



The Florida Commodores Journal

Official Publication of the Florida Commodores Association
Founded in 2008

Volume VIII Issue 4

October, 2018



Platinum Point Yacht Club to host Fall Meeting and Change of Watch October 19 - 20

More information and registration forms in this issue and online.

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club is the location for 2018 Leadership Seminar October 26 -27

Details and registration form in this issue and online.



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Upcoming Dates...

Fall Meeting	October 19 - 20
Platinum Point YC	
Leadership Seminar ...	Oct.26 - 27
Charlotte Harbor YC	
Winter Meeting ...	February 22-23
Lake Beresford YC	
Spring Meeting	April 5-6
Pensacola YC	

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Scheduled publishing dates for 2018—2019:

<u>Publishing Date</u>	<u>Deadline Date</u>
January 1	December 18
April 1	March 25
July 1	June 25
October 1	September 25

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From the Helm

Commodore Sam Foreman



This is my last article From the Helm. There has been an ongoing squall of family issues for Anna and I over the last couple of years. We look back and wonder how we were able to make it through the heavy seas without swamping.

There was so much happening in our lives and then there was the FCA. The FCA has been the bright spot for us as we enjoy meeting people and making friends. Thank you FCA for all the pleasant distractions! Gratefully, the seas have become calmer for us now.

I have written in my last couple of e-journals about the need for change in our organization. At this fall's Meeting/Change of Watch, October 19 - 20 at the Platinum Point Yacht Club, we will be discussing some ideas to prepare our FCA to meet the future with greater success.

Every Member should want to be part of this discussion. Vice Commodore Carole Lick will be taking the next step to become our Commodore. I believe she will do great things for our organization. Let's be an asset to her by bringing ideas and help.

Signing up for the meeting is easy enough and there is still time. Get on your computer and type flcommodores.org. On the lower left corner of the first page click on the picture of Platinum Point Yacht Club. You will be taken to the page with all the meeting information.

The Members of PPYC have worked hard to make this an enjoyable meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone!

It has been a great honor and pleasure to be your Commodore. Anna and I have enjoyed the many friendships we have made and hope to make many more.



WAVE in Pensacola Bay
P/C Kathy Champagne



It was a GREAT "Day on the Bay" for Wounded American Veterans Saturday, September 22, 2018, when the Navy Yacht Club Pensacola (NYCP) and the Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC) FCA chapters hosted WAVE 2018. The Master of Ceremonies was NYCP Commodore and FCA chapter member Bill Clark who

opened the ceremony. PYC Commodore and FCA chapter member Jim Reeves welcomed the veterans, their guests and all the volunteers to the event.



The opening ceremony included the presentation of the colors, the singing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Commodore Clark introduced the guest speaker, Rear Admiral Kyle Cozad, the Commanding Officer of Naval Education and Training Command on board Naval Air Station Pensacola, who gave an inspirational message. Following the conclusion of the opening ceremony, the veterans and their families were escorted to their assigned boats by "Boat Buddies" who were mostly

continued on next page

WAVE, continued

members of the local Civil Air Patrol-Pensacola Cadet Squadron.



With clear skies, a rarity in Pensacola this summer, 19 boats headed out with 32 veterans, their families and three service dogs on board. The boats were a combination of sail and power boats. The veterans were given their choice of which boat to ride on. There were lots of smiles on our guests' faces, especially on those of the newly engaged couple. Shane Saul, an Army combat wounded veteran, proposed to his girlfriend, Angela, while on the water in the powerboat, Maxine. It was a complete surprise to Angela who accepted his proposal. Maxine's skipper, P/C John Matthews, arranged for photos of the special event.



Upon their return to shore, all guests were treated to lunch under the tent, which was prepared courtesy of American Legion Post 48 (Grill Masters). While the guests had their meal, local Saxophonist Jim Andrews gave a live musical tribute for their enjoyment.



