



The Florida Commodores Journal



Bay Point Yacht Club Hosts February Meeting



Keepers of the Flame

**Preserving the Customs and Traditions of
Yachting for future generations**

AT THE HELM

Commodore Larry Kimmerling



The Bay Point Yacht Club members and staff were very gracious hosts for the FCA Winter Membership Meeting, February 15,16,2013. Their hospitality was evident with an open invitation to a wonderful Thursday evening Valentine's Day Party. A great way to share the friendship and meet BPYC members!

The Friday evening catered dinner was prefaced with our traditional Sundown Ceremony. This event takes on more significance as we are honored with lowering of the American Flag, during a beautiful Panama City Beach sunset.

The Saturday membership meeting attendees were welcomed by BPYC, Vice Commodore Charles Ralls, with a number of BPYC flag officers, club members and guests from the St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club



Immediate Past Commodore John Mathews, Ambassador Program chair, reported there will be an Ambassador training meeting at the April meeting at the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club. John introduced four star commodore recipient, PC Kathy Champagne for her work with WAVE, (Wounded American Veteran Event and FCA was presented a burgee in honor of their support.



PC Mathews also reported that plans are being set for the FCA's 5 year anniversary.....there will be additional information forth coming. Be sure to keep abreast of your FCA e-mail correspondence.

Our Executive Committee member at large Fritz Foster, has resigned. He and Patti , have declared their independence and will do more traveling. We thank Fritz for his many contributions and his service to the FCA. Fritz and Patti are retaining their FCA membership and we are looking forward to seeing them at future FCA meetings.

To assure Associate Member representation on the Executive Committee, Ingrid Menz, Palm Beach Commodore Yacht Club had been confirmed to the position of member-at-large. The Associates play a major role in the operation and planning of the FCA. We feel that the members and Associates will be better served by Executive Committee representation. Welcome aboard Ingrid!!

In discussing our programs that support our mission, the subject of Florida Yacht Clubs, their administration, their management, membership, and changes in generations/society, comes to the forefront.



Educational opportunities for FCA Members, Yacht Club Flag Officers and Yacht Club Managers are currently available through various programs. Today and future Yacht Club challenges will necessitate exposure to such programs for members and Yacht Clubs to understand and meet these challenges. The entire social structure and multiple generations, speaks to change....significant change! It is with that goal in mind that the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to give four (4) grants (scholarships) to the ICA Academy for Yachting officers and professionals. PC Wayne Stewart, Halifax River Yacht Club, will chair a committee responsible to develop the selection and administrative process and procedures for this program. We will continue to keep you informed as this program develops.

The subject of FCA meeting registration fees was discussed and it was agreed that FCA would continue to charge a registration fee to FCA Members and Associates, but to waive registration fees to host yacht club members, and other club members who wish to attend.

The afternoon program guest speaker was, Jeanne Williams, Clean Marina/Clean Vessel coordinator for the State of Florida. This is a great program!!



FCA can step up and begin making a difference by working with Florida Yacht Clubs and the Clean Marina Program. It is our objective to get them to work with us to expand the program. They have the designation, experience and would be a great resource. If you are willing to work with us on this environmental need contact me at www.towers12A@aol.com or call me at 727-542-5877, The State has a number of area coordinators that will be more than happy to lead the way for us!

We had the privilege and opportunity to visit St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club and would like to thank PC Jim Robinson, Commodore AC Littleton and General Manager Jay Wallace for their hospitality and tour of their beautiful and historical club

I would like to thank PC Kennedy and his wonderful wife Mary. Their dedication, hospitality and tireless effort was instrumental to a very successful FCA membership meeting at the BPYC.



See you at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club for our Spring meeting April 26,27,2013

The Ship's Store is here to help you.

Do you need uniform items? The Ship's store has just about anything you might need. From ties & lapel pins to epaulette shirts & shoulder boards we've got them. Sleeve patches are available for members, associates & associate spouses. If you are a member of FCYC, we now have FCYC sleeve patches too.



Has your brass belt buckle seen better days? The Ship's Store carries both new white belts with buckles & brass buckles that are sold individually so you can replace that scratched buckle.

Everyone loves the Ladies FCA scarf when worn with our white $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeve uniform blouse. Did you know that same blouse comes in fashion colors & many of us have ordered them to wear during other yacht club functions when uniforms are not required? What a neat way to "show the colors" & have a conversation starter all in one.

