



The Florida Commodores Journal

SARASOTA YACHT CLUB CHAPTER HOSTS SPRING MEETING OF 2014



Keepers of the Flame

Customs and Traditions of Yachting *Past, Present, Future*



FROM THE HELM

Commodore John Slattery

Commodore 2013-2014



On behalf of the Florida Commodores Association, a big thank you goes to the officers, members and employees of Sarasota Yacht Club for hosting and our April meeting. Their facility is a real gem and their hospitality was most appreciated. Commodore Pete Kujawski, P/C Willa Saalwaechter and P/C Kay Goodman deserve particular mention for their support of our Spring meeting.

I could opine in great detail about the 'mechanics' of the meeting. However, I believe the more important part of these meetings is not the required business segment but the reports of what progress is being made to advance the FCA organization in its mission of supporting the yachting community through educational, charitable and social programs. To those ends we continue to make progress.

We have established the "Florida Commodores Association Foundation, Inc." Like all major journeys starting with the first step, the same is true of a fledgling charitable foundation. In order for the FCAF to contribute in a meaningful way to organizations and causes worthy of our support it must first build sufficient reserves. This is always the most difficult part of launching a new foundation.

I have always been impressed by the generosity of our members in the past - supporting individuals and organizations - often with no means to receive a tax benefit for their contribution. The FCAF allows members to now receive a tax benefit for their contributions. You will soon be hearing more about the FCAF and I hope you will support it during its startup and in the future.

The theme of the Spring meeting was "Pumping Up the Dollars!" How to increase the revenue in your Clubs brought forth a wellspring of programs from past and current club officers. It would take pages to try and summarize these **programs that are implemented and working**. I emphasize that these are proven ways to increase your Clubs revenue.

This brings up the point that if you missed the meeting, you (and your Club) missed the opportunity to learn of these programs and perhaps implement some of them to increase the revenue of your home Club. Remember, every meeting we hold will have this educational aspect and in order to learn of what ideas actually work, someone from your Club should attend the meetings.

Not only can you hear first-hand of programs that actually work but you have the opportunity to talk to those from the Clubs where these programs have been implemented. At our meeting at Lake Beresford Yacht Club in July we will be concentrating on recruiting and retaining members. Can your Club afford not to have a representative at that meeting?

Following our business session (and lunch) we were given a very impressive presentation by Sarasota YC P/C Jeff Birnbach and Sarasota Bay Watch President Larry Stults. The program, "Community Engagement, Citizen Scientists and Eco-Restoration" outlined how SYC in conjunction with the Sarasota Bay Watch and Mote Labs partnered in a program to return scallops to the bay. Not only was the program successful for the marine environment but it was most rewarding to SYC in the form of member participation and also provided very positive and ongoing publicity for the Club.

Programs such as this and the WAVE (Wounded American Veterans Event) are great ways for your Club to give back to your community. They help generate enthusiasm among Club members, get members involved in a Club activity and bring community recognition to your Club and its members.

Looking forward to seeing you next month at Lake Beresford Yacht Club. A Club that has truly risen from its ashes!

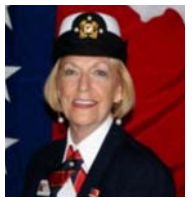
John Slattery, Commodore



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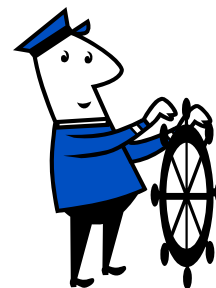
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What cha gonna do?

So you just received notification of the next FCA general membership meeting & it is being held all the way across the state. I'm not driving 400 (or 500) miles just to go attend that meeting, you think to yourself. That's a lot of driving for just a few hours of business. I get what I need from FCA here at my local Yacht Club. WRONG!!

Yes, there is the business meeting but there is so much more to get out of the weekend. We perform a Sundown ceremony for the host club and members to participate in. In some cases, it's the first time the host club has witnessed this patriotic event. Most clubs then start the tradition of this ceremony at their home clubs.