Many "thank you" were exchanged, ours for their service, and theirs for the amazing opportunity that they had received. All of the supporters and contributors were recognized and thanked for their contributions and support of the WAVE.



In the words of one of our Veterans, "Thank you for everything y'all do. A lot of us would never get out of the house if it weren't for folks like y'all. And that's the honest truth."

Photos supplied by NYCP Member Richard Smith.



Historian's Report

Dr. Lynne Reynolds

Below is a copy of what was dubbed "the elevator speech" and printed on the back of business cards in 2013. FCA members and officers have used it on a number of occasions, but our general membership may not have seen it. Please feel free to use it when discussing FCA, especially with prospective members!

(Continued on next page)

What is the Florida Commodores Association?

FCA is an organization of past commodores of recognized yacht clubs promoting the traditions and customs of yacht clubs through educational, charitable and social programs.

It serves as a link among Florida yacht clubs, encouraging the exchange of information and ideas. FCA's educational programs are designed to improve the quality of yacht club leadership. Our Foundation supports youth sailing programs as well as Olympic Sailors from Florida.

For more information visit: www.flcommodores.org

The *Florida Commodores Journal*, intermediary notices and in the handouts at each general meeting provide a record of the major activities of the organization. Those have been collected throughout the year, will be bound and made available to our members at General Meetings.

Submissions of photos and other information of special activities are gratefully accepted and also included in each annual volume.

Solving the Puzzle of Distance and Time at Sea



For centuries, explorers sought a way to navigate open oceans. Marinus of Tyre (c.70-130 AD) first advanced the idea of latitude and longitude in ancient Greece, even assigning coordinates to locations on his atlas. But the measurements fell out of fash-

ion for a thousand years until the Middle Ages and the Age of Discovery gave them new relevance.

Today, we know latitude is a measure of distance, marked by the parallel lines extending north and south from the equator, which appeared on maps as early as the 2nd century. But as we know today, longitude is a measure of time, not distance; calculating it was not as simple as bringing a mechanical clock to sea. Brilliant minds worked to solve the world's greatest navigation problem. But all came up short in devising a tool that could function on the rolling deck of a ship in the salty sea air.



The English clockmaker John Harrison (1693-1776) solved this puzzle. Responding to the Longitude Act of 1714 - the parliamentary decree offering a generous reward to the first person who could accurately measure longitude at sea - he toiled and experimented for 31 years. Finally, he presented his marine chronometer, which was able to keep the time of a fixed location. Sailors could then compare that to their local time at sea to calculate longitude. During the 1884 Prime Meridian Conference, that fixed location was standardized and today, we know it as the Prime Meridian, 0° longitude, in Greenwich.

“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow,
you gotta put up with the rain!”

Dolly Parton

Crossing the Bar

Addison "Mr. Mac" McNairy



Mr. Mac passed away on August 31st at age 98. He graduated from North Carolina State College with a degree in engineering. He was drafted into the U.S. Navy during WWII, despite having two medical deferments. When asked why he still joined, he stated, "It was the right thing to do".

Mr. Mac spent his career working on aerodynamic and hydrodynamic engineering projects including cruise missile design, hydrofoil "winged" torpedoes, underwater robots, design of the F7F Grumman Navy aircraft, engineering studies for NASA, the U.S. Navy, McDonald Aircraft, and Grumman Aircraft.

Mr. Mac was an avid boater, living on his boat "Gondola" for 42 years. He was the Commodore of the Corinthian Yacht Club in Washington, D.C., Commodore of the Daytona Beach Yacht Club in Daytona Beach and member of the Halifax River Yacht Club since 1988, where he was a faithful member of the FCA chapter. Mr. Mac was also a private pilot. Knowing him you would know a gentleman of character and integrity. His many friends will greatly miss him.

**Get your club to send your next Commodore
to the
FCA Yacht Club Leadership Program
October 26 - 27
at the
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club**

Good Friends vs. True Friends

A good friend will tell you what you want to hear.
A true friend will always tell the truth.

