



The Florida Commodores Journal

Official Publication of the Florida Commodores Association
Founded in 2008

Volume XI Issue 2

April, 2021



Upcoming Events

July 16 - 17th, 2021

FCA General Membership Meeting
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
Port Charlotte, FL

October 8 - 9th, 2021

Leadership Seminar
Pelican Yacht Club
Fort Pierce, FL

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FCA to conduct Flag Raising at the GYA Regatta at St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club on **Saturday, May 1st.**



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Thanks to our Proofreader, P/C John Slattery of the Coquina Coast Commodores. Thanks also to the respective clubs that sent photos: Lake Beresford YC, Pelican YC, Pensacola YC, Platinum Point YC, Ft. Walton YC, and Navy YCP. Also, photo by jacqueline_dobbs@icloud.com

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<u>Publishing Date</u>	<u>Deadline Date</u>
April 1	March 26
July 1	June 25
October 1	September 24
January 1	December 17

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From the Helm

P/C Jack Kennedy, FCA Commodore



Most of us are happy having 2020 behind us. The year was tumultuous and it seemed we all were continually changing and adapting. Now, we are firmly in 2021 and with vaccinations being administered

statewide, this will, hopefully, be a better year.

I have a dislike for the words “new normal”. Fortunately, in talking with members at several of our FCA chapters, the “old normal” of hugs and handshakes has returned since the vaccine has been administered to so many. Of course, everyone needs to stay aware of safety protocols, but at least, we can be social again.

Nine yacht clubs received grant money from the FCA to help with their reopening events.. Several yacht club events were highlighted in the last issue, and new events are described in this issue.

The GYA is having their opening regatta at the St. Andrews Bay Yacht club on Saturday, May 1st. The FCA will be conducting the Flag Raising ceremony to start the sailing season.

Our FCA organization is having a general membership meeting (yeah!) at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club on July 16-17th. Save this date and let's all gather together again for wonderful camaraderie and fellowship.

Our membership is growing and our chapters are increasing. Let's get out and visit our fel-

low yacht clubs in Florida and support their business.

Stay positive and stay safe in your travels and cruising. Let's all enjoy the “old normal”.



Welcome Aboard New Members

P/C Jack Kennedy
FCA Commodore

It delights me to see that not only is our FCA organization thriving during this pandemic, but we are continuing to acquire new members. We look forward to getting together with them in the near future at the next meeting that we convene.

- Mia Ottesen**, Vice Commodore
Navy Yacht Club, Pensacola
- Donald Buchheim**, Past Commodore
Pelican Yacht Club
- Geraldine Buchheim**, Associate member
Pelican Yacht Club
- Rod White**, Past Commodore
Clearwater Yacht Club
- Barbara White**, Associate member
Clearwater Yacht Club
- Richard Dugan**, Past Commodore
Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club
- Eileen Dugan**, Associate member
Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club
- Tim Couty**, Associate member
Bay Point Yacht Club
- Hank Killion**, Rear Commodore (Associate)
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
- Roger Strube**, Vice Commodore
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
- Kathleen Strube**, Associate
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
- Ralph Desare**, Fleet Captain (Associate)
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club



Associate Beverly Plummer, Quartermaster

The Ship's Store is still available for updating your uniform needs. Check out the items available on the association's website:

www.flcommodores.org and contact Quartermaster Plummer for ordering.

2021 Leadership Seminar

P/C Carol Lick, Leadership Chair

It is time to learn, prepare, and lead your club with as much knowledge and readiness as possible. The FCA annual seminar will take place this fall at Pelican Yacht Club in Fort Pierce, Florida also known as the Sunrise City, sister to San Francisco, California, the Sunset City. It is an inviting place to spend a few days in the early fall along the Treasure Coast.

Want to know more about: Club Management, Taxes, Insurance, Club Business, Leadership, Communications, Recruiting and Retention, Strategic Planning, and more?

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) of the FCA is offering its annual educational sessions on Friday and Saturday, October 8-9. The seminar addresses many of the major areas a yacht club officer or director needs to know to perform effectively in the complex and demanding world of club life.

