



Volume 44, Number 12

Latitude:30°32'29"N Longitude: 87°54'14"W

The Past Commodores went out to sea



PC Adams shows the doubters, "This is how I remember it . . ."

On November 18 the day didn't begin as warm and sunny as we had hoped to have for the Past Commodores' Regatta. We enjoyed a few libations then took to the water

anyway. The sun was beginning to peek through the clouds, winds were out of the east at 15-18kts and the promise of good racing was in sight. Sailed in the Rhodes 19 this year, Past Commodore skippers and crew were Tony Chavers with Scott Guterrez, Erik Schmitz with Gary and Lindsay Garner, Paul Ring with Jimmy Finch, Stuart Adams with Carl Black and Steve Odom with Tommy and Michael Odom. Helping on the RC boat were Past Commodores Bob

Mace, Wes Stapleton and Barbara Brown, along with Rick Matteis, and our mark set boat was Lindy Cromartie.

Three races were sailed, with close mark roundings and finishes. In Race 2 at the first leeward mark rounding there were shouts of "Protest" and Stuart Adams, Erik Schmitz and Steve Odom rounded in very close positions. But apparently the matter was settled in the parking lot post racing over promises of Sasparillas. During the after race lunch, the subject of the protest again surfaced but PC Stuart Adams put it rest with "This is how I remember it happened." We're not sure everyone agreed with his version of the incident.

For this Commodore, it was a great way to spend a Saturday – with some of our Past Commodores, listening to their stories, picking up bits and pieces of FYC history, and in general enjoying their company.

Feelin' Christmas-Sea at FYC



Save the date of Sunday, December 11, 2011 for the Holiday Open Boat Cruise at the FYC docks. It is scheduled for 3 to 5 PM. Cruisers' boats will be open and decorated for visitors. This will be followed by

cocktails in the FYC bar and dinner in the restaurant.

Curious about the lure of cruising? This is a great chance to see what it's



like to live on a boat without leaving the dock!

As you can see from last year's pictures, the cruising crowd had a good time welcoming the visitors inspite of very cold winds!

For more information contact one of the FYC Cruising Captains: Contact Mike Turner Nautacop@aol.com or Tere Mills TTM350@bellsouth.net.



At press time, the following boats are planning to be open: **Top Cat, Phronesis, Mañana, Polecat, Moonglade, Mary Lis, Promises, Dixie Diva, Encore, Waterfront, Buster, Heritage, and Sea Witch.**



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Vice Commodore	Ellis Ollinger
Rear Commodore	Joe Comer IV
Fleet Captain	Chris Dabney
Fleet Surgeon	Dr. Bill Goetter
Secretary	Geoff Kennedy

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From the Commodore

December brings to a close another chapter in the history of FYC, and I would like to say it has been an honor and privilege to be a part of that chapter. It has been a great year at FYC – from the parties and music, to the regattas, and everything in between. These events don't happen without the many volunteers. I offer my sincerest "Thank You" to those who have served on the Bridge, the Board of Governors, the various committees, our Jr. Advisors and those who work with them, our regatta volunteers, and to all of our members who have supported the Club this past year. Whether you were on a committee, worked a regatta, attended an event, ate in the restaurant or had a beverage in the bar – everyone has been a part of making the year a great one.

To everyone who has come to me with a suggestion, solution, complaint or compliment – Thank You. No suggestion ever goes without some degree of contemplation. Your input is invaluable and often times makes the Board of Governors and me think "outside the box".

And a very special Thank You to our office manager, Pat Colvin. Whether it's discovering a leak and calling a plumber, noticing a light bulb that needs replacing, or the hundreds of other things she notices and handles, she keeps the day-to-day operations of the Club running smoothly.

With your continued support 2012 will no doubt be another great year. Planning is already underway for some great events we know you will enjoy.

Consider inviting a guest to the Club for dinner, and/or sponsoring a new member. Our membership has room to grow, and we have so much to offer.

Again, thank you for the honor of serving as your Commodore in 2011. I look forward to another year.

It's your club – use it, enjoy it!

Cathy Cromartie

Nominating Committee Report

Commodore: Cathy Cromartie
Vice Commodore: Dan Herzog
Rear Commodore: Eric Reuss
Fleet Captain: No nomination at this time.
Fleet Surgeon: Dr. Bill Goetter
Secretary: Geoff Kennedy
Board of Governors: Mike Turner, Phil Cusa, Chuck Cornwall
Harbor: Yvonne Hoover, Andy Patterson, Mike Wierszalowski, John Iannacone
Membership: Tom Lott, Philip Durant, Jerry Hall, John Hirsh;
 Nominated from the floor-David Barr
Long Range Planning: Ann Moore, Sabe Fink, Margaret Selby



BRING IN 2012 IN STYLE!

