



OFFICERS
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COMMODORE	Marty Witt	(920) 642-3305
VICE COMMODORE	Andy Gratton	(920) 231-3015
SECRETARY	Mike Mahnke	(224) 406-3139
TREASURER	Brian Carter	(920) 539-6735

**MISSION STATEMENT** – *The mission of the Fond du Lac Sailing Club is to provide sailing events for the recreation, challenge, and pleasure of the membership, while promoting safety, fellowship and an opportunity to improve sailing skills and knowledge.*

### Commodore's Comments

Hope everyone is doing well. Our season is coming to an end, but we still have time for fall fun. Just to let the day sailors know we will have another fun sail next Tuesday night

Don't forget September's Sunset Cruise this Thursday. Meet at the garage at 5:30.  
Marty

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 pm**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**FDL Yacht Club**

### Minutes of the FDL sailing club meeting August 4, 2022

The meeting was called to order at the FDLYC at 7:00pm by Commodore Marty Witt. 13 members were in attendance. With new member Gary Trew adding his Watkins 27 to the fleet. Gary has been sailing for more than 50 years. Welcome Gary!

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as published in the Mainsheet by the membership after motions by Bill Freund and Jim Braun.

No treasurer's report was available. Brian Carter will update members at the September meeting.

### Committee Reports

**Day Sailors:** Committee chair and Vice Commodore Andy Gratton reported a good turnout of day sailors. Two weeks earlier ten boats turned out and last week six boats were out. Andy said things were going very well for the daysailor's fleet.

Also, Marty Witt informed members that he will make a new flag for day sailors, replacing the current "lightening flag". The new flag will be more representative of all daysailor boats.

**Cruiser's report:** Jim Braun rescheduled the single hander race to August 13<sup>th</sup> with skippers meeting at the garage at 9 a.m. Jim also reminded skippers on how to finish the race at the final buoy making sure they cross the "imaginary line" (the line that would be there if there was a committee boat.) Important to remember to cross that line and not just go past the last buoy and be within three boat lengths.

**Youth Sailing program:** Kevin Gratton reported that the Youth Sailing Program was very successful and that it was great to be able to do the program this year after Covid caused classes to be cancelled. We had first timers on the Bics and second year students using the Lasers.

Kevin reported that after the UnRegatta, the next week, students will have an open sail for about an hour and afterwards would clean the boats, trailers and sails. Kevin said that (beyond building character) it's important that youth sailors recognize that they have responsibility to maintain equipment.

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Kevin mentioned that the trailers could use some bars for hanging PFDs and wet suits. Brett shared with Kevin and the group that when he finishes the work he's doing, that it will have the bars that are needed.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

As required by the FDLSC by-laws, the floor was opened for nominations of club officers. Two of four officers will be stepping down after multiple years of service (Commodore Marty Witt and Treasurer Brian Carter). Andy Gratton has accepted the nomination to move up from Vice Commodore to Commodore. Sally Boatman was nominated for and accepted the nomination for treasurer. Mike Mahnke accepted the nomination to continue as secretary (but did offer that he is fine with and strongly encourages other members (whether they are at the meeting or not in attendance) be nominated... There does remain the position of Vice Commodore that presently does not have any nominations. Nominations will be re-opened at the September meeting.

### **Correspondence**

Commodore Marty Witt reported being contacted by Chilton resident Bill (last name unknown) asking for assistance and guidance with his sailboat. Marty and Reuben Witt helped him to rig his Boat and was invited to race/sail with club members.

### **For the Good of the Club**

The club is making some progress in attracting interest in sailing by using summer "sunset cruises" on the first Thursday of the month to put newcomers on Cruiser boats to observe/assist/enjoy sailing on Lake Winnebago. Eleven people are expected to show up on Thursday's sail.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm after motions by Jim Braun and Dave Whealon respectively.

