



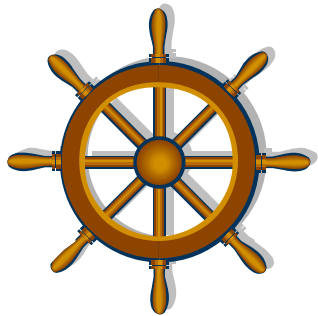
*The
Florida Commodores Journal*

ST ANDREWS BAY YACHT CLUB CHAPTER
HOSTS
FIRST MEETING OF
2014



Keepers of the Flame

Customs and Traditions of Yachting
Past, Present, Future



FROM THE HELM

Commodore John Slattery

Commodore 2013-2014



WOW! We're back in print. We hope you enjoy this print edition and we also hope that it will increase our readership. Studies have shown that printed periodicals have greater readership among those who receive them directly and, if they are passed along, the readership multiple goes up significantly. So I'm asking each of you that receive this issue to pass it along.

We hope that this issue and future issues will have topics helpful to all in yacht club leadership positions. After reading this issue, please staple a simple 'distribution list' to the cover and pass it to the person you put on top of the list and ask them to pass it on to the next on the list. If your current flag officers are not FCA members - start with them, then your Club directors and don't forget your Club manager.

As I was packing to travel to Panama City, for our winter meeting, I had put the FCA Commodore epaulets on my shirt for the first time. It suddenly occurred to me that these were the same epaulets that have been worn by every FCA Commodore (as we pass them on!) It also occurred to me that I will probably be the last Commodore that was at the infamous Gainesville meeting where this all started.

Our meetings at St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club were most enjoyable and, in my opinion, very productive. Prior to our Executive Committee meeting on Friday, P/C Larry Kimmerling chaired a meeting on our Ambassador program. During this meeting, many aspects of the value of FCA to the Florida yacht club community were reviewed, as well as the operating procedures we established at our inception.

Five years old and we have accomplished a great deal but, organizations have to be flexible and do some adjusting in order to stay relevant in a changing society. For that reason, I have asked our future leaders (and we have some very good ones,) under the guidance of P/C Kimmerling to step back and review FCA. There are no sacred cows so I invite all of our members to contact Larry with any suggestions that will improve FCA.

During this period of review, we have decided to put our Ambassador program on hold. I feel confident that once we restart the program it will take a more interactive approach in connecting our chapters to each other and to FCA in particular.

On Saturday, we were welcomed to St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club by Commodore A.C. Littleton. Following the business section of the meeting, we returned to the past practice of discussing a major topic of interest to all yacht clubs. The discussion at this meeting was "Gaining and Retaining" members.

That subject really opened the flood gates. Once things got started I actually had to wind it up two hours later so that we could break for lunch. I couldn't keep up with all of the suggestions presented which have

been tried and work at various Clubs.

- Invite youth into the Club - establish a separate area for them to enjoy their time together with their peers.
- Establish an after work “pub” environment which promotes networking among young careerists.
- Start a ‘First Friday Family’ night - kids included.
- Have an orientation program for new members so that they know how things run in the Club and are aware of all that the Club has to offer. I think this one has great potential as I believe many Clubs ‘undersell’ or even fail to sell all of their benefits.
- Have a ‘Lunch with the Club Manager’ monthly event.

I could go on but you’ll find some other ideas elsewhere in this edition about this topic. In addition, I have asked P/C Wayne Stewart to make a presentation and lead another discussion on this topic at our Summer meeting at Lake Beresford Yacht Club in Deland on July 18 and 19.

For our next meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club on April 25 and 26, I would request that every attendee come prepared to give us at least one suggestion as to what’s worked at their Club to “Pump up the Dollars” (increase Club revenues.) We hope that every attendee at one of our meeting goes away with at least one idea to help their Club become more successful. If there is a topic you think should be the focus of one of our meetings, please let me know.

