



The Florida Commodores Journal

HALIFAX RIVER YACHT CLUB HOSTS TRADITIONAL CHANGE OF WATCH 2013



Keepers of the Flame

Preserving the Customs and Traditions of
Yachting *Past, Present, Future*



FROM THE HELM

Commodore John Slattery



Marking the Milestone of Five Years

Halifax River Yacht Club, Daytona Beach - October 25 and 26, 2013

Although a few weeks prematurely, we closed out our fifth year at this annual meeting. Halifax River Yacht Club was a perfect setting to hold this meeting. The members and staff were most gracious hosts for FCA. In view of this also being the 500th anniversary of Florida, history was very much the theme of the meeting.

Friday started with a tour of *The Casements* - the winter home of John D. Rockefeller until his death. The tour was followed by a lunch at Las Bistro an original Sears & Roebuck catalog home built in 1924.

In the afternoon, a cocktail cruise on the Halifax River was enjoyed on two yachts. P/C Wayne Stewart and his wife Eloise hosted one group on *Megalove*. Mary and I hosted another group on the *Irish Rover*. The weather was perfect and I got to relax when I turned over the helm to co-pilots P/C Phyllis Seaton and P/C Larry Kimmerling. I have to admit I felt a lot more comfortable in that P/C Pete Tyson was standing watch to insure no one strayed out of the narrow channel.

After the cruise everyone repaired to one of the two bars at HRYC prior to enjoying the fantastic Seafood Buffet which is always a hit at this great club.

Saturday morning the General Membership meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. with all officers and committee chairs making their reports. Several major items were announced following the meeting of the Executive Committee on Friday afternoon:

- A committee was established, chaired by P/C Tom Reynolds, to investigate the establishment of an FCA Foundation. Such a Foundation would provide a much greater vehicle for raising funds to support the myriad of yachting related activities that FCA has supported in the past five years - such as our Olympic sailing teams. The Foundation would also serve as the "clearing house" for selecting programs worthy of our support.
- Renewed emphasis will be placed on the Ambassador Program. Our Ambassadors not only serve in delivering the FCA message to clubs that are not yet Chapters but also act as liaisons between our current Chapters and the Executive Committee. This year we will be making a new effort to have members of the Executive Committee visit current Chapters with their Ambassador. There is probably no greater need in this organization than to hear from each of our members what they are getting from FCA membership and what we can do to improve the value of your membership!
- Continuing with the concept of better connecting with our members, we will be returning to printing at least two issues of the Commodores Journal this year. In tracking our readership of the e-journal (don't worry this isn't like NSA tracking,) we find a disappointing number of our members are reading this and other digital communication.
- We will also be looking at some other items regarding the Four Star Commodore Program and the nominating procedures in our bylaws.

Continued on next page

Also announced at the meeting were the recipients of the 2013 Four Star Commodore Award. They are P/C Wayne Stewart, Halifax River Yacht Club; P/C Phyllis Seaton, Fort Walton Yacht Club and P/C Charles Smith, Pensacola Yacht Club. These Commodores will be receiving their awards in January and the next issue of the Commodores Journal will have a complete story of each recipient.

Also recognized at the meeting were three Commodores also nominated for the Four Star Award. They were P/C Jeffrey Brooks, Bay Point Yacht Club; P/C Peter Tyson, Pelican Yacht Club and P/C Robert Schwalm, Platinum Point Yacht Club.

It was great that we received six nominations this year and everyone should remember that just to be nominated is a very distinctive honor, as the nominations must be endorsed by at least three of the club's Past Commodores. It is highly laudable to be selected by your peers for this honor.

The International Commodores Association also made a major announcement at this meeting, the details of which are outlined in a separate article in this publication.

P/C Kathy Champagne, Navy Yacht Club, Pensacola, made a presentation about their latest WAVE event and the program in general. This program was highlighted in a previous Journal and is something that every yacht club - not just FCA chapter clubs - should consider!

The meeting was recessed for all to enjoy a great lunch buffet in the main dining room overlooking the HRYC docks and the Halifax River beyond. After lunch a presentation was made by Professor Joe Vetter, a local historian, who talked about the history of Florida with some focus on local history. After his talk, he held a mini-quiz and it was great to see how many of our members were paying attention during his presentation.

