



# RELATIVE BEARINGS

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Official Publication Of The Flagler Beach Yacht Club Inc.

May 2025

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



Happy May! I hope your May (1) day wasn't a "MAYDAY!" situation!

**Since the last Newsletter we've had 1) a booth at Tomoka Marine, 2) the Poker Run, 3) a General Meeting, 4) Shooting and Shopping at Top Gun, and 5) dinner at Loopers.** If you missed any of these fun events, well, you missed fun events! "Read All About It" in the Vice Commodore and Fleet Captain sections of this newsletter. For anyone who thinks that there are too many events each month, here's a secret that is known to the old-time members: *You don't have to attend every one.* We

make every effort to plan activities that will appeal to as many members as possible, and we realize that some of those activities may not be of interest to some folks. THAT'S OK. If you aren't interested in, say, golfing, then don't sign up for our Golf Outing on the 10<sup>th</sup>. If you don't want to take your boat to Caribbean Jacks or Ponce Inlet, then what are you doing in this club? **JUST KIDDING**, honest! Everyone, please sign up for the things you want to participate in, and I look forward to seeing you all at whichever ones those are. And if there are other activities that you would like to suggest for the future, contact Vice Commodore Ilyse or Fleet Captain Bob.

At the June meeting we will be selecting 3-5 members to serve as our Nominating Committee. Their job is to identify candidates for next year's club officers. If you have questions about the responsibilities of each office, please refer to the By-Laws (on our website) – or just ask us!

Enough noise from me – enjoy the rest of the Newsletter and take special note of our sponsors and advertisers. Thanks!

Fair winds,  
Nick Ward  
Commodore



Continued on next Page

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**April General Meeting Recap**

BINGO was the theme for our April General Meeting, led by Doris Houslander and Linda Folsom, along with the always-wonderful crew from the Knights of Columbus. We had a potluck dinner, and I have to say—month after month, I’m blown away by the quality and variety of dishes. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and culinary talents; it is very much appreciated!

Special thanks to Doris and Linda for doing another fantastic job, and for the ever-popular FBYC pens!

**April Social Recap**

This month’s social event was hosted at Loopers, one of our generous sponsors, and they did an outstanding job once again. Jerry took the lead on organizing, and we had seven members order the lobster dinner! Loopers created a special seafood-themed menu just for us, including fried oysters, crab claws, and a seafood platter. Everything was delicious, and we truly appreciate their effort in accommodating our group.



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**Vice Commodore — Ilyse Pinette****Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com****Save the Dates!****May General Meeting** *Thursday, May 15th @ 6 PM***Leads:** Jeanne Myer and Quinn Bui

Join us for a charcuterie-themed grazing table featuring a variety of meats, cheeses, fruits, nuts, bread, and desserts. Please bring your favorite bottle of wine to share! Jeanne and Quinn are still looking for volunteers to help with food, setup, and cleanup—reach out if you can lend a hand.

**May Social Event** *Cypress Knolls Golf & Country Club*

53 Easthampton Blvd, Palm Coast, FL 32164

 *Saturday, May 10, 2025***Lead:** Rich Van Dort

- Training by FBYC “Golf Pros”: 1:00 (bring balls and tees) on practice greens)
- Putting Contest: 2:30 PM
- Tee Time: 3:00 PM
- Light Dinner: 5:30 PM

**Theme:** Golf, Eat, and Be Happy!**Upcoming Events:****June General Meeting** *Thursday, June 19th @ 6 PM***Theme:** Ice Cream Social *Please note: no dinner will be served at this meeting***Lead:** Kris Solms**June Social** *Date: June 22nd at 5:00* *Crab Boil at Wild Ginger***Lead:** Jeanne Myer**July Social** *Saturday, July 12th @ 12:00 PM* *Pool Party at Marina Del Palma***Leads:** Bob and Cindy Fazone



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**August Social**

 Thursday, August 7th @ 5:30 PM

 Grand Haven Ballroom

**Leads:** Fred and Sherry

 **Please use the provided links or calendar to RSVP for all events.**

Be sure to indicate whether you plan to attend or not—accurate headcounts are a big help for planning!

