



Rip updates

Come to our E-meetings!

Have you ever had a question about what the club is doing? How come the swap meets are always at Rickenbacker? What is the big deal about cooperating with the lifeguards at Crandon? Most importantly, how do I get involved and how do I help?

We will be posting our agenda on the club website (www.sfbsa.com) starting April 8 (or thereabouts). Everyone is invited to comment, participate and join in the discussions. If you have a question or comment about a new topic then post it. After several weeks of comments the Board will add to or modify the agenda, vote on the proposals and then post the results.

- Leonard Fenn



What is windsurfing worth to you?

We spend thousands on our rigs and boards. We ditch work when we can and sometimes when we shouldn't. We plan our schedules, our vacations and our weekends around the wind.

We study the weather. We watch the trees when we're with our families. We sail when it's cold, in the rain, at dawn, at dusk, before work, after work, by ourselves and with our friends.

We sail at Matheson, the Causeway, Crandon, Hobie Beach and Virginia Key, in the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico and Biscayne Bay.

What if we couldn't sail? What if the water was too polluted? What if your beach was closed? What if **all** the beaches were closed? What would you do? Who would speak for you? Who would speak for us?

Join the South Florida Boardsailing Association!

Join for the parties and regattas!

Join for the Swap Meets!

Join for the great newsletter!

Join so we can have clean beaches and water!

Join so we can speak for you!

Leonard Fenn - SFBSA President



Top: Eddie Senechal (left) of Cap Cod Windsurfing, selling gear at our St. Patrick's Day Swap. Above: Adam Locke showing his Real Wind colors at Va. Key in March (photo by Dr. Paul Ruggiano)

Thoughts from Midwinters as a Competitor

The Midwinters is a pretty cool sailboard race where lots of energy, people and organization abound. It was the second year that I attended it and this year was even bigger than last. Imagine nearly 100 competitors all vying for a perfect start led by a large pack of pros and very experienced racers charging the starting line fully lit up carrying 10.0 11.0 sails in 15 -20 mph of wind. The start is exciting, intimidating, and racers are full of adrenaline.

In order to get ready to race in the Formula class, you need to register at most three production sails, one approved production board and at most three fins. The hardest core sailors have enough rigging parts to put three or more rigs together. For me, it's a bit tougher as I can only rig two sails at once. Therefore, I need to decide what to put together in time to be ready for a start, which causes me some additional anxiety. The weather forecast was for 20-25 Saturday and Sunday. My quiver currently is 10.4, 9.0 and 7.7 sails. I picked the 9.0 for the first start to suit the current conditions, which were 15 -20 mph wind with some bigger gusts. As I sailed out to the starting line, my 9.0 sail was feeling pretty good. At five minutes to the start, there was lots of jockeying for position and the line was getting crowded. At one minute to go, things started getting more interesting. The wind picked up a bit and some 20+ mph gusts blew through. The gun went off and brought with it even more wind, with gusts to 25 mph. OOPS—I should have yanked the downhaul much harder on the 9.0! The pros were still making it around the course, but many competitors had gone back to the beach or were

horizontal in the water. The wind picked up again and was gusting to 30! I made it to the first weather mark and got flattened. I could barely waterstart, with the board taking off a few feet in the air on many attempts. Finally, I got it all together and made it to the reaching mark and the downwind mark. I thought that the worst was over and began pointing upwind to the weather mark. I made it three quarters the way before I really got flattened. I finally decided that enough was enough but fell seemingly 50 more times on the downwinder back to the beach!

What did I learn from the first race?

- The weatherman can't be counted on for an accurate forecast.
- An audible specialized countdown yacht racing watch really helps let you know where you are timeless to the start!
- It's probably better to downhaul more than less and you probably need a downhaul crank.
- Ask advice from experts. Bruce Peterson, owner of Sailworks, gave me a rigging critique which helped a lot.
- The race committee probably won't start a Formula race when it's blowing 30!
- Check your race results and notify the committee if they have you as DNS (Did not start which scores about 100 points where low points win), instead of 36, the number of finishers plus one point).
- Don't give up!

The next morning by start time it was windy again, but not nuclear. I bought my downhaul crank and learned more lessons—you need a good strong line in good shape to use as your downhaul and get started early. I broke five downhaul lines as

none were up to the task, and started to run out of time to get out to the start. I picked the 7.7 for the first Sunday race and finished rigging it minutes before the start. As I sailed out 200 yards from the beach, POW!—my mast bottom broke. I learned never to trust a brand new piece of gear without testing it first! I missed the start, swam in and took the 9.0 out and finished the first race. Three more races followed with a re-rig to a 10.4 for races three and four.

What did I learn from day two?

- Test your gear before you use it.
- The 1m wide boards seem to plane a bit longer and point a bit higher than the 85cm wide boards, which translates to a decent advantage in variable conditions.
- A 12.5 sail—the class max—is going to become a major factor in racing in lighter air because it planes better through the holes. Parked is really slow!

