



RELATIVE BEARINGS

Latitude 29.48



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Official Publication Of The Flagler Beach Yacht Club Inc.

December 2025

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Commodore's Corner — Nick Ward Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



As a sailor, I must say that this year has flown by on a “broad reach” – the fastest point of sail. And in a gale, too! Of course, that must mean that I’ve been having fun, since that’s when “time flies,” right?

In fact, I did have a lot of fun serving as your Commodore for 2025. The Club, under the able guidance of our Board of Directors, had a great year, with many well-attended and much enjoyed events, including new and previous Social and Maritime events, new themes for the General Meetings, and several new members who have “made fast” to

our goals of Fun, Friendship and Boating. I have thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities this past year.

But to verify my “theory of Universal Balance,” we’ve had some downers also: We’ve lost several long-time members to Fiddlers Green, and too many boats have been sold. But we carried on, and there was always room on members’ boats for the un-boated (who are still welcome and appreciated Members) to enjoy the events as well.

I believe that my year as Commodore was a successful one, and I want to particularly thank:

My wife Jean, for her patience while I was struggling with my computer doing the Newsletter, or absent at Board meetings, and for her work preparing for the upcoming Commodore’s Ball.

The entire Board of Directors, who have provided such excellent ideas (and tolerated my own) this past year, and especially Jim Kelly for his assistance with the afore-mentioned Newsletters

All of the Leads, Co-leads, and Volunteers who made our meetings and events so successful

Everyone who brought FOOD to the meetings! Everyone who knows me knows that I love to eat almost as much as I love to be on the water ;).



Continued on next Page

Commodore's Corner — Nick Ward
Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

It has been a privilege and an honor to helm the Flagler Beach Yacht Club, and I will always cherish the memories and time spent in that endeavor. I step down knowing that the Club will be in the capable hands of our past (2-1/2 years already!) and future Commodore, Jim Kelly, and our elected Board of Directors.

Fair Winds and God Speed,

Nick Ward



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**Vice Commodore — Ilyse Pinette****Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com****🌿 November General Meeting Recap**

It was election night, and we unanimously nominated our board members for the upcoming year.

The board provided dinner for our members, catered by Mezzaluna — who did an outstanding job! Thank you to everyone who brought a dessert to share. Everything was absolutely delicious!

📢 Please Note:

There will be **no General Meeting in December.**

📅 Save the Date: January Planning Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 8th

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Santa Maria Church

Have you ever wondered how we come up with leads and meeting ideas? All you need to do is attend the planning meeting! I am currently looking for leads for the General Meetings — February and March are covered, but all other months are open. Whether you want to lead or simply help out, everyone's input is essential to making another successful year.

[Click here to let us know if you will be attending the Social and General meeting Planning meeting or let us know your ideas](#)

🌿 January General Meeting

📍 **Date:** Thursday, January 15th

🕒 **Time:** 5:00 PM

🎁 **Theme:** Souper Bowl

👥 **Event Leads:** Your Board — Jim Kelly, Ilyse Pinette, Diane Doner, Bob Solms, Doris Houslander, Jerry Imbriani, Kathy Imbriani and Nick Ward

It's time for our annual *Souper Bowl*! Dinner is on the board once again, and we will be dazzling you with a delicious variety of soups.

We are looking for volunteers to bring sides and desserts. Please click the link to sign up — your help is truly appreciated!

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Vice Commodore — Ilyse Pinette**Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com****RSVP Reminder**

Please use the calendar links to RSVP for all events.

☒ Be sure to indicate whether you will attend — accurate headcounts make a big difference in planning!

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**Vice Commodore — Ilyse Pinette****Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**

November Social Recap:

We had a very busy month for social events! We started on the 3rd with dinner at the Landing Strip hosted by Lori Plump and Daisy Lucci. It was a great turnout with 30 people, and I heard the restaurant did a great job. I love that we are supporting our sponsors!

Next up was Top Gun shooting range. I loved seeing the pictures on Facebook, and received many comments about how nice it was to get to know the amazing group of people that attended. Thanks to Sean and Deanna Dennehy for organizing this!

Lastly was the Bottles and Boards social at Loopers. Most of us ended up with a full dinner, but the charcuterie boards were very well done, and our group always loves the wine ☐ We had 33 people attend, and the live music was perfect once he turned his speaker down.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The only social for December is the Commodore's Ball, so enjoy!



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**Rear Commodore — Jim Russo****Rear-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**

Happy Holidays! It has been a great year. FBYC had the opportunity to induct great new members into the fold in 2024. All the new members have already contributed to FBYC with new ideas, being leads and volunteering to help make all activities fun and exciting. For that, I am grateful.