[Click here to go to the calendar to sign up for events](#)



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**Rear Commodore — Jim Russo**

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April proved to be a very active month. First, a big thank you to Amy Krisanda for actively seeking sponsorship opportunities for FBYC. We also had a great social event at a location of a wonderful friend and sponsor of the FBYC, Loopers. I also met with Cierra Katz (manager of Beachfront, Loopers and The Landing Strip) to continue keeping the information channel open. During this meeting 3 other club members were there having lunch. This was definitely noticed by Cierra. Hopefully, the Landing Strip will open in the near future. I will keep the club posted. Club newsletter sponsors are also being contacted to see if they are willing to continue sponsorship for another year.

Jim Kelly set up a great opportunity to seek new members. He secured a club kiosk at a local event. A booth was set up in order to sell the idea of joining this wonderful club and gain exposure for FBYC. It was held at Tomoka Marine in Flagler Beach on April 5.

There was an assortment of vendors, a lot of boats for sale and an opportunity to swap marine accessories at this event. Jim Kelly, Doris Houslander and I were there from 9AM to 3PM. Unfortunately, only 18 people stopped by our booth, some of which included current members, non-boat owners, sail boat owners and a couple of prospects. Bob Johnson of Flagler Beach looked interested and asked Jim Kelly about our monthly meeting. He suggested he may attend one; hopefully he does. Another person who stopped by was John from American Embroidery. He not only took a brochure but let us know of his desire to work with our club. We will continue to seek new members and look for opportunities to put the face of the club forward. A special thank you to Jim Kelly and Doris Houslander for their great help and support at this event. The club is so successful because of dedicated members like Jim and Doris.

Like always, I thank you all very much for the support and kind words. I look forward to doing a lot together in May. Save BOATING!

Jim Russo  
Rear Commodore

**Rear Commodore — Jim Russo**

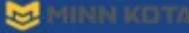
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**Fleet Captain — Bob Solms**

**Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**

**Maritime Newsletter April 2025**



AHOY!!!! I hope that this article finds everyone enjoying time on the water. It is great that the weather has changed, and we are now having warm days and pleasant evenings. We had a very successful Maritime Event, Poker Run, led by Kelly's. Thank you for all that assisted with the card hand outs and brought food to share at the raft up. Congratulations to Man Bui for winning the Captains Prize. For our next Maritime Event we will be venturing down the Intercoastal to Caribbean Jacks on May 3, 2025. We will meet at the Palm Coast Marina at 9:45 departing for Caribbean Jacks at 10:00, for those who live south, please join us as we pass your area. We will be monitoring Channel 68. This event is a boat-only event and if anyone needs a ride please let me know.

On June 1, we will be going to St. Augustine for lunch at O.C. Whites. This event is being led by Alan Hendry. Please make sure that you sign up on the Calander if you are planning to attend and be sure to have your radio so that you can communicate with the municipal Marina for dockage. The rate is \$5.00 per hour.

[Click here to go to the calendar to sign up for events](#)

Look forward to seeing everyone on the water.



**The Landing Strip  
at the  
Flagler Executive Airport**

***Fleet Captain — Bob Solms***

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# 12 Most Common Boating Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even experienced captains make mistakes and can benefit from a refresher on essential boating practices. This ensures you have the best day on the water, confident and prepared.

The good news is that you can avoid these 12 common boating blunders with some extra planning and knowledge. Get ready for a smooth sailing adventure!



## 12 Common Boating Fails to Avoid

- Failing to check the marine weather forecast
- Running aground
- Forgetting to keep up with regular maintenance
- Hitting the dock
- Running out of gas
- Forgetting to put in the drain plug
- Overloading the boat
- Getting lost
- Putting out insufficient anchor line
- Running the engine while dry

**Continued on next Page**

***Fleet Captain — Bob Solms***

**Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**

Improperly mooring the boat  
 Trailering with the engine down and/or the top up  
 Now, let's talk about how to avoid each of these mistakes.

## **1. Failing to Check the Marine Weather Forecast**

Tuning into marine weather before each trip is a must unless you want to be surprised by gusty winds, rough seas, and sudden storms. And remember, this means marine weather, not regular land-based forecasts, which don't include sea conditions. To ensure you never encounter this error, check out marine weather apps before leaving the dock.



## **2. Running Aground**

Running aground is a lot more common than you might think and can have varying degrees of severity depending on where you do your boating. On a soft mud or sand bottom, it's usually no big deal, but in a rocky harbor, hitting the bottom can do some serious damage.

The solution? Always be aware of where you are and the local underwater hazards. And when in doubt, reduce your boat's speeds.

