



RELATIVE BEARINGS

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Official Publication Of The Flagler Beach Yacht Club Inc.

October 2025

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Commodore's Corner — Nick Ward

Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



Lots of great stuff coming up this month, folks!

Check out the other articles in this newsletter for all the details, but here's the "Cliff Notes" version:

10/4, Maritime: Treasure Hunt up to Beaches restaurant in Villano

10/16, General Meeting: Chinese Auction (have you donated yet?) and Baked Potato Bar – yum! This is the first time we're having a potato bar, and I think it will be a big hit!

10/18, Social in St. Augustine at MOJOS, then Ghosts and Goblins Tour

We have elections coming up in November, and October is when **you can nominate someone** (besides the slate selected by the Election Committee) for an officer position in our club, **or you run for office yourself**. In either case, just see Joel/Michelle/Kris or any Board member.

Don't forget to sign up for the Commodore's Ball (Saturday December 6) at this month's meeting. Tickets are \$75 for members, \$90 for guests, cash bar, and choice of entrée (prime rib, salmon wellington, chicken Francese).

There will not be an on-line signup for the Ball. Tickets must be purchased by the November 13 General Meeting.

Fair winds and Safe Boating,

Nick Ward

Commodore



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



**Vice Commodore — Ilyse Pinette****Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com****🍷 September General Meeting Recap**

The end of summer is approaching, and a hint of fall was in the air at our September General Meeting. We enjoyed a fantastic football-themed night led by **Janet Hendry** and **Sheri Lipari**, with MVPs **Doris Houslander** and **Michelle Kelly** shining throughout the evening.

We tested our skills with a football toss competition—congratulations to **Jeff May-lum** for first place, **Bob Simard** for second, and a three-way tie for third between **Jim Russo**, **Doris Houslander**, and **Bob Solms**!

Instead of our usual 50/50 drawing, we tried our luck with football squares. Winners (other than Buffalo!) were:

- **1st Quarter:** Amy & Joe
- **2nd Quarter:** Ruthie & Jim
- **3rd Quarter:** John Keefe

Final: Mary Ann Simard

A huge thank-you to everyone who brought food—the dishes were absolutely outstanding. Congratulations again to all of our winners!

🍷 October General Meeting

📅 **Date:** Thursday, October 16th

🕒 **Time:** 5:00 PM

🎁 **Theme:** *Chinese Auction*

👥 **Event Leads:** Darla Allison, Jeanne Nix, and Nancy Malum

A **Chinese Auction** is a lively mix of raffle and auction! Guests purchase tickets and drop them into containers for the prizes they'd like to win—the more tickets you place on an item, the better your chances. Once all tickets are in, a winner will be drawn for each prize. It's a fun blend of luck, strategy, and friendly competition—and a chance to take home something special!

💡 **Reminder:** One person's junk is another person's treasure! Start cleaning out garages, closets, tool sheds, and dock boxes to donate items for the auction. Have more than one? Bring them all! The more items we have, the more successful the auction will be. Any items not won will be donated to Vincent Saint Paul unless you want to take it home with you.

We're still looking for volunteers to help with the auction, food setup, and food donations. Open items for the baked potato bar include:

Pulled Pork, Chili, Steamed Broccoli, Salsa, Sautéed Mushrooms, Taco Meat—or anything creative you'd like to contribute. Please reach out to the event leads if you can help.

📅 RSVP Reminder

Please use the calendar links to RSVP for all events.

☑ Be sure to indicate whether you plan to attend or not—accurate headcounts make a big difference for planning!

[Click here to let us know if you are attending](#)

Continued on next Page

Vice Commodore — Ilyse Pinette

Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Evening Itinerary

- **5:30–5:45 PM** – Drop off donations
- **5:45–6:15 PM** – Ticket sales (\$2 each or 12 for \$20)
- **6:00 PM** – Dinner is served: a baked potato bar with all the toppings!
- **6:30 PM** – Auction winners pulled
- **7:30 PM** – Brief meeting to follow

Save the Date!

November 13th – General Meeting

It's **Election Night** for our nominated board members, and your attendance is very important so we can reach a quorum.

