

The Florida Commodore's Journal



SARASOTA YACHT CLUB HOSTS THE FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION

Members and Associates attended their first official Florida Commodores Association meeting at the Sarasota Yacht Club on July 16 & 17. SYC commissioned their new building in April, and graciously welcomed the Florida Commodores Association to enjoy their new home.



Following the Executive Committee meeting on Friday, we enjoyed Happy Hour cocktails in the Neptune Lounge and sampled SYC's legendary Friday night buffet, which regularly attracts 200+ members. The dance floor was down and the busiest place in the house.

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Saturday morning's business meeting was followed by a sandwich bar lunch on the patio, although most opted for the cool inside air. There was plenty of good conversation and lot of discussion about the recent developments with the Gulf oil spill. Then, Dr. Barbara Kirkpatrick, Senior Scientist & Program Manager from the Environmental Health Department of Mote Marine Laboratory discussed Mote's role in monitoring the Tampa to Key West section of the Gulf.

We were not surprised to learn that it was more media hype than responsible



(Continued on page 3)

FROM THE HELM



We sincerely hope that you will enjoy this issue of the all new *Florida Commodores Journal* which we have rededicated to better serving our membership, the past commodores, associates and their partners throughout the State of Florida. When we began our publication our primary thrust was to keep you, our members, informed of developments in our organizational efforts to produce the best association to serve our community of past commodores. Now that we are up and running with total membership fast approaching 300 members, it was time to update our format. Much of the last few issues were to introduce you to the all new International Commodores Association as it was formed to meet the needs of a growing demand for a new organization outside the State of Florida. It should come as no surprise to you that we were not alone in our dissatisfaction with the modus operandi of our former organization. We members of the Florida Commodores Association support the purposes of the ICA and though there is no obligation on your part to join the ICA we do hope that you will give it serious consideration. They need our support, both financial and as advocates, in order to reach out to the rest of America where Past Commodores wish to create their own regional organizations like we have accomplished in Florida.

With this issue refocusing on our FCA Chapters and our membership you will find articles and photos of exciting activities and accomplishments within your chapters. Our chapters are invigorated with excitement to accomplish more and many have availed themselves of our educational programs and by sharing these with their yacht clubs and their communities they have added value to their years of service and respect for the office of Commodore. We, your FCA Executive Committee, and our FCA Ambassadors

are dedicated to being a “Bottom Up” organization supporting your chapter by helping you to always be a strong resource to your yacht clubs and your local yachting community. We stand ready to assist your chapter and its members in any way we can to strengthen our mission, and vision for you, our valued members.



We want to hear from you about what is going on in your chapter and your yacht club. We love photos and want to tell your story in your *Florida Commodores Journal*. If your chapter would like to host one of our regional meetings or have us present one of our entertaining and educational programs to your chapter or your club, please contact me at commodore@flcommodores.org or call me at 850-380-5434. We want to extend our hand out to all past commodores in all regions of our state to strengthen our partnership and the fellowship we share!

It has been a great year with dynamic meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Walton, and Sarasota. And here we are heading into autumn with an exciting program planned for our October Annual Meeting and Change of Watch! Make your plans now to join us at the beautiful Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club in Port Charlotte on the weekend of October 21st through the 24th. You will love sharing the camaraderie and just plain fun with your fellow past commodores!

Thank you again for the honor of serving as your Commodore of our dynamic new organization this year and I sincerely hope to see you in October!

Sincerely,
Ron Richards
FCA Commodore, 2009-2010

journalism that has the world believing Florida beaches are drenched in oil. It is part of Mote's mission to keep the public accurately informed as the cleanup progresses. They are also taking a major part in the collection of pre-spill statistics, for potential litigation.

The evening began with cocktails in the Neptune Lounge, enhanced by the acoustic guitar music of Bob Comeau, and was followed by the Sundowner Ceremony promptly at 1900.

One of the highlights of the meeting for the current Sarasota Bridge was a quick protocol review of flags, uniforms and the Sundowner Ceremony between events earlier in the day. At the conclusion of the ceremony Commodore Kay Goodman commented, "Reading about the ceremony is helpful. Figuring it out on our own is possible, but having the real "pros" stand shoulder to shoulder with us was invaluable." There were many grateful SYC P/C's and few dry eyes among participants and spectators at the conclusion of the ceremony. Sarasota will begin their monthly Sundowner Ceremony in September.

