

the 2007



DECEMBER

A small, stylized signature logo in the bottom right corner, possibly reading "Jan Thomas".

The Official Publication of the Fort Walton Yacht Club

Editor: Jan Thomas

FROM THE COMMODORE'S CORNER



Hi Folks:

Happy Holidays to one and all!

Well, December is here. The club is decorated for the Holidays and we are all checking our calendars to ensure time for the parties and shopping for family and friends. This year Vicky and I will be staying here in Shalimar for a Christmas close to all of our local friends and activities. That means the grandkids, who are much bigger now, will be getting gift cards so they can shop for the x-box games and other “big-kid” things they need or want. It also will provide us an opportunity to decorate our home for Christmas. That has become something rare as we usually saddle up the big white sleigh (our van) and head to the Carolinas and our girls homes. Vicky and I wish you each a very Happy Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you all at the many parties.

This is my last column as your Commodore. It has been a wonderful experience and I greatly appreciate the many comments and feedback that demonstrated the support needed for me to be successful this year. Thank you very much for all of the great ideas and the high level of participation that made this year so much fun for all of us. I am looking forward to serving on the Board of Directors and continuing to help our club be a great place to come and play.

As a thought, let me caution us all to be mindful of the current upward trends in the cost of goods and services. Prices everywhere are going up. Much of that is directly related to transportation costs and the price of gasoline. This will impact all of the overhead costs associated with running our club. Be prepared for changes in the prices in our excellent restaurant and lounge as our club manager responds to the increased cost of goods. Also, our buildings are getting older and require more repairs, also more expensive. Please support your new leadership team as they endeavor to deal with these realities.

Taco Tuesday: Taco Tuesday was started about five years ago to provide a new fun evening for members and also a way to say “thank you” for their participation at the club. The idea was to provide a “few” Tacos for the members as they enjoyed their drinks in our club lounge. It was anticipated that the bar business would cover the costs of providing the Taco Bar. That was how it worked, for a while. Now, Taco Tuesday is costing the club close to \$900 each month in food. After reviewing the current costs associated with Taco Tuesday and discussion with the Finance Committee, it was determined that a change needed to be made. Beginning in January, there will be a charge for participating at the Taco Bar. Those choosing to eat Tacos will be charged \$2.00. per person. There will be sign-up sheet at the Taco Bar and your signature will document the \$2.00 per person, to be charged to your account. This will be an honor system charge. We hope that will help balance the current costs. I hope you all understand the need for this change.

New members or changes



David Magee (from young adult to regular)
Thomas Spezia
Bonnie Nabors (transfer from james nabors)

We all know David Magee and Bonnie and Jim Nabors as members now. This is just an acknowledgment of their change in membership status.

For our new member, Tom Spezia, you will find the club is a lot like the “Cheers” bar from TV. Given the opportunity, it is “a place where everyone knows your name.” So, don’t be shy, jump in and get acquainted. We all look forward to seeing you at the club. Join a committee; it’s a fun way to meet lots of members. If you will put on one of the “new member burgees” available right outside the door to the lounge, it will help us to meet and welcome you inside. Remember to try “*Cook Your Own Steak Night*” every Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday evening; a New York Strip Steak, Baked Potato, and Salad, all for \$10.95. It may very well be the best price for such a dinner in the town.

Members: We have been doing a terrific job in attracting new members this year. We need to keep up the great effort that has resulted in over 40 new members. The Fort Walton Yacht Club blue brochure is an additional tool to help you share the FWYC story with potential new members. Please keep up the good work in identifying potential new members. As our membership continues to age we all need to help identify new talent to join our ranks. Also, don’t forget the Board of Directors has approved providing the sponsor of a new member with \$50.00 to help defray the expenses in hosting potential new members. When the new member’s application is approved at the second reading, the primary sponsor (sponsor #1) will receive a \$50.00 credit on their club account. This is an incentive to bring your friends to the club.

Thank you again for your support and participation this year. It has been an honor to serve as your Commodore. Vicky and I wish each of you the very merriest Christmas and the best possible New Year. We hope to see many of you at the Commodore’s Ball on New Year’s Eve.

