



The Florida Commodores Journal

Official Publication of the Florida Commodores Association
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**FCA Reopening Grant implemented
for Florida Yacht Club
FCA Chapters**

**Florida Yacht Club Reopening
Updates**



**Pensacola Yacht
Club**

**Acquires New Race
Committee Signal Vessel**

Mount Dora Yacht Club Establishes an FCA Chapter

**The Yacht Club Leadership Seminar
scheduled for October 02—03, 2020**

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Upcoming Dates...

Northwest Regional Meeting

August 1st - Pensacola Yacht Club

Asa G. Candler Regatta

August 7th- FCA Sundowner's
St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club

Yacht Club Leadership Seminar

October 2-3 Isles Yacht Club

FCA Executive Committee



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Photography for this issue was provided by Past Commodore John Matthews, Pensacola Yacht Club. Thanks also to our Proofreader, P/C John 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



As we navigate the CDC guidelines and directives from our local and state leaders, most yacht clubs continue to remain open on a limited basis. Events are planned and then events are cancelled. I urge our clubs and members to follow

local and state guidelines until it is safe for our members to return to their prospective clubs and/or visit other clubs. I am positive that this will eventually pass sooner if we all follow the guidelines.

Our board is communicating weekly with other clubs and organizations to monitor the events as they are happening. New guidelines and directives seem to be issued on a daily basis and we need to be aware of their implications.

At the last EXCOMM meeting, our board approved a grant letter to be sent to each FCA chapter club for a grant of \$250.00 to help each club reopening. The FCA is committed to helping each chapter club get back on its regular schedule when the guidelines permit. Since one of the stipulations for receipt of the grant money is to share their "event", we should be getting some unique and special ideas to consider at our own clubs.

All of us are getting older, and I am asking that as we have time on our hands at home, we call and check on our friends at our club and/or friends made at other clubs that we can't visit. It is special and uplifting to get a call from a friend you haven't seen in a while. That personal touch of a phone call speaks volumes to those who are in need of

reassuring and comforting words.

This weekend we take the time to celebrate the birthday of our great nation. During these troubling times, it is helpful for us to remember the reasons for our founding. I thank God for the bountiful blessings that He has lavished upon our wonderful country. We are truly fortunate to be able to say, "Happy Birthday, USA".

Stay safe and well and I hope to see everyone soon.

2020 Officers and Committees to Serve Again during 2021

by P/C Carole Lick, Nomination Chair

This 2020 year has definitely been unusual. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and measures taken to stem its spread, the FCA has had to modify, and in some cases, suspend, its activities.

At the Executive Committee meeting on June 16th, the Nominating Committee Chair recommended that the 2020 officers and committee chairs be asked to serve again for 2021. The Executive Committee approved the recommendation. Each of the current officers and committee chairs have been asked to serve again, and they have accepted. The FCA Officers for 2021 are:

Commodore - Jack Kennedy, Bay Point Yacht Club
Vice Commodore - Ray Dewrell, Ft. Walton Yacht Club
Rear Commodore - Bob Sutton, Pensacola Yacht Club
Fleet Captain - Stan Mitchell, Lake Beresford Yacht Club
Secretary - Lynne Reynolds, Ft. Walton Yacht Club
Treasurer - John Matthews, Pensacola Yacht Club

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Intermediate Past Commodore –Carole Lick,
Platinum Yacht Club
Ship's Store –Beverly Plummer, Ft. Walton
Yacht Club
4-Star Awards –Kathy Champagne, Navy
Yacht Club

FCA Reopening Grant implemented for Florida Yacht Club FCA

Chapters

By P/C John Matthews, Treasurer

The Florida Commodores Association (FCA) wants to help your FCA Chapter reinvigorate your club to reopen its doors as the Corona Virus conditions allow you to do so. Currently we have 14 FCA Chapters that are in varying stages of the RE-OPENING process. For all yacht club members, this is a very beneficial action for the club.

The FCA would like to provide a financial incentive for your chapter to provide some direct assistance to your club to support them in re-opening their doors for the membership while recovering from the devastating effects of the Corona Virus Pandemic. This assistance will enable your chapter to show your yacht club membership the continued effectiveness and benefits that Past Commodores of the club have in its continued operation.

The Executive Committee of the FCA has unanimously approved the establishment of a grant of \$250 per chapter for the expressed purpose of supporting your club in having an Opening Celebration to recognize the re-opening of your club and showing your membership that the Florida Commodores Association is alive and well.