Our next speaker was Dan Friend, also a local professor of history, but he concentrated on a project he is involved with to return to Florida one of the WWII tugboats built locally for the war for the Army (yes, the Army) and saw action as part of the D-Day invasion. His presentation was fascinating and after we passed the hat (literally, we used P/C Alan Adams's uniform cover) and raised almost \$400 for this project.

The formal meeting was concluded and everyone had a chance to get a nap or quench their thirst. For those who took a nap, cocktails started at 5:30 p.m. and we all assembled an hour later for what has to have been the largest Sundown Ceremony ever held at an FCA meeting. Someone who was counting, relayed to me that they counted a total of 96 either in formation or watching.

Dinner commenced at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Change of Watch.

We all owe a great deal to the officers, Executive Committee members, committee chairs and members that have done so much for FCA since our beginning. I feel very honored to be able to follow in their footsteps.

We have certainly come a long way in the past five years. The proof of our worth, however, will be in our ability to sustain going forward. To succeed in our mission we must provide value to our members and be a resource to support the yacht club community in Florida. To accomplish that objective, support in many areas is needed from our membership.

We all know that the more you put into an organization - the more you get back. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to join us at one of our meetings this year and get involved!

February 7 and 8 at St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club, Panama City
April 25 and 26 at Sarasota Yacht Club, Sarasota
July 18 and 19 at Lake Beresford Yacht Club, Deland
October 24 and 25 at Pelican Yacht Club, Fort Pierce

John Slattery
Commodore 2013-2014

Meet your new FCA Officers For 2013 –2014



Commodore John Slattery is a member of Palm Coast Yacht Club and Halifax River Yacht Club. He resides in Palm Coast, Florida. His lovely wife Mary is also a full member of FCA having served as Commodore, Palm Coast Yacht Club. Slats, as he is known, has been involved with the establishment of the Florida Commodores Association since its inception. **Welcome aboard SLATS!!!**



Vice Commodore June Ann DeGraw is a member of Pelican Yacht Club, located in Beautiful Fort Pierce, Florida. June Ann is married to Bruce DeGraw who is a very active Associate Member of FCA. June Ann has been instrumental in expanding the FCA especially in getting Pelican Yacht Club actively involved in FCA activities and in encouraging the yacht club members to develop a greater awareness of the importance of Yachting Customs and Traditions.



Rear Commodore Christine Snedaker is a member of North Palm Beach Yacht Club and a member of the Palm Beach Commodores Chapter. Christine has been a workhorse with the Florida Commodores Association both as an Associate Member and now as a full member, having served as Commodore of the North Palm Beach Yacht Club. Christine was also very active with the Blue Gavel having served as the President of the District 8 IOBG Auxiliary. In addition, she has previously served FCA as Secretary. Currently, Christine is very active in Real Estate. Welcome aboard Christine.

Fleet Captain Peter Tyson is in his first year as a Past Commodore. As the Commodore of the Pelican Yacht Club Peter was very active as an Associate Member of FCA. He actively worked as an Ambassador for the FCA and made inroads in several area yacht clubs to spread the word about FCA and how the Association could serve to benefit local Commodores and yacht clubs. A resident of Vero Beach, Florida, Peter owns his own Marine Insurance Agency. Peter is married to a very lovely lady, Jeanne. The FCA welcomes Peter to the Executive Committee.



The FCA Secretary is Past Commodore Kathy Champagne having earned her badge as a two term Commodore of the Navy Yacht Club Pensacola. Her husband, Ken, is a strong supporter of her activities. Kathy is a hard charger who works diligently to preserve Yachting Customs and Traditions. Kathy has been very instrumental in establishing the WAVE program for the FCA. She successfully organized and supervised the first two WAVE events and is committed to making the third and subsequent events even better. Kathy was honored last year as an FCA 4 Star Commodore. Kathy is a great addition to the Executive Committee.



