



RELATIVE BEARINGS

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Official Publication Of The Flagler Beach Yacht Club Inc.

January 2026

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Commodore's Corner — Jim Kelly

Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



Ahoy!

Welcome to 2026! A New Year with a new Board of Directors. Some of last years board stayed on for this year, some in the same position, some in new roles, one member is back after a short break from the board and filling a position he had before but with slightly differ responsibilities this time and one member is brand new to being on board. So let me introduce the 2026 Board of Directors.

Commodore: Jim Kelly

Vice Commodore: Ilyse Pinette

Rear Commodore: Diane Doner

Fleet Captain: Bob Solms

Treasurer: Doris Houslander

Secretary: Kathy Imbriani

Social Director: Jerry Imbriani

Past Commodore / Director: Nick Ward

We all look forward to making 2026 a fun and eventful year.

We finished off 2025 with our Commodores Ball! Thank you to Past Commodore Nick Ward and his team for putting together another splendid event.

The following weekend we held our annual Caroling on the Canals followed by our Picnic at Hershel King Park. Thank you to all the Boats and occupants that participated and made this a fabulous parade and picnic. I can't wait to see what 2026 has in store for us.

This year's events are in the planning phase as we speak, we CAN NOT do it alone. As a board, we are here to make sure the events get planned and things go smoothly.



Continued on next Page

Commodore's Corner — Jim Kelly
Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

We need all of our members' support to plan and lead these events throughout the year. The two biggest meetings of the year are the Maritime and Social planning meetings. These meetings will be held on January 6th for the Maritime and January 8th for the Social. This is when we need club members to come and give us your ideas and offer to help with the events. The success of the club over 30 years is due to all our members stepping up and participating in these meetings and events. If you're nervous or scared to take a lead or co-lead position for an event that's fine, we get it. We can always use help setting up, cleaning up or anything else that needs to be done. We also have a lot of members that will be glad to offer your assistance if you choose to lead an event. So please come to one or both planning meetings and help us make this another fun year.

Please click on the links below to sign up so we know how many will be attending the meetings. If for some reason you can't attend but have a suggestion for an event or would be willing to lead or be a co-lead for an event, please write that in the comment field at the end of the sign-up form.

[Maritime Planning meeting](#)

[Social Planning meeting](#)



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Commodore's Corner — Jim Kelly
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Vice Commodore — Ilyse Pinette

Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



The January meeting will be held on January 15th at the Santa Maria Del Mar Fellowship Hall. We will be having our usual social hour beginning at 6:00pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm. This month the new board will be providing the main food, which is our annual Soup-R-Bowl themed dinner. So, I hope you like soup. Please come to the social planning meeting on January 8th so we can plan the rest of the General meeting themes.

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Rear Commodore — Diane Doner**Rear-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**

Hello, I am Diane Doner! I am happy to be your new Rear Commodore for this year.

I am happy to report we have a few people who are really close to completing their three events to become members and a few more in the pipeline that have submitted their applications. We have a lot of room to grow our membership, so talk to your friends, neighbors or people you meet out on the water and let them know about our club.



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Continued on next



Social Director — Jerry Imbriani

Director@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



I am honored to be nominated and selected as the Social Director of the Flagler Beach Yacht Club. Kathy and I joined the FBYC in 2017. I previously held the Director's position in 2018. I look forward to an exciting, fun-filled year ahead for all our members.

I was born in Brooklyn, raised in Queens, NY, and we previously lived in North New Jersey and Northern Illinois. My wife Kathy and I moved to Palm Coast in 1984, to start up Palm Coast Data, a magazine fulfillment Company. Our daughter Hayley was born at Halifax Hospital, Daytona

Beach, in 1988.

I bring to our club lots of experience in planning trips for large groups. I organized a Ski trip to the mountains of Vermont for Illinois High School kids. I rented several Ski houses in the Catskill Mountains of NY and rented out bedrooms to share the cost. Most of all, I have been organizing popular events for our FBYC members for many years. I worked together with the Italian American Club of Palm Coast and the FBYC to bring 3 bus loads of members to the Victory Casino Cruise. I promise, combined with my experience and your help and support, a fabulous 2026.



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Social



**FBYC Social at the Beach Front Grill
January 24, 2026, 5-8 PM
Eat, Drink and Be Happy**

Be sure to join FBYC Members on January 24th at 5pm, for a Social at the Beach Front Grill. Beer, wine, drinks and dinner are available for purchase. A good time with great friends is free. Happy Hour Prices from 5 to 8PM.

Sign-up for this fun event electronically by clicking on the following link, or on the FBYC Website Events Calendar, so we can provide a head count for proper staffing and seating.

[Click Here to sign up for the Beach Front Grill Social](#)

The “Beach Front Grill” is located at 2444 S Oceanshore Blvd, Flagler Beach FL 32136.