At a beautifully plated dinner of grilled elk steak and lobster tail Commodore John Godbold accepted the FCA Charter on behalf of the Chapter from FCA Commodore Ron Richards. In touching and heartfelt comments, Commodore Godbold praised the work of the FCA and

pledged SYC's part in becoming actively involved in the organization as reflected in his remarks as follows.

The Past Commodores of the Sarasota Yacht Club took seriously the invitation to affiliate with the Florida Commodores Association. Discussions concerning leaving the IOBG and becoming a Charter Member of the FCA occupied the greater part of two monthly meetings. Our decision to affiliate with the FCA rested primarily upon two conclusions or beliefs. We concluded that the IOBG was not providing us with services we valued. The inclusion of serving Commodores in FCA Chapters was the persuasive condition. That arrangement acts to mitigate conflicts between past and present Officers and provide more "hands and heads" to accomplish the needed tasks.



We are pleased to be hosting the Summer FCA Meeting. This participation is speeding up our integration into the state organization.

Our decision to become part of the FCA is a good one.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2010 – 2011

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Florida Commodores Association the following Nominating Committee has been established to identify and recommend the officers of the Association for the year 2010 – 2011.

PC Rich Oakley, Chairman
PC Richard Kelley
PC Chari Stanley-Leitch
Commodore Ron Richards

rloakleypgi@embargmail.com
dickkelley@aol.com
pgichari@gmail.com
Richardsrf@aol.com

If you are interested in service as an officer of the Association please contact one of the above members of the committee. The Association is always looking for past commodores who are willing to give of their time and talents to provide leadership, growth and continuity to the Association.



Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

The Window to the Harbor

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

PORT CHARLOTTE, FL. – The Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club celebrated their 29th annual Blessing of the Fleet on Saturday, May 1st in the Yacht Club’s marina yacht basin. Over 20 boats were in port for the event, decorated with nautical and patriotic flags by the hundreds.

This annual event is sponsored by the **CHYC Chapter of the Florida Commodores Association**. The ceremony of blessing the boats in the fleet is a tradition that was started back around 500 AD in various port cities throughout Europe, whereupon a local clergy blessed the vessels in the fishing fleets to wish them safe and bountiful seasons. In later years, pleasure boats were also added. It is also customary to drop a wreath in the water to honor the memory of those members who have passed in the previous year.



CHARLOTTE HARBOR YACHT CLUB HOSTS FCYC



PORT CHARLOTTE, FL. – The Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club recently played host for a prestigious group of guests.

The Florida Council of Yacht Clubs, comprised of members from 36 yacht clubs throughout Florida, came to CHYC for a weekend of educational meetings, camaraderie, networking and friendship.

Board members and representatives from all the clubs participated in meetings, social gatherings and CHYC’s signature



The weekend was capped off by a spectacular dinner provided by the club's executive chef and the entire CHYC staff, complete with entertainment and dancing.

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club is located at 4400 Lister St. in Port Charlotte, on the north bank of Charlotte Harbor and the Peace River. For more information, call (941) 629-5131.

Sundowner's Ceremony (performed by the CHYC Chapter of the Florida Commodores Association) throughout the three days. Guest speaker for the general meeting was Wayne Sallade, of the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center. He spoke about hurricanes and the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.



In Memorium



Commodore John MacPherson
1931-2010

Past Commodore Pensacola Yacht Club
Charter Member,
Florida Commodores Association
Captain, USN (Retired)

FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION Board of Directors 2010 – 2011

Commodore: Ron Richards (PYC)
(Innes)

Vice Commodore: Dr. Tom Reynolds (FWYC)
(Lynne)

Rear Commodore:
Vacant until Change of Watch

Fleet Captain: Larry Kimmerling
(TITYC/CYC)
(Barbara)

Secretary: John Slattery (PCYC/CCC)
(Mary)

Treasurer: John Matthews (PYC/NYCP)
(Nancy)

Immediate Past Commodore:
Phillip Bouckaert (NPBYC/PBC)
(Rosemary)

Legal Counsel: Joe Fields (PBSC/PBC)

