



THE FLORIDA COUNCIL OF YACHT CLUBS *NEWSLETTER*



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Vice Commodore: Kitch Keitchen
Rear Commodore: Charles Goes
Secretary: Peter Lackman
Treasurer: Joe Elam

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Ray Williams

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Club Best Practices: Michael Travis
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FROM THE COMMODORE



Commodore Chris Jones

Since our last newsletter, the Council has held two exceptionally informative Directors' Meetings. In September, The Moorings Yacht Club in Vero Beach graciously hosted the Council and delivered an outstanding, well-organized weekend. Our sincere thanks to Jim Turcotte and Anne Lewis for their leadership and hospitality in making the meeting both productive and memorable.

This year also marked a milestone for the FCYC, highlighting the strength and capabilities of our smaller member clubs. Historically, neither Clearwater Yacht Club

nor Davis Islands Yacht Club had hosted a Directors' Meeting due to their more modest size. Both clubs rose to the occasion with excellent planning, warm hospitality, and seamless execution. The November meeting at Clearwater Yacht Club was a particular success, resulting in a smooth and memorable weekend that reinforced how well-prepared smaller clubs are to host the Council. Special thanks to Clearwater YC leaders Rich Libonate and Director Jim Coats for their dedication and leadership.

Looking ahead, our next meeting will be held January 16-18 at the Coral Reef Yacht Club in Miami. Club Director Joe Mensch and his team are preparing what will no doubt be another outstanding weekend. The Council has not had the pleasure of meeting at Coral Reef since September 2016, so many of our newer Directors will be visiting this beautiful club for the first time.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Chris

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UPCOMING GENERAL MEETINGS

Coral Reef Yacht Club Jan. 16-18, 2026
Venice Yacht Club Mar. 15-17, 2026
Pelican Isle Yacht Club. May 15-17, 2026
The Field Club July 17-19, 2026
Naples Sailing and Yacht Club Sept. 11-13, 2026
Coral Ridge Yacht Club Nov. 13-15, 2026

NEWS OF THE DAY

FCYC BRIDGE NOMINATIONS FOR 2026

Carl Schultz was proposed by the nominating committee to be Treasurer. All other flags move up as defined by the by-laws. The slate for 2026 is:

- Commodore: Kitch Keitchen, Venice YC
- Vice Commodore: Charles Goes, St. Pete YC
- Rear Commodore: Peter Lackman, Tampa Y&CC
- Secretary: Joe Elam, Smryna YC
- Treasurer: Carl Schultz, St. Charles YC
- Past Commodore: Chris Jones

FLORIDA TO REGULATE ATLANTIC RED SNAPPER FISHERY

On November 10, 2025 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) formally submitted an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick that, upon approval, will allow Florida to assume management of the recreational red snapper fishery in state and federal waters off the Atlantic Coast beginning in 2026. The state of Florida has managed and expanded the Gulf snapper seasons while successfully insuring a growing fishery.

As submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Florida would implement a 39-day Atlantic Red Snapper season, a dramatic expansion from the two-day federal season allowed in 2025, an 1850% increase in fishing. The proposed season includes:

- Summer: From May 22 (Memorial Day Weekend) through June 20
- Fall: Three-day weekends in October (Oct. 2-4, 9-11, and 16-18)

Florida's application leverages the same process used in the Gulf, where state management has produced results that support the species and anglers. Since assuming management in the Gulf, the Red Snapper season has risen from 3 to 127 days, an over 4100% increase for Florida's Gulf anglers and for-hire operators.

Anyone fishing for red snapper from a private recreational vessel—in state or federal waters—must be registered as a State Reef Fish Angler (with annual renewal), even if exempt from fishing license requirements. Registration is available at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com.

For more on recreational snapper regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Marine.



