

The Florida Commodores Journal

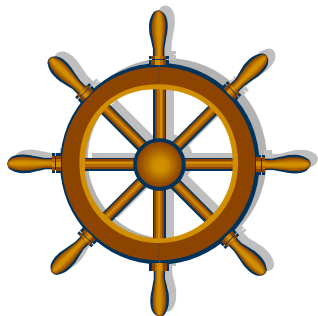
*Official Publication of the
Florida Commodores Association*
Keepers of the Flame



Educating Yacht Club Leaders
Past, Present, Future



Pensacola Yacht Club
Site of the Winter Meeting



FROM THE HELM

Commodore June Ann Degraw

Commodore 2014-2015



The Change of Watch and Commodore Ball season filled my calendar and gave me an opportunity to visit many of our clubs. Bruce and I enjoyed renewing friendships and meeting many of our members for the first time. It seemed like we just returned home, had our formal attire back from the cleaners and it was time to pack for another trip. We were so pleased to be able to be present at so many events during the months of January and February. Please let us know if you are having an event that you would like to have us attend. We are hoping to be invited to every one of our Chapters during my term in office.

On December 6, Pensacola Yacht Club held their Commodores Ball. It was during that event that I had the honor of presenting PC John Matthews with his *4 Star Commodore Award*. It was a gala event with many of PYC's Past Commodores present. Also, present were FCA's VC Sam Foreman, Treasurer Robert Plummer and Secretary Kathy Champagne. It was a wonderful occasion to pay tribute to a gentleman that has done so much for his home club, the FCA and all of the yachting community.



On February 28, Bruce and I traveled to the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club for the Platinum Point Yacht Club's Commodores Ball where I was again honored to make the *4 Star Commodores Award* to PC Robert Schwalm. We were welcomed into this wonderful club like old friends. It was such a privilege to be a part of this magnificent event and to experience the admiration this club has for a man that has done so much to enhance his club.

While we are on the subject of the *4 Star Commodores Award*, just a reminder that the applications will be in the mail this month.

At our Winter Meeting on February 14, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) announced the formation of the Leadership Resource Committee (LRC). The committee is made up of AM Lynne Reynolds, VC Wayne Stewart and the Chair PC John Slattery. These three have put in many long hours first preparing to present the idea to the EXCOM and then with the approval, presenting it to the membership. I requested that before the LRC idea was brought to the table that it be totally organized and prepared to move forward. The LRC made the presentation at the General Meeting and it was met with overwhelming enthusiasm by the membership. The LRC will be making a presentation at each quarterly meeting. As an example, AM Innes Richards did a very short version of her Rotary presentation on Leadership. Further, the LCR has prepared a 2 1/2 day Seminar for Yacht Club Officers to be held at the Pelican Yacht Club from November 12-14, 2015. To say that I am proud of the accomplishments of the LRC is an understatement. Thank you to the committee and job well done!

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The LRC is not the only new announcement at the Winter Meeting. Fleet Captain Jim Robinson has taken on the task of contacting all of our successful Chapters to see what they are doing to develop their organization. Jim is then taking it further by offering to assist struggling Chapters and suggest ways to improve their group. The stronger our Chapters are, the stronger the FCA will become. There are so many uncomplicated ways that a Chapter can extend a helping hand to their own club. The wealth of knowledge and experience each FCA Chapter holds is boundless. If your Chapter is doing something successful, please share it with Jim. If you need a little assistance or a couple of good ideas to get you up and running, you may also call on Jim. You may email him at sailaway931@comcast.net.

It was brought to my attention by PC Matthews and PC Kimmerling that the International Paralympic Committee is dropping sailing from the Paralympics in Tokyo 2020. The ISAF is asking for support in their campaign to reinstate sailing back into the Paralympics at the Tokyo 2020 games. There is an excellent discussion and draft of a letter in this copy of the Journal that you can submit supporting this restoration of Paralympic Sailing. You can be very proud of your FCA for the outstanding support we have been able to provide Olympic Sailors from our great state. Florida's own Brad Kendall, a Paralympian, has been an outstanding ambassador for the FCA and is actively involved in a number of disabled sailing programs, the WAVE, Never Say Never and coaching wounded warriors sailing events. We have been there for these outstanding athletes in the past. Now they need our help to continue. Please take time to review the letter and send your own copy to ISAF. Thank you for your support.

