

ALL AT SEA

SOUTH FLORIDA

Inside: Floridians Care For Their Corals

Freediving South Florida
Melges 32 Blue Water Series
at Lauderdale Yacht Club

SOUTH FLORIDA NEWS



THE TENNIS MATCH CONTINUES IN MIAMI

The dispute over the Miami International Boat Show moving to the Miami Marine Stadium on Key Biscayne continued in October with a pivotal match point thwarted by a crushing overhead shot down the line to knot the score once again. Early in the month a settlement agreement derived from several mediation sessions dating from April 2015, was drafted between City of Miami and the village of Key Biscayne. Under the proposed agreement, the two parties would jointly operate the facility next to the stadium through a semi-independent park conservancy as long as the village paid half the cost of the project. Also, the two parties would split the \$37.5 million cost to restore the historic marine stadium. The agreement needed to go before the Miami City Commission before being finalized. On the eve of the commission meeting, the village of Key Biscayne backed out of the proposed settlement agreement then later filed additional complaints against the City of Miami.

At the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show in November, a presentation by Miami's city manager Daniel Alfonso and representatives from the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), which manages the show, made it very clear that the show will go on. "Nothing that anyone can see will stop this show from happening [at the stadium]," said Thom Dammrich, president of the NMMA.

With just months remaining before thousands of boat lovers descend on Miami, the match is still anyone's to win or lose.

42ND STUART BOAT SHOW GROWS AND SETS NEW DATES FOR 2016

AllSports Productions, producers of the Stuart Boat Show in Stuart, Florida, announced the 2016 boat show will be held January 15 - 17, a week later than in previous years. "We felt the later date provides exhibitors and attendees an extra week to recuperate from their busy holiday season," says Skip Allen, Allsports Productions President, who adds that many new attractions have been added to the 2016 show.

The family friendly show features new powerboats, engines, electronics, accessories, and classes and clinics for adults and children, including:

- Boating Safety Classes - An exclusive U.S. Coast Guard boarding reenactment will demonstrate the safety equipment you must have on board and how to use it.
- Cruising Seminars - Captains Chris and Alyse Caldwell return and instruct skills such as knot tying, mates' duties and safe life raft deployment and use.



- "Hook the Future" - A fun fishing clinic for the whole family; there's something for everyone to learn, and a free rod and reel for the kids.
- Miss Geico Racing Boat with autographs from throttleman, Scott Begovich

For more show and exhibitor information visit allsportsproductions.net.

SUNTEX MARINA INVESTORS LLC SECURES INVESTMENT CAPITAL FOR GROWTH AND CONSOLIDATION

Suntex Marina Investors LLC (Suntex), an owner and operator of marina properties, announced it raised over \$200 million of equity commitments in a series of private placement transactions.

As part of the transaction, Suntex has also acquired the assets and personnel of Suntex Waterfront Advisors (SWA), a premier manager of marina properties. The combination of equity com-

mitments and third-party debt financing will provide Suntex with over \$500 million of buying power to acquire domestic marinas.

The company also announced that Bill Anderson, president of Westrec Marinas, joined the Suntex Board of Directors bringing with him over 30 years of marina industry experience. Westrec is the largest manager of marinas in the country with such prestigious assets as the Harbour Towne Marina in Fort Lauderdale and Holiday Marina on Lake Lanier, and the management of the Chicago Harbors for the City of Chicago.

"We see Suntex as the primary consolidator in the industry, with a focus and culture very similar to our own," said Bill Anderson. "Suntex Marina Investors has an excellent leadership team that will provide the foundation for continued success in the marketplace."

Suntex CEO Johnny Powers stated, "With the completion of this capital raise, we are financially poised for rapid growth. Increasing our portfolio will not only benefit investors, but we are confident that by extending our high standards of customer service to addi-

ANCHORS AWEIGH?

BY ANN EICHENMULLER

Lawmakers are once again floating the concept of state imposed anchoring restrictions in Florida waters. Cruisers and liveaboards breathed a sigh of relief earlier this year when the legislature ended its 2015 session without taking a vote on SB 1548. In late September however, the State Affairs Committee of the Florida House of Representatives announced a workshop session in Tallahassee to hear testimony on whether the legislature should pursue new laws to address conflicts between landowners and boaters. The majority of public comment at the October 8 meeting focused on the perceived negative impact of cruisers on local communities. Homeowners, public officials, and law enforcement officers argued that cruising boaters do not contribute substantially to the local economy and questioned their impact on water quality and on the land owners' rights to the enjoyment of their property.

