



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

As I write this it is snowing outside and yet April Fool's Day is tomorrow. So hopefully this is the last of this white stuff and we can start to get our boats ready for summer, until then think warm thoughts.

Marty

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, Apr. 7, 7:00 pm
Regular Meeting
FDL Yacht Club

Minutes of the FDL sailing club meeting March 3, 2022

The meeting was called to order at the FDLYC at 7:08pm by Commodore Marty Witt. The meeting was held "in the round" aka the bar, due to construction/installation of new flooring. 13 members were in attendance and one guest Jenny Gratton.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the Mainsheet by the membership after motions by Dave Lallier and Mike Schwersinski.

Brian Carter, Treasurer reported no disbursements. The report was approved by the membership after motions by Kevin Gratton and Jack Boatman respectively.

Committee Reports:

Day Sailors: No Meeting

Cruiser's report: No Meeting.

Youth Sailing program: Kevin Gratton reported on plans for the Upcoming season: The committee has a meeting scheduled for March 30th at 6:30 pm. Any and all members are welcome to attend. There will be an orientation meeting for youth sailors on June 6th at 6:00pm with the first class taking place on June 14. There will be 8 classes for beginners from 9am until noon. (No classes the week of July 4th). Advanced youth sailors' class will run from 1pm until 4pm. So far, Kevin reports there will be 25 beginning sailors given 16 O'Pen Bics. There are Force 5's and lasers for the advanced sailors.

Old Business:

Ice Party: Marty and other members reported a very successful event with a good turnout. It took two motors for the Ice Carousel which was nicely accessorized with comfortable furniture and "mood lighting". The carousel was estimated to be 20 inches thick – and was timed to run for 26 minutes after the motor was turned off. Andy performed numerous and sundried mathematics and using little known and/or secretive algorithms to arrive at the weight of the ice carousel, the unofficial weight was determined to be about 400,000 pounds. Using slightly less-specific data and ignoring all scientific rules, I confirmed Andy's number and estimated it to be the same total weight of all of the furniture sailing club members moved from one end of the building to the other end of the building after the meeting was adjourned.

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Donation for snacks: Dave Lallier made a motion for members to make a donation for snacks that Karin Whealon is so kind enough to bring to our meetings. The motion was seconded by several members and the motion carried. Donations can be made after meetings are adjourned.

New Business: None

Correspondence: Marty reported two inquiries from people wanting to know more about the sailing club. Inquiries came from John Lehnert and Pramil Baul. They wondered if they had to already have a boat to join the Sailing club. Marty reassured them they didn't need a boat ahead of time, nor did they need to know how to sail. Club members would be happy to help them learn. He mentioned opportunities to crew on member boats, etc.

For the Good of the Club:

Building Membership Discussion:

Dave Lallier brought up the subject of increasing membership. It was top of mind because the membership committee for the Yacht Club is tackling the challenge of building membership to higher levels as in the past. We want to help in building membership in the Yacht Club by increasing membership in the Sailing Club.

The discussion included many opinions about how to create more interest, possible marketing ideas and potential events to be held to attract interest. There was a lot of conversation and participation by attending members. Below is a list of ideas and potential approaches as well as possible reasons for people not joining and countermeasures, we might take to eliminate those reasons:

Challenges include but not limited to:

- *Average age of Yacht Club members is over 65.
- *There is competition for a "social club" such as the Eagles club nearby.
- *Requirement of work hours for new members
- *Volunteer bartenders

- *Reduced membership numbers
- *Misconceptions of requirements (for sailing club) must already know how to sail and must already have a boat.
- * Sailing club resources are limited to the number of volunteers that can do recruiting type of events and other volunteer work (e.g., teaching adults, being available to help with events – etc.)

Ideas/suggestions/considerations to help build memberships include but not limited to:

- *Getting the word out that you don't have to know how to sail to join and you don't already need a boat.
- *Form a committee to bring some structure to the efforts (This also gives the subject matter exposure [via committee reports] every month.
- *Update brochure to include info that dispels misconceptions
- *Hold "open house" type events
- *Come up with extensive lists of "reasons to join club" (both YC & SC)
- *Share your thoughts and ideas with Cheryl Ritchie YC Committee chairperson for membership.
- *Meet the fleet event
- *Resurrect some of the ideas Dave Dochterman had as Vice Commodore (informal Q&A / "Sailing veterans have answers") others?
- *Target "couples" and small groups to join together. It makes joining something new a bit easier than going it alone.
- *Define and promote crew member sign up as part of weekly races.
- *Consider approaching local newspaper with sailing profiles to be published (with some editing and participant's permission) to make our sailing club seen as a fun time with regular

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people (at the end of each article – would be how to contact us to learn more/join us.

*Resurrect Cal Harbor experience

Newer member Brett helped us out quite a bit with sharing his experience joining our club – taking lessons in Sheboygan – thinking he had to already know how to sail before he could join us.

Dave Lallier complimented the members on how good of a discussion took place and that we should continue these discussions in future meetings. There was a consensus among members that it was a good idea.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm after motions by Brian Carter and Don Cayen with the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Mike Mahnke, secretary

MAINSHEET EDITOR

Tom Clausen - Mainsheet Editor
Please send items for publication to
fdlsailingclub@gmail.com or call 920.960.7484

FOND DU LAC SAILING CLUB WEBSITE

See all the new improvements that have been made to the site: <http://www.fdsail.com>.