



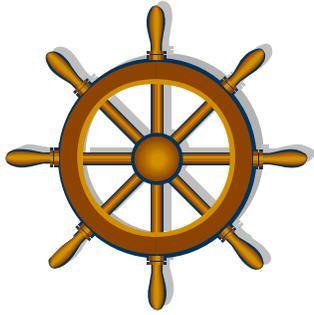
The Florida Commodores Journal



Left to Right: PC Bill Barnett, Secretary; PC Robert Plummer, Treasurer; PC John Slattery, Fleet Captain; PC Larry Kimmerling, Rear Commodore; PC John Matthews, Vice Commodore; PC Tom Reynolds, Commodore; and Immediate Past Commodore Ron Richards.

2011 Executive Committee

Preserving the Customs and
Traditions of Yachting



FROM THE HELM



We hope that this issue is the “door opener” for spring and that we will all begin to see warmer days.

In March (17 - 19th) the Clearwater Yacht Club will host our General Membership meeting. This is another milestone in achieving the goal of FCA, growth and to recognize and serve you, the leaders of our yachting community, we look forward to seeing you there. In addition, it is the 100th anniversary of the Clearwater Yacht Club. There is more information in other places in the *Journal* and on the web about the great program that Rear Commodore Larry Kimmerling has prepared. Make your plan now to come. If you have never attended an FCA membership meeting, you have missed a great opportunity to have fun and enjoy meeting other Florida Commodores.

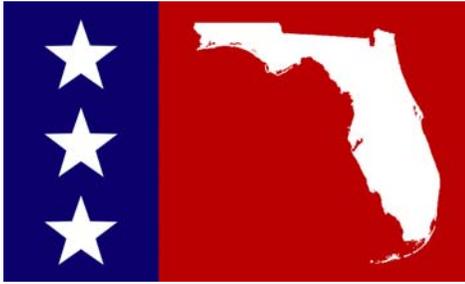
The year is under way and we have finalized the addition of an FCA Chapter at Halifax River Yacht Club... Welcome. My wife and I had the opportunity to visit with them in January along with a visit to Ft Pierce Yacht Club. We also visited Pelican Yacht Club with other FCA members to talk with them about FCA. We hope to continue visits to clubs throughout the year. The FCA is, after all, about people and accomplishments. We have great people as members and associates, and all of you have accomplished a lot in the service of your club and the traditions of yacht clubs.

I would like to activate and invigorate our Ambassador program this year. You will see elsewhere in the *Journal* a 'want ad' for ambassadors. Ambassadors will contact existing clubs in their assigned area a few times each year... perhaps by attending chapter meetings and help maintain that linkage and communication between us all. In addition they will be available to assist in identifying and inviting new members and chapters into FCA. In a real sense as an Ambassador you will be the face of FCA in each region. Like all of our positions this carries with it a zero salary and zero expense money BUT you will have the opportunity to meet with fellow FCA members and advance our program throughout the state. Take a look at the want ad... we really could use your help and expertise.

We continue to publish a hard copy of the *Journal* but, considering the increased costs of publishing a hard copy, we are weighing the option of publishing electronically and only sending hard copies to the few members who do not have internet capabilities. This may require that you “go get” the *Journal* on the web but it will surely make the cost situation more attractive. Let us know what you think.

Thanks for making the FCA such a dynamic organization representing our boating community and the accomplishments of its commodores. Looking forward to seeing you in Clearwater.

Sincerely,
Tom Reynolds
Commodore, 2010-2011
Florida Commodore's Association



Florida Commodores Association
Past, Present & Future Commodores
“Keepers of the Flame”
P O Box 488, Shalimar, FL32579

The *FCA Commodores Journal* is now up on the web (<http://www.flcommodores.org/id6.html>) and you have most likely received a notification via the **EJournal...** However we wanted to be sure that you and each of our members are getting the *Journal*. For that reason we are also sending a hard copy of the *FCA Commodores Journal*.

If you know of anyone in your chapter who is not getting the *FCA Commodores Journal*, please let me know.