To receive this grant of \$250, your chapter must submit a written request for the grant with a specific description of how the funds will be used in support of the Opening Celebration. The funds received will be a grant

and therefore, the funds do not have to be paid back. You also agree to provide an article for the *FCA Commodores Journal* regarding the Opening Celebration for which the funds were used. Requests for grants will only be considered until August 31, 2020.

Please send your request for the grant to:

The Florida Commodores Association
Attn: Treasurer
P. O. Box 488
Shalimar, FL 3257

Mount Dora Yacht Club Establishes an FCA Chapter

By P/C John Matthews, FCA Treasurer

The Mount Dora Yacht Club (MDYC) is Florida's oldest inland Yacht Club. Located in beautiful Lake County, Florida, the clubhouse is nestled in the quaint town of Mount Dora along the banks of Lake Dora. MDYC's goal is to provide an enjoyable atmosphere where members can gather for social events, promote water activities, and cultivate community relations.

FCA Commodore Jack Kennedy's mission when he became FCA's current leader was to identify and initiate actions which would lead to the establishment of new FCA Chapters. His first attempt was to use his meeting with Castner Waddell, who happened to be a member of Mount Dora Yacht Club, to help with this initiative. One of the first actions that came out of this contact was the acceptance from Mount Dora to host the FCA meeting at their club. Plans were made and finalized, but then we were subjected to the COVID-19 Pandemic which as we all know shut everything down.

However, in the interim time, Mount Dora Yacht Club has submitted applications for members (10 Past Commodores) and 7 Asso

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ciates, including current Commodore Clarence Kolek, to become an official chapter of the Florida Commodores Association. The official charter for the chapter has been created and when the opportunity presents itself, Commodore Kennedy and other FCA Officers will formalize their Chapter Charter and welcome them as an active FCA Chapter.

We all hope that this will take place very soon. In addition, Mount Dora is still willing to host an FCA meeting whenever we can make it happen safely and virus clear. Please do all you can to make Mount Dora Yacht Club feel welcome to the FCA.

Yacht Club Leadership Seminar

P/C Carole Lick, Platinum Point Chair

The educational seminar for current and incoming flag officers and yacht club general managers will be held at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda. Save the date—Friday and Saturday, October 2nd and 3rd.

This seminar always receives high reviews. It is chock full of pertinent information presented by experienced past commodores and/or professional experts. Topics like insurance, management, leadership, communications, safety, tax compliance, and Commodore/Manager Relationships are a few of the topics covered during this seminar.

Your FCA is working to provide valuable learning experiences for yacht club officers and potential officers. If you have questions please contact: P/C Carole Lick at lickc@msu.edu or 734-945-3938.

Watch for more information on registering and lodging on the FCA website, if you know that you want to attend.

Updates on FCA Yacht Clubs in Florida Reopening

Compiled by Associate Mary Kennedy

Below you will find updates on the various Florida yacht clubs with FCA Chapters and how they are handling the guidelines stipulated by the state for reopening their clubs.

Northwest Florida

Submissions by P/C Jim Roberson, St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club; P/C Jack Kennedy, Bay Point Yacht Club; P/C Ray Dewrell, Ft. Walton Yacht Club; P/C John Matthews, Pensacola Yacht Club; P/C Ken Pyle, Navy Yacht Club;

St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club: The club is open and is practicing social distancing. Their dining room is open with 50% capacity and social distancing.. Take out is still available. The club continues to provide docking and boating facilities to members. Their Youth Sailing program is in full swing, with a limited enrollment practicing social distancing and safety guidelines.

Bay Point Yacht Club: Since the majority of the members are in the high risk category, the club has suspended all activities until the state directs that it is safe to assemble once again.

Ft. Walton Yacht Club: The club is still open, however, major changes have taken place to minimize risk to those members that are in the high risk category. The club has halted all large gatherings. Masks are required entering and leaving. The dining room requires reservations. In the lounge , food must be ordered to get a beverage. Communal items in the dining areas have been replaced with prepackage utensils. Staff are utilized to provide a deep cleaning sterilization to the club.

Pensacola Yacht Club: The Commodore and Board of Directors have directed that

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Pensacola Yacht Club be closed to all Non-PYC Members beginning Tuesday, June 30. Reciprocal privileges will not be recognized during this closure. It will remain closed to all Non-PYC Members until further notice. This action is taken in order to address the spreading of the corona virus and can have repercussions on the NW Regional Meeting to be held on August 1st.

