



# The Florida Commodores Journal

Official Publication of the Florida Commodores Association  
Founded in 2008

**Volume X Issue 1**

**January, 2020**



## New Officers Inducted at Annual Meeting and Change of Watch

See story on page 3.



## Two Receive 4-Star Commodore Awards

See story on page 6.



### In this Issue...

Officers/Chairpersons .....	2	2020 Dues.....	10
From the Helm.....	3	Oldest Yacht Clubs.....	10
Change of Watch.....	3	FCA Foundation.....	12
Leadership Seminar.....	4	2019 Fall Meeting Photos...	13-15
Kids on the Water.....	5		
Ships Store.....	5		
2019 4-Star Commodores.....	6		
Historians Annual Report.....	7		
Northwest Regional Meeting...	8		
West Coast Regional Meeting...	8		
4-Star Presentation.....	9		
WAVE.....	9		

**2020 Dues are now due!**

See details on page 10.

### Upcoming Dates...

**Northwest Regional Meeting**  
January 25...St. Andrews Bay YC

**West Coast Regional Meeting**  
February 1.....Isles Yacht Club

**East Coast Regional Meeting**  
TBA

**Spring General Meeting**  
TBD

## FCA Executive Committee



**Commodore**  
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**Fleet Captain**  
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**Secretary**  
Lynne Reynolds (Tom)  
Ft. Walton Yacht Club  
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**Treasurer**  
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**Immediate Past Commodore -**  
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Platinum Point Yacht Club  
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## FCA Chairpersons

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**Fleet Counsel** - P/C Timothy (Tim) Burr  
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**Foundation** - P/C Larry Kimmerling  
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**Four-Star Commodores** - P/C Kathy Champagne  
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**Historian** - Dr. Lynne Reynolds  
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**WAVE** - P/C Kathy Champagne  
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**Webmaster** - Mary Kennedy  
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*Photography for this issue was provided by Barbara Kimmerling of Clearwater Yacht Club. Thanks also to our Proofreader, P/C Mary Slattery of the Coquina Coast Commodores.*

### Scheduled publishing dates for 2020—2021:

<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 Jack Kennedy



It is an honor to have been installed as the Commodore of the FCA for the 2020 term. Due to my yacht club, Bay Point Yacht Club in Panama City, still recovering from Hurricane Michael, the Fall General Meeting/Change of Watch was held in October at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club (CHYC) in

Punta Gorda. As we have come to expect, the CHYC FCA Chapter, Bridge and Board, members, and staff made sure that we were welcomed and that the weekend event was memorable. Thank you to all at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club for your gracious hospitality.

My goal is to increase the number of yacht club chapters and their membership in the FCA for the year 2020. This can be accomplished by having informal regional meetings that are planned by our regional coordinators. This will enable prospective chapters to meet with FCA members in an informal setting with less travel. We will continue to have two statewide meetings to be held in the Spring and the Fall.

A shout out goes to Past Commodore John Slattery who is “retiring” from his position of Webmaster and Editor-in-Chief of the *Commodores Journal*. John’s expertise has resulted in his setting up our smart looking and effective FCA website. On a quarterly basis, he has published an informative and eye-catching *Commodores Journal* for quite a few years now. Thank you, John, for a job well done! We appreciate all the time and effort that you have devoted to both of these projects for the FCA. Mary Kennedy will be taking on the responsibility of maintaining the website, *Commodores Journal*, and communications in general with the new title of Director of Communications.

I also want to thank Past Commodore Sam Foreman for his guidance in setting up the Yacht Club Leadership Seminar at Pelican Yacht Club in Ft. Pierce, Florida in October, 2019. Six different yacht clubs were represented and 13 participants spent the weekend involved in learning how to perform effectively

as an officer or director in the complex world of yacht clubs.

The FCA has produced a Strategic Plan Initiative that was introduced to those members attending the Fall General Meeting by Past Commodore John Matthews. I will report on our progress at the statewide meetings in the Spring and Fall.

I am working on the details for the Spring meeting. Keep up with our meetings and news on our website: [www.flcommodores.org](http://www.flcommodores.org).

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our meetings during this year.

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## Change of Watch

P/C Carole Lick

Change of Watch – a potpourri of tradition, sentiment, adventure, recognition, new beginnings and friendship: All this in one special day, October 20 at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club. If you missed it, you missed a really good one.

In recognition of outstanding leadership at their respective yacht clubs, the 2019 Four Star Commodore Awards were announced. The recipients are P/C Charles “Skip” Harrington of Fort Walton Yacht Club and P/C Larry Boyer of Pensacola Yacht Club.