Following lunch, we were given a presentation by Matthew Whitehead and Taylor Reiss, two young sailors from St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club that have made quite a name for themselves by excelling in racing. They both have their sights set on representing the United States in the next Summer Olympics in Rio. Following their presentation the FCA membership voted to support their efforts with a \$500 check for each of them.

One of the most interesting items that came out of their presentation was that support for these aspiring Olympians does not just have to take the form of cash. Since these athletes have to travel around the state competing, it would be very helpful if they could find host families to keep them while on the road. This is something that members of all Florida yacht clubs could do for these young men and women and I hope to make part of our Ambassador program when it restarts.

This is also a good place to update you regarding the FCA Foundation project. Under the direction of P/C Tom Reynolds we recently had our first organizational meeting. We have already obtained a EIN number from the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. We are currently working on our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

As you will read in this issue, Mary and I were invited to present the 2013 Four Star Commodore Awards during the first weekend of the new year at Fort Walton Yacht Club and Pensacola Yacht Club. I was very honored to be asked to make these presentations and at the same time visit two very fine Clubs, both with very active FCA chapters. A few weeks later, I made a presentation at Halifax River Yacht Club (our home Club.)

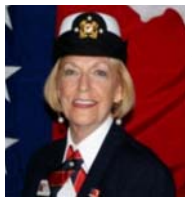
In closing, I would like to thank Commodore A.C. Littleton, his wife Ginger and all staff at St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club for a most enjoyable time as their guests. A special thanks also goes to Jack and Mary Kennedy for providing guidance and help to our hosts for their first FCA meeting.



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 772-460-6778 junedegraw@att.net



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 561-627-6002 561-373-2277



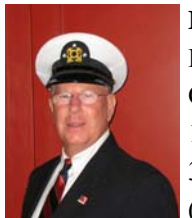
Fleet Captain—Peter Tyson (Jeanne)
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Tyson@petertyson.com
 772-234-5619



Secretary—Kathy Champagne (Ken)
 Navy Yacht Club Pensacola
 1050 Fleming Drive, Pensacola, FL 32504
kathychampagne@bellsouth.net
 850-937-9414 850-261-2062



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 32574 rbplum@cox.net
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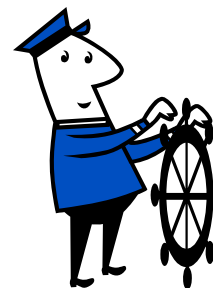
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Florida Commodores Association

Registration Form

Spring Membership Meeting

April 25-26, 2014

Guest Rooms at the Holiday Inn Sarasota Bradenton Airport

8009 15th Street

Sarasota, FL 34243

Dockage Available at Sarasota Yacht Club by calling 941.365.1908

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 April 18 to P/C Kay Goodman, 5150 Jungle Plum Road, Sarasota, FL 34242

Friday, April 25

Cocktails & Dinner Happy Hour pricing is in effect all evening.
An all Club buffet & limited a la carte menu available

Saturday, April 26

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

Dinner Petite Filet Mignon & Nut Crusted Grouper Duet

\$ \$ 40 per person, inclusive

Vegetarian & gluten-free option available upon request

FOR ALL NON-RECIPROCAL CLUBS: PLEASE SUBMIT CREDIT CARD INFORMATION. (CC WILL BE USED WITH ASSIGNED TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP NUMBER PAYABLE TO SARASOTA YACHT CLUB)



SARASOTA YACHT CLUB

27°19'N 82°34'W · EST. 1926

Spring Membership Meeting April 25-26, 2014

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 25, 2014

- 1500 FCA Executive Board Meeting – Sarasota Yacht Club Regatta Room
- 1730 Member Happy Hour & Hors d'oeuvres – open to all FCA attendees and SYC members
- 1800 Sundowner Ceremony –Featuring the Sarasota Military Academy Color Guard & the SMA Mighty Drumline
- Welcome: Sarasota Yacht Club Commodore Pete Kujawski
- 1900 Dinner – Sarasota Yacht Club Ringling Dining Room
Live entertainment & dancing in the Porthole Lounge