On a lighter note. The afternoon before our Winter Meeting, I hosted the first luncheon for women Past Commodores, current Commodores, Vice Commodores, Rear Commodores and Fleet Captains. This was an informal event held at Pensacola Yacht Club. These women came together to share ideas, offer suggestions and lend support. Joining me were PC Phyllis Seaton FWYC, RC Linda Whitman Brent PYC, PC Susan McKinnon PYC, PC Kathy Champagne NYCP, PC Kathy Mashburn GLYC and PC Mary Slatery HRYC. We were all very surprised to find out that the FCA in 2014 had in its membership 30 women Past Commodores.



I wish to thank the women that joined me and to invite all women Past Commodores and current sitting officers to join me for our second Women's Luncheon at the Spring Meeting at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club on Friday, April 24 at 12:00 hours for our second luncheon. There is a space on the reservation form to check so we have an idea just how many will be attending.

Bruce and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all Peace and Joy as we join with family and friends in celebration of Easter and Passover. May the Blessings of this very special season be upon you and yours.



FCA Commodore June Ann Degraw presenting the FCA Hosting Certificate and Stipend to PYC Commodore and FCA Member Alan McMillan at the Winter Meeting.

Photos courtesy of Julie Connerley



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



Vice Commodore- Wayne Stewart (Eloise)
 Halifax River Yacht Club
 9212 Cypress Cove Drive, Orlando, FL 32819
 (M) 407-876-2592
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



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



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

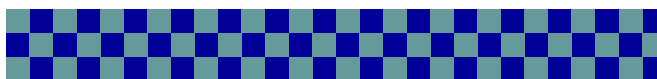


Treasurer- Robert Plummer (Beverly)
 Fort Walton Yacht Club
 937 Shalimar Pointe Dr, Shalimar, FL 32574
rbplum@cox.net
 (M) 850.651.3412 (C) 850.225.5325



Immediate Past Commodore- John Slattery (Mary)
 Halifax River Yacht Club
 Court, Palm Coast, FL 32137
jamlats@aol.com
 (M) 386.447.9947 (C) 386.627.6277

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 Redington Shores, FL 33708
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Fleet Counsel -
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 311 Milton Road,
 Fort Pierce, FL 34949
dickneill@neillgriffin.com



**FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club Chapter
Spring Meeting
April 24-25, 2015
Registration Form**

Name _____

Club Name/Chapter _____ Club No. _____

Associate Member _____ Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Preferred Phone _____ Email _____

Registration Fee:	#Persons
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\$10 per person payable with registration	_____
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Please make check payable to "FCA" and mail before April 15, 2015 to:
PC Rich Oakley, PO Box 510752, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0752

FRIDAY, April 24:

1200 Women Commodore/Past Commodore Luncheon (reservations required)	_____
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1530 FCA Executive Committee Meeting	_____
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1700-1900 Happy Hour – Pub Night (reservations required)	_____
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SATURDAY, April 25:

Continental Breakfast and Lunch Buffet \$15/person, inclusive	_____
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Dinner/Dance – Choice of Fish or Beef - \$35++/pp (Click here for Menu)	_____
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Fish _____ Beef _____

Charlotte Harbor 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.



**Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
Welcomes
Florida Commodores Association
2015 Spring Meeting
Schedule of Events**



Friday, April 24

1200	Women Commodores/Past Commodores Luncheon.....Harbor Room Open to all female Past Commodores, Commodores, Vice Commodores, Rear Commodores, and Fleet Captains. This is a casual event; no uniforms required.
1530	FCA Executive Board Meeting.....Commodores Lounge
1700- 1900	Happy HourShip's Wheel
1900	Dinner and Dancing– Pub Night Menu - Ballroom– Casual Attire Entertainment by Billy Dean & Dawn

Saturday, April 25

0800-0900	Continental BreakfastAlcove
0830	RegistrationLobby
0930-1045	Membership Meeting - Class C Uniform (White shirt and white trousers / skirt, epaulets, white belt, shoes and socks)
1045-1100	Break
1100-1200	Leadership Resource Committee Presentation
1200-1300	Soup and Sandwich Buffet Luncheon
1300-1430	Guest Speaker: Robert McMillan— <u>Speaks on the Panama Canal</u> Adjourn
1730-1830	Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres.....Ship's Wheel
1830	Sundowners Ceremony (FCA Uniform B with Cover)
1900	Dinner and Dancing.....Ballroom (FCA Uniform B and/or Cocktail attire)