Journal Editor: PC John Matthews



FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION

Past, Present, Future Commodores

www.flcommodores.org

ANNUAL MEETING & CHANGE OF WATCH

October 22-23, 2010

to be held at

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

4400 Lister St., Charlotte Harbor, FL

941-629-5131

~ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ~

Friday, October 22, 2010

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1600 | FCA Executive Committee Meeting – Commodore's Lounge |
| 1800-1900 | Cocktails Happy Hour – Casual Attire |
| 1900 til ??? | Pub Nite Menu with entertainment by Jay Smith |

Saturday, October 23, 2010

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 0830-0930 | Registration at Charlotte Harbor YC
Beverage service and continental breakfast |
| 0930-1200 | Annual Membership Meeting (Uniform C, white shirt, epaulets,
White trousers/skirt, white shoes) |
| 1200-1400 | Buffet Lunch – Harbor Room |
| 1400 | Educational Program |
| 1500 | Adjourn Meeting |
| 1800 | Cocktails - Ship's Wheel – Uniform B (Blue blazer,
FCA or Club tie, white trousers/skirt, white shoes) |
| 1830 | Sundowners Ceremony (Uniform B with cover) |
| 1900 | Plated & Served Dinner – music by Tim & Roseann |



**FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION
REGISTRATION FORM
Annual Meeting October 22-23, 2010**

NAME(S) _____

CHAPTER/YACHT CLUB _____ FCYC # _____

MEMBER _____ ASSOCIATE MEMBER _____ GUEST _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE/CELLPHONE/FAX _____

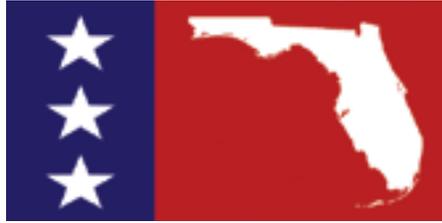
EMAIL _____

	<u>No. Persons:</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Registration Fee:</u>		
\$10.00 per person payable with Registration form	_____	_____
<u>Friday, Oct. 22, 2010:</u>		
Pub Nite Menu	_____	_____
<u>Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010:</u>		
Lunch – Soup/Sandwich Buffet - \$15/pp	_____	_____
Dinner – Plated & Served - \$40/pp	_____	_____

Please send registration form and check for registration fee payable to FCA
not later than October 15, 2010 to:
Tom Foley, General Manager
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
4400 Lister St., Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-629-5131

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

For Early Bird Activities please see next page



EARLY BIRD ACTIVITIES

For those of you who may arrive on Thursday, we have the following suggestions for Thursday evening and Friday.

Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010 - 6:00 PM

Dinner & Comedy Show at Visani Restaurant (www.visani.net) – contact Lynne Oakley at 941-637-7849 or rloakleypgi@embarqmail.com for information and reservations.

Friday, Oct. 22, 2010 - 10:00 AM –

Ladies – Shopping in downtown Punta Gorda with lunch at local restaurant (meet at Wyvern Hotel)

Guys – Visit Muscle Car City, Punta Gorda (www.musclegarcity.net) with lunch following (meet at Wyvern Hotel to carpool).



DAVIS ISLAND YACHT CLUB CHAPTER RECEIVES FCA CHARTER

On July 6, 2010, FCA Fleet Captain Larry Kimmerling presented Chapter President John Hodges, Jr. the Davis Island Yacht Club Chapter their Charter for the Florida Commodores Association.

Joining in the presentation ceremony were the charter members of the Davis Island Chapter including PC Edward Allen, PC Carl Nelson, PC Russell Shenk, PC Geoffrey Stephens and PC Tom Turon. Also, in attendance was Associate FCA Member Barbara Kimmerling.

In addition to the charter presentation, FCA Fleet Captain Kimmerling presented the chapter a copy of PC Joe Tringali's book on Yachting Customs and Courtesies. All of the new FCA members expressed interest in helping FCA grow and expand its membership in the State of Florida. They also look forward to participating in many of the activities and programs offered by the Florida Commodores Association.





INTERNATIONAL COMMODORES ASSOCIATION

Hosts

A Showcase Meeting In Sandusky, Ohio

In July, FCA Immediate Past Commodore and ICA member Phil Bouckaert arranged a showcase meeting at the Sandusky Yacht Club for the expressed purpose of introducing the International Commodores Association (ICA) to several interested past commodores in the area. In addition to PC Bouckaert, ICA Commodore Art Garside and ICA Rear Commodore Jack Kennedy attended to assist in showcasing the organization.