Navy Yacht Club:

Submission by Ken Pyle, Commodore

At the April 1 (virtual/Zoom) meeting of our Bridge, we realized how much the COVID-19 pandemic was going to affect our programs, our Foghorn Newsletter editor, Kim Kaminski, suggested a weekly email to all members of the Club. The Bridge enthusiastically endorsed the idea. I decided that the email should come from me, as Commodore, but include inputs from the membership, most importantly from the Bridge. On April 13 the first edition was sent via group email to all 120 members. Here are the opening paragraphs:

"Today we are publishing our first weekly update to Navy Yacht Club Pensacola members during the COVID-19 Shutdown. We want to keep you updated on various happenings, connected to the Club and provide opportunities for mutual sharing, including a few light-hearted thoughts to brighten and sometimes enlighten your day.

The title, Navy YC Weekly Flotsam and Jetsam, comes from an old nautical term for various shipwreck debris but has come to mean "odds and ends." Google it. And, of course, it comes from our British Navy heritage."

The format included a current status update of changes to meeting and race schedules, a Thought for the Day, a short story about

Nautical Trivia, stories from members about their sailing adventures (recent and past), a tasty recipe column titled "Galley Bites," and other articles such as a two-part series on "First Aid on the Water." Much of the copy for the Flotsam and Jetsam was researched and compiled by our GYA rep/member Julie Connerley and our Fleet Captain, Thomas (Oscar) Robertson.

The Club members provided much positive feedback on the impact to them personally of the Flotsam and Jetsam information at a time of quarantine and isolation, especially our older members. Communications are key to success of any organization. This small effort inspired by our Bridge leadership team proved that once again. Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Southwest Florida

Compiled by P/C Carole Lick, Platinum Yacht Club

The following are status statements from the Platinum Point Yacht Club, Isles Yacht Club, and Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club .

Platinum Point Yacht Club:

Submission by Lon Acheson, Commodore

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 outbreak, the club has postponed decisions on reactivating social events at the current time. The club will adhere to the original plan and remain deactivated with respect to sponsored social events. The club is still open, and can be used as a gathering spot for not more than ten people. All CDC guidelines must be observed. An advisory group including Dr. Robert Singer (PPYC member) and the Commodore will continue to monitor reports on the progress of the outbreak.

Isles Yacht Club:

Submission by Bill Eggert, Commodore

The club reports that the dining and bar are

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open with limitations. Requiring reservations helps to control the numbers and in observing social distancing. Table size is limited to six people. Carryout is still available. Club activities are available for members as long as guidelines are observed. The club has actually increased their membership within the last three weeks.

The club is planning their first two events in the next two weeks.

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club:

Submission by Martin Holland, Commodore

The club is doing well with the Marina side deck open for dining and their French Chef providing meals for "Take-Out". The main dining room and bar seating are following the CDC guidelines for social distancing and require reservations. Waterfront outdoor weddings with the guidelines have resumed. The marina is busy and Pickleball courts are in full swing. The Youth Sailing Program is active and going well. Additional cleaning and sanitizing, including fog/disinfecting, are done throughout the day.

East Coast Florida

Submission by P/C Stan Mitchell, Lake Beresford Yacht Club

Lake Beresford Yacht Club: Closed at this time.

Pelician Yacht Club: Open to members only and not accepting reciprocity.

Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club: Open to members only and not accepting reciprocity.



Contact Quartermaster Beverly Plummer

Pensacola Yacht Club FIRST MEETING AFTER LOCK- DOWN

P/C John Matthews
Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

After Gov DeSantis permitted restaurants and other facilities to re-open in June, the Pensacola chapter of the Florida Commodores Assn seized upon the opportunity to host a chapter membership meeting. However, we did have some issues like the fact that our chapter president and the FCA Rear Commodore was not available to chair the meeting. Problem was he was in the hospital with major medical issues. Our immediate Past President was in California with family and was not due to return until much later.

We had a total of 24 members and associates attending the meeting. In addition, FCA Commodore Jack Kennedy and his wife, Mary came to help us celebrate. FCA Vice Commodore Ray Dewrell and Past FCA Commodore Dr Tom Reynolds came over from Fort Walton YC to help us celebrate having the meeting. The Yacht Club organized the luncheon in compliance to the current COVID-19 restrictions related to numbers at tables and having waitstaff serve the food so the members did not present the possibility of contaminating the buffet line.

