



2021 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

First, I would like to say Thank you to everyone who has put in the time to make this year a success.

All the sailboats are put away for the winter and don't forget the change of watch is this Saturday.

See you on Saturday

Marty

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, Nov. 6, 7:30 pm
Regular Meeting
FDL Yacht Club

Minutes of the FDL sailing club meeting October 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at the FDLYC at 7:00 pm by Commodore Marty Witt. 19 members were in attendance. No guests.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved by the membership after motions by Tom Clausen and Ellen Balthazor.

Brian Carter's Treasurer's report included a disbursement of \$203 for the purchase of the FDL SC burgees. Balances were also updated. The report was approved by the membership after motions by Dave Lallier and Kevin Gratton respectively.

Committee Reports

Day Sailors: Andy Gratton stated this season is officially over.

Cruisers report: Jim Braun reported that he cancelled the Frostbite race due to a lack of boats. An overall successful season with good participation.

Youth Sailing program: The boats are put away for the season and Kevin reported that the dock removal was completed. Thanks to Dave W, Kevin, Andy and Rob for getting these things done.

Old Business

Sailing Club Burgees: Marty reported that we had two burgees still available. If interested, contact Marty.

Boom Mast Repair: Dave Lallier reported that we will need to repair the boom/mast lift and Jack Boatman recommended that we also replace the cable as well. Discussion ensued and the consensus was that we should purchase a new brake winch. Dave Whealon will follow-up to order the winch and will see if it can be repainted in time as well.

Photos needed: Let's share any of the sailing photos we might have with Andy Gratton who will be assembling a slide show again for the Change of watch banquet on November 6th.

Prostart: After the use of the club's Prostart machine, for the wind surfing and Regatta,

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Marty will safeguard the equipment at his home for the winter.

New Business

Officer Nominations: The floor was opened for Nominations for club officers. Crickets could be heard during the nomination process. Dave Lallier nominated the existing board members and closed the floor for nominations. Dave Whealon seconded the motion and the motion carried with the following results: Commodore Marty Witt, Vice Commodore Andy Gratton, Secretary Mike Mahnke and Treasurer Brian Carter.

Sending Condolences: The sailing club is sending condolences to Gerry Nimmer and the Nimmer family on the passing of William "Bill" Nimmer. (Done via card MM)

Correspondence: None

For the Good of the Club

Karin Whealon suggested that we have 2-3 people per month bring snacks to share with the membership. The response was underwhelming – and accurately (I think) described as the sound of one hand clapping.... However, there was no opposition offered and it is very likely that Karin will take the lead on putting a worklist together.

Adjournment

Dave Whealon moved to adjourn with a second from Brian Carter. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Mike Mahnke, secretary

From the Designated Ballast

A Chat with Sailing Club Member: Marty Witt
By Mike Mahnke (designated ballast)

I think the FDL Sailing Club has some great members who willingly and gladly share their knowledge, expertise and experience with one another and landlubbers like myself who would like to know and sail more. I thought you would also enjoy reading more about them. So, I managed to stowaway on a boat or two – with hopes of getting permission to go on board other boats in the future - to talk with more members. I prefer to join skippers and crews while they are racing-for one particular reason: Rules require boats must finish races with the same number of bodies that start the race. This (theoretically) keeps me from being tossed overboard...I'm just saying So here is our first conversation:

Portuguese or not – Viajante and crew are smooth sailing

I recently had the pleasure of joining Skipper Marty Witt and crew member Mike Schwersinski aboard Marty's 1975 Tartan 34C on a Thursday night race on Lake Winnebago. The boat is named "Viajante" which means "traveler" in Portuguese, (pronounced: via john tay). Marty has been sailing more than four decades, starting when he was ten years old.

His sister Judy got him interested in sailing and when his dad caught the sailing bug and bought the family a 22-foot Portager the family was off and running – well actually sailing - and everyone in the family learned how to sail on that boat. Once Marty was into the sport, he took "formal" lessons through the Fond du Lac Yacht Club and learned in the Pram Classes taught by Lake Winnebago Icon Karin Whealon. I asked Marty if he was a good student – but he plead the 5th ... so I let that line of questioning go. But Marty has also paid back his learning experience through the Youth Sailing program by helping out youth sailors and their parents on Wednesday nights (and other times) to learn more and practice what they've been taught by other seasoned sailors from the FDL sailing club in today's

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youth program. There are a couple of other notable students who became instructors in the youth sailing program – Kevin Gratton (who heads up the program) and fellow instructor Bill Freund. All three of these lifelong sailors took the youth sailing class and were in the same class together. Just think of the fun *they had* versus the fun the *instructor had!*

But I digress...

Marty has owned a variety of boats over the years e.g., a Chrysler Buccaneer 18, Pontoon 20, 17' fish and ski boat. But he has always wanted (and has been searching for a Tartan 30). And wasn't able to find one. So, he bought his current Tartan 34 as a project boat (which is impossible to believe when you step aboard the boat today). It's immaculate and every feature is like new. However, when he started, he considered it to be in very poor condition. It took nearly two full years to replace the core of the deck a very labor-intensive process. His woodwork is impressive today after stripping it down and applying 16 coats of varnish on the coaming and eight coats on the rail. When she's not under wind power, *Viajante* moves with the help of a Universal Atomic 4 gas engine. It has a retractable keel and Marty converted her from a tiller to a wheel, making the cockpit roomier. He recently made the mainsail (yep, *he sewed it!*) The cabin sleeps six and offers new cushions and upholstery and some awesome, large chrome framed port holes.

Marty's crew consists of one Mike Schwersinski who has crewed for Marty for two years. Mike says he has learned a lot from Marty – including how to set the sails, and so much more. He appreciates Marty's style of coaching and describes him as a "non-screamer" and a wealth of knowledge. He says that crewing for him is a labor of love and that he learns something new every time he goes out because the conditions are always different.

My last question for Marty was a tough one: "With so many years of sailing under your belt – what was your most memorable sailing experience?"

Marty fondly recalled a two-week family vacation. He is a member of a large family of seven and talked about their sailing vacation with five family members living on board the family's 22-foot boat. They sailed up the Winnebago, through the locks to Green Bay and Door County and on to Escanaba, MI. He said that sailing event is something he'll always remember as the best sail ever. And today, Marty is sailing the boat he always wanted to sail. Life is good!

Marty was a gracious host during that race – and the lack of wind that Thursday night made it possible for me to get some nice photos of him and Mike S - and other boats in the race which will be shared at our November Banquet.

*I do need to provide a disclaimer of sorts – and that is my presence on board *Viajante* had nothing to do with its 4th place finish - really!*

Stay tuned for next month's interview with Jack and Sally Boatman.



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Tom Clausen - Mainsheet Editor

Please send items for publication to

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FOND DU LAC SAILING CLUB WEBSITE

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