



## Friends of Miami Marine Stadium

Newsletter #56

September 2012

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### Dade Heritage Trust



Dade Heritage Trust is the foremost organization in Miami Dade County devoted to historic preservation. DHT, which recently celebrated its 40th birthday, was the parent organization to Friends of Miami Marine Stadium, providing important advocacy and support and an administrative umbrella. Though Friends of Miami Marine Stadium is now an independent 501(c)(3) not for profit, the two organizations remain close. For more information on Dade Heritage Trust, click [here](#)

Follow us for more  
Marine Stadium  
Updates::



### To: Miami Marines

This Fall, we are full speed ahead on developing our plans for the fundraising, restoration, and operation of Miami of Miami Marine Stadium.

### Moving Forward

It's been a busy and productive summer:

-Our Economic Impact Study by the Washington Economics Group is almost complete. In several weeks, the study will be posted on our website. This study was financed by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

-Our Capital Campaign Study, by our consultant, John Capurso, is now underway. The study will determine our community's attitude towards our fundraising effort for the Stadium, specify key problems and opportunities, and identify major leaders and potential gifts for the campaign. The plan is to complete this study in several months. We are now in the "quiet phase" of our capital campaign.

-We're continuing with our general feasibility analysis of major issues such as operations of the Stadium, construction costs and site planning. This is a large, complex project and we want to anticipate as many needs and problems as possible.

-Late in August, we made a presentation to the Marine Stadium Steering Committee. This Committee was appointed by the Miami City Manager to help provide guidance to him on the project. The Committee provided us with useful feedback and an impressive list of what must be accomplished in next several months.

Join Our Mailing List!

## Email List

# of people on  
Friends of Marine  
Stadium email  
list...2315

Our email list continues to grow steadily. It is the best way to stay informed and involved with our efforts to restore the Marine Stadium. Please encourage others to get involved and sign up!

We respect your time and only send emails on average once a month. We do not give or sell our email list to anyone.

## Marine Stadium Memories: Dragon Boating at the Marine Stadium

One of our best new connections is with the Save Our Sisters (SOS) Dragon Boat Team. SOS is a courageous group of Miami women - all breast cancer survivors - who train to race dragon boats at the Marine Stadium Basin. We had the opportunity to row amongst these amazing women and found it simply inspirational. You must read this story by [Kim Bonomo](#), President of the SOS Team. Yet another example of how the Marine Stadium serves as a meaningful asset to our community.

We plan to appear before to the Miami City Commission and Miami Sports and Exhibition Authority (MSEA) some time in late Fall for approval of a site plan. While this does not constitute final approval, it will allow our project to proceed.

## Honoring Jack Meyer



Jack Meyer and Nathan Brown

We are very saddened to tell you that Jack Meyer, the esteemed Engineer of the Marine Stadium, passed away last month.

It's hard to overstate Jack's role in designing the Marine Stadium. While at Dignum Engineers, he accepted the assignment of working on the Marine Stadium-after all of the engineers in his office refused to do it. The scope and scale of engineering work that went into this highly complex structure is hard to fathom. Jack said that it was the hardest engineering assignment he ever did in his life. Jokingly, he said that after the Stadium was finished he went to see the movie "The Longest Day" about the D-Day Invasion. All he could think of were the headaches and nightmares he had while working on the structure. Several years ago, he was interviewed by [Dwell Magazine](#) about his work on the Stadium.

Jack did a brilliant job. He said that he designed the Stadium to last 100 years-and that "the roof is not going to fall down. The only way it will come down is if they blow it up." Mike Brainerd, engineer with Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger, who undertook

# of stories submitted to IF SEATS COULD TALK .....167

### Marine Stadium Presentations

We recently made our 60th Presentation about the Marine Stadium at the [Antique Boat Museum](#) (ABM) near the 1000 Islands in Clayton, NY. In attendance were boat racing legends such as Buddy Beyer and Tom D' Eath. ABM is the premier freshwater nautical museum in the North America. A future collaboration with the Marine Stadium was discussed.