FCA Treasurer Robert Plummer is completing his third year as FCA Treasurer. Robert has been a dynamo in getting the finances of the Association built up and available for the many projects adopted by the FCA. Robert, a member of the Fort Walton Yacht Club Chapter, is very well suited to managing the financial operations of the Association. He works very hard to ensure that the membership pays their dues and updates the chapter rosters. Robert just happens to be married to Beverly, the FCA Quartermaster.





Florida Commodores Association

Registration Form

Winter Membership Meeting at St Andrews Bay Yacht Club

February 7th – 8th, 2014

Discounted Rooms at the Holiday Inn Select

2001 Martin Luther King Dr.

Panama City, FL 32405

Dockage available at St Andrews Bay Yacht Club by calling 850-769-2453

Name (s) _____

Chapter/Yacht Club: _____

Member Number: _____ Associate Member _____ Guest _____

Home Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

REGISTRATION FEE: _____ # Persons _____

\$10 per person payable with registration

***Please make Check Payable to "FCA" and mail before Feb 1, 2014 to
PC Jack Kennedy, P. O. Box 27774, Panama City, FL 32411***

FRIDAY, FEB 7, 2014

Sunset Social w/dinner \$35 inclusive

Please indicate Fish or Beef Fish _____ Beef _____

SATURDAY, FEB 8, 2014

Lunch, soup, sandwich buffet \$14.00 inclusive

Dinner/Dance – Low Country Boil \$25.00 inclusive

SUNDAY, FEB 9, 2014

Sunday Brunch \$13.00 inclusive

**FOR ALL NON-RECIPROCAL CLUBS: PLEASE SUBMIT PAYMENT WITH CHECK, CASH OR
CREDIT CARD INFORMATION (CC will be used with assigned temporary membership number
payable to STABYC)**

Holiday Inn Select



2001 North Cove Blvd., Panama City, FL 32405
Telephone: (850) 769-0000 Fax: (850) 763-3828

LOCATION/TRANSPORTATION FACTS

- Located at the intersection of U.S.231 & St. Rt. 77
- 27 miles to the Panama City International Airport
- In the heart of the growing Business District
- 12 miles to Panama City's most beautiful beaches

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 6 floors, 173 rooms, interior corridor hotel
- All rooms include work table, complimentary *USA Today*, remote control cable TV (HBO,CNN,ESPN, TNT), clock radio, coffee maker, hair dryer, extensive bath amenities, TV and telephone in bathroom
- 1 suite with added features: refrigerator, recliners, sofas, large screen TV
- Executive level featuring large choice of amenities: keyed elevator access, complimentary breakfast, 2 complimentary cocktails in Chances R; extensive VCRs, room amenities include whirlpool tubs, refrigerator, microwave oven, VCR player
- Handicapped access, visual alert for hearing-impaired
- Handicapped rooms available
- All Non-smoking hotel
- Special amenities for female travelers

DINING/ENTERTAINMENT

- Mamma Mia Restaurant, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., featuring Italian cuisine

MEETING SUPPORT SERVICES

- Room Service, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Weekends 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- Many dining and nightlife choices in immediate area

SERVICES/FACILITIES/SHOPS

- Valet Service Monday – Friday
- Multilingual staff
- Bus Parking

MEETING/BANQUET FACILITIES

- Meetings, conventions and banquets up to 350
- 4,452 square feet of meeting space
- 7 breakout rooms
- Separate group registration area available
- 2 Executive Boardrooms accommodating up to 30
- All rooms include telephone with modem/jack
- Event/reader board provided

MEETING EQUIPMENT

- Screens, overhead/35 mm slide projectors, LCD monitors, podiums, lecterns and microphones (lectern, cable, hand held), computer disks, and acetates on-premises, available with 24-hour notice
- Flip charts, easels and pads, dry erase boards, chalk-boards, markers, pens, pencils, chalk and notepads available on request
- Speaker phone, cellular phones available
- Videoconferencing capability
- Built-in PA system available
- Staging Capabilities

- Meeting Specialist on staff
- A/V operator/maintenance
- Business support services, photocopying, shipping service, luggage storage, on-site fax machine

The Holiday Inn Select is the place to stay in Panama City. It's 5 or 6 miles North of the yacht club. 20 rooms for the 6,7,and 8th of Feb. 2014 at \$75.00 per night plus tax have been reserved. You can request a king or double queen beds and at that price they have included a hot breakfast buffet. This Inn also has a full bar and restaurant. They also have a free on line booking tool. You need to make your reservations before January 10th, 2014 or the rooms will go away for that price. The rooms are listed under FCA or Florida Commodores Association and our contact person is Jennine C. Brown Assistant General Manager at the Inn.