More information concerning the schedule, lodging, and agenda will be posted on the FCA's website soon.

For more information, contact:
P/C Carole Lick, FCA IPC
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FCA Chapters take advantage of the Reopening Grant Money

Associate Mary Kennedy, Communications Chair

The Executive Committee of the FCA voted in the summer of 2020 to establish a grant of \$250 per each FCA Chapter. This grant money was for the expressed purpose of supporting those FCA chapters as their respective clubs reopened from the Pandemic.

As these clubs reopen, they have submitted descriptions detailing these events and how the money was used.

Lake Beresford Yacht Club

Anthony Visconti, Commodore

The Lake Beresford Yacht Club was hit hard by the COVID-19 Pandemic. It caused the club a serious setback, but with the help of the Past Commodores Association, we have made a strong comeback. The grant money was used to purchase Tiki torches and live music for a reopening celebration. I look forward to seeing the Lake Beresford Yacht Club continuing its long tradition of success. Thank you again for helping.

(See photos of the event on page 13)

Mt. Dora Yacht Club

Clarence Kolek, Commodore

The Mount Dora Yacht Club, the newest member of the Florida Commodores Association, added a new grill to our pavilion area. This helps to encourage a resurgence in participation in activities at our club as we begin our resumption of activities after the Covid 19 lockdown. This being an outside area, the patio area off of the screen enclosed pavilion is a perfect location to install the grill that could be used for weekend outdoor cooking activities in small groups as well as for our members to use during the week if

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they would like. It is a beautiful area overlooking the water and is a perfect place for this type of activity. It is a secure area inside of our fenced area and is also surrounded by a second fenced area off the pavilion.. (See photos on page 14)

Navy Yacht Club Pensacola
Ken Pyle, Commodore

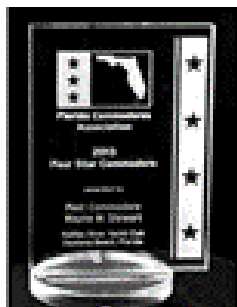
A “Welcome Back Members” party was held on October 1st, 2020 at a private residence that was outdoors on the shores of Perdido Bay in Pensacola. The party was inspired by the FCA offer of a \$250 grant and the growing need amidst the pandemic for social contact and friendship renewal in a safe environment. Over 25 members were in attendance. We enjoyed a beautiful evening under a full moon sharing stories, humor and friendship, as only sailors can do. Two additional meetings were held in November and December to enhance the social welfare of those who chose to participate. We sincerely appreciate the grant which was applied to the cost of beverages and food.

(See photos of the event on page 15)

Several clubs still have had to postpone their events until a future date due to COVID-19 safety protocols.

Four-Star Award 2021

P/C Kathy Champagne, Chair



The nomination forms for the Four-Star Award 2021 have been mailed to all Florida yacht clubs. As Chairman of the Award Committee, I look forward to reading the summaries of contributions Past Commodores have provided for their yacht clubs during

this extraordinary year of challenges.

If there are any questions regarding the nomination process, I can be reached at:

kathychampagne@bellsouth.net.

The deadline for the receipt of these documents is **September 30, 2021**.

Four-Star Award Ceremonies have been held at Pelican Yacht Club, Pensacola Yacht Club, and Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club.

Pensacola Yacht Club

P/C John Matthews, FCA Treasurer

One of the major purposes of the Florida Commodores Association is to encourage all those who served as Commodore of their Yacht Clubs to continue to be involved with their clubs as a way of maintaining the customs and traditions of the yachting community and insuring their club will continue to grow and serve their membership.

The Pensacola Yacht Club Chapter hosted the annual Sundowner Ceremony and Change of Watch on Sunday, January 3, 2021. As a tradition, the Chapter conducted a Sundowner Ceremony to kick off the Change of Watch.



Following the completion of the Sundowner Ceremony, the traditional Change of Watch began in the ballroom of the Club House.

