



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

The boat yard is starting to get a little more activity. Soon we will be sailing; fingers crossed. Hopefully everyone's projects aren't too big and we can see each other on the docks.

Marty

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 pm
Regular Meeting
FDL Yacht Club

Minutes of the FDL sailing club meeting April 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at the FDLYC at 7:02pm by Commodore Marty Witt. 15 members were in attendance and one guest Ann Kaestner (in charge of keeping Paul "in line".)

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as published in the *Mainsheet* by the membership after motions by Brian Carter and Paul Kaestner respectively.

Brian Carter, Treasurer reported depositing \$385 from dues and racing fees with one disbursement of \$10. The report was approved by the membership after motions by Ann Freund and Jack Boatman respectively.

Committee Reports:

Day Sailors: Andy Gratton reported that he will have a new boat this season and that day sailors are anxious to get started.

Cruiser's report: Jim Braun communicated to Marty Witt that he'd like the membership to consider using "virtual buoys" by using the GPS coordinates (instead of the actual buoys) for weekend races that would include F&G buoys. Some discussion was held about the idea. The group considered the idea and while there weren't any strong objections to the idea, the group did not think it would be a problem in getting the actual buoys out for those races.

Youth Sailing program: Andy Gratton reported that the committee met on March 30th and will meet again on April 27th. 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, there will be 25 beginning sailors given 16 O'pen Bics. There are Force 5's and lasers for the advanced sailors. Note: an email message will be sent out on a day and time for maintenance/repairs for the classes. Watch your email for the announcement. Some volunteers will be needed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

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Change in Summer meeting days:

Marty reminded members that the monthly club meetings will be held on Wednesdays from June through September. This creates four additional nights for sailing this summer. There were discussions on how best to use those days. For example, two nights could be used for racing and the other two nights could be used for some sort of "fun sailing" events. Or Dave Lallier mentioned that they could be "get to know us" sailing events to attract and bring in new people. Paul Kaestner suggested we also approach and attract parents of youth sailors to learn more about sailing and join the club.

Dave Lallier suggested we talk about putting on a race to Cal harbor and put it on the agenda for the May 5th meeting

Correspondence: None

For the Good of the Club:

Building Membership Discussion: (*This is repeated from the March meeting*).

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
- *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

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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.

Snack away Marty reminded members that we donate for: “Snacks by Karin” we aren't entirely sure if she plans on getting that name trade-marked...

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm after motions by Jack Boatman and Bill Freund respectively.

Respectfully submitted:
Mike Mahnke, secretary

MAINSHEET EDITOR

Tom Clausen - Mainsheet Editor
Please send items for publication to
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FOND DU LAC SAILING CLUB WEBSITE

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