



The Commodore's Journal



FCA INAUGURAL MEETING APRIL 17-19, 2009

The Florida Commodores Association invites you to experience the Wyndham Orlando Resort on International Drive for our inaugural meeting beginning Friday, April 17, through Sunday morning, April 19, at the special FCA rate of only \$99 per night, AND you can make it a special family event by staying up to three days before and three days after the meeting at the same fantastic FCA rate!

The Wyndham Orlando Resort is an idyllic tropical paradise in the heart of the world's most popular vacation destination. You'll revel in lush gardens and romantic lagoons while just outside a city of adventure awaits. Onsite recreation includes a jogging path, three gorgeous swimming pools, a fitness center and a game room. Nearby, you can check out Orlando's sizzling nightlife and take time to find a treasure in the many shops, or enjoy Florida's most thrilling theme parks including Walt Disney World®, Universal Studios® and Sea World® Adventure Park. They're all just minutes from your door!

The FCA Inaugural Weekend will kick off at 5:00 p.m. Friday evening with a Happy Hour at the poolside Gatorville lounge where guests can enjoy beverages and hors d'oeuvres. They can remain poolside for dinner, or adjourn to the on-premises Augustine's Grill or walk to any of the nearby restaurants that cater to any taste and budget. After dinner, guests can sleep peacefully in a secluded Florida-style villa with all the amenities including high speed Internet access, or they have the option of family suites featuring bunk beds and play areas.

The Saturday meeting will feature an important agenda including a presentation of the FCA bylaws and a special breakout session for International Commodores Association planning. Uniform of the day is "whites" to match the tropical atmosphere (open-neck short-sleeve white shirt, white pants and white shoes).

This is THE meeting of the year in THE vacation capital of the world! Only 40 rooms have been reserved at the special FCA rate, so don't delay! Call the Wyndham direct at 1-407-351-2420 and tell them you're with FCA. Do it now or you might be left out!





THE FLORIDA COMMODORES' ASSOCIATION
"PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE"
in Cooperation With
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMODORES' ASSOCIATION
"THE KEEPERS OF THE FLAME"
P. O. BOX 14428, NORTH PALM BEACH, FL 33408
TELEPHONE (561) 315-3700

Commodore: P/C Philip J. Bouckaert (Rosemary)
561-863-7971
bouckaertp@aol.com

Vice Commodore: P/C Richard Kelley (Delores)
386-445-4292
dickkelley@aol.com

Rear Commodore: P/C Chari S. Leitch
941-575-6788
pgcharu@embarqmail.com

Fleet Captain: Thomas J. Reynolds (Lynne)
850-897-7323
drtomiii@cox.net

Treasurer: P/C John H. Matthews (Nancy)
850-492-4802
johnmatthews@cox.net

Secretary: Larry Kimmerling (Barbara)
727-397-2991
towers12a@aol.com

Immediate Past Commodore: Richard E. Oakley (Lynne)
941-637-7849
rich_oakley@embarqmail.com

Webmaster: Mary L. Kennedy (Jack)
850-896-7617
marylkennedy@comcast.net

THE COMMODORE'S JOURNAL

Editor: P/C Joseph A. Tringali (Mary Lou)
561-848-4353
jatringali@comcast.net

Layout: Dindy Murphy
561-317-7153
dindesigns@mac.com

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

By Phillip J. Bouckaert

Hello and welcome to this first edition of The Commodore's Journal. The word "commodore" in our title is singular because this is your quarterly publication. The Journal will bring you NEWS of what is happening in Florida and the FCA, and keep you up to date on the development of the International Commodores Association. It will provide you with information on yacht clubs and commodores all over the world.

Welcome aboard to all members of Florida Commodores' Association and to those of you who are considering joining this dynamic organization. The FCA will provide you with many outstanding activities, programs and opportunities. Please participate and communicate with us: share your plans, programs and projects. Let us hear from you. We are seeking your ideas, suggestions, and requests. All of your ideas are important, and WE WILL LISTEN!

April 17 & 18 will mark the historic inaugural meeting weekend of the Florida Commodores Association. ALL FCA members, ALL Past Commodores and Commodores of ALL Florida's yacht clubs are invited and welcome to join us for this special weekend at the fabulous Wyndham Orlando Resort. Mark your calendars and make your plans NOW! This weekend will truly be a "share the knowledge and experience" opportunity for everyone. I look forward to seeing you on Friday, April 17 at our pool side gathering and then again on Saturday for the meeting. Meanwhile drive carefully and HAVE FUN!!!!



FCA planners at Cabot Lodge in Gainesville



WHO IS PHIL BOUCKAERT?

