

THE NEWS PACKET



The News Packet

www.thebarnacle.org

Summer 2011

President's Minute

By Sweet Pea Ellman

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." my first year as president: we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with an amazing party and shortly after narrowly escaped the state closing the park because there aren't enough people walking through our gate. Funny thing about attendance figures – at our moonlight concerts admission is collected at the gate; our other events have a table at the gate or the pavilion. The problem is: the \$2 daily park admission and an honor system (our iron ranger). It turns out only 1 in 5 of our visitors actually pays! It's hard to believe – but we have tracked it and it's true -- 4 out of 5 people sneak into our beautiful park! Park staff and your board are searching for a solution. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

In April, we celebrated the Commodore's 160th birthday and had our first Up Past Bedtime children's movie. Those

A Walk in the Park

Katrina A. Boler, Park Manager,
Katrina.Boler@dep.state.fl.us

Today the air was filled with banging, clanging, and machine roars as two restoration projects got underway. Yes, something is happening with the Carriage House Roof! Also, the Marine Railway Restoration is moving forward visibly now. Both of these projects have been in the works for quite some time so it's very satisfying to hear those sounds of progress.

Volunteer Mike Chapman poured over multitudes of historic photographs to design the most accurate rendition of the marine rail. Since Hurricane Wilma damaged the rail, we've gone through many discussions and visions for the rail. The dream was for it to be historically accurate, usable, and safe. A dream far too costly – it was pared down to historically accurate and safe. This land-based interpretive exhibit complete with the restored gear mechanism will show how the Commodore hauled his boats. We eagerly await its completion.

The Events Committee is busily planning, so keep an eye on the park's website www.FloridaStateParks.org/TheBarnacle and the Society's website www.TheBarnacle.org to learn what's in store for you at YOUR state park!

attending wanted to know when we would have another. Some suggested one every month! Our next children's movie will be Sunday, September 4. All are invited to come in PJs since it is after the Great Coconut Grove Bed Race. Gates open at 7pm and the movie begins at nightfall.

Father's Day saw another new event, Cars and Cigars. Partnering with the Grove Merchants' Group and the BID, we had 18 vintage cars in the park and 22 on Grove streets. It was a huge success with more than 800 people visiting the park.

Our July 4th celebration is just around the corner and a Dog Days of Summer doggy get-together is being planned for August. If you'd like to volunteer at an event, please call the park at 305-442-6866.

Fall and Winter events are on our calendar and I'm looking forward to a busy, event-filled year with record-breaking PAID attendance figures. See you at the Park!

July 4th Picnic at The Barnacle

Monday – July 4, 2011

Admission: \$5; ages 6-12: \$3; under 6: free
Park is open 9 - 5

Begin your Coconut Grove Independence Day celebration with an old-fashioned picnic at The Barnacle. Lawn games, board games, kite making, crafts, and a treasure hunt will keep the family entertained. Live music from Joel Zoss adds atmosphere to a park bedecked in traditional patriotic bunting. Bring a picnic or treat yourself to hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, popcorn, soft drinks and ice cream available for purchase. Bring family and friends and join us for traditional July Fourth fun!

Once the celebration at The Barnacle ends, venture into the Grove as the fun continues with a hotdog eating contest, scavenger hunt, music, and fireworks.

Blankets, lawn chairs, and picnics are welcome, but alcohol and fireworks are not permitted.



From the Boathouse

Summer 2011 by Thaddeus Foote



From the Boathouse is a new column about old artifacts and treasures. Each News Packet issue will feature an item chosen from our favorite bayside shop. We are here to discover and tell stories.

In an Egyptian workshop some 3,300 years ago, someone had a great idea. "Pull this rope and spin that piece of wood," one artisan said to his apprentice. "I'll hold the blade still and cut into it." So began the art of creating objects with "symmetry about an axis of rotation" and the lathe was born.

The concept of rotating wood, metal or clay around a central axis hasn't changed in three millennia, but the power source has. The apprentice eventually lost his job to a straight-grained sapling bow, which required the back and forth motion as with a cello. Not until Leonardo da Vinci sketched the first "continuous revolution" lathe in 1480, did the lathe break the confines of slow speed and a relatively crude approach to craftsmanship that limited its potential. Soon, the lathe found its way into industry shops across disciplines... watches, instruments, furniture, pottery, bats, bowls, farm equipment, tools, crank shafts, cams and, of course...boats.



Nestled beneath the stairs, along the south wall of the Boathouse, sits our very own lathe. The earliest recollection of our lathe spans to a time when the US Navy called Dinner Key Marina home, enlistees trained for combat on our beaches and slept in every available hotel in Miami. The world was at war.