There are still a few people in the process of becoming members and we look forward to working with them to the path of membership. It is a tribute to all of you for introducing so many wonderful potential members to the club.

Lastly, thank you for putting your trust in me to represent this fantastic club. As of January 1, 2026, Diane Doner will be your new Rear Commodore. She has been on the board as a Director and is fully excited to take on a new role. Please give her a splendid FBYC welcome at our January transition meeting.

Please enjoy the holiday season and I am eager for the 2026 maritime events and social outings with each and everyone of you.

Jim Russo

Rear Commodore

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***Fleet Captain — Bob Solms*****Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com****From the Fleet Captian**

AHOY!!! I can't believe that this is the December newsletter. This year has gone by so quickly. I would like to thank the Members of the Club for all of the support over the last year with our Maritime Events. Our November Event was to the Ormond Garage. We had 7 boats and a great time. The captain's prize was awarded to David Pinette. Our December Maritime Event is Caroling on the Canals on December 14. ***Please remember to sign up on the calendar.***

December 14th, Caroling on the canals!!!! Please decorate your boat for caroling. We will begin caroling at 10:30. A map and information on what FM radio station to play during the event will be sent to everyone as we get closer to the date. We will have our annual club picnic afterwords at Herschel King Park beginning at 2:30PM. The club will be providing Hamburgers and Sausage and Buns. Please bring a covered dish to share and a beverage of your choice for yourself.

[Please click here to let us know if you will be participating in the caroling, picnic, or both.](#)
[PLEASE sign up, this will help us with figuring out how much food to purchase](#)

Also, mark your calendars for the Maritime Planning Meeting on January 6, 2026 @7:00 pm. We are looking for a great year of Events and need the Club Members input. Look forward to seeing everyone.

[Click here to let us know if you are coming to the planning meeting or give us your ideas for Maritime events](#)

Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Five Basic Boating Knots You Really Should Know Empty heading

[Zack Thomas](#) June 02, 2022 4 min read



Tell the truth — how many different knots do you use boating? For most boaters, the answer is two or maybe three, counting a cleat hitch, which is the actual name of the knot used to attach a line to a cleat. The fact is that most of us know and use more fishing knots than we do boating knots. And we get by just fine that way.

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Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Five Basic Boating Knots To Know

On most recreational boats under 30 feet or so, the only lines on board are an anchor rode, a few dock lines (usually with an eye spliced into one end), and maybe a ski rope. If you can tie to a cleat and a piling or railing when a cleat isn't available, you're set for the vast majority of situations you'll encounter operating a trailerable powerboat.

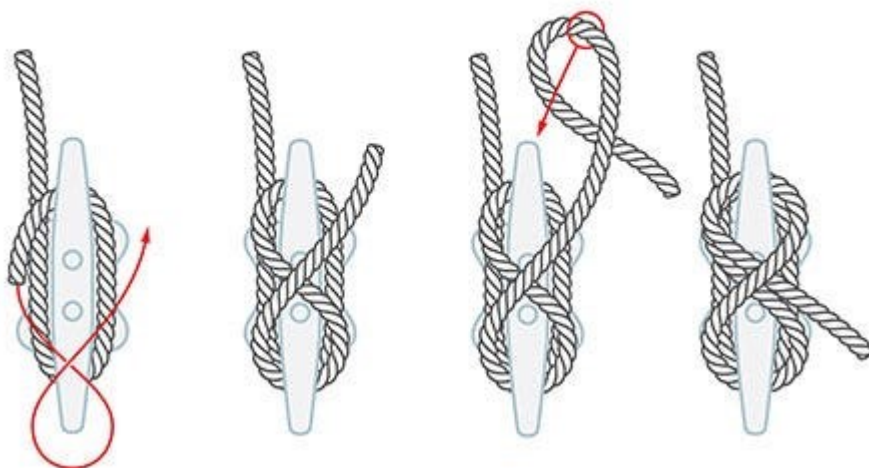
Still, knots are fun to learn, and knowing just a handful of simple ones can come in very handy when something unexpected happens. Fortunately, it takes a few seconds on Google to find detailed, illustrated instructions for any knot, bend, or hitch ever devised by humankind. The real question is which ones to start with. Here are five to know by heart.

Cleat Hitch

There is, in fact, a right way to tie a dock line to a cleat. There are also a whole lot of wrong ways.

Most of the wrong ways also work reasonably well, but if you're leaving your boat for an extended period of time or in challenging conditions, do it right.

