



# *The Florida Commodores Journal*

*Official Publication of the Florida Commodores Association  
Founded in 2008*

Volume VIII Issue 1

January, 2018



**Halifax River Yacht  
Club to Host Winter  
General Membership  
Meeting**

**February 2-3, 2018**

## **2018 ExCom a mix of 'old' and new.**

*(l to r)* Wayne Stewart, I/P/C  
Sam Foreman, Commodore  
Anna Foreman (Sam's boss)  
John Matthews, Treasurer  
Stan Mitchell, Fleet Captain  
Jeff Brooks, Rear Commodore  
AWOL — Carole Lick, Vice  
Commodore and Bill Barnett,  
Secretary.



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## **Upcoming Dates...**

**Winter Meeting**....February 2 - 3  
Halifax River YC

**Spring Meeting**.....April 13 - 14  
Charlotte Harbor YC

**Summer Meeting**.....July 20 - 21  
Ft. Walton YC

**Four-Star Nomination Deadline**  
September 30

## FCA Executive Committee



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**Treasurer** - John Matthews (Nancy)  
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**Webmaster** - P/C John Slattery  
[webmaster@flcommodores.org](mailto:webmaster@flcommodores.org)

*Photography for this issue was provided by Julie Bean of Pensacola Yacht Club and your Publisher. Thanks also to our Editor, P/C Mary Slattery of Halifax River Yacht Club.*

### Scheduled publishing dates for 2018—2019:

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

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# From the Helm

## Commodore Sam Foreman



Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. It's a crazy busy time for Anna and I but, we love every minute of it.

Last October 20 and 21 the membership of FCA descended on the Pensacola Yacht Club for the Fall Meeting and

Change of Watch for the second year in a row. While it was not planned that way and the changes to the schedule were last minute, it went off without a hitch thanks to PYC's Clubhouse/Events Manager Scott Segers and the PYC staff. Scott keeps PYC's calendar full year round and it took a bit of creative rearranging but it got done. Even though it was all put together on a wing and a prayer, it was one of the best meetings we have had and we all had a great time.

I want to thank PYC Commodore Jim Reeves for his efforts that went a long way to put on a great Sundowner Ceremony for us. It had motorcycles, bag pipes, opera singers and a fireboat water show. P/C John Matthews who always plans PYC's Sundowners was again making sure the FCA members were in place to carry out the ceremony.

Once again, I'm honored to be your Commodore for 2017-2018. There are a number of items we initiated in 2017 that need on-going attention. One very important one is the revival of the Area Ambassadors. More than anything else we need to add FCA chapters and members. The Ambassadors are essential in contacting prospective yacht clubs and pressing the flesh. When we get right down to it, all of us are ambassadors and should be looking for new chapters and members.

For a couple of years leading up to 2016 it became apparent the FCA website needed a makeover and overhaul. In early 2016 the FCA Executive Committee began to look at something beyond just a website but also a management system and became con-

sumed with the task of putting together this new system. The effort was intensive. As with anything new it took some wrong turns and dead ends, but in beginning of 2017 our system became operational and it was obvious right out of the gate how much superior it was to what we had before. Even so, we have barely scratched the surface of what it can do for us. If you have any thoughts on what would enhance the experience, I'm sure Webmaster P/C John Slattery would like to hear from you. Publisher/Editor Slattery of the Commodores Journal would also like your thoughts and articles.

The FCA established the Four-Star Commodore program to distinguish former Commodores of qualified yacht clubs in the State of Florida who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for their club. It takes three of the club's Past Commodores to nominate someone for the Four-Star Award and is a high honor to be recognized by your peers. We have two recipients of the Four-Star award named in 2017: P/C June-Ann DeGraw of the Pelican Yacht Club and P/C Alan McMillan of the Pensacola Yacht Club. Congratulations!



### **Four-Star Commodores** by P/C Kathy Champagne

#### **Four-Star Commodores Awards 2017**

The recipients of the 2017 FCA Four-Star Commodores Award were announced at the Change of Watch Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club in October.

Once again, outstanding achievements were acknowledged, providing an inspiration for the entire FCA membership.

P/C Alan McMillan, among other accomplishments, was recognized for his successful negotiation with the City of Pensacola, as well as the EPA, for the complete removal of a superfund drainage ditch that had traversed the Pensacola Yacht Club property for over 50 years. P/C McMillan served two additional years, 2015 and 2016 in order to supervise the remediation of the project.

P/C June-Ann DeGraw will always be remembered for the big "boom" that she provided for Pelican Yacht Club, literally and figuratively!

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*Four-Star, continued*

P/C DeGraw personally supervised the yacht clubs canon repairs as part of her crusade to infuse yachting customs and traditions into the life of PYC, and throughout her term personified volunteerism as a model for the membership.

With the State of Florida in the bulls eye for Irma, no doubt FCA yacht clubs are experiencing the type of leadership that we celebrate annually with this award.