Sunday, April 26

0930-1330	Sunday Brunch availableShip's Wheel
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FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION



FCA Spring Meeting

Saturday Dinner Menu April 25, 2015

Mixed Artisan Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Red Onion, Carrot & Radish
Served with Paris House Dressing

Warm Artisan Rolls and Butter

Choice of:

Bouillabaisse-style Chilean Sea Bass with Fennel Frond Crust Served with
Saffron-Scented Tomato Sauce with Fresh Fennel, Basil and Hint of Pernod
Or

Roasted Beef Tenderloin, Garlic Marinated, Sliced and Served with
Veal Glace and Truffle Roasted Mushrooms Potatoes Lyonnais and Wilted Swiss Chard

Dessert

Dark Chocolate Crème Brule with Caramel Crust
Served with Fresh Espresso Whipped Cream
Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea

Spring Meeting 4/24 - 4/25/2015 **Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club**

HOTEL INFORMATION

Lodging arrangements have been made and blocks of rooms reserved at the following hotel facilities in the immediate area. The cutoff date for reservations is 3/24/15. After that date any unused rooms will be released. Mention the FCA when making your reservation. Check in can be on 4/23 for those who arrive early.

****Reserve early, as there are other major functions happening that weekend. Rooms are scarce. ****

MICROTEL INN & SUITES

4056 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Tel: (941) 624-6339

All rooms are single rooms with a queen size bed. The hotel has recently been purchased by Wyndham and completely renovated. Price is \$70/night. It is a 5 minute drive to CHYC.

WATERFRONT HOTEL & SUITES

300 W. Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Tel: (941) 639-1165

Prices are \$65/night for city view; \$85/night for water view; \$139/night for a suite. There is an additional charge of \$10/day for pets. This was previously Best Western. The hotel is directly on the harbor adjacent to Gilchrest Park and the Harbor Walk. Major renovations are complete on 90% of the rooms. FCA will have renovated rooms. It is a 15 minute drive to CHYC.

BANANA BAY WATERFRONT MOTEL

23285 Bayshore Rd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Tel: (941) 743-4441

We have 5 rooms reserved directly on the Harbor. Pets are allowed. Only five minute drive to CHYC. Price is \$119/night. Rooms have a kitchenette with a full size refrigerator. Some FCA members have enjoyed this in the past, especially if they had pets.

Photographs from Winter Meeting At Pensacola Yacht Club



AM Lynne Reynolds FWYC,
AM Innes Richards PYC, and FCA Immediate Past
Commodore John Slattery HRYC at the PYC Bar
←

PYC Past Commodore
Robert Dawkins and
PYC Rear Commodore
Linda Whitman Brent
getting ready for the
Sundowner Ceremony
→



AM Anna Foreman with PYC Members
Charlie and Karen Harp and
PYC Fleet Captain Dave
Oerting waiting for the Sun-
downer Ceremony.
←



PYC members Milly Cascone
and Ann Owczarczak selling
Split Tickets with AM Anna
Foreman looking on. Actually
the winner of the split ticket
was an FCA member.
←



FCA Commodore June Ann
Degraw with PYC AM Innes
Richards and FWYC AM
Lynne Reynolds getting ready
to stir up trouble.
←



↑ Pelican Yacht Club FCA Member
Peter Tyson and his wife Jeanne with
PYC AM Anna Foreman and FCA
Rear Commodore Sam Foreman.

Photos courtesy of Julie Connerley and Barbara Kimmerling

More mementos for the Winter Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club



Absolutely perfect sunset for the Sundowner Ceremony



FCA Member Matt Loar and his wife AM Maggie Loar from FWYC getting ready for the Sundowner Ceremony.

Guest presentation by PYC Member Bruce Partington discussing the institution of a 501 C 3 Junior Yacht Club



PYC FCA Chapter President and former Pensacola Mayor John Fogg welcoming the FCA to Pensacola Yacht Club.