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After the recognition of the outgoing Flag Officers and Board members came the presentation of the Past Commodore's Burgee and Incoming Commodore's Burgees between Immediate Past Commodore Nicole Ferry and Incoming Commodore Tom Pace, Jr.



The Change of Watch concluded with the recognition and presentation of the FCA Four Star Award to PYC Past Commodore Jim Reeves. Presenting the Four-Star Award to P/C Jim Reeves below is FCA Rear Commodore Bob Sutton who also served as the Master of Ceremony for the Change of Watch.



Pensacola Yacht Club has the honor of having five Four-Star Commodores as members. They include in the order of recognition, PC Charles Smith, P/C John Matthews, P/C Alan McMillan, P/C Larry Bowyer, and P/C Jim Reeves. With the exception of P/C Charles Smith (deceased), all are still very active in the activities of the club. (See additional photos on page 16)

Pelican Yacht Club

P/C Peter Tyson

January 23rd was the annual Change of Watch ceremony at the Pelican Yacht Club. FCA Four-Star Past Commodore June Ann DeGraw and Past Commodore Peter Tyson, both members of the Pelican Yacht Club, were honored to present the FCA Four-Star Commodore Award to Pelican Yacht Club Past Commodore David Willbur who was being inducted as Commodore of the Pelican Yacht Club for the second time in eight years. This is just another example of the dedication that Commodore Willbur has shown to our club and membership and confirms the caliber required to be honored by the FCA as the Four-Star Commodores league. Commodore Willbur has been a member for decades and has served on numerous committees and the Board Of Directors for three terms.



P/C Jack Kennedy, FCA Commodore, presenting P/C David Willbur with his Four-Star Award. (Photo credit: jacqueline_dobbs@icloud.com)

(Continued on next page)

Stuart Corinthian

P/C June Ann DeGraw

The Pelican Yacht Club's three Four-Star Commodore recipients traveled to the Stuart Corinthians Yacht Club on February 27th to present the Four-Star Commodore Award to Past Commodore Bonnie Forrest. The presentation was scheduled at the beginning of the Change of Watch Ceremony. Upon arrival, we were told that P/C Forrest would not be attending the evening's celebration. She had had her second COVID shot the day before and was in bed because of her reaction to the shot. As the old saying states, "the show must go on."

P/C Peter Tyson Four-Star 2015, P/C June Ann DeGraw Four Star 2017 and P/C David Willbur Four-Star 2020, made the presentation to Commodore Jack Larson. He promised he would bestow the award to P/C Forrest at the club's next membership meeting. As always, Stuart Corinthians welcomed their visitors with their usual "yacht club warmth and comradery." It was wonderful evening enjoyed by all. Great food, great entertainment and great members make for an evening to remember.



P/C Peter Tyson, Jeanie Tyson, Bruce DeGraw, P/C June Ann DeGraw, P/C David Willbur and Alice Blackwell

Ft. Walton Yacht Club 70th Anniversary Celebration

Associate Dr. Lynne Reynolds, FCA Secretary

Fort Walton Yacht Club was founded on 10 September 1951 by fifteen (15) members who then began construction on a clubhouse on land donated by E.W. Sudduth. Clifford Meigs was elected the first Commodore, and he led the mostly self-help work to build the clubhouse. The Club facility finally opened in January of 1954 with seventy-three (73) charter members. Among these were prominent members of the Fort Walton Beach community, including E.W. Sudduth, John Amos, Clifford Meigs, Judge Erwin Fleet, Harry Vandergriff, and Walter Ruckel.

The club has continued its great success with members from diverse backgrounds representing sailors, power boaters, and those who are only interested in supporting and being a part of the yachting community and taking part in its activities.

This year, to mark our 70th Anniversary, we are planning events for each month with "FAMILY, SAILING, FRIENDS" as our theme for the year. These will be kicked off with a super special General Membership Meeting and Anniversary Dinner on 11 April.

In May, the focus will be on youth sailing programs, and in June, the Cruising Program and cruising stories to be featured. July is when we host numerous races and regattas, and in August, we will spotlight the triumphs, trophies, and sailing careers of some of our very deserving members.

