

# ALL AT SEA

## SOUTH FLORIDA

### Inside: Holiday Cruise-cation

Congrats **TIDES MARINE** on 25  
Save the Green **SEA TURTLES**  
**ANDROS** Island  
Sipping Ron **ZACAPA**



# SOUTH FLORIDA NEWS



## MARINE TRAVEL SPECIALIST ISS GMT PARTNERS WITH EMIRATES AIRLINES

Traveling the world just got easier. The partnership of ISS GMT, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with Emirates Airlines means that members of the yachting community can now commute between Fort Lauderdale and Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia and South Africa with just one stop in Dubai. This service starts December 15.

"For our yachting clients throughout South Florida and the Caribbean, this is an opportunity to make travel more comfortable when starting or ending their contracts. In addition to making just one stop, Emirates allows us to sell refundable and changeable airfares along with extra baggage allowance. All in all, this helps the yacht community to save time and money on long haul travel," says ISS GMT president, Tim Davey.

The nonstop service between Fort Lauderdale and Dubai uses a Boeing 777-200LR aircraft in a three-class configuration, offering 8 First Class suites, 42 Business Class lie-flat

beds and 216 Economy Class seats for travelers, and up to 15 tons of belly hold cargo for shippers. In addition, Emirates offers its First Class and Business Class passengers travel to and from the airport via a complimentary Chauffeur-driven service, making it convenient for customers from Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Palm Beach and other South Florida cities to arrive on time for their flight. [www.flygmt.com](http://www.flygmt.com)

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## CREW UNLIMITED AND INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER MERGE WITH BLUEWATER

The popular song title 'stronger together' definitely applies to the merger of two Fort Lauderdale-based companies, Crew Unlimited and International Training Center with European headquartered Bluewater. The union, which maintains the same employees albeit now under the single Bluewater name, creates a single major yachting company with expertise in the five main sectors of yachting.

"I've known the owners (at Bluewater) since 1995 and we did

a joint venture in 1997-1999, providing the MCA Business and Law course in Fort Lauderdale through MOT. This allowed USCG 500T and 1600T Captains to obtain a Certificate of Equivalent Competency which allowed them to legally continue operating Cayman Island registered yachts, after the large yacht code was put into effect," says Ami Ira, former managing director of recruitment agency, Crew Unlimited, and now president of Bluewater USA.

Bluewater is now the only major company in the world which does brokerage, charter, yacht management, crew training and crew solutions.

"Bluewater is already a powerhouse in the Med, and because of our merger and partnership with ICT, we will be even stronger together," says Ira. [www.bluewateryachting.com](http://www.bluewateryachting.com)

## NEW SALTY JOBS VIDEO SPOTLIGHTS MARINE INDUSTRY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Calling the next generation of South Florida's yachting workforce! A new educational video released from the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) showcases the



many marine industry career opportunities in the South Florida area. 'Salty Jobs', featuring MIASF's membership director, Sean Smith as series host, takes a unique approach to introducing this wide range of marine industry-associated jobs to local schools, workforce agencies and the public.

"We think our 'Salty Jobs' video series will appeal to young people and spark interest in an industry they may not know much about", says Phil Purcell, MIASF executive director. "As a legacy industry in Florida, the marine industry has an aging workforce that is ready for the next generation to take advantage of its rich tradition of good paying, long lasting jobs."

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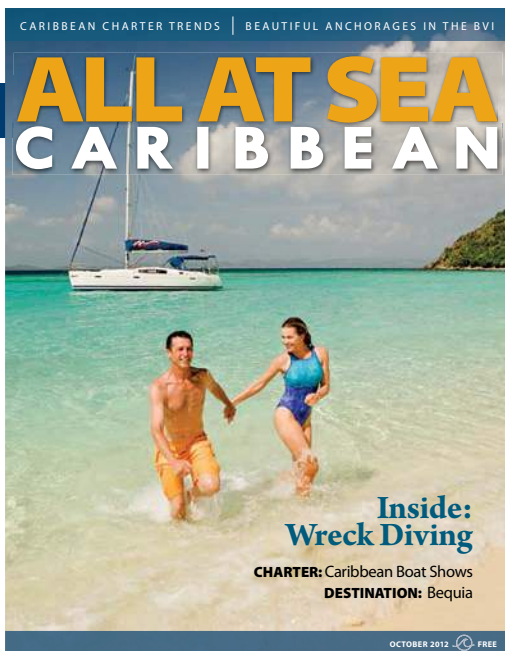
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Interestingly, according to MIAAF, the 136,000 marine-related jobs in its region typically pays 28 percent more than the state average.