Guest presentation by Ken Ford, the founder and CEO of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, discussing the future of robotics as an extension of human movement. IHMC is headquartered in Pensacola, FL



AM Eloise Stewart and FCA VC Wayne Stewart HRYC, FCA Com JuneAnn Degraw Pelican YC, PC Phyllis Seaton FWYC and FCA Secretary Kathy Champagne NYCP getting ready for Sundowner.

Sign at the Bar:

House rules require that everyone must be 21 or over to sit at the bar.

How did AM Eloise Stewart and PC Mary Slattery get away with violation of this house rule.



Past FCA Commodore Larry Kimmerling CYC and FCA Commodore JuneAnn Degraw Pelican YC looking tall and smart at the Sundowner Ceremony.



FCA Past Commodore John Matthews and his wife AM Nancy Matthews PYC with AM Jeanne Tyson and her husband FCA Member Peter Tyson Pelican YC.



FCA Fleet Capt Jim Robinson and his wife AM Donna Robinson SABYC with PC Mary Slattery and IPC John Slattery HRYC dining casually at PYC.



FCA Quartermaster Beverly Plummer FWYC hawking her wares at the meeting with a special AIDE, FCA Commodore JuneAnn Degraw.

"South's Finest Yacht Club" Hosts FCA Winter Meeting

Exciting Plans Unveiled

By Julie B. Connerley, PYC, Guest

Warm hospitality and the shady Naval oak trees of Pensacola Yacht Club greeted more than 35 Florida Commodores Association members representing 11 Florida yacht clubs during Valentine's weekend, February 13-14.

PYC Commodore, **Alan McMillan**, noted in his opening remarks to the assembly, "yachting and yacht clubs preserve traditions--the camaraderie, racing, and social activities. FCA is an incredible underpinning of support to help us understand and preserve those traditions. "

Unfortunately, the weather was not as hospitable during Friday's Sundowners Ceremony, emceed by PYC's PC and **FCA RC Sam Foreman**. Gray clouds lingered in the unusually crisp air, though patches of blue were noticeable on the club's south lawn adjacent to Bayou Chico's entrance.

Saturday's business meeting included **Past FCA Commodore Larry Kimmerling's** update on FCA sponsored US Sailing Olympians, Paige Railey, Zach Railey, and Paralympian Brad Kendall; By-law changes presented by **Past FCA Commodore John Matthews** and all voted affirmatively by members; and the remainder of 2015's meeting schedule announced by **VC Wayne Stewart** with Charlotte Harbor YC in April, Stuart Corinthian YC in July (possibly), Halifax River YC for October, and St. Andrews Bay YC in February 2016. While dates are fairly constant so as to not conflict with the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs meetings, the locations are not and alternative suggestions are welcome.

Stewart wetted appetites of those attending when he gave a brief announcement of a leadership seminar, sharing his recollection of networking opportunities in one organization vs. great networking opportunities through the FCA.

FCA RC Sam Foreman reported that FCA may have reached a "flat line" phase in growth that many organizations experience, with current membership totaling 242. It may also be a lack of communication between whomever pays the bills for those YCs and their representatives. The good news is that from October, 2014, FCA is up 11 members, six of whom were from the bridge of Ft. Walton YC, with another five or six memberships pending.

He also mentioned the successful philanthropic Wounded American Veterans Event (W.A.V.E.), now a corporation, as a program that FCA is considering taking steps to own the rights to. By bringing together the two ideas--the leadership seminar and W.A.V.E.--into an "elevator speech" Foreman feels that FCA could draw in more YCs. "No other yachting organizations have a leadership program and a program to benefit the community. "I'm really excited about this and believe it will help grow the organization," he said.

Commodore June Ann DeGraw provided some background for the leadership seminar program. A leadership resources committee, (LRC) comprised of **Lynne Reynolds, John Slatery**, and **Wayne Stewart**, was appointed in January. Their tasks included developing and sourcing educational and other resource programs, and producing a seminar to present to yacht club leaders and club managers.

"They have been working on it since November," said Commodore DeGraw. "As the nuts and bolts of running a yacht club has taken shape, it covers everything on how to keep your YC running." She thanked the three for their tireless efforts and asked **IPC John Slatery** to provide additional details for the inaugural event scheduled November 12-15, 2015 at Pelican YC.