Saturday, April 26, 2014

- 0830 - 1000 Continental Breakfast – Waterfront Terrace
- 0930 - -1000 Registration – Ringling III
- 1000-1200 General Membership Meeting – Ringling II, III
Welcome: SYC Chapter President P/C John Godbold
- 1200-1300 Lunch Buffet – Ringling I
- 1300-1430 Meeting Resumes– Ringling II, III
Guest Speaker – SYC P/C Jeff Birnbach & Sarasota Bay Watch President Larry Stults, PhD
“Community Engagement, Citizen Scientists, & Eco-Restoration:
Partnering to Protect Our Natural Resources”
- 1430 Meeting adjourns
- 1800 Cocktail Reception – Sarasota Yacht Club Neptune Lounge
- 1900 Dinner – Ringling I, II

Sunday, April 27, 2014

No Planned Activities. Individuals may return to Sarasota Yacht Club for Sunday Brunch



**Florida Commodores Association
Spring Meeting
April 25-26, 2014
Hotel Accommodations:**

Holiday Inn Sarasota/Bradenton Airport
8009 15th Street East
Sarasota, FL 34243
941.355.9000
www.hisrq.com

The new Holiday Inn® Sarasota Airport hotel, with the stunning 6 story atrium, glass elevators, waterfall and Sporting News Grill is one of the very best Sarasota hotels and is centrally located with easy access to the beaches and all points in Sarasota, Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch.

A block of 12 rooms is being held for early arrivals on Thursday, April 24, 2014. Twenty rooms total for April 25 and April 26 are being held in the block.

\$ 139.00, plus 11.5% tax for one guestroom with one King bed
Rate includes daily full hot breakfast for each individual per room in the
Sporting News Grill

Reservations must be made no later than April 3, 2014.

Rooms in the block unsold will be released. Due to a large sporting event in town and because it is still "season", members are encouraged to make reservations as soon as possible.

Check –in time is 3:00 p.m./Check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at the number listed above.
The group name is: Florida Commodores Association.
Or access the on-line booking tool:

Florida Commodore's Association Reservations

<http://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?>

[path=hd&brandCode=hi&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=SRQAP& PMID=99801505&GPC=FCA](http://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=hi&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=SRQAP&PMID=99801505&GPC=FCA)

Guests enjoy the beautiful new guestrooms, state of the art fitness center, indoor pool, hot tub, sauna, steam room and outside south beach inspired cabana area. Free Wi-Fi and wired internet access, free local and domestic long distance call and free business center with 3 computers and printer.

Directions from I-75 (exit 213):

Travel west on University Parkway for 6 miles. Turn right onto West University Parkway/15th Street E for 0.4 miles. Hotel is on the right-hand side.

Membership Retention

Willa Saalwaechter,
Past Commodore, Sarasota Yacht Club - 2012



The Sarasota Yacht Club has always had an aggressive Membership Committee but we knew in order to survive the rebuilding of the Club, this would be even more important. As Past Commodore, I wanted to remain involved and thought Membership would be a good place to put forth my efforts. We were very aware the Club would lose members during the rebuilding process while residing in a tent. Membership decided to focus on the activity groups already formed, and to establish new ones to keep everyone active. We now have at least 25 groups and new ones get started all the time - such as Gems, Keen Kayakers, Travel Club, etc.

Upon moving into the new Clubhouse, we started to attract younger members, which are needed to keep the Club strong. A lot of these younger members have children, so Membership worked on creating more children's programs. We re-vamped our Children's Summer Camp, including sessions for the children's sailing program and the children's fishing club. We instituted a First Friday Family Fun night on the terrace and pool. An affordable family buffet, and a place for the parents, is set up on the terrace, while there are children's activities by the pool. The parents often bring a guest family with them to enjoy the fun. On the occasional Saturday, a bouncy house will be set up on the grassy area by the docks.

