



# *The Florida Commodores Journal*

## PELICAN YACHT CLUB CHAPTER HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING AND CHANGE OF WATCH OCTOBER 2014



*Keepers of the Flame*

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



## FROM THE HELM

### Commodore June Ann Degraw

Commodore 2014-2015



The journey that was started on October 25 (also Bruce's Birthday) at the FCA Change of Watch is both thrilling and also a little scary. The gentlemen that came before me left very large imprints in the sand for me to fill. In many ways, I am charting a course that started very early in life for me. Past Commodore Otto Roger Fox, my father, set me on this course. He taught me to sail, to race, to set goals and to never ever quit. He showed me by his example of fair play, respect for others and myself, to love, revere and care for this beautiful place in the universe that we call home.

My Dad always said you will find the very best people in a yacht club. I totally agree with that statement, but since he never had the opportunity to meet the people of the FCA, I wish to go one better. You may find the very best people in a yacht club, but the cream always rises and in this instance the people of the FCA are the cream. It is a privilege and an honor to be your Commodore this year.

The new EXCOM literally hit the ground running. I am proud and pleased to be working with this outstanding group of Past Commodores. We all come from different corners of the state, with different backgrounds and ideas. Together we are a formidable group of hard working individuals determined to lead the FCA in the coming years. Guided by the Mission Statement, the Vision and those that came before us, I feel confident that the FCA will continue to grow and prosper in the coming years.

Since October I have had the opportunity to visit many of you at your home club. November 22 found IPC John Slattery and P/C Mary Slattery, VC Wayne Stewart and Eloise Stewart joining Bruce and myself at the 70 Anniversary Celebration at Lake Beresford Yacht Club. It was a wonderful evening of festivities and stories of the "old days" of their club. One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Lake Beresford Yacht Club's FCA Charter. We are pleased and excited to be able to welcome you are our newest Chapter.

The first weekend in December found me on the road to the western end of our state's panhandle. Friday night I was invited to the Change of Watch at the Navy Yacht Club Pensacola. This was my first time on the base and it was quite a thrill. The NYCP was a warm and welcoming group and I enjoyed my time with them. P/C John Matthews was sworn in as their new Commodore.

Saturday evening I was present at the Commodore's Ball at the Pensacola Yacht Club. PYC is a grand old club and reminded me of the clubs I visited as a child. It was a wonderful evening that included the presentation of *The 4 Star Commodores Award* to P/C John Matthews. Joining me in the ceremony were our Treasurer Robert Plummer, Secretary Kathy Champagne and RC Sam Foreman. Congratulations to P/C Matthews. You are truly deserving of this high honor.

Sunday morning found me at the Fort Walton Yacht Club as a guest of their FCA Chapter for the Past Commodores Holiday Brunch. It was wonderful to once again be at the FWYC and to see so many friends. This festive event ended my trip and it was time to once again head back to Fort Pierce.

*Continued on page 3:*

*Continued from Page 2:*

As this year moves forward, I am looking forward to visiting as many of our FCA Chapters as is possible. In January, I will be attending the Change of Watch at Halifax River Yacht Club. Then in February, I will be presenting the second *4 Star Commodore Award* to Past Commodore Robert F Schwalm of Platinum Point Yacht Club at their Commodores Ball. Bruce and I are looking forward to meeting the FCA Chapter and the members at PPYC. Please let me know if there is an event at your club that Bruce and I may attend.

Our Winter Meeting will be held February 13 and 14 at the Pensacola Yacht Club. I had the opportunity to speak with the GM Jim Warwick and Events Manager Scott Segers and they are excited and ready for our arrival. The PYC has invited all of us to join them for their traditional Valentine's Day Dinner Dance on Saturday evening. This will be a dressy evening so please plan accordingly. I for one am looking forward to the evening.

On Saturday morning after a brief General Meeting there will be 2 presentations. The first is "Creating a Junior Yacht Club" presented by Bruce Partington. The second will be "Leadership" presented by Innes Richards. Both of these programs are designed to assist your home yacht club. Every meeting this year will have at least one presentation that will be relevant to the working of your club. If you have a need or would like to have a certain topic presented at our meetings, please drop me a note at [junedegraw@att.net](mailto:junedegraw@att.net) and I will do my best to work it into our schedule.