JOINT U.S.–BAHAMAS PROPOSAL ON VISITING YACHT FEES

The Association of Bahamas Marinas (ABM) and the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs (FCYC) have jointly advanced a proposal calling for reciprocal or reduced entry and cruising fees for visiting yachts traveling between the United States and the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Bahamas boating regulations changed significantly in mid-2025 with new, higher cruising permit fees (e.g., \$500 for under 50ft, \$1,000 for 50-100ft), separate fishing permits, and mandatory Automatic Identification System (AIS) for vessels over 50 feet, plus a new digital cruising card option for frequent visitors, all impacting costs and entry, with some boaters feeling the increased fees and rules are less welcoming.

Together, ABM and FCYC represent a broad network of marinas and yacht clubs that form the foundation of boating activity in both regions. The proposal initially focuses on yacht club members as a well-defined and verifiable group of responsible boaters, while serving as a potential framework for broader marine-tourism initiatives in the future. A key objective is to increase visitation and length of stay at Bahamian-owned marinas, helping ensure that the economic benefits of marine tourism flow directly into local Bahamian communities.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND CLUB FORTIFICATION

Saul Landesberg, Bird Key YC, presented a brief 10 min overview at Mooring Yacht & CC meeting.

[View the presentation.](#) Topics are noted below.

- Risk Management-It's more than just buying insurance
- Loss Prevention-Property and Liability
- Investing in products and procedures to avoid/diminish the potential loss
- Safety Committee
- Transfer of risks via non-insurance alternatives
- Certificates of Insurance
- Insurance Reserves
- Marina exposures and risks
- Letters of Credit
- Who is driving the bus
- Follow up - Group property & casualty insurance program

Tampa Y&CC will be releasing a white paper on their efforts toward fortification and mitigation:

- Removable power substations and power pedestals
- Wave attenuation bladders

FCYC ATHLETIC INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

East Coast Pickleball Tournament

Our first event of the season was scheduled for Saturday, October 4, at the Smyrna Yacht Club. Unfortunately, heavy rains came and we had to reschedule the tournament. It is unfortunate as we had 22 teams signed up to play that day. We now will have the East Coast Pickleball Tournament scheduled for Saturday, January 10 at the Smyrna Yacht Club.

Golf Tournament

We were scheduled for the golf tournament on Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11. The heavy rains along the east coast of Florida continued and we had to cancel the golf tournament. Hopefully, we will be able to schedule this again in the fall of 2026.

Bocce Tournament

On Saturday, October 11, we had the Bocce Tournament at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Seven teams participated with 3 teams from Bird Key YC, two teams from Marathon YC, and one team each from Isles YC and Sarasota YC. The feedback from the participants was extremely positive.

Special thanks to Sarasota YC members Tony & Randi Incardona for coordinating the event and to numerous staff and members at Sarasota YC for the hospitality shown to those participating in the event.

Congratulations to the winners: Carole Chrisman and Bill Woodcock from Bird Key YC. 2nd Place are Utahna and Jeff Smith from Sarasota YC, followed by 3rd Place, Devin Howery and Tim Tychan from Marathon YC.

West Coast Pickleball Tournament

On Saturday, November 15 (today), the FCYC West Coast Pickleball Tournament was played on Saturday, Nov. 15th at the Pelican Isle YC. There were 22 players representing Bradenton YC, Captiva YC, Isles YC, Marco Island YC and Pelican Isle YC.

Men's Doubles Division

- **Gold Medal – Scott Gregory & Dave MacKinnon (Pelican Isle YC)**
- **Silver Medal – Richard Buy & Garry Gaddy (Isles YC)**
- **Bronze Medal – Glen Kondos & Jeff Winsler (Bradenton YC)**

Women's Doubles Division

- **Gold Medal – Liz Gregory & Marilyn Davis (Pelican Isle YC)**
- **Silver Medal – Lisa Hoban & Anna Smith (Bradenton YC)**
- **Bronze Medal – Janice J. Jacobson & Joann Sergi (Marco Island YC)**

Continued on page 4



Mens winners: Scott Gregory & DaveMacKinnon



Womens winners: Liz Gregory & Marilyn Davis

Continued from page 3

Mixed Doubles Division

- Gold Medal – Brian Murphy & Betsy Ventura (Captiva Island YC)
- Silver Medal – Doug Becker & Heidi Becker (Pelican Isle YC)
- Bronze Medal – Jeff Winsler & Christine Winsler (Bradenton YC)

The members and staff at the Pelican Isle YC did a fabulous job in planning, organizing and carrying out the tournament.