The business meeting included a discussion of the work done this year on developing a first ever strategic plan for the FCA. It is a work in progress but the Mission Statement is updated and ready:

Enhance the value of yacht club membership while ensuring the viability of member clubs by preserving yachting customs and traditions through the:

- ⇒ Establishment of educational programs
- ⇒ Promotion of social interaction
- ⇒ Sharing of leadership knowledge and experience
- ⇒ Support of club leadership
- ⇒ Creation of a foundation to support sailing

Following the meeting, we enjoyed an interesting and entertaining presentation of an adventurous world tour by sailboat. Dr. John Martin and his wife cruised 42,000 nautical miles, visiting 48 different countries. John started racing sailboats at the age of nine and has over 20 Port Huron-to-Macinau and Chicago-to-Macinau races under his belt. As an Orthopedic Surgeon he was able to “operate on board” when injuries occurred. His description of a

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50 foot rogue wave and other unique escapades was spellbinding. It either convinced you to never attempt such an adventure or that you actually want to do this some day.

The traditional flag ceremony, as always, reinforces our love of country. The highly anticipated second ceremony, the Change of Watch, was led by Commodore Carole Lick as she recognized the outstanding work of the 2019 Flag Officers and Executive Committee members. The 2020 Flag Officers were sworn in and a new era began.

Officers/Executive Committee members for the 2019 organization year were:

- Commodore: P/C Carole Lick, Platinum Point Yacht Club
- Vice Commodore: P/C Tom Reynolds, Fort Walton Yacht Club
- Rear Commodore: P/C John Slattery, Coquina Coast Commodores
- Fleet Captain: P/C Stan Mitchell, Lake Beresford Yacht Club
- Secretary: Assoc. Lynne W. Reynolds, Fort Walton Yacht Club
- Treasurer: P/C John Matthews, Pensacola and Navy Yacht Clubs
- Immediate Past Commodore: P/C Sam Foreman, Pensacola Yacht Club
- Quartermaster: Beverly Plummer, Fort Walton Yacht Club

Officers/Executive Committee members for the 2020 organization year are:

- Commodore: Jack Kennedy, Bay Point Yacht Club
- Vice Commodore – Ray Dewrell, Fort Walton Yacht Club
- Rear Commodore – Bob Sutton, Navy And Pensacola Yacht Clubs
- Fleet Captain – Stan Mitchell, Lake Beresford Yacht Club
- Treasurer – John Matthews, Pensacola Yacht Club
- Secretary – Lynne Reynolds, Fort Walton Yacht Club
- Immediate Past Commodore: P/C Carole Lick, Platinum Point Yacht Club
- Beverly Plummer –Quartermaster, Fort Walton Yacht Club

Two noteworthy changes were announced – P/C John Slattery has been the Commodores Journal Editor and FCA Webmaster. He is stepping down from these roles and will be missed.

P/C Larry Kimmerling was instrumental in the creation of the FCA Foundation. After chairing the Board for several years he is also stepping down.

We are truly grateful for the dedication and work of these two members.

The FCA Commodore, P/C Jack Kennedy, is ready and enthusiastically takes the reins. 2020 should be a very good year!

Traditional ceremonies, sentimental reflections, adventurous stories, recognition of jobs well done, new officer beginnings, and friendship, always good friends – all were part of this very special day for the FCA.

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## **Yacht Club Leadership Seminar a Success**

P/C Sam Foreman, Chair

It was an honor for me to be Chairman of the Leadership Resources Committee (LRC) in 2019. It was great working with P/C Wayne Stewart and P/C John Slattery who have been the nexus of the LRC since its inception and the major presenters. Other presenters participating in this seminar were P/C John Matthews, P/C Bob Peterson, Mitch Stump, and P/C Dave Wilbur. They all did an excellent job on their topics.

This past October 18 - 19 the LRC put on a very successful seminar at the Pelican Yacht Club (PYC) in Ft. Pierce. PYC was very helpful in our efforts. They provided an excellent venue and good food for the participants. There were 14 participants from eight different yacht clubs: Captiva Yacht Club, Bay Point Yacht Club, Canaveral Yacht Club, Gulf Harbors Yacht Club, Platinum Point Yacht Club, Navy Yacht Club Pensacola, Bird Key Yacht Club and Pelican Yacht Club.

We asked all of the participants to fill out a survey and the results were very positive. They were asked to rank each topic from 1 (not helpful) to 5 (very helpful). Every topic received very good scores. By adding the results for each topic the average for entire seminar was 4.4, an excellent overall score. Best

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of all, the participants overwhelmingly recommend this seminar and consider it a good value.

We can build on 2019's results and make the Yacht Club Leadership Seminar for 2020 the best yet. P/C Carole Lick will be the LRC Chairperson and I'm sure she will take this seminar to new heights.