There is a Parent Advisory Council coordinated by two Board Members that meets with parents to discuss their needs and expectations of the Club. This includes discussions on the type of activities they would like and to get assistance with running those activities. It has been very successful.

When new members join the Club, they are interviewed by two members of the Membership Committee or the Board of Directors. Once a month we have a New Member Orientation with hors d'oeuvres and wine. Key staff members, together with the Commodore or Vice Commodore, answer questions and give out information on being a member. This also acts as a meet-and-become-acquainted opportunity for the small group of new members. Then every quarter, the BOD and the Membership Committee hosts a New Member Reception for all new members to meet as a group.

Friday night is the Club's packed Happy Hour. We offer our famous Friday Night Buffet. There is a Captain's table that night, as well as other big events, hosted by a BOD member or a Membership representative. When people call in their reservation, they asked to be seated at the Captain's or Hospitality table, an easy way to meet new people.

SYC's Sunshine Committee is particularly active. They provide a simple "thank you" when appropriate, a "ray of sunshine" when needed, deliver condolences to surviving SYC family members upon a death, or some cheer to someone facing adversity or medical issues. They also reward members and their families for memorable occasions in Board approved programs. SYC children get rewards for achieving high academic marks in a school reporting period.

Another program that has worked well is our Ambassador Program, which assists the Membership Committee in the integration and retention of new members of the Club. Ambassadors are matched with new members, based on like backgrounds and common interests. The Ambassador contacts the new member and invites them to an activity or event. They also introduce new members to others and aid them in joining the different groups within the Club. For six months the Ambassador conducts follow-up phone calls and e-mails with the new member. It is important to let new members know how much the Club values their membership.

During my watch, the Annual SYC Volunteer Appreciation Reception was introduced. Printed invitations are sent inviting the BOD, Past Commodores, Membership Committee and all other committees to participate. A reception is held at the end of March, out on the Pool deck, with heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer. Awards are given to volunteers recognizing their service to the Club. It is appreciated by all.

Fort Walton Yacht Club Honors Its FCA 4 STAR COMMODORE 2013



On Sunday, January 5 2014 the Fort Walton Yacht Club Chapter honored one of its own. Past Commodore Phyllis Seaton, Commodore 1997, recipient of the Florida Commodores' Association prestigious Four Star Commodores' award for 2013.

The presentation of the award was at an afternoon reception attended by members of the chapter as well as many friends and the immediate family of P/C Seaton. FCA Commodore John Slattery, traveled from his home in Palm Coast to make the presentation. Along with Commodore Slattery, special guests were P/C Mary Slattery of Palm Coast Yacht Club and P/C Jack Kennedy, his wife Mary of Bay Point Yacht Club and Commodore Bobby Dewrell, FWYC.

P/C Seaton was presented with a beautiful trophy and a lapel pin honoring her many long years of service to FWYC. Commodore Slattery also presented a framed certificate to FWYC noting the accomplishments and award of the trophy to P/C Seaton. Receiving the certificate was FWYC Commodore Bobby Dewrell.



Congratulations Commodore Phyllis Seaton

FROM THE TREASURER

It's interesting to note that fully 50% of the 2014 FCA membership is in the panhandle chapters of Pensacola, Bay Point, Fort Walton, St Andrews and Navy Pensacola yacht clubs. The larger population centers such as Tampa, St Petersburg and further south along the east coast of Florida where the majority of the larger yacht clubs are located comprise a much smaller percentage of the FCA membership.

At the St Andrews Bay Yacht Club winter meeting, the Executive Committee agreed to an important change to the Policies and Procedures Manual., Starting in January 2015 the period of time for collecting dues will be changed. The present time is from December 1 until January 15, this time frame conflicts with many activities at our clubs. This is when many clubs are conducting elections, change of watch and the Commodores Ball. The new dues collection will begin on January 1 and continue until February 15. Hopefully, this will allow each club chapter sufficient time to collect dues and update chapter rosters.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2014, please do so, it's not too late. At-Large members may remit their dues directly to the Treasurer. If you are a regular or associate member, please pay your dues to your chapter and they will forward them. We need and want the support of each one of you! Dues remain at \$25.00 for At-Large membership, \$20.00 for regular members and \$15.00 for associates. It's truly a great bargain.