Watch 'Salty Jobs' on [www.miasf.org](http://www.miasf.org) or [www.youtube.com/c/MarineIndustriesAssociationofSouthFlorida](http://www.youtube.com/c/MarineIndustriesAssociationofSouthFlorida)

## BOATUS 'CAT' TEAM TACKLES MARINE CATASTROPHES

South Florida boat owners recently found there is another good reason to be a BoatUS member. In October, the BoatUS Catastrophe or 'Cat' Team, made up of professional surveyors, claims processors, transportation providers and crane and barge operators, traveled to Florida and South Carolina to recover BoatUS Marine Insurance Program-insured vessels affected by Hurricane Matthew.

"This storm was not nearly as bad as it could have been if it had moved 50 miles to the west. Still we had boots on the ground within 48 hours," says Michael McCook, the Washington, DC-based field operations director for the BoatUS 'Cat' team. "We'd also like to think boaters helped them-

selves to reduce damage by advance preparation such as hauling out."

All BoatUS Insurance Program boat policies include 'Names Storm Haul-Out Reimbursement'. Additionally, the Alexandria, Virginia-headquartered recreational boating advocacy organization offers free hurricane-planning help on its website.

The BoatUS 'Cat' team's response isn't limited to hurricanes. Team members, each with an average of well over 20 years of experience in their respective professions, respond to damages from other natural disasters such as tornados, major marine fires and tsunamis. [www.boatus.com](http://www.boatus.com)



## ALL AT SEA SOUTH FLORIDA

COVER SHOT:

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Go find your life on the water...

**Image courtesy of Boston Whaler**





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# GREEN SEA TURTLES SWIMMING IN UNKNOWN TERRITORY

BY JILL ZIMA BORSKI



Bette Zirkelbach, manager of the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Florida Keys, disagreed with the federal downlisting of green sea turtles from an endangered species to “threatened” in May because of challenges facing green sea turtles. The primary challenge is the fibropapilloma virus or fibropapillomatosis which is evident in tumors on the turtles’ bodies. Fifty to seventy percent of green sea turtles are infected with the virus, she said.

“Last year, there were 119 cases of green sea turtles infected with the virus, and the number and severity of suffering green sea turtles is increasing,” Zirkelbach said. “While the virus was present in the 1930s as well, the environmental stressors have grown. These stressors include higher water temperature and poorer water quality tied to environmental degradation and climate change.” Zirkelbach said the amount of green sea



turtles entering the Turtle Hospital with the disease in 2015 doubled compared to 2014 when 58 green sea turtles came in with the disease.

According to Wikipedia, the tumors can impede vision, feeding and movement. Around 25-30 percent of turtles with external tumors also have internal tumors, primarily in heart, lungs and kidneys.

When infected green sea turtles are rescued, they receive a computed tomography (CAT) scan to look for internal tumors and might be treated with a high tech laser. "When the disease was not so severe," said Zirkelbach, "70 percent of the infected turtles survived. Now, only one-third survive."

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, four-foot long green turtles weighing up to 440 pounds are "among the oldest creatures on earth [and] have remained essentially unchanged for 110 million years." Green sea turtles are slow growing, with the longest age-to-maturity of any sea turtle species, from 35 to 50 years. Nests are constructed on coastal beaches, and are threatened by sea level rise. They are also threatened by poachers, fishing gear entanglement, bycatch and plastic trash in the ocean. Fibropapillomatosis in turtles is especially prevalent around populated islands, said Zirkelbach.

On the other hand, a researcher in the Marquesas and Dry Tortugas, a non-developed area off the coast of Key West has seen only two cases in four years.

