

The Tradition Continues for Over Half a Century



Fifty two years ago some local sailors placed a classified ad in the newspaper looking for “anyone interested in racing sailboats from Fort Myers Beach to Naples”. That first race led to a yearly event that all southwest Florida sailors look forward to – the end of the summer celebration known as the Summerset Regatta and the birth of the Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society sailing club.

The CMCS Summerset Regatta has a grand history as the oldest continuous regatta in Southwest Florida. Over the years, we have raced and partied in Naples, Marco Island, Burnt Store Marina and Fort Myers Beach. Although the venues have changed, the traditions have been the same: buoy and distance race competitions, social events and a banquet dinner with special trophies and raffle prizes, lots of racing yachts, supportive cruising boats and sponsorships, all working together to make a great regatta. Summerset has always been a collaborative effort, with the goal of making a contribution to youth sailing and marine activities for young people. Recent years have seen a very nice increase in our awards so that CMCS has been able to contribute nearly \$100,000 to youth sailing programs up and down the coast. Locally, in the Fort Myers/Cape Coral area, we have instituted a Grant Fund whereby we have awarded grants to many children each year who might not have had the opportunity to learn to sail. Twenty or more children will be recipients of grants to the award-winning Edison Sailing Center for summer sessions in 2017. We also support the Estero Bay Foundation.

Last year sailors from Charlotte Harbor to Marco Island joined in the fun, both racing and cruising, as yachts in seven different classes raced in Saturday’s buoy races and Sunday’s distance race off of Fort Myers Beach. This year we plan again to have a special fun race on Sunday for the cruisers.

This year the Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society (CMCS) is proud to present its 52nd annual Summerset Regatta. The weekend of October 6th, 7th and 8th is full of fun events for the entire family including racing, happy-hour events, cocktail party, fabulous raffle prizes and the awards banquet dinner.

The Regatta's shore-side activities will be at Bonita Bills, Bootleggers at Salty Sam's Marina and the Diamond Head Resort on Fort Myers Beach, with a beautiful beach and view of the Gulf of Mexico sunset. The proximity to restaurants and shopping promises even more convenience and opportunities for the participants and their families to enjoy during this fun-filled weekend. We have negotiated reduced rates for Summerset race and cruise participants at Pink Shell, and Salty Sam's facilities.

We welcome you to our website and hope you will join us for the 52nd annual Summerset Regatta organized and hosted by U.S. Sailing's award winning Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society (CMCS).

We thank all the skippers and crews participating in last year's Summerset Regatta. We had a record number of sponsors and sailors involved on a beautiful weekend at Fort Myers Beach. We hope to see each one of you for the 52nd Summerset Regatta – Oct 7-9, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Canning
Commodore
Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society (CMCS)