See you at the club.

Bill Denny, Commodore 609-0408 or, billdafret@msn.com

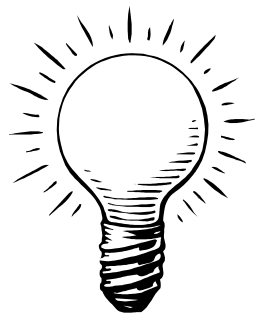
VICE COMMODORE'S BRIEFING ROOM



What a great month we've had, and I anticipate the same for December. One of the best occurrences in November was the lack of any substantial breakdown. That's a good thing when funds are a bit tight.

Our Repair and Replacement budget still has a few thousand to make it through the end of the year, but a couple of our other funds are in need of some input. More on that later.

The second thing I'd like to say is a big thank you for putting up with me as your Vice Commodore for the last two years. With the last month of this year, I'll be turning over the books and proverbial keys to our incoming Vice Commodore Ron Giordano. I am sure we're turning the reins over to a very capable man, and I look forward to working with him next year.



As you know the membership has elected me as your Commodore next year, and I'm very much looking forward to the challenge. If you have suggestions for me for the upcoming year, don't hesitate to catch me around the club, e-mail me, or drop a note in my box. This is your club. We, the Officers, would like to run it as you would see fit.

With this last bit, I'll close for now by welcoming all the new Flags and Board members. We all anticipate a good year next year, and we have the outgoing Officers to thank for that, by leaving our Club in such good shape.

Happy sailing and motoring;

David Vaughan
Vice Commodore
Dave_cat@earthlink.net

REAR COMMODORE'S PARTY CHAT



CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE – The annual Christmas Boat Parade this year will be on **Thursday 20 December**. A flyer will be in the lobby and you can help us by passing the word, decorating your boats and joining us as we cruise the bayous. We'll have some hot chili in the lounge for a nominal price to help warm you up. To better help us organize the parade of boats, please give Sandra a call to let her know your boat will be entered. After the parade, and while we are enjoying the chili, we'll have everyone in the lounge vote for the most outstanding boats.

DINNER THEATRE - The dinner theatre was our club entertainment for the month of November. It was held on Saturday and Sunday, November 17 & 18. I want to thank all the club members that attended. I especially want to thank my chairperson, Carole Langford for a great job. In addition to everything else, Carole's dinner menu selection was outstanding and she worked with our staff to achieve a low price of

\$20.00 to include dinner and a play. You couldn't beat that anywhere in town.

I also want to thank the club "actors' and actress' that performed so well; Marion Bushey, David Vaughan, Tom Reynolds, Bob Biel, Nancy Prater and Dick Prater. Of course the play wouldn't have been as successful as it was, without the help of Phyllis Seaton, Bob Lester, Cathy Jones, Debra Biel, Jane Waters, John Langford, Graeme Jones and Tom Morris.

The cooperation of our club manager, Pat Macias, our chef Darrel Williams, our dining room manager Tracie Uhaul, hostess Gina Goodwin, and our office secretary Sandra Henley were extremely helpful with the last minute changes to accommodate additional club members to enjoy the dinner and play both Saturday and Sunday nights.

I have already met with the incoming Rear Commodore Gina Coulter to help in having a smooth transition to 2008. Gina is going to start out basically the same way as I did last year, and that is to involve club members in the selection of activities they would like to have in 2008. Gina has prepared a questionnaire that solicits your input on 18 different projects. Everyone should be receiving the questionnaire with his or her bill, so please give Gina as much feedback as you can. I know she is going to do a great job as your 2008 Rear Commodore and I encourage everyone to give her your full support.

This has been a fun year for Gethyn and me, and I have been privileged to have such a great entertainment committee, whose names I gave you in last months Letter Log. I have been especially pleased with the enormous turnout the club members have shown in support of our planned parties. Thank you for allowing me to be your 2007 Rear Commodore and I look forward to the

challenges in 2008 as your Vice Commodore.