A good friend seeks to talk with you about your problems.
A true friend seeks to help you with your problems.

A good friend will be there for you all through school.
A true friend will be there till the day you die.

A good friend will bail you out of prison.
A true friend will be sitting next to you saying "damn that was fun!".

A good friend brings a bottle of wine to your party.
A true friend comes early to help you cook and stays late to help you clean.

A good friend hates it when you call after they've gone to bed.
A true friend asks you why you took so long to call.

A good friend wonders about your romantic history.
A true friend could blackmail you with it.

A good friend thinks the friendship is over when you have an argument.
A true friend calls you after you had a fight.

A good friend, when visiting, acts like a guest.
A true friend opens your refrigerator and helps himself.

A good friend has never seen you cry.
A true friend has shoulders soggy from your tears.

A good friend doesn't know your parents' first names.
A true friend has their phone numbers in his address book.

A good friend expects you to always be there for them.
A true friend expects to always be there for you.

A good friend is someone you enjoy hanging out with.
A true friend is someone you need.



**Summer Meeting
Ft. Walton
Yacht Club
July 20 - 21, 2018**



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**Summer Meeting
Ft. Walton
Yacht Club
July 20 - 21, 2018**





**Summer Meeting
Ft. Walton
Yacht Club
July 20 - 21, 2018**



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Hosting Pensacola's Largest Regattas

Hal Smith, PYC Fleet Captain, with Talbot Wilson

"Pensacola YC... our members and incredible staff demonstrated to the entire USA and the world how to host a regatta," said Hal Smith, Pensacola Yacht Club Fleet Captain. "Running the Optimist Nationals was not easy with 301 young Optimist dinghy competitors along with their parents, siblings and some 30 coaches. At times there were close to 2000 people at Pensacola Yacht Club. With two clubhouse ballrooms, 22 spacious acres, a 250-foot beach on the bay, a shore-side pool and a newly rebuilt marina, the "South's finest Yacht Club" was perfect for the occasion."



Aerial view of PYC with Optimist Dinghies on the beach.

The PYC Satori Foundation and the 2018 Optimist National Championship hosted by Pensacola Yacht Club kicked off the 10-day marathon with opening ceremonies featuring the team from American Magic – New York Yacht club's USA challenger for the next America's Cup. Three members from the Magic team captured their young audience challenging them to bring sailing back to America. The key, according to team principal and CEO, in three words is "Passion, Passion, Passion."

The whole opening ceremony, which began with a parade of flags from 68 clubs representing 12 countries and moved into Pensacola's historic Saenger Theater, was live-streamed on American Magic's Facebook site around the globe. US Sailing created a special internet 'event' app which included links to all the event action, photos, videos and media reports. The Blue Angels practiced above fleet on Wednesday. Exciting stuff.



The sailors came from many states and many countries

Those who saw the 2018 Optimist National Championship from the clubhouse saw lots of happy young people in a semblance of organization doing all kinds of things from checking-in to waiting out weather playing Opti Bingo to winning door prizes and to finally winning trophies. This went on for 8 days of racing – 10 days total. Three National championship events were on the line... the 'open' National championship for four days, a Girls one-day championship and the three-day Team Race National Championship, too.



The girls start

For those who saw the regatta from the water, you saw amazingly sophisticated sailing by juniors 8-15. They saw fantastic performances by Race Committee volunteers providing stellar courses in tricky conditions. Two things are essential for a regatta: 1. Competitors (300 this time), and 2. Race Committee (30+). To make it an event, tons more work is also done ashore organizing activities, preparing food and servicing thirsty adults.

The RC did some serious heavy lifting this time. Weather forced the RC to go out late one day and race until after 7:00PM. At more than one point during the Team Racing, mark vessels were asked to move marks 10 times 10' in 10 minutes! The shore organizers and ever-ready PYC staff were challenged, too, trying to adjust to widely varying schedules. They did their part with smiles, grace and true southern hospitality. Regatta Chairman Tom Pace kept the pulse of every moving part and orchestrated an event standard that will remain PYC's regatta benchmark for a very long time.