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Slattery explained his philosophy of operating a YC as a business--with its purpose to increase members (i.e. the shareholders) and customers, with the Commodore being the CEO. "What is unique about a YC is that its members are also its customers," he began. "Commodores come from all walks of life and backgrounds--but in many careers, one does not tackle what a typical CEO experiences in business. A good CEO does not run everything, he picks good people to run different components of the business. But he knows what is going on in every aspect of the business." (He claims he was out getting a Guinness when the LRC was appointed and ended up being appointed the chair.)

The committee will focus on four venues to achieve their goals: undertake at least one seminar annually for incoming and sitting commodores; provide a leadership presentation (or other timely topic) at each quarterly meeting; establish/maintain a separate link on the website as a repository for educational and other resource documents to be available to FCA members; and finally, include in each issue of the **Florida Commodores Journal** an article covering a "best practice" issue adopted by a Florida YC that can be considered by other clubs.

By timing the seminar for November, most clubs will have had elections and new commodores will be in place. Knowing in advance that the seminar is scheduled, YCs can start planning for it. Slattery added the seminar would be 2.5 days. A proposed agenda starts on Thursday with an overview and presentation of YCs as businesses. It is expected that the financial aspects of the training programs will be self-sustaining.

Initial topics would cover all aspects of finances from memberships, dues/assessments, pricing (external/internal), loss leaders, the concept of contribution and profit, asset management, cash, inventory, and purchasing, to various types of insurance. All federal, state, and local laws/taxes would also be discussed.

Participants would learn about motivating volunteers to be productive, and earning the respect of both members and employees in the leadership session. While Robert's Rules are always followed, learning the nuances of committee, board, and general membership meetings would also be addressed.

Membership topics i.e. recruiting/diversity, and communication, both external and internal, through newsletters, emails, advertising, news releases, etc., would be offered. Personnel management matters including testing, hiring/firing, background checks, and members working with children are on the seminar schedule,

The final topics would center on developing/maintaining long range plans, the YC community's demographics, and it's physical facility.

In closing, Slattery said, "the objective of this seminar is to prepare good, solid candidates to run each of our yacht clubs. I think this kind of program is one of the most valuable things that FCA can do and will help us increase membership as well."

Although the LRC is small, they have the support of the FCA Executive Committee. They will also need volunteers, the support of everyone in FCA, and even some outsiders to bring in the best presenters to provide future leaders with the best education.

UPDATE ON THE OLYMPIANS SUPPORTED BY THE FCA

Reported by FCA Past Commodore Larry Kimmerling

I had been asked by several FCA members about the US Olympians that FCA sponsored and where they are now. FCA sponsored US sailing team members: Zach Railey, Paige Railey and Brad Kendall. Just a little about US Sailing Association.

The US. Sailing Team Sperry is managed by the United States Sailing Association (US Sailing), the national governing body for the sport of sailing and sailboat racing. The top boats in each Olympic and Paralympic class are selected annually to be members of the US Sailing Team Sperry. US Sailing helps these elite athletes with financial, logistical, coaching, technical, fitness, marketing and communications support. The Title sponsor of the team is Sperry. The US Sailing Center Miami is an Olympic training site. Oakcliff Sailing and Clearwater Community Sailing Center are US Sailing Team Sperry training centers.



Zach Railey sailed in the heavyweight Finn class and won the Silver Medal at Beijing in 2008. (note 2010 CHYC luncheon) Zach represented the US in the Finn class and was captain of the US Sailing Olympic team at Weymouth England in 2012. The US did not medal. After serious consideration to pursue Rio and the 2016 Olympics, Zach elected the business world and now is working with his families Insurance company and continues to work with Youth sailing programs and regattas and is involved in a number of training and sailing facilities.

Paige Railey is a veteran Olympic sailor. She was in a serious bicycling accident on August 23, 2014, that resulted in a fractured spine as well as several lost teeth and dislocated knuckles. In addition, she required 50 stitches and had tendons exposed for the world to see.

Railey said at the Coral Reef Yacht Club in Coconut Grove, Fl. after she finished her final day's performance at the ISAF Sailing World Cup in Miami, "It became something much more than ever worrying about whether or not I would be able to sail again. I was wondering if Paige was ever going to be Paige again. I did not know if I would ever be healthy again. I went a long time without being able to hold a coffee cup. If I



cannot hold a coffee cup there were times that I questioned whether or not I would be able to navigate a boat.