- We would also like to have you check with your chapter about sending us any as yet unpaid 2011 dues. You can send to me or the address above. Thanks
- Information about the March Meeting (18-19 March 2011) at Clearwater Yacht Club is on the web (<http://www.flcommodores.org/>) along with hotel and registration information.
- A number of Clubs and Chapters have gotten FCA table flags to use for their own and visiting FCA members. The Ships Store (Beverly Plummer) is collecting orders for these, and other FCA items, so that they can be ordered and received prior to the March Meeting ... but time is running short for items that need to be custom made. If you order now we should be able to deliver to you at Clearwater and avoid shipping charges. Check the Ships Store (<http://www.flcommodores.org/id26.html>) or contact Beverly directly (bevplum@cox.net)
- Finally we would like to see you and your members at Clearwater. Also we would like to give you the opportunity to let us all know about your club, your chapter and things that are going on, Not a long talk... just 3 - 5 minutes to introduce you and your club. If you think that this would be possible let me know so that I can put you on the agenda on Saturday.

Looking forward to seeing you in March at Clearwater Yacht Club

Tom Reynolds, Commodore FCA

T. G. Reynolds, III
4323 American Poets Dr
Niceville, FL 32578
850 897-7323
t.reynolds@ieee.org

Keepers of the Flame





Announcing the Four Star Commodore Award Program

The Florida Commodores Association is proud to announce the Four Star Commodore Award. The purpose of this program is to reward Past Commodores who have served their club, or their community on behalf of their club, at a level above the normal duties and responsibilities of a Commodore and have distinguished themselves as yacht club Commodores.

Starting in February, FCA will be sending a flyer to yacht clubs in Florida announcing the Four Star Commodore Award Program. Clubs who are interested in nominating one of their Past Commodores will be able to download the nomination forms from the FCA website. Each club will only be able to nominate one Past Commodore each year. There will be no cost to the club since all costs of the program will be borne by FCA.

Every club is free to decide the manner in which they will select candidates for nomination. It could be done by their governing Board or a committee selected by their governing Board or the Commodore. Clubs also are free to decide the criteria which will be used in selecting a nominee. Membership in FCA is not a requirement to be eligible for an award. Nominations along with supporting documentation must be received by FCA no later than July 31, 2011. FCA will notify those selected for the Four Star Award and their clubs by November 30. Up to three awards may be made each year.

The awards will be presented by one or more FCA officers at an event to be selected by the local club. Four Star Commodores will receive a special lapel pin and a memento of their award and their club will receive a framed certificate to display the accomplishments of their selected Past Commodore.

So What's Your Chapter Doing?

John Slattery, FCA Fleet Captain

Some Chapters organize simply for the purpose of having lunch or dinner once a month. There's nothing wrong with that but, membership in your Chapter could be a lot more rewarding if you had a goal or goals beyond a meal.

Many Chapters are reluctant to get involved in club activities because it might be viewed as interfering with the current Commodore and his or her Board. However, we have all been Commodores and know there are areas we can become involved in that could be beneficial to the club without stepping on any toes.

Club functions is a major area where FCA Chapters can make a contribution. The most prominent event is the annual Change of Watch ceremony. You know there is a lot to do as the incoming CEO of the club and not having to worry about the Change of Watch would be a relief. Let's face it, nobody knows more about Change of Watch ceremonies than Past Commodores. We've all been through at least one and have probably attended many others.

Another function ideally suited for Past Commodores to run is the Sundowners Ceremony. FCA can supply you with all you need to know about this ceremony. The Sundowner Ceremony can be done every month or as few as a couple of times a year. In these times, when our troops are in combat, it invokes a real sense of pride on the part of the club's membership and if you send a release to the local press it garners very positive publicity for your club in the community.

Acting as the "charitable" arm of your club can also be the mission of your Chapter. This can be done in many ways such as running a "Toys for Tots" program at Christmas, or running a collection point for food donations for needy families during Thanksgiving or other times of the year. How about collecting personal care/comfort items for our troops in the war zone. One of the most successful programs we run is an Annual Ball and Silent Auction for the local Habitat for Humanity. Not only does it bring a very exclusive event to your club with a very positive public image, it also raises a lot of money for the charity!

Other ways your Chapter can provide support to your club is to develop a club history if one doesn't exist. Interviewing senior members, reviewing press clippings and harvesting facts from your Club newsletter can be the start of building or updating a club's history. Another way to provide a valuable service to your club is to run monthly or quarterly introduction programs for new members. Reviewing and clarifying your club's operating procedures, billing process, social and boating activities, dress codes and the facilities make for better informed and happier members.