The Ship's Store is open at the quarterly membership meetings an hour before the meeting starts through the lunch break. Please look at the FCA website for photos of available items

www.flcommodores.org under Ship's Store. You may contact me through the website or directly at Bevplum@cox.net or my home phone 850-651-3412 to place an order other than at the membership meetings.

Hope to see you at the Spring meeting at Charlotte Harbor YC. I've gone shopping to stock up the FCA Ship's Store boutique with some fabulous items. Can't wait for you to see them!

Nautical Puzzler

What is a **Quadrantal Sphere** and how is it used? We have all seen them in our yacht clubs or at a favorite sea food restaurant. Do you know what they are for and how they work?

Answer

Almost all boats have a compass and some of us actually use them. With GPS and our elegant mapping equipment we seldom need to look at the compass but maybe we should. For example you have no visual reference and want to steer to a distant harbor. You have measured the course from a chart. Your autopilot will hold the course but is it accurate? Say you dial in 157° . Does the compass read 157° ? Your main compass (the one in the center of your helm) and the autopilot compass do not necessarily read the same. There are two kinds of compass errors: variation and deviation. The first, variation, is due to the fact that your compass does not point to true North but a place in Northern Canada which is the magnetic pole. Variation depends on where you are. If you are due South of the magnetic pole it is zero. Every chart will have two compass scales: true and magnetic and will have the local variation shown.

Deviation is quite another matter. If a compass is away from any interference it will point to magnetic North. In reality, particularly on a steel ship, there are unwanted magnetic fields around which cause the compass pointing to “deviate” from exact magnetic North. There are several ways to correct for this, one of which is to use iron balls, called Quadrantal balls, which exert a slight pull on a compass needle. By adjusting the position of the balls one may reduce the deviation to nearly zero. Note the slots under the red and green balls (for port and starboard) on this binnacle.



Under no circumstances should you drop one on your foot.

Next Issue's Puzzler

What is a **Sentinel** or a **Kellet** ? Why and how is it used?



Florida Commodores Association

Executive Committee 2012-2013

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(M) 727.397.2991 (C) 727.542.5877 t
towers12a@aol.com

Vice Commodore—John Slattery (Mary)
Palm Coast Yacht Club/Halifax River Yacht Club
(M) 386.447.9947 (C) 386.627.6277
jamslats@aol.com

Rear Commodore—William Masters (Grace)
Halifax River Yacht Club
386-671-7553
bill82543@aol.com

Fleet Captain—June-Ann Degraw (Bruce)
Pelican Yacht Club
772-460-6778
junedegraw@att.net

Treasurer—Robert Plummer (Beverly)
Fort Walton Yacht Club
(M) 850.651.3412 (C) 850.225.5325
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Secretary—Christine Snedaker
Palm Beach Commodores Association
561-627-6002
cbsnedaker@comcast.net

Immediate Past Commodore – John Matthews (Nancy)
Pensacola Yacht Club/Navy Yacht Club Pensacola
(M) 850.492.4802 (C) 850.516.1580
johnmatthews@cox.net

Judge Advocate/ Legal Officer—Tim Burr (Marguerite)
Pensacola Yacht Club
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Webmistress -Lynne Oakley (Rich) Charlotte Harbor
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(M) 561.848.4353 (C) 561.906.4642
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FCA Area Ambassadors FCA Ambassador Coordinator



PC John Matthews Pensacola Yacht Club

A recent change to the FCA Bylaws resulted in the Immediate Past Commodore being given the responsibility for the Area Ambassador Program. The vision is that the Ambassadors, in addition to identifying and working with potential new chapters, will work with Chapter Presidents and enhance communications with FCA. We need your ideas, input and inventiveness on how the FCA can improve its efforts to attract new members and chapters.

If you are willing to serve as an area Ambassador or assist in this program please contact John. The FCA good people to serve and help FCA expand and improve its membership, programs and activities.

PC John Matthews

Telephone: 850-516-1580

Email: johnmatthews@cox.net

FROM THE TREASURER

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At the Clearwater Yacht Club Quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee, it was decided to purchase an American flag to be used for sundowner ceremonies and any other occasions that may arise. The FCA is now the proud owners of a beautiful 5 X 8 cotton flag, along with a certificate of authenticity.



Most of us have probably heard that flags are available that have been flown over the Capitol. Many thanks to FCA Past Commodore Rich Oakley who pointed me in the right direction and made the purchase much easier.

A quick Google search led me to the web site of Congressman Jeff Miller, where flags are available for purchase in 3 X 5, 4 X 6, and 5 X 8, in both cotton and nylon. Cotton flags are for ceremonial purposes only and should not be used on a daily basis. If your needs are for a daily use flag, opt for the nylon.