Florida Commodores Association

Past, Present, & Future Commodores

Winter Membership Meeting: February 7th – 8th, 2014

~Schedule of Events~

Friday, February 7th, 2014

- 15:00** FCA Executive Board Meeting – St Andrews Bay Yacht Club Ballroom
17:00 Sunset Social - cocktails at St Andrews Yacht Club
17:15 Sundowners Ceremony, Uniform A with cover
(Winter uniform, gray trousers/skirt, white shirt, FCA or club tie/scarf, black shoes.)
19:00 Dinner - Ballroom and Karaoke in the Lounge afterword

Saturday, February 8th, 2014

- 09:30 – 10:00** Registration Ballroom
10:00 – 12:00 Winter Membership Meeting – Uniform C
(white shirt & trousers/skirt, Epaulets, white shoes)
12:00 – 13:00 Buffet lunch at the yacht club
13:00 - 14:30 Guest Speaker
Adjourn - **Things to do and see at Panama City Beach?:**
<http://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/>
18:00 Cocktails – St Andrews Yacht Club Ballroom
19:00 Dinner- Low Country Boil/Dance – Ballroom
(Uniform- Casual)

Sunday, February 9th, 2014

- 1030-13:30** Sunday Brunch available in Dining room

FCA Winter Meeting Menus

Dinner Friday 02/07/2014 1900

Heirloom Spinach Salad with Bleu Cheese, dried Dates, toasted Almonds and Honey Balsamic Vinaigrette

Choice of :

Grouper Imperial

(Half pound fresh Gulf Grouper lightly breaded, pan seared and topped with Lump Crab meat and Sherry Cream Sauce)

or

Certified Angus Choice Filet of Beef (Half pound grilled to order with Red Currant Demiglace)
served with Duchess Potatoes and Grilled Asparagus with Béarnaise

Merveilleux

Lunch Saturday 02/08/2014 1200

Assorted Slider Sandwiches

(Roast Beef and Swiss, Ham and American, Turkey and Provolone, Honey Pecan Chicken Salad with assorted mustards and sauces)

Chicken Tortilla Soup or Seafood Gumbo with Rice

Dinner Saturday 02/08/2014 1900

Low Country Boil

(Fresh Gulf Shrimp, Crawfish, Clams, Spicy Cajun and Kielbasa sausages, sweet Corn on the Cob, Red Potatoes and sweet Southern Corn Bread with all of the fixings)

Key Lime Pie or Bourbon Caramel Bread Pudding

Ft. Walton Chapter FCA Regatta

On Saturday, November 23rd the Ft. Walton Chapter of FCA sponsored their annual FCA Regatta. Fair winds provided a fast race followed by the now-becoming-traditional “**Splice the Main Brace**” awards ceremony.

Race chairman, Lou Richard introduced the members of FCA in attendance. He thanked the chapter for sponsoring the race on behalf of the sailors. Past Commodore Phyllis Seaton and FCA Associate Member Maggie Loar gave a brief explanation of the historical significance and background of **Splice the Main Brace**. (see the picture to the right)

Splice the Main Brace signal flags have been hoisted when it was time for the crew to receive their daily ration of rum or grog or when there was a celebratory occasion aboard.



The awards table was draped with the appropriate signal flags spelling out Splice the Main Brace. As the winning teams were announced the crews came forward to receive their awards and a tot of rum or grog.



From the looks of the faces of these winners, the TOT of rum or grog tested their taste buds.



FCA Chapters that are actively involved with their yacht clubs are meeting the FCA Mission.

There are members of the FCA that have created the “IRONING BOARD HAPPY HOUR”. You will just have to come to a meeting to find out all about this very special occasion. One thing for certain, it is very well attended. Also, you will just have to guess who started this yachting TRADITION.