However, Railey has constantly fought back and is projected to be better than ever. In only her third race back since the injury she had a shot on the final day at attaining a medal. Paige stated, "I am training so hard, every day for the 2016 games. I want to go in as the favorite and come home with a Gold medal. I have learned to fight on the water and become one with my boat." Railey is working hard these days to regain her old form and to be pronounced favorite in Rio in the 2016 Olympic games. On the Olympic side, the US Sailing Team Sperry performed well at the ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami with Paige (US) coming in 4th behind Netherland, Denmark and Belgium. Railey fell short of the bronze medal by seven points. "For this to be my third race back and for me to perform this well, under these conditions, I know that I am making progress and that I am coming back." "When I am sailing, I still have parts of my body that hurt from the accident, but I just have to fight through the pain. You can have setbacks in life, but you don't have to give up because of them, I come from a goal-oriented family. We set goals and we continue to strive until we achieve them." The ISAF World Cup Miami laser radial event for women had a total of 80 boats from 58 countries. (US had 14).



Brad Kendall: Barbara and I were pleased to hear from Brad Kendall on what he has been doing this last year. He writes, "I am feeling fantastic and keeping busy. I have enjoyed this year off from sailing with the US Team to spend it with family and friends. I didn't realize how much I was missing. My daughter Piper is 4 years old now and time is flying by. As you know having a little person look up to you with all their heart is a blessing. I did some local big boat regattas during the spring and did well behind the helm. I joined some friends on their boat and competed in the Pass-A-Grille Run, Crown Cars Regatta and Sun-coast Race week. We finished in the top 3 for all of them.

I have recently helped a good mate of mine with a Warriors Sailing Program he co-founded and look back at my being honored and able to be involved in the WAVE program that FCA has included in their programs. I helped with coaching and sailing with a group of wounded warriors. They do a camp in St. Pete a couple of times each year and it is very rewarding. We have put together two complete teams in the Sonars (Paralympic boat) and they have shown great improvement. The most recent adventure that I coached/sailed in the US Disabled Championships in Galveston, TX. I filled in for a wounded warrior on one of the teams and we won Gold. We had our Annual Never Say Never Pirate Camp for kids with disabilities the second week-end of October and it was the best camp yet. We hold this camp at the CCSC and teach kids and their families the wonders of sailing and ocean appreciation.

Brad rejoined the US TEAM674 with team mates Rick Doerr and Hugh Freund for the St. Pete Yacht Clubs America Regatta in December, then on to the ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami in January. In the Paralympic Sonar, the veteran team of Rick Doerr, Brad Kendall and Hugh Freund were just shy of gold medal position with a one point deficit, Team 674 took

second place overall at the ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami, January 30th. Brad expressed how much he appreciated FCA being part of his team.

These US Sailing team members have been and continue to be great ambassadors for FCA. If you would like me to share with you this information and how to track both Paige and Team674 in their bid to represent the US in Rio 2016 please let me know and I will be happy to forward you a copy of this report to share with your Chapters.

www.facebook.com/teamusa674

www.facebook.com/warriorsailingprogram

www.facebook.com/neversayneverfoundation

www.neversayneverfoundation.org click on pirate camp

www.facebook.com/paigesailor



Zack Railey sailing his FINN during Olympic competition

www.teamusa.org



Zack and Paige Railey displaying their Olympic medals. Truly great Olympians from Florida.

Disabled Sailing:

An appeal for support from all FCA members

Published on March 2, 2015

|
by Josh Adams, Managing Director of US Olympic Sailing

It's been a month since the International Paralympic Committee publicized its decision to drop sailing from the slate of sports at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Since then ISAF has stepped up to lead the appeal for reinstatement. At US Sailing, we believe ISAF leadership is critical to our chances of overturning this decision, and we are pleased to see President Carlo Croce take this on himself.

As the MNA of a leading Paralympic sailing nation, US Sailing serves a supporting role to ISAF along with our fellow MNAs who integrate Paralympic sailing into the national sailing team effort. In this role we are advising ISAF on the IPC appeal, providing data about Paralympic sailing participation, and communicating with the many leaders in the disabled-sailing community. One thing is clear at this stage of the game—we must maintain urgency in the effort to submit a positive, forward-looking, and winning appeal to the IPC.