CHILI DUMP IS TOPS AT PLATINUM POINT



FCA Interim Commodore Philip J. Bouckaert, of Singer Island, Florida, has an impressive resume both in business and the boating world. He originally hails from Warsaw, Kentucky, where he was president of Phil Bouckaert & Associates, a food-services consulting company that specialized in high-tech cooking and chilling. Prior to owning his own company, he served as worldwide vice-president of technology for KFC, where he was responsible for research and development, equipment technology, operations engineering and technical services.

Retirement didn't slow Phil down. A long-time member of Sandusky Yacht Club and Sandusky Power Squadron, he quickly became involved in Sugar Sands Yacht Club where he served as commodore in 2003 and 2004. He is also an active member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, and has served as Watch Stander at the Lake Worth Inlet station for over 11 years. In 2002 he was awarded the Real Heroes Award by the Palm Beach County Chapter of the American Red Cross for using a hand-held marine radio to "talk in" a Piper Cherokee that had lost all of its electrical power. In addition to his Coast Guard duties, Phil is currently secretary of Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron, and, with his wife Rosemary (who is a past commodore of Sugar Sands YC in her own right) is an active member of Buccaneer Yacht Club, Old Port Yacht Club and North Palm Beach Yacht Club.

Phil previously served as President of District 8, IOBG. He was installed in that office during a statewide "Weekend to Remember" at the Marriott Hotel on PGA Boulevard. Along with other officers, Phil resigned his District 8 office on December 31, 2008 to take up his duties with the Florida Commodores Association. He is currently serving as Interim Commodore of the FCA and will be eligible for election to that office by the membership at the April, 2009, meeting.

The past commodores of Platinum Point Yacht Club drew a record crowd to their annual "Chili Dump" on Saturday night, February 28. It might have been the fantastic chili, or it might have been the after-chili presentation of FCA's "Traditions," but whatever it was, the past commodores agreed it was the best "dump" ever.

What is a "Chili Dump," you ask? It's a great night of camaraderie and fun where everyone brings a pot of chili and then . . . they "dump" it into everyone else's chili! Okay, so there's a little discrimination: beef, poultry and vegetarian chilies are all kept in separate chafing dishes, as is everyone's favorite, the Super-Hot Chili which is served with a convenient bottle of Tums nearby. How hot was Super-Hot? Well, although no one called the rescue squad, there were more than a few sweaty brows in the "seconds" line. Maybe the full bottle of Tabasco was too much.

The after dinner entertainment consisted of the FCA PowerPoint presentation, "Traditions," and it was so well received that the past commodores who ran the party wanted to know what else the FCA had available for the next event. (They were told the answer is "Leadership in the 21st Century," which is a lot more interesting than it sounds!) In all, the past commodores reported it was the "most successful Chili Dump ever," with over 100 members and guests in attendance.

Is a Chili Dump right for your club? Who knows? Maybe you should try it. After all, sharing ideas is what the FCA is all about.



INTERNATIONALLY SPEAKING...

MONTEGO BAY YACHT CLUB

By P/C Joseph A. Tringali

The buoys looked pretty small from the upper deck of the cruise ship. Sure enough, they were red, (“Red, Right, Returning” remember?) and the numbers could tell us how far we were from the pier if only we had a chart. But we didn’t have one in our starboard-side cabin, so we had to wait along with the rest of the passengers while Captain Vincenzo Alcaras and the harbor pilot guided the huge vessel through the comparatively small harbor at Montego Bay.

At last the ship gently kissed the pier and the cooped-up passengers began their headlong rush for the beaches of Jamaica while Mary Lou and I lingered over breakfast. We had time for a brief tour of the island, but our real goal lay just out of reach: the Montego Bay Yacht Club was so close we could paddle there in a rubber raft; but we didn’t have one of those, either. And since walking was prohibited in the port area (“Security, Mon. You got to take de bus.”) we might just as well pay the twenty bucks (each) for a visit to the local tourist traps before heading for our real destination which was only a mile away along the road that curved around the bay.

Our driver, Michael, assured us that he knew “zackly” where the club was, and we would get there in “plen’ty a’ time” for our 1:00 p.m. appointment with the Commodore. Michael took us and a dozen other passengers aboard his bus, and said he would take us to the places where the locals shopped because, “Dey have de bes’ prices.” Our first stop was at a very clean, brightly-lit, air-conditioned store that I guessed was owned by his cousin. I couldn’t help but wonder why, if they lived on the island, “de locals” wanted all the stuff marked, “Souvenir of Jamaica,” but I suppose there’s no accounting for taste. Anyway, after the last bus passenger got through the checkout line, we were off on the real tour. Michael gave us lessons in speaking Jamaican and regaled us with stories about living in Jamaica while driving us to a couple of scenic locations including Richmond Hill where we could look down on the whole town of “Mo’ Bay”

and the brilliant water at its heart. When I asked about acki, he even stopped to pick some off someone’s tree to show us how to tell if it’s ripe. (It’ll kill you if you eat it before it ripens properly, and every year a few Jamaicans succumb to its poison because they can’t wait to taste the fruit.)

