



# Rip updates

## Crandon Park Update - By Bill Ehrreich

The nature of our relationship with Crandon Park has changed drastically since Kevin Kerwin became Park Director a year and a half ago. While we may have been viewed as unwelcome guests by the previous administration, we—along with other water sports groups—are now viewed more as an asset to the park and as a means of promoting it to the public.

In telephone conversations with Kevin, I am often asked why there is so little activity in the windsurfing corridor. “I would like to see more windsurfers out there,” Kevin often says. Even so, I’m not sure how Kevin would have reacted had he been Park Director during the days when Crandon was our only ocean launch.

Recent developments at the park echo a continued shift in the Park’s approach toward water sports. These include the following:

- The park has opened a new water sports concession adjacent to the SFBSA launch corridor. The concession will be housed in the building behind the lifeguard stand, which was formerly used by the umbrella concession and more recently renovated for a filming by Ocean Drive. The park has begun moving into the building from which it will rent kayaks, snorkeling equipment and other

water sports equipment.

- The SFBSA launch corridor will be shared with the Nature Center and Beach Safety crews. Our launch corridor is probably the only naturally deep channel at the park and makes a perfect launch area for kayak tours given by the nature center.

In addition, Beach Safety has acquired a personal watercraft, which will be launched from the SFBSA corridor. This activity typically occurs at times when windsurfers are not using the corridor and should not be a problem to us.

- In March, former Wipika rep Francisco Escudero began giving kiteboarding instruction to beginners at Crandon

Park. Francisco is giving students their first lessons at the south end of the park, but uses the kiteboarding launch corri-

dor for more advanced lessons. Eventually, Francisco will have an office in the new water sports concession adjacent to our launch corridor, although no lessons will be given in the vicinity of the corridor.

- The park has asked us to remove our large “rules and regulations” sign. Many of you may remember the sign as a symbol of the formerly adversarial relationship we had at

Crandon. In light of the lack of use of the corridor, Kevin views the sign as “unnecessary” and “overkill.” We have requested that the sign be replaced by a smaller sign on the lifeguard stand plus an additional small sign on the other side of the launch corridor. Our request was accepted. We will submit designs for the new signs



to Kevin shortly.

- We have been asked to replace missing buoy markers. At least three

buoys are missing. We will make an effort to replace these shortly.

From the club's viewpoint, these developments are favorable. Nevertheless, we now have competition for space at the park from other water sports. If windsurfing activity continues to dwindle, we may quickly see our windsurfing launch corridor become a multi-use corridor. This is why we are striving to keep our signs.

In addition, we would invite qualified sailors to consider using Crandon. A Windsurfing presence at the park is important. As with anything else, out of sight is out of mind. From another perspective, the next park administration will likely not share Kevin's enthusiasm for water sports. If we are lax today, a new administration may use it against us in the future.

## **Club Insurance Improved: *Races and All Members Now Covered!***

A few months ago, the club's insurance carrier notified us that it would not renew our policy. In fact, the company decided to discontinue all water sports related policies because its underwriter's rating was downgraded. Insurance policies for a number of other local water sports operations were also discontinued.

Ovidio DeLeon, owner of Sailboards Miami and also a cancelled policy holder, gave us a lead which helped me secure a new club liability policy for us. We now have a U.S. Sailing policy which gives the club better coverage at a lower price. The new policies should go into effect before the old one expires.

The new policy will give all club members many additional benefits. Club sponsored races and regattas will be insured, as well as all participants. In addition, an on the beach policy will cover all SFBSA members at our sailing sites. The best news is that the new policy, with higher limits (\$1 million vs. \$300,000) and additional coverage, saves the club several hundred dollars a year. This is because the SFBSA is a non profit organization, as is US Sailing, allowing for lower policy costs.

We will send a more detailed insurance coverage letter later this summer to all members during the annual renewal drive.

- Bob Weinreb, Treasurer

## **St. Vincent & The Grenadines**

I just wanted to offer some insight into the relatively undiscovered island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. St. Vincent and the Grenadines are located in the Windward Islands about 100 miles southwest of Barbados and 25 miles south of St. Lucia. St. Vincent's south coast offers good wave sailing and even some decent surfing on occasion. The Grenadines consist of 30 or so islands, 11 of which are inhabited. The islands dangle in a chain south of St. Vincent like the tail of a kite.

I grew up on Bequia, the largest of the Grenadine islands. I still have a home and office on the island and escape there regularly from Miami. Bequia is a paradise and has not changed in the last 35 years. It is still how the Caribbean used to be - no neon, happy hours or loud tourists. It has a history for whaling (they still

practice whaling to this day and are allowed 2 per year) and boat building. The sailing in the Grenadines is as good as it gets anywhere in the Caribbean. In the winter season the trades blow regularly 20-25 + and Bequia offers flat water (Harbor), waves (East coast) and bump and jump (south) depending on what side of the island you are on.

I have an incredible launch area below my house which is on the south side of the island. The trades blow left to right creating bump and jump conditions. Bequia also offers some decent reef breaks for surfing but usually blown out. With the exception of tourists off charter boats, I am usually the only sailboarder on the water as few locals windsurf.

