price is \$14.96 per person, plus tax and gratuity, or to make it simple, \$20.00 per person.

A Special Note From Your Editor

The October *MultiMedia*

I plan on making a large change in my computer software (both operating system and application software) before the next *MultiMedia* goes to print. If all goes well, you should see no change. If it doesn't, well... those with lots of computer experience know what this can mean.

Especially when the sales person says "It should be no problem."

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FOMA Sponsors



From the Editor

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of club boats, the club house, bar, restaurant, entertainment, parties, etc.

The second nautical item of general interest is that Australia and New Zealand are positively awash in nautical museums. Virtually every city we visited had a nautical museum, most of them excellent. For example, the one in Perth has on display, inside the museum, the boat that beat the New York Yacht Club to gain the America's Cup. The best, however, was the one in Auckland, New Zealand. Great displays, interesting artifacts (they have one of the anchors from the HMS *Bounty*, lost at Tahiti, as well as the original 'jet boat' for example), and the most original display I saw, a simulated room in a sailing ship used to transport emigrants to New Zealand from Europe. The room was on a hydraulic mount and actually tilted and swayed as you sat and listened to the narrative. Very convincing.

Another interesting nautical fact from Auckland was that one of the marina's in Auckland contains what they claim is the world's largest marina, with over 2,000 boats tied up to docks. After sailing past it, I believe them, nothing but masts everywhere.

Lastly, and one of the high points of the trip also occurred in Auckland, right next to the aforementioned museum. Some Kiwi's bought one of the America's cup contenders from the 1999 race series, and have converted it into a day sail boat. They added an engine for docking, a safety rail around the cockpit, a couple of bulkheads, a radio, and some basic safety equipment, and they take groups of people out for 1/2 day sails. The passengers do most of the work (raising the sails, trim the sheets, handle the helm, etc.) and let me tell you, you have never, **never** handled a helm as

sweet as a 12 meter yacht. I tacked her a couple of times, and the helm was as smooth as silk, and the boat turns as if on a pivot point.

The winch system is amazing. There are three winch 'grinder' stations, each run by two people. The winches are five speed, with different ratios controlled by which way you turn the handles, and by changing out a gear (which takes less than 1 minute under sail). The ratios cover the range from 1:16 (16 turns of the drum for one turn of the handle, used for spinnaker sheets while tacking) to 64:1, used to lift the mainsail the last few feet. All the grinder stations can be coupled together to for things like raising the main, and decoupled instantly for handling other tasks.

FOMA Christmas Party

Please come to the September meeting ready to decide on the FOMA Christmas Party.

First, the date: If we have the party on our 'normal' meeting date, it would fall on Tuesday, December, 16th. In some years, we have moved the date forward a week (December 9th this year), to separate it further from Christmas.

Second, what you want. Some members have expressed a desire to upgrade the event, to a more posh location, to include dancing, instead of the gift exchange.

Lastly, as a chef in the catering business, I can arrange a good price for excellent food and service, but we need a place that holds 40 people that allows outside catering. I know of one place, the Boca Ciega Yacht Club, that is free for the asking, but it is pretty plain/dull.

Special Events & Rumors

FOMA is about to get larger. That's right, FOMA is getting a new member.

This member hasn't learned to sail, at least not yet. But she's got a couple of members who have agreed to teach her all the ropes.

She's going to be starting from scratch, and has a lot to learn. But the members who are going to help her are really committed. And while she's pretty inexperienced, I'm sure that the members of FOMA will be glad to help her grow into a great sailor.

You see, our own Julie Taylor is in a family way. She's got a bun in the oven. She is gravid. She has become heavy with child. She is parturient. In other words, she's pregnant! Julie, who is due to deliver the newest member of FOMA in January, is doing just fine.

Julie and Robert have had the tests done, and know it's going to be a girl. While they have not picked a name as of this writing, they have a 'working name' of Maggie. Julie says calling her Maggie is better than calling her 'it'.

Rumor has it that the Butlers are out looking to buy a boat. Unfortunately, the rumors seem to be that they boat is going to be lacking a hull or two.

Anyone want to contribute to a fund for the Butlers, to help them buy that second hull?