According to one official, boaters are essentially "vacationing in someone's backyard;" another characterized cruisers as treating the waterway as if it were "the campground of America." Boaters countered that the majority of cruisers use moorings and marinas as well as anchorages, and their time ashore is an unappreciated source of revenue that includes money spent in stores, restaurants,



and other businesses. Brian Davidson, spokesman for Seven Seas Cruising Association, argued for a common sense approach to developing restrictions, noting that any solution should target specific problems in affected areas rather than penalize boaters statewide.

Based on the opinions expressed at this workshop, the boating community will need to mobilize increased public support if it hopes to safeguard its right to swing on the hook. The next few months leading up to the 2016 legislative session will be pivotal in determining what types of restrictions may be imposed. Organizations and individuals interested in protecting access to Florida waters can contact the Concerned Cruisers' Committee at ccc@ssca.org to get up-to-the-minute information on hearings and legislation and learn how to become a voice in the political process.

tional marinas, the boating public will also benefit from the Sun-tex approach: Improve the customer experience by offering superior hospitality services that are unique in the marina industry."



MARINEMAX POMPANO BEACH ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING

On October 24, MarineMax Pompano Beach celebrated the grand opening of their newly renovated showroom at their waterfront location. Invited guests and local dignitaries were treated to an extraordinary afternoon surrounded by exquisite yachts, live music, hors d'oeuvres, aged scotch and fine cigars at the official ribbon cutting.

Originally constructed in 1989 and well maintained through the ensuing decades, the showroom still retained its impressive appearance. However, it was considered badly in need of updating. A second floor water main break precipitated the decision to remodel the 7,500 square foot showroom and second floor office spaces.

"Our renovations were significant, both financially and cosmetically, considering both levels of the building were completely gutted and remodeled," said Kyle Roney, MarineMax Pompano General Manager. "We also added a new Customer Lounge, landscaping, lighting, sound system, and waterfall element and replaced the wood deck of 15 docks with synthetic decking material."

"We are pleased that we are continuing to grow the business. However, we perceive and embrace that at the end of the day, our true measure is customer satisfaction. This is why we have structured our business to deliver boating, as opposed to simply selling boats. By offering opportunities to expand our customers' boating knowledge, providing phenomenal opportunities to use their boats and delivering exceptional service, we ensure that our customers enjoy the best total ownership experience anywhere," added Roney.

BENETEAU ADDS SAILBOAT DISTRIBUTION FOR DENISON IN EASTERN FLORIDA

Beneteau America announced Denison Yacht Sales has added Beneteau's sailboat lines to their existing portfolio of Beneteau powerboat brands for distribution on Florida's East Coast.

Denison's sales and service teams dedicated to new Beneteau yachts are based out of Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach. Denison's contribution to the Beneteau family has already been recognized with the awards of best turnover for Beneteau powerboats in 2014, and best turnover for Monte Carlo powerboats in 2015.

"Strengthening our existing partnership with Denison Yacht Sales towards sailboats is a logical decision," commented Beneteau America President Laurent Fabre. "Denison's success story with our powerboat brands will translate into outstanding customer service – from research to purchase, delivery and beyond – for sailboat buyers in Eastern Florida," Fabre added.

The Denison family has been trusted in the yachting community since 1948 when Frank Denison founded Broward Marine, in Fort Lauderdale. Bob Denison, general manager for Denison Yacht Sales explained, "Our family strives to create relationships with builders that share our passion and our values. As a family-owned business, Denison Yacht Sales is thrilled to expand its relationship with one of the largest boat builders in the world, and certainly one of today's most reputable family-owned shipyards."



ALL AT SEA SOUTH FLORIDA

Editor:
TERRY BORAM
terry@allatsea.net

Production Editor:
JANICE WEIGAND
janice@allatsea.net



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SOUTH FLORIDA FREEDIVING

FISHING BY GLENN HAYES
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF WALKER BLANCO

Imagine soaring effortlessly and silently through some of the most beautiful nature you have ever seen with incredible creatures all around you, all while the sunlight illuminates natural structures. Coming up for air you realize you're not dreaming, rather you are freediving in the spectacular warm waters of South Florida. Many freedivers are now using the discipline for spearfishing. Knowing the proper technique and having the right equipment are essential to enjoying freediving spearfishing in South Florida.