Tennis Tournament

The Tennis Tournament had been scheduled for Saturday, November 15, at the Isles YC in Punta Gorda. Unfortunately, due to the low number of registrations for the Tennis Tournament we had to cancel the event.



Mixed Doubles Winners: Brian Murphy & Betsy Ventura (Captiva Island YC)

TYCC MAHJONG TOURNAMENT OPEN TO FCYC MEMBERS

Tampa Yacht & Country Club is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the 4th Annual Mahjong Tournament on Saturday April 18, 2026.

- All Mahjong groups and players within the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs (FCYC) are invited to attend and participate in this exciting event.
- Registration forms will be sent to each club in Jan 2026.
- For questions or more information, please contact:

Angela Vaughan, Membership & Communications Director Tampa Yacht & Country Club membership@tampayacht.com or Meg Vawter at mvawter301@gmail.com.

MANY THANKS TO BOB PETERSON FOR MANAGING THESE GREAT PROGRAMS

HYPERLINKS TO FCYC BOATING INFORMATION AND U.S. COAST GUARD SAFETY INFORMATION

[FCYC CRUISING LOG](#)

[MAP OF MEMBER CLUBS](#)

[US COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY](#)

[DOCK-TO-DOCK DISTANCES](#)



[US COAST GUARD FLOAT PLAN](#)

FCYC CLUB PROFILES

FCYC is working to insure all club members have a good understanding of our 36 member clubs. Look forward to seeing club profiles in future FCYC Newsletters.



27°54.47 N – 82°27.09 W
1315 Severn Ave. Tampa, FL 33606
(813) 251-1158
office@diyc.org

WELCOME TO DAVIS ISLAND YACHT CLUB

The Davis Island Yacht Club is a private, member-owned yacht club situated at the south end of Davis Island in Tampa, Florida. The club sponsors a heavy schedule of sailing races, an active cruising fleet and a strong youth sailing organization.

"The principal purpose of the Club shall be to promote sailing in all its forms, to form a social nucleus with activities for people primarily interested in sailing, to develop and maintain active relationships with other sailing organizations, to promote racing and cruising for pure enjoyment, to promote safety on the water-ways, and to foster a spirit of good fellowship and helpfulness." When visiting us by land, we recommend the Embassy Suites by Hilton Downtown Center (813) 769-8300, the Tampa Marriott Water Street (813) 221-4900 or the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street (813) 221-4950.



THURSDAY NIGHT RACING

New and old sailors alike gather on our beautiful Hillsborough Bay for a tradition unlike any other. Davis Islands' Thursday Night Series has been the biggest sailing series in the South. New sailors have learned the skills of the persons who were in their shoes years ago.



Racing sailboats keeps us happy. To join a boat, visit the Membership Committee table next to the upstairs bar on Thursday night and let the members know you are "crew looking for boat." They will get you paired up with a boat. Whether you have experience or not, those interested in sailing are welcome to visit and become the guest of a captain and learn more about sailing. The club bar is open (accepting cards only, no cash) and meals are available for those guests who have joined a crew for the evening.



YOUTH SAILING

The Davis Island Youth Sailing Foundation (DIYSF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization committed to supporting and promoting the sport of sailing for the youth of Tampa Bay in an environment that encourages safety, good sportsmanship, and self-reliance, as well as respect for authority, the community, and the marine environment. We operate out of [Davis Island Yacht Club](#) and run sailing programs year-round for kids of various levels, from [Learn-to-Sail Camp](#) to our nationally-recognized Race Team. We also host the [Plant High School Sailing Team](#).