Cocktails and happy hour give us all the opportunity to casually chat with other members about things going on at other clubs. This is one of the underlying agendas for the whole weekend, sharing problems, solutions, and new ideas to keep our yacht clubs current and appealing to all. But what about that long drive and expense of the weekend? Why not do what Robert and I have done? We make them mini vacations. Our last meeting was at Sarasota YC. After looking on the internet about the area, we decided to leave home on Wednesday and drive to Tampa to spend the night. During an earlier visit to the area we discovered that the Columbia Restaurant has a fabulous place at Clearwater Beach. We were anxious to share it with P/C Larry and Barb Kimmerling (Clearwater YC) since they lived in the area and never had been there. We had an extraordinary meal, sitting on the patio on the water. The Clearwater Community Sailing Center is within view and we watched the racers while we ate and visited.

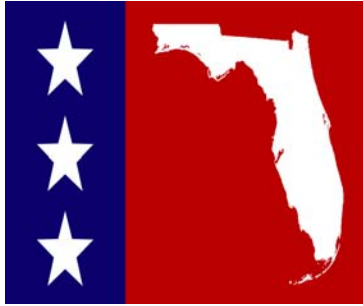
The next day, Thursday, we drove down to the Sarasota area. Breaking the trip up into two days helped us from being too tired later in the weekend to enjoy the meeting and events. We met up with P/C Pete and Jeannie Tyson (Pelican YC) who were familiar with the area. We spent a full day at the Ringling Museum, enjoying lunch at the café near the gift shop and walking the grounds. It was easy to see that you could spend several days there and not see everything. The day was gorgeous and the air off the water was a welcome respite from the hot sun. By the time we returned to the hotel other FCA members had started to check in and the weekend events started.

We made what could have been a boring long drive to a meeting very enjoyable. How many times have you been driving somewhere & said "we need to stop there sometime"? If you're like us, numerous times. So why not make these meetings an adventure. Research the areas surrounding the meeting location; take an extra day or two to go somewhere you've been meaning to check out. I'm sure there are others in FCA that would be willing to join you (the friendships that we have made in FCA are priceless). For those of us arriving early for the July meeting at Lake Beresford YC, VC June Ann DeGraw has planned for us to rent pontoon boats for a day on the St. John's River. We will be leaving at 9:30, Thursday, July 17th from Hontoon Landing. Contact VC DeGraw NLT June 29th at junedegraw@att.net for reservations & details.

Do you have a favorite restaurant or place of interest near our scheduled meeting locations? Let me know about them and I'll share them with our membership. Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Beverly Plummer, Quartermaster, FCA





FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION
Spring Meeting



Schedule of Events

Friday, July 18, 2014

Registration 1630 - 1800
1500 FCA Executive Board Meeting
1830 Sundowners Ceremony – Class C Uniform with Cover
(White shirt & trousers/skirt, epaulets, white belt, white shoes)

Dinner Buffet or Limited Menu

Saturday, July 20, 2013

0830 Continental Breakfast Available
0900 - 0930 Registration
0930 – 1200 Summer Membership Meeting – Class C Uniform
(White shirt & trousers/skirt, epaulets, white belt, white shoes)
"Gaining and Retaining Members" presented by P/C Wayne Stewart
1200 – 1300 Buffet Lunch Available
1300 – 1500 Guest Speaker, St. Johns Riverkeeper, whose mission is to
work on behalf of the community for clean and healthy waters in the St. Johns River, its tribu-
taries and its wetlands, through citizen-based advocacy.

Adjourn

1800 Cocktails on the patio overlooking Lake Beresford, inside the pool area, or inside
weather permitting

1900 Cocktails and Dinner in the dining room
Yacht Club casual
2000 - 2300 Music by Artie

Sunday, July 21
0900 - 1400 Breakfast is available from the menu



Florida Commodores Association

Registration Form
Summer Membership Meeting
July 18-19, 2014



Dockage Available at Lake Beresford Yacht Club by calling 386-734-3854

Name(s) _____

Chapter/Yacht Club _____

Member Number: _____ Associate Member _____ Guest _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Registration Fee:

Persons

\$ 10/per person payable with registration

Please make check payable to "FCA" and mail before July 10 to Pat Wilcox, Lake Beresford Yacht Club, 1961 Hontoon Road, DeLand, FL 32720 (Lakeberesford@cfl.rr.com)