Recreational freediving is a form of underwater enjoyment where the divers rely solely on holding their breath until they resurface. With the right training and practice the freedivers can increase their breath holds for longer periods, entering a state of relaxation and control unlike any other. The longer the breath-hold the deeper they can explore. Freedivers need far less equipment than do scuba divers and enjoy more mobility and speed. There is no need for decompression, so freedivers may dive as many times as they are able in a day. With no distracting noise or bubbles, they can be stealthier and as a result can interact with more underwater wildlife. Because of these benefits, freediving has proved to be a great

way to spearfish, adding to the challenge and sport of stalking your prey.

South Florida has become a prime location for freediving, offering resources to learn the discipline, find proper equipment, and dive some of the best waters in the world. Austin's Diving Center on US-1 in Miami carries many lines of quality freediving equipment with experienced and knowledgeable salespeople, who are avid freedivers and spearfishermen themselves, to help you make your selections.

To be properly equipped for spearfishing you will need a pair of decent freediving fins which are much longer than traditional scuba or snorkeling fins. The long length gives spearfisherman more thrust with each leg stroke, and surprising speed. A low volume dive mask is recommended for the serious spear fisherman. The small volume requires less air to clear the mask and has less drag than a regular mask. A weight belt is also necessary for aiding your descents so you are not always struggling with too much buoyancy. A wetsuit, good pair of gloves, snorkel, dive knife, stringer and other small accessories can make your time on the water fun and productive.



Of course a quality speargun (or two) is also important. Beginners may start with a pole spear popular with lionfish hunters, while others may use the Hawaiian sling which is most commonly used in the Bahamas. For the most efficient underwater hunting there are band-propelled spearguns which can fire spears with one or multiple bands. These guns are often used in South Florida by serious spearfishermen. Some can have lines and reels attached to the spear, and floats rigged to the guns. These are good when hunting bigger prey and in deeper water. Using a free shaft gun where no line is attached works well in shallow water on smaller prey but is not effective in deeper water. Another option is a pneumatic gun that propels the shaft with compressed air. The folks at Austin's can really steer you to the option that is best for you.

Taking a level one lesson in freediving is a very good idea regardless of experience. Dennis Dasinger, a manager at Austin's Dive Center, points out that even accomplished divers who have a lot of experience in freediving come away from classes with newfound knowledge which helps improve their time underwater and their enjoyment of the sport. The Level 1 FII course (open to newcomers who are strong swimmers and experienced divers) spans two days and includes breath holding techniques and

exercises to improve even the most experienced diver's performance. The course also covers many techniques and important freediving specific safety protocols. After the lecture and static breath holding in a pool environment, it is off to open water on day two. When the class is completed, participants not only have the knowledge to freedive safely but have gained the skills to be able to dive to a depth of 66 feet. World class instruction through groups such as Freediving Instructors International (FII) and Performance Freediving International (PFI) on the correct and safe way to freedive are also available in South Florida.

Once you have purchased your equipment and taken your classes there are varied groups you can join for camaraderie and even competition in the form of spearfishing tournaments. The South Florida Freedivers host meetings with guest speakers at a local waterfront restaurant and bar. The meetings "put together a group of like-minded individuals who honor the best of the sport: local fishing regulations and practices, selectivity and conversation, and above all diver safety."

With perfect waters and the welcoming freediving scene in South Florida, there should be no reason not to jump in. 🐠

FISHING TOURNAMENTS:

ISLAMORADA, FL

DECEMBER 3 - 6

Islamorada Sailfish Tournament

www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com/

ditournaments@aol.com

305-522-4868

MIAMI, FL

JANUARY 27 - 31

Sailfish 400

[www.bluewatermovements.com/](http://www.bluewatermovements.com/sailfish_400/)

sailfish_400@bluewatermovements.com

info@bluewatermovements.com

POMPANO BEACH, FL

DECEMBER 9 - 13

Operation Sailfish

[www.bluewatermovements.com/](http://www.bluewatermovements.com/operation_sailfish/)

operation_sailfish@bluewatermovements.com

JANUARY 30 - 31

Sailfish Smackdown

[www.extremekayakfishingtournament.](http://www.extremekayakfishingtournament.org/sailfish-smackdown.html)

[org/sailfish-smackdown.html](http://www.extremekayakfishingtournament.org/sailfish-smackdown.html)

STUART, FL

DECEMBER 10 - 13

Light Tackle Sailfish Tournament

& Florida Sailfish Amateur

Championship Fishing Tournament

[www.stuartsailfishclub.com/](http://www.stuartsailfishclub.com/tournaments.php)

[tournaments.php](http://www.stuartsailfishclub.com/tournaments.php)

HALLOWEEN HOWLER REGATTA

LIFESTYLE



PHOTO CREDIT: PRISKA URBAN

Sailors enjoy a night of trick or treating in the Haunted Mooring Field.

