



Letter Log

The Official Publication of the Fort Walton Yacht Club



Jan Thomas
**January
2008**

Editor: Jan Thomas

HEADLINE NEWS

FROM THE COMMODORE'S DESK



Greetings one and all, during this season of festivities, reflection, and terrific Yacht Club events. December was certainly a busy season for us all. Between the District 13 Laser Regatta, the Christmas parties, the New Years Eve party, just to name a few, it was hard to know if I was coming or going half the time.

We've enjoyed a busy December 2007 with so many club functions, and so many club members, as well as non-members, coming out to enjoy this venue. Pat in the office has had a heck of a time recently just keeping up with the bookings for so many upcoming events. Members have been scheduling parties, weddings, socials, you name it. The word is getting out, folks, and our club is enjoying a period of expanded use.

The annual Awards Banquet and Installation Dinner are coming up this month. You won't want to miss this terrific event. The layout has been changed a bit this year, breaking the event into two categories, Awards and Installation, at different times on the same day, January 27th. Look for more information within this Letter Log for more information. Make your reservations early, seats are already booking up.



Snap of Installation 2007

We are all anticipating a great 2008, and especially a terrific year around the Club. I'd like to thank all the new and returning Officers, Committee members, and the many volunteers for giving of your valuable time in service to a place we all enjoy so very much. Also, a big thanks for allowing me to be your Commodore for the coming year. I will do my best to keep the Club's best interests in mind in every way.

David Vaughan

Commodore

Dave_cat@earthlink.net

Installation Dinner

Who: Members & Guests

What: Installation of new Club Officers and annual awards

When: January 27, 2008, Junior Awards, 2:00-5:00 PM, Installation and Awards, Cocktails at 7:00, Dinner at 8:00 PM

Where: FWYC

How: Fun and easy, Semi Formal
Sign up now!!

DCV

Vice Commodore's Report

In writing my first article as Vice Commodore on 19 December 2007 for the January 2008 Letter Log, I find myself in a transitional state. My last duty as your Rear Commodore is the annual Christmas Boat Parade, which was scheduled for 20 December. So let me give a big thank you in advance to everyone that took the time to decorate your boats and join in the fun.



I want to especially thank Bill Rackley for helping get the parade organized and Bill Ward for being our lead boat. Bill Ward took the time to transverse the entire planned route in advance and save the setting in his GPS receiver so that all boaters will have a safe and fun trip the night of the

parade.


Our past Vice Commodore, David Vaughn, has done a remarkable job in that capacity for the last two years. As we enter into a new year, there is a prioritized list of the projects that were approved for 2008 at the November Board of Directors meeting. However, I must point out that, even though the projects were approved by name, the funding needs to be approved by the incoming 2008 Board of Directors.

The first major task as your Vice Commodore in 2008 will be to get all the funding approved for the projects the club is going to pursue. As most of you know, any project that requires funding over \$2500 needs two monthly readings before the club Board of Directors. With that said, nothing that costs over \$2500 can begin until after the February meeting. In the coming months, I'll try and keep everyone informed on which projects have been funded and their individual schedules for completion.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to allow me to continue as one of the club's Flag Officers, this time as your Vice Commodore.

**Ron Giordano- rggr222@cox.net
Vice Commodore**

SECURITY

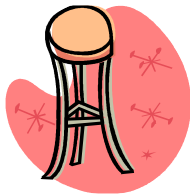
With the elimination of the night-time security service it becomes more important than ever to be vigilant to your vessel or trailer security.  Lock it

up!! Install a tongue lock, chain the tires, batten your hatches, install a lock

or dock box, etch or write your name on your belongings.

Don't be a victim. Be proactive. Keep your stuff yours.

DCV



From the BarStool

Pour me another one, Trish! Howdy folks, I'm so very happy to be joining you from the pages of yet another distinguished Letter Log and especially as your Rear Commodore. Again, thank you for your support. I hope to exceed your expectations and give FYWC a year to remember, *but* I won't do it alone. Please give a *big* round of applause to the 2008 Entertainment and Welcoming Committees:

2008 Entertainment Committee:

Ginny & Jack Lindsay, Mary Harrison, Avril Woody, Vicky Denny, Lynne & Tom Reynolds, Shari Seaton, Nancy & Dick Prater, Harold & Zorina Fielding, Deborah Deats, David Sly, Gail Mitchell, Leslie Hanley, and Elaine Tennyson. Special projects: Tommy Gardner, Mongolian BBQ; Char Gibicsar and Danny Gross, Game Night.