You can help, too. Right now ISAF is gathering data and letters of support from MNAs. They also have made it clear that individual letters of support from the broad sailing community will make a difference in the appeal. If you'd like to voice your support for Paralympic sailing's reinstatement in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, we encourage you to speak up and have provided some tools to help:

- * Send letter of support as an email to **disabled@isaf.org**
- * Address your letter of support to ISAF President Carlo Croce
- * Feel welcome to copy and paste the form letter at ussailing.org (see below)
- * Personalize the letter and describe what Paralympic sailing means to you
- * Disabled sailing organizations, foundations, etc are encouraged to write letter of support on official letterhead

There is a proven track record of sports winning reinstatement after initially being dropped from Olympic and Paralympic competition. Paralympic sailing deserves to play the game in Tokyo, and you can make a difference in ISAF's appeal to the IPC.

Continued on the following page

Continued from previous page

Here is the form letter you can use to show your support. Send your message to disabled@isaf.org

Dear Mr. Croce:

I am writing in favor of the reinstatement of Paralympic sailing in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. My voice represents the opinion of sailors across my community—you have my full support as ISAF leads an appeal to the International Paralympic Committee.

Disabled sailing plays a prominent role in sailing worldwide, with highly active participation in sailing nations on four continents. Sailors with wide-ranging disabilities are able to compete on a level playing field, which is truly representative of the spirit of the Paralympic movement. In the sport of sailing, disabled and able-bodied sailors can compete on the same field of play. Here in the United States, Paralympic athletes are fully integrated into our national sailing team, the US Sailing Team Sperry.

I support all of ISAF's efforts to put sailing back on the slate of sports in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Regards,

[Insert your name, hometown and country here]



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FCA WINTER MEETING

Educates, Motivates, and Enthralls

By Julie B. Connerley, PYC, Guest

Pensacola Yacht Club FCA Chapter delivered an Oscar-worthy program with three speakers--all members of PYC. The speakers covered lessons learned in the past, lessons that can be applied in the present, and lessons about what is possible in the future.



Bruce Partington, detailed why "one size doesn't fit all" in his presentation on Creating a Junior Yacht Club. As past president of PYC's Junior Yacht Club, Partington stressed the importance of knowing why you want to have a junior club. "Junior sailing is not a drop-off sport," he said. By nature, the transition of juniors to adult sailing programs will create an ebb and flow. The need to have ongoing communication between the junior and adult clubs--both members and management is vital, "not just when there is an issue," he said, "but when everything is going well."

AM Innes Richards, District Director, Rotary Leadership Institute, exchanged chocolate kisses for responses to her interactive discussion. "Action without vision," she said, "is just a dream." A good leader inspires a vision. Her talk included good listening skills, strategy planning, leadership motivation, the "ten commandments of communication" and the "SMART" definition of goals -- **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, **T**ime-bound.



Guest speaker, PYC's **Ken Ford**, Founder/CEO, Florida Institute for Human & Machine Cognition, (IHMC) provided some never before seen slides of upcoming Discovery Channel episodes featuring some of IHMC's work. "Human centered computing" is the term he used to describe their work, which focuses on "reversing the vector from fitting people to machines, to fitting technology to people." Current projects range from a lunar electric rover, natural language dialogue systems and research, to cyber security.



FOUR STAR COMMODORES AWARD NOMINATION INFORMATION

Nomination documents for the fifth annual Four Star Commodores Award have been mailed to all Florida Yacht Clubs. The deadline for receipt of applications by the Four Star Award Committee is September 30.

Originated in 2011, this program recognizes former Commodores of qualified Yacht Clubs in the State of Florida who have made contributions to their Club beyond the normal duties and responsibilities of Club Commodore. Membership in the Florida Commodores Association is not required. There is no cost to the Club or to their nominee.

Those selected to be Four Star Commodores and their Clubs will be notified in writing prior to November 30. Each Award winner will receive a memento of their achievement and a special lapel pin. The Yacht Club of the Four Star Commodore will receive a framed certificate to display the achievement of their Commodore.

Awards will be presented by a member or members of the FCA Executive Committee at a ceremony or event to be selected by the Yacht Club of the Award recipient. Nomination information brochure is currently available on the Association website.



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

The Florida Commodores Assn

P. O. Box 488
Shalimar, FL 32579

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Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club to host the FCA Spring Meeting April 24-25, 2015.

Photo courtesy of Rich Oakley