These are just a few ideas to consider. While every club has different needs, every club has needs and your Chapter can make a valuable contribution in filling some of those needs. Perhaps your Chapter is already involved in some worthwhile club activities - if so, please let us know so we can share your contribution with other Chapters.





LOCAL YACHT CLUBS SUPPORT The Centennial of Naval Aviation

Panhandle of Florida yacht clubs are helping host the Centennial of Naval Aviation Celebration which will be held on the grounds of Pensacola Yacht Club on Saturday, May 7, 2011. The clubs include the Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC), Navy Yacht Club Pensacola (NYCP), Grand Lagoon Yacht Club (GLYC), Fort Walton Yacht Club (FWYC), Point Yacht Club (PtYC) and Pensacola Beach Yacht Club (PBYC).

Pensacola Yacht Club was approached in 2010 about the possibility of helping host the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation. The PYC Commodore and Board enthusiastically agreed to support the celebration. The hosting support rapidly expanded to include all the yacht clubs on Pensacola Bay and three located in close proximity to Pensacola Bay including GLYC, PtYC, and FWYC. Of these six yacht clubs, three have very active FCA chapters. One of the events to be conducted during the celebration activities on May 7 will be the traditional Sundowner Ceremony which will honor all Naval Aviators.



Two of the key events on May 7 will be a Boat Parade of over 100 power and sail boats that will Pass In Review of the USS Iwo Jima which the Navy has scheduled for a visit to Naval Air Station Pensacola in support of the celebration. In addition, the Pass In Review will honor a US Coast Guard Cutter which will be docked near the USS Iwo Jima. Following the Pass In Review, the boats will pass the docks at Pensacola Yacht Club for a traditional Blessing of the Fleet.

All six yacht clubs will have a booth located on the grounds of the Pensacola Yacht Club to provide information about their clubs. In addition, there will be a drill team performance, local high school and middle school bands will perform, and sailing demonstration seminars will be held for kids and their parents. The Celebration activities at Pensacola Yacht Club are opened to the general public as a community service to the area.

IN MEMORIUM:



Past Commodore Richard L. Kelley, Jr

Dick, as he was known, died at the age of, 70, after a long battle with cancer attributed to exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. Dick was born in Westfield, MA and upon graduation from Boston College in 1962, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Twenty years later he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Among various medals and awards he received the Legion of Merit Award.

Upon his retirement from the Army, he was employed by Pentagon Federal Credit Union from which he retired in 1993 as Vice President of Administration. Subsequently, he became the CEO of the Lawyers Credit Union in Miami, FL., from which he retired in 2004.

Dick served as Commodore of the Matanzas River Yacht Club, Treasurer of the Palm Coast Yacht Club and Vice Commodore of the Florida Commodores Association where he was a founding member. He was a member of the Msgr. Leo Gildea Council 7845, Knights of Columbus; VFW Post 8696; and more recently, the B.P.O.E. Lodge 2709.

He is survived by his wife Delores of Palm Donations may be made in Richard's name to Hospice of Volusia/ Flagler County, 3800 Woodbriar Trail, Port Orange., FL 32127, or to, Mayo Clinic Development Office, 4500 San Pablo Road, Jacksonville, FL 32224.

IN MEMORIUM:



Past Commodore Briggs B. Edney, Jr.

Briggs passed away on December 27th at his home in Palm Coast FL. He was a young 81 years old and a true southern gentleman.

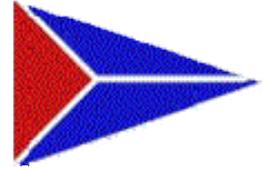
Briggs was born in Hendersonville, NC in 1929. During his youth, he lived in Charleston, SC, Hapeville, GA, and Georgetown, SC. He graduated from Russell High School in Eastpoint, GA in 1946 and entered Georgia Tech on a Navy ROTC scholarship. Briggs majored in Electrical Engineering and graduated in June, 1951. He was assigned to a navy ship and completed his service in June, 1954. Upon leaving the Navy, he was employed by Howard Hughes Electronics. He retired from Hughes Aircraft Company after 32 years.