2008 Welcoming Committee:

Emil Pagliari, Debbie & Bob Biel, Skip & Barbara Harrington, Allen & Jackie Chapman, and Bill & Lynn Rackley.

Note: We always have room for more. If you want to volunteer for either committee, just send me an email or give me a call & I'll give you the details!

In December, I sent out a Party Questionnaire to members. Lots of great input—I thank you. One of the suggestions: to “signal,” via advertising, if kids are welcome to the event. It's a great idea. We've tried in the past to show a “kid's price” when the event's been geared toward families, but we'll try even harder to get the word out. We have many events that kids are welcome, even encouraged, to attend & we'll do better job to let you know!

Also, Sam Grant and I are working closely together to ensure that several of our sailing events & parties are planned together for the benefit & fun of everyone.

Now down to the serious business of the club... **partying!** My personal thanks to the Dennys for an extravagant New Year's Eve Party. What a blast! A special toast to Flash Flood for a great time on the dance floor. I haven't had so much fun since, well, the Eggnog Party. Pat Macias, Chef Darell Williams, Tracie Uhaul, Trisha Morris, our dining room and bar staff, and volunteers continue to outdo themselves at every turn! Another magical & memorable night at the club—thank you.

Coming up after the Installation Dinner, it's off to the Super Bowl Party in the bar on Sunday, February 3. In celebration of this most honored event, you'll have opportunities in the coming weeks to participate in 50-50 boards! Finally, let's not forget to *Laissez le bon temps rouler* (always knew that six years of French would come in handy) at February 5th's Taco Tuesday as we celebrate Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras. Bring your mask, your beads & be prepared to party.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I'm looking forward to many great times ahead in the coming year. Let the good times roll!

Gina Coulter - Rear (Party)
Commodore
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Happy New Year!

Many thanks to Phyllis Seaton for a wonderful 2007 racing season. Jennifer and I are hoping to hit the ground running. Come out and start sailing. Let's have some fun.

By now, you should have received the **2008 Racing Schedule** via email. If you have not, let me know so I can add your address to our email list.

Zevin Memorial Regatta

Out of respect to and in honor of our dear friend Sandy Zevin, the sailors of FWYC voted to rechristen the North Ferry Road Sailboat Drivers Association Series. Beginning on January 6, 2008 we will sail in the first annual Zevin Memorial Regatta, appropriately scheduled during fiercest and most blustery time of the year.

Regatta Dates

January 6th, January 20th, January 27th, February 10th
and February 24th.

Food is planned following each days racing, with an awards presentation on February 24th. See the FWYC website for the NOR and registration info.

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From the Water...

Frosty Nipple

Winds were high, weather was cold, and our sailors...well, wimpy. After three days of Nipple racing, only 1 day did we make it out on the water. Pray for warmer weather and fairer winds. Come out and freeze your tops, bottoms and everything in-between with us on January 13th and February 3rd.

FC Phyllis Seaton finishes the year with a bang!



On December 8th & 9th, FWYC hosted the 2007 Laser District 13 Championships. Sailors from around the state trekked from as far away as Miami to compete in this annual event. 29 sailors registered, with 27 showing up to compete...11 of which were local sailors from Choctawhatchee Bay.

After light winds and slow racing on Saturday, everyone showed back up on Sunday morning to a dense fog and more of the light breeze. In all, 5 races were completed with one throw-out.

The top performers were:

Zack Marks – 1st Place Overall Fleet
James Liebl – 1st Place Apprentice Fleet
David Hartman – 1st Place Great GrandMaster Fleet
David Sly – 1st Place GrandMaster Fleet
Phil Pritchett – 1st Place Master Fleet
Eddie Adams – 1st Place Junior Fleet

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who spent their time and energy making this event happen. The sailors appreciate you.

PHRF Racing in December

December blew in with the annual Blue Gavel Regatta. The regatta is an event hosted by the past commodores of FWYC. After sailing three races in one afternoon, the victor was Bob Lester on his boat Ambush. The second overall was David Eames and his wonderful crew on Lightening Rod. Phil Pritchett on Jibe Talkin' sailed into third. And as for the rest of us...well, we had a good time. Chili fed our tummies and the good friends and cold beer soothed our egos. The racers extend a hearty thank you to all those who helped and a special shout to Bill Ward for the use of himself and his boat for race committee.

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