Zirkelbach has traveled to Cuba over the past 20 years and said the westernmost area, Guanahaca Peninsula, has no infected green sea turtles. In fact, beaches there are home to the second largest breeding population of green turtles in Cuba with an average of more than 300 nests per season.

People are becoming more attune to pollution in oceans and increasing water temperatures, and thus there is hope for the green sea turtle, said Zirkelbach. And with a half dozen sea turtle rehabilitation sites and preserves throughout Florida, turtles may be getting sufficient attention to encourage people to be more aware of the threats, regardless of the federal downlisting from endangered to threatened.

The goals of the Turtle Hospital are to rescue, rehabilitate and release sick and injured sea turtles; educate the public through outreach events and local schools; conduct and assist with research aiding sea turtles; and work toward legislation making beaches and water safe and clean.

Since its founding in 1986, the hospital staff has treated and released more than 1,500 sea turtles. The turtles are released

## BOAT SHOW

### FT. MYERS, FL

**JANUARY 12 – 15**

Charlotte County  
Boat Show  
fortmyersboatshow.com  
954-570-7785

### PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

**JANUARY 12 – 15**

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

### ST. PETERSBURG, FL

**DECEMBER 1 – 4**

St. Petersburg Power  
and Sailboat Show  
www.showmanagement.com/  
st\_petersburg/event/

### STUART, FLORIDA

**DECEMBER 8 – 11**

Annual Light Tackle  
Sailfish Tournament  
& Florida Sailfish  
Amateur Championship  
at Sailfish Point  
www.stuartsailfishclub.com/  
tournaments.php

**DECEMBER 8 – 11**

Stuart Sailfish Club Light  
Tackle Tournament  
www.stuartsailfishclub.com

## FISHING TOURNAMENTS

### ISLAMORADA, FL

**DECEMBER 1 – 3**

Islamorada Sailfish  
Tournament

www.islamoradasailfish  
tournament.com/  
ditournaments@aol.com  
305-522-4868

**DECEMBER 16 – 18**

Islamorada Junior  
Sailfish Tournament  
fishnbully@msn.com  
305-240-9337

**JANUARY 6 – 8**

Key Largo Sailfish  
Challenge  
fishnbully@msn.com  
305-240-9337

**JANUARY 10 – 12**

Florida Keys  
Outfitters Sailfly  
www.floridakeysoutfitters.com  
tackle@floridakeys  
outfitters.com  
305-664-5423

### MIAMI, FL

**JANUARY 11 – 15**

Sailfish 400  
www.bluewatermovements.  
com/sailfish\_400/  
info@bluewater  
movements.com

### POMPANO BEACH, FL

**DECEMBER 7 – 11**

Operation Sailfish  
www.bluewatermovements.  
com/operation\_sailfish/


### STUART, FLORIDA

**DECEMBER 8 – 11**

Stuart Sailfish Club Light  
Tackle Tournament  
www.stuartsailfishclub.com

*Continued on page SF9*

at different locations depending on species, from 20 miles north of Marathon in the Florida Bay, to a local beach, or launched off a boat into the gulf or ocean. The Kemp's Ridley species are taken 70 miles west of Key West to the coral reefs of the Dry Tortugas.