One of numerous starts

See the PYC USODA website for complete coverage: <https://usoda2018optionals.com>

Focus. Determination. Passion.

Troy Gilbert, Pensacola YC's Media Team member, captured the excitement of the 2018 Optimist Nationals in his article originally published in USODA's "OptiNews" magazine.

With his little Opti sailboat still wet from the waters of Pensacola Bay and fresh off his 40 point win at the Optimist North American championship in Mexico, Stephan Baker of Miami, FL was all smiles after sealing his win in the 2018 Optimist Overall National Championship at Pensacola Yacht Club. Asked for the three things that contribute to his success on the water, he stated, "Focus, determination and passion."

That statement rings true across the board for the near flawless 2018 USODA Optimist National Championships held on Pensacola Bay July 15th-22nd and that delivered the Overall, Girls and Team Racing National Champions over an epic seven-day, 168-race marathon.

Hailing from Canada, Great Britain, Denmark, Mexico, Brazil, Puerto Rico, the U.A.E., Australia, U.S. Virgin Islands and the U.S.A., 298 different junior sailors competed with the oak lined grounds of Pensacola Yacht Club at times resembling a sort of colorful vagabond child army encampment and the steel blue waters of Pensacola Bay their battlefield - these kids gave their all through varying wind conditions and sea states to showcase and hone their skill sets.



Where are you from again?

"These aren't just young kids out here and oh, isn't this cute. These are talented, sharpened, honed sailors." Having put in his 20th consecutive 15-hour day managing the entire event, Race Committee Chairman Tom Pace, Jr. couldn't have been more proud and in awe of these young sailors.

Pace continues, "These kids are exhibiting phenomenal skills to the point where Paul Cayard, one of the best sailors in the history of the sport, said to me out on

the course that these kids are better than where he was when he won a World Championship at 16.”

Over the course of seven days, Pensacola Bay decided to mix it up a bit for the kids. Hal Smith, Pensacola YC Fleet Captain and overall fleet Principal Race Officer (PRO) for the National Championships, states, “The weather offered up a lot of challenges, but it was all within their range of skills. Our sea breeze is quite predictable in the afternoon and there was nothing overpowering, but at the same time we had a bit of unusual current with a lot of wind shifts. There was some light air and we had some nice decent air as well, so it was good challenges overall for them.”



PYC Fleet Captain Hal Smith

Treated to the unexpected spectacle of the U.S. Navy’s legendary Blue Angels streaking low and in formation directly overhead as the fleet sailed the final day of the Overall Optimist National Championship, Stephan Baker held first place, but was only one point ahead of Maithe Ebdrup of Denmark in second and who was effectively match racing against Baker, and Laura Hamilton who was only four points out in third.

Ebdrup of Denmark took an early lead with Baker a solid fifteen boat lengths behind in fourth as they rounded the first marks – and then Baker turned on the jets and closed the difference. Baker states, “I kept up the pressure on him and then at the second downwind I got out of him covering me and then I got advantage getting a little leftie.”

Standing on the beach after having defeated 278 sailors in this regatta and with the majority of the fleet streaming in from Pensacola Bay, Baker described a bit of his future goals, “I want to win a gold medal.”



Race Committee Chairman Tom Pace, Jr. with Stephan Baker holding trophy

The run of championships continued at a feverish pace on Thursday July 19th with the 2018 Optimist Girls National Championship falling fresh on the heels of the spectacular finish for the Overall National Championship. There were 66 young girls entered for the one-day regatta.

Samara Walshe of New York secured the win leading all sailors with 9 points (2,2,5). Sara Schumann of Ft Lauderdale was second with 14 points (1,11,2) and Anne Samis of Chicago grabbed 3rd with 24 points (12,1,11).