No more than 6 people were permitted to sit at each table. All food handling was accomplished by the waitstaff.

It even allowed the current PYC Vice Commodore to tell "sailing stories" to two Past PYC Commodores who actually believed his "stories". By the way, he is the current World Fish Class Champion.

Having observed the COVID-19 restrictions permitted some of our members who are

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highly susceptible to the covid virus infection to attend the luncheon.

Some future chapter events were discussed as well as upcoming projects the chapter is undertaking to help “improve” the club’s physical presence, such as honoring a recently deceased PYC member, Gwen Herrin, with a special Camellia named for her husband, the Tom Herrin Camellia. The meeting ended with PYC Commodore Nicole Ferry giving us an update of the state of the Club and how we are managing the effects of the corona virus on the operations of the club.

Pictures from the meeting can be seen on page 14.

FLORIDA COMMODORES ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN: June 2020 (updated)

By Associate Lynn Reynolds, Secretary & Historian

The Florida Commodores Association 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 active membership at this time is two-hundred-forty-four (244), with sixteen (16) Club Chapters and a few members-at-large participating.

Standing Committee Chairs are:

Bylaws: P/C John Matthews (Pensacola and Navy Yacht Clubs)

Quartermaster: Associate Beverly Plummer (Ft. Walton Yacht Club)

FCA Foundation: P/C Tom Reynolds (Ft. Walton Yacht Club)

WAVE (Wounded American Veterans Event): P/C Kathy Champagne (Navy Yacht Club)

Leadership Resources Committee: P/C Carole Lick (Platinum Point Yacht Club)

Four Star Commodore Program: P/C Kathy Champagne (Navy Yacht Club)

Communications Chairman: Assoc. Mary Kennedy (Bay Point Yacht Club)

Fleet Council: P/C Tim Burr (Pensacola Yacht Club)

Historian and Awards: Associate Dr. Lynne W. Reynolds (Ft. Walton Yacht Club)

Nominating: P/C Carole Lick (Platinum Point Yacht Club)

In October 2019, the Executive Committee announced that the membership has been divided into three regions of the state. The activities of each region are organized by Coordinators appointed by the Commodore. These are: Eastern Region- Director P/C Stan Mitchell: Western Region- Director P/C Carole Lick: Panhandle Region- Directors P/C John Matthews and P/C Tom Reynolds. In addition, it was announced that the FCA General Membership Meetings will now be scheduled twice per year. Please see the website: www.flcommodores.org for announcements and details concerning these meetings.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

FCA Foundation:

Part of the mission of the Florida Commo

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dores 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. In pursuit of this goal, the FCA Foundation, among other pursuits, 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. 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.

Leadership Resources Committee:

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 General Meeting of the FCA and sponsor an annual, state-wide Educational Seminar for Yacht Club leaders including modules focusing on aspects of yacht club management and leadership. All Florida yacht club leaders are invited to attend.

Wounded American Veterans Event or "WAVE":

This program originated in Northwest Flori-

da 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 is now 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 are being planned.

Ship's Store:

Our Quartermaster, Beverly Plummer, keeps an inventory of all uniform necessities, as well as a wonderful selection of nautically themed items for all members and for all occasions. Be sure to consult the Ship's Store section of the website and make your choices there, or at your Regional or General Membership meetings.

Please consult other articles in the FLORIDA COMMODORES JOURNAL, other publications, pictures and meeting handouts, and, of course, the organization's website for complete information on activities and events. Your contributions to these publications and the dissemination of information are always greatly appreciated.

The 4 STAR Award Program

P/C Kathy Champagne, Chair

As Florida gradually reopens, shelter in place followed by social distancing, multiple problems continue to face our yacht clubs.

If your yacht club is blessed with a great leader who has stepped up to help solve problems for your membership, or took on any challenge your club has faced, please take the time to complete the 2020 4 Star Award nomination form that was mailed to your yacht club in February. Additional documents can be downloaded from the FCA website.

I am looking forward to be reading many in

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spirational stories that are likely cheer us all on to a bright future for our yacht clubs.

All nominations forms must be received by September 30, 2020 either by emailing the form to me, kathychampagne@bellsouth.net or by mail:

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

FCA Foundation

P/C Tom Reynolds



The Florida Commodores Foundation is gearing up for the FCAF Youth Sailing grants again this year. Last year, we were proud to offer scholarships to seven Florida Youth Sailing Programs and look forward to doing the same this year. However, current events are causing us to run behind last year's schedule.