Upon retirement, Briggs and his wife Katie moved to Palm Coast, FL. He was very instrumental in the building of the Palm Coast Yacht Club and served as Commodore in 1992. He later served as the Commodore of the Matanzas River Yacht Club. He was a Charter Member of the Florida Commodores Association.

Briggs was preceded in death by his wife, Kathleen Edney (Katie), and is survived by his three children, Elizabeth Milner, Johnstown, CO, Briggs Edney III, Phoenix, AZ, and Barbara Saul, Temecula, CA, and his younger brother Don Edney of Dallas, Texas



FCA SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MARCH 18-19, 2011
 to be held at
CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB
 830 S. Bayway Blvd., Clearwater, FL
 Phone: 727-447-6000



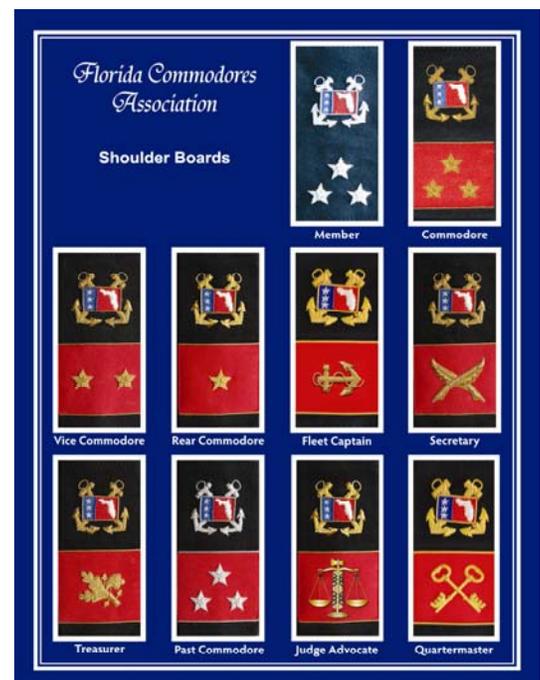
~ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ~

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011

- 1530** FCA Executive Committee Meeting -- CYC Board Room
- 1800-1900** Cocktails Happy Hour - Casual Attire
- 1900 til ??** Friday Night Menu with entertainment by J J Melodies

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011

- 0830-0930** Registration at Clearwater Yacht Club
Beverage service and continental breakfast
- 0930-1200** Membership Meeting (Uniform C, white shirt, epaulets, white trousers/skirt, white shoes)
- 1200-1330** Buffet Lunch - Bayly Room; Guest speaker Brad Kendall, Paralympian, US Sailing Team Alphagraphics
- 1330** Educational program speaker: David Yates, Director, Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- 1500** Adjourn
- 1800** Cocktails: Tiki Bar, Dockside weather permitting Uniform B (Blue Blazer, FCA or club tie, white shirt, white trousers/skirt, white shoes)
- 1830** Sundowners Ceremony (Uniform B with cover)
- 1900 til ??** Plated Dinner; Music and dancing.





**FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION
REGISTRATION FORM
SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MARCH 18-19, 2011**

NAME(S) _____

CHAPTER/YACHT CLUB _____ **FCYC#** _____

MEMBER _____ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** _____ **GUEST** _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE/CELL _____

E MAIL _____

<u>REGISTRATION FEE:</u>	<u>NO. PERSONS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
\$10.00 per person payable w/Registration Form	_____	_____

Please make check payable to **FCA** and mail to P/C Larry Kimmerling
17900 Gulf Blvd. 12A , Redington Shores, Fl. 33708 **before 3/12/2011**

<u>FRIDAY, MARCH 18th, 2011</u>	<u>NO. PERSONS</u>
FULL MENU, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT	_____

<u>SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011</u>	<u>NO. PERSONS</u>
LUNCH – SOUP/SANDWICH BUFFET	_____
\$12 pp all inclusive, except liquor	_____

DINNER – PLATED & SERVED + entertainment	_____
\$35 pp all inclusive, except liquor	_____

****Note: Meal charges may be paid by MasterCard/Visa or billed to your home Club accounts through Florida Council of Yacht Clubs.**

Yachting and Regattas Custom or Tradition

John Matthews, Vice Commodore, FCA

In January, 2011, I was elected to serve as Commodore, Gulf Yachting Association. This association was founded in 1901 and reorganized in 1921 specifically to promote the sport of yacht racing on the Gulf Coast and in nearby areas.