FOMA-ites at the August Meeting/Rays Game

Left: Sid, Mary Margaret, Charlie, Marie, and Ron

Above: Mary Margaret

Right: Steve's having a good time, but we're not so sure about Charlie!

August FOMA Meeting

by Colin Povey

With a 180% increase in FOMA attendance over last's year's game, sixteen FOMA members gathered to watch the Devil Ray's on beat the Baltimore Orioles 4-2 on August 12th during the FOMA meeting/Devil Ray's game.

Sitting in Section 304, everyone enjoyed the views of the game. The Rays took the lead in the third inning as after second base man Marlon Anderson flied out, catcher Toby Hall singled to left field. The next batter, shortstop Julio Lugo grounded out to second, sacrificing his at bat to put Hall in scoring position at second. Carl Crawford, the Ray's rookie left fielder, and league leader in stolen bases, hit a single deep to left field that allowed even the slow running catcher Hall to score. Jason Tyner, playing in right field, singled in his turn at bat, moving Crawford to second. Sadly, the next batter, Aubrey Huff, hit a slow grounder to first, and ended the inning stranding two men on base.

The Rays almost scored again in the fourth inning, getting men on second and third, but three strikeouts by Baltimore's Rodrigo Lopez ended the inning.

The sixth inning saw the Rays add more point to the board, as leadoff hitter Aubrey Huff doubled to center. Rocco Baldelli, the Ray's outstanding rookie center fielder, grounded out, leading to the Orioles intentionally walking the next batter, Travis Lee. This brought up third base man Damian Rolls, who doubled to center field, bringing home both Huff and Lee. Lugo was unfortunately caught stealing on this play, resulting in two outs to this

point. The next batter, Anderson, flied to left to end the inning, leaving the Rays ahead 3-0.

The Ray's starter Rob Bell got three more outs in the seventh, and left the game at that point, with the Rays still ahead 3-0, not having let a single Oriole get past second base, and only allowing one hit and two walks.

The Rays added another run in the seventh, when leadoff hitter Carl Crawford singled, and was advanced to second on a sacrifice by Tyner. The next batter, Huff, drew a walk. Then Baldelli hit a single to center, scoring Crawford from second and moving Huff to second. However, Lee struck out to end the inning. The score was now 4-0 in favor of the Rays.

But the 'Birds weren't done yet. Jesus Colome came in to start the eight inning for the Rays, and got into immediate trouble by walking the leadoff batter, short stop Deivi Cruz. This was immediately followed by left fielder Larry Bigbie hitting a



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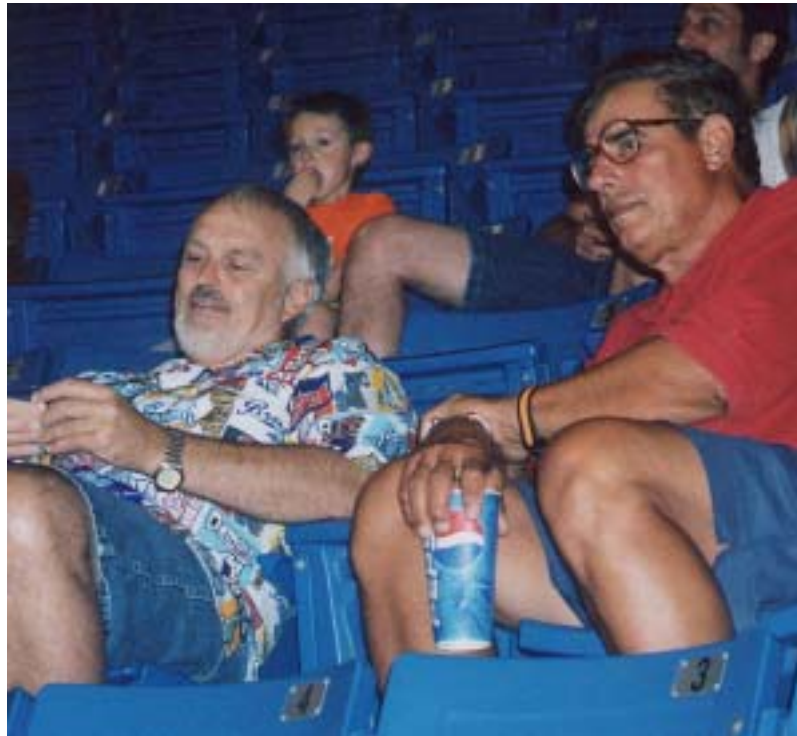
August FOMA Meeting