Friday, July 18

Cocktails & Dinner Happy Hour 5 – 7
Club Buffet (\$22)
Limited a la carte menu available

Saturday, July 19

Continental Breakfast & Lunch Buffet \$ 19 per person, inclusive

Dinner - Choice (\$34) Filet of Beef Tenderloin w/Mushroom Burgandy Glaze
Grouper Caribbean
Vegetarian & gluten-free option available upon request

Sunday, July 20

Breakfast from the menu available in the Club Dining Room

FOR ALL NON-RECIPROCAL CLUBS: PLEASE SUBMIT CREDIT CARD INFORMATION. (CC WILL BE USED WITH ASSIGNED TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP NUMBER-- PAYABLE TO Lake Beresford Yacht Club)

Come Join in the Fun!



Lake Beresford Yacht Club FCA Meeting Suggested Hotels



Hontoon Landing Resort and Marina.....www.honton.com

4 minutes from LBYC. Hotel rooms to cottages many with kitchens. Directly on St. Johns River. Stay Thursday and get Friday for \$50.00

Tropical Resort and Marina.....www.tropicalresortandmarina.com

5 minutes from LBYC, 1 -3 bedroom units, plus parking for RV's. Pet friendly. Directly on Lake Beresford.

Clarion Hotel.....www.ClarionHotelDeland.Orlando.com

In the City of Deland by the Convention Center and Airport. Special rate for FCA. \$69.00 / night for double or king, \$99.00 / night for suite. Must identify yourself as Florida Commodores Association to receive the special rate.

Day of Fun on the Water

For those arriving on Wednesday or early on Thursday, we have planned a special event. We will be renting pontoon boats for Thursday, July 17.

We plan to leave the docks at Hontoon Landing around 9:30 AM. The cruise will take us south on the river to Blue Springs State Park. Then a stop for lunch. Returning to the resort mid to late afternoon.

Each boat holds 10 people and will coast \$99 plus tax for the day. We will need to reserve the boats by June 30th, so I need to have a **commitment by June 28**. The cost of the boat will be divided equally among those on the boat.

If you are interested, please email me at junedegraw@att.net and let me know you will be joining us. This is going to be a relaxing day on the water and an opportunity to get to know each other a little better.

Surely hope you can join us!

Vice Commodore June-Ann DeGraw

Reflections from Commodore Pete Kujawski Sarasota Yacht Club



FCA Commodore Slattery presenting
SYC Commodore Kujawski a Certificate of
Appreciation for hosting the Meeting

The Sarasota Yacht Club was proud to host the Florida Commodores Association Spring Meeting on April 25-26. Following an impressive Friday night Sundowner Ceremony, the camaraderie of the FCA attendees and the SYC attendees was immediately apparent over refreshments. We may live apart physically, but we certainly share the common interest of making the Florida yacht clubs better for our members. Over dinner we shared lessons learned as we got to know each other better. The sincerity and open discussion set the stage for productive meeting the following day. After an overview of FCA initiatives, the meeting participants had an opportunity to suggest revenue generating ideas that others might take home to their own club. Again, the openness and candor without

any hint of withholding came through. Scores of ideas were offered to the audience for their potential application at other clubs. It was a free exchange of ideas for anyone to adopt as appropriate or reject as not fitting at a particular location. After enjoying lunch, a presentation of how the Sarasota Yacht Club and the community have aligned with Sarasota Bay Watch to "Partner to Protect our Natural Resources", a program to introduce scallops into Sarasota Bay to help clean the waters. Feedback from the participants was favorable and hopefully it will trigger ideas at other clubs.

Overall, the FCA goal to exchange information among yacht clubs on a statewide basis was achieved. But perhaps more importantly, the bonding of the dedicated and loyal Florida Commodores Association members from around the state with the Sarasota Yacht Club members, myself included, was a positive experience. I'm convinced that several long term friendships were formed and in the future, we will team to improve the Florida yacht clubs and enhance member satisfaction as well as the financial well being of our clubs.

Summary of the Purpose Florida Commodores Association

The Florida Commodores Association provides recognition of the achievements and accomplishments of recognized yacht club commodores. It serves as a link among Florida yacht clubs and encourages the exchange of information and ideas, as well as promoting Yachting Customs and Traditions through awareness, educational, charitable and social programs.