CHEF ROB AND STAFF ARE PLANNING A GLITZY NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT. GREAT FOOD, LIVE MUSIC BY THE BLUE DEVILLES, CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT, PARTY FAVORS AND A BREAKFAST BUFFET AFTER MIDNIGHT. \$75.00 PER COUPLE, \$40.00 SINGLE.

DINNER WILL INCLUDE:

Choice of Soup: Roasted Red Pepper Bisque Or FYC Crab Bisque

Tossed Salad w/choice of dressing

*Choice of Entrée: Filet Mignon with Béarnaise served with
a Lobster Tail and drawn butter*

Or

*Roasted Chilean Sea Bass with Chive
Crème Fraiche*



Choice of Dessert: Pannacotta with Raspberries Or Molten Chocolate Lava Cake

Reservations Required: 928-8888, option 2

When making reservations, please indicate your choice of Entrée and Dessert

Junior Report

FYC Juniors excel at Mid-winter nationals!

Juniors Phillip Dobbins, Margaret Ollinger, John Pereira, and Mitch Powell traveled to New Orleans over the Thanksgiving weekend to race in the 2011 Allstate Sugar Bowl Midwinter Championship Regatta hosted by Southern Yacht Club. Eighty sailors from throughout the southeast, and as far away as New York state competed in 11 races over two days. FYC juniors enjoyed the opportunity to sail with Team Prime, a group of sailors from Georgia and the Carolinas, and got excellent coaching from Patrick LaRoche from Halifax, NS. Our Opti sailors have been practicing hard this fall, and their hard work was evident this weekend.

With 80 sailors, our Juniors' standings are Mitch 24th, Margaret 28th, Phillip 33rd, and John 51st.

Great going, FYC Juniors!



From the Junior Commodore

This year was a great year for our Junior sailors. We represented our yacht club well in many regattas across the Gulf Coast. Our Opti sailors went to many big regattas this year and did very well. Junior Liptons was hosted at our club this year and it was great. We placed 2nd, only to be beaten by Southern Yacht Club. I have really enjoyed being your Junior Commodore this year and hope that next year is an even better year for our Juniors.

See you at the club,
Robert



Restaurant & Bar Hours Of Operation						
(251-928-8888 for Dinner Reservations) Happy Hours 4-7pm EVERY NIGHT!						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11am-9pm	4-9pm(Bar)	4-9pm(Bar)	4pm-9pm	4pm-9pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm

December~2011						
<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> Check out our Weekly Restaurant Specials! Every Friday: Prime Ribs Every Saturday: BabyBack Ribs </div>				1	2 Holiday Music 6-8PM	3 Commodore's Ball
4 2pm Sun Race	5 6pm PotLuck	6 Taco Tuesday	7 6:30 JrYC Meeting 7:30 M'ship Meeting	8	9 Prime Rib Night Holiday Music 6-8PM	10
11 2pm Sun Race	12 6pm PotLuck	13 Taco Tuesday	14 6:30 M'ship Comm.Meeting	15	16 Prime Rib Night	17 Doc Rogers & the Rock Dodgers 6:30PM
18 <i>Santa comes to FYC</i> 2pm Sun Race	19 6pm PotLuck	20 Taco Tuesday	21	22	23 Prime Rib Night	24 Close at 4PM
25 	26 6pm PotLuck	27 Taco Tuesday	28	29	30 Prime Rib Night	31 New Year's Eve! 

HOLIDAY HOURS: Sat, 12/3- restaurant 11-4; Commodore's Ball 6:30PM
Christmas Eve: Bar menu only 11-4, close at 4PM
Christmas Day: Closed ~ New Year's Eve: Bar menu only 11-4, Party 7PM
New Year's Day: No Brunch, Bar menu 11-6, Close at 6PM

Holiday Events at the Club:

In December:

Saturday, December 3, *The Commodore's Ball* with music by The Rochelle Harper Band and a wonderful spread by Chef Rob.

Saturday, December 17, *Doc Rogers and the Rock Dodgers Band* will play for the last time this year, starting at 6:30PM. Don't miss them!

Sunday, December 19, *Santa Claus at the Club* for the young and the young at heart.

Saturday, December 31, *New Years Eve dance!* We've booked the *Blue DeVilles* for this. Join us for a GREAT way to ring in the New Year! Reservations are necessary!

Sunday, January 1, *New Years Day*, Try the Bar menu to get over the night before,

greet the New Year on the balcony with Black-eyed Peas and Greens in the afternoon at the Bar.

Game Day Saturdays: As long as the season lasts, come down to the club to watch your favorite team play and enjoy \$0.50 wings and drink specials.

