



## **SAILFISH CLUB OF FLORIDA & STORM TRYSAIL CLUB**

### **Remembering Wirth Munroe on his 60th Anniversary Race**

In 1957, members of the South Florida Station of the Cruising Club of America, an international organization established in 1921, inaugurated a race from Miami to Palm Beach. They named it the Wirth Munroe Yacht Race to honor the well-known yacht designer. The race, which was led by Dick Bertram, was intended to prepare racing yachts for the Southern Ocean Racing Conference SORC, held in January and February.

Wirth Munroe was the son of Jessie Wirth and Ralph Munroe, a well-known yacht designer. The elder Munroe traveled to Florida to find a warmer climate for his wife and found the tropical wilderness of Coconut Grove while sailing to Key West. He helped establish the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club, BBYC, was elected Commodore of the club and held that title for 22 years.

In the 1960s, the Sailfish Club of Florida became a co-organizer along with the Cruising Club of America and took over the lead role in 1980. After the 59<sup>th</sup> running last year, the CCA asked to be relieved and the Storm Trysail Club and its Southern Station have joined with the Sailfish Club of Florida to continue and grow the event. The Biscayne Bay Yacht Club, BBYC, has graciously agreed to provide its facilities for the Skipper's Meeting. The Sailfish Club will be hosting the traditional after race Buffet and awards ceremony once the boats finish and are safely docked. In response to local interest, there will be buoy racing off of Palm Beach the next day for the IRC boats. The Sailfish Club is taking the lead on this.

While not managed by the SORC, scores from the 60<sup>th</sup> running of the Wirth Munroe will be used by the SORC in determining the winner of its "Islands in the Stream" series. The series consists of the Wirth, the Miami-Nassau Race, The Lauderdale to Key West Race, and the Miami to Havana Race.

At the same time, the Storm Trysail Club is working with the Montego Bay Yacht Club and Manuka Sports and Event Management to revitalize the Pineapple Cup race to Jamaica. The start of the race is being moved from Ft Lauderdale to Miami. A Storm Trysail race committee team will manage the start line. The Biscayne Bay Yacht Club has agreed to provide its facilities for the Skippers Meeting. Montego Bay Yacht Club is offering a race around the southern shore of Cuba to Havana to follow the Pineapple Cup.

All this activity with important local clubs like the Sailfish Club, the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club and national organizations like the Storm Trysail Club working hard to provide good racing bodes well for a return to the heady old days of the SORC. The Wirth Munroe starts on Friday, December 2 and the organizers encourage active participation in this event. Those who have sailed the race previously can attest to what a great race venue this is. Those of you who have yet to participate are encouraged to join in the race and festivities thereafter.

Bill Moriarty  
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