TREASURER'S NOTICE

It's once again time to collect dues. Dues, along with income from the ships store, are the only sources of income that FCA has available. They are due on December 1 and delinquent on January 15, 2014. Dues have not increased during the five years that FCA has existed and will remain the same for 2014,

Members are reminded that dues are not used to pay travel, office or personal expenses for any FCA officer.

Dues for At-Large members are \$25.00. Associate members, \$15.00 and regular members (Past Commodores) \$20.00. Each Chapter should have received a letter notifying them of dues, along with a copy of the chapter membership spreadsheet. It is important that the spreadsheet be updated as this is the only record of membership that is maintained by the Association.

Any new chapter members should have a signed membership application submitted for approval. Applications may be downloaded from our website, www.flcommodores.org.

Thank you for your cooperation, if you have any questions or comments, please contact the undersigned at rbplum@cox.net.

Robert Plummer
Treasurer

NEWS FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

Cocktail napkins are available through the Ship's Store in packages of 24 pcs for \$4.00. Special requests for different colored napkins can be sent to Beverly Plummer, Quartermaster , bevplum@cox.net.



The Quartermaster carries all FCA uniform items and other specialty items for individual members and chapters. If you have a special request please do not hesitate to contact Beverly to see if she can get these items for you at a special price.



ICA To Concentrate on Education!

“When you come to a fork in the road, take it!” Yogi Berra

When the International Commodores Association (ICA) was conceived, it undertook a split mission - provide an educational resource to the yacht club community and to aid in the establishment of state, regional or national Commodore organizations.

Over the past three years, we have learned that many Commodores, not already organized, have little to no interest, or perceive no value in becoming part of a formal group. In addition, those Commodores already part of a regional, national or international Commodores are satisfied with the status quo.

Also, for the sake of candor, ICA may have failed in its marketing approach and was unable to differentiate itself from existing Commodore organizations.

That being said, over that same three year period, ICA developed new educational programs and established the Academy of Yachting Officers and Professionals. This past November, we held our third annual session. Our second session had twice the attendance of our first and our third session had three times the attendance of our first.

Based on these results we are certain there is a real need for education in the yachting community and not only for yacht club officers, directors and managers. Therefore, with the realization that our true core competency is education we have undertaken a complete reorganization.

As of December 31, 2013, the International Commodores Association will no longer exist. We will be reincorporating as a 501(c)3 educational organization known as the **International Yachting Institute**. In addition, we will be changing our branding to show that we are concentrating strictly on education and are no longer involved in the organization of any groups.

We envision providing all of the yachting community - yacht clubs, all Commodore organizations, sailing and other maritime groups - with our educational and related services.

Primarily, we will be expanding our educational programs and modules to provide educational support where it is needed in the yachting community. In addition, we will be exploring our role in providing publications needed in the yachting community. Finally, we intend to provide a website that will serve as an internet “directory” of all things yachting.

Continued from previous column:

It would be impossible for us to close one door and open the next without recognizing the support, both financial and spiritual, that we have received over the past several years from the Florida Commodores Association. We are grateful and look forward to continuing to support all of the yacht club community and Commodore associations.

Rich Oakley, Commodore ICA

FCA Committee Chairpersons

Webmaster /E-Journal- Rich Oakley (Lynne)
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Ships Store - Beverly Plummer (Robert)
Ft. Walton Yacht Club
937 Shalimar Pointe Drive, Shalimar, FL 32574
(M) 850.651.3412 (C) 850.865.2213
bevplum@cox.net

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johnmatthews@cox.net
or johnhmatthews39@gmail.com

Foundation - 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



Executive Committee 2013-2014

Commodore – John Slattery (Mary)

Palm Coast Yacht Club/Halifax River Yacht Club
22 Cedarwood Court, Palm Coast, FL 32137
jamslats@aol.com

(M) 386.447.9947 (C) 386.627.6277

Vice Commodore— June Ann Degraw (Bruce)

Pelican Yacht Club
914 Boston Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
772-460-6778
junedegraw@att.net

