



OFFICERS

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

The weather finally turned favorable after last weeks washout. The Holiday Race saw seven entries with winds well above 20 kts. We had a good time sailing as well as great camaraderie afterward. What a way to start off the sailing season.

Youth Sailing is starting June 14. Help out if you can.

Marty

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 1, 7:00 pm
Regular Meeting
FDL Yacht Club



Minutes of the FDL sailing club meeting May 5, 2022

The meeting was called to order at the FDLYC at 7:02pm by Commodore Marty Witt. 16 members were in attendance with no guests.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the *Mainsheet* with one correction by Vice Commodore Andy Gratton (remotely): I erroneously reported that Andy had a new boat for the racing season, but he stated that it was Dave Whealon who will be racing a new boat this season. After the correction, minutes were approved by the membership after motions by Dave Whealon and Sally Boatman respectively.

Brian Carter, Treasurer reported depositing \$60.00 from dues and racing fees. Karin Whealon had a question about a bill submitted which Brian and Karin will pursue further after the meeting. The report was approved by the membership after motions by Paul Kaestner and Jack Boatman respectively.

Committee Reports:

Day Sailors: No report. Volunteers are needed to Judge Day Sailor races. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

Cruiser's report: Jim Braun has returned to the Midwest. Welcome home Jim. He shared some of his thoughts about using "virtual buoys" by using the GPS coordinates (instead of the actual buoys) for weekend races that would include F&G buoys. He also listened to feedback. This would require all skippers to have GPS in order to participate. He also

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suggested that there be a "cruise" to Cal Harbor for a Saturday possibility or a Sunday "Fun Day".

Youth Sailing program: Dave Whealon reported that this year's Youth Sailing season will be required to have Yacht club members to operate the Safety boat. Jack Boatman reported that they already have 3 or 4 trainers lined up for the season. Jack Boatman will be assisting as well since he is a new retiree. Come to think of it, did we congratulate him on his retirement? Congrats Jack! 27th

As a reminder, 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, there will be 25 beginning sailors given 16 open bics. There are Force 5's and lasers for the advanced sailors. The lasers are in pretty good shape as far as maintenance goes and the boat clean up will take place May 21 at the Yacht club.

Old Business:

Marty brought up the subject of the availability for four additional races this season with the moving of our membership meetings to Wednesday from Thursday June through September. They could be used for actual races or for fun races or cruises and used as a tool to attract new members to the club. The membership liked the idea of using the open dates to attract new members. The first such use will be on July 7th for the parents of Youth Sailing kids.

New Business:

Dave Whealon reported that the Yacht Club has decided to invest in a new swimming dock to replace the existing pier. It will be an exceptional addition to the club and has a price point of about \$8500. Several of the clubs under the umbrella of the Yacht Club are donating \$1000 from their treasury to the Yacht Club toward the purchase of the new swimming dock. Members inquired as to our ability to do the same. Brian Carter did say we could afford to do that. Marty called for

the question, and the membership unanimously voted to donate \$1000 to the FDLYC toward the purchase of the swimming dock.

Jack Boatman brought up the race schedule and dates for the late season as appearing on the race schedule. The late season ending date should be identified as ending on September 1. As it appeared on the schedule, it was ending much later which was just an oversight because of the Post season races held in the past. Marty and Jim Braun will be making the changes to accurately reflect the true ending date of the late season.

Correspondence: None

For the Good of the Club:

Karin Whealon "surprised" the membership (not really...) by reminding them that in the post season sailing, that the "winners buy". Perhaps that should be the name for those late fall sailing races. She also reported that she appreciated the donations for snacks she provides after the meetings. She did state that next year she will set up a schedule for members.

Dave Whealon reported that the Yacht Club will be holding their annual "Family Fun Day" on Saturday July 16th. There will be a wide variety of things for the whole family to enjoy.

George Winter brought up that Brett, who volunteered to help in the construction of the interior of the Youth Sailing trailers, be reimbursed for the money he spent out of pocket to do this. The membership agreed.

Mike Mahnke shared his thoughts that Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) might be added to our website that would encourage interested parties to contact us and help dispel some notions that non-sailors or new sailors might have about joining the club (e.g., I have to know how to sail before I can join or I have to have my own sailboat to join, etc. etc.

He volunteered to get the ball rolling by putting pen to paper and starting out the

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FAQ's and then submitting them to members via Tom Clausen, soliciting feedback and adding any additional FAQs they had thought of and adding them to the document and returning it.

The final list of FAQs will be reviewed by the board and committee chairs of day sailors and Cruisers to be approved before adding them to the website.

Building Membership Discussion:

Jack Boatman suggested that in our attempts to build membership, that skippers meet at the shelter at the beginning of each race to see if there are new members or non-members wanting to learn to crew. Jim Braun said he'd consider doing this. For example, trying this at alternate Thursday races (the newly created open Thursdays.)

(Please note: At the June meeting we will need to clarify and identify which Holiday races, Day Races and Sunday races skippers will report to the shelter – will this be all of those races or just some of them.

Further suggestions by members to increase membership:

- Make the 4 new Thursday races all "sunset cruises"
- Adopt a theme such as "Come Sail With us"

(This is repeated from the March meeting to keep the subject in the foreground).

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:

- *Ave age of Yacht Club members is over 65.
- *There is competition for a "social club" such as the Eagles club nearby.
- *Requirement of workhours 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

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*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 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 8:03 pm after motions by Jack Boatman and Dave Whealon respectively.

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.fdlsail.com>.

Memorial Day Race Pics