Any questions or comments please contact me at rbplum@cox.net or by phone 850-651-3412.

Robert Plummer, your FCA Treasurer

2013 Four Star Commodore Awardee Past Commodore Charles F. Smith, Jr., MD Pensacola Yacht Club



Dr. Charles F. Smith, Jr., a board certified Orthopedic Surgeon, joined the Pensacola Yacht Club in 1966. His participation in competitive sailboat racing and water borne activities at Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC) led to his being elected Rear Commodore in 1972. However, his medical duties and demands led to his being unable to move up the ladder to Commodore at that time. This did not diminish his commitment to the yacht club.

In 1981, The American Creosote Works, Inc (ACW) in Pensacola, Florida filed for bankruptcy and ceased operations. In 1983, US Environmental Protection Agency placed the ACW site and all adjacent contaminated sites including the PYC property on the National Priorities List (NPL). It was at this time that Commodore Smith came involved with the cleanup program and project. The contamination led to the loss of use of the PYC property which severely affected the long term plans developed for the property including the construction of condo type residencies and a marina to be occupied by PYC members. Over 100 monitoring wells were installed throughout the entire PYC property.

Following the listing of the site on the NPL, the USEPA, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the US Corp of Engineers, and the City of Pensacola began working with the community to develop a long-term cleanup plan. Commodore Smith was a central participant in the development of the cleanup plan leading to the EPA conducting a range of community involvement activities aimed at solicitation of community input and to keep the public informed about site activities during the cleanup process.

As a result of Commodore Smith's continuing efforts and involvement in this project, PYC property and the adjacent property are no longer threatened by hazardous contamination. PYC is now able to implement plans to use the property to support youth and adult sailing programs and activities. PYC owes a considerable debt of gratitude to Commodore Charles Smith for his actions and perseverance.

On January 6, 2014, Past Commodore Dr. Charles "Chuck" Smith was recognized as a 4 Star Commodore by the Florida Commodores Association. The membership of the Pensacola Yacht Club, assembled for the presentation of the award, saluted Commodore Smith as he approached the podium. The occasion for the award presentation was the traditional Change of Watch for Pensacola Yacht Club.



FCA Commodore John Slattery was present to honor Commodore Smith as a 2013 4 Star Commodore. Commodore Smith accepts the traditional crystal award which recognizes him as a 4 Star Commodore from Commodore Slattery.

In addition to the special crystal award, Commodore Smith was presented a distinctive Florida Commodores Association lapel pin which distinguishes him as a 4 Star Commodore. Commodore Smith's wife, Cameron, also an Associate Member of the Florida Commodores Association, pins Commodore Smith with the special lapel pin.

Both Commodore Smith and Cameron were instrumental in the establishment of the Pensacola Yacht Club Chapter of the Florida Commodores Association. They both are Charter Members of the FCA and remain very active in the affairs of the Chapter and the Association.

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.

Nautical Puzzler

This is not so Nautical but in the context of the last issue's puzzler, it is appropriate. What is the origin of the word "Trade"?

Courtesy of Past Commodore Tracy Wichmann

Answer

Before the discovery of the Trade Winds the word trade (in middle English) meant a path or a trail (left by the passing of an person or an animal) or track (as in the train is on the track). Hence the path followed by the early navigators was their "trade". Since it was the path of the wind at those Southern latitudes, the winds became referred to as trade winds.

Now quite clearly as the ships navigating these paths were carrying goods both ways to be sold or exchanged or other goods bought or bartered the whole process took on the term trade. It no longer required that the stuff traded needed to traverse a particular path but just buying, selling or exchanging was called trade. On the stock exchange there are traders.