On Friday, February 13 at noon, I will be hosting a luncheon for all female Past Commodores, current Commodores, Vice and Rear Commodores. I will be holding a women's luncheon on the Friday afternoon before each quarterly meeting. This will be an opportunity for us to come together, discuss and share issues that we face in our positions. If you are going to be attending, please plan on joining us. I look forward to meeting all of you during this year. Please check the space on the reservation form to reserve your place.

**Wishing you all a most prosperous and healthy  
New Year**

## **NOTICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP**

**The Association is in need of a volunteer to serve as the Association Historian. We have collected a tremendous amount of documents, emails, photographs and articles that tell the story of the formation and journey that the Association and its many members have made. You do not have to be an expert; you just have to have an interest in “saving and organizing” historical documents. If you have such an interest please contact one of the following by telephone or email. Please contact Commodore June Ann DeGraw or Past FCA Commodore John Matthews. If you are unable to contact one of these individuals please contact any member of the Executive Committee.**





**Commodore-** June Ann Degraw (Bruce)  
 Pelican Yacht Club  
 914 Boston Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34950  
 772-460-6778 [junedegraw@att.net](mailto:junedegraw@att.net)



**Vice Commodore-** Wayne Stewart (Eloise)  
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 9212 Cypress Cove Drive, Orlando, FL 32819  
 (M) 407-876-2592  
[megalove@aol.com](mailto:megalove@aol.com)



**Rear Commodore-** Sam Foreman (Anna)  
 Pensacola Yacht Club  
 3145 Hyde Park Place, Pensacola, FL 32503  
 (M) 850-470-0866  
[panamasam@att.net](mailto:panamasam@att.net)



**Fleet Captain-** Jim Robinson (Donna)  
 St Andrews Bay Yacht Club  
 2605 Parkwood Dr, Panama City, FL 32405  
 (M) 850-913-6132  
[Sailaway931@comcast.net](mailto:Sailaway931@comcast.net)



**Secretary**—Kathy Champagne (Ken)  
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[kathychampagne@bellsouth.net](mailto:kathychampagne@bellsouth.net)  
 850-937-9414 (C) 850-261-2062

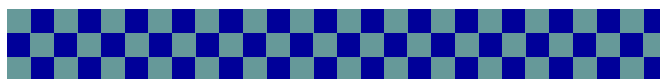


**Treasurer**—Robert Plummer (Beverly)  
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 937 Shalimar Pointe Dr, Shalimar, FL 32574  
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**Immediate Past Commodore**— John Slattery (Mary)  
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*Front Cover photo by Bruce Degraw*



**Florida Commodores Association  
Pensacola Yacht Club Chapter  
Registration Form  
Winter Meeting February 13 – 14, 2015**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter/Yacht Club \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ #Persons \_\_\_\_\_

\$10/person payable with registration \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to “FCA” and mail before January 23, 2015 to:  
Scott Segers, Pensacola Yacht Club, P. O. Box 989, Pensacola, FL 32591

**FRIDAY, February 13**

1200 Women Commodore/Past Commodore Luncheon (reservations required) \_\_\_\_\_

1530 FCA Excom Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

1700 Cocktails and Happy Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**SATURDAY, February 14 (Valentine's Day)**

Continental Breakfast and Lunch Buffet \$19/person, inclusive \_\_\_\_\_

**FCA Dinner / person. Valentine's Day Music and Dancing**

**Please see attached menu for your selection of Entrees.**

**Please note your entrée selection here:** \_\_\_\_\_

Pensacola Yacht Club is a “Florida Council of Yacht Clubs” member club so you may charge to your home club if it is an FCYC Member Club. You may also pay your bar and dining room bill with a credit card or personal check.



# *Valentine's Day Sweetheart Dinner*

**THE PASSION SHOWS ON THE PLATE**

## **HORS D'OEUVRES**

**Tempura Fried Gulf Shrimp, Sushi Rice, Ginger Shallot Vinaigrette, and  
Wasabi Pea Dust**

**\$10**

**Raw Oysters on the Half Shell with Fresh Cucumber Mignonette**

**\$9**

## **SALAD**

**Sensual Salad Teased by Teardrop Tomatoes, Cucumbers, and Onions  
With your Choice of Dressing**

## **ENTREES**

**#1**

**Smoked Bacon Wrapped Filet Mignon Topped with Cornmeal Fried Oysters  
in a Hearty Bleu Cheese Cream Sauce with Rosemary Fingerling Potatoes and  
a Medley of Vegetables**