September will bring a memorable weekend (24,25 and 26 September) to include: Friday: a Sundown Ceremony and activity specifically for juniors; Saturday: The Anniversary Celebration Ball; and on Sunday: FWYC

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Family Day. Do plan to share in this grand celebration with us!!

In October, we will participate in the Florida Commodores Association's Change of Watch, with our own Past Commodore, Ray Dewrell, taking the association's helm. There will also be our General Membership Meeting followed by another anniversary celebration event.

In November, our attention will turn to FWYC Women's role featuring exploits of such women as Marge Brinkman, the namesake of the Brinkman Regatta, and held in November.

December's calendar will highlight Past Commodores' memories and culminate in the Commodores New Years' Eve Ball.

All members will enjoy participating in these celebrations of the founding of our yacht club. Fort Walton Yacht Club "strengthens families, promotes sailing and develops friendships".

Platinum Point Yacht Club celebrates the Opening of the Boating Season P/C Carole Lick, FCA Immediate P/C

Outside events and programs can be lots of fun - even the ones that are usually inside! Blessing of the Fleet week at Platinum Point Yacht Club was its usual popular event but with a twist. Live nautical music was enjoyed by about 75 people on the eve of the Blessing event. The weather was outstanding, and it felt so good to be with club members we have not seen for so very long. Sitting 6 feet apart and wearing masks was easy to do.

The next day, another beautiful one, we had

our boat parade and then the annual Memorial Service for members who have passed this last year. Following the service, we all moved to the front of the club, outside, and had a really good box supper ready for us. It was a good day; it is always a good day at the yacht club! So nice to be there – even conforming to the Covid protocols.
(See photos on page 15)

Kids on the Water APRIL 2021

P/C Carole Lick, FCA Immediate P/C

The Platinum Point Yacht Club Charitable Boating Foundation annually hosts a day on the water for kids but, like everything else, it was different this year.

This time the PPYC Foundation hosted youth (ages 8 – 11) from the Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte County for an environmental education cruise of the Peace River March 15th. Kingfisher Fleet and the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center facilitated this activity. The kids enjoyed watching dolphins, searching for alligators, and viewing the birds at several rookeries. They also learned about the importance of the mangroves and why the river appears to be “murky” even though it is very clean. Masks were required for all and the boat provided lots of space and fresh air. (See additional photos on page 17)



Students looking for alligators.

WAVE 2021
NEVER FORGET!
P/C Kathy Champagne,
Chair



On Saturday, September 11, 2021, the United States will be observing the 20th Anniversary of the terrorist attack on our nation.

As a result of the events on 9/11, our military engaged in battles overseas that resulted in a large number of wounded veterans.

With that in mind, it is hoped that all FCA yacht clubs will stage a Wounded American Veterans Event, WAVE, to honor those brave Americans who stepped up when they were needed.

Remember that "Freedom is not Free", and these brave men and women paid a heavy price.



Let's unite with a big "Thank You". For details hosting a WAVE event see the WAVE link on the FCA Website.

FCA Foundation
P/CTom Reynolds,
Foundation Treasurer



The foundation is alive and well and continues to accept charitable contributions.

Plans for resuming the distribution of funds for nautical causes are underway and details will be announced at a later date.

Crossing the Bar

Associate Mary Kennedy, Communication Chair

("Crossing the Bar" is a poem written in 1889 by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. It can be referred to traveling serenely and securely from life through death.)

Memories of Jack Petry

Associate Dr. Lynne Reynolds, FCA Secretary

Jack Petry wrote a wonderful autobiography for his grandchildren in 1997. "... and Done a Hundred Things". One of his opening statements revealed the tone of his life: "How marvelous it is that people meet, marry, have families and produce generations of entirely new families."