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homer to left that brought the score to 4-2. Oriole's catcher Brook Fordyce (who is a sailor, by the way. We met his father a few years ago on a sailing trip in Maine) flied out to short as the next batter up. The top of the order came up in the form of second base man Brian Roberts, who hit a single to center. But Colome struck out the next batter, and got a fly ball out from long-time Oriole B.J. Surhoff to end the inning, leaving the score Ray 4-2.

And that's how the game ended, the Rays didn't score in the bottom off the eighth inning, and Lance Carter came in to close for the Rays, leaving the score 4-2, for an impressive win for the Rays. They were never behind, and continued to increase their lead as the game went on. Bell picked up the win, and Carter the save.

So there you are. A good game, good friends, good food, and a win. What more could you ask for? It was suggested that this now become an annual event, and unless we get a lot of negative feedback, let's plan on doing it again next August.



More pictures from the game:

Steve and Sid at a tense moment in the game.

Jim and Jackie appear to be having a good time.

Practical Information

by Colin Povey

Here is a compilation of information from some recent issues of *Practical Sailor* magazine. If you are not familiar with this magazine, it's sort-of a *Consumers Reports* for sailors, in that the magazine tests items of interest to sailors and accepts no advertising. If you are interested in obtaining an subscription, call them at 800-829-9087, or check their web site: www.practical-sailor.com.

In the June 2003 issue, there are two articles that may be of interest to FOMA members. The first is on freshwater pumps. First, the good news: The most failure-prone part of the freshwater pumps, the switch, is starting to be replaced by an electronic flow sensors. Given that, according to their survey, 43% of freshwater pump failures are really switch failures, you can see that replacing this failure-prone system would be a blessing. The two pumps they tested that had these flow sensors were the Flojet Sessor VSD (\$245) and the Shurflo Extreme Series Smart Sensor (\$250)

According to *PS*, there are three desirable characteristics of freshwater pumps. They are flow rate, power draw, and sound. Obviously, the ideal pump would be quiet, draw very little power, and pump like the blazes.

PS ranked the top five pumps in each category as follows.

For lowest power draw: Johnson WPS 2.4, Flojet Sensor VSD, Johnson Uno 3.4, Flojet Quad II, and Johnson Aqua Jet 3.4.

For quietness: Johnson UNO 3.4, Whale Universal 1215, Flojet Quad II, Johnson Aqua Jet 5.0, and Flojet Sensor VSD.

For Water volume pumped: Shurflo Ultra Flow, Groco WSC 60, Shurflo Smart Sensor, Johnson Aqua Jet 5.0, and a tie between the Johnson Uno 3.4 and the Raritan Galley Flow.

The bargain of the group was the Whale GP9258. Not as sophisticated as the others, and lacking a switch, it was very reliable (still running strong after 91 hours continuous hours) and can pump just about any fluid.

The second article of general interest was on thermoelectric coolers. These use a solid-state device called a Peltier Effect device, which is similar to a transistor in construction. These devices are simplicity, with the only moving part being a fan. These devices are also two-way devices, as Peltier Effect devices can also heat things up. The main disadvantage to these devices is that they can only cool to about 40 degrees F below ambient temperature. The units tested were a Coleman, an Igloo, Koolatron, and an Adler/Barbour. They tested 32 quart coolers, except for the Coleman, which makes 16 and 40 quart models. The prices are similar, ranging from \$100 to \$120. The best choices are the Koolatron (for its low power consumption) followed by the Alder/Barbour, which was the easiest to use, and for the fact that Alder/Barbour has an excellent reputation in customer service.

They also mention that if you are looking to install a new or replace a broken compressor cooler, a Peltier Effect system might be the ticket. Information and a list of manufacturers can be obtained at www.peltier-info.com.

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