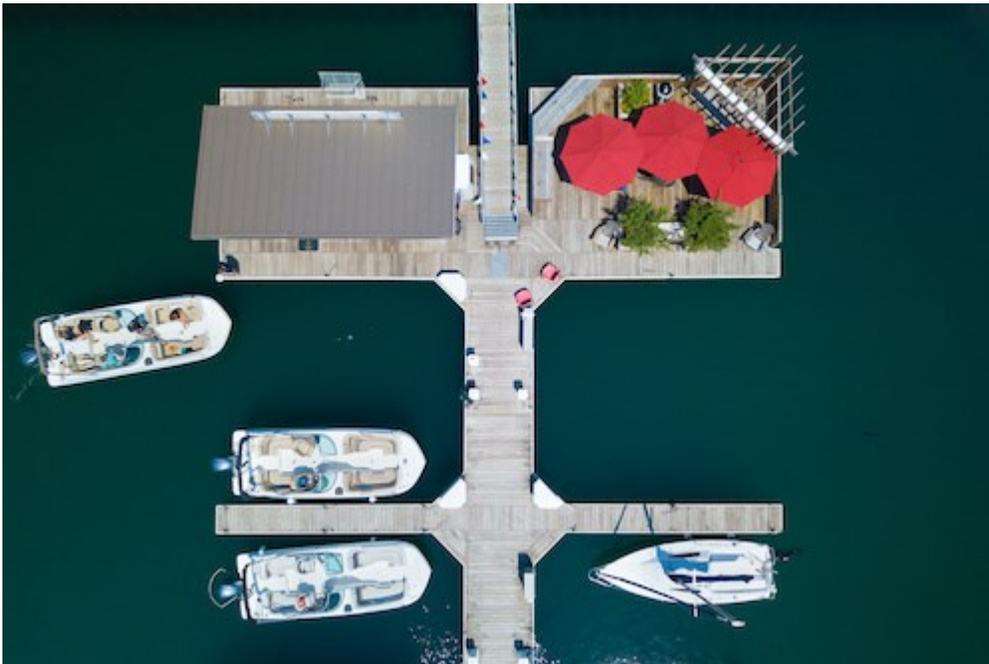
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**Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**

### **3. Forgetting to Keep Up with Regular Maintenance**

This mistake can have serious consequences, especially for your boat's propulsion systems. Be sure to peruse our Boat Maintenance resources, create a maintenance schedule, and stick to it.

### **4. Hitting the Dock**



Docking mastery is critical! Even with perfect planning, unexpected issues like power loss can arise, risking your boat hitting the dock.

Knowing how to dock your boat skillfully prepares you to handle any situation and ensures a smooth arrival.

### **5. Running Out of Gas**

This is one of the most common mistakes that boaters make. Remember that factors like sea conditions and load can change fuel consumption and your boat's range.

In addition, fuel gauge readings can change as fuel sloshes in the tank, and the fuel gauges on boats are often less reliable than those found in automobiles.

**Fleet Captain — Bob Solms****Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**

As a result, boaters should stick with the following formula:

- Use one-third of fuel capacity going out.
- Use one-third coming back.

Save one-third in reserve.

## 6. Forgetting to Put in the Drain Plug

This is another mistake that could be more familiar to many boaters, especially trailer-boaters, who commonly remove the plug between uses. Check out our article on [How to Launch a Boat](#), which includes tips to help you avoid other common launching mistakes.

## 7. Overloading the Boat

This miscalculation can be downright dangerous, so always keep track of the weight of people and gear when loading the boat.

If you haven't memorized your boat's maximum capacity requirements, check the capacity plate to ensure you're in the safe zone.

## 8. Getting Lost

Although this happens less and less on the water thanks to modern [marine electronics](#) and navigation instruments, it still happens.

Electrical systems can have issues, so you should always know your location and how to get home, regardless of what electronics you have aboard.

If your boat doesn't have navigation gear, consider adding a marine navigation app to your phone, which can be used as a mini-chart plotter.

## 9. Putting Out Insufficient Anchor Line

Anchoring a boat seems simple: drop down the anchor, cleat off the line, and the boat will stay put, right? Not necessarily.

Even in calm seas, the anchor may pull free if you don't let out enough line to match three times the depth.