CLEAT HITCH



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Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

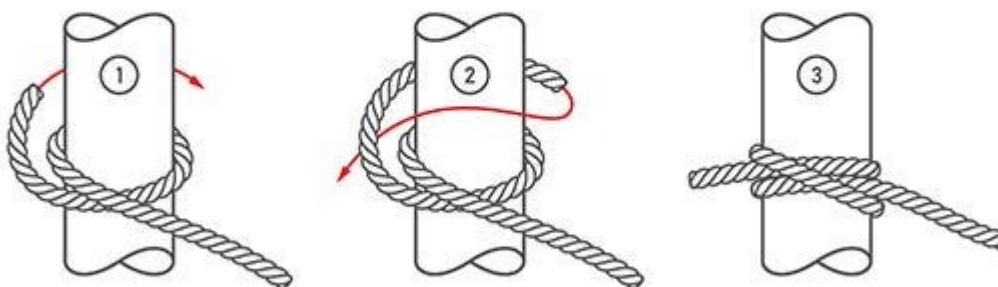
Important Things to Notice

1. If your dock line is at an angle to the dock, go around the far side of the cleat first.
2. Take at least half a turn around the base of the cleat, as shown in the NetKnots illustration, before going over the middle. For a more slip-resistant hitch, take a full turn around the base before starting your first figure-eight, as shown in [this animation](#).
3. A single figure-eight locked with a half-hitch is plenty. Many new boaters keep wrapping and wrapping until they've buried the cleat under a big ball of rope. That doesn't do any good. Keep it simple and neat.

Clove Hitch

Another “short-term” knot, the [clove hitch](#) is quicker to tie, lower profile, and takes up less line than a round turn with two half-hitches. Clove hitches can slip — especially when not under tension — but they're still a nifty way to tie off quickly to a rail or bar. They have the added advantage of being easily adjustable, which makes them ideal for things like hanging fenders from a railing.

CLOVE HITCH



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Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

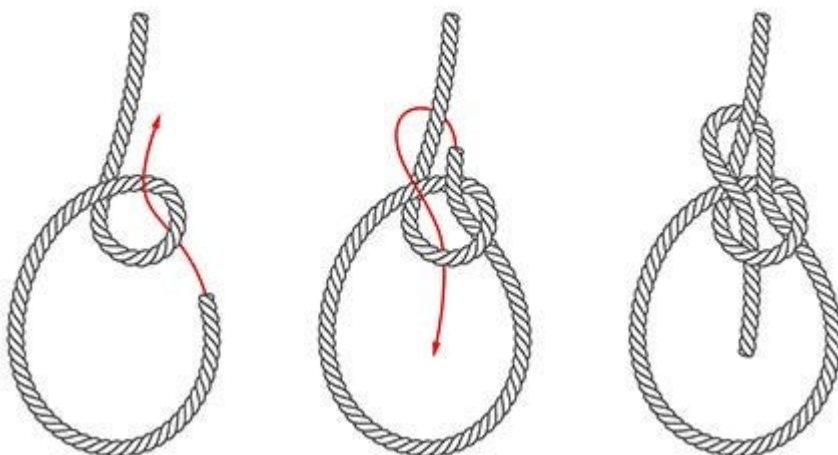
Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

You can make a clove hitch more secure by throwing a couple of half-hitches around the standing part with the tail. Or, substitute a rolling hitch, which is basically a clove hitch with one extra turn, making it a little more resistant to slipping.

Bowline

A [bowline](#) can be used either to form a loop in the end of a line or to tie a line around a piling or rail. Lots of knots can do the same things, but what's special about a bowline is that it doesn't slip and doesn't tighten under load nearly as much as other knots, making it easy to untie. Those qualities make bowlines ideal for towing and similar applications where lines are under sustained tension.

BOWLINE KNOT



For instance, use a bowline to tie a tow line to your bow eye. Boats tow better when the tow line is attached to the bow eye rather than to a cleat on deck. Or, if you want to [anchor your boat](#) close to shore with your bow out, use a bowline to tie your stern line to a tree so you won't have to struggle to get it untied.