**\$26**

**#2**

**Crab, Shrimp, and Mushroom Stuffed Swordfish topped with a Luscious Lemon Cream Sauce and Served on  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes and a Medley of Vegetables**

**\$25**

**#3**

**Pan Seared Breast of Chicken over Honey and Lemon Kissed Risotto  
with a Medley of Vegetables and Perfumed Pan Juices**

**\$17**

## **DESSERTS**

***Chocolate Trilogy Tower***

**Chocolate on Chocolate on Chocolate with Fresh Fruit**

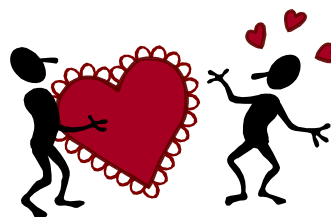
**\$9**

***Chocolate Lovin' Indulgence***

**Sweet Chocolate Pudding Laying Between Two Layers of Moist Chocolate Drenched Cake and Drizzled with  
Raspberry Coulis**

**\$10**

*A wonderful valentine's dinner with music provided by Mr. Edward Lee.*



## Welcomes Florida Commodores Association 2015 Winter Meeting Schedule of Events

### Thursday, February 12

1000 – 1400 Tour the National Aviation Museum

### Friday, February 13

1200 Women Commodores/Past Commodores Luncheon.....Ballroom A  
1530 FCA Executive Board Meeting.....PYC Board Room  
1700- 1900 Happy Hour .....Bar and Grill Lounge  
1800 Sundowners Ceremony - Class A Uniform with Cover (Blue Blazer, White Shirt & Gray trousers/skirt, tie, black belt and black shoes & socks)  
1900 Dinner and Dancing.....Ballroom and Bar and Grill Lounge  
You are invited to participate in the traditional Split Ticket Sales in the Bar/Grill

### Saturday, February 14

0800-0900 Continental Breakfast .....Ballroom  
0830 Registration.....Ballroom Entrance Lobby  
0900 Membership Meeting - Class D Uniform (White shirt and gray trousers / skirt, epaulets, black belt and black shoes and socks) (**Host club request**)  
1015-1025 Break  
1025-1125 “Creating a Junior Yacht Club” presented by Bruce Partington, Past President, Pensacola Junior Yacht Club, Inc. (a 501 (c) 3 organization)  
1130-1215 Leadership Presentation by AM Innes Richards, Pensacola Yacht Club Chapter  
1230-1315 Buffet Luncheon  
1330-1445 Guest Speaker: Ken Ford, Founder and CEO, Institute of Human Machine Cognition (IHMC), A University affiliated Research Institute. Presentation on Inventing the Future at IHMC

Adjourn

1800 Cocktails .....Bar/Grill Lounge  
1900 Valentine’s Day Dinner and Dancing.....Ballroom  
(Class A uniform and/or Cocktail attire)

### Sunday, February 15

Departure Sunday Brunch available .....Ballroom



Pensacola Hotel Information  
Marriott Courtyard Downtown  
FCA Winter Meeting  
Feb 13 – 15, 2015

Thank you for choosing **Courtyard Pensacola Downtown** for the Florida Commodores Association group accommodations February 13-15, 2015. Our professional staff will be delighted to welcome your colleagues and friends to beautiful Downtown Pensacola.

Our 120-room contemporary hotel offers many areas for social gathering or relaxation. The newly renovation lobby bar and lounge areas are furnished with comfortable seating and designed with ambiance to create an inviting and peaceful atmosphere. The Courtyard Bistro featuring Starbucks Coffee is open daily and serves a variety of menu options at reasonable rates. Our beautifully landscaped outside courtyard area allows guests the opportunity to relax in comfortable lounge furniture around the fire pit or choose a quiet location around the water fountain. Our guests can also enjoy the outdoor pool and spa or unwind in our large fitness center. The hotel is completely Wi-Fi and provides a business center equipped with workstations, printer and daily newspaper.

A block of rooms at \$89 (King Room) or \$99 (Double Queens Room) is being held until January 15, 2015. Guests can begin to make a reservation with us directly at [850-439-3330](tel:850-439-3330) or with Marriott reservations at [800-321-2211](tel:800-321-2211) AND ASK FOR **THE FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION GROUP RATE**. Guests can also book online, click on this link: [Book your group rate: Florida Commodores Association Accommodations >>](#) GUESTS MUST MAKE RESERVATIONS BEFORE 1/15/15. AFTER 1/15/15, RESERVATIONS ARE BASED ON AVAILABILITY AND PRICED AT REGULAR RATE.