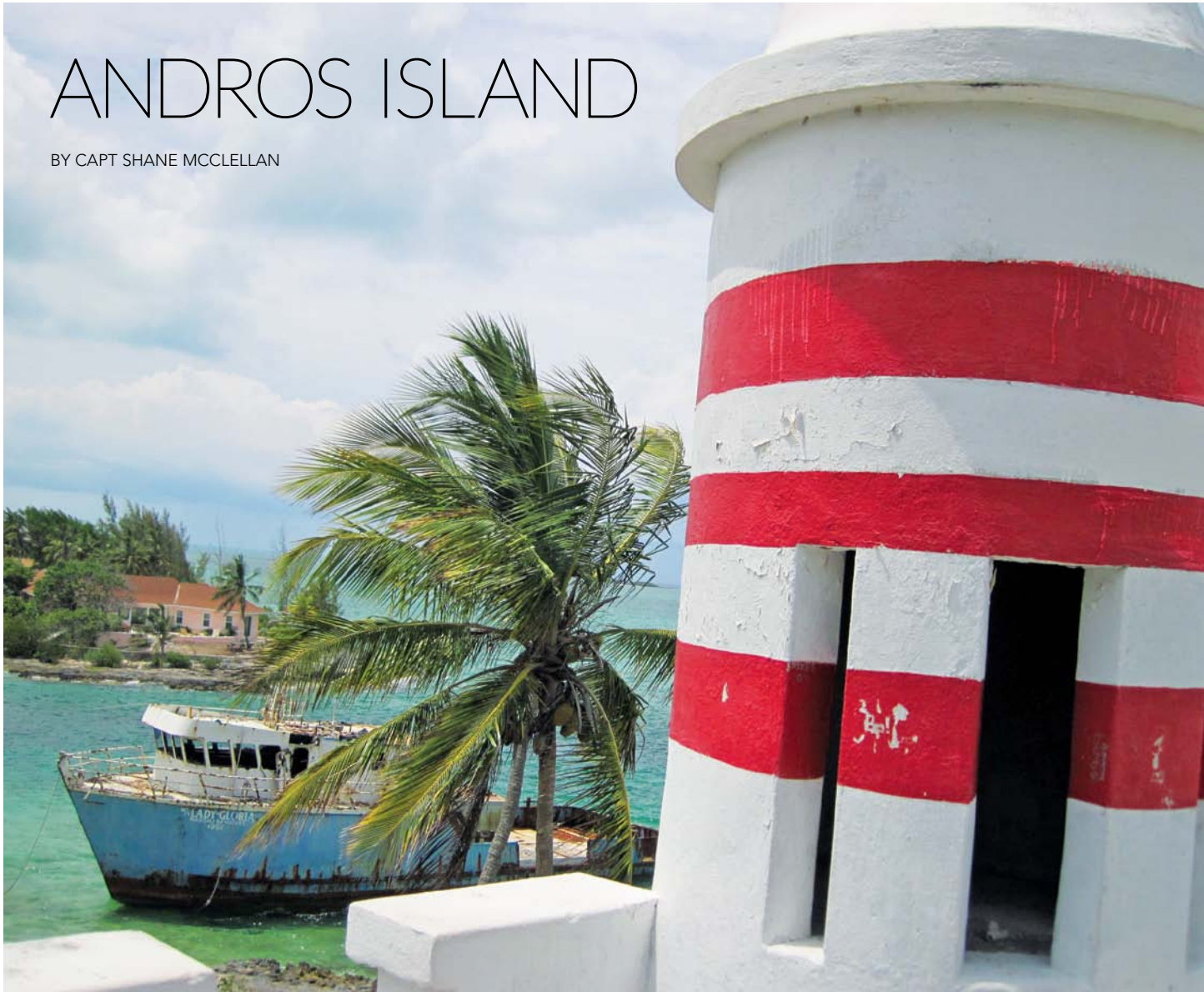
If you need a gift this holiday season for a person who has everything, perhaps adopting a turtle is the perfect idea. See [www.turtlehospital.org](http://www.turtlehospital.org) for more information. 

Jill Zima Borski is board chair of the Florida Outdoors Writers Association and her website is [www.jill-zima-borski.com](http://www.jill-zima-borski.com).



# ANDROS ISLAND

BY CAPT SHANE MCCLELLAN



We are going to start this issue at the north tip of Andros, which is called Morgan's Bluff. Cruisers can find a nice anchorage next to the water dock, where being so big, Andros provides Nassau over half its fresh water via tankers. A short distance away is the famed cave of Henry Morgan. The entrance is hidden well but the cave gets plenty of sunlight. Can you imagine hanging out here with famous Captain?

The interior of the island is a combination of a pine forest with lots of low lying scrub. The roads make for some great bicycling and you will find blue holes, which are all over the Bahamas on land and in the shallow water. Some are only 30 feet deep, while others are over 600. They are formed when a section of a cave's ceiling collapses forming a circle going

straight down and are connected to the ocean at some point. The ones on Andros have a layer of fresh water sitting on top of the salt water for a depth of 15-30 feet.

