



OFFICERS		
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COMMODORE	Andy Gratton	(920) 231-3015
VICE COMMODORE	Rueben Witt	(920) 979-3410
SECRETARY	Mike Mahnke	(224) 406-3139
TREASURER	Sally Boatman	(920) 517-1917

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

Hi sailors,

I suppose this is the time when the boats need to get put in storage for the winter, or at least we need to be thinking about doing that soon. I do like sailing in the fall, though, with the leaves turning bright colors and falling into the lake, the landscape changing and getting darker, and flocks of ducks swimming around until a boat sails through their territory. Some ducks dive, some fly. In another month we will have the Change of Watch which many of us look forward to. See you at the meeting on Thursday.

Your Commodore,
Andy Gratton

NEXT MEETING

General Meeting
Thursday, October 5 @ 7 p.m.
Sailors of the Year @ 6:30
Youth Sailing @ 6:00
FDL Yacht Club

Minutes of the FDL Sailing Club meeting September 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order at the FDLYC at 7:02 pm by Commodore Andy Gratton. Fourteen members were in

attendance with guest Mike Keck joining us.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as published in the Mainsheet - by the membership after motions by Marty Witt and Bill Freund respectively.

Treasurer Sally Boatman reported on the status of the finances. A check for \$30.33 was issued for the safety ladder on the rescue pontoon. The treasurer's report was approved by the membership after motions by Don Cayen and Jim Braun respectively.

Committee Reports:

Day Sailors: Marty Witt reported that the official day sailors' schedule /season is over. Marty reported that the group was able to get 13 races in. Marty will oversee/safeguard the pro-start until next year's racing schedule.

Cruiser's report: Committee chair Jim Braun reported that the scheduled series have been completed. As of the meeting there were still two races to finish: Frostbite race and the second Nimmer's Cup. Jim reported that the club averaged 8 boats per race this year and all concluded it was a very successful season.

Youth Sailing program: Andy reported the Youth Sailing program was over for

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another year. The Un-Regatta for the youths was held on August 8th and the kids from the morning session did the boat and equipment clean up. There were 24 students in the morning class and 26 in the afternoon class. Andy had six advanced sailing students in his class. On behalf of Kevin and the Youth Sailing Committee, a big thank you to all the instructors and volunteers who made this year's program a huge success!

Old Business:

The Posters promoting "Come Sail with us" were posted at the entrance of each dock – by Marty Witt. No members or officers were aware of any takers -since we received no inquiries as directed in the poster info. Jim Braun removed the posters and poster holders – since the available dates have passed.

Possible new weather station.

No specific update on progress on a new weather station.

Dave Lallier brought up the idea of contacting the city to see if the city would be agreeable to having a weather station mounted on the top of the lighthouse. We could also entertain the idea the idea of contributing some donation to the city to make this happen. Dave volunteered to talk with John Redmond about the subject.

Rescue pontoon

Marty reported that Mike Enfelt from the Yacht Club has a Bimini frame that could be used for the pontoon. He does not have the canvas for it. Marty Witt will make one for it in the off season.

New Business:

Traveling trophies: All traveling trophies should be brought to the October meeting.

Change of Watch/Banquet November 4th: Ann needs an updated roster of all members to organize invitations, etc. We will proceed how we did last year, with Brian volunteering again to be the chef. We will have volunteers help with set-up, clean-up and bringing deserts like we did last year.

Promoting Sailing Club: Brett has volunteered to set-up/staff a booth for the sailing club at highly attended events in the city to invite sailors/sailboat owners to join the club.

Correspondence:

Jack Boatman received a thank you from youth sailing student, Lincoln, thanking all of the youth sailing instructors.

The club received a flyer from the Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association highlighting their efforts and accomplishments at protecting and improving the health of Lake Winnebago. If you are interested in learning more and/or making a contribution, contact them via their website: www.lwqia.org or by mail at: LWQIA, PO Box 1716, Fond du Lac, WI 54936

**For the Good of the Club:
Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Karin Whealon. Karin celebrated her 90th birthday on September 6th (allegedly)...**

Also note: While some scholars attribute the phrase "**Let them eat cake!**" to Marie- Antoinette, ... Many of us – well...most of us, know where that quote really originated... AND, I am in no way suggesting that Karin and Marie were close friends...(Thanks Karin)

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm. After motions by Jack Boatman and Marty Witt respectively.

Respectfully submitted:
Mike Mahnke, secretary

I feel good...I knew that I Would Jim Braun – Sol Man

By Mike Mahnke



Sol Man #1

Jim Braun has been a fixture in the Fond du Lac Sailing Club and the Yacht club for more than 28 years. His sailing history started in 1995. He's also owned a variety of watercraft including a catamaran, several powerboats, pontoons, and sailboats.

When I first joined the FDLSC, I saw the stern of a sailboat in a slip sporting the name "Sol Man". I asked who owned that boat? When I was told Jim Braun was the skipper, I thought "How cool" - James Brown, Soul Man and perhaps his most recognized song "I Feel Good" - which of course is the feeling you get when you're out sailing (wind permitting).