To make it extra enticing—**dinner is on the board!** 

Come enjoy a great meal, relax, and spend time with friends while we take care of business and give you a night off. November is also the month of our annual food drive! We will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to St. Vincent de Paul Church. Please consider bringing items that require minimal preparation or additional ingredients—perfect for kids or adults—and that do not need refrigeration.

Suggested items include peanut butter, pasta, rice, cereal, canned soups, canned vegetables, and canned tuna or chicken. Every contribution, big or small, helps make a difference for families in need this season.



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**Vice Commodore — Ilyse Pinette****Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com****July Social Recap:****September's Social Recap**

This month's social event was held at **PopStroke**, hosted by **Rich D'Alessio and Diane Doner**, and it was a great time! The rain only scared away a few people, so we had a turnout of **18 members** enjoying golf, dinner and drinks. Thank you to everyone who attended and made it such a fun evening.

Upcoming Event:

October 18th at 5:30pm - Social at **MOJO's, 5 Cordova St.** We will meet in the bar, you can order off the menu or, if you prefer, sit down in the dining room. Around 7:30 we will walk to the **St. Augustine Visitor Information Center, 1 Cordova St.** to board the Ghosts and Graveyards Trolley Tour. Parking is free in the parking garage.

NOTE: Time change for the trolley, we will board the trolley at 8:00pm instead of 7:00pm.

You are welcome to join just the social at MOJO's or just ride the trolley, however please note that for the discounted trolley rate you must sign up and prepay. If you choose to do a walk-on, you must buy your own ticket at the posted rate.

Interested in staying overnight? We have a block of rooms booked at Homewood Suites of St, Augustine, 10 Prawn St. (this is the same hotel where we had the chef cooked dinner a few years ago). They are offering a King Studio Suite at \$239 with parking at \$15.95. Call the hotel at 904-575-2500 to make your reservation, use code 91-H or the link below. Cut off date for the above rate is 9/26/2025.

Flagler Beach Yacht Club Room Block

Questions? Please contact Abby Santiago at 386-503-5052, Doris Houslander at 847-826-6851 or Diane Doner at 386-264-3533.

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Vice Commodore — Ilyse Pinette**Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com****Save the Date!****November Social Event****Monday, November 3rd @ 5:00 PM****The Landing Strip- 202 Airport Road, Palm Coast**

The Restaurant has created a special menu so that we can all be served at the same time. More details to follow.

Leads: Lori Plump and Daisy Lucci[Click here to sign up and get more information](#)**Please use the calendar links to RSVP for all events.**

Be sure to indicate whether you plan to attend—accurate headcounts are a big help for planning!

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

As we enter the 4th and final quarter of 2025, I took the opportunity to go back and look at the individuals that joined Flagler Beach Yacht Club. We as a club are very fortunate to enjoy this great new membership class of 2025. People like Rich and Kim D'Alessia, Chuck and Jody Banjak, Charles Bentivegna and Barbara Farbo and Jeff and Nancy Maylum.

This group has provided so much to this wonderful club. Not only did they get involved right away but they are all fantastic, enjoyable and engaging people. The club is in great hands as we move forward to 2026 and beyond. I do thank the class of 2025 for putting their faith in the Flagler Beach Yacht Club. Hopefully, we met and exceeded their expectations in return.

The year is not over yet. Dag Hanssen is still in the process of joining FBYC. Dag will be a great addition to this group. Looking forward to seeing Dag Hanssen becoming a member soon.

Don't forget to patronize the club sponsors. They support us and we deeply appreciate their kindness. Whatever you can do to support them back will go a long way.

Like always, thank for all that you do!

Jim Russo

Rear Commodore



The Landing Strip
at the
Flagler Executive Airport

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Rear Commodore — Jim Russo

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Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

From the Fleet Captian



Ahoy!! I hope that everyone has been enjoying time on the water. We had a great maritime event last Sunday to Caribbean Jacks. We had 6 boats and 37 people. Captain Joel won the captain's prize. I would also like to thank the staff at Caribbean Jacks who continue to take great care of our group.



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

Our next Maritime Event is on October 4th and is being led by the Lucci's and the Plumps. We will be having a treasure hunt as we travel north on the ICW to meet at Beaches for lunch at 11:30. Please be sure to sign up on the calendar and be sure to include an email address so that the treasure hunt information can be sent out.

[Please click here to sign up and make sure you get the Treasure hunt questions](#)

Please keep your eyes out for the continuation of Suddenly in Charge training.