Another stop is the Mennonite farm, which is a way of life similar to the Amish except mechanical tools are permitted. I found them to be very friendly and quite willing to show off the farm. I was most intrigued with the bee keeping and the process of bottling honey.

If you sail 30 miles or so south you will find the all weather anchorage of Fresh Creek. Do not try and enter the AUTECH base just south of the town, because you will not be welcomed into the naval underwater testing site. Once your boat is secured in the middle of town, you can check out the Androsia factory. Here you





can watch all the steps as this well-known fabric is hand made by using wax stamps to create designs and soaked in colored dyes.

Some other sites around town include the allegedly haunted lighthouse built in 1892 amidst protest by the locals who made good money salvaging wrecked ships. I took the dinghy up Fresh Creek and found what appeared to be a kid's clubhouse in the middle of the mangroves. Just outside town is another blue hole called Captain Bill's, which is unique since it has a community pavilion you can jump from.

Even though Andros is the biggest island in the Bahamas it is also one of the most remote, and If you go to the three bights halfway to 2/3 of the way down the island you will REALLY be out in the middle of nowhere. These bights are wide and shal-

*Continued from page SF7*

**STUART, FLORIDA**  
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[www.stuartsailfishclub.com/  
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## INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

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**DECEMBER 5 – 8**  
 Marine Dealers  
 Conference & Expo  
[MRAA.com/MDCE](http://MRAA.com/MDCE)  
[liz@mraa.com](mailto:liz@mraa.com)

## SAILING REGATTA

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL**  
**DECEMBER 3 – 4**  
 Laser District 13 Grand  
 Prix Championships  
[www.lyc.org](http://www.lyc.org)  
 954-524-5500

**JANUARY 10 – 13**  
 Fort Lauderdale to  
 Key West Race  
[www.keywestrace.org](http://www.keywestrace.org)

**MIAMI, FL**  
**DECEMBER 9 – 11**  
 Melges (NA) Miami Winter  
 Series Event No. 1  
[www.melges20.com](http://www.melges20.com)

**DECEMBER 26 – 30**  
 Orange Bowl Regatta  
[www.coralreefyachtclub.org](http://www.coralreefyachtclub.org)



low saltwater tidal creeks cutting across the island. You can spend days anchored in different locations in the bights enjoying the solitude. Plus, since Andros boost the third largest reef in the world, and very few people make it here, I can guarantee you will be amazed with the snorkeling and diving.

The one thing you do have to watch out for on Andros is the large local fly called a Doctor Fly, because when they bite you it feels like you just got a shot! 🦟

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Visit [www.svGuidingLight.com](http://www.svGuidingLight.com) to read more from Captain Shane about the Bahamas, Caribbean, life aboard, world traveling, and more.



# TAKE A HOLIDAY CRUISE-CATION

BY CAROL M. BAREUTHER



CATAMARAN GURU

Cool cruising destinations await for the holidays in South Florida's back yard. From Palm Beach to Miami, the Florida Keys and neighboring Bahamas, there are great spots for everything from a weekend getaway to a Lighted Boat Parade to a longer cruise to celebrate Christmas and New Year's.

"It's easy to have a fun time not too far away by cruising, for example, from Pompano to Miami Beach," says Christopher Finck, Getaways Captain for MarineMax Pompano, in Pompano Beach, Florida. "Head to the Miami Beach Marina or Miamarina at Bayside. There's lots happening over the holidays in South Beach and downtown Miami. Do make reservations ahead. There's not as many transient slips as there once was."

There are several lighted boat parades in towns along Florida's southeast coast. For example, both the Palm Beach Holiday Boat Parade and Jupiter Boat Parade and Celebration take place on December 3. The Pompano Beach Holiday Parade happens December 11, while one of the biggest, the Winterfest Boat Parade in Ft. Lauderdale, occurs the day before on December 10. Over



CATAMARAN GURU

100 festively decorated yachts, everything from small private cruisers to megayachts, take part. In Miami, the Miami Outboard Club Holiday Boat Parade happens December 19.