2018 Four-Star Award Nomination forms will be mailed in 2018, with a September 30 deadline for receipt by the Nominating Committee.



## **Wounded American Veterans Event** by P/C Kathy Champagne

2017 was a great year for waves, unfortunately not Wounded American Veterans Events, as multiple events were cancelled by Florida yacht clubs in Irma's path!

The only successful WAVE program was the third annual one staged by yacht clubs in the Charlotte Harbor area in April.

If your yacht club is interested in hosting "A Day on the Bay" for America's wounded veterans, consult the FCA website for a guideline as well as the FCA Ship Store for discounted WAVE burgees and commemorative caps for the honorees.

You might want to also schedule your event for PRE-Hurricane Season!

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## **Office of the Treasurer**

### **Dues Reminder**

The annual association dues were due on December 1, 2017. The deadline for payment will be January 15, 2018. Dues not received by January 31, 2018 may result in termination of your membership. We do not want this to happen to you so please submit your dues payment. Dues for Regular members are

\$20 if they are in a recognized FCA Chapter and dues for Associate members are \$15. Dues for At Large members are \$25.

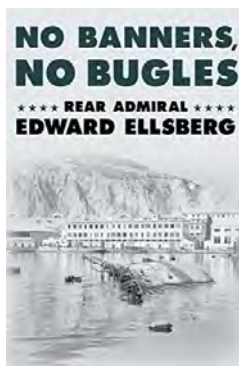
Dues maybe submitted directly to your Chapter Treasurer or you may send them directly to the Association Treasurer at the following address;

Florida Commodores Association  
Attn: Treasurer  
P. O. Box 488  
Shalimar, FL 32579

Remember, the first Association Meeting of 2018 will be at Halifax River Yacht Club February 2 – 3, 2018.

**It would be great to see you there!!!!**

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## **Book Review**

### ***No Banners, No Bugles***

#### **Edward Ellsberg**

(Available in hardcover, Kindle, Nook and audio format)

This is a true war story. However, those looking for battles and bullets won't find them in this book. This book relates the story of a group of very brave men involved in a area seldom talked or written about - marine salvage.

The author was Eisenhower's officer in charge of marine salvage in the Mediterranean during WWII. Leading a team of mixed nationals with varying skill sets it was up to him to oversee the clearing of ports blocked by sunken warships in harbors. In addition, he and his team were called on constantly to save sinking ships before they were lost to the deep.

Interestingly, one of his greatest roadblocks was the French navy under Vichy control. Not only did they intentionally sink ships to block harbors but they refused to cooperate in any way to help the Allied effort. In one case, as Ellsberg and his men were

*(Continued on next page)*

within days of finally opening a port. The French insisted on bringing a cruise ship into the port, hitting the last wreck blocking the harbor and setting the effort back by months. The next day the French moved the cruise ship back out of the harbor.

Complicating the highly dangerous mission of these divers was the fact that they had to piece together their diving suits, forge papers to obtain air compressors, jerry-rig support equipment and even 'borrow' an Army crane. But turn about is fair play - after all the Army Air Corps stole a generator they needed.

While all this was happening above water, one cannot but realize the bravery of these men who spent hours in dark frigid waters. Working in tight enclosed spaces, surrounded by protruding sharp wreckage, they sealed large holes and pumped in compressed air to raise ships and even enabled them to be refitted and returned to service.

Ellsberg was one of those officers who would never ask his men to do anything he wouldn't do himself. In fact, he recounts numerous instances where he leads teams of sailors into the depths of sinking ships to keep them afloat.

This is truly a story of a side of war that has received little recognition for the efforts and bravery of a very select group of heroes.



## **FCA Foundation**

**By P/C Mary Slattery**

Building a non-profit foundation from scratch is much like constructing a mammoth structure. While the Empire State Building in New York City was completed in an astounding 410 days, Barcelona's Gaudi Cathedral is still not complete after 144 years!

Unless a new foundation is established to handle a specific endowment, it can take years for one to mature into a highly successful and effective organization. When organized and run by all volunteers, well, that's another story ... the FCAF story.

In glancing over our shoulders, it was four short years ago FCAF was established. It all started with a single contribution from one FCA member of \$1,000. From there, the Directors set out to make FCAF a reality.

While specialized funding has, in fact, happened, the Board has held true to its original goal of having a bedrock of \$20,000 prior to considering requests for support. No organization can conduct business without funding and the Board has been exceedingly careful to keep costs at a bare minimum.