If I may assist you with any other information please feel free to call me at [850-439-3330](tel:850-439-3330) or e-mail to [belinda@highpointe.com](mailto:belinda@highpointe.com).

## Dockage at PYC

You may secure dockage for your boat at the PYC by calling the Dock Master Greg Spitzer at 850-433-8804 or 850-232-5191.



## Pensacola, the "City of Five Flags", is **W.A.V.E.**ing a New Banner

PC John Matthews, PC Sam Foreman, and PC Kathy Champagne presented W.A.V.E. 2014 burgees to three individuals whose support contributed a great deal to the success of our event, August 9, at Plaza de Luna Park in Pensacola.

Marina Management manager, Leo Cyr, fleet of private sail and power boats that sacola Bay for a two hour sail, before rementary lunch.



again pledged free use of slips for our carried disabled veterans out on Pen- turning them to the park for a compli-



Pensacola Mayor **Ashton Hayward** endorsed our efforts in Pensacola, writing letters to other Florida yacht clubs urging them to "Catch the W.A.V.E.!"

Naval Air Station Commanding Officer, **Captain Keith Hoskins**, authorized the base Public Affairs Office to cooperate with the inclusion of the

NASP Centennial Celebration in our event, his personal endorsement in his presence and remarks in our opening ceremony.



It was our privilege and honor to thank these individuals; our message including the announcement of W.A.V.E. 2015, September 19, 2015.

*Photos by Julie Connerley*

## Pensacola Yacht Club's P/C John Matthews Receives 4 Star Commodores Award



P/C John Matthews added another star to his insignia December 6, 2014. He received the Four Star Commodore Award during a special presentation by FCA Commodore June Ann Degraw at Pensacola Yacht Club's (PYC) Commodore's Ball. He is one of eight individuals honored statewide since this service recognition was established by the Florida Commodores Association (FCA) in 2011.

the presentation.

Matthews, who was PYC's commodore in 2003, subsequently became Commodore of the Gulf Yachting Association (GYA) in 2011, and Commodore of FCA in 2012. He is currently serving as the Commodore, Navy Yacht Club Pensacola for the year 2015.



*Photos by Julie Connerley*



# FCA Members Receive the Royal Treatment At the Adams Ranch



Many thanks go to **PC Peter Tyson**, Pelican YC, for making the arrangements for the FCA members, attending the FCA Winter Meeting and Change of Watch, to visit the Adams Ranch near Fort Pierce. Founded in 1937, Adams Ranch is a fourth-generation cattle business headquartered in Fort Pierce. The Ranch is one of the top producing cow-calf ranches in the US and is the developer of the Braford breed of cattle. The tour was conducted by Mike Adams, our host for the day.



Our First Class Tour Bus.



Our host **Mike Adams** giving us information about the ranch and its commitment to preserving the natural vegetation and wildlife in Florida.



Our happy tour group.



The Braford breed of cattle developed on the Adams Ranch.



## Pelican Yacht Club Annual Meeting and Change of Watch Photos



New best buddies: Barbara Kimmerling and Carol Johnson



Current and past Flag Officers from Pelican Yacht Club



Members from NYCP Chapter: Johnsons, Champagnes, and Matthews



Sea Scout Ship 404 Honor Guard for Sundowner



FCA Members lining up for Sundowner Ceremony.



The famous "how many women on a bed" scene at the Ironing Board Cocktail Party



Love birds at dinner at Sundown: Lou and Ingrid



Typical informal gathering at a break during the Saturday meeting. Trying to solve the world's problems.



Our new leader June Ann Degraw giving her last Vice Commodore's report.



Pelican Yacht Club's Sea Scout Ship #404 looking Ship Shape in their whites



Our new Rear Commodore Sam Foreman (PYC) and his wife Anna



Our new Fleet Captain Jim Robinson and his wife Donna (StABYC)

*Photos by Barbara Kimmerling*

## NAVY YACHT CLUB PENSACOLA Commodore's Ball and Change of Watch



NYCP Past Commodore Lloyd Stagg giving the Oath of Office to incoming NYCP Commodore John Matthews while NYCP Commodore Bear Hansen observes the exchange of Oath. All are FCA Members.