BEST PRACTICES

The concept of Best Practices originated under Commodore Ray Williams during the 2024-2025 year. The idea is to have our 36 member clubs submit policies, procedures, concepts, actions and practices that may be of value to our other member clubs. We will be sharing these great ideas in our newsletter for your consideration.



Naples Sailing and Yacht Club

There are many times that member clubs find that their yearly budget doesn't allow for some nice things to have for the Club that all members would enjoy. This is where our "Captain's Table" comes into play. As a source of volunteer and extra monies, we have a yearly fun evening with package items (wine, special dinners, boat tours, etc) that members bid on in a competitive manner. As all of the items or events are donated by a member, all of the proceeds collected are in a special tax-exempt fund. Those members that have contributed more than a certain level have their name on a plaque labeled "Captain's Table" displayed prominently in the clubhouse. By using funds collected by this means, we have replaced all of the dining room chairs, acquired a pontoon boat for member use and other improvements to the club house.



CONGRATULATIONS ON NSYC's BEAUTIFUL MAKE-OVER

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

January 16-18, 2026



Coral Reef Yacht Club

Friday, January 16th

- ▶ 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Registration - Boathouse
- ▶ 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Cocktails - ReefTop Bar
- ▶ 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Dinner Buffet - Dining Room

Island Dinner Buffet

Menu

HERB MARINATED SKIRT STEAK
CITRUS GRILLED SALMON
SPATCHCOCK CHICKEN
MEDITERRANEAN ORZO SALAD
HEIRLOOM TOMATO AND AVOCADO SALAD
CAESAR SALAD
BABY SPINACH AND FLORIDA ORANGE SALAD

SIDES

OVEN ROASTED TRI-COLOR POTATOES
SEASONAL GRILLED VEGETABLES

DESSERT

KEY LIME PIE
CRYC COOKIES

\$45++

Saturday, January 17th

- ☒ 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Late Registration - Boathouse
- ☒ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tour to Vizcaya Museum & Garden
- ☒ Noon - 1:00 PM
Lunch Buffet - Dining Room
Charting a Legacy - CRYC 70th Anniversary Documentary will play during lunch.
- ☒ 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Directors Meeting - Chart Room
- ☒ 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM
Guest Speaker Presentation by
Dr. Catherine MacDonald - Chart Room
- ☒ 3:30 PM
General Meeting - Chart Room
- ☒ 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Cocktail Reception - RoofTop Bar
(weather permitting)
- ☒ 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Flag Lowering Ceremony
- ☒ 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Dinner and Dancing - Dining Room

Saturday Lunch

Menu

SALADS

RED QUINOA TABOULI
GARBANZO GREEK SALAD
CAESAR SALAD

HOT AND COLD HAND HELDS
CHEESEBURGER
TRADITIONAL CUBAN SANDWICH
"THE TURKEY CLUB"
CHICKEN AND AVOCADO
TOMATO AND MOZZARELLA PANINI
GRILLED VEGETABLES WRAP

DESSERT

FLORIDA FRUIT SALAD
ASSORTED BROWNIE LOLLIPOPS

\$39++

Saturday Dinner

Menu

DUO APPETIZER

BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP AND
CAESAR SALAD

SURF AND TURF

SLICED CHATEAUBRIAND,
MALBEC JUS,
OVEN ROASTED JUMBO SHRIMP,
LEMON BEURE BLANC SAUCE
DAUPHINE POTATOES,
GRILLED ASPARAGUS,

DESSERT

APPLE CRUMP BLOSSOM

\$55++



SATURDAY MORNING EXCURSION

The Vizcaya Museum and Gardens is a historic estate in Coconut Grove, Miami, formerly the villa of businessman James Deering. Built in the early 20th century, it features Italian Renaissance-inspired gardens and Mediterranean Revival architecture with Baroque elements. Key figures in its design include architect F. Burrall Hoffman, design director Paul Chalfin, associate architect Iwahiko Tsumanuma, and landscape architect Diego Suarez. Now owned by Miami-Dade County, the estate is open to the public and accessible via the Vizcaya Metrorail Station.