For further assistance, I can be reached at 386-264-5730 or jimbriani@sbcglobal.net

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

AHOY!!! I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am excited to be the Fleet Captain representing the Flagler Beach Yacht Club for a second year. I am looking forward to putting together, with the assistance of the membership, a fun year of Adventures. Please make sure to attend the Maritime Program Event on January 6, 2026, at Santa Maria Del Mar at 7:00 pm to assist in the planning of our year. This is an open meeting for all the members. We need your INPUT.

For those that don't know me, my wife Kris and I have been members of the yacht club for going on 6 years. We have a 27' Sea Fox Center Console and enjoy trips to Matanzas, St. Augustine to try new restaurants, traveling to Daytona and Ormond Beach to visit great locations on the water, fishing both inshore and Offshore, and our annual trip to the Keys.

I look forward to meeting you all and having a great 2026 Maritime Events.




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Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

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Winterization: Put It Away Ready to Go



Put your boat away ready to go and come spring you are at the boat ramp instead of the boat mechanic. Simple as that.

We call it winterization, but it doesn't exactly matter how cold it's going to get, or even if it will snow at all. If your boat is going to sit unused for a prolonged time, you need to prepare it for storage. Doing so will play a big role in getting the maximum lifetime out of your boat and all the equipment aboard it — not to mention ensuring next season starts smoothly for your boat.

The convenient route is to drop it off with your local boat mechanic and pick it up shrink wrapped if you like. But the DIY path is not that hard either.



Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

What's the Problem?

Water. Water and time. Water and subfreezing temperatures. Water condenses out of the air, and then is given time and/or subfreezing temps.

Also: critters, salt deposits, leaves, and other debris, and the sun's damaging rays.

Fuel System Maintenance 101

[Boat winterization](#) is not entirely about prepping your motor to sit idle for months and then spring to life in a heartbeat when called upon — it's just mostly about that. The first objective here is to bring any internal combustion engines on your boat through a long storage in ready-to-go condition.

The first thing to do is consult your owner's manual. The manufacturer of your motor probably also has more detailed advice and how-to's on their website.

Your owner's manual probably advises draining the fuel system for best results, but that's a tall order for the average DIYer. The more practical alternative for most boat owners is to condition the fuel that will remain in the system over the storage period.

Drained Fuel System

Short of draining your fuel system, here are the major components for prepping boat motors for winter are:

1. Fill the tank
2. Change the fuel filter
3. Change the fuel/water separator
4. Add fuel stabilizer
5. Change the engine oil and oil filter
6. Fog the engine
7. Hit all the grease fittings



Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Non-Drained Fuel System

If you are not draining the fuel system, then you want to do the opposite: fill it to minimize the volume of moisture-bearing air circulating into your tank by way of the vent. Aluminum fuel tanks are prone to condensation, and ethanol-blended gas increases the problem, due to the hydrophilic nature of ethanol.

If you have access to it, using ethanol-free gas in your boat is always a good idea, but especially before extended storage. Don't overfill the tank; leave some space for thermal expansion of the gas in it. Fill it to just short of full, about 7/8 of a tank.

Engine Care Essentials

Also, change out all fuel filters and fuel/water separators. Remember, the goal here is to eliminate moisture and contaminants from the fuel system, and these components are designed to capture them.

Next, add fuel stabilizer. One way to ensure that your tank has the right volume of stabilizer, and any other additives you regularly use, is to get your gas at the pump in gas cans and add your additives there. Then you can feed your tank and motor (s) a consistent, well-mixed blend. Always run your engine (s) for at least five or 10 minutes to circulate stabilized fuel throughout.

Always change crankcase oil on four-strokes to get rid of any moisture accumulated during the season. Gear case lubricant should be either changed or carefully inspected for signs of water intrusion. If you find any evidence of water in your lower unit, change the oil.



Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

The goal is to eliminate moisture and contaminants from the fuel system.

Regarding fogging, opinions and recommendations vary, and your owner's manual might not say anything about it at all. While it may not be absolutely necessary, fogging oil will help prevent corrosion inside your engine.

Most manufacturers also recommend a spray-down under the cowling with a product to repel moisture and prevent corrosion.

Electronics

We have lots of spendy electronics on our boats these days. The season's end is a good time to make sure everything is in good shape. Check wiring and clean connections. Wipe display screens clean with microfiber cleans. Optimally, move inside for winter storage anything that can go.

All batteries lose charge over time. It can take half a year or more for a good AGM battery to deeply discharge and need resuscitation, but deeply discharging a battery can damage it, especially in freezing conditions. Batteries should be charged to full and, ideally, trickle-charged monthly or kept in maintainer mode.

All that is most easily done by leaving them on the boat, though moving batteries to cool but not freezing storage is optimal.