Gethyn and I want to extend all the best season wishes from the Giordano family to yours.

*Ron Giordano, Rear Commodore
(rggr222@cox.net)*

THE FLEET BEAT FROM THE FLEET CAPTAIN



One of the most fun and interesting "big boat" races is the Brinckmann which was held November 3. This is a female-only at the helm race.

With a Bermuda start, the boats took out across the Bay on a near perfect sailing day. There were 12 boats participating and all the gals did very well with no mishaps. At the top in the Catalina 22 class with 4 boats participating were:

1st, Mickey Dee, Dee Lagarde
2nd, Twilight, Linda Wright

A Fleet winners with 8 boats participating were: **1st, Breakaway, Jennifer Grant**
2nd, Boondoggle, Paula Smyth
3rd, Jibe Talkin', Jennifer Wray

Congratulations to all and thanks for making it a great competition! My thanks to those who helped with the Race Committee; Barbara Harrington, Bobbie Prim, Shari Seaton and David Seaton.

One of the most enjoyable parties we racer/sailors enjoy was the end of the year Wednesday Night Fun Races group. Held on November 7, we celebrated the end of a

long year of Wednesday night racing. The lounge was packed and ready for the good times to roll – and roll they did. The game of “Dirty Santa” or whatever name one would like to put on it, involved presents or goodies stolen from one attendee to another all night long. If you will notice, hanging behind the bar is a sign donated from Dee Lagarde and a new mascot with the name “Olay.” Ask anyone who attended the party where the sign is and “who” or “what” the mascot is!

Our last two events will be taking place after this Letter Log goes to press, so I will not be able to comment on the results as a new Fleet Captain will be writing about the upcoming events next year. December 1 is the Blue Gavel Regatta, which will be three windward/leeward short races. I thank some of the Blue Gavel members in advance for helping with this event.

The very last regatta of 2007 is the District 13 Laser Championship. This has been planned since last spring and I anticipate that this will be well attended and enjoyed by all the Laser sailors that travel from as far away as Miami, Michigan, and other parts of our country to compete.

As Fleet Captain this year, I have not only enjoyed the job of helping the club members to have fun out on the water but as always, I learned so very much. Thanks to everyone who helped me tackle all the necessary jobs to make it a successful year and lets keep sailing!

Phyllis Seaton Fleet Captain

ECSA News - On Saturday, November 17, the club hosted the Okaloosa County High School Sailing Championships. Fort

Walton, Rocky Bayou Christian School, and Choctawhatchee each fielded A & B teams. Each team consists of a skipper and crew. The regatta was sailed on the club/ECSA 420s, a two-person boat widely used by high school and collegiate teams. Four races were sailed before lunch and four after lunch, which was hosted by the Optimist Club of Fort Walton Beach. Fort Walton took first overall, with Skipper Zach Grant and crew Lila Dillon winning A fleet, and Skipper Haden Macbeth and crew Samantha Estemburn winning B fleet. Coming in a close second place was Choctaw with skippers Justin Mitchell and Bridgette Cogley, together with crews Lauren Gray, Brittany Uhal, and Sonia Cox. Sailing for Rocky Bayou in third were skippers Ian Cooke, Seth Cooke, Evan Lederman, & Spencer Steelman. Crewing were Ashley Hannay, Josh Zook, Jake West & Anna Keipert. Fort Walton High School's name will be placed on the Purcell Cup, a permanent trophy kept at the FWYC bar. Anyone interested in being on a high school sailing team should call George Goodall for more information.

Saturday, Dec 1 was the last practice for the FWYC Opti racing team. Six kids have been faithfully practicing every Saturday morning since the start of school. They have been under the direction of Karl Zwarg, Chris Clausen, and Kerrie Serpa.

If you are looking for a way to reduce your taxes, don't forget that ECSA is a 501C3 organization and donations are tax deductible. ECSA would like to thank all club members for supporting our efforts.

George F. Goodall
President Emerald Coast Sailing Assoc.