Notice of Nomination of Candidates for FCA Officers for 2015

The by-laws call for the Immediate Past Commodore to Chair the nomination committee with two (2) members-at-large approved by the Executive Committee. If you are interested and would like to be considered for a leadership role in the FCA, please contact me by e-mail: Towers12A@aol.com, or you may call me on my cell (727) 542-5877. I would be more than happy to discuss the very rewarding experience and opportunity to serve our membership, Florida Yacht Clubs and the boating/sailing community.

Thank you,

Larry Kimmerling, IPC FCA
2015 Nominating Committee Chair

Pictures on the right: Members of the FCA and SYC Chapter preparing for the traditional Sundowner Ceremony which is designed to honor the Flag of our Country. The ceremony is very patriotic in nature and is a solemn event.



Past Commodore Sam Foreman, PYC, Past Commodore Willa Saalwaechter, SYC, FCA Past Commodore Dr Tom Reynolds, FWYC, FCA IPC Larry Kimmerling, CYC, listening to SYC Past Commodore Kay Goodman



Cover Photo: L to R: FCA Commodore John Slattery; SYC Past Commodore Kay Goodman; SYC Commodore Peter Kujawski; and SYC Past Commodore Willa Saalwaechter preparing for the FCA Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club.

Note to the Reader:

At the FCA Spring Membership Meeting at the Sarasota Yacht Club, PC Kay Goodman introduced me to Amanda Holm, the SYC Marina Manager and Dock Master. During our lunch with Amanda it became apparent the need to share Amanda's and SYC's story with the FCA membership. A special thanks to Amanda for sharing this impressive and very successful program with the FCA. Amanda can be reached at: Amanda.holm@sarasotayachtclub.org.

Larry Kimmerling, IPC,FCA



Having a career in the boating industry was an easy decision to make when I graduated college. I had been surrounded by the boating lifestyle since I was an infant and loved every minute of it. I officially learned to sail when I was seven years old through Edison Sailing Center in Ft. Myers whose program was once associated with the Royal Palm Yacht Club. I began racing optimist prams when I was nine years old and graduated to the laser 4.7 when I was 14. The laser 4.7 was really where I had my success with racing. In that boat, I became the District 13 Champion and State Champion with a spot to compete in nationals. I engulfed myself in any form of training available through other classes of boats and opportunities. I didn't limit myself to just dinghy sailing; I took every opportunity. I even made sure that I was able to continue sharpening my skills during

the summer by teaching sailing, kayaking, and powerboat safety. After high school, I moved into collegiate racing with the University of South Florida my freshman year and Florida State University my junior and senior years. During the summers I worked as a dock hand at South Seas Island Resort, on Captiva Island and learned the land side of boating while applying my knowledge of sailing and customer service skills.

In 2011, I was hired as the Dockmaster at the Sarasota Yacht Club with the task of building out and improving the marina from just docks, to one day offering a boating program with kayaks, paddleboards, and sailing. The first thing I tackled was the existing marina. Within five months of being hired, I received the Clean Marina Certification on behalf of The Club. This certification has proven to be a major asset to the club with renewal of our submerged land lease, receiving permits, and annual inspections. In the spring of 2012, I implemented a kayak and paddleboard rental program for our members. This program has grown from just per use rentals to annual programs and events. I continue to work with the board of directors and members to improve the facility and programs for our members. This year I installed a floating dock that is specifically for kayak, paddleboard, and sailboat launching.

With all of these changes and accomplishments, the one project that is nearest to my heart is the sailing program. With my background in sailing, I feel a certain level of importance to creating a program where sailing will thrive at the yacht club. The summer camp program has changed drastically since I took over leadership of it. I have increased the attendance from about 65 participants a year to an expected 150 participants this year. When I started working with the program, only about 10% of participants were members. This year we will have at least 60% of participants be members with the goal of only having members participate next year. We have also moved from renting boats and out sourcing camp staff from other local programs to having a small fleet of 10 optimist prams, 1 vanguard 15, and 1 SR 21 max. Additionally, the camp is now run by our own employees. The focus of the camp is on introducing and encouraging children to experience and enjoy the water. While the concentration of activities is on sailing instruction, the campers also get to go kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, fishing, and exploring. We survey both the children and the parents every year to see what we can improve and what their favorite activities are and we apply those comments to our programming for the following year. With the growing success of the summer camp program, we offered a year round kids sailing program, adult sailing lessons, and established a start-up committee that is focusing on the direction of the program this year. I have had more adults approach me about sailing lessons than I would have every imagined and it is so encouraging! The reason I know this program is going to be a success is in how much buzz and support I am receiving from all of our members, both adults and children. In three short years, I have watched as, what I used to label, a "sleepy marina" has come alive and embraced an all-inclusive waterfront program.