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## Kids on the Water

### **Burnt Store-Platinum Point Yacht Club Charitable Boating Foundation**

Youth from the Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte County (BGCCC) will participate in the sixth year of this very special event on Saturday, February 22, 2020.

Through the generosity of Platinum Point Yacht Club (PPYC) sail and power boat captains, nearly 100 youth have had an opportunity to learn about boating, sea life and to experience the joy of being on the water. Youth experience both power and sail boating during this all day event. Those assigned to sail boats during the morning session are assigned to power boats during the afternoon session and vice versa. An education session is conducted off-site prior to the on-water event to introduce youth to boat safety and etiquette and environmental information about Charlotte Harbor.

This all day event includes a continental breakfast/meet and greet followed by the morning water session, after which everyone returns to the clubhouse for a hearty lunch and is followed by the afternoon water session. An ice cream sundae social and debriefing is held when the boats return from the afternoon session.

Boats follow a planned, mutually agreed upon course, and a safety boat is available. All youth will have participated in the education session prior to the boating experience. One adult chaperone from the Boys and Girls Club is assigned to each boat. This equates to one adult for three to four youths per boat, excluding the Captain and First Mate.

The vast majority of the youth who participate have never been on a boat. The smiles and happy faces are rewarding for the boat captains and mates. This is a wonderful experience for youth who otherwise have not had the opportunity to sail or ride in a powerboat.

For more information about this event and how your club can adopt a similar event contact P/C Carole Lick at [lickc@msu.edu](mailto:lickc@msu.edu).

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## Ship's Store

A/M Beverly Plummer, Quartermaster

I am **very** pleased to inform you that the Ship's Store had a very profitable year in 2019. A check for \$2000 was presented to the Florida Commodores Association Foundation Chairman, P/C Larry Kimmerling, during the October general membership meeting. The funds will aid the Foundation's mission "working to ensure the future of yacht club and sailing opportunities through educational & charitable programs".

While the main purpose of the Ship's Store inventory is to supply the members with their uniform needs, it's the boutique and fashion items that are the "icing on the cake" for the store.

I am excited to share the improved Ship's Store web pages which, with the tireless help of Webmaster, P/C John Slattery, are now displaying the most popular fashion items that are available to the members. New to the site are photos of these popular items including a size chart and a color chart for each item. Photos of the embroidery options are also shown.

Please take some time to look at these new pages. Since there are fewer general membership meetings scheduled this year, I feel this will be the best way for this merchandise to be available to the members. The website pages are fairly easy to use, remember you must log in to see these pages. Once you are logged on, click the Ship's Store tab (found under the FCA burgee on the blue band) and then click on Ship's Store once again. There you will find several different buttons to click, depending on what you are looking for or you can just scroll down the page

The newest pages that have been reworked may be found under **casual shirts**. Here you will see that there are several basic shirts for men in both long and short sleeves. Ladies have 3 sleeve choices. These are the E-Z care shirts that I presented at our last couple of meetings. New information about the polo shirts is also shown. Now you can choose from the color and embroidery charts for them also.

Remember, when you choose to wear a polo, a shirt

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or a top with a FCA logo, you have the ideal ice breaker to talk about and promote FCA to your club or community members. Spreading the word about what FCA can do for them coming from a member means more than comments on a piece of paper. Talk up FCA and the work of the Foundation to everyone. Make it your New Years resolution!

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## 2019 FCA 4 Star Commodores Awards

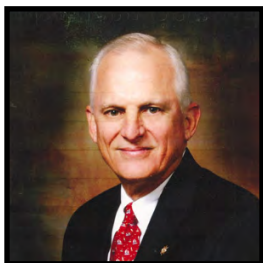
P/C Kathy Champagne, Chair

Commodores who serve beyond their terms and channel individual talents toward the benefit of their yacht clubs deserve to be recognized, which was the founding purpose of the Florida Commodores 4-Star Award. This was certainly the case with our 2019 recipients.

Following the completion of his 2018 term as Pensacola Yacht Clubs (PYC) Commodore, P/C Larry Bowyer committed his professional skills as an engineer to multiple phases of the construction of the East marina. Refusing compensation for his work, P/C Bowyer saved PYC an estimated \$135,000.

Fort Walton Yacht Club's nomination described P/C Charles Harrington's contribution over decades of service as "calm, competent, inclusive leadership." P/C Harrington served two terms as Commodore, 2003 and 2012, filling his "out of office" time chairing committees critical to the growth and prosperity of his yacht club.

These two Past Commodores embody the mission of the FCA 4-Star Award and should serve as an inspiration to all of us.