On Dec. 2 and Dec. 9, ***Jeanne O'Connell and PC Barbara Brown*** will entertain with Holiday music playing piano and flute, and perhaps even harp, in the dining room from 6:00 to 8:00pm.



Restaurant & Bar Hours Of Operation
(251-928-8888 for Dinner Reservations) Happy Hours 4-7pm EVERY NIGHT!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11am-9pm	4-9pm(Bar)	4-9pm(Bar)	4pm-9pm	4pm-9pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm

January ~ 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6:30 JrYC Meeting 7:30 M'ship Meeting	5	6 Prime Rib Night	7  Winter Meeting BiloxiYC
8 2pm Sun Race	9 6pm PotLuck	10 Taco Tuesday	11 6:30 M'ship Comm.Meeting	12	13 Prime Rib Night	14 BabyBack Ribs
15 2pm Sun Race	16 6pm PotLuck	17 TacoTuesday	18	19	20 Prime Rib Night	21 BabyBack Ribs
22 2pm Sun Race	23 6pm PotLuck	24 Taco Tuesday	25	26	27 Prime Rib Night	28 BabyBack Ribs
29 2pm Sun Race	30 6pm Pot Luck	31 Taco Tuesday	Check out our Weekly Specials! <i>Every Friday: Prime Ribs</i> <i>Every Saturday: BabyBack Ribs</i>			

ESCAPE!
RUN AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND!
FUN & EXCITING POSITIONS OPEN NOW!



JOIN THE FAIR APRIL 27, 28, 29, 2012
DAUPHIN ISLAND RACE WEEKEND
"CREATING JOBS FOR FYC"
TO VOLUNTEER: 928-4268

November Membership Report

Invited to Associate:
George Barker Stein, Jr.
 Sponsor: Charles Cornwall

Promoted to Equity:

Ronald S. Brown
 Sponsor: Ed Wall

Steven Powell
 Sponsor: W. Andrew Johnson

Paige McCrory
 Sponsor: Allen Boykin

Welcome aboard,
Marie Bidney, Chair






Email pictures to mainsheet@fairhopeyachtclub.com before the 20th of the month for inclusion.

Blue Angels Homecoming Cruise



The yearly Club cruise to the Blue Angels' homecoming show took place the second week in November. We can always count on a great show, and the cruising experience is always different! The smart sailors left

either the Wednesday before the show or early on Friday and enjoyed good weather. Some of us more reckless ones (including your reporter) left in bitter cold weather with high winds and waves on Thursday. All arrived safely, which was in doubt for some of us!

Most boats used Ingram's Bayou as our favorite anchorage on the way to the show. Friday morning most had headed to Fort McRee in time to anchor or raft up (personal choice) and enjoy the show. The best venue is on top of the large sand hill between the anchorage and the pass with planes flying so close you feel you could almost touch them!

The rafting experience is always fun! Not even the Blue Angels compare to the fun, laughter and stories with good friends. Pooling food for meals is also good, though we find that some of the girls definitely plan more elaborate meals than the guys! (Salmon, asparagus, and Caesar salad vs. Dinty Moore stew.). Stan Brown is always the exception to the rule...that man can cook! We also rafted with a good sailing friend and cruiser from Mobile Yacht Club, Dave Cary on his boat, "The 7 Cs".

Participants in the cruise included *Nepenthe* - Stan Brown, *Promises* - Tere Mills with Tracy Faircloth, Margaret Meyers-Selby and Kate Gibson, *Cabbages and Kings* - Rex Fitzpatrick, *Church Lady* - Jack Bystricky, *Chaos* - Emily and John Riser, *Waterfront* - Dale and Harvey Cunningham, *Habitat* - Larry McAnnaly with

Harriet, *Lt. NB Forrest* - Gus Kunath and Michael Connell, *Liza* - Mary and David Lucas.

Encore - Sally Connlee and Jerry Weeks had plumbing problems which delayed their trip. They joined us on the way back in Ingram's Bayou.

Reported by Margaret Meyers-Selby; photos by cruise members



At left, Jack Bystricky, Tracy Faircloth, Stan Brown, Tere Mills, Margaret Meyers, Rex Fitzpatrick huddle in the morning chill.

Above, Tracy Faircloth, Margaret Meyers-Selby Stan Brown and Tere Mills watching the Blue Angels

Crusing on Liza

This adventure has been in the making for many years. We have researched, interviewed and read anything we could find on cruising for extended periods of time. Getting prepared is almost a full time job. What to do with the mail, house, yard, paying obligations and keeping up with weather? We resolved all these issues, thanks to the help of some very special friends.

We left FYC November 1 and went to the south end of Mobile Bay and turned east and into an east wind. We have made stops in Pensacola, Ft. Walton Beach, Niceville, Panama City, Port St. Joe, Apalachicola, Carrabelle and Clearwater Beach. The most special benefit of our travels are the people we are meeting. Example—a Navy Seal who believes that Osama Ben Laden is still alive and hidden in a secluded location being debriefed.