In the 16th Century trade also meant a customary procedure. For example Shakespeare* wrote "thy sin's not accidental, but a trade" not meaning that Claudio made money by sinning but that he customarily sinned. * *Measure for Measure, Act III, Scene 1*.

Next Issue's Puzzler

While we are on the subject, what is a Hadley Cell? Where is it located and what does it do?

P/C Wayne Stewart, Halifax River Yacht Club Honored as a 2013 Four Star Commodore

On Saturday, January, 18, at the Annual Commodores Ball at Halifax River Yacht Club, P/C Wayne Stewart was honored as a 2013 Four Star Commodore. The award was presented by FCA Commodore John Slattery, also a member of HRYC.

Over the years Wayne has served HRYC he has been instrumental in numerous projects to improve the Clubhouse, docks and property. He negotiated the swap of a Morgan 33 in lieu of a large overdue bill and after a couple of years of restoration became available to the members. This boat has even participated in the Gulfstreamer Daytona to Charleston race.

Seeing an opportunity to expand available dock space, Wayne purchased, far below market value, floating docks (which were being replaced) from Disney World and had them transported, and installed (by volunteers.) The addition of these docks became the physical base for the club's youth sailing fleet.

These are but two of the accomplishments that earned Wayne the Four Star Commodores award. It should also be noted that this now brings to three the numbers of Four Star Commodores from Halifax River Yacht Club.



Congratulations Commodore Wayne Stewart



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:

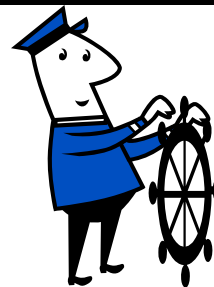
Vice Commodore: June-Ann DeGraw
 Rear Commodore: Christine Snedaker
 Fleet Captain: Peter Tyson

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???



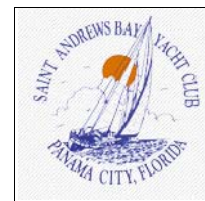
Hark! There they
go and I must go
after them for I
am their Leader!!

Reflections

From the Membership Meeting

St Andrews Bay Yacht Club

PC Peter Tyson, FCA Fleet Captain



A big thanks to Commodore AC Littleton, his wife Ginger and all the staff, from the GM to the dining room servers, for hosting a wonderful weekend for us all at the St Andrews Bay Yacht Club in Panama City. Friday night began with Sundown Ceremony on the lawn. It was a beautiful late afternoon – perfect weather arranged no doubt, by the Commodore. PC's John Matthews, Robert Plummer, and Jack Kennedy handled Old Glory while PC Larry Kimmerling served as artillery man. The colors were presented to Commodore Littleton.



On Saturday morning, the warming trend continued, and so FCA members were all in Class C short sleeves for the general business meeting followed by a buffet lunch downstairs in the main dining room that included a spectacular gumbo (ask PC Jack Kennedy!)



The guest speakers after lunch were two young sailors, Matthew Whitehead (age 21) and Taylor Reiss (age 18). These two lads have been sailing together for a long time and have become not only nationally, but internationally known in the F16 and F18 catamaran classes, winning numerous championships. Matthew (who looks like a younger Matt Damon) presented some video clips of the small boats in action and also talked about his adventure aboard the Red Bull Cat 45. He was invited to join the team of six sailors from around the world to man this boat during junior Olympic trials in San Francisco Bay – a great honor indeed to be chosen from amongst so many talented sailors. He showed a video clip of the Red Bull effort.

On Saturday evening all were treated to a traditional “boil” that included shrimp, corn on the cob, potatoes, and other seafood, with bread pudding and key lime pie for those with the sweet tooth. FCA Commodore Slattery was matched by several others with more than two helpings of the bread pudding (no other names will be mentioned, however ...).