The GYA has grown from the original six clubs, one of which is the Pensacola Yacht Club where I am a Past Commodore, to over thirty member yacht club organizations. These clubs range from St. Petersburg Yacht Club on the west coast of Florida to Houston Yacht Club on the east coast of Texas. Members clubs are located in Jackson, Mississippi; Birmingham, Alabama; and Little Rock, Arkansas in addition to the many yacht clubs along the Gulf Coast in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

Picture: LtoR: Past Commodore David Bolyard, Pontchartrain YC; Janie Eschelmann, Sec/Treas, Pontchartrain YC; Commodore John Matthews, Pensacola YC and Navy Yacht Club Pensacola; Vice Commodore Pete O'Neal, Buccaneer Yacht Club; and Rear Commodore Danny Killeen, Jr, Pass Christian Yacht Club.

The Gulf Yachting Association is a member of the United States Sailing Association (USSailing), the governing body of the sport of yacht racing in the US. It is recognized as a member “yacht racing association” of that organization. As such, the GYA provides representation to USSailing for its sailors, runs elimination events for national championships sanctioned by USSailing, and provides an Appeals Committee to decide appeals involving the racing rules of sailing, the rulebook produced by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF). This rulebook governs the conduct of all sailboat racing regardless of where the racing is conducted in the world. All of us in the United States are familiar with the America’s Cup. It is sailed and subject to these rules of racing just as much as the local club championship held at Pensacola Yacht Club is governed.

The GYA is structured with a Board of Directors that consist of each of the sitting Commodores of the member yacht clubs as the senior body. The Board has full authority to govern the organization. In addition, there is the Executive Committee that runs the organization between meetings of the Board; four councils that promote specific types of yacht racing including offshore, one design, and multihull; and various committees to accomplish the work of the organization. The GYA has produced several Olympic sailing competitors including John Dane, the oldest Olympic competitor ever, who sailed in the 2009 Olympics held in China.

Of course, not all yacht clubs are involved in yacht racing. However, I bet that every sailor in a yacht club that has ever sailed a yacht has had the temptations to race if only to “compete” against a fellow sailor on the bay at the same time. It has been said that when two sailboats appear in proximity on an open body of water, the “clicks” of the wenches can be heard as the sail trim begins and the “competition” is underway. It is all in fun.

Yacht clubs that support the sport of racing are committed to the sport. Many of the FCA yacht clubs are involved with supporting yacht racing. Most are committed to getting their junior sailors involved with sailing through the competition offered by sailboat racing whether it be one design races such as Optimist Dinghies, Flying Scots, or Lasers or by racing on monohull PHRF racing sloops or multihulls such as Corsairs or Vipers or Hobicats. Racing creates leadership, team work, self discipline and sportsmanship, the traits needed by all young people as they grow and develop into mature adults. Such outstanding adult sailors include Randy Smythe, Ted Turner, Dennis O’Conner, Gary Jobson, and Larry Eliason, all leaders in their own right.

I have had the pleasure to serve on numerous race committees. This is the group of dedicated sailors that “run the races” for the competitors. In addition, I have had the honor to serve as the Principal Race Officer for many regional and local races and regattas including the biannual race to Isla Mujeres, Mexico from Pensacola, Florida. One of the most important races within the GYA is the annual Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge which challenges the member clubs of the GYA to determine which yacht club team is the best sailing in the Flying Scot. The Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge was created to honor Sir Thomas Lipton, the founder of the Lipton Tea Company, and who donated the sterling silver trophy to the GYA for the winner of a regatta recognizing the best yacht club team in the GYA.

Continued from previous page:

Sailboat racing is not the answer to every person's desire to sail boats. However, it is one way to rapidly learn the ins and outs of sailing under demanding and stressful conditions. These conditions will appear during any outing while sailing especially when they occur when least expected. It is always better to be prepared to meet these conditions and practice them than finding you need to know how to handle them and you have never dealt with them. Sailboat racing is a great training ground for all sailors. You do not have to win just to learn how to handle your sailboat better and be prepared for the unknown on the water.

Whether you go sailing just to spend a quiet day on the water, cruise your boat to a distant port, or compete in a regatta, sailing will continue to be challenging and provide the opportunity to spend quality time on the water. Remember the old adage, "A bad day on the water is better than a good day at work".