The program included discussions of the vision and mission of the ICA and the various programs that ICA has to offer its members and member organizations. The ICA is focused on providing real value for its international membership. Currently, the ICA has welcomed the BRISA chapter of past commodores from Puerto Rico under the able leadership of Past Commodore Nelson Ramirez. In addition, the ICA recently accepted the membership of Senor Enrique Lima Zuno, Club de Yates de Isla Mujeres. Commodore Lima has considerable experience in hosting yachting regattas from yacht clubs in the Gulf of Mexico including St. Petersburg Yacht Club, Southern Yacht Club and Pensacola Yacht Club.

Other activities during this ICA Showcase Meeting included a trip on Lake Erie to Put-in-Bay, South Bass Island aboard the Jet Express. While on the island, we were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kasper who



own the most unusual home, the pilot house of the Benson Ford, a thousand foot Great Lakes Steamer which sits atop a rock cliff in the middle of Lake Erie. It appears that those attending the Showcase Meeting had an outstanding time on the Benson Ford and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the International Commodores Association.

Two follow-up showcase meetings this fall are in the planning stages. Rear Commodore Jack Kennedy is planning one in the Tennessee area. Another is being planned for the Charleston, South Carolina area. The next annual meeting is being considered

for February, 2011. Parties interested in attending are being queried as to where they would like to meet. So far Orlando, Puerto Rico, or a trip on a cruise ship have been suggested. SO Where would you like to go? Please send your suggestions to PC Art Garside at 941-639-1630 or agarside1@juno.com. If you would like to have more information on the International Commodores Association please contact PC Joe Tringali at 561-848-4353 or PC Jack Kennedy at 865-266-9403. The Florida Commodores Association is a regional member of the International Commodores Association and supports the mission and programs offered by the ICA.





Sarasota Yacht Club FCA Chapter members discussing the FCA with SYC Past Commodore Rose Mattran during the FCA meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club.



CHYC Chapter and FCA Charter Member William Barnett, FCA Treasurer and Charter Member John Matthews, and CHYC Past Commodore and FCA Charter Member Chari Leitch enjoying some special libations at the FCA meeting in Sarasota.



CHYC Chapter and FCA Charter member Bill Barnett, Gulf Harbors Yacht Club Past Commodore and FCA Charter member Joe King, and North Palm Beach Yacht Club Commodore and FCA associate member Christine Snedaker enjoying cocktail time at Sarasota Yacht Club.

Sarasota Yacht Club Commodore and FCA Associate Member Kay Goodman, FCA Fleet Captain and Charter member Larry Kimmerling, and Pensacola Yacht Club FCA Associate Member Nancy Matthews getting the latest news on the FCA Ships Store.





Past Commodore Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club and former Past President of District 8, IOBG, and FCA Charter Member Rich Oakley with his lovely wife Lynne, who is also an Associate Member of the Charlotte Harbor FCA Chapter enjoying the FCA meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club.



Old Port Yacht Club Past Commodore, FCA Palm Beach Commodores Chapter Charter Member, and former IOBG District 8 President and District Director Louis Daniello, Sr. with his special lady, Ingrid, who is an Associate Member of the FCA Palm Beach Commodores Chapter. Both enjoying the FCA meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club.



A very special group of ladies from Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club, the HARBOR LITES, participating in the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs meeting at Charlotte Harbor.

Another view of the FCA Sundowners Ceremony at Sarasota Yacht Club. This was the first Sundowners Ceremony performed by the Sarasota Yacht Club FCA Chapter.



FCA Ships Store

Larry Kimmerling, Fleet Captain
Towers12a@aol.com

FCA has made available to its members through www.flcommodores.org, a menu which allows members and associates to view items available in the ships store. There are twelve (12) ships store items, each one is pictured and priced. There is an easy to use order form which when submitted,



goes directly to the supply officer who in turn will process the order and notify the sender of total costs including shipping and when order will be sent. Order information and total payment will be included in order when shipped, payment is due upon receipt and payment should be directed as indicated on billing form. The ships store maintains a limited amount of merchandise on hand in order to keep holding costs at a minimum. In

addition there is also a link to Stars Signatures web site. This site allows for the purchase of additional items, shirts, hats etc. that can be logo'd with FCA and/or your yacht club burgee. Note: if you use the Stars link you will be dealing directly with them. Be an FCA ambassador, support your organization by wearing appropriate FCA apparel.