**P/C Larry Bowyer**  
Pensacola Yacht Club

Past Commodore Larry Bowyer participated in the creation of the Pensacola Yacht Club East Marina during the year 2018. Commodore Boyer is a

registered Professional Engineer in the state of Florida. He designed the marina, obtained all government permits required for construction, invited contractor bids, selected contractors, coordinated and oversaw all construction of the East Marina. Total cost of the construction was \$1.35M.

Had the yacht club contracted a consulting engineering firm to accomplish the work Commodore Boyer accomplished the fee would have been in excess of \$135,000. Commodore Boyer accomplished the task free to the Pensacola Yacht Club. The magnificent result speaks for itself.



**P/C Charles (Skip) Harrington**  
Fort Walton Yacht Club

Past Commodore Skip Harrington has served the Fort Walton Yacht Club for two decades. He was Commodore in 2003 following his service as Vice Commodore and as a Director. Subsequent to his tour as Commodore he established the New Member Welcoming Committee and New Member Orientation. As a result, he had a significant and positive effect on recruiting and retention. He has chaired that committee since 2005 and continues today. Our membership increased from 283 full dues paying members to 316. Skip personally welcomes each new member and family, introducing them to current members and our staff. He shows them the facilities, makes them aware of the many benefits of membership and sees that new member pictures and biographies are posted on the bulletin board so members can greet them by name. His efforts help ensure that new members feel welcome and stay in the club.

Skip and Barbara have stalwartly supported our highly successful racing program since 2006 with their active participation on race committees. For thirteen years they have been there every Wednesday evening, rain or shine, in the heat or cold running the Wednesday Fun Races. In addition, they serve as race officials for the many regattas our club hosts, and often volunteered their boat as Race Committee Boat.

As chair of the Election Committee the last 16 years, Skip has overseen ballot preparation, distribution, collection and counting for the election of club officers. He leads a team of ten people to accomplish this important work.

Skip continued to serve as a Director (2005-2006) and was recruited to serve a second term as Commodore in 2012, bringing his calm competent and inclusive leadership to the club once again. It was in 2012 that he led our club's preparation for Hurricane

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Isaac whose path we were in. Because of that preparation the club and its boats were spared any significant damage.

Skip led our club's well received Sundown Ceremony program for many years and is still a very active participant, often as the event's speaker. These solemn ceremonies are held to recognize the greatness of America on national holidays and are well attended.

He is one of three trustees of the FWYC Building Trust Fund and to honor his long-term service to our club a trophy was established in his name to recognize others who have made significant contributions.

Skip retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel where he flew fighters in Korea, Japan, Germany, and Southeast Asia. In his second career he taught history at the Admiral Farragut Academy in Tom's River N.J. In addition to his service to our club and our nation, Skip's leadership abilities are recognized by the Men's Golf Association at the Shalimar Point Golf Club. He has been President since 2002 and leads the planning and execution of the association's regularly held tournaments.

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## Historian Report for 2019

Dr. Lynne W. Reynolds, Historian

The Florida Commodores Association is using the mailing address - P. O. Box 488, Shalimar, FL 32579. Membership consists of Past Commodores, and current Commodores and Vice Commodores of Florida yacht clubs, and Associate members who are spouses, domestic partners, and sitting officers of member yacht clubs. There are, in addition, "at-large" members who are Past Commodores of non-member yacht clubs. The membership is two-hundred-seventy-one (271) Regular Members and one-hundred (100) Associate Members, with seventeen (17) Clubs participating.

Officers for the 2019 organization year were:

- Commodore: P/C Carole Lick (Platinum Point Yacht Club)
- Vice Commodore: P/C Tom Reynolds (Fort Walton Yacht Club)
- Rear Commodore: P/C John Slattery (Coquina Coast Commodores)
- Fleet Captain: P/C Stan Mitchell (Lake Beresford Yacht Club)

- Secretary: A/M Lynne W. Reynolds (Fort Walton Yacht Club)
- Treasurer: P/C John Matthews (Pensacola and Navy Yacht Clubs)
- Immediate Past Commodore: P/C Sam Foreman (Pensacola Yacht Club)

Standing Committees were:

- Bylaws: P/C John Matthews (Pensacola and Navy Yacht Clubs)
- Quartermaster: Associate Beverly Plummer (Fort Walton Yacht Club)
- FCA Foundation: P/C Larry Kimmerling (Clearwater Yacht Club)
- WAVE (Wounded American Veterans Event): P/C Kathy Champagne (Navy Yacht Club Pensacola)
- Leadership Resources Committee: P/C Sam Foreman (Pensacola Yacht Club)
- Four Star Commodore Program: P/C Kathy Champagne (Navy Yacht Club Pensacola)
- Webmaster: P/C John Slattery (Coquina Coast Commodores)
- Commodores Journal: P/C John Slattery (Coquina Coast Commodores)
- Fleet Council: P/C Timothy Burr (Pensacola Yacht Club)
- Historian and Awards: A/M Lynne W. Reynolds (Fort Walton Yacht Club)
- Nominating: P/C Sam Foreman (Pensacola Yacht Club)

Please see the previous *Florida Commodores Journals* for reviews of quarterly meetings.

