

# Annual Key Largo Steeplechase Race

Steve Lohmayer of Taverner finished in fourth place in the 24th Annual Key Largo Steeplechase this past weekend of December 13-14, a 110-mile trek around the Upper Keys in high-speed, high-tech beach catamarans. Lohmayer was only a few minutes behind the 3rd place trophy winner.

South Florida sailors in general did very well, with Mike Phillips and Kenny Pierce of Miami, winning overall on a light weight, 20-foot carbon fiber catamaran made in Sweden. Hitting speeds over 30 miles per hour at times, this boat took just under 7 hours to complete the entire 110 miles.

Sailing a Tornado, an Olympic Class boat, Leandro Spina and Jamie Livingston, also from Miami took 2nd place overall.

The course started on Saturday at the north end of Jewfish Creek, then under Card Sound Bridge, out Angelfish Creek and down the ocean side of the islands to Lower Matecumbe. Then on Sunday they continue down the ocean side to Channel Five Bridge and up the bay side of the islands to the finish at the Caribbean Club beach on Blackwater Sound, following the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway most of the way.

Sponsors of the race are Caribbean Watersports, Calvert Sails, Catamaran Sailor Magazine and OnLineMarineStore.com.



Spina and Livingston flying toward the Channel Five Bridge on the Tornado, an Olympic Class Design.

# Artist of the Month Barbara Mungovan

By Rachel R. Peine

When Barbara Mungovan was in third grade, her mother was called in for a conference. "Barbara," said her teacher with disdain, "does nothing in class but daydream and write poems." Barbara's mother was "into tough love before anyone knew what it was", and Barbara was in big trouble. But being "stubborn Irish", she persisted. Actually, she probably couldn't have stopped if she wanted to, and she's been writing poems ever since. A better

description might be that poems write themselves in her mind, sparked by an event or something that inspires her, and they flow through her pen onto paper. Her first poem was published when she was about



13 or 14, about a child's love for her father. "I wrote about my father being an air raid warden in World War II. Poems just come to me, and somehow it comes out on paper." She's written poems for many occasions, based on true stories. She also creates hilarious skits for holidays and other occasions, such as the German Festival at the Moose Lodge, where she brought costumes for the Bavarian Bellringers, recruited ringers from the crowd, and had the audience in stitches. She also did that one where she works (Florida Keys Electric), and at her church, St. Justin.

Most recently, she read a poem at the Keys Jewish Community Center as part of a

commemoration of Kristallnacht, the beginning of the Holocaust. "I had never heard of Kristallnacht, but a friend of mine in her 90's invited me to the ceremony, and when I found out about it, I wrote a poem."

Barbara has read her poems at many events in the Upper Keys, including Relay for Life. If you missed "Luminaries" in the June 2007 issue of this paper, you can find it online (<http://theconchtelegraph.com/archive.htm> Archives, June 2007, page 6).

Even Sears appreciates Barbara's work. She sent them a poem after paying for an extended warranty for her refrigerator for 18 years. She knew it would die the

day she dropped the warranty, but she had paid more than the cost of a new one. Someone got a kick out of the poem, and they actually did give her a new one.

People keep telling Barbara she should put a book together, but she says she just doesn't know where to start. "I have boxes of them. Maybe I'll do it when I retire." Meanwhile, she'll just keep writing.

### My Sears Refrigerator

*We were both getting older... you and I  
and we signed a contract  
should one of us die.  
I'm now older too...  
life is catching up on me.  
You don't look so hot either*

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# Reality: 2009, Not Just Another New Year

In pondering thoughts of the last few years I cannot remember such turbulent years as 2003 to 2008. We, as a society, have borrowed too much, lived above our means and relied on the next paycheck to cover our poor financial judgment. Hopefully the new President will do what he is supposed to do, be a politician, improve America's values, and improve world relations. Maybe we can get the rest of the world to look at us as a model and not a target of anger.

As good citizens we are supposed to believe in government and support our government's decisions. What a fine heard of sheep we are. But will we stay sheep or turn lion? Remember even a lion has a heart.

Our now past President

promised America that times would improve and young families would have the opportunity to own a home. Unfortunately we did not read the fine print. Like what happens when the adjustable interest rate on your mortgage goes up or the windstorm insurance triples.

To compound the windstorm issue, if your home is appraised at a high value you must purchase this value of insurance with a percentage of deductible, never mind you only owe a small amount on your home or you can not afford to purchase so much insurance. For example if you only owe \$100,000 on a home now appraised at \$500,000, which you paid \$200,000 for 10 years ago. You canNOT purchase just \$100,000 worth of Insurance with a 5%

percentage deductible, thus only leaving yourself exposed to \$5,000, which is affordable in most instances and would satisfy the lender. Nope! You must purchase insurance for the appraised value and suffer a percentage deductible. Thus on a \$500,000 appraised home you are looking at a \$25,000 deductible. Ouch!

So where are you going to get the high deductible to repair your home? And what can we do to correct this? As a business owner one gets tired of dealing with the present answers, and this is only one of thousands of issues that need correction. The principle of government is "by and for the People." Do we have this?

Each day we should target an issue for correction. Looks like we as sheep have left far too many issues to their own

self-governing interests. We confront these issues as lions. And if one lion cannot correct the problem, a den of lions may.

Hopefully 2009 will be a new year of change... or maybe the better wording is "going back" - Back to the basic American values.

The year 2009 and forward will not be easy. And if home front issues are not enough we have the problem of foreign policy. We must stop the hatred of America and Americans. We are all the face of our President or our President is a face of all Americans. In 2009 we have a fresh start and we can and must "change" or "go back." America is the land of second chances. Americans must look back, self-correct issues and move forward.

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and the Green Flash Lounge*  
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<p><i>as everyone can see... And we both get a little more stubborn day after day I know you're trying to outlive me so Sears won't have to pay for a new refrigerator if your old parts can't be replaced... And both of us now ...are in an old age race I have been faithful.</i></p>	<p><i>I never cheated on you and I paid for 18 years to keep YOU healthy and new So here we are...both still barely hanging on so come on Sears give me a new refrigerator before I am gone.</i></p> <p style="font-size: small;">Copyright Barbara Mungovan, Key Largo, FL</p>
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