***Fleet Captain — Bob Solms***

**Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**

In a breeze, a "scope" (length of anchor line) of 5:1 or 7:1, compared to water depth, is considered minimal. When it's rough out, 10:1 may be necessary.

## **10. Running the Engine Dry**

Most marine engines (excluding air-cooled and electric engines) require water for cooling purposes. Water cools the engine and lubricates the water pump impeller commonly found in most marine propulsion systems.

Run a boat motor while it's on dry land without a sufficient water supply, and it will over-heat, the impeller will be damaged, or both.



## **11. Improperly Mooring the Boat**

The most common issue here is failing to learn a proper cleat hitch. Then, one might be left standing on the dock, watching the boat float away. Of course, tying up correctly in a slip is also important to ensure the boat doesn't bang the dock or pilings.

Read our [How to Tie Up a Boat guide](#), to make sure you have it down pat.

## **12. Trailering with the Engine Down and/or Top Up**

Prepping a boat for trailering is an important task, and two things that people sometimes make mistakes with include the engine tilt and Bimini tops. In both cases, they shouldn't be left in the up position.

**Fleet Captain — Bob Solms**

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Engines tilted all the way up can bounce and sway, putting much pressure on the boat's transom. If the trailer allows the engine to be tilted down, great. If not, a "transom saver" bracket that supports and secures the outboard is a must.

And when it comes to Bimini tops, remember that they aren't designed to withstand 60 MPH winds. Rather than being left up, a convertible top should always be taken down and secured for highway speeds.

**Avoid These Common Boating Mistakes for a Stress-Free Boating Adventure!**

Unexpected situations arise on the water, and reviewing these 12 mistakes can be the difference between a minor blip and a major mishap. By keeping these reminders fresh, you'll be well-equipped to navigate any challenge and ensure a safe day on the water.



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**Treasurer@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**



### **Calculations from the Treasurer:**

#### **Congratulations to our March Madness and Bingo Winners!**

Women's Division Champion: UConn, *FBYC* took home both the halftime and final wins.

Men's Division Champion: Florida, Halftime Winner: Ruthie Russo, Final Winner: Michelle Kelly

Bingo Winners: Jim Kelly, John Burek and Joel Houslander

Thanks to everyone who participated.

#### **June 30th is when your annual membership renews at \$75 per person.**

Please send in your payment via Zelle or check by the due date or bring it to the May or June meeting. I will not be at the May meeting, if you bring a check please give it to any board member.

Zelle: [treasurer@flaglerbeachyachtclub.com](mailto:treasurer@flaglerbeachyachtclub.com) Remember to include a note that the payment is for your annual renewal.

Make checks out to: **FBYC**. You can mail them to the *FBYC* post office box at

P.O. Box 2065, Flagler Beach, FL 32136

Or drop it off at my house in either of the two baskets hanging by my front door. Address is in the membership directory.

Your Treasurer,

Doris Houslander

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

<b>May Birthdays</b>	
Jeanne Nix	1-May
Bob Simard	5-May
Susan Moya	6-May
Barry Kipnis	8-May
Mary Pinkston	10-May
Steven Rumph	14-May
Jon Lessig	23-May
Lori Plump	27-May
Charles Folsom	28-May
Andy Germain	29-May



### Melaleuca

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Please contact me with any questions or if you would like more information.

Michelle Kelly – 386-283-1113  
Email – mani1516@hotmail.com



## FBYC Ship Store

“May the month of May be a month of sunshine, happiness, and endless blessings.” – Unknown

The ship store will be open at the May meeting and we have some exciting new merchandise to share. We have a new shirt design, thank you to Jodie and Johnny, as well as the beautiful cork hats that will be available to order. In addition, Mike Ferreira has designed merchandise with nautical flags that spell out FBYC. We will have samples available so you can place an order. You can also drop by U Name It with your own items. They have many samples there to help you find the right fit, weight and style. Embroidering your own items generally costs \$12. Joe and Tammie know FBYC and it's a great way to see what they have. Visit them or view their website at: U Name It 10 Hargrove Grade Palm Coast, FL 32137 Website: <https://www.unameitapparel.com>. In addition, our printed or foil burgee is currently available on t-shirts and koozies through our own member Mike Ferreira. Other products could be made available upon request. We are looking forward to working with you and taking your order at our May meeting! Be sure to come see us if you haven't already! Any new ideas or input for the club is always welcome. If you have questions or would like to place an order at any time, please contact us at:

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