November 15th, we will be traveling to Ormond Beach city docks and having lunch at Ormond Garage. Plan on being at the Ormond docks at 11:00am so we can all walk to the Garage together.

[Please click here to sign up for the November Maritime Event](#)

It's that time of the year again, Start planning your holiday decorations now. The Caroling on the Canals and Picnic will be December 14th. More details will be announced at the October meeting but save the date and start planning now. The picnic will follow and will be at Hirschel King Park.

How to Tow Another Boat in the Water

Towing a disabled boat can be dangerous, and should only be completed by trained professionals, such as the US Coast Guard, authorized local authorities, or a specialized on-water assistance organizations like Sea Tow or TowBoatUS.

Not every day on the water goes as planned, and an empty fuel tank, a dead battery or a mechanical issue can leave a boat and its crew dead in the water. It's a maritime tradition to render assistance to those in danger at sea. If your buddy's boat breaks down, they may not be in danger, but they are likely in need of a tow back to dock or launch ramp.

Here are some things to consider before towing a boat in the water.

Boat Towing Coverage & Memberships 101: What You Need to Know

7 Steps for Towing a Boat in the Water

If there is absolutely no other alternative and you feel confident that you can safely tow the disabled boat a short distance with your vessel, follow these tips:

Rig up a bridle to spread the strain of towing to two points on your boat using two dock lines.

Always approach the disabled boat into any wind or current to prevent drifting.

Continued on next Page

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

Once the tow line is secured, take the slack very slowly and then accelerate gradually.

While towing: go slow, never put your boat in reverse, and plan to make wide turns.

Tow the disabled boat to the nearest safe harbor or dock.

Make your final approach to the dock or ramp into prevailing wind or current.

Slowly approach the dock, secure your boat, then use the tow line to pull the disabled boat to the dock by hand.

Be sure to communicate that, as the captain of the towing vessel, you will be command of the operation.

As you rig up the bridle with two dock lines:

Pass the bitter end of each dock line (the end without a spliced loop) through a transom eye of your boat and then to the stern cleat on that side of the boat.

A long anchor line—ideally at least 100 feet in length and already on the other boat—can be used for the tow line.

Remove the anchor and secure the line to a bow cleat, then through the bow eye so that the pulling force is on the center of the disabled boat.

Next pass the other end of the tow line through both loops on the end of your bridle, and tie the line with a bowline knot.

Once the tow line is secure and you begin towing, remember that you should never put your own boat in reverse. This could allow the tow line or bridle to snag on your prop. Also keep in mind that you are not going to be able to get on plane. Plan to tow the boat to the nearest safe harbor or dock, even if that's not the ramp or marina where the disabled boat started out.

When rounding bends or navigating around markers or docks, be conscious of the fact that towed boat is going to turn inside the towing boat (on a tighter radius).

Identifying a Disabled Boat that Needs a Tow

The basic signal from a boat in distress is waving both hands over the head, which should cause you to investigate by carefully approaching the boat making the signal.

Don't get too close—if the other boat has run aground or suffered damage from striking an object under the water you don't want to suffer the same fate, and put two boats in distress.

Continued on next Page

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

Find out what's wrong with the other boat, if that captain knows.

Consider the weather, wind, tide or current, and your own boat-handling skills. Do you feel you can approach the other boat safely? If not, the best course of action is to call or radio for professional assistance from a towing outfit (SeaTow or TowBoatUS, for example), local law enforcement, or the U.S. Coast Guard.

Also consider the condition of the captain and crew of the other boat. If they appear to be intoxicated or angry, for example, they probably will not be good partners in a towing effort and if no individual is in danger, you should render assistance by contacting professional help or law enforcement.

Alternatives to Towing

Towing another boat can be tricky, and is best accomplished when the boat doing the towing is the same size or larger than the disabled boat. Your 17-foot bowrider is not a good candidate for towing a 30-foot cruiser. In this case, you could offer to approach and transport the crew to shore, leaving the disabled boat at anchor until professional help can step in. This of course assumes you can safely board the crew, and will not over-load your boat.

Before engaging in a tow, see if there's an easier way to help. If the disabled boat has simply run out of gas, for example, offer to run to the marina and return with a jug of fuel.