Respectfully submitted:  
Mike Mahnke, secretary

### **In perfect harmony: Osprey Flying High**

By Mike Mahnke



If you're a bird watcher, you look toward the heavens to see an Osprey. If you're a sailing enthusiast, you're checking the waters of Lake Winnebago. And that's where you'll find Ann and Bill Freund aboard "Osprey" their 1989 Ericson 28. Many boat owners want their boat's name to reflect or represent something personal, special, commemorative, historic or fun in their lives. So, I was curious - what was the Freund's inspiration for naming their boat "Osprey"? Well, in addition to their love of

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grandchildren (12), sailing, and traveling, Bill and Ann enjoy bird watching. They were on their previous boat – a Precision 23 and anchored at High Cliff when a beautiful Osprey flew over heralding them with a high-pitched whistling voice. The decision was easy.

Bill and Ann have been sailing together for 42 years and have been married for 39. They take turns skippering (not sure that's an official word – but I digress). That is except for "Girl's night out" when Ann takes her "book club" out on the lake. Her club has been active with the same 6 women for 37 years. When I asked if men could take part, Ann said there was no room for men. Of course, I had to follow up asking if that wasn't sexist? Her answer, firmly stated: "Watch out for the boom Mike!"

I was fortunate to be aboard Osprey to watch this couple in a recent race and how smoothly and efficiently they operated this vessel. I had to ask the question "With having sailed together for such a long time – have you ever had an argument or fight about your approach or strategy in a race (note: my confidence was high in asking the question since I knew they couldn't toss me overboard during the race.) Their responses included "no actual fights", "not yet", "no one's perfect" and "... maybe one or two races we might have had a difference of opinion". [I knew I'd get to the bottom of the story!]

### Photos for 2022

New photos for this year have been added to the club's website. This year includes a section for Youth Sailing.



Bill started sailing when he was 12 years old and took the Youth Sailing course at FDL Yacht club under the tutelage of the Matriarch of sailing – Karin Whealon. He recalls that he and fellow member Kevin Gratton were studious and well behaved. Revisionist history? Perhaps. Bill lived close to the lake and went out sailing often. His dad bought a 16-foot Rebel that he and all his brothers and sisters used. It seems to Bill that he's always had a boat in the harbor; a rebel, Columbia 22 on D Dock for 10 years, a Montgomery 17 on G Dock for 5 years and Osprey on H Dock for many years.

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Ann credits Bill with her learning how to sail: "Bill taught me." When it came time to consider a new boat – especially when the children came along – Ann shared – one feature the new boat needed was a head. When Bill agreed that it was time – it didn't take long to pick the boat – Bill already had "wish files" he could readily pull out. They've had the Ericson now for 25 years.

With so many years of sailing, do they have a most challenging or memorable event that comes to mind? For Bill, it was a TransWinnebago race in either 2016 or 2017. Coming out of Menasha, he was having engine problems on a day with 6-foot waves – and he had to be towed out of the Fox River by Jim Braun to get out onto the lake so they could sail back to Fond du Lac. It took six hours to get back! For Ann, it was an experience with the Montgomery and sailing from High Cliff to Fond du Lac. It was an overnight sail with her girlfriend (and Bill at home) when a storm blew in with high waves. The waves were so high out on the lake that the rudder was out of the water, so they searched for a safe harbor.

Ann was able to secure the boat in Brothertown. When she was finally safe, she called Bill and told him what happened. He replied..."Okay, see you tomorrow." While it was harrowing at the time, looking back, Ann realized she had accomplished a major feat and was better off for having gone through it.

So, what do they each like the most about sailing?

Ann likes the feel of the wind on the water, gentle waves and the freedom that goes with it. For Bill, it's the idea of understanding the wind, capturing and harnessing the wind and mother nature and having nicely trimmed sails.

The Freund's love to sail. And their advice to those people who have always wanted to sail or think they might be interested in sailing: "Just come out and learn more about it. The Fond du Lac Sailing Club has men and women at all levels of knowledge and expertise and are happy to share that knowledge and expertise with newcomers. Just come out - That's the first step!"

My sincere thanks to Ann and Bill for allowing me aboard Osprey and sharing some of their experiences with me.