### Standing Committees:

**FCA Foundation** - Part of the mission of the Florida Commodores Association is to perpetuate yachting customs and traditions. The Foundation has been formed to participate in charitable events and raising funds to support efforts of various individuals and organizations who are also dedicated to this goal. The FCA Foundation also sponsors Olympian sailors, Floridians who aspire to become Olympians, and Youth Sailing Programs in various yacht clubs.

**Four Star Commodore Awards Program** - The FCA seeks to recognize Past Commodores in the State of Florida who, by virtue of their continued efforts and support of their yacht clubs have made a major impact and, therefore, deserve special recognition. Nominations are made by submission of forms available through the FCA website and are due not later than 30 September of the award year.

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Clubs are notified of the Committee's selection not later than 30 November of the award year. A member of the Four Star Awards Committee then arranges to make the presentation at the recipient's yacht club. Up to three (3) awards are made each year. P/C Charles "Skip" Harrington, of Fort Walton Yacht Club, and P/C Larry Bowyer, of Pensacola Yacht Club, were awarded Four Star Commodores for 2019.

**Leadership Resources Committee (LRC)** - The goals of this committee are to develop and identify appropriate and timely educational programs and other resources, and to disseminate such for the purpose of ensuring quality leadership for Florida yacht clubs. The LRC has scheduled at least one presentation at each quarterly meeting of the FCA covering a leadership principle or other timely topic. They have undertaken an annual, state-wide educational seminar for yacht club leaders including many aspects of yacht club management and leadership. This year's seminar was held at Pelican Yacht Club in October.

**Wounded American Veterans Event or "WAVE"** - This program originated in Northwest Florida in 2012. "WAVE" offers a day on the water and other events to America's combat wounded and disabled veterans to thank them for their service. It was later adopted as an official FCA program and the resources of the organization have assisted other yacht clubs to accept the challenge of sponsoring their own event. This year, several events have been held.

**Financial considerations** include contributions to the above programs, as well as sustaining of publications such as the FCA e-Journal and the FCA *Commodores Journal*, the FCA website, and ancillary activities as they arise. During the annual Change of Watch, tokens of appreciation awarded to volunteers who make the work of the organization possible. Membership dues become due beginning in December of each year, with the final payment date of 31 January of the membership year, and are established by the Executive Committee.

As always, members are urged to submit local publications, pictures and other information to the Historian for inclusion in the year's final publication for the year.

## Northwest Regional Meeting

The Northwest Regional Meeting will be held at St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club on January 25th. A notification to each yacht club in this region will be sent out with details of the luncheon. Beverly Plummer has agreed to bring the Ship's Store.



The guest speaker will be Don Hardy, a local stain glass artist who specializes in creating silhouette replicas of both motor and sailing vessels. He has a keen eye in capturing the features of the vessel just as a sailor prides themselves in recognizing vessels as seen on the horizon while sailing. His sailing vessels feature curved glass sails giving them the look of being close hauled and underway. He has the ability to make flat presentation of motor vessels being an aircraft carrier or a motor launch. These broadside presentations can be displayed in various ways from a simple sun catcher to a more impressive desk set presentation. Race Committee Chairs take note, he has made 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards for races. It doesn't matter if it is a wind surfer or a square rigger, he can make it.

Don and his Wife Kathy run a small business called Ships of Glass, Inc. Don's sailing experiences have taken him to the East China sea off of Okinawa, Japan, the Persian Gulf as well as an open ocean race in the Gulf of Mexico. He crewed aboard Tom and Mike Whitlock's 36 foot Endeavor Yacht Camelot on Choctawhatchee Bay sailing out of Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club in the 1980's. His footprints include 26 years of military service and has served in the United States Power Squadron, and was a past Commodore of the Kadena Yacht Club.

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## West Coast Regional Meeting Rescheduled

The first West coast regional meeting since changing to two general meetings from four is scheduled for Saturday morning, February 1, 2020. It will take place at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda. The planning committee decided on yacht club strategic planning for its first educational session. P/C John Matthews will be the presenter.