We are having way too much fun for two old folks like us. We miss everyone at FYC. If interested you can get a more detailed account of our trip on our blog: <http://cruising-withliza.wordpress.com>

David and Mary Lucas, s/v LIZA



FYC Cruisers Get A-Head (Inspection)

The second round of annual Alabama Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) inspections was completed at the Club docks on Sunday, November 20. This followed our initial round of inspections in October. Seven boats underwent inspection and received the Alabama MSD sticker.

Alabama law requires that any boat with installed toilet facilities pass an annual inspection and display a compliance sticker. Stickers are valid from October 1 through September 30 of the following year. Portable toilets are not considered "installed" for this requirement. The inspection program helps ensure that marine toilet systems are protected from inadvertent overboard discharge of sewage. Marine police in both Alabama and Florida can board your vessel to confirm compliance. Violations can range from



a warning to fines up to \$1000.

A total of 21 Club members' boats have now been inspected for the 2011/12 year. Anyone who wants more information or needs to have their boat inspected can contact Mike Turner at nautacop@aol.com.

A special thanks to MSD "special agent" Tom Batty from the Mobile Yacht Club for providing this service to FYC members.

Report submitted by Mike Turner

At left: Dr. Bill Goetter's marine toilet gets a clean bill of health from MSD "special agent" Tom Batty under the Alabama MSD Inspection Program.

Above: Milton Adams has his head examined under the Alabama MSD Inspection Program.



The Matteis report:

Sunday 11/13/2011 The weather gods are still trying to make up for the extra hot summer we had. Sunday was really nice. It was nearly 80 degrees and the wind started out at close to 15 from the south. The course was set as S-W-N-X. The wind velocity was down to about 10 at the finish. Winners were Jim Chapman, Don Faircloth, Jerry Hall and Jack Ardrey.

Sunday 11/20/2011 Nice weather continues. 80 degrees with 10 knots from SW at the start. Course was SW-SE-N-NW-X. It turned out that there was a

deep wind hole half way between SW and SE. The boats that were way behind but were still in the good wind caught up with the boats in the hole. So everybody was pretty much together for awhile. After SE, the wind was good again. Winners were Jim Chapman, Tracey Faircloth, Judy Matteis (first non-spinnaker), Rick Byrne, Dan Herzog and John Helmstadter.

Sunday 11/27/2011 Much needed rain ended the month's sailing!

Fun Race Series report:

SUNDAY RACING JULY THRU NOVEMBER SERIES

I was at the Club at 1:30pm, Sunday, November 27, and heard a Fat Lady Sing, so that is the end of our July thru November series. There was no racing, maybe because of the Holiday weekend, the high wind prediction, or perhaps the rain. Anyway it was another FUN series which had up to 13 boats on some days racing in light, heavy, and variable winds along with low tides and Tropical Storm Lee. The winners in the Series were 1st - Patriot skippered by Rick Matteis, 2nd - Kaotic skippered by Fred Chasey and Ben Batchelder, and 3rd - Gypsy Wind skippered by Jack Ardrey. 9 other boats scored points. The scoring was close as well in many of the races. Awards will be given at the Commodore's Ball.

SUNDAY RACES FEBRUARY THRU JUNE SERIES

The Sunday Racers stayed after the race on 8/28/11 to chow down on Chicken Wings and Sweet Potato Fries while awards were presented. The "Trophies" were Gift Certificates at the FYC Store. And the winners were: 3rd Place - Gypsy Wind (Jack Ardrey) \$15 Certificate; 2nd Place - New wake (Dan Herzog) \$20 Certificate; Series Winner - Kaotic (Fred Chasey/Ben Batchelder) \$25 Certificate

THURSDAY NIGHT RACES

We had good participation in the Thursday Night Races with 11 boats scoring points. The winner - Kaotic (Fred Chasey/Ben Batchelder), 2nd Place - New Wake (Dan Herzog), 3rd Place - Damn Yankee (Rick Byrne)


We tried various things to extend the season into October (changed starting times and finish line) but they didn't work as the sun just goes down too quick and the winds die. Awards will be given at the Commodore's Ball.

RACES CONTINUE

Although we will NOT be keeping score in December and January, the races will continue for the die hards and sturdy souls that still pine for victory and the six pack of beer. Just use your nominal starting times and go for it.

We will be looking at how to determine a CLUB CHAMPION for the 2011 Season and setting up a meeting to get feedback on our scoring system and how to make it even better for 2012.

WE ARE REALLY HAVING A LOT OF FUN AND INVITE ANYONE TO JOIN US.



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