We are thrilled to have two prestigious invitations for presentations this October: one to the Department of Civil Engineering at Princeton University and the other to The Summit Conference on Preservation hosted by the Municipal Art Society in New York City. If you know of any organization interested in a presentation about the Marine Stadium, please reply to this email. # of Marine Stadium presentations made to date.....60

### HELP Friends of Miami Marine Stadium!

As you follow the trajectory of this incredibly challenging project and the many hundreds of volunteer hours we have spent on it,

two engineering studies, marveled at the work Jack accomplished without the benefit of a computer. Looking at the Stadium one day, he noted that ALL of the calculations and decisions made to engineer this complex project were "on the money."

Jack was a modest man, soft spoken-but very proud of what he accomplished. In the shadows for a long time, we were able to recognize him and his wonderful wife, Nina, at a memorable dinner at the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club this past Spring. He was honored by Mayor Regalado, the Presidents of three Engineering Societies, representatives of the University of Florida School of Engineering (his alma mater) and others. The setting was most appropriate: Jack was a Commodore of Biscayne Bay Yacht Club (BBYC), widely regarded as perhaps the oldest organization in Miami. BBYC was founded by Miami pioneer Ralph Middleton Munroe-and we are saving the Ralph Middleton Munroe Marine Stadium.

Jack is pictured here with Nathan Brown, a student of Civil Engineering from Princeton University who did his [thesis](#) on the Marine Stadium. Nathan's comprehensive thesis has won multiple awards and Princeton has now conducted several studies on the Stadium. Jack's work is now recognized as an engineering masterpiece.

### National Trust For Historic Preservation



National Trust for Historic Preservation

**National Treasures**

*SavingPlaces.org*

The [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) (NTHP)--the foremost voice for preservation in the United States - has been an important source of support for us from the beginning. In 2009, NTHP put the Marine Stadium on their "11 Most Endangered" List thereby generating significant national publicity. Subsequent grants have helped fund our comprehensive Engineering Study

please consider making a CONTRIBUTION to Friends of Miami Marine Stadium. Every dollar counts and your support will have a huge impact.

We are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization so all contributions are tax-deductible. You can either contribute by paypal (to do so, click [here](#) to go to the Marine Stadium website and if you scroll down, you will see a "paypal donate" box on the left). You can also contribute by writing a check to:

Friends of Miami Marine Stadium  
7701 SW 31st Court  
Miami, Florida 33155

and our Floating Stage Design Contest.

Now playing an even more vital role, NTHP has stepped up their support: They have provided a \$50,000 planning grant through the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, for technical assistance in our planning for the Stadium. In April, NTHP named the Miami Marine Stadium to their "National Treasures" list. "National Treasures are irreplaceable buildings, landscapes and communities that face urgent threats. NTHP is already working to protect more than thirty "National Treasures" whose potential lose is unimaginable.

More recently, we had the opportunity to meet with staff from NTHP, who came to Miami to get their "first look" at the Marine Stadium. NTHP now plans to give the Marine Stadium their highest priority, and will be providing a high level of technical and marketing assistance, including the creation of a a national marketing campaign.

The extraordinary partnership with NTHP has been an invaluable asset in our effort to restore the Stadium.

## Press

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The sensational video by the World Freerunning Parkour Federation (you MUST watch this if you haven't seen it yet; click on the image below) has cranked up a considerable amount of press and buzz for us. This [article](#) from the National Trust for Historic Preservation Blog is an interview with Ben Jenkins, one of the Parkour athletes in the video. [Salty Eggs](#), a South Florida Blog dedicated to Arts and Culture, also wrote a feature article about the Marine Stadium. Finally, the [Key Biscayne Islander](#) published a major story on the stadium as well. The Islander has supported us with numerous articles and features over the years. This is especially significant to us as the Marine Stadium is in the "front yard" of Key Biscayne and we seek to establish a positive relationship with the Village.