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**Plan to attend a meeting this year!**

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This meeting also offers a unique opportunity. **American Magic**, a 38 foot version of the full size (72 foot) American Cup entry, is currently testing, training and evaluating in Pensacola Bay. Tom Pace, Pensacola Yacht Club, Rear Commodore, has been instrumental in getting **American Magic** to come to Pensacola. He helped convince the New York Yacht Club, the principal sponsor of **American Magic**, to send their team to Pensacola. Tom will be presenting information on the conduct of the practices and some information on the protocols associated with the next America's Cup races.

Your FCA is working to provide valuable learning experiences for yacht club officers and potential officers. If you have questions please contact me.

P/C Carole Lick at [lickc@msu.edu](mailto:lickc@msu.edu) or 734-945-3938

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## Harrington Award Presentation

The FCA presented P/C Charles Harrington (Skip) the 4-Star Commodore Award for steadfast and continuing contributions to the management, operation and growth of Fort Walton Yacht Club (FWYC).



The chapter was especially pleased that the Officers of the FCA were present at the ceremony which was held at the FWYC Chapter Christmas Party.... Commodore Jack Kennedy (and Mary), Vice Commodore Ray Dewrell ( and Anne), Rear Commodore Bob Sutton, Secretary Lynne Reynolds and Treasurer John Matthews, represented by his wife Nancy. Commodore Kennedy in making the award presentation noted that Skip was the first person that he met back in (mumble) as he came in the door at FWYC and that friendship has continued to this day.

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**Wishing all our members  
a healthy and prosperous  
New Year!**

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## WAVE 2019

P/C Kathy Champagne, Chair

All FCA Members who cherish the freedoms that we enjoy in this amazing country will hopefully consider rallying your yacht clubs in an effort to express "Thank You" to our amazing service members and their families.

Below is the WAVE 2019 Report that was delivered at the Change of Watch Meeting. Hopefully the Navy Yacht Club Pensacola (NYCP) and Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC) story will inspire other yacht clubs to stage their own Wounded American Veterans Events.

WAVE 2019 was a wonderful success with around 50 wounded veterans and family members who enjoyed a great "Day on the Bay"! Rear Admiral Kyle Cozad not only walked in this year (was confined to a wheel chair last year) and participated in The Sail, he "pulled some strings" to get an additional printed copy of the base newspaper which contained a half-page article on WAVE 2019, complete with pictures.

Following our opening ceremony, with a Color Guard and vocalist from the Navy's Center for Information Warfare Training (Corey Station), the assembly enjoyed an inspirational message from Rear Admiral Cozad, Commander of Naval Educational and Training Command at Naval Air Station Pensacola, who, at the end of his message, displayed the gold medal he won representing the Navy in the Warrior Games last year.

We are grateful for the skippers who made their boats available, along with the "Boat Buddies" from Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP) "A" School and Civil Air Patrol Cadets who provided stability on board following shore side set up. NYCP's Commodore Ken Pyle and Past Commodore Bob Sutton coordinated the Sail, assuring that everyone was safely aboard.

Following the Sail, our veteran guests and their families enjoyed lunch under the tent prepared by the American Legion 48 "Grill Masters", along with "Sailing Chips" baked by the NYCP Cookie Brigade. With live music as entertainment, the assembly continued to hydrate with beverages provided by the USO.

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NYCP Rear Commodore Parsons again provided a water bowl and treats for our four service dogs. This "grassroots" program is only possible with the help that Navy Yacht Club Pensacola and Pensacola Yacht Club receive from our community that appreciates the sacrifices made by our military and their families.

We all know that "Freedom is not Free", and families help pay the price.

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## Important Dues Notice

The annual association dues were due on December 1. However, the deadline for payment is January 15. Dues not received by January 31 may result in termination of your membership. We do not want this to happen to you, so if you haven't already paid your dues, please submit them now.

Dues for Regular members remain at \$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

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## Oldest Yacht Clubs

**In the World** - Neva Yacht Club or Royal Cork Yacht Club

The Neva Yacht Club (Yacht-club Neva or simply Club Neva) is a sailing club located in Saint Petersburg, Russia, close to the Neva River. It was founded in 1718 and was re-established as a club in 1958. It claims to be the first and oldest yacht club in Russia and even in the world, though this is challenged by the Royal Cork Yacht Club in Ireland.

Nevsky Flot (lit. "Fleet of the Neva"), the first yacht club in Russia, was founded by Tsar Peter the Great on April 12, 1718 (the idea had probably been devised as early as 1716, when the First Neva Shipyard started building civilian vessels). The tsar, an enthusiast of naval activities, provided 141 small ships to

entertain members of the aristocracy. The flag of the club, a version of the Russian Navy Ensign, was designed and given to the club by the tsar himself. The club ceased activities after the death of the tsar, who had been personally sponsoring the club.

