



Commodore's Corner - October 2008

With just a couple of cruises left and memories of all the great cruises we've enjoyed this year still fresh, I feel safe in judging the 2008 Gulf Yacht Club cruising season an unqualified success!

Wasn't that a great sail home from the Thanksgiving rendezvous!?! A fine way to finish off a very enjoyable weekend and a great lead-in to a very enjoyable presentation by David Sutcliffe at the meeting. Watching those pictures of places I dream of managed to stir up the 'get outta Dodge' fire again. Poor Jane!

As the season draws to a close and we look forward to the annual Awards Gala, the responsibility of insuring a smooth transition to the incoming Executive looms. Part of that transition involves attracting new (or experienced)! members to the vacancies created by departures. I urge anyone who is considering it to make sure you get in touch with a member of the Executive and find out what the job entails. Most people think it's a ton of work. It's not, really. There is a level of commitment required, but it's hardly onerous. The hard work of getting the organisational groundwork laid has been done by others. What is more important, volunteering to serve on the Exec is a great way to 'be involved' and help the Club. It's been my pleasure to work with a great group who are all committed to ensuring a successful cruising and meeting schedule for the enjoyment of everyone. I'm looking forward to continuing that involvement as I move to the Past Commodore's position.

By the time this edition of the GS hits the stands, the deadline for Members to have first dibs on Banquet tickets, November 1, will likely have passed. I'm looking forward to another great party, so make sure you contact John Laing (or any member of the exec) for tickets.

As I set about writing this, I had some loose ideas about the subject matter being based on my impending 50th and all that can mean. Given that the Club is not much younger, I thought some interesting and possibly entertaining parallels could be drawn. I was wrong. But it did give me an opportunity to think about what it is that keeps me young. I think it's the same thing that keeps the GYC young. I love sailing and I love having fun with like-minded individuals, much the same as the guiding premise of the Gulf Yacht Club. I may be growing older, but I refuse to grow up.

Art Childs, Commodore, S/V "Tenacious"