



# RELATIVE BEARINGS

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Official Publication Of The Flagler Beach Yacht Club Inc.

September 2025

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



**Well, I hope everyone enjoyed their “month off” without our August meeting!** Don't know about y'all, but I actually missed hanging out with my boating buddies at the church on the third Thursday.

However, the Club carried on with the scheduled Social at Grand Haven **(thanks, Fred Ciaburri!)**, the SUDDENLY IN CHARGE training **(thanks, Jim Kelly!)**, the Maritime beach-up at Marineland **(thanks, Darla Allison!)** and the Vertical Oyster Garden event at Betty Steflik park **(thanks again, Jim Kelly!)**.

Please be sure to sign up (and pay for) the Ghosts and Goblins tour in Diane's Social article. And that's all the “spoiler alerts” I'm going to give you – **you'll have to read the rest of this Newsletter to find out what's coming up next!** Ok, I'll give you a hint: If you go to the Calendar you can see when the events are. But seriously, the Board puts a lot of effort into these newsletters, so please read it!

**Enjoy September**, and I look forward to seeing ALL of our members at the September General Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> (and bring a friend)!

Fair Winds,

Nick Ward

Commodore



Continued on next Page

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

**August Training**



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

Hope everyone has been enjoying the last days of summer and is ready to finish the year strong with some amazing upcoming meetings!

**🌸 September General Meeting**

📍 **Date:** Thursday, September 18th

🕒 **Time:** 5:00 PM

🌿 **Theme:** *Are You Ready for Some Football?*

Join us for a fun-filled, action-packed night with all your favorite football foods and appetizers! Upon arrival, head over to the corner for the football toss—advancing rounds await. **Will your score be enough to move on?**

**🍷 What to Bring:**

A football-themed dish to share

\$5 for football squares (in lieu of the 50/50)

👥📞 **Event Lead:** Janet Hendry and Sherry Lipari

**🌿 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 a raffle and an auction! Guests purchase tickets and place them in the containers next to the prizes they'd like to win. The more tickets you place on a particular item, the better your chances. Once all tickets are in, a winning ticket will be drawn for each prize. It's a fun blend of luck, strategy, and friendly competition—plus, it's a great way to take home something special!

💎 **Reminder:** One person's junk is another person's treasure! Start cleaning out your garages, closets, tool sheds, and dock boxes to donate items for the auction. Have more than one item, bring them all! The more items we have the more successful the auction will be. Any items that are not won the night of the auction will be donated to the church for their garage sale the following weekend.

📅 **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

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

Our social event in August was held at Waterside Café at Grand Haven, hosted by Fred and Sherry. Although I was not able to attend, I have heard quite a few comments about the good food, drinks and of course, the amazing company! Fred and Sherry have hosted this event before, and we hope they continue the tradition.

**Upcoming Events:**

September Social Thursday, Sept 25@ any time after 3:30. PopStroke- 1283 Cornerstone Blvd, Daytona, FL

Leads: Rich Van Dort and Rich D'Alessio

PopStroke has all kinds of food and fun. Miniature Golf, Bags, Foosball, and 2 bars. Come early and stay late, the pass is for the whole day.

\$25/day pass, \$20/senior day pass (age 60+)

October Social Saturday, October 18th @ 5:30 PM

[Please click here to go to the calendar to sign up for these events](#)

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

It seems so long since we have all been together. But good news, Dag Hanssen is on his way to becoming a FBYC member. Dag lives in Marina Del Palma. He saw everyone having fun at the FBYC pool party hosted by Bob and Cyndi Fazzzone; and decided to fill out an application and join in the fun. As usual please show Dag the great FBYC welcome.

Remember to show support of the FBYC sponsors. They put their trust in us. So please let them know that you are a member of FBYC when enjoying their services.

It is wonderful being a member of this club. You all make it a great joy. Thanks for your support and help it making new and potential member feel so welcome.

Jim Russo  
Rear Commodore

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***Fleet Captain — Bob Solms*****Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com****Maritime Newsletter September 2025**

AHOY!!!! I hope that this letter finds everyone enjoying time on the water and keeping their boats in top conditions by completing annual services, flushing out the motors after each trip, annual waxing of the hull to ensure the integrity of the Gel Coat. It is also very important to make annual checks on your dock and lifts. Make sure that all hardware is still in good working order and that the correct hardware is installed. With the lift maintenance make sure that you are greasing your rollers and bearings monthly or when your owner's manual recommends.