Associate Members are Necessary

By
John H Matthews
Vice Commodore, FCA

Most of you have heard the old adage: "Behind every good man is a good woman". To paraphrase this comment:

"Behind every good Commodore is a good wife." Years ago when only men were permitted to serve as Commodore of a yacht club and women were "allowed" to come into clubs and stand in the background, this was more truthful than today. So now the old adage can be considered in the following terms: "Behind every good Commodore is a good spouse or domestic partner".



Picture: LtoR: GYA Commodore and FCA Vice Commodore John Matthews and FCA Associate Member Nancy Matthews.

I venture to say that in the majority of cases where there has been a leader in a yacht club elected to serve as Commodore there has been a very special person connected to that Commodore that is a spouse, lover, or domestic partner. This person is particularly special to the Commodore who serves as his/her confidant, trusted friend, or reliable counsel; a person with special talents, a good listener, communicator, a great deal of experience and knowledge relating to management, and one who is committed to the same ideals as the Commodore. They are there to support the Commodore and to ensure his/her success.

The founders of the Florida Commodore's Association and the International Commodore's Association addressed the issue of how to improve the organizations from the very beginning over what we had been associated with prior to the formation of these two associations. We overwhelmingly agreed that we need a source of counsel, advice and some good old "horse sense" from those that had played a critical role in the a Commodore's successful tenure at the helm of a yacht club. We decided to incorporate Associate Members into both organizations as a way of accomplishing this action. Spouses and domestic partners seemed to be a fitting choice for achieving this goal.

As we thought about Associate Members and who might be another good choice for this category, we came to the realization that if the FCA and ICA were to achieve their stated Vision and Mission we would have to look at how these two groups could best provide useful advice and counsel and hands on knowledge to yacht club leaders of the future. It was then that the founders agreed that serving Commodores, Vice Commodores, and Rear Commodores should be permitted to join the organizations as Associate Members. Such membership would explicitly promote the belief that the organization would be able to provide the knowledge, experience, and expertise from Past Commodores to those leaders that would be serving or expected to serve their individual yacht clubs currently and in the future. It becomes a Win-Win situation for Past Commodores and Present and Future Commodores. Sharing what has been experienced and learned with those who have yet to face the myriad of challenges of serving as a Commodore.

Both the FCA and the ICA encourage their chapters and regional groups to identify and promote the addition of qualified Associate Members to their ranks. It is a very strong avenue for these organizations to ensure that all yachting customs and traditions are well maintained and available for future generations to use and experience.



Florida Commodores Association

Executive Committee 2010-2011

Commodore – Tom Reynolds (Lynne)

Fort Walton Yacht Club

4323 American Poets Drive, Niceville, FL 32578

(M) 850.897.7323 (C) 850.499.8632

drtomiii@cox.net

Vice Commodore—John Matthews (Nancy)

Pensacola Yacht Club/Navy Yacht Club Pensacola

5119 Chandelle Drive, Pensacola, FL 32507

(M) 850.492.4802 (C) 850.516.1580

johnmatthews@cox.net

Rear Commodore—Larry Kimmerling (Barbara)

Clearwater Yacht Club

17900 Gulf Blvd. 12A, Redington Shores, FL 33708

(M) 727.397.2991 (C) 727.542.5877 t

towers12a@aol.com

Fleet Captain—John Slattery (Mary)

Palm Coast Yacht Club

22 Cedarwood Court, Palm Coast, FL 32137

(M) 386.447.9947 (C) 386.627.6277

jamslats@aol.com

Treasurer—Robert Plummer (Beverly)

Fort Walton Yacht Club

937 Shalimar Pointe Drive, Shalimar, FL 32574

(M) 850.651.3412 (C) 850.225.5325

rbplum@cox.net

Secretary—William Barnett

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

490 Via Esplanade, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

(M) 941.505.7090 (C) 941.916.1821

wbarnett00@hotmail.com

Immediate Past Commodore—Ron Richards (Innes)

Pensacola Yacht Club

3 West Garden Street, Suite 343, Pensacola, FL 32502

(O) 850.470.0008 (C) 850.380.5434

richardsrf@aol.com

Judge Advocate/ Legal Officer—Joe Fields (Tammy)