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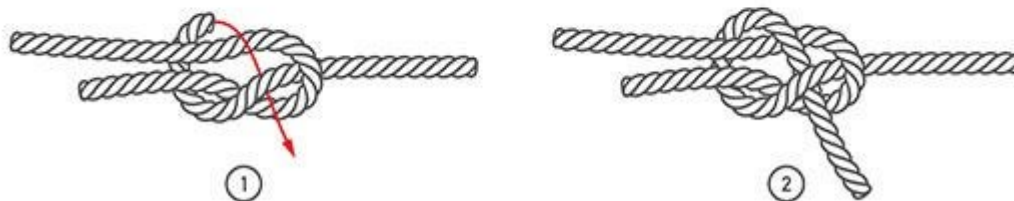
Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

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Sheet Bend

Probably the least commonly used of these five knots, the [sheet bend](#) is still valuable to know. It's used for tying the ends of two pieces of line together and, unlike the many other knots that can do essentially the same thing, the sheet bend works well even with two lines of very different sizes.

SHEET BEND



It's handy for things like tying dock lines together to make a longer line for rafting up, extending towing or anchor lines, etc. If you're connecting two lines of different diameter, put the hitch in the smaller diameter line.

Round Turn with Two Half-Hitches

Probably the most frequently used knot among boaters after the cleat hitch, a round turn with two half-hitches is a quick, simple way to tie dock lines off to pilings or railings when cleats aren't available. You don't want to leave your boat moored overnight this way, but for tying up to the dock while you grab the truck — or even lunch — it's plenty secure.

Note that without a full turn around the piling, as shown in this [animation](#), this knot isn't worth much. Add additional turns for more security.

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***Fleet Captain — Bob Solms*****Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com****Pro Tip: A Knot is Only as Strong as the Rope Used to Tie it!**

Having top-notch marine-specific lines and ropes make tying these knots much easier. A high-quality rope is going to be more subtle and durable, making the knot not only easier and faster to tie but much stronger.

We took the time to explore a wide variety of marine lines and have our own private labeled brand of dock line and anchor rope. Both rope options are good for a wide variety of uses both on the boat or dock, and great to practice your knot-tying with!

Advertisement for Cool Boat Marine Air Conditioning, LLC. The ad features a blue and white color scheme with a stylized boat logo. The text includes the company name, slogan, website, and contact information for Chuck Banjak.

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Treasurer — Doris Houslander
Treasurer@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



Calculations from the Treasurer

Happy Holidays!

It's hard to believe we are in the final month of the year. As your treasurer, I will be wrapping up the annual financial review and planning our budget for the year ahead in the coming weeks.

At the beginning of each year we ask a member to do an audit of our books. We spend about one to two hours together reviewing the bank statements, confirming that the bottom line matches our monthly accounts and making sure receipts have been kept for expenditures. You do not have to be a CPA to conduct the audit, if you are the treasurer of your household then you are probably qualified to review our accounts.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and effort. Your willingness to help, donate, and take on tasks is what truly makes our club thrive. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work," and it's certainly true for our amazing group.

May your holiday season be filled with family, friends and good health.

Sincerely,

Doris Houslander

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Treasurer — Doris Houslander
Treasurer@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Need to make a payment?

You can Zelle the club at: treasurer@flaglerbeachyachtclub.com

Remember to include a note as to what your Zelle \$\$ is for.

Or make your check out to: FBYC

Mail it to: P.O. Box 2065, Flagler Beach, FL 32136 or drop it off at my house, I have 2 baskets hanging by my front door that you can use. If you opt for my house, please send me a text and let me know. Thanks!

Hoist a Tankard of Grog to This Month's Birthday Pirates

December Birthdays	
Nancy Germain	2-Dec
Christine Passiglia	4-Dec
Joanne King	16-Dec
John Yetter	22-Dec
Joyce Yetter	23-Dec
Alan Hendry	24-Dec
Bruce Miller	26-Dec



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Email – mani1516@hotmail.com



Ship Store Newsletter

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Holiday season

Seas and Greetings from our home to yours.

The Ship Store will be open at our January meeting; stop by to see what's new. We are always looking for new ideas for the ship store. Order or suggest new items at the meeting or by contacting us. If you have questions or would like to place an order at any time, please contact us at:

Jodie Keefe at 267-307-9373; email: jumpingjodie@comcast.net

Kris Solms at 863-899-7703; email: krissolms@gmail.com



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Secretary**Ruthie Russo**

Secretary@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Board Members**Diane Doner**

Director@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Past Commodore**Jim Kelly**

PC-Director@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

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2003	Pat Slattery
2004	George Barnett
2005	Pete Poole
2006-2007	Mike Cocchiola
2008	Claudia Towne
2009	Jane Gaulding
2010	Dee Cocchiola
2011	Rich Franco
2012	Greg Hansen
2013	Randy Meyer
2014	Len Dignard
2015	Bob Jaeger
2016	Joe Lindholm
2017	John Green
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2022	Richard Sirbu
2023-2024	Jim Kelly