I've been windsurfing actively since 1979 and the Formula concept motivated me to race just last year. It's still a learning experience for me after 23 years of windsurfing, but it's a great challenge and a good time. The competitors are enthusiastic and fun. The best part is that when you get the hang of the gear, it's great to just sail the stuff because you can go out most days. You only need the wind to stay above 8 mph and you're planing. In 12 mph you are pretty well lit up. The boards point high so going upwind is no problem. A trip 6 miles up the coast straight upwind usually takes under an hour and about on half the time to get back, so you can cruise around when you get tired of just going out and back. I'm having a blast sailing this stuff and for me, it's really changed windsurfing for the better.

- Ron Kern

April 21st - SFBSA Round Robin Clinics - By Adam Locke

The SFBSA is proud to bring back - by popular demand - the "Round Robin Clinics."

That's right folks, if you have been to them in the past or if you never heard of them before, this is one event you don't want to miss!

Q. So what are the "Round Robin Clinics"?

A. Probably the coolest windsurfing/kite surfing clinics within these here United States. That's right done in round robin fashion, first you come to the event, and second you sign up for the clinics that interest you. Third you participate in the clinic for a set period of time and then a horn blows and you go to the next clinic of your choice.

Q. And what kind of clinics are offered?

A. Windsurfers will enjoy the carving jibe, water start, loops and jumps, wave riding, Formula racing, open water safety, and much more. Kite surfers will enjoy beginning clinic, advanced clinic, rigging clinic, tricks and more.

Q. When and where?

A. Sunday, April 21, 2002 sign-up starts at 10:30 am. Don't be late! Crandon Park, SFBSA launch Corridor (first entrance into park).

Q. What more can there be?

A. Thanks for asking. SFBSA's famous BBQ & Beer will be on the table and there will be on the water fun as well.

Hello fellow windsurfers! Well, I can't believe spring is here and we are nearing the end of our season. That just gives us a good excuse to go to Cabarete or the Gorge to do some windsurfing!

For those of you who missed the Mardi Gras you missed a good party! Good music, good food and a pretty hysterical costume contest.

Our next **Pub Crawl** will be held



Friday April 26th. We will meet at Scottys at 8 pm. Be there!

April is going to be a fun month because we will also be having a party at Crandon. On **Sunday April 21st starting at 10:30**, we will have

Round Robin Clinics and a Barbeque. This is one party you don't want to miss. Along with our barbeque we will have a fun regatta and also the round robin clinics. Some of the topics will be waterstarting, jibbing, kiting, Formula racing, rigging, looping and safe sailing techniques.

Email me if interested in the free summer boat trip up the Miami River. Hope to see everyone soon!

-Denise peromero@bellsouth.net

Spring Swap-o-Rama Results

Our St. Patrick's Day Windsurf Swap was another success. Bill, Gage and a few others lamented their troubles selling. Many others willing to part with their sailing gear at low prices in order to make room for new stuff or changes in their lives

were able close deals quickly. Kent had a load of his old race gear that he was selling at great prices - he had a crowd around his truck most of the day. I even bought one of those carbon booms he was selling. I had a great time walking up and down the

beach checking out what sailors were trying to sell or buy.

It was a beautiful day to catch up with the windsurfers that I have not seen for a few months due to our lack of wind (perhaps I should call them "windsufferers"). I was talking to



Kent's back to the camera. Watch out for that sales pitch people!

Lonny

A Great couple, and long time SFBSA members: Robert and Virginia Gordon





Lonnie at the swap; he was suffering with a “Beef Over” or meat over dose from the night before. He and a number of other boardsailors had gone out to an Argentine Restaurant for Isabelle’s Birthday. Isabelle and Nelson showed up later in the day to sleep off their “Beef Over”.

I got a picture of Bill Ehrreich fast asleep next to his equipment - I wonder if he would notice or care if anyone walked off with anything he was out to swap. The best advertising was from someone who had a radio-control little windsurfer on wheels that was zipping up and down the strip with a banner that read “Best Deals, Follow Me”.

The SFBSA members are a great crowd to be around the beach with even if there was not much wind. Thanks a load to Luis and Greg of iWindsurf.com and Ovideo of Sailboards Miami who provided all of the drinks and snacks in the morning. We hope to see those guys at our April 21st event so that we may feed them. - David Schulman



Steig and Dr. Mermaid.



Gage above. Serpa (bikini top) from Finland looks at a mast base.

When I took these photos I carefully recorded everyone’s names, including the fluffy dog’s name (on the opposite page), and then I quickly lost the paper I wrote the names on (or more likely that mangy mutt ate the paper).



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Windsurfing Alive and Well at Midwinters Regatta

The Midwinters regatta, held in March on Merritt Island, is one of the most popular windsurfing events in the U.S. and is most likely the largest. This year's event drew over 250 competitors from 20 different countries. The list of attendees read like a "Who's Who" of windsurfing and included a large number of pro racers as well as amateur racers of all abilities. Entrants included the "Team" (Kevin and Matt Pritchard, Phil McGain, and Barry Spanier), Bruce Peterson, Alex Aguera, Brian Rogild, Antoine Albeau, Micah Buzianis, Mike Zajicek (Mike's Labs), Dorota Staszewska and Lucy Horwood. Also included were a full contingent of talented young sailors (ages 5 to 18) from the island of Bonaire that captivated spectators with their impressive acrobatic skills.