Palm Beach Sailing Club

4512 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33407

(M) 561.640.9291

jrfpa@aol.com

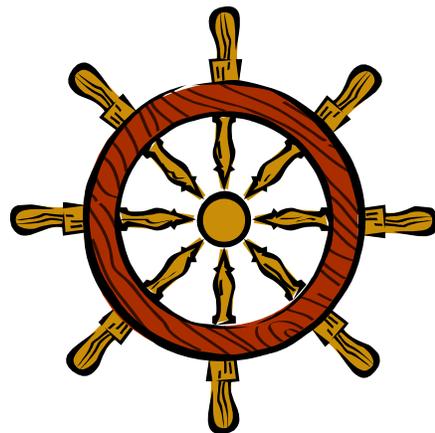
Help Wanted: FCA Area Ambassadors

FCA is seeking Past Commodores interested in filling rewarding positions around the state as Area Ambassadors. In the position of Ambassador you would visit FCA Chapters in your local area on a regular basis for the purpose of exchanging information among all state Chapters and with the FCA Executive Committee. You would also visit non-Chapter clubs for the purpose of establishing new Chapters.

The ideal candidate should be willing to travel locally and to attend the three state meetings held each year. You should be willing to become familiar with FCA operating procedures and to be a regular contributor to the Commodore's Journal.

As an Ambassador you will play a major role in the continued growth of FCA and aid local Chapters in becoming greater assets within their clubs. In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet interesting and successful fellow Commodores and to make many new friends.

**Interested candidates should contact
Commodore Tom Reynolds at 850-897-7323.**



The Florida Commodore's Association Recognition Contest

Effective with the publication of this *FCA Commodores Journal*, the FCA Recognition Contest is underway. Each time the *Journal* is published, there will be a new photograph included that will challenge the membership's knowledge of the FCA membership including full and associate members. You will be asked to identify each person in a picture with their complete name, their membership category and their FCA Chapter.

You will be requested to send your answer to VC John Matthews, 5119 Chandelle Drive, Pensacola, FL 32507 or email the answer to johnmatthews@cox.net. A deadline for submitting entries will be established for in each *Journal* publication.

The winner will receive a \$50.00 Gift Card to a local store in the winner's area of residence.

Specific Rules for the Contest:

1. No one in the picture published for the contest is permitted to enter the contest.
2. If the picture is taken from a specific chapter, no one that is a member of the chapter will be permitted to enter the contest.
3. If more than one correct entry is submitted, a drawing from the number of correct entries will be held at the very next FCA membership meeting to determine the winner.
4. Entries submitted or received 24 hours after the published deadline will not be accepted.

NOW FOR THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF A CONTEST PHOTO:



DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES MARCH 15, 2011

Identify every FCA Member and Associate Member and win \$50.00.

The Florida Commodores Association

P. O. Box 488
Shalimar, FL 32579

Address Label

Bottom up

PC Robert Plummer
Treasurer



FCA immediate Past Commodore Ron Richards frequently mentions that FCA is a bottom up not a top down organization. Those in attendance at the organizational meetings in Gainesville a few short years ago, can attest to bottom up, along with one man one vote, as being among the cornerstones of the FCA.

Another important decision that came out of those meetings is the status of associate members. Members in this category have all the privileges of membership with the exception of voting. Only Past Commodores, who hold a regular FCA membership, may vote. Associate members are defined as spouses, significant others and sitting Commodores, Vice Commodores and Rear Commodores.

What this means to you is, associate members are encouraged to participate in membership meetings and have their voices heard on any topic that comes before the Executive Committee. If you have attended an FCA general membership meeting you will see this occurring. If you haven't attended, you are encouraged to do so.

I have noticed a disappointing lack of memberships for associate members. These members are very important at both the Chapter and FCA level. At the Chapter level, associates wear many different hats.. They assist in social functions, fund raising, etc. At my home club, Fort Walton, the Chapter By-Laws were recently amended to allow an associate member as a non-voting Secretary/Treasurer of the Chapter.

This is another way to increase participation. Having the sitting Club Flag Officers as part of your Chapter is also a definite asset. This can be an excellent opportunity for members to interact with the Club Officers in an informal session, perhaps a monthly Chapter lunch as we do at FWYC. Get involved, the FCA wants and needs your participation.