We got back to our ship at 12:50 p.m. When I reminded Michael about the yacht club his face went blank and he professed ignorance. “Dat’s ‘way back in town, Mon,” he protested. “Dat’ll be another ten dolla’ at leas’!” “No,” I said. “It’s right over there. See those things sticking up? Those are masts. And that’s the yacht club.” “I neva’ bin dere befo’, Mon. I doan know how ta’ git dere!” “You go out the main gate that you came in,” I explained. “You turn right and go one mile, and that’s the yacht club. And that’s where I’ll give you the money. Just like we agreed, right?” (Note to self: Google maps are wonderful, aren’t they?)



We arrived at the club at exactly 1:00 p.m. (Or was it “zackly”? By then Michael had me talking that way.) Commodore Richard Hamilton gave us a tour of the club and along the way explained his very un-Jamaican British accent. His family has lived on the island for six generations, but he was taken “back to England” when



he was a child and grew up there before returning home to accept his current position as Director of Projects for Sandals Resorts International. It's a job that takes him to Florida about once a month.

Jamaica rightly claims to be "The Jewel of the Caribbean," and Montego Bay Yacht Club surely must be its most brilliant facet. The newly-remodeled open-air building is surrounded by banks of red and purple bougainvillea so bright they almost hurt your eyes when they're contrasted with the turquoise water. The club's marina was crowded with sailboats on the day we visited because the Pineapple Cup Race from Fort Lauderdale to Montego Bay had ended the previous evening. By the way, the Cup was won by Ron Chanley's Privateer from Fort Lauderdale with an elapsed time of 2 days, 21 hours, 20 minutes and 43 seconds.

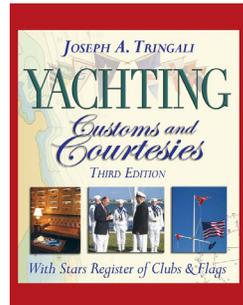


Richard admitted to being a little overwhelmed by it all and told us how happy he was to have his Vice Commodore, Evelyn Harrington, on hand to assist him. Evelyn graciously joined us for lunch and explained that since she had already served two terms as Commodore, it was now Richard's turn to fly the flag. Then, speaking of flags, we got down to the traditional business of exchanging club burgees, presenting an FCA flag along with a copy of *Yachting Customs and Courtesies*, and discussing the International Commodores' Association. Our hosts were very interested in the idea, and invited us to hold a future ICA meeting at Montego Bay Yacht Club. Mary Lou and I told him we were ready to return anytime.

After lunch, Richard offered to drive us back to the ship, and escorted us to his Lexus in the parking lot. I casually opened the passenger side door and found . . . a steering wheel! "I thought you were going to drive, Joe," the Commodore joked as I sheepishly went around to the other side. (Note to self: when – not if – we return to Jamaica with the ICA, the people there drive on the LEFT side of the road. Don't try it. And the bus driver's name is Michael.)



A Note to FCA Travellers



Here's an offer that's never been refused! Members of ICA have been greeted with open arms at yacht clubs from the Bay of Quinte to Valencia, Spain (during the America's Cup) when they showed up with a copy of P/C Joe Tringali's book under their arm. You can get the same treatment. If you're an ICA member and you're planning a trip that includes a visit to a yacht club, contact Joe by email at jatringali@bellsouth.com and tell him the name of the commodore or the club you plan to visit. Joe will send you a personally-inscribed copy of *Yachting Customs and Courtesies* at absolutely no cost, so that you can present the book during your visit. Don't forget to take pictures and notes, so you can share your visit with readers of *The Journal*.



FCA SLEEVE PATCHES



FCA COMMODORE



FCA VICE COMMODORE



FCA REAR COMMODORE



FCA SECRETARY



FCA TREASURER



FCA FLEET CAPTAIN



FCA PAST COMMODORE



FCA JUDGE ADVOCATE



FCA QUARTERMASTER



FCA MEMBER



FCA SPOUSE MEMBER



FCA ASSOCIATE MEMBER



INSTRUCTOR SAYS, “ADAPT TO NEW TIMES, AND DO IT QUICKLY”



Susan Thornton, the special guest lecturer at the Florida statewide meeting last October, led members on a two-hour tour through “the greatest generation,” the “baby boomers,” followed by “generation x” and “generation y.” Her advice: if organizations, clubs and industries are to

survive, they have to change their strategies and do it quickly.