He proceeded to say, "I will forever think of myself as a pretty good fighter pilot...it would please me to have you remember me in this way". Col Jack graduated from Air Force Fighter Weapons school as a "Top Gun", in 1969. As a Squadron Commander/Wing Commander of the 33rd TAC Fighter Wing during Vietnam, he received many honors and military decorations for his leadership. He spent some time in his F4 escorting Gemini 3 and 4 into space. He retired with 34 years in the Air Force in 1984.

He then went to Saudi Arabia where he was Mideast Director of Marketing for McDonnell Douglas Corporation.

He was an avid traveler and his career required extensive travel: Middle East, Far East, Africa and Europe - although he much preferred spontaneous and unusual adventures.

Jack and his wife finally settled permanently in Shalimar, Florida, in 1994. Many of us remember Jack sailing here at the Ft. Walton Yacht Club. In addition to serving as Dock Master, Finance Chair, and Commodore in 2000. He could also be seen on the water in

Continued on the next page

all types of weather, in *C-Venture*, his Catalina 36.

When the Florida Commodores Association was formed late in 2008, Jack was one of the Charter Members and was instrumental in advising and getting this new venture off to a good start.

Jack had so many, many talents, including playing a really cool, syncopated jazz piano. He was, additionally, “one hell of a dancer”, and could entertain everyone all night with his musical talent and dancing.

Jack had also developed a terrific understanding of architecture. He designed, and had built, the family home in Shalimar, as well as a comfortable get-away cabin in Georgia.

He preferred fast cars and loved to race, winning many first-place trophies. He also loved sports, especially tennis.

Jack was an astute investor and a consummate volunteer, often advising people about finances, especially as an AARP IRS tax adviser.



We shall always treasure the memory of our friend, Jack Petry.

Checklist for Summer Boating

(The following article is from the website:

<https://www.discoverboating.com/ownership/maintenance/start-up-checklist>

Boat U.S., the nation's largest recreational boating association, has a spring commissioning checklist. Whether you have a power or sailboat, inboard or outboard, following this checklist is an easy way to get ready for the season. (You can download it from their website.)

BEFORE YOU LAUNCH:

- Inspect and lubricate seacocks. Hoses and hose clamps should be inspected and replaced as necessary.
- Replace deteriorated zincs.
- Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure. Grip the prop and try moving the shaft - if it's loose, the cutlass bearing may need to be replaced.
- Check to make sure the rudderstock hasn't been bent.
- Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.
- Make sure your engine intake sea strainer is free of corrosion and properly secured.
- Check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for looseness. After the boat is launched, be sure to check these as well as through-hulls for leaks. Use a hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.

OUTDRIVES and OUTBOARD ENGINES:

- Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds), and replace if suspect.
- Check power steering and power trim oil levels. Replace worn-out zincs. Inspect outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable has to be replaced.

ENGINES AND FUEL SYSTEMS:

- Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks and make sure all lines are well supported with non-combustible clips or straps with smooth edges.
- Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Clamps should be snug and free of rust. Clean fuel filters.
- Inspect cooling hoses and fittings for stiffness, rot, leaks and/or cracking. Make sure they fit snugly and

Continued on the next page

are double-clamped.

- Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifold for corrosion.
- Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Wire-brush battery terminals and fill cells with distilled water. Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks.

SAILBOAT RIGGING:

- Inspect fittings for cracks and rust. Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for "fishhooks" and rust.
- Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape. Recaulk through-deck chainplates as necessary (generally, once a decade).

TRAILERS:

- Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure. Don't forget the spare!
- Inspect bearings and repack as necessary.
- Test tail and back-up lights. Test winch to make sure it's working properly. Inspect trailer frame for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Check expiration dates on flares and fire extinguishers.
- Check stove and remote tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses.
- Inspect bilge pump and float switch to make sure it's working properly.
- Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafing.
- Update or replace old charts, waterway guides.
- Check shore power cable connections for burns, which indicates the cable needs to be replaced.
- Make sure your boating license and/or registration is up to date. Don't forget your trailer tags.
- Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed. Be sure you have fuel spill insurance coverage.