South Florida Optimist and Laser youth sailors came out in force October 24 - 25 at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club for the annual Halloween Howler Regatta. After the first fierce day of racing the youth ditched their sailing gear for Halloween costumes to trick-or-treat among the member decorated boats. It was back to business on Sunday to settle who would take home the hardware.

OPTIMIST GREEN

- 1) Anna Vasilieva - Coral Reef Yacht Club
- 2) Michaelangelo Goralski - Upper Keys Sailing Club
- 3) Martin Hawley - Key Biscayne Yacht Club
- 4) Daniel Calderon - Coral Reef Yacht Club
- 5) Mathieu Graham - Coral Reef Yacht Club
- 6) Griggs Diemar - Coral Reef Yacht Club
- 7) Bailey Knight - Coconut Grove Sailing Club
- 8) Ethan Homberger - Palm Beach Sailing Club
- 9) Umi Noritake - Coral Reef Yacht Club
- 10) Matthew St Aubin - Upper Keys Sailing Club



PHOTO CREDIT: TERRY BORAM

Green fleet winner
Anna Vasilieva

OPTIMIST RWB

- 1) Samuel Clark - Key Biscayne Yacht Club
- 2) Jorge Gutierrez - Key Biscayne Yacht Club
- 3) Jackson McAliley - Coral Reef Yacht Club

LASER 4.7

- 1) Kiril Yakovenko - Coconut Grove Sailing Club
- 2) William Adams - Coconut Grove Sailing Club
- 3) Emma Asturias - Coconut Grove Sailing Club

LASER RADIAL

- 1) David Alejandro Perez - Coconut Grove Sailing Club
- 2) Daniel O'Farrell - Coconut Grove Sailing Club
- 3) Kevin Merten - Lauderdale Yacht Club



Morning briefing

CREDIT: TERRY BORAM

BOAT SHOW:

CHARLESTON, SC

JANUARY 29 - 31

Charleston Boat Show
www.TheCharlestonBoatShow.com
erica@jbmshows.com

JACKSONVILLE, FL

JANUARY 22 - 23

Jacksonville Boat Show
boatjax.com
jmaboatshow@boatjax.com
904-228-2328

MYRTLE BEACH, SC

JANUARY 8 - 10

Grand Strand Boat and Sportsman Expo
www.grandstrandboatshow.com
kdb707@gmail.com
843-357-3098

NAPLES, FL

JANUARY 21 - 24

Naples Boat Show
www.miacc.org
director@miacc.org
239-682-0900

PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

JANUARY 14 - 17

Charlotte County Boat Show
swfmia.com
info@swfmia.com
954-570-7785

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

DECEMBER 3 - 6

St. Petersburg Power

and Sailboat Show
www.showmanagement.com/st_petersburg/event/

STUART, FL

JANUARY 15 - 17

Stuart Boat Show
www.AllSportsProductions.net
contacts@allsportsproductions.net
954-522-5288

SAILING REGATTA:

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

DECEMBER 4 - 6

Melges 32 National Championship
www.lyc.org/web/guest/regattas

JANUARY 9 - 10

Boomerang Regatta
www.lyc.org/

KEY WEST, FL

JANUARY 17 - 22

Quantum Key West Race Week
www.keywestraceweek.com
info@keywestraceweek.com
650-704-9770

MIAMI, FL

DECEMBER 11 - 13

Audi Melges 20 Winter Series #1
www.melges20.com/

DECEMBER 26 - 30

Orange Bowl Regatta
www.coralreefyachtclub.org/



Opti from South Florida getting ready for the two-day regatta.