Finishing in the top ten for all three races, Samara described the challenges of racing the first in the northerly breeze at the south end of the bay and then how the conditions rapidly changed as the sea breeze filled in from the southwest for the final two races and a light chop built in the bay inside of Santa Rosa Island. "My coaches told me the game plan, but if something changed or shifted, I would adjust. I'm responsible for the tactics. I always want to come into the mark roundings on starboard tack with the advantage and come in fast. The second race was my favorite - just sticking to the game plan."



Diamonds on the water

With the fleet winnowed down for the final three day Team Racing National Championship, 113 sailors on 24 teams sailed for all they were worth in this complex type of sailing that challenges every aspect of their sailing knowledge, skills and instincts in a team format. Resembling an assembly line producing sailing victories, the young sailors worked on strategies as they moved into the starting sequence calling signals to their other teammates. They then sailed hard in each six minute race. As they eased over and sailed towards their holding area after finishing, the teams would huddle and debrief each other en route. With as many as three matchups underway at any given time, it was fast paced loop of – Strategize, Battle, Debrief, Repeat.

Connor Boland and his teammates Sara Schumann, Laura Hamilton, Jack Redmond and Lucy Meagher of Lauderdale Yacht Club pulled in the 3-2 victory on the final day of the 2018 Team Racing National Championship on July 22nd. After three hard days of tough sailing against 23 other teams in varying conditions that threw everything at them, their overall victory came down to the absolute final race of the day against Long Island Optimist Sailing Team, LISOT Black.

Team Racing National Championship Principal Race Officer (PRO) Dwight LeBlanc states, "These final two teams were really mixing it up and they were very close races. For Lauderdale YC, it came down to them getting off the line clean. If they won the start, they ended up controlling the race. It was a very, very tight series and the skill level for the top end of this fleet and the age of these kids is extraordinary. They know the plays, they know the moves, they know the winning combinations and they sail well – that's the full package."

Having sailed with his current teammates for about two years including having won the Nationals with Sara Schumann in 2017, Boland adds, "It just came down to the basics, who sailed the better race."

Since LYC won and is the reigning champion of the 2017 Opti Team Cup, both the first and second place teams are invited to the 30th Opti Team Cup in Berlin this October.

Not to be outdone, 23 Green Fleet boys and girls, the next generation of Optimist champion fleet sailors, navigated a variety of courses in 13 races over the four days of National Championship sailing. The youngsters were coached along the way and sailed in the shallower waters close to Pensacola Yacht Club's beach where Pensacola Bay meets Bayou Chico. All 23 sailors were happy winners and learned some valuable sailing lessons – sometimes in stiff breezes.

Founded in 1908, Pensacola Yacht Club has a deep history of hosting major sailing events, whether OD, PHRF or offshore distance racing to Cuba and Mexico and the entire organization rose to the occasion as the host for the 2018 USODA National Championships. Fielding 130 volunteers and 38 support boats over seven days is no small accomplishment, but the club and its leadership mixed in the magic of true southern hospitality to make the regatta appear seamless.

On the final day of Team Racing, Pensacola Yacht Club Commodore James Reeves remarked, "I know these young sailors had a fantastic time and were truly out there racing hard and having fun. I hope they tell all their friends about the fantastic racing on Pensacola Bay and the southern hospitality of Pensacola Yacht Club. We're incredibly proud to have hosted them this year."

As the 2018 USODA National Championships came to a close on Pensacola Bay, over 283 young sailors gave their all over seven days to determine the Overall, Girls and Team Racing National Champions. The expansive grounds of Pensacola Yacht Club have gone quiet after the frenetic energy of this monster sailing event and Pensacola Bay has returned to the pelicans and dolphins, but these young sailors go home with heightened skills, new friendships and memories that will follow them for their lifetimes.