Schedule of Activities:

- 9:40 am Bus Arrives at CRYC
- 9:50 am Arrival at Vizcaya
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am Guided Tour
- 11:40 am Departure from Vizcaya



\$49 pp

MEMBER CLUB INFO AND UPDATES



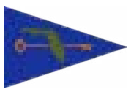
Bird Key YC: Bird Key Yacht Club is now fully underway for construction of the new Clubhouse. During this time, there are no onsite facilities for reciprocal boaters, including fuel. We are taking down our fuel system during construction out of an abundance of caution. Even without a Clubhouse, we are still offering our members, and FCYC members, access to all of our off-property events throughout Sarasota, including our Seafarer's Speaker Series (see link here [Seafarers Speaker Series](#)). Tickets are still available to attend the events in January, February, and March. Please call BKYC directly to make your reservation for these exciting speakers!



Harbour Ridge Y & CC will be closed to boating reciprocals for the foreseeable future - at least a year. Our docks are being completely replaced. We are open to reciprocals by car for golf and dining.



Lauderdale Yacht Club: In October, Lauderdale Yacht Club (LYC) hosted the 2025 Youth Champs Regatta. This isn't just any sailing event—it's the most prestigious youth regatta in the United States. LYC welcomed over 250 elite young sailors from across the country, managed three separate race courses, and coordinated the efforts of more than 70 volunteers. LYC was very proud to host this event promoting youth sailing.



Marathon YC: We are open for business serving dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Come by Land or Sea and enjoy the creations of our new Chef August Didier. Dock space is available Especially for the boat in the 35' range.



Naples Sailing & Yacht Club: NSYC welcomed Members back for a vibrant start to the season following our six-month summer closure for Phase 1 of our \$10.5M Capital Improvements. We hosted a well-attended Grand Reopening Jimmy Buffett "Margaritaville" Party on November 8th and our Paint the Town Red Welcome Back Party & Change of Watch Ceremony on November 21st. Marina and Membership activity remains strong, with only a handful of 40' slip opportunities currently available. Phase 1 is nearing completion, and Slip 82 - our new waterfront dining and al fresco dockside concept - is progressing well with an anticipated debut in early February 2026. We look forward to hosting FCYC Members throughout the season on Naples Bay and welcoming them back to our transient slips after the New Year. Reservations required, subject to availability.



The St. Petersburg Yacht Club is experiencing a very high volume of member events and activity throughout December. As a result, we are unable to accept reciprocal club reservations on Friday and Saturday evenings during the month of December. We are, however, happy to accommodate reciprocal lunch reservations on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as weekday reservations, as space permits.



Vero Beach Yacht Club: VBYC is celebrating its 100th anniversary starting in January 2026 and lasts for 100 days of centennial fun and interesting activities. We are having a fabulous collection of *Concerts in the Parking Lot* (two a month) from January to April along with numerous others. Check our website for details, but be sure to make a reservation (some events may be closed to members only).

VBYC Then 1963



And NOW 2026



ACTIVITIES at Moorings Yacht & CC



Friday evening at the Mooring Yacht and Country Club was not to be missed. Great food and camaraderie in a beautiful setting.



The attendees has a great opportunity to see the incredible and heroic efforts the SEALs have performed over the years.



Award winners by land, by sea and by numbers which Vero Beach Yacht Club won.



The Saturday business meeting was effective and informative. Saul Landesberg presented a 10 minute informative presentation on risk management. The local Florida Fish and Wildlife representative gave an excellent presentation on FL derelict vessel law. A thank you to Melvin Fisher for his interesting presentation on the legacy of the Treasure Coast. MY&CC Commodore Jim Turcotte and his team provided an outstanding weekend for business and good fun. Thanks to all.

ACTIVITIES at Clearwater Yacht Club



Delightful dinner on Friday night.



The 10:00 A.M. The in-depth special meeting on risk management and insurance was very informative.