CREDIT: TERRY BORAM

FLORIDIANS CARE FOR THEIR CORALS

LIFESTYLE BY JANICE WEIGAND

During the final two decades of the 20th century, scientists and educators flooded magazines and newspapers with news of coral reefs dying all over the world. By 2007, both federal and state governments responded with legislation including grants giving communities access to what they needed to “do something about the ocean.” And Floridians got busy. Meghan Balling, Fishing Diving and Other Uses Coordinator, oversees The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Planning Groups and Working Groups created through the Miami Based Coral Reef Conservation Program [CRCP].

Balling gathers boaters, divers, residents, sports people, marine related establishments, environmentalists and educators to engage with and respond to the silent plight of still dying sea creatures. One project, Southeast Florida Action Network [SEAFAN], enables everyone to report threats to fish or coral they see in their areas, using the SEAFAN online tool. The website provides easy fill-in blocks for reporting what, where and when for anyone spotting damage, illegal drainage, sick or dying reefs, trash accumulations or other potentially destructive activity.

Balling points to diver Lisa Miceli as representative of the contagious enthusiasm local divers bring into reef and ocean



Volunteers assist The Nature Conservancy and NOAA scientists at the National Marine Sanctuary coral nursery with the transplanting of thousands of staghorn coral onto pedestals sitting on concrete blocks on the floor of the ocean.

nurture. “Lisa,” Balling wrote, “started her own clothing line in order to raise money for cleanup supplies. She spearheads family oriented educational events and ocean clean-ups in her home town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and her Ocean Cleanup projects and online clothing company, Stoked on Salt [SOS] are dedicated to the cause.”

Miceli welcomes volunteers of all ages on the beach and pier cleanups to exchange buckets full of trash from the underwa-

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MARINAS

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MANHATTAN, NY
NEWPORT, NJ



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BIMINI, BAHAMAS

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PHOTOS COURTESY LISA MICELI, STOKED ON SALT OCEAN CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEER TEAM



From left to right: Lisa Miceli, founder and leader of Team SOS Ocean Clean-up; Lisa Miceli, Stoked On Salt clothing designer and volunteer leader of her Community Working Group now over 1000 volunteers strong!; Lou Nelson, South Florida volunteer now "forever Stoked on Salt."

ter workers for empty containers, and then sort and discard the trash into haul-away containers. According to her recruits, "It's pretty hard to say no for very long to Lisa."

Divers remove from the seabed or cut from pier posts and dispose of miles of fishing line, bushels of beer cans, buckets of lead items, miscellaneous plastic bags and drink holder rings, all lethal to sea dwellers. One diver, Lou Nelson, skeptical of the value of cleanups, but lured, he confesses, "by the promise of working with girls in bikinis," found a gold wedding ring near the pier his first day with SOS volunteers. Pier management gave Miceli the ring-loser's phone number and the ring was reunited with its very grateful owner in Canada.

Says Nelson, "I'm a scavenger. Our tools are knives, pliers and flashlights. The important work is where the garbage is. But sometimes we get lucky, too." According to Miceli, "Nelson never misses one of my events. He says he is now forever Stoked on Salt."

Then there's SOS volunteer, spearfisherman Jim Pember. Corals are habitat for several of the game fish Pember enjoys. When he spears a grouper, he tries not to touch the reef at all, he said. The same is true when he's doing cleanup. He finds "cutters usually do the job when removing fishing line from corals, although sometimes the corals grow around the lines. Still" he said, "99% of the time we can remove trash without harm to the corals." Among his tools he carries "a CO² bag for safely lifting an anchor and floating it from the reef to the surface to haul off for disposal."


Last year, a SOS family day featured the cleanup of a beach turtle nursery area, helping tiny hatchlings to navigate more safely

to their natural ocean home. This is what cleanup is about, say these volunteers. Coral lives, fish and turtle lives, plants...and ultimately people. "Volunteer Tony Ernst helps me with every event," says Miceli. "He makes debris buckets, does marketing, handles prize giveaways, even brings his volunteer followers, about 50 - 60 divers, to my events to help out."

"We all clean up wherever we dive," Ernst said recalling he "once saved a shark totally engulfed in miles of monofilament line in a tangled roll as big as a tumbleweed. I carry cutters, and when I finished trimming away the mess and stowing it for disposal, the shark took off unhurt. In the end," he said, "we are all so dependent on this planet's oceans, we have to do something about their degrading at such a rate."