We had a Maritime Event on August 22. The event was, however, cut short due to weather. A big thank you to Rick and Darla Allison for leading the event and to Barry and Barbara Kipnis for opening their home for everyone to enjoy the food that was prepared. We will be drawing for the captain's prize at our September meeting.

Our next Maritime Event is on Sunday, September 21. We will be taking the Intercoastal south to Caribbean Jacks. We will be meeting at the Palm Coast Marina at 9:45 for those that live in the C or F sections of Palm Coast and meeting others as we travel south. I am the lead for the event and am looking forward to another great event at Caribbean Jacks.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN UP ON THE CALENDAR AND THERE IS USUALLY OPEN SPACE ON BOATS FOR ANYONE NEEDING A RIDE.

[Please click here to go to the calendar to sign up for these events](#)

Please let me or Jim Kelly know if there is any type of training that you are interested in.

Happy Boating!!

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***Fleet Captain — Bob Solms***

**Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**



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

## **Coastal Communications: How Boat Owners Prepare for the Wrath of a Hurricane**

### **Marinas and Sailors on High Alert as Severe Weather Approaches**

As the Atlantic hurricane season approaches its peak, maritime communities along the coastline are once again bracing for the impacts of potentially devastating storms. With meteorologists predicting a particularly active season this year, boat owners, marinas, and harbor authorities are mobilizing their resources to safeguard both property and lives. The preparations underway represent a symphony of vigilance, coordination, and hard-earned seafaring wisdom—a testament to the resilience of those who make their livelihoods on the water.

### **Early Warnings and Seasonal Vigilance**

In coastal towns from Florida to Rhode Island, the annual hurricane season—officially runs from June 1st to November 30th—is a period marked by heightened awareness. Weather bulletins, Coast Guard alerts, and satellite imagery become essential companions for all who depend on the sea.

Veteran mariners know that the key to surviving a hurricane is preparation well before a storm ever forms. Boat owners subscribe to text alert systems and marine VHF radio broadcasts, which provide updates from the National Hurricane Center. “The first sign of a tropical depression in the Atlantic, and we’re already checking lines, reviewing evacuation routes, and making sure our supplies are topped up,” says Michael Torres, a marina manager in Charleston, South Carolina.

### **Strategic Planning: Securing Vessels on Land and Water**

One of the first decisions boat owners must make is whether to move their vessel onto land or secure it in the water. Each approach comes with its own challenges, and the decision often depends on both the type and size of the boat, as well as the facilities available.

- **Haul-Outs:** Many marinas maintain lists of boat owners who wish to haul their vessels out of the water when a hurricane threatens. The process involves cranes or travel lifts that move boats onto dry ground, where they are supported by jack stands and secured with straps anchored deep into the ground. For sailboats, removing canvas sails and securing masts reduces wind resistance. “Hauling out is the most effective way to protect your boat—if you have the option,” explains Captain Lisa Nguyen, owner of a local charter company.
- **In-Water Securing:** When haul-out is not possible, owners must fortify their boats in their slips or moorings. This includes doubling up on dock lines, using chafe protection at all contact points, and employing spring lines to limit fore-and-aft movement. Fenders are placed between the hull and the dock to cushion blows.

**Continued on next Page**

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

- On moorings, chains and anchors are inspected for corrosion or wear. Some marinas provide “hurricane holes”—sheltered inlets known for their protection from storm surge and wind.

**Reducing Windage: The Art of De-Cluttering**

Reducing windage is a critical aspect of storm preparation. Anything that can catch the wind can become a projectile or cause additional damage. Boat owners remove or securely stow canvas covers, bimini tops, sails, antennas, and loose equipment. Electronics are taken below deck or off the vessel entirely. Dinghies are either lashed upside-down on deck or removed and stored in safe locations.

“Windage is the hidden enemy,” notes Torres. “During a hurricane, even a life ring or empty bucket can break free and damage a neighboring boat. We remind everyone: if it’s not bolted down, it comes off.”

**Storm Surge and Flooding: Preparing for Rising Waters**

Storm surge, the abnormal rise in sea level due to a hurricane’s winds, poses a unique threat to boats. To accommodate rapidly changing water levels, dock lines are tied with extra slack—sometimes using sliding knots or specialized snubbers that absorb shock and reduce strain on cleats and bollards.