Bird Key Yacht Club presented an excellent *best practices* concept on a speaker series program. Dr. Kelly McAdams, VP of Conservation Education at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, gave an outstanding presentation on conservation and resource management.



Commodore Joan Carter and her excellent staff did a splendid job in hosting our FCYC meeting. As a small club not having hosted a FCYC meeting previously they managed beautifully. It is friendly, hospitable club worth visiting.

FLORIDA LEGISLATION

One of the FCYC key mission issues is the monitoring of legislation that affects boating, navigation and club management. When the Executive Committee believes impending legislation may affect member clubs we engage our attorneys in Tallahassee to respond to the potential risk.

FCYC is represented at the Capitol by Johnson & Blanton, advocating on behalf of the Council for 15 years. With the 2026 Legislative Session starting January 13th, several bills have surfaced so far and could impact boaters:

- Boating Safety (SB 900 – Senator Garcia): Strengthens safety rules, clarifies boater ID and education requirements, and increases penalties for reckless operation or boating under the influence. Most responsible boaters will see little day-to-day change, but unsafe behavior carries serious consequences.
- Nonprofit Corporations (SB 554 – Senator Bernard): Updates governance rules, director duties,

filings, and member access to records. Provides greater flexibility for organizational changes. Effective July 1, 2026.

- Firearms on Vessels (SB 80 – Senator Berman; HB 159 – Rep. Hinson; SB 256 – Senator Rouson): Requires secure storage of firearms on vessels whenever unattended, promoting safety and legal clarity without affecting recreational boating.
- Public Waters (HB 669 – Rep. Gossett-Seidman): Focuses on health advisories and water access. Boaters should watch for posted signs, water quality notices, and potential temporary closures.

For full details on these bills, visit flsenate.gov and enter the bill number in the “Go to Bill” tab.

FLEET CAPTAIN'S UPDATES



The West Coast Fleet Captains held their inaugural information meeting at the Isles Yacht Club on October 24th. Hosted by Terry Wright, the agenda included the presentation "National Electrical Code & Stray Currents in Marinas" by Master Electrician, Robert Elie. This was a very informative meeting and the presentation was excellent. The next meeting of the West Coast Fleet Captains will be held at the Venice Yacht Club on December 19th.

U. S. Coast Guard West Report:

- All mariners are advised to transit the area between pass-a-grille channel dbn 3 to dbn 7 with caution due to extreme shoaling. gadsden point cut range front light (llnr 22850) is rptd very dim. All mariners transit the area with caution. Tampa Bay cut C channel inbound rrl (llnr 22605) is rptd extinguished. All mariners transit the area with caution.
- Big Bayou point channel dbn 5 (llnr 26454.2) is reported broken. Exercise caution while transiting the area.

- Gordon Pass channel buoy 1 (llnr 17453) and Gordon Pass channel light 3 (llnr 17460) have been temporarily disestablished and will be re-established at the conclusion of dredging operations. Transit with caution.
- Mullet Key range front light (llnr 22355) is leaning over into water 45 degrees west and has been set with a white trlb 18 yards from structure channelward. Transit the area with caution.
- Mullet Key channel light buoy 20 (llnr 22350) is reported extinguished. Transit the area with caution.

U. S. Coast Guard East Report:

- St. Lucie River North Fork day beacon 31 is damaged and missing.
- Intracoastal Peck Lake day beacon 18 (south of St. Lucie Inlet) is damaged.
- Cape Canaveral Space launch operations are ongoing and hazardous to boaters during launch. Check launch schedule when boating through this area. You can call the US Space Force launch information hotline at: 1-800-470-7232.
- The FPL St. Lucie power plant breakwater lighted buoy G is damaged.
- The USCG is referring a case to the Justice Department for possible criminal charges after a collision between a sailing vessel and an un-inspected barge/tow vessel that resulted in the deaths of three minors and injured two others. The accident happened near Hibiscus Island in Miami.
- Biscayne Bay light 69 is destroyed.