NYCP Incoming Commodore John Matthews giving the Oath of Office to the incoming NYCP Flag Officers during the traditional NYCP Commodore's Ball at Naval Air Station Pensacola.  
*Photos by Carol Johnson*

### Blow Your Own Horn Or Tell It Like It Is

Regardless of which way you go, the FCA would like for each Chapter to submit an article for publication in the Commodores Journal about a project the Chapter has undertaken or about some unique event the Chapter has hosted. The success of the FCA depends upon the word getting out about how Chapters and their membership have supported the mission and purposes of the Association. Let's face it! The FCA is a very unique organization that has accomplished a great deal in our 6 year history. We need to spread the word throughout the State of Florida.

There is little doubt that these stories can have a terrific impact on the way Chapters achieve success with their events and projects for their yacht clubs. Each of us learn from each other. This is one of the precepts to which the Association ascribes.

If you have a story to tell please send it with photos to The Editor, FCA Commodores Journal, 2701 N 17th Ave, Pensacola, FL 32503. The story document should be in Microsoft Word and the photos in JPG or GIF file format. Proper credit will be given to the author and photographer.

Hope to hear from you soon.

The Editor



## Proposed Changes

### FCA Bylaws

To be voted on at February Meeting Feb 13-14, 2015

Please note: **RED** signifies the existing wording and **BLUE** signifies the proposed change.

#### ARTICLE II – VISION AND MISSION

**Vision Statement:** The Florida Commodores (~~delete ‘~~)Association (~~add~~) is dedicated to sharing knowledge, ensuring the future of Florida yachting and preserving our traditions and customs.

#### ARTICLE IV

**SECTION 2 – ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** – Membership in the Associate category is limited as follows:

B. The current sitting Commodore, Vice Commodore, (~~delete “and”~~) Rear Commodore (~~add~~) and Fleet Captain of Recognized Yacht Clubs.

C. An Associate Member in good standing (~~delete “shall”~~) (~~add “may”~~) be nominated by the Commodore and approved by the Executive Committee to serve an annual term as Associate Member at Large of the Executive Committee to represent the interests of the associate membership of the association.

#### SECTION 5 – AVAILABILITY OF AN FCA CHAPTER

A Past Commodore of a qualified yacht club without a recognized FCA chapter may, upon invitation from an existing FCA Chapter, join another yacht club’s FCA chapter (without having to join that Yacht Club unless it is a requirement of the yacht club). If such membership produces (~~delete ten (10)~~) (~~add five (5)~~) or more members from any one (1) qualified yacht club in the FCAs area of coverage, these members must form their own FCA chapter

#### ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

**SECTION 1 – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** – (~~delete~~)Shall preferably be held the second weekend of October. (~~add~~) Shall be held in October. The election of Officers, adoption of the budget, appointment of committees, appointment of necessary officers, and determination of the following year’s meeting schedule, and other necessary transactions shall be accomplished at this meeting.

**SECTION 3 – QUORUM** – A quorum for the transaction of business at any membership meeting shall consist of the representatives of a minimum of one-third (1/3) of the member chapters of FCA provided for under these Bylaws. Each Chapter is to be represented at membership meetings only by (~~delete~~) its President or a duly qualified representative of the chapter. (Article X – Voting – Section 1 – Voting at FCA Membership Meetings.)

#### ARTICLE X – VOTING

**SECTION 1 – VOTING AT FCA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** – The FCA recognizes the principal of One-Member-One-Vote. Only Individual General Members have the right to vote. Associate members are non-voting members. Casting of the votes shall be restricted to (~~delete~~) Presidents of FCA Chapters or their appointed (~~add~~) the duly qualified representative who must present the FCA Secretary with a Proxy Authorization signed by their respective Club Chapter President. (~~delete~~) Club Chapter Presidents (~~add~~) Duly qualified Club Chapter representatives shall represent and cast the vote of each (~~add~~) of the chapter members. Should an individual chapter member be in attendance at a voting meeting, that member shall be permitted to vote his/her desire.

*The Florida Commodores Assn*  
P. O. Box 488  
Shalimar, FL 32579

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Pensacola Yacht Club to host the FCA Winter Meeting February 13-14, 2015.

Photo courtesy of John Matthews