Look for the youth Sailing Grant application in your club's mailbox and send it back as soon as possible. Thank you for your interest and support.

Pensacola Yacht Club Acquires New Race Committee Signal Vessel

PC John Matthews, PYC/NYCP

The Pensacola Yacht Club has an outstanding reputation of excellence when it comes to our Race Management program. The centerpiece of the Race Management program depends upon having the right equipment for the volunteers to accomplish their jobs.

As a result of the loss of PYC Signal boat "Maxine" in 2004 when Hurricane Ivan roared through Pensacola destroying every marina and most of the boats in them especially the PYC marina including "Maxine". This boat was a single screw fiberglass "shrimp" boat which was built in Slidell, LA by a ship builder who specializes in this type of boat.

After the hurricane left Pensacola doing only minor damage to PYC Clubhouse but destroying several of the naval oaks that had graced the property for over a 100 years, the PYC BOD decided to find a replacement boat. A small committee visited marinas near Kemah, Texas on Clear Lake and found a prospective boat, the "Miss Priss". It was a 1984 34 ft Wellcraft Californian with twin diesel Caterpillar engines. After some negotiation, it was purchased and prepared for a trip from Kemah, TX to Pensacola, FL.

As the Immediate Past Commodore, I offered to be responsible for picking the boat up in Kemah and transiting the Intercostal Waterway from Houston to Pensacola. My crew of 3 volunteers and I departed Kemah in early December with the plan to have the boat in Pensacola before Christmas. IT DID NOT HAPPEN! This is a whole another story. I finally docked in Pensacola the first week of January 2005. She was re-named "Maxine" in honor of Maxine Sansom, who had been the chair of the PYC Race committee for about 20 years.

"Maxine" served as the PYC Race Committee Signal Vessel for 15 years providing support for numerous regional, national and international regattas. The boat had been modified to have a sophisticated flag signaling system which was mounted on the deck of the flybridge. However, as she aged her engines required major overall and the transmission began to fail. Her fuel tanks began

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to leak and needed replacing. The generator quit working and needed an overall. It became very obvious that “Maxine” was nearing the end of her useful service as a Race Committee Signal Boat. the Fleet Captain and Commodore that it was time to find a new boat. The Fleet Captain and Dockmaster (who maintained the boat) discussed replacement with me since I was the primary operator of the boat. It was clear to all of us that the boat needed to be replaced. The PYC Board agreed and named a new search committee to look for a boat that would meet the requirements for a Race Committee Signal Vessel.

The committee found a 2008 39ft Main-ship Trawler with twin diesel engines and a flybridge. The vessel is currently named “Persistence” which is appropriate for the time and effort to get the boat. PYC coordinated the purchase with the PYC Satori Foundation, a 501 C 3 Charity which uses its assets to educate, train, and support disadvantage youth in the Pensacola area using the sport of sailing as its principal platform.

The following pictures on page 12 and 13 show the sequence of events in installing the new flag display device on the fly-bridge of *Persistence*.

The last picture was taken on Friday, May 22. The very next day, it was used by the PYC Race Committee for Maxine #3, the third race in the traditional Maxine Series which is hosted by the Pensacola Bay Yacht Clubs of Pensacola Beach YC, Navy Yacht Club Pensacola, and Pensacola Yacht Club. The latter two YCs have active FCA Chapters.

2020



P/C Kathy Champagne

September 12, 2020 remains to be the date for the cooperative effort of the Navy Yacht Club Pensacola and Pensacola Yacht Club on behalf of America’s Wounded Veterans.

In addition, WAVE 2020 will salute first responders whose rapid and brave actions limited casualties on Naval Air Station Pensacola during the terrorist attack on December 6, 2019.

WAVE originated in 2012, and was adopted by the Florida Commodores Association in 2013, with the hope that the concept would be promoted around the State of Florida.

If your yacht club is interested in hosting a WAVE, specific guidelines can be found on the FCA website.

WAVE, Wounded American Veterans Event is a simple “thank you” extended to the brave men and women who keep us safe.



Freedom is not Free!



New flag display device on the flybridge of *Persistence*.





The two PYC FCA Chapter members and PYC PCs Ronald Bray, owner VERTEC that built the device and John Matthews, PYC Fleet Captain. Two Past Commodores still serving their yacht club.



The finished product with all the signal flags flying in the breeze.



**Pensacola Yacht Club FCA
Meeting
June 17, 2020**