Make sure you have a properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids and pets

Van W. Snider, Jr., CAE, President, Michigan Boating Industries Association recommends that you make a list and build on it year to year as you find things you need while boating.

Planning ahead insures a good start for the **boating season** and great fun for you and your family.

GALLEY BITES

Nautical Appetizers



Red bell peppers make a whimsical octopus on top of your favorite dip.



Veggies arranged within a cucumber anchor makes for a clever decoration.



Sandwich bread cut in the shape of flip flops makes for a whimsical appetizer. Put your favorite filling inside. Then complete the sandwich with green pepper binders and cherry tomatoes.



A croissant forms the base of this crabby appetizer. Carrot stick legs and red bell pepper complete the body. Black olive eyes are held in place with toothpicks. A radish forms the mouth.

Just A Little Humor



One-Liners

1.What do you do with a sick boat?

- Take it to the doc.

•Which type of vegetable is banned on ships?

- Leeks!

•A dentist opened an office on a boat. What was the boat's name?

- The Tooth Ferry

•Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day.

- Teach a man to fish and he'll sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

•I started a successful boat building business in the attic of my house.

- Sails are going through the roof!

•Why didn't the sailors play cards?

- Because the captain was standing on the deck.

•How do you make luxury yacht charters look younger?

- Boat-Tox.

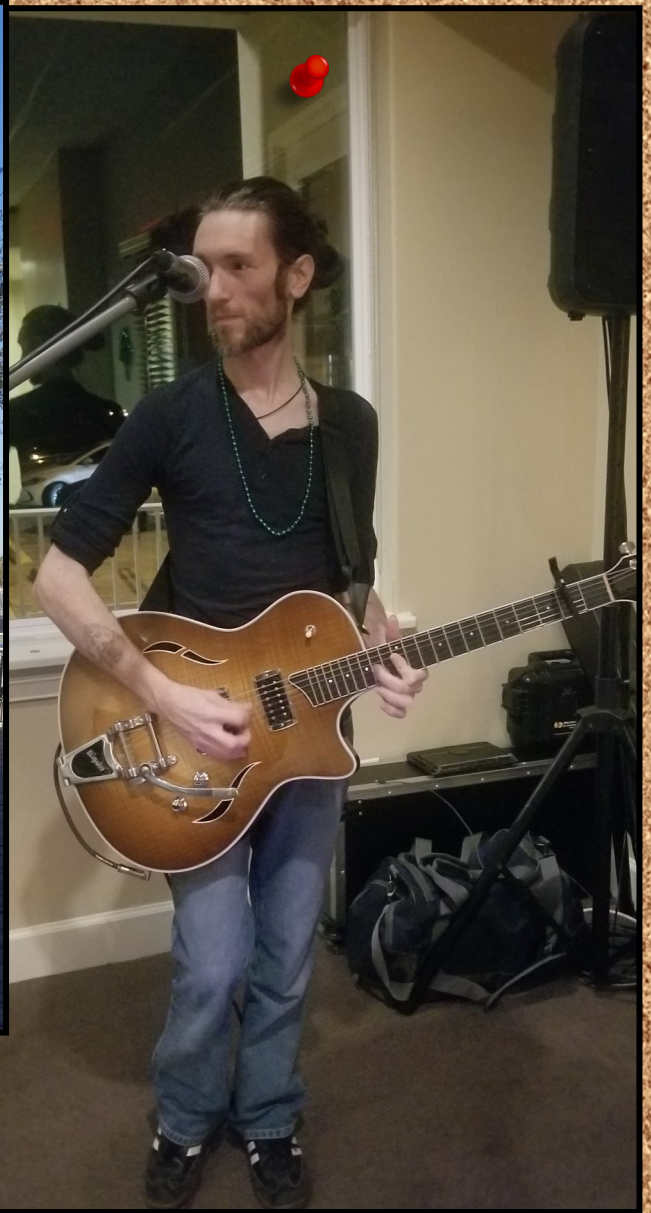
When do you know you are getting a good deal on a boat?

- When there's a sail on it.