The Midwinters Regatta was run concurrently with the Mistral North American Championships, an Olympic qualifying event. This event featured the new Mistral Prodigy board, which will replace the Equipe at the next Olympics. Thirty-five competitors represented countries including Canada, Mexico, Bonaire, Japan, Poland, Spain and the U.S.

The Midwinters event is the first event of a series of a dozen or more racing events sponsored by the USWA that will heavily promote formula racing. Formula racing, which involves the use of a single production board and a maximum of three sails for all conditions, is rapidly becoming the class of choice for most amateur and pro racers. Formula equipment permits exciting racing in wind as low as 7 or 8 mph by making use of extremely wide but versa-

tile boards and large but light and responsive sails (up to 12.5 sqm.). For the first time since the early days of the sport, pro racers are now signing up in large numbers to compete directly with amateur racers at events around the world. In contrast to the equipment wars characteristic of Open class racing, formula windsurfing allows the average sailor to race with pros on virtually the same equipment, but with little compromise in terms of performance and with a much smaller investment.

An advancing cold front made this year's Midwinters regatta the ultimate test of the equipment's limits. Sailors left the beach for the first race in winds averaging about 20 to 22 mph but by the time the flag dropped, the winds were averaging over 30 mph. The fierce conditions made it difficult for many competitors to hold their 9.0 to 10.0 sails and keep their 100 cm. wide boards and 70 cm. fins in the water. While pro and experienced amateur racers were able to make it around the course, other sailors were overwhelmed by the conditions. At least two masts snapped and many had to limp back to the beach or get rescued. The remainder of the races were run in diminishing winds from an average of 15 down to about 7 mph for race 5. Those who had registered large 12.5 sails were able to plane through the course while other sailors were left virtually standing still.

One of the most entertaining aspects of the weekend was the freestyle competition. The high winds provided an excellent environment for big aerial maneuvers. One-handed Spock 540s, clew-first forward loops, lollipops and flat water back loops

were just a few of the moves presented during several heats of competition. The young sailors from Bonaire, including standouts Tonki and Tati Frans, dominated the field and put tremendous pressure on established pros like Matt Pritchard and Antoine Albeau. The overall winners were the spectators who got to see windsurfing at its all-time best. - Bill Ehrreich



Traveling Guy

Another quickie from your traveling salesman a.k.a. wind junkie, Jason Hoffman.

The Caribbean is alive and well with the sweet tradewinds we're so close to sharing here in Florida (but not quite).

Stop #1, Puerto Rico.

A quick stop which includes one a.m. kiting sesh with conditions I've never tried before. There was an on shore wind with LARGE shorebreak, nutty!

Stop #2, St. Maarten.

It was my first time there, and it's a great place to go for any reason. A few extra days there which is perfect for the fact that the kiteboard i've brought is staying wet throughout the trip. Galleon Bay is the place to remember, beautiful sand, clear flat water with a sweet little reef accessible in one tack. People of ALL ages windsurfing/kitesurfing like pro's (amazing what people can learn with consistent wind).

Stop #3 Antigua.

Another dot in the Caribbean sun. You will find friendly locals and a side shore breezes on the north shore. A sailing resort is also close by. They have windsurfing available as well as

anything else related to the water. And, as for this reporter, there was plenty of work, lost luggage, and the excitement of driving on the worst roads you can imagine! Glad to be home! So, where's the wind?

Windsurfing Reports:

Hi Nancy,

Saturday, March 2, Virginia Key First rigged 5'2 and medium board, then 4'7 and small board, conditions were very trying and tiring, very wavy and gusty. At noon the wind dropped.

Joanne

Now we have a big empty space I have to fill because no one else had a windsurfing report to send me even though I have felt wind so I know some of you have been sailing. And, although I interviewed dozens of people about their sailing, the dog ate my notes.

As you may have guessed, I am in desperate need of a reliable reporter (unlike me).

Please be sure to keep these dated wind/beach reports coming to nancy88@bellsouth.net And if you have a yen to be a reporter for this prestigious publication, have I got a job for you. Plenty of accolades but no pay. E mail me if you want to volunteer.



Photos by Bill Ehrreich:

Ron Kern (see article page 2)

Matt Prichard goes out in the 30 mph winds to compete in the freestyle competition.

Tonki Frans jumping.

Newly married, Gordon Langer, doing what he does best.

Alex Caviglia of Adventure Sports.

Brickell Family Chiropractic

Dr. Paul Ruggiano

Hablamos Español

Dr. Ruggiano's skill to diagnose and tune the body was a real asset to my training, competition performance and recovery. If he is that good for a World Class Olympic Athlete, imagine what he can do for everyone...he has a real gift to share with the world! – *Olympic Medalist, Mike Gebhardt*

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Close for next issue: june 1

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April Events:

Crandon Round Robin Party - April 21st
Pub Crawl - April 26th