The Clubhouse has been recently renovated and reflects the careful thought and planning that went into making the improvements a worthwhile and

functional investment. The club

has an active sailing program and has been involved with the Lipton Cup series since 1933. The number of award plaques in the club lobby reflect the multiple victories in this series by St Andrews Bay Yacht Club members over the last 80 years.



We are all looking forward to the next regional meeting hosted by the Sarasota Yacht Club and PC Willa Saalwaechter was on hand with forms and hotel information and to tell us about their club's hospitality. The dates are 25-27 April and the Sarasotans have arranged a special hotel rate at the number one Holiday Inn in Florida at the height of their winter season. We thank them for this, but rooms are limited! Make your plans now. A registration form is found in this issue of the Commodore's Journal.

Finally, please let me know if any of your friends who are members in good standing have not received this Journal as it has been a project for me to compile a mailing list from lists from different sources. Thank you.

More Reflections From the Membership Meeting At St Andrews Bay Yacht Club

At Right: Commodore AC Littleton welcoming the members of the FCA to the yacht club. The FCA Executivemembers are present in a very historic ballroom at St Andrews Bay Yacht Club.



Socializing at the traditional Ironing Board Happy Hour sponsored by PC Dr. Tom Reynolds and his lovely bride AM Dr. Lynne Reynolds. Lots of "Camaraderie" going on. Pictured from left to right: Fleet Captain Peter Tyson, AM Lynne Reynolds, Commodore John Slattery, Secretary Kathy Champagne, AM Mary Kennedy, PC Jack Kennedy, AM Cathy Dewrell (wife of FWYC Commodore Bobby Dewrell), AM Ken Champagne.



At Right: Commodore John Slattery presenting the Host Club Certificate and stipend check to St Andrews Bay Yacht Club Commodore AC Littleton.

Photos courtesy of PC John Matthews and Mary Kennedy

Lake Beresford Yacht Club Grand Re-Opening

The Lake Beresford Yacht Club (LBYC) celebrated their Grand Re-Opening on Saturday, January 25th. The clubhouse was destroyed by fire seven years ago, but in spite of the usual problems with the different bureaucracies and permitting, the members never lost their spirit and managed to rebuild a beautiful clubhouse. The Florida weather cooperated and provided a perfect day for the event. The beautifully decorated club was packed for the event.

In addition to the many members attending, the Lake Beresford Yacht Club Grand Re-Opening hosted many local dignitaries. Florida Council of Yacht Clubs Commodore Ray Starsman (FCA Member) and Florida Commodores Association Commodore John Slattery were also in attendance. Others were PC Dave Huff (HRYC), PC Chris Brown (HRYC) and PC Wayne Stewart (HRYC).



LBYC Commodore, Pat Wilcox, invited the Halifax River Yacht Club Chapter of the Florida Commodores Association to support the event and perform a Sundowner Ceremony. (Commodore Wilcox is an Academy Graduate and recipient of an FCA Grant.) Performing the Sundowner Ceremony were Halifax River Yacht Club FCA members P/C Chris Brown, P/C Dave Huff, FCA Commodore John Slattery, HRYC Commodore Bill Stevens and P/C Wayne Stewart.



Report of St Andrews Bay Yacht Club Meeting

Commodore A.C. Littleton

Although this is my second year as Commodore of St. Andrew Bay Yacht Club, I still have a steep learning curve, so hosting the FCA this February became something I was most excited to do and most intimidated to execute. I had attended one previous FCA meeting and realized that this organization is composed of successful, smart, fun and committed sailors. As a power boater with literally no sailing experience, I will admit this group was pretty intimidating. Now it was my turn to host and the Halifax River experience had certainly set the bar high.

In every group there is someone who senses insecurity and steps up to help. I think Jack and Mary Kennedy sensed my insecurity and they stepped up. Jack and Mary (mostly Mary) handled the registrations and Jack held my hand as we worked through the processes and procedures that would meet or exceed the expectations of those who were traveling to Panama City for the February FCA meeting. Jack procured the lodging at quite a decent price and Mary kept meticulous registration records that helped immensely.