It's never a good idea to try and pull free a boat that has run aground, a situation best handled by a pro with the right heavy-duty equipment, or simply waiting for the tide to float the grounded boat free.

Towing a disabled boat is going to take a lot of time and fuel. Ask yourself:

Is there enough daylight to make it to a marina, dock or ramp at a speed of 5 MPH?

Does your boat have enough fuel to make the tow? You'll be burning much more fuel than normal even at this slow speed.

If you don't have time or fuel to complete the tow, don't start.

Your Obligation as a Fellow Boater

Federal law (Federal Code 46-2304) stipulates that "the master or person in charge of a vessel is obliged to assist others in danger unless rendering such assistance would place his/her own vessel, crew or passengers in serious danger." The duty does not extend to saving property (such as another boat), but to saving "any individual found at sea in danger of being lost."

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

Federal statutes contain a specific “Good Samaritan” provision which provides that those who render assistance shall not be found liable for the damage caused by their efforts unless they have failed to exercise reasonable care.

If you do find yourself in a situation where you may have to tow another boat at sea, remember that safety should always be your number one concern. Once you do complete a successful towing mission, let good boating karma be your reward. Taking any payment or remuneration for your deed will negate the Good Samaritan provision of the law.

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

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Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

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Treasurer — Doris Houslander
Treasurer@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



Calculations from the Treasurer

Happy Fall!

I realized at our last meeting that I need to review some items, especially for our newer members. How do meetings get put together? Do we have an inventory of supplies, is there a budget, etc. Here are some answers:

When a member has volunteered to be the lead, Ilyse will be in contact with that person and let them know that we have flatware, plates, napkins and other items for them to use depending on the theme. There are various decorative items in a bin.

Where are these items located? In a Floridian storage locker that the rest of the country would call a garage! My garage to be specific as Ilyse will be moving. When you are the lead, you are welcome to come over and see what supplies are available, I have several bins to look through.

We allocate \$225 for each meeting. What does that mean? The lead(s) for the meeting will be reimbursed for items that they purchase that we do not have in inventory. For example, our recent meeting had a football team for which Janet purchased tablecloths, plates, Biff and Tony, our football trainers, etc. When she turns in her receipt(s) the club will reimburse her via check or Zelle.

Do you still have questions about this or other treasury items? Please reach out to me and I will do my best to answer.

THANK YOU to all of you that volunteer at any given time and/or donate food or supplies to our get togethers and I realize that is most of us. It is because of **you** that our club is so much fun.

On a different note:

Do you remember the password to our membership list? Have you checked your information on the webpage to make sure it is correct? Please take a minute to do so, we try hard to keep the list as current and accurate as possible but sometimes an error does occur, please advise so we can get it updated.

Thank you,



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
by my front door that you can use.

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



Mike	Ferreira	1-Oct
Judy	O'Neill	11-Oct
Ray	Staba	12-Oct
Doris	Houslander	14-Oct
Randy	Meyer	14-Oct
Jim	Kelly, Jr.	23-Oct
Joe	Verille, III	25-Oct
Jean	Ward	5-Oct
Dan	Basany	9-Oct
Anne	Smith	9-Oct



Melaleuca

During these times when even going to the coffee shop is frowned upon, I am so thankful for home delivery!

Melaleuca, an online shopping store, has over 500 products.

Everyday household essentials like: hand sanitizer, disinfectant, hand soap, bath and body, immune boosters, coffee, tea, granola bars, etc.... delivered to your door.

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

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



Ship Store Newsletter



Welcome October!

Here's to a month of possibilities, overcoming challenges and all-round success. Have a glorious month.

The ship store will **not** be set up at the October meeting so we can allow extra room for the Chinese Auction. If you are interested in placing an order for the ship store, or have suggestions for something you like to see at the ship store, please see us at the meeting or contact us by email (email addresses below). We will have some new merchandise to share at the November meeting. 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



**FBYC— OFFICERS****Commodore****Nick Ward**

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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

**PAST COMMODORES**

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1994	Ed Finney
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1997-1998	Denis Thornton
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2002	Howard Graves
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
2018	Cindy Franco
2019	Jeanne Meyer
2020	Alan Hendry
2021	Joel Houslander
2022	Richard Sirbu
2023-2024	Jim Kelly