Jim explained that he had some fun naming the boat. The natural tendency was to think "Soul Man" - but the twist was changing soul to "Sol". Jim enjoys being out on the water fishing and boating - to prove the point - you'd have to track him down to sunny Florida for the past 15 winters when the sailing season is over here.

Jim actually had two boats named Sol Man. The first was a Hunter 30 and later Sol Man #2 was a Hunter 31.

The first experience sailing for Jim started out just thinking he'd like to own a sailboat and learn to sail - so he looked at a boat that was for sale, took it out for a short "test sail" and immediately closed the deal. He joined the Sailing Club and in no time (halfway through the racing season) he was right in there racing with the other Skippers with an inexperienced crew of one - his wife Kathy.

Jim has also raced out of the Oshkosh sailing club. He bought an ice boat and sailed that for a few years too. He also took his love of sailing down to Florida. Some years ago, he crewed aboard a Tartan 10 out of Fort Pierce. His love of the sport extended to sharing that passion with the youths (pronounced "utes") in the FDLSC youth sailing program when the

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program was in its early years and kids learned to sail on Prams. He was also involved with the youth sailing program in Vero Beach, Florida. Jim was chairman of the TransWinnebago Race for a dozen plus years, and FDLSC Cruiser Race chairperson for four years. One challenge was to get more sailors out racing the courses during the season, so Jim introduced the staggered start for the cruiser fleet. Adjusting the PHRF ratings helped with that goal. This concept resulted in more boats out on the racecourse and more boats finishing the race in close fashion. Jim also pointed out that some newer sailors liked the staggered start because the traditional start can be a bit intimidating – when all sailboats are jockeying for position at the starting line.



Sol Man #2

When Jim wasn't sailing, he was an advocate for sailors and other boaters when it came to the City of FDL. Back in the early 2000's, he was active in getting the harbor entrance dredged. Jim was determined to get the City Council to place the harbor dredging project at the top of their Long-Range Plan. Jim circulated petitions and presented the many signatures to the Council – educating and advising them about grants that would help pay for such capital projects. There are many things Jim likes about his sailing experiences over the years. One in particular, was to enjoying racing with two friends who have crewed with him for many years. He wanted to mention and thank them publicly – Dan Baccus and John "Rip" Ripley. Currently, Greg Skelton is crewing, and most recently his nephew John Braun, and of course Kathy, his wife, will crew from time to time.

When I asked Jim about one of his most memorable sails, he mentioned it was his first TransWinnebago Race to High Cliff with Kathy, his son and his son's friend. He said when they tried to get into the slip at HC, "we had to power into the slip through very deep thick green algae. It was so thick the birds were walking on it. We tried to sleep on the boat but the foul odor and (popping) gas bubbles escaping from under the boat kept us awake all night!" Could it get worse? "The water intake for the engine got plugged when we tried to leave HC on Sunday morning."

I always enjoy a good yarn and so I like to ask long time sailors if they have a funny story, or an embarrassing tale to tell? Jim – true to form- was able to accommodate on both accounts in just one anecdote: "On a Thursday Night Cruiser Race, I couldn't figure out why I was doing so poorly. It was very windy (and I knew I should be doing better). Well... it turns out I raced the first leg with the engine

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running and the transmission in reverse! On my way back to the harbor, the engine quit. The fuel tank was a little low and with the boat heeling in the strong wind, it caused the fuel pick-up to suck air (which is a problem for a diesel). A couple of weeks after the race, I found a plaque mounted to the bulkhead. It read: "Engine Must Be Turned Off When Racing". The plaque was courtesy of Mike Nimmer".



Dock Holiday

Unrelated to that yarn, Jim shared that he actually quit sailing twice: once in 2017 and again in 2021. But it seems he can't stay away from sailing longer than a couple of years. The last time he quit in 2021 was because he sold his 22-foot boat. Then he had second thoughts and wanted to make one last phone call about a boat he had always been interested in. He called about it – was told it wasn't for

sale. So that settled that – he was done with sailing. That is until 5 minutes later when he got a call back from Jim Lowrey saying "OK, I'll sell it" – and so Jim was back to sailing – after being away from it for a whole 5 minutes.

Jim now says "Sailing? It's a year-to-year proposition – no promises either way." But I'm betting it'll be a while and I wonder what his next boat will be named – another James Brown inspiration? "Out of sight"? It could happen.

"Good Golly, Miss Molly" (I know that's Little Richard – not James Brown).



Jim Braun

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61st Annual Fond du Lac Sailing Club

Change of Watch and Awards Banquet

\$15.00 per person
advance payment required

Saturday, Nov. 4
Cocktails @ 5 pm, Dinner @ 6pm

Please RSVP and pay by Oct. 20.
Ann Gratton
2102 Doty St.
Oshkosh, WI 54902

Include Name(s) and meat choice (chicken or salmon). Also, if you can bring a dessert, please let Ann know.

For Sale

24' Paceship Westwind

Contact Brian Carter

920-539-6735

contact@usappraisalsllc.com

Asking \$3,500, new sails, halyards, cabintop to cockpit hardware for raising sails, lights. Includes storage trailer, battery, bottom paint, 4.5 hp merc and gas tank