The prizes Ernst gives away are made from debris collected at an event. Miceli creates awards for *Most Unique Trash Gathered*, *Youngest Volunteer* or whatever suits that particular event. Volunteers never know what feat or fact will make a celebrity out of someone, but the one-of-a-kind awards absolutely represent trash-to-treasure and are highly prized by the winners.

By the little hand-made trophies Miceli provides, volunteers can see "that you do not need money and fancy awards to make volunteering fun," she says. The beach and ocean cleanups accomplished in these programs are, she declares, "a community project of love."

Florida volunteers, recognizing the value of their ocean, demonstrate the effectiveness of learning what to do and then doing it. Together. They may, over time and with sustained effort, lead the way to the saving of world corals and sea life and the seas themselves in all their beauty and diversity. 

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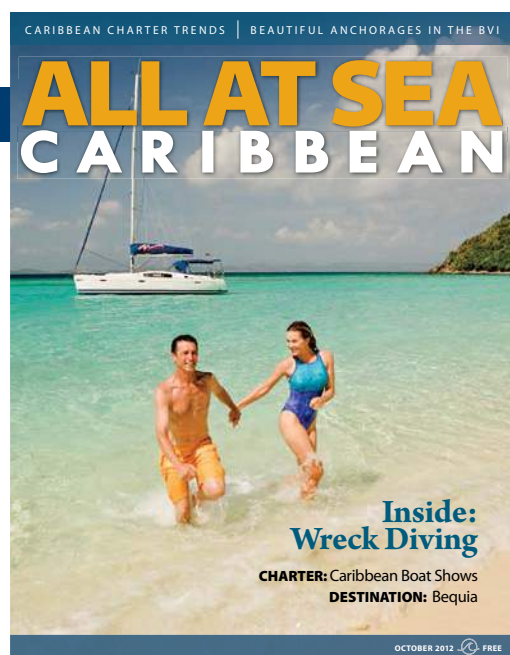
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SAILING BY CAROL BAREUTHER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOY DUNIGAN



"The idea of the Melges 32 Blue Water Series is to bring together the best Melges 32 teams from around the world and have them compete in one of the original locations for Melges 32 sailing," explains Sam Rogers, Melges 32 North

Sailors from over five countries will be represented at the Series. Entrants include the current World Champion, Italy's Alessandro Rombelli and his team aboard *STIG*. One of the hometown favorites will be Canadian Grant Hood's Team *Quest*; Hood owns a residence in Fort Lauderdale. Other hot entries include the Macatawa Bay, Michigan-based DeVos brothers, Ryan on *Volpe* and Dalton on *Delta*, as well as Rich-



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ard Goransson's *Inga* from Sweden. Up to 30 teams are expected to compete in one or more Series legs and 14 will sail in all three. There will be a champion named for each event plus an overall Blue Water Series title winner named.

Lauderdale Yacht Club is one of the premiere yacht clubs in the country. The club has a vibrant adult racing program as well as very successful youth program. Racing is definitely woven into the fabric of the club and it is attracting some of the top sailors in the world as part of the club membership base and this Series as well. In addition, the club is hosting fund-raisers for its youth sailors learn-to-sail programs and to support participation at elite international sailing competitions.

"For the second two events, the Gold Cup and Lauderdale Cup, we'll be placing some of our junior sailors on boats. We do this at a number of events we host. It's a wonderful experience and it's a way for the Melges 32 teams to give back. You don't really see young sailors getting an opportunity like this at such a grand prix level at other places in the world," says Jeff Ecklund, Fort Lauderdale resident, Lauderdale Yacht Club member and former Melges 32 World Champion who has raced with Harry Melges III as crew.

Superb sailing conditions is the beacon that attracts world class sailors to South Florida like bees to honey. "There's a constant sea breeze usually blowing at 110 degrees and in the



winter there's not much rain," said Ecklund. "The race course for the Melges 32 Blue Water Series is about two miles out. It's convenient. From the dock to the start line is about a half-hour motoring time, plus it's scenic. You pass inland of Bahia Mar and by many of the gorgeous waterfront homes."

Spectators can watch the racing from afar from the Lauderdale Yacht Club lawn however, "the best viewing is out on the water," says race director Lisa Frieesecke. There are several boats that can take spectators out, but it's a good idea to show up early to ensure getting a ride out with one of the club's or team's support boats. Racing starts at 11 a.m. each day.

For more information and results, visit: www.melges32.com