Credits: www.godownsize.com/33-hilarious-boat-jokes



**Lake Beresford Yacht Club's
pictures from their
Reopening party.**

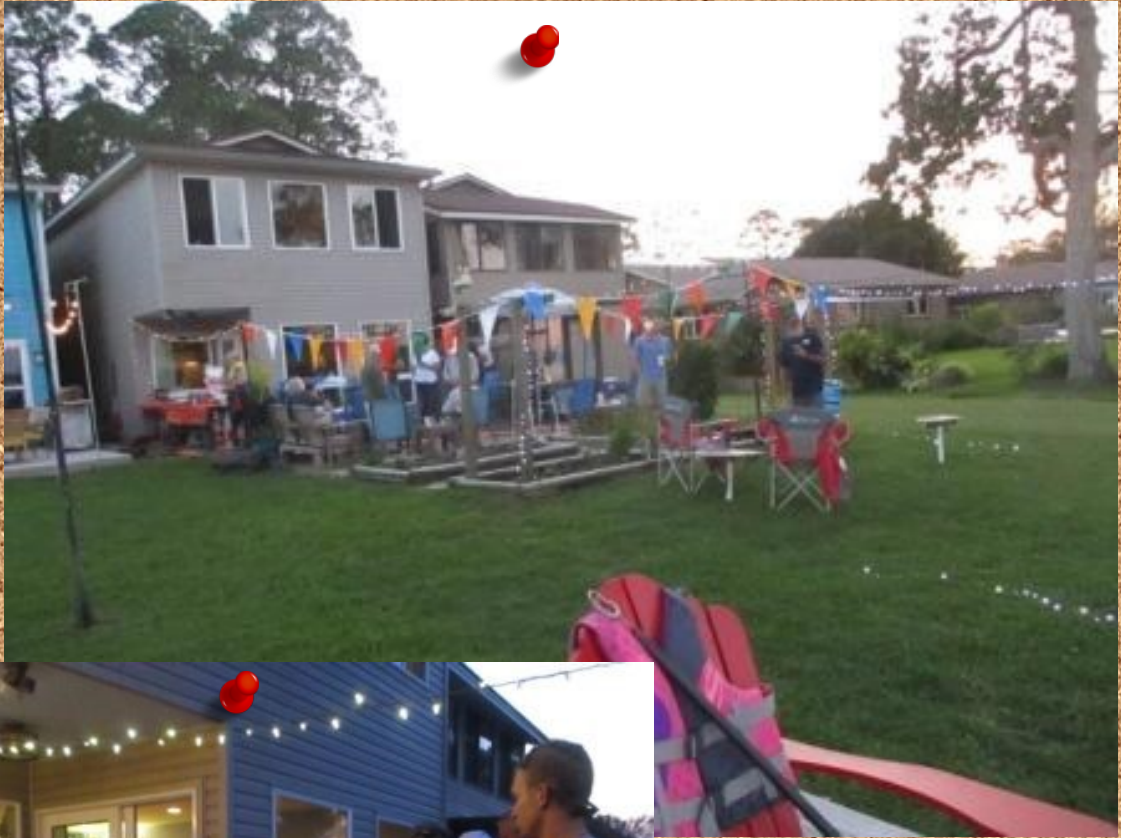


Downloaded from [www.researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351111111)

Mt. Dora Yacht Club photos from their back deck and interior clubhouse.



Downloaded from www.shutterstock.com



**Navy Yacht Club
Pensacola
Reopening Party**



Pensacola Yacht Club's Sundowner Ceremony, Change of Watch, & Four-Star Award



Combined Outgoing Board and Incoming Board Participating in the Sundowner Ceremony.



Outgoing Board posing for their final photo.



Outgoing Commodore Nicole Ferry and Incoming Commodore Tom Pace, Jr. receiving the Flag of our Country.



Two PYC Four-Star Awardees, P/C Alan McMillan and P/C John Matthews, pin the Four-Star Award on P/C Jim Reeves.

Platinum Point Yacht Club's Blessing of the Fleet