Speaking to a packed audience of self-described “greatest” and “boomers,” she warned that it would not be easy. “It will be painful,” she said, “and it may cause you to lose some of your older members because many people are afraid of change. But if you don’t do it, you won’t attract the next two generations and your organization will not survive.”

Ms. Thornton began her presentation by assigning a ten-year period to each one of eight tables. The task was to “paint a picture” of that period. Soon the room was buzzing with ideas. “Was Elvis in the 50’s? When did they make the Mustang? How about the Corvette?” After a few minutes of collaboration, a spokesperson from each table described life in

each decade from 1940 to 2000. By the time they finished, everyone in the room was shocked by the realization of how much the world had changed in what amounted to a single lifetime.

After putting the problem into perspective, Ms. Thornton got down to business of describing “Generation X,” the people born between 1965 and 1980. They are the people our clubs must attract if we are going to survive. “Generation X is the ‘me generation,’” Ms. Thornton said, “and they want to know, ‘What will I get from this club?’” They aren’t attracted by the idea of socializing because they don’t have time for that. They’re too busy trying to balance work and chores in a two-income household while taking their kids to piano lessons, ballet lessons, and baseball practice, “To get their attention, you have to show them how your club is going to improve their lives,” Ms. Thornton explained. “Maybe it’s some kind of special training or a certification, or a new experience like wine tasting. Whatever it is, it has to be something they can take away with them.”

She ended with a warning: “Clubs like yours have never faced a problem like this before. The generations coming after yours don’t join groups for the sake of belonging. If you’re going to attract them, you’re going to have to give them what they want, not what you think they should want. And,” she added, “you don’t have much time to do it.”

“TRADITIONS” AVAILABLE TO FCA MEMBERS

The ICA PowerPoint presentation “Traditions” will be sent FREE upon request to any member of the Florida Commodores Association.

“Traditions” is a forty-minute program consisting of 88 slides tracing the development of pleasure boating from the seventeenth century to the present day. The program ends with the history of “toasting” and details the seven evening toasts that have been a part of maritime tradition since the days of Lord Nelson. A CD of the program and a copy of the written script will be sent to any member of the FCA free of charge upon request.

It’s a great after-dinner program for your yacht club, and a “foot in the door” presentation for non-yacht club organizations. Contact any of the FCA officers listed in this publication, and your copy of “Traditions” will be on its way within 24 hours.

“Traditions” is the first of a five-unit program produced by the International Commodores Association as a free benefit to its members. The second unit, “Leadership in the 21st Century” is under development and will be available later this year. Contact any FCA officer or – better yet – come to any FCA meeting for more details.



IS YOUR CLUB READY FOR SOX?



It's not about footwear. The SOX you need to know about is the Sarbanes-Oxley Act that was passed by Congress in 2002 in response to the abuses that led to financial disasters beginning with the Enron collapse. If your club is incorporated, or if it's "only" an unincorporated association, you're dealing with OPM (Other Peoples' Money) and you need to know about SOX.

The Act imposes new financial controls on audits and auditors. Among other things, it places severe restrictions on companies' ability to hire accounting firms for both auditing and consulting purposes, and it requires personal certification of financial reports by CEO's and CFO's. Right now, it's a federal law that applies only to publicly-traded companies, but many states are passing similar legislation aimed at private companies.

Three themes run through all SOX-type legislation: **transparency, independence and accountability**. Florida already imposes fiduciary duties on the directors and officers of private corporations, and there is every reason to expect that even if special legislation is not passed, SOX-type standards will become the "best practice" for corporations. Writers on the subject envision a day in the not-too-distant future when a plaintiff's lawyer representing aggrieved shareholders (or members) of a corporation may begin probing directors and officers on their knowledge of SOX standards. If the corporation does not have an independent auditor, or if its own audit committee does not have an outside "financial expert" as required by SOX, it could find itself on the wrong end of a jury's verdict. It's only a matter of time.

What can your club do? Be **transparent** in your financial affairs. Make sure your books are reviewed by an **independent** auditor. Make sure members know exactly who is accountable for answers. Remember, SOX is out there and it's more than something for your feet!

*(From "Sarbanes-Oxley legislation and the private company; if not a marriage, then certainly an engagement,"
by Dan R. Dalton and Catherine M. Dalton, Journal of Business Strategy, March-April, 2005).*