WAVE 2014

W.A.V.E. 2014, "A Day on the Bay" is scheduled to be held on Saturday, August 9 (rain date August 10) in Plaza de Luna Park in the City of Pensacola. Slips have been reserved by Marina Management at Palafox Pier next to Plaza de Luna Park. The FCA has been a sponsor of this event for the past two years.

Information has been sent to the participating yacht clubs on Pensacola Bay. Each club is being asked to provide any three of the following items:

- boats (power or sailing)
- monetary donations
- in kind donations
- equipment for displays
- volunteer staff (pre-event, event or Post-event)

If your yacht club or chapter would like to become involved and/or support this very worthwhile event please contact the following person:

Kathy Champagne
Navy Yacht Club Pensacola
1050 Fleming Drive, Pensacola, FL 32504
kathychampagne@bellsouth.net

FCA Organization Review Committee



**Immediate Past Commodore
Larry Kimmerling, Chair**

IPC Larry Kimmerling has been appointed by Commodore John Slattery, to serve as coordinator of the Organizational Review Committee. (ORC)
 The following members will serve on the ORC:

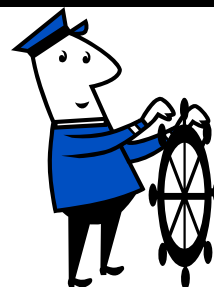
Vice Commodore: June-Ann DeGraw
 Rear Commodore: Christine Snedaker
 Fleet Captain: Peter Tyson

The ORC objectives are to review FCA's current policy and procedures, by-laws, vision/mission statements, communications/media structure and procedures as they relate to FCA's mission and our service to Florida Yacht Clubs and the yachting community.

FCA Members and Associate Members comments and suggestions are encouraged. Send your comments to Commodore Kimmerling.

Help!!!

Which way
to go???



Hark! There they
go and I must go
after them for I
am their Leader!!

Special Moments
Sarasota Yacht Club
Meeting
April 2014



Past ICA and FCA Commodore Rich Oakley, CHYC; Past IOBG, FCA, and ICA Commodore Art Garside, PPYC; and Mrs Cora Barnett, CHYC, wife of CHYC Past Commodore Bill Barnett enjoying their time at cocktail hour at SYC.

The more one attends FCA meetings the more one enjoys life!!!
Anonymous



FCA Fleet Captain and Past Commodore Pelican YC discussing FCA activities with FCA Past Commodore Dr. Tom Reynolds, FWYC and SYC Past Commodore Willa Saalwaechter. Note SYC Past Commodore Kay Goodman.



FCA Secretary Kathy Champagne, NYCP along with PYC Past Commodore Sam Foreman talking with Past FCA Commodore Dr Tom Reynolds, FWYC. In the foreground is FCA Associate Member Lynne Reynolds conversing with FCA Member Mary Slattery, HRYC.



FCA Member Mary Slattery and FCA Secretary and Past Commodore Navy Yacht Club Pensacola Kathy Champagne relaxing at the bar at SYC.

More Reflections From the Membership Meeting At Sarasota Yacht Club

Being with friends at an FCA Meeting is a pure joy. No one has a bad time. Try it if you have not attended one.



FCA Commodore Slattery wearing the newly authorized FCA Sweater. He certainly looks comfortable



FCA Rear Commodore Christine Snedaker with her companion Tony. Both appear to be having a great time at Sarasota Yacht Club.



Bill Barnett and his new wife Cora. Bill is a Past Commodore of Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club. Bill also is a past FCA Secretary.