To some, it may seem the FCAF is on a slow crawl. But as an "emerging" foundation (the official category for a new foundation) *that crawl is upward!* Starting 2018, FCAF reached the half-way mark of the identified bedrock figure. This could not have happened without the support of many fine members of FCA. *Thank you!*

However, we have much work to do in 2018. Plans are underway to finish this bedrock race - not in the 410 days and certainly not in 144 years ... but in 1460 days! *That's four years in days - from the start in 2014 to the end of 2018!*

For all of you who have supported us in the past ... ***again, thank you!*** For those members who have viewed our work from the sidelines ... now would be the perfect time to join the campaign. Do remember, FCAF is *the charitable arm* of FCA and, at this time, its only source of support. *We simply can't wait for that 144 year mark!* FCAF needs to grow now so the good works already envisioned can become a reality in 2018!

For more information on club fund raising or direct donation, contact Carole Lick at: [licke@msu.edu](mailto:licke@msu.edu).

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### **Editor's Note-**

The *Commodores Journal* is normally published on the first of every calendar quarter. However, due to the fact that the Publisher and the Editor were spending Christmas and New Year's cruising up and down the Amazon (no—not the online shopping site) this edition is late and for that we don't apologize.

Best wishes for 2018!

*P/C John and P/C Mary Slattery*

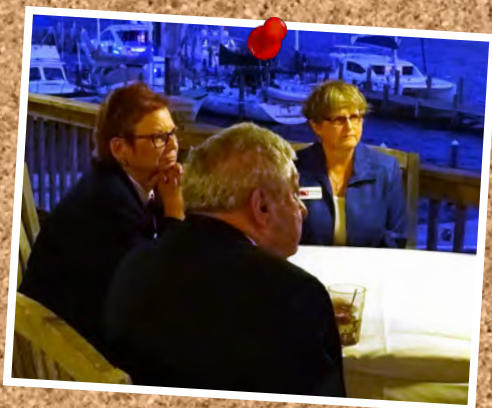




**Fall Meeting and  
Change of Watch  
Pensacola Yacht Club**







**Fall Meeting and  
Change of Watch  
Pensacola Yacht Club  
October 22 - 21, 2017**







**Fall Meeting and  
Change of Watch  
Pensacola Yacht Club  
October 22 - 21, 2017**







# Florida Commodores Association

Past, Present and Future Commodores

## 2018 Winter Membership Meeting

February 2 - 3, 2018



### Halifax River Yacht Club

311 South Beach Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

386-255-7459

### Schedule of Events

#### Friday, February 2, 2018

1200	FCA Foundation Meeting (Ward Room)
1500	FCA Executive Committee Meeting (Ward Room)
1730	Sundown Ceremony - Class A uniform
1800	Cocktails and Dinner from the HRYC Menu

#### Saturday, February 3, 2018

0830 - 0900	Registration and Coffee Service
0900 - 1200	Membership Meeting - Class C uniform (Halifax Room) Educational Presentations: 1. Yacht Club Safety Rules 2. Yacht Club Employee Incentive Program
1200 - 1300	Buffet Lunch (Commodores Room)
1300 - 1400	Presentation - Lighthouses of Florida
1500 - 1630	Tour of Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse
1800	Cocktails and Dinner and Music - Casual Attire (Halifax Room)

Uniforms	Class A - Single-breasted Navy blue blazer with white shirt, tie, grey trousers, black belt, black shoes and black socks for gentlemen; grey skirts and black shoes for ladies.  Class C - White open collar short sleeve shirt, epaulets and soft shoulder boards, white trousers, white web belt with brass buckle, white shoes and white socks for gentlemen; white trousers, white web belt with brass buckle and white shoes for ladies.
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## Florida Commodores Association

Registration Form

Winter Meeting

February 2 - 3, 2018

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

Chapter/Yacht Club: \_\_\_\_\_ FCYC# \_\_\_\_\_

Member

Associate

Guest

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Friday, February 2

# of Persons

Order from Menu

\_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday, February 3

Lunch - Deli Buffet - \$13.95 ++

\_\_\_\_\_

Dinner - Italian Buffet - \$28.00 ++

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Meal charges may be paid by cash, check, credit card or billed to your home club account through the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs.**

**You may register on the FCA website or you may return this form to P/C John Slattery at 22 Cedarwood Court, Palm Coast, FL 32137 or by email to: [jamlats@gmail.com](mailto:jamlats@gmail.com). Forms should be returned no later than January 26, 2018.**



# *The “NEW” Bahama House is the official hotel of the FCA Winter Meeting*

*For those who have stayed here  
before, you’re in for a treat as the  
entire hotel and all the rooms have  
undergone a total makeover!*



***Only \$94 per night!***

To receive the special reduced rate you must do the following:

**Reserve your room by January 5, 2018 by calling 800-571-2001 and ask for the Florida Commodores Association special rate.**

**If you call after this date the rate or the availability of rooms can’t be guaranteed.**

**Bahama House  
2001 South Atlantic Avenue  
Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118  
(only 2 miles from HRYC)**



*Same great location and  
views, continental breakfast,  
open bar cocktails each  
afternoon, wi-fi in all  
rooms, free parking and  
fresh-baked cookies!*