Parkour Playhouse - Abandoned Stadium

## Conclusion

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Twenty years ago, on August 24, 1992, Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida. The Marine Stadium was shuttered after the Hurricane by the City of Miami. Officials alleged that the Stadium was damaged by the Hurricane-and a grant of \$1 million was obtained from FEMA to demolish it. The insurance company for the City, which would have also been responsible for the demolition, commissioned an engineering study to evaluate the condition of the structure. Click [here](#) to see the last page of the study conducted by Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger which demonstrated that the Stadium was NOT damaged by the Hurricane. In spite of this conclusive proof to the contrary, the perception that the Stadium was damaged by the Hurricane persists. (Note; you can read the whole 1992 Engineering Report by going to the "City Reports" section of our website).

Over the last twenty years, the Stadium has had many "near death experiences" like this one.

We now have our opportunity and challenge to bring it back.

Friends of Miami Marine Stadium  
[www.marinestadium.org](http://www.marinestadium.org)

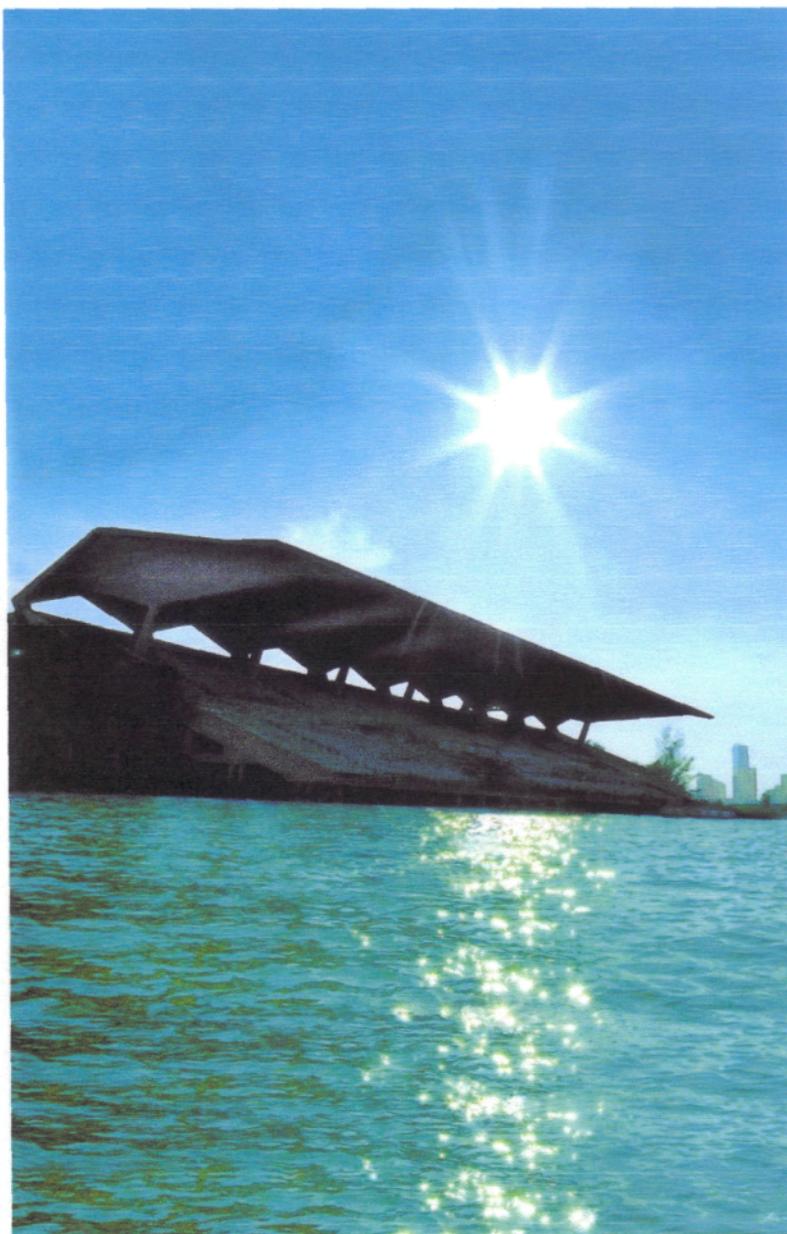


Photo by Leslie Harris

[Forward email](#)