I have surfed and sailed all over the Caribbean and the Grenadines are as good as it gets. Unless you bring your

own equipment you probably won't be sailing as there are no rental boards you would be interested in (despite what the travel guides say).

South of Bequia and part of the Grenadines are the Tobago Cays. These islands are heaven on earth with gorgeous water and the most perfect flat water conditions you will find ANYWHERE! The cays are visited by charter yachts and sailboats but only rarely by windsurfers. I've seen a few Ben Franklins lately (kite surfers).

I sail 275 and 282 boards and 5.0-7.0 sails. I have 2 of everything to be safe because equipment tends to break down and there is nowhere to replace it.

If anyone wants info on sailing or just visiting these islands just send me an e-mail...caribsurf@aol.com  
Don McDowell, Coral Gables/Bequia



# Pub Crawl!

**Friday, August 2nd**  
**We will meet once again at Scotty's**  
**on Bayshore Drive, in Coconut Grove**  
**Around 8 pm**

Hello everyone!  
Well, we are in the midst of our rainy windless summers in Florida.

The only way possible to windsurf this time of the year is to buy a Formula board and one or two large sails. I know that it is possible to plane with 8 knots of wind. That is incredible, what will they come up with next?

Pedro, my husband bought a Formula board and he loves it. He weighs about 195 pounds and he is able to plane with an 11 meter sail in 8-9 knots. I tried sailing the Formula board and I really did not enjoy it very much. It was an extremely light day, about 5 or 6 knots, so I could not plane. I felt like I was sailing a catamaran. I suppose I will have to give it another chance when

# social

would spend on a Formula board and all of its expensive accessories and take a trip or two to a windy destination.

If anyone has gone to a windy destination let us know and we will put it in the next newsletter. Let us know about the conditions, what you were sailing, where, etc. Email me at [peromero@bellsouth.net](mailto:peromero@bellsouth.net)

Pedro and I will be going to Cabarete next month. I will let everyone know how it went.

The next Pub Crawl will be Friday August 2nd. We will meet again at Scotty's around 8 pm. See you there!

there is a bit more wind. The other option is to save

the money you



*The year was 1988 (Zasha Langer was preparing for kindergarten).*

*As you can see, my rigging hasn't improved much: Note, the sail starting 7 inches from the board and the boom is rigged almost over my head. Also note the wind (or lack thereof).*

*Most of all, this is proof that I didn't always wear a full wetsuit! N.L.*

Denise

## Hook, Line & Sinker

*This happened while sailing at Ft. Pierce*

There are not many sports more exhilarating than surfsail'n in smooth breaking ocean waves. Sure, flying across steep chop and big swells in 30-40 mph winds while windsurfing the Columbia Gorge or your local lake can be dangerous and will certainly get the adrenalin pumping! And I'll concede dropping into your favorite steep mountain elevator run, carve'n and float'n down fresh untracked powder, will put a grin from ear to ear! For us T-type(thrill seeking) personalities, being on the edge is the hook that makes these and many other extreme sports so appealing.

With surfsailing there's usually several variables to make the experience a little different, some times for the better....sometimes not. Wave size, the bigger the better, together with low or high tide, may determine how smooth or choppy the wave faces may be. Wind strength and consistency can make for that "in the zone" session or perhaps a swim back to shore if the wind takes a siesta after lunch. Make a mistake in the impact zone and a big hungry wave might munch your mast, rip the sail or yank the mast track right out of the board, resulting in a frantic swim to collect the parts and another long paddle back to shore. In addition, that real or imagined bit of danger, lurking just below the surface that makes the heart beat a little faster and hastens the waterstarts a tad bit too! Usually, an experienced surfsailor has a pretty good idea what hazards lie ahead and the possesses the quick reactions needed to sail somewhat safely through, over or around the waves.

Sooner or later, something will take you by surprise. It could be an invisible plastic baggy, nicely wrapped around the fin, causing instant deceleration and the mega catapult.

Then there's the human element of danger; an out of control windsurfer to dodge or a mega airborne kitesurf'n kook to avoid being downwind of, or an air pollute'n wave runner jett'n around that can turn on a dime and be head'd back at you in the wink of an eye. Certainly not last, but probably least likely to make your day a little more exciting would be the typically mellow but some what territorial jetty fisherman. On this particular day, he had been transformed into an extremely angry fisherman by all the windsurfers and kiteboarders zipping close to where his lines entered the water about 20 yards off the jetty.

Since I was having a good time ride'n the outside waves a quarter mile beyond the jetty, I was unaware of how upset this particular fisherman was. I gave him the hang loose(shaka) sign, after hearing him yelling and waving me away as I sailed towards the beach, about 50 yards away from "his territorial waters" around the jetty. I stopped downwind of my destination and questioned another sailor in the water and was informed he was cussing and yelling at everyone.