Trailer

If you are not overhauling hubs and bearings at this point, give the hubs an inspection and pump fresh grease through if necessary. Jack the trailer up off its wheels so that the tires don't sit loaded one way all winter.

This also takes the load off the suspension. If your boat is going to live outside through the winter, covering the tires and moving trailer-mounted spares inside is not overkill.



Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

A Good Time for Maintenance and Cleaning

It's very easy to give yourself all winter to take care of a few issues on the maintenance list and then get caught trying to get it all done right before the first time out next season.

As you're prepping for winter storage, it's also a good time to knock out the bigger jobs that come along irregularly, like lifting your boat and pulling the trailer for wiring and bunk maintenance, or suspension work.

Clean-Drain-Dry

Drain anything left with water in it. Outboard cooling water drains by itself when the engine when tilted down (in the running position), but inboard and I/O cooling systems must be manually drained. Drain livewells, baitwells, and associated plumbing. Hit the bilge pumps briefly to be sure they are dry.

Store motors in the full down position to allow them to fully drain cooling water and stay fully drained in areas like the prop hub.

Cleaning up a boat thoroughly is an important part of putting it away for a few months, particularly if there are salt deposits. Once your boat is washed up, you might as well wax it. Then hit the chrome and any other metal surfaces with WD40 or another protectant.

Before you leave your boat for a long winter nap, make sure the bow strap and any other tie-downs are relaxed and not holding the boat tightly to the trailer.

Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Wrap It Up?

A boat sitting outdoors for the winter needs to be covered, and it's not a bad idea to keep a garaged boat covered either. A traditional cloth cover is good, but shrink wrapping provides significantly better protection against moisture and pests and is more resistant to damage from wind and other weather.



Shrinkwrap can damage some painted hulls.

You can get your boat shrink-wrapped professionally, or you can gear up to do your own shrink-wrapping and break even after a few winters, depending on how much material you go through in the process of learning to do it well.

So, should you shrink-wrap your boat? Shrink-wrap can damage some painted hulls, so how a boat with such a paint job is shrink-wrapped is one detail to be attentive to.

The big thing is, again, water. A shrink wrapped boat will be as impervious to the elements as an outdoor-stored boat can get, but that goes two ways: any moisture that does get into a poorly ventilated shrink-wrap installation is going to find excellent conditions for resulting in mold damage. The bottom-line: shrink wrapping offers excellent protection when it's done right.



Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

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Treasurer — Doris Houslander
Treasurer@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



Calculations from the Treasurer

Happy New Year!

It is nice to begin the new year by thanking Nancy Maylum, she read the December newsletter and answered my request for someone to audit our accounts.

Your input is appreciated for planning events each year. Have an idea? Let the board know. Our activities are more fun because we do them together.

The FBYC Directory will be updated shortly, if you have any changes, ie. Sold a boat, bought a boat, moved, changed an email address or phone number, let a board member know.

Doris Houslander



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

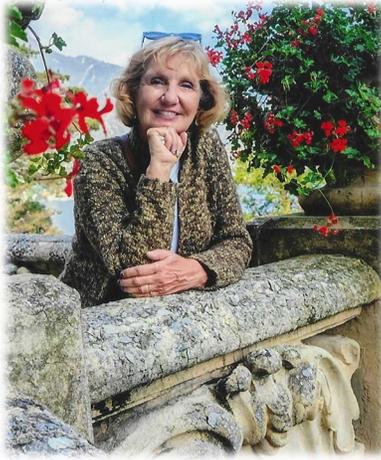
Mail it to: P.O. Box 2065, Flagler Beach, FL 32136 or drop it off at my house, I have 2 baskets hanging by my front door that you can use. If you opt for my house, please send me a text and let me know. Thanks!



**The Landing Strip
at the
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Secretary — Kathy Imbriani

Secretary@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



Hi, I'm Kathy Imbriani newly appointed secretary and pleased to serve FBYC for the New Year 2026. Thank you Ruthie Russo for spending time with me and showing me the nautical ropes on what will be expected of my position. You did a great job and I hope to be as successful and looking forward to knowing "old" and "new" members even more. I will be responsible for recording minutes of board and general meetings. As sunshine coordinator, I will be assisting with club communications, birthdays, acknowledge members during times of illness and loss by sending them cards with messages of support. I have been a member since 2017 and have enjoyed many maritime and social events and looking forward to enjoying even more fun times with everyone!

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

January Birthdays	
Ruthie Russo	3-Jan
Jody Banjak	4-Jan
Anita Jennings	4-Jan
Susan Moya	4-Jan
Abby Santiago	8-Jan
Rich D'Alessio	13-Jan
Lynn Van Dort	13-Jan
Shawn Dennehy	20-Jan
Dedem Burek	26-Jan
Jeff Maylum	26-Jan
Al Rosa	26-Jan
Don Smith	26-Jan
Dean Doner	27-Jan
Rich Van Dort	27-Jan
Don