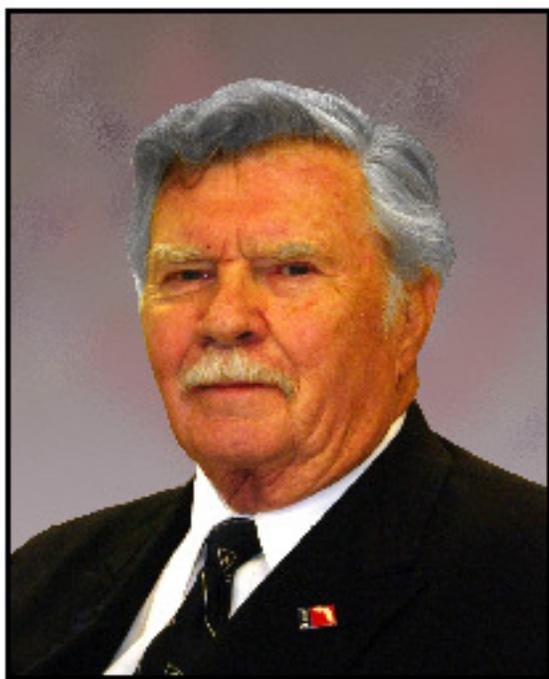
Requests for a flag that has been flown on a specific date are usually honored, there is more information on the web site. Cost for the flags ranges from \$13.15 to \$24.05, there is no tax or shipping.

If your chapter has a special occasion coming, or your club flag is showing wear, this may be something to consider. If you have any questions, or need assistance, please contact me.

DUES: If you haven't paid your 2013 dues now is the time! All dues are delinquent after January 15.

Robert Plummer

**P/C Richard Coughlin - Halifax River Yacht Club
2012 Four-Star Commodore**



Past Commodore Richard W. Coughlin of the Halifax River Yacht Club (HRYC) in Daytona Beach, Florida was awarded one of the two 2012 Four-Star Commodore Awards from the Florida Commodores Association.

The award is given in recognition of dedication coupled with outstanding service to the club, which resulted in having significant and beneficial impact on the Club's operations and membership.

A member of the HRYC since 1997, he served on various committees and on the Board of Directors. Coughlin was elected Commodore in 2006. During his tenure, he oversaw, monitored and coordinated the construction of HRYC's new clubhouse, including the design of the clubhouse's new interiors. He has the singular honor of having served as the last Commodore in the old clubhouse and the first Commodore in the new one.

For the last seven years, Coughlin has served as a Director of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs. In 2009, he was instrumental in forming the Halifax River Commodores Association and served two terms as President of that organization. He has chaired the Commodore's Cup Race and the Gulf Streamer Race, two local inter-club, long distance sailboat races. P/C Coughlin, and his wife, Freida, live in Ormond Beach.

Information about the 2013 Four-Star Commodore Award program will be distributed shortly to all Florida yacht clubs and nomination forms will be available on the FCA website.

Historical Event
At
Pensacola Yacht Club

Past Commodore John Matthews

The Pensacola Yacht Club Chapter of the Florida Commodore's Association has the responsibility for conducting the traditional FCA Sundowner Ceremony and for the conduct of the annual Change of Watch. However, this year was very special for the Chapter. It began with the Sundowner Ceremony prior to the Change of Watch with a special presentation on the history of the USS Pensacola CA-24, a heavy cruiser that was built before WWII and conducted successful naval operations in WWII and earned 13 battle stars.



In 1946 the elderly cruiser was assigned to target duty in connection with the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. The old girl survived two blasts and was finally sunk during target practice a 100 miles off the Washington State coast 10 Nov. 1948. For two decades the USS Pensacola flew our nation's colors admirably and made all of us in our city and across the country feel very proud of her remarkable service.

Following the Sundowner Ceremony, the Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC) also honored the City of Pensacola by installing its first female Commodore in its 105 year history. Commodore Susan McKinnon, a native of Pensacola and an Associate Member of the PYC Chapter of the Florida Commodores Association, was sworn in as Commodore by Commodore Emeritus Jere Allen. Commodore McKinnon, nee Susan Green, grew up at Pensacola Yacht Club as a junior sailor.