In 1892, after the initiative of certain high officers of the Russian Imperial Navy, the Neva Yacht Club was revived in memory of Peter the Great's Nevsky Flot. It began regularly organising various sailing competitions meant mainly for large cruising yachts. The Imperial Neva Yacht Club was disbanded after the Russian Revolution.

The current Neva Yacht Club was re-established in 1958. The club only services members of the "Public Association of Amateurs of Aquatic Recreation". It accepts only ship owners as members.

Its date of establishment makes the Neva Yacht Club perhaps the oldest yacht club in the world, and often it is counted as such. However, since this Russian yacht club was established by a decree of the emperor, it does not qualify as a proper club, understood as a voluntary association of members. Therefore, the Royal Cork Yacht Club, founded two years later in 1720, is also widely acknowledged as the oldest yacht club in the world, despite having gone through periods of dormancy and undergone name changes, much in the same manner as the Neva Yacht Club.

The predecessor of the present day Royal Cork Yacht Club was the Water Club of the Harbour of Cork, established in 1720 by William O'Brien, 4th Earl of Inchiquin, a great-grandson to the 1st Earl of Inchiquin, who was a courtier of King Charles II. Due to this, the Royal Cork Yacht Club is widely held to be the oldest yacht club in the world

On returning to England from exile, King Charles developed an interest in sailing on the Thames and subsequently his courtiers (including The Earl of Inchiquin) followed his example. Upon the Earl's return to Cork, recreational sailing commenced. Some years later, the Earl of Inchiquin's great-grandson, 26-year-old William O'Brien and five of his friends formalised their activities and in so doing established The Water Club of the Harbour of Cork in 1720. This body became inactive in 1765 and was re-established in 1802.

In 1872 the Munster Model Yacht Club was founded as a Corinthian Yacht Club to provide for amateur racing rather than racing for wagers on yachts of wealthy owners with paid hands. It changed its name

*(Continued on next page)*

and dropped the word "Model" and became known as the Cork Harbour Yacht Club. Later on that decade it dropped "Harbour" and became the Cork Yacht Club and in 1831, the club received the privilege of using the "royal" prefix from King William IV and became the Royal Cork Yacht Club. In 1966 the Royal Munster Yacht Club merged with it to become as it is known today, the Royal Cork Yacht Club incorporating The Royal Munster Yacht Club.

### **In the United States - Detroit Yacht Club**

The club was founded by Detroit sailing enthusiasts in 1868. The first Yacht Club buildings, a small clubhouse and boat shed, were constructed in the late 1870s at the foot of McDougall Street, just south of Jefferson Avenue. In the early 1880s, the members were divided over the club's growing social activities, and in 1882, one group broke away to form the Michigan Yacht Club.

The original Belle Isle clubhouse in 1891, but burned down in 1904. A new facility was quickly built at the same site.

In 1923, the present-day clubhouse was dedicated; its construction had cost more than one million dollars, the work of architect George D. Mason, who also designed the Detroit Masonic Temple (the world's largest) and the opulent Gem Theatre. By the end of the following year, membership had reached 3000. Prominent member and Commodore Gar Wood set world speed records in hydroplanes, and with his Gold Cup victories brought the club to national and even worldwide prominence. Beginning in 1921, the DYC started sponsoring the hydroplane races. Membership declined dramatically during the Great Depression, and some services were suspended.

In 1946, the club's women formed the first women's sailing organization in the country and raced the club's catboats.

In 2018, the Detroit Yacht Club celebrated its sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary.

### **In Florida - St. Augustine Yacht Club**

In the post Civil War Era, a group of yachtsmen formed a club in St. Augustine to promote and enjoy their common interest of sailing. The year was 1872. By the Fall of 1873, the club's popularity had grown and it was formally founded as the St. Augustine

Yacht Club, the first yacht club in Florida and the twenty-ninth chartered yacht club in America.

The newly formed club had as its purpose, the promotion of yachting, yacht racing, and cruising. In addition, its charter, issued by the United States War Department gave it the express responsibility of defending St. Augustine and blockading the St Augustine inlet in times of war. The club burgee, chosen to have a white fortress on a red field, was required to be flown on the yachts of all members.

Lt. R. F. Armstrong, the first commodore, was the Chief Officer of the swift and legendary confederate cruiser *CSS Alabama*. Other notable members included Henry Morrison Flagler with his 183 ft yacht *Alicia* and Louis Comfort Tiffany, both very competitive yachtsmen.

Dowling Dock on Water Street was the first meeting place of the yacht club. A few years later, the T.W. Spessegger Pharmacy was purchased, relocated and a second story added. Located at the foot of Charlotte Street.