Although one cannot actually see the pre-1940's history of our lathe, and nobody remembers it, there are two patent dates, well-worn but clear. September 21, 1880 and February 15, 1887 mark the creation dates of a tool that would eventually find The Barnacle. Ralph Munroe, his family and friends, including Nathanael

"Captain Nat" Herreshoff, who wintered here, are known to have used the lathe for a multitude of projects. Since its inception, our "treadle lathe" found power from the busy feet of the purposeful craftsman. Originally, it was made to spin metal and evolved, through necessity, into a wood lathe.

During the afternoon hours of September 16, 1945, Miami greeted an unwelcome guest. A devastating hurricane, record-holding until Hurricane Andrew in 1992, swept across the eastern Caribbean and into the Boathouse. Afterwards, the cast iron, spread-foot frame, functional metal seat and treadle lay broken. Soon, the Munroe family regrouped and rebuilt the lathe. This time, however, leather belts ran from the flywheel to a motor beneath the stairs and electric power replaced the treadle. Each of these historic pieces still resides at the Boathouse, waiting to tell a story.

During your next visit, close your eyes and let the lathe spin your imagination to a time when children made their own toys and if something broke, one fixed it. See the pitted surface and listen, you might just hear the Egyptian apprentice steadily pulling that rope.

Board of Directors Spring 2011 Officers

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Park Hours

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday
9am – 5pm

Tours of the house at
10, 11:30 am, 1 and 2:30 pm

Wednesday, Thursday

Open for group tours by reservation only
305-442-6866

[www.FloridaStateParks.org/
TheBarnacle](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org/TheBarnacle)

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter was created to inform the membership and interested public about The Barnacle Society, The Barnacle Historic State Park, and the events and activities there. It is published quarterly by The Barnacle Society as part of its continuing program to support and preserve the homestead of the pioneer family of Commodore Ralph Middleton Munroe. The News Packet represents the method of mail and news delivery that took place before the turn of the 20th century. A small boat would go to Fowey Rocks Light and receive a bundle "packet" of newspapers and mail from a passing coastal sailing ship bound for Key West or Jacksonville.

Thad Foote, Editor

Mission Statement

The Barnacle Society, Inc. is a volunteer non-profit, citizen supported organization created to generate public awareness, education, and financial support for the preservation and maintenance of The Barnacle Historic State Park.

Cars & Cigars

Sunday, June 19, 2011 – Father’s Day dawned hot and humid. The Barnacle troops scurried in the heavy air readying the park for the coming invasion. At 9:15 Bryan Passman’s 1976 Triumph TR6 was the first car through the gates followed shortly thereafter by a 1946 MGTC and various other classics. The invasion had begun – cars mostly from the British Car Club of Miami filled the streets and the park to celebrate Dad’s Day. Other nationalities were represented as well by Mercedes, Porsche, Saab, Volvo, Corvette, and Mustang to name a few. The oldest car was a 1925 Alvis SC12/50 whose owner was born that same year!

It was a picture perfect day, once the sea breezes began to blow and the grill aromas began wafting through the air. Around noon, cigar rollers showed up to complete the duet of Cars & Cigars. At a table in the pavilion, kids industriously crafted ‘tree cookie’ key chain gifts for Dad.

Visitors to The Barnacle and Grove were encouraged to cast their ballot for their favorite car. At 4 pm, just as thunder clouds were rolling in, making many a classic car owner cast a wistful eye to the sky, Patrick Sessions’ 1969 Mustang was announced as winner garnering him the coveted sparkly coconut and \$250 Grove Bucks prize. All cars were safely home before the heavens opened up at 5, just as the park closed for the day.

This joint event between the park, The Barnacle Society, Grove Merchants and BID was a huge success... so much so that most are already planning for Cars & Cigars part deux.

THANK YOU to the following donors who contributed to our Commodore’s Birthday Party silent auction. Please acknowledge their generosity when you patronize their establishments.