When Susan was 13, she and her girlfriend were invited to go sailing with a local doctor, a member of Pensacola Yacht Club. She immediately got hooked on sailing. In 1973, she became a junior member of PYC. Her passion for sailing included becoming a certified windsurfing instructor, buying a Wavelength 24 with a sailing friend, and competing in local regattas both as a skipper and as crew. She has continued her participation in all activities of the yacht club, particularly the sailing and boating events. She has sailed in many Gulf Yachting Association events winning her share of the races.

While a member at PYC Susan has served on the landscape committee ultimately leading a project to replace several dying Naval Oak Trees that had been decimated as a result of Hurricane Ivan. Susan was elected as Fleet Captain where she coordinated many local and regional competitive events including a national USSailing Championship. In 2011, election to the flag officer position of Rear Commodore put Susan on the ladder to the top culminating with her election as Commodore of Pensacola Yacht Club

Commodore McKinnon is married to Ian McKinnon, a local business man. She has three daughters from her first marriage to Olympic sailor Tom Whitehurst, Courtney, who is in her last few months of Emergency Room Physician residency; Betsy, who is the marketing coordinator for a large mall in Fort Walton; and Lauren, who is a student at Sacramento State in California. Susan recently retired after 31 years teaching for Escambia County School System.

Pensacola Yacht Club is honored to have Susan McKinnon as its first female Commodore.



WAVE NEWS

2012 was the inaugural year for a new event in the Pensacola Bay area for wounded American veterans, W.A.V.E. 2012 "A Day on the Bay."

Inspired by the cooperative effort of six area yacht clubs for the Centennial of Naval Aviation (CoNA), headed by Navy Yacht Club Pensacola, six clubs joined together for an appropriate sequel to the CoNA event, a day sail for wounded American veterans. Rather than decorating our boats for a parade, our boats would carry decorated American veterans.

In January 2012, NYCP sent out a call to the original CoNA committee to participate in the event. By mid-January, five of the original clubs were on board: NYCP; Ft. Walton YC; Pensacola YC; Pensacola Beach YC; Point YC.



With the welcome addition of Eglin YC, we had our committee of six clubs., and NYCP member, Barbara Russell was put to the task of designing a commemorative burgee to be flown by participating skippers in order to identify our "fleet."

A series of meetings were held at which the date and place were set based on regatta schedules and other club obligations. A detailed task analysis was used as a sign-up sheet for individual club's participation in the project, and PR assistance from WEAR TV and the Pensacola News Journal was requested.

FtWYC immediately offered to host the event, with their Fleet Captain, John Farris serving as Action Officer for the event. FtWYC members embraced the project and welcomed the veterans and participating yacht club members with style and grace. John even "en-listed" his meteorology students as set-up, clean-up, and dock staff.

Due to the location, the major source of boats for the "fleet" would be FtWYC and EYC, with the other clubs signing on to other tasks:

- EYC secured donated non-alcoholic beverages from the Eglin Army Air Force Exchange Service.
- PYC made arrangements with Santa Rosa Mall for a donation of food for the lunch to be served.
- PBYC was instrumental in locating disabled veterans, and sailed a volunteer boat over a day early.
- NYCP members set up registration the morning of the event, baked their trademark "sailing chips" for the lunch, acted as personal assistants on board the boats for veterans with stability needs, and raised funds to purchase the commemorative burgee that was presented to each skipper.

PtYC's commodore was master chef along with his wife, Cynthia, and other club members. They made special "doggy bags" for students who showed up to assist with transport, a special highlight being those fresh baked chocolate chip cookies!

Pt YC members, Doug Abercromie and his wife attempted to sail their boat over from Alabama, however wind and high waves forced them to turn back. It seems that "Mother Nature" has misinterpreted the meaning of our event, W.A.V.E., and sent lots of BIG ones!

By registration time our original 60 veterans had been reduced to 20 veterans and a service dog. The final decision was for safety only to use power boats, which FtWYC members immediately stepped up to provide, and all veterans enjoyed an approximately two hour sail.

Back in the club house, with temperatures outside hovering at 60 degrees, and winds of about 18 mph, all participants, both veterans and representatives of the six yacht clubs enjoyed an afternoon of camaraderie and sharing. It was hard to tell who felt the most blessed at the end of the day.

A "wrap-up" meeting was held in early November to discuss the event and to decide if we would attempt the projects again. The decision was unanimous, there will be a W.A.V.E. 2013 to be held in Pensacola on August 10 (rain date 8-11). The commemorative burgee will bear the original six club burgees with the addition of the "VIVA Florida 500" logo in the center, as our event will be registered with the State of Florida and placed on the official state calendar.

In conclusion, I know that I speak for all six yacht clubs when I challenge your clubs to "Catch the W.A.V.E."