By 1892, yacht racing had become a very popular sport. The mayor of St. Augustine, W.S.N. Pinkham, owned the yacht *Cheemaun* which had never been beaten in a yacht race. When challenged by the fellow yacht club member Andrew S. Carnegie in his much larger yacht *Missue*, clever tactics and quick thinking earned *Cheemaun* the win as well as a handsome purse. *Cheemaun's* winning record continued until her retirement in 1935, then owned by George Gibbs.

Soon after the turn of the century, the sport of yacht racing was diminished by the advent of steam yachts. The boom years of the 1920's saw a renewed interest in yachting and racing sailboats. The crash of the stock market in 1929, however, began a slow decline in participation and membership, ending with the club's decommissioning in 1939.

Thirty nine years later, the building of a new marina brought St. Augustine yachtsmen together once again. As in earlier times a club was formed. This resulted in interest and a successful effort to activate the old charter of the club. In the Spring of 1978, the St. Augustine Yacht Club was recommissioned. It began with 100 newly chartered members. The clubhouse at Camachee Cove Yacht Basin was built in 1979.

In 2007 the club occupied it's new home below the Lighthouse on Anastasia Island.

## FCA Foundation

P/C Mary Slattery

This will be a pivotal year for the FCA Foundation. After five years, Chairman P/C Larry Kimmerling, first and only Chairman since the inception of the organization, is stepping down. He has overseen the development and growth and helped create what FCAF is today. Thank you, Larry, for devoting your time, efforts - *and caring* - to make this dimension of FCA a reality.

Others Board Members also going on to other endeavors are: Vice Chairman, P/C John Matthews; Secretary, P/C Mary Slattery, and, of course, P/C Jack Kennedy, is now serving as Commodore of FCA. Thank you all for serving. Your efforts and contributions will be missed but not forgotten.

The Board is seeking new members who have an interest in seeing the goals and objectives of the organization expand and grow in 2020. Ideal candidates with a variety of talents are sought ... as those in finance, marketing, community relations and, of course, involvement in other non-profits or board service would be particularly helpful. If you care to share your talents, please contact P/C Tom Reynolds at drtomiii@cox.net.

Adding to the list of accomplishments, in 2019 FCAF once again supported Youth Sailing Schools at seven Florida yacht clubs - each with a \$250 grant. These grants cover full or partial scholarships to youths ages 8-16 in financial need, who have a keen interest in sailing but could otherwise not participate.

In addition, a special one-time \$1,000 grant was awarded the St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club's Summer Sailing School. The money was given to aid in the restoration of the sailing school's rebuilding after it was devastated by Hurricane Michael.

Funding for these activities was, in part, accomplished by introduction of an *Amazon Smile* account which is Amazon's give-back program. If you have not already signed up for *Smile*, please do so today. Identify FCAF as your charity of choice and then always log onto your *Smile* account *before* purchasing anything from Amazon. Every little bit helps build FCAF funds!

However, to help raise substantial funds, FCAF sponsored a Rhine River Cruise. While participation

was disappointing, five people had a marvelous time. With donations from AmaWaterways and Burnt Store Travel funds were raised. Thank you cruisers and donors.

*Fundraising is the job of all ...* looking forward ... increasing funding is vital to the continuation of FCAF. It is critical *all FCA members* be active donors. Why? If FCAF seeks outside funding - and it wants and plans to - organizations take a close look at membership involvement and support. If FCA members do not support its own foundation, chances for outside funding is tenuous at best.

To make donating easier for members, two things were instituted - one for online donation; the second for going "*postal*":

1. A PayPal account was established. It's easy to use, just follow the instructions on the FCAF website under the *Donation* button. This is for year-round donations.
2. A new response envelope was included with the December 2019 newsletter. This is also an easy-to-use method for supporting FCAF. Please do use it before it disappears from sight.

Finally, a sincere and grateful thanks to all members who supported FCAF in 2019. Your donations are very much appreciated and your continued interest is essential to the organization.

For all members ... do help make 2020 the best fundraising year yet!

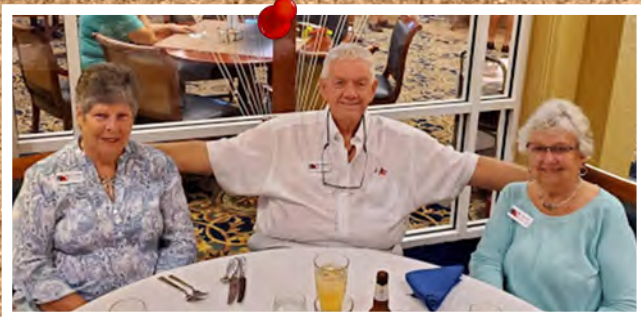


"and can you make sure the croutons are nice and crispy?"





**Fall Meeting and  
Change of Watch  
Port Charlotte YC  
October 25 - 26, 2019**







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