If looking for something a little quieter, head to No Name Harbor in Biscayne Bay, recommends Estelle Cockcroft, an Aventura, Florida-based yacht broker with Dream Yacht Sales who with husband Stephen are also owners of the popular website, [catamaranguru.com](http://catamaranguru.com). "It's a lovely protected anchorage surrounded by mangroves and located within the boundaries of Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. The anchorage





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is close to both “artsy” Coconut Grove and the “big buzz” of Miami, yet it is an idyllic place for boaters. The bay offers beautiful sailing, kiteboarding, fishing and other watersports.

Historic Stiltsville adds another fun vibe, adds Cockcroft. “We often sit in the anchorage at sunset and are visited by dolphins and manatees. It is just beautiful and the state park offers lovely nature walks. The restaurant in the anchorage, Boaters Grill, offers up great Cuban food and music during the day. Miami’s fun crowd hang out here during the day but by sunset everything calms down and you can enjoy a very peaceful evening under the stars. It is so close and yet so far from civilization. We love this place!”


In the Florida Keys, there is a holiday boat parade in Key Largo on December 17. Stick around or circle back because the New Year’s Eve Fireworks over Blackwater Sound are a huge extravaganza not to miss. All the way south in Key West, the Schooner Wharf Bar hosts its Lighted Boat Parade. Everything from festively-outfitted rowboats to tall ships circle the historic seaport and harbor.

“The Galleon Marina in Key West is the nicest to stay. But just like those in Miami, transient slips can fill up fast, so call ahead for reservations,” suggests MarineMax Pompano’s Finck.

The Bahamas are just a short cruise away from South Florida.

“My favorite places in the Bahamas are the Abacos, especially Hope Town, for the quaint village feel and good nightlife, but also Great Guana Cay with the world-famous Nippers beachside restaurant,” says Ami Ira, president of bluewater USA (formerly Crew Unlimited & C U Yacht charters), in Fort Lauderdale, FL. “Another super popular itinerary is Nassau, Highborne Cay, Shroud Cay, Staniel Cay with the swimming pigs, and back to Nassau. The Exumas are so spectacularly beautiful water! Nowhere else like it.

For families with kids, Ira suggests the Exumas. “There are beaches everywhere, watersports anywhere, great diving and fishing. The age 20- and 30-something crowd will like the Abacos, where there is good nightlife and beautiful beaches. Nassau also has great nightlife at Atlantis resort. For older couples, the Abacos and Exumas are great destinations because the water is so clean, you can be totally alone on a private beach, or you can find a nice open-air restaurant with local Bahamian flair in both places.”

The Bahamas is a great place to spend and end a holiday cruise-cation. Most islands host’s carnivals and festivals on Christmas Day. What’s more, there are Junkanoo parades ashore on New Year’s Day. The one held downtown Nassau is one of the best. Watching the festivities, then casting off to a quiet island anchorage is certainly a good way to ring in another great year of boating ahead in 2017. 



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Florida Keys — working with guides/anglers to protect and improve fisheries for the future

Bahamas — flats and mangrove conservation

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# TIDES MARINE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF FIXING COMMON BOATING PROBLEMS

BY CAROL M. BAREUTHER



Solutions to two common boating problems is what led Jeff Strong, now chief executive officer, to found Tides Marine in 1991. Today, the Deerfield Beach, Florida-headquartered company owes its quarter-century longevity to innovating proven remedies for leaky shaft seals and mainsails that are difficult to raise and lower single-handedly.

The seeds for the company's start were sown when Strong, an avid boater and sailor, experienced a failed shaft seal on his own boat. Alternative seals leaked or were difficult to maintain, so he decided he needed to 'stop the drip'.

"It took us 6 to 8 prototypes but the Tides team produced the first Strong Seal a few months later," says Strong.

Similarly, Strong's 42-foot cat ketch sailboat could be sailed by one person but the only hitch was that the sails on both masts were raised and lowered over a 7/8-inch stainless track. This was incredibly difficult for one person to do alone, so again

he put the Tides team to the task and ultimately installed the UHMW (ultra-high molecular weight) track system with naval brass slides on his sailboat. The first track systems were brought to market in the early 1990's and are widely used to this day throughout the world.