Bargello Bistro	Keno Bros. Jewelers
Renee Belair	Lulu’s
Café at Books and Books	Dolly MacIntyre
Bob Brennan	Miami Heat
Calamari	Joan Morris
Steve Carter	Palm Produce
Castle Harbor	Pasha’s
Chipotle	Allison Riley
Coconut Grove Arts Festival	Scotty’s Landing
Cocowalk	Shake-A-Leg Miami
Bob Derez	Shell Lumber
Steve Dimse	Snow’s Jewelers
Marlin Ebbert	Sonesta Bayfront CG
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden	Sparkle Plenty
Florida Marlins	TRX Suspension
Florida Park Service	The Barnacle Staff
Fitness Together	The Barnacle Society
Fratelli La Bufala	Tuuci
Fresh Market	U of M Athletic Dept.
Goldfaden Skincare	Whip’n Dip
Helium	Whisk Gourmet
Eileen Hellams	Withers
Jaguar Restaurant	

THANK YOU to the following for their generous support of The Commodore’s Birthday Party Celebration:

Michael English
Dennis Andra - Gold Coast Beverage
Dave Yaros - Heineken USA
Alex Argudin and Lucy Garcia - Miami Parking Authority
Marie Milam Dixon - Milam’s
Ransom Everglades

A Memorial Day Sail by Bill Tenney

When we walked out on the dock at about 10, we were surprised to find winds blowing hard out of the northeast. The weather report predicted a breezy late afternoon. Charlie and Susan Easton, Nora and I, had come for an *Egret* sail. Earlier in the week, Charlie and I worked hard chipping paint on *Egret’s* cabin top, and now we were all going to enjoy a sail on the Bay. A couple and their dog sitting in front of the Boathouse watched us make our preparations.

As we pushed away from the dock, *Egret* came to life. She seemed to be saying, “This is the kind of weather I like, and I’m going to take these people for a great sail.” Departure was perfect. Out on the Bay, we were glad we’d reefed the sails. *Egret* is an easy boat to sail, but in heavy wind conditions it’s not pleasant to heel over too far. The occasional, unexpected puffs wanted us to do just that. With the reefs, we were able to stay in control and be comfortable. As we passed the mid-Bay marker, we had lunch -- food is always good on the water, because of all the exercise plus that fresh air!

On the eastern edge of the Bay, we turned south, sailing past Stiltsville. Changing course, we headed home but couldn’t see the Boathouse. So, we decided to steer for the faintly visible Biltmore tower which brought us right on course to The Barnacle.

Along the way, Nora and I reminisced -- it was 41 years ago today that we were married. The day after, we said good-bye to Mrs. Wirth Munroe and left on cat boat, *Neva*, for a honeymoon cruise to Islamorada and back. How happy we are to still be associated with The Barnacle!



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COCONUT GROVE, FLORIDA 33233-0579



Yoga by the Sea

Yoga by the Sea is now offered at The Barnacle each Monday and Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:15 p.m. Classes are for all levels – including beginners - and are held on the lawn of The Barnacle overlooking Biscayne Bay (in case

of rain, class meets in the Micco pavilion).

Classes are taught by Gabriela Goldbaum. Classes are \$13 each, which includes park entrance fee. There is minimal parking inside the park, so car pool if possible and arrive prior to 6 p.m. to ensure that class begins promptly. Call 305-442-6866 for more information. You'll enjoy this retreat as the sun sets and the city slows down. Bring your own mat and enjoy the peace and tranquility that The Barnacle offers for Yoga by the Sea. Your body, mind, and soul will thank you.

Barnacle under Moonlight

It's not too early to mark your calendar with the opening date of the next Barnacle under Moonlight season. The new season gets off to a great start on Friday, September 9 with The Wishing Well, a fabulous Australian group touring the States. We are honored that their first U.S. concert will be at The Barnacle. Gates open at 6 pm with music playing from 7-9 pm rain or shine. Bring a picnic, bring a blanket, bring your friends, and come join us for a fantastic evening of music in the park.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Monday, July 4 <i>Old-fashioned July 4th Picnic</i>	11 am - 4 pm <i>Joel Zoss</i>
Sunday, August TBA <i>Dog Days of Summer</i>	11 am - 4 pm
Sunday, September 4 <i>Up Past Bedtime</i>	7 pm <i>Movie TBA</i>
Friday, September 9 <i>Barnacle under Moonlight</i>	7-9 pm <i>The Wishing Well</i>
Sunday, September 11 <i>Barnacle, books, birds & boats</i>	11 am - 4 pm
Saturday, September 24 <i>National Public Lands Day</i>	9 am - noon
Sunday, September 25 <i>Old Time Dance</i>	6:30-10 pm <i>Keeping It Reel</i>

Programs are sponsored by The Barnacle Society, Inc. to raise funds in support of The Barnacle. Picnics, blankets and lawn chairs are welcome but please no pets during events. Service animals are welcome in all areas of the park. Accessible facilities are available.

**For more information,
please call 305-442-6866
or visit www.TheBarnacle.org**

Events are subject to change.

Concert Admission: \$7 Adults & Kids 10+;
\$3 Kids 6-9 years old; under 6 are free
Dance Admission: \$10 Adults & Kids 10+ ;
Kids under 10 are free