Rear Commodore— Chris Snedaker

North Palm Beach Yacht Club
704 Blakely Court, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
561-627-6002 561-373-2277
cbsnedaker@gmail.com

Fleet Captain—Peter Tyson (Jeanne)

Pelican Yacht Club
2015 Island Drive, Vero Beach, FL 32962
772-234-5619
Tyson@peterertyson.com

Secretary—Kathy Champagne (Ken)

Navy Yacht Club Pensacola
1050 Fleming Drive
Pensacola, FL 32504
850-937-9414 850-261-2062

Treasurer—Robert Plummer (Beverly)

Fort Walton Yacht Club
937 Shalimar Pointe Drive, Shalimar, FL 32574
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rbplum@cox.net

Immediate Past Commodore—Larry Kimmerling
(Barbara)

Clearwater Yacht Club
17900 Gulf Blvd. 12A, Redington Shores, FL 33708
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Fleet Counsel - Joe Tringali (Mary Lou)

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FCA Area Ambassadors FCA Ambassador Coordinator



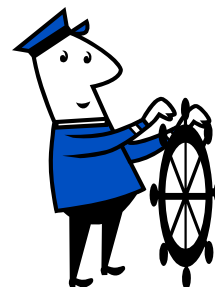
Immediate Past Commodore Larry Kimmerling

PC Larry Kimmerling serves as FCA Ambassador Coordinator. He will be working to better define and implement the FCA Ambassador Program. The vision is that the Ambassadors, in addition to identifying and working with potential new chapters, will work with existing Chapter Presidents to enhance communications with FCA. We need your ideas, input and inventiveness on how to attract and retain new members and chapters.

If you are willing to serve as an area Ambassador please contact Larry. He is looking for good people to serve and help FCA expand and improve its programs and activities.

PC Kimmerling Telephone: 727-542-5877

Email: towers112a@aol.com



News from the Change of Watch and Winter Meeting Halifax River Yacht Club



What a great meeting it was!!!!

More pictures from Halifax River Yacht Club Meeting



Carol and Art Garside PPYC Chapter signing in.



Alan Adams, Joe and Marylou Tringali PBCommodores Chapter Enjoying a river excursion.



St Andrews Bay YC Commodore AC Littleton preparing For a presentation on St ABYC hosting the Winter Meeting In Panama City, FL in Feb 2014



The information on the WAVE, an FCA supported event to honor Our Wounded American Veterans. The WAVE was created by Navy Yacht Club Pensacola in 2012.

FCA News

US Sailing Announces 2013 Rolex Yachtsman & Yachtswoman of the Year Finalist



The most significant sailing performances of the year are being celebrated by US Sailing with the announcement of its short list of nominees for the 2013 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the year awards. The nominees will be reviewed by a panel of noted sailing journalist who discuss the merits of each nominee and will vote to determine US Sailings 2013 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the year . The winners will be announced in mid January and honored on Tuesday , February

25th, 2014 during a ceremony at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco, Ca. The six women nominees short listed for US Sailing 2013 Rolex Yachtswoman of the year includes our very own Laser Radial World Bronze medalist **Paige Railey** from Clearwater, Florida. As you will recall, the **Florida Commodores Association** was a Gold Sponsor for US Sailing Team members, Zach Railey, Paige Railey and Paralympian Brad Kendell, in their 2012 Olympic bid in Weymouth, England. It is interesting to note that both Zach and Paige Railey were US Sailing 2010 Sportsman and Sportswoman of the year. Paralympics' Brad Kendell (TEAM USA 674) were US Sailing 2010 Paralympic team of the year. TEAM USA 674 members were Rich Doerr, Brad Kendell and Hugh Freund. Zach Railey competes in the Finn class, Paige competes in the Radial Lazer class , Brad Kendell and Team USA 674 compete in the sonar class. Paralympian Kendell has supported FCA events including the Wounded American Veterans Event (WAVE) as event speaker and participant.



January, 2013: ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami.
309 sailors from 37 countries compete in 13 classes on Key Biscayne.
PHOTO: MICK ANDERSON / SAILINGPIX.DK

SAILINGPIX

Larry Kimmerling
Immediate Past Commodore, FCA