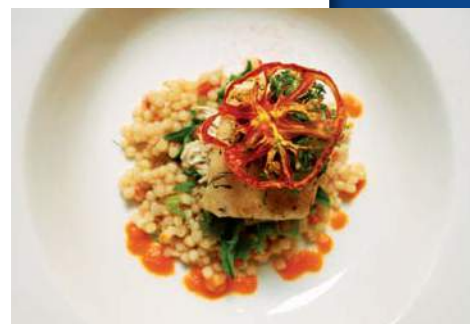
Over the past twenty-five years, Tides Marine has designed and manufactured American-made marine system components which improve vessel performance and reliability, solve unique marine system issues, reduce the need for scheduled maintenance and provide worry-free, long-term boating enjoyment. The company also distributes Aqualuma underwater LED lights and Mate USA-brand rub rails, pumps and horns. Tides Marine works with over 1,000 shipyards and repair facilities throughout the U.S. and abroad.

"We have many new innovative products on the drawing board," says Alexandra Bader, president of Tides Marine's Aqualuma division. "Our goal is to keep our customers and their family and friends, safe and happy while they boat." 🌊



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# IS RON ZACAPA TRULY THE BENCHMARK?

RUM BY CLINT AND TERRY BORAM

We were introduced to sipping rums by Clint's best friend Jim Brazil many years ago. Back then, one rum tasted like the other. Vanilla, molasses and some with spices we couldn't quite identify. Then Jim pulled out the pinnacle of rums – Ron Zacapa Centenario 23 Solera. He said it was the rum that all other rums were measured against. Fast forward a decade or two, after coming to appreciate rums and their nuances, we decided to put this claim to the test.

Is Ron Zacapa the benchmark for all aged rums? The rum won top honors five years in a row (1998 – 2002) at the International Rum Festival in Miami and was officially retired from that competition, serving now as the benchmark for this popular festival. What gives Ron Zacapa the qualities to win five years in a row? It's all in the elevation.

Ron Zacapa 23 is made from sugar cane from Guatemala which is pressed into a virgin sugar cane honey. After fermentation and distillation, the rum is aged 2,300 meters above sea level in a facility known as 'House Above the Clouds.' Master Blender Lorena Vásquez uses the Sistema Solera method mixing old and new rums in a series of bourbon, sherry and wine casks then rested in white oak barrels to impart additional wood flavor.

Terry wanted to know which Clint would choose in a blind taste between Ron Zacapa and Pusser's.

## HE SAID

(Ron Zacapa) The nose is very sweet with a slight vanilla and overpowering alcohol which dissipates after it settles in the glass. With the denseness of the rum I think the sweet is molasses with some earthiness coming from coconut husks. The taste is smooth with little alcohol aftertaste. Oak comes through the molasses with orange peel and a bit of floral from roses. Continue to sip for more nuances. Oh so satisfying.

(Pusser's) I've had this before. Vanilla, sherry and charred notes. Smooth and subtle on the palate with molasses, cherry and floral finish. Both are outstanding sipping rums but if I had to choose I would pick the first sample over the second. There was so much hidden below the layers yet to be explored.



## SHE SAID

The color is a beautiful deep mahogany. There is a definite sweetness on the nose coming from orange blossoms and roses with a slight fresh cut wood bouquet. The texture is very dense and rich which leads to honey, orange and subtle spices. For me the rum is so balanced in its complexity I can't pick out one prominent note. It's not overly sweet or earthy. Just balanced, warm and inviting.

## OVERALL

While we don't believe you can go wrong with either of these rums, Ron Zacapa 23 clearly is the benchmark.

## 5 OUT OF 5



### SIPPING RUM SCALE

- 1 – An expensive mixer
- 2 – A quick celebratory shot
- 3 – Wouldn't be embarrassed to share with friends
- 4 – Are my friends worthy of a sip
- 5 – Special moments rum

**ABOUT CLINT AND TERRY:** *We have sampled many a dram over our 33 years of marriage and quite often we don't fully agree. Could be the difference is male/female taste buds. Or, somebody is just wrong.*