So I mentioned that maybe a bunch of us windsurfers should get together and go have a friendly chat with the mad man. I still had to sail upwind to make it back to the beach launch. Just before I passed the jetty, I noticed the irate man moving quickly to grab a pole off the ground and as I sailed 30+ yards by, he flung his line in my direction. The line must have flown just in front of my sail, then it batman wrapped around the top of the sail and hung up there, just like in the movies! I looked up to see a sizable lead weight banging against the sail and decided to slow down and drop into the water. I could hear the culprit and his fish'n buddies on the jetty cheering at the sight of snag'n one of us pesky windsurfers.

I grabbed the sinker while the num-

skull started reeling me in, tightening up the line around the top of the mast and sail as I hung on like a big lead weight. The drag was way too much and the line broke. I untangled the line feeling lucky there wasn't a hook at the end. I stuffed the line and sinker into my harness pack and sailed over to the jetty. I yelled "what the #@!?!? do ya think your do'n" and let the goof know I'd be back to kick some butt.

As I headed out onto the jetty, I realized if I threw the first punch, I'd probably be the one going to the pokey. So I decided to yell a few choice words at him and his bonehead buddies, then gave him a good scare when I threaten to return his sinker via special delivery. Fortunately things didn't escalate any further, as I probably would have messed up my knuckles against his lead hard head and then missed out on the rest of the days excellent wind and waves.

After he informed me he could cast his line any time or anywhere he pleased, I decided to call the police and let them deal with the nimrod fisherman. The police informed him that casting a projectile at a windsurfer was some sort of felony and that I could press charges. In response his buddies said they would testify he wasn't trying to hit me, that I just happened to be sail'n by as he cast.

The police let him know he would be headed for jail if there were any more incidents like this one! Since there wasn't any damage to me or my gear, I figured it would probably be a waste of time dragging this half baked crab cake into court. After all, now with the law on the side of the wind riders, the once outspoken sinker fling'n fisherman didn't have much to say as we sailed through "his" territorial waters. This just goes to show there's always something to make that warm and breezy surfsail'n day on the ocean just a little more exciting....

- Windamora Jon

### Virginia Key Parking Update:

As most of you know We (Bob Weinreb & I) are in the middle of negotiating with City of Miami and Dept. of Environmental and Resource management, to help increase our parking at Virginia Key.

We met with Mr. Ruder, Miami's Park Director and Staff and had a good discussion about how parking was pre 1996. Mr. Ruder was inclined to help us but he needed DERM approval before he/we can proceed. We set a meeting with Gary Milano of DERM, Fermin (VK Manager) and Juan Bueno (resident botanist). We talked about what Derm would consider appropriate and we discussed other plans on the table to improve the hammock habitat where we want parking. At

present there are two plans by Derm to remove exotics and add new plants. Juan has his own plan for replanting. The City of Miami has another plan on increasing parking which we reviewed months ago. The outcome of this meeting was that we realized a lot of people are working on independent plans and because of that the plans are not meshing.

We will be meeting with all parties involved (to be scheduled) and we will move forward with a single plan that incorporates all of the plans/negotiated changes. We will then formulate and finalize the plan. The next step will be to have this final plan incorporated into the VK master plan.

Our group needs to establish our history at the park. We need to ask our old time members who have pho-

tos to step forward and help us put a slide show of these old pics together. We also need to figure away to somehow adopt the park. By adopting the park we can have special permission on certain designated parking areas and have more clout.

I know this sounds like a lot, and it is. Luckily we have a dedicated board of Directors to help move our group forward.

I would like to Thank Bob for his boundless energy and knowledge. The people involve respect his judgment and listen to what he has to say. That's a lot when you're talking about government.

Consider yourselves updated. More news as it develops. E-mail me the photos/slides and any questions. Adam <Adamfla1@earthlink.net>

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"Blah blah ba blah (Fill in name of child, dog, spouse etc.) You take everything for granted!" There I was, droning on - the last week of school. My kids' eyes glazing over, my eyes glazing over... Time to clear my head.

It's sorta kinda windy, summertime windy. I'm going sailing. What's this? No parking, surrounded by kilters, picnickers and worse, Problems with the lifeguards, No room! We worked to get Virginia Beach reopened. We worked hard to get Crandon opened. How could everything change so fast?

Beach access: I took it for granted and was rudely reminded of the error of my ways. There are too many people and there is not enough beach. We can't take beach access for granted, and the SFBSA won't! We need everyone's support and assistance. So rejoin SFBSA today (form is on next page). - Len

## Brickell Family Chiropractic

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*Olympic Medalist, Mike Gebhardt*

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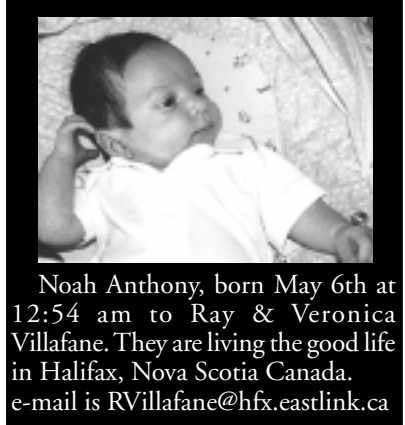
**305 858-5880**

### Come to our E-meetings!

We will be posting our agenda on the club website (www.sfbisa.com). 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

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