FCA Commodore Slattery, SYC Past Commodore Willa Saalwaechter, and FCA Immediate Past Commodore Larry Kimmering enjoying cocktail hour at SYC.

You are really missing out on a fun Weekend if you do not attend an FCA meeting.

Article submitted by IPC Larry Kimmerling.

Paying it forward.....under sail by Father Robert Wagenseil

I grew up “under sail” and my life was touched by yachtsmen who were born in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. I still mention their names and tell their stories to young sailors today so many years after great men like Bob Hall, Robert Moore, Robert Wagenseil, Sr (my dad), and Robert “Skipper” Moore passed away. That’s a lot of Roberts, and from them, I learned to love sailing on a 8 foot dinghy.

My sailing career began in our family’s backyard in Huntington Bay on Long Island, and I received a wonderful sailing education through the youth sailing program at Huntington Yacht Club. It was there that we were taught to remember that every time we set foot onboard a boat, we have an opportunity to learn something new, no matter what our age may be. I’m still learning something new every day, and now that I’m retired, I have an opportunity to “pay it forward” as those other “Roberts” did, for a new generation of young sailors.

Following my retirement as a parish priest, I became the volunteer Program Director for the Indian Rocks Family Sailing Association. Our efforts began back in 2001 thanks to the parish I served for 18 years, Calvary Episcopal Church Indian Rocks Beach. My wife and I arrived at Calvary in September 1995 after a two month “voyage” from Huntington, Long Island to Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, onboard our home, a Beneteau Oceanis 400. Calvary Episcopal Church is truly unique in that it is located on a small cove off the Intracoastal Waterway. Within five years of our arrival, the parish built a small marina and joined forces with Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue and many local businesses in order to purchase boats and create a youth sailing program for area kids. From a small one week summer camp with 10 campers, we’ve grown to become a year round program with over 100 kids and adults.

In 2013, as my retirement from the active priesthood approached, we became an independent 501(c) (3) and now offer our programs at Clearwater Yacht Club as well as Calvary Episcopal Church. We strive to foster the virtues of good seamanship, teamwork, leadership training, and compassion while also bringing families together and building helpful experiences that parents and kids can enjoy. Through the generosity of our benefactors, we are also able to offer the lowest tuition rates possible.

We have grown in ways we could have never imagined 15 years ago, but today, our commitment to “affordable family sailing” remains unchanged, and so does our hope and prayer that fifty years from now, there will be a newly retired person who is paying it forward for a new generation of young sailors who call the 22nd century their own. Father Bob can be reached at www.frbob.wagenseil@gmail.com.





SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 2014

(RAIN DATE SUNDAY 10 AUGUST 2014)

WOUNDED AMERICAN VETERANS EVENT (W.A.V.E.)

W.A.V.E. is an all-volunteer initiative organized by Northwest Florida Yacht Clubs, to honor our nation's disabled and war combat wounded veterans. Led this year by Navy Yacht Club Pensacola, and co-hosted by Pensacola Yacht Club, Pensacola Beach Yacht Club, Ft. Walton Yacht Club, Grand Lagoon Yacht Club and Point Yacht Club. With the rich military history and tradition in Pensacola, W.A.V.E. 2014 will include a tribute to Naval Air Station Pensacola's Centennial Celebration. "A Day on the Bay" features a ride on private sail or power boats for wounded veterans and an adult guest of their choice. Activities include an opening ceremony with color guard, special keynote speaker, live entertainment, and a complimentary lunch and beverages. Veterans are also presented with a commemorative visor.

Check Website for Updates and Weather Related Advisories

Note: Children will not be allowed aboard boats or in the water. If children attend this event they must be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for their safety and conduct at all times.

Plaza de Luna Park

(997 South Palafox St)
Pensacola, Florida

Visors *FREE* to
registered veterans

**Guest, Skippers &
Volunteers**

**Register by
contacting:**

**W.A.V.E. 2014 Chair:
850.261.2062**

**Email:
coordinator.wave@gmail.com**

**Website:
<http://goo.gl/6VME8c>**

On-Site Check-in:
9:00 AM

Opening Ceremony
10:00 AM

**Complimentary
Lunch**

**Musical tribute
to veterans**

***Catch
the
W.A.V.E.!***