After an Executive Board meeting Friday afternoon the FCA members gathered at the flagpole for the Sundowners Ceremony. I always get a lump in my throat when people in uniform pay tribute to those who have sacrificed for our country by honoring their service and raising the stars and stripes. As the men and women of FCA saluted Old Glory the sun set brilliantly on Saint Andrews Bay, and as it dropped into the Gulf, I could not help but feel pride at being a part of such an amazing organization and in working with such an extraordinary group of people. It was at this moment I realized that I was no longer intimidated, and I was darn proud to have all of this group join us in our little slice of paradise, which I was only too happy to share!

Dinner followed in the ballroom. Following dinner we gathered in the lounge and listened to and participated in some pretty crankin' karaoke. That evening was also the opening of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, so we managed to throw back a few libations between Jimmy Buffet on the karaoke and Rachmaninoff on the Olympic Opening. All in all, quite a fun evening. Ginger said it was so much fun she woke up with a headache. Must have been the Rachmaninoff!

Saturday was the business day which dawned pretty cold and dreary. Those from down south got a taste of our North-west Florida winter weather. After the business meeting and lunch, the speaker for the afternoon was Matthew Whitehead with his sailing sidekick Taylor Reiss. Matthew sailed in the America's Cup Youth Division in San Francisco, and both he and Taylor along with another of our young sailors, Keenan Madewell are working diligently to represent the USA in the 2016 Summer Olympics.

After Matthew completed his presentation I assumed everyone would applaud politely and we would adjourn until the evening festivities. Boy, was I wrong!! Without warning a motion was made to contribute \$600 to these young sailors to assist them with their Olympic quest. Immediately the motion was seconded and unanimously approved! I was astounded! The young men and their mothers were astounded! It was probably one of the few times in my life when I was speechless. Remember I said before that this is an amazing organization comprised of an extraordinary group of people. This contribution proves my point. Everyone could have applauded politely and gone home. But to a person they chose to share with our future sailors, and the yield should be great for sailing in Florida.

After a Low Country Boil Saturday evening and a really fun time with Dennis Eberhardt, who served as MC, DJ and crowd pleaser, many travelers headed back to prepare for the return home. A few had breakfast with us on Sunday morning before heading out, a pleasant ending to a great weekend.

So now I have one FCA hosting under my belt pulled off with much assistance from many others. Our Yacht Club membership was so honored that you visited us, and we hope that your time here was pleasant and that you will come again. I am honored to have met all of you, and I look forward to seeing you at future events. I have hung up my jacket and trousers for a bit, but I will get my hat ordered, and I will be ready for a great time with great people at the April meeting in Sarasota.

The Florida Commodores Assn

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Optional Uniform Sweater

The Execom has added the option of wearing a military style navy pull-over sweater as part of our uniform whenever the weather warrants. The sweater will be optional for wear during cold weather with either a long sleeve shirt with a tie or with the short sleeve shirt without a tie. If worn with the short sleeve shirt, the sweater is worn with the collar outside the sweater neck. In both cases, the appropriate shoulder boards will be worn on the sweater epaulettes. The name tag should be worn on the right side of the sweater. No other insignia or pins will be worn on the outside of the sweater. The sweater may be removed while inside. While outside, the sweater may be worn under the blue blazer as an option.



The sweater may be worn by female associates with the collar of their uniform blouse outside the neck of the sweater and scarf worn under the collar tied in a square knot. The name tag should be worn on the right side of the sweater and no shoulder boards are required for female associates. Male associate's uniform with sweater is the same as regular members.



These sweaters are now available through the Ships store. The sweater is 100% acrylic, machine washable and comes in sizes S – 4X. They are ribbed for a SNUG fit with cotton twill reinforced shoulder & elbow patches and shoulder epaulettes. They sell for \$48. Please contact Quartermaster Beverly Plummer at Bevplum@cox.net with questions or purchase information.