Florida Commodores Association

Past, Present and Future Commodores

Fall Membership Meeting and Change of Watch
October 19 - 20, 2018



Platinum Point Yacht Club
3601 Cape Cole Blvd., Punta Gorda FL 33955

Note: Due to 10 mile trip (25 minutes) between Punta Gorda and PPYC in Burnt Store Marina, all Friday meetings and meals will be held in Punta Gorda. All Saturday meetings and meals will be held at PPYC in Burnt Store Marina.

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 19

- 1200 FCA Foundation Meeting (Four Points Hotel Board Room)
1500 FCA Executive Committee Meeting (Four Points Hotel Board Room)
1730 Cocktails and Dinner - The Perfect Caper (*order from menu*)

Saturday, October 20

- 0900 - 0930 Registration and Complimentary Continental Breakfast
0900 - 1230 Membership Meeting - *Class B uniform*
Educational Presentation - Strategic Planning: or How to Keep the Upper Hand –
P/C John Matthews
1230 - 1400 Lunch - *Advance reservation and payment required*
1400 - 1530 Presentation - Sailing Across the “Big Pond” – PPYC treasurer, Tom Akins, shares his
adventurous story.
1730 - 1800 Cocktails - Cash Bar (*no credit cards or checks*)
1800 - 1830 Sundown Ceremony - *Class B uniform*
1830 Change of Watch Ceremony
1900 Dinner Buffet - *Advance reservation and payment required*

Questions regarding any and all aspects of the meeting should be directed to P/C Carole Lick at
carole.lick40@gmail.com

Uniform Class B - Single-breasted Navy blue blazer with white shirt, tie, white trousers, white belt, white shoes
and white socks for gentlemen; white skirts and white shoes for ladies. Name tag should be
worn on the right lapel. Lapel Pins Men - One Lapel Pin - worn in button hole Women - One
Lapel Pin - worn on left lapel



**Florida Commodores Association
Registration Form
Fall Meeting and Change of Watch
October 19 - 20, 2018**

Name(s): _____

Chapter/Yacht Club: _____

Member Associate Guest

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

email: _____

Friday, October 19

The Perfect Caper	No. Of Persons
121 E Marion Ave, Punta Gorda	
(Free shuttle from hotel or six minute walk)	
Dinner and Cocktails (order from menu)	_____

Saturday, October 20

Platinum Point Yacht Club	
3601 Cape Cole Blvd., Punta Gorda	
Complimentary Breakfast	_____
Lunch - Deli Buffet - \$13.00 (Advance payment required)	_____
Dinner - Buffet - \$33.00 (Advance payment required)	_____

Note: Meals must be paid in advance. Checks should be made payable to PLYC and mailed to PLYC, 3601 Cape Cole Blvd., Punta Gorda, FL 33955. Attention: Emily Hawley

Registrations will not be accepted online for this meeting. Reservations and meal payments must be received not later than October 12.

Questions regarding any and all aspects of the meeting should be directed to P/C Carole Lick at carole.lick40@gmail.com

**Hotel for FCA Fall Meeting at Platinum Point Yacht Club
October 19-20, 2018**



**Four Points by Sheraton
33 Tamiami Trail
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-637-6770**

The special rate for the meeting is \$129 plus taxes. Deadline for this rate is September 27.

When you call for reservations, just tell anyone at the front desk that you are with the Florida Commodores Association (FCA) to obtain this special rate. The check in time is after 3 pm and check out is by 12 pm.

If you would like to check out the hotel further, the website is www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/rswfp-four-points-punta-gorda-harborside

The rooms are based on availability, so please book as soon as possible!

Questions regarding any and all aspects of the meeting should be directed to P/C Carole Lick at carole.lick40@gmail.com

Local Color:

Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Garden – Free Shuttle from the hotel.
Open 10am to 5 pm. \$10 for seniors (65+) \$12 for other adults.

Live music at the Tiki Bar (Outside) on Charlotte Harbor just behind the hotel. Seven days a week.