In floating dock systems, rising water lifts the docks and boats together, but fixed docks can present a risk of boats being pushed over the pilings if the surge is high enough. Some boaters opt to move their vessels up inlets or rivers, tying off to trees or pilings well above expected flood levels.

**Protecting Engines, Batteries, and Electronics**

Saltwater intrusion from flooding and wind-driven rain can severely damage a boat’s systems. As part of their preparations, owners disconnect batteries, seal engine vents, and close all through-hull fittings. “We tape up hatches, cover vents with plastic, and even wrap key electronics in waterproof bags,” shares Nguyen.

For larger vessels, onboard generators and bilge pumps are checked and automatic float switches tested to ensure they will function if water begins to accumulate inside the hull.

**Insurance, Documentation, and Emergency Planning**

Boat owners are urged to review their insurance policies before hurricane season, with special attention to clauses about named storms and coverage for haul-outs. Photographs and written inventories of a vessel’s condition and equipment are updated in case of future claims. Emergency contact information is shared with marina staff and family members.

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

In some marinas, hurricane preparation plans are mandatory and must be filed with the harbor master before the start of the season. “Preparation isn’t just about your own boat—it’s about the safety of everyone around you,” says Torres.

**Evacuation and Safety of Personnel**

Once preparations are complete and a hurricane warning is in effect, the focus shifts to personal safety. Marinas may close, and authorities often issue mandatory evacuation orders for water-front areas. Boaters are strongly advised not to stay aboard during the storm; the risks from wind, waves, and flying debris are simply too great.

First responders and Coast Guard units coordinate to ensure no one is left behind. After the storm, authorities will inspect and clear marinas before allowing owners to return and assess any damage.

**Lessons Learned: Stories from the Eye of the Storm**

Experienced mariners recall past hurricanes with a mixture of humility and resolve. “I’ve seen boats that were meticulously prepared survive storms with minimal damage, while others that were left unattended ended up as splinters on the rocks,” recounts Nguyen.

After major storms, the maritime community comes together for cleanup efforts, salvage operations, and to share lessons learned. Innovations in mooring design, weather forecasting, and materials continue to improve the odds for boats facing nature’s most powerful forces.

**Conclusion: A Culture of Readiness**

As hurricane season advances, the rhythmic clatter of lines being checked, sails being furled, and hulls being secured becomes the soundtrack of coastal life. For those who live and work by the tides, preparation is not just a checklist—it is a culture, a tradition, and an ongoing commitment to safety.

By learning from each hurricane and sharing knowledge across marinas and generations, coastal communities stand better prepared each year. In the face of unpredictable storms, it is this spirit of vigilance and cooperation that ensures both boats and boaters have the best chance of weathering whatever tempests may come.





***Fleet Captain — Bob Solms***

**Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**



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***Treasurer — Doris Houslander***  
***Treasurer@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com***



**Calculations from the Treasurer**

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Doris Houslander

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

September Birthdays	
Diana Robbins	1-Sep
Joe McSherry	10-Sep
Bob Fazzone	11-Sep
Len Caso	19-Sep
Maria Kelly	22-Sep
David Pinette	24-Sep
Pat Staba	28-Sep
Duane Kent	29-Sep
Debbie Smith	29-Sep



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



## FBYC Ship Store

Hello September! Time for pumpkin spice, pumpkin latte, and pumpkin everything. Here is some pumpkin wisdom.

Advice from a pumpkin:

“Always dream big, be well rounded, roll with it, carve out a good life, have a thick skin and enjoy the sunshine”.– Unknown

The ship store will be open at our next meeting, September 18<sup>th</sup> and we will have wonderful merchandise to buy. We have had a request for a wind sock with FBYC logo to fly outside your dock. We look forward to working with you and taking orders at our September 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:

**Jodie Keefe at 267-307-9373; email: [jumpingjodie@comcast.net](mailto:jumpingjodie@comcast.net)**

**Kris Solms at 863-899-7703; email: [krissolms@gmail.com](mailto:krissolms@gmail.com)**



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**Board Members****Diane Doner**

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**Past Commodore****Jim Kelly**

PC-Director@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

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2012	Greg Hansen
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