Kathy Champagne

Kathy is one of our 4 star commodores . ed



Upcoming Events 2013

**Spring Membership Meeting
April 26-27, 2013
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club**

**Summer Membership Meeting
July 19-20, 2013
Coral Reef Yacht Club**

**Annual Meeting and Change of Watch
October 25-26, 2013
Halifax River Yacht Club**

**Third Academy of Yachting Officers and Professionals
November 21-23, 2013
Pelican Yacht Club, Fort Pierce Fl.**

Florida Commodores Association Spring Meeting

April 26 – 27, 2013

Local Area Hotel Accommodations

Preferred choice of the FCA:

Four Points by Sheraton 33 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda,

Danny Ali GM (941) 661-4288 www.fourpointspuntagorda.com

\$89.00

Sleep Inn & Suites 806 Kings Hwy, Port Charlotte,

(941) 613-6300

\$65.00

Banana Bay 23285 Bayshore Rd., Port Charlotte

(941) 743-4441 www.bananabaymotel.com

\$89.00 Waterfront Suite \$79.00 Junior Suite \$65.00 Room

Microtel Inn & Suites 4056 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte

(941) 624-6339 www.microtelinn.com

\$54.00 Single \$64 Double

(For all hotels, request Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club, FCA rate)

For additional information contact PC John Aloisi at 941-505-0042 or jalaloisi@comcast.net



Florida Commodores Association

Registration Form

Spring Membership Meeting at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

April 26 – 27, 2013

Dockage available at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club by calling Dock Master Joe Malat @ 941-629-5131

Name(s) _____

Chapter/Yacht Club _____ Club # _____

Regular Member ___ Associate Member ___ Guest ___

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____ Email: _____

Registration fee:	# Attending	Total
\$10/person payable with Registration	_____	\$ _____

Please make check for registration only payable to "FCA" and mail before April 19, 2013 to:

**CHARLOTTE HARBOR YACHT CLUB
4400 LISTER STREET PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952**

Friday, April 26, 2013

Sunset Social with dinner from the menu # Attending ____

Saturday, April 27, 2013

Lunch buffet \$15.00 ++per person # Attending ____

Dinner at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club \$30.00++per person # Attending ____

(All charges to be paid by MC or VISA or billed to an FCYC Yacht Club)



Schedule of Events

Friday, April 26, 2013

15:00 FCA Executive Board Meeting

18:00 Sunset Social – cocktails at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club “Ships Wheel”

19:00 Dinner available at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club in the Ball Room

Saturday, April 27, 2013

08:00 Continental Breakfast available

08:30 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 12:00 Spring Membership Meeting – Uniform C
(white shirt & trousers/skirt, epaulets, white shoes)

12:00 - 13:00 Buffet lunch at the Yacht Club

13:00 – 15:00 Guest Speaker, Former Chairman of the Panama Canal Commission,
Robert McMillian, will offer a fascinating insider’s look at the history and future of Panama and
the Panama Canal

Adjourn

18:00 Cocktails in the Ships Wheel at the Yacht Club

18:30 Sundowners Ceremony – Uniform C with Cover

18:50 Resume cocktails in the Ships Wheel

19:30 Dinner in the Ball Room

Sunday, April 28, 2013

09:30 Breakfast available at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

10:00 ICA Meeting



Florida Commodores Association
Spring Membership Meeting at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

Dinner Menu Saturday, April 27

Hand Passed Hors d'oeuvres
House Salad w/house dressing
Surf & Turf
(Consisting of one crab cake & sliced tenderloin)
Chef's selection of potatoes
Asparagus
CHYC rolls w/butter
Dessert
Cheese Cake w/ Cherries

\$30.00 ++ per person
For additional information contact
John Aloisi at 941-505-0042 or jalaloisi@comcast.net

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2013

Come join us for a road trip to Arcadia, Florida, and a visit to Mary Margaret's Tea & Biscuit for lunch and tea followed by shopping and browsing through the shops of downtown Arcadia.

We will leave from Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club at 10:00 a.m. and carpool to Arcadia, approximately one hour away. We will return to CHYC around 3PM.

Click here for link to tea room: Mary Margaret's Tea & Biscuit for information and a peek at their menu. <http://marymargaretsteaandbiscuit.com/>

If we have more than 10 participants, there is a special rate of \$13.25++ per person, reservations required.

Please contact Lynne Oakley at 941-637-7849 or rloakleypgi@embarqmail.com if you wish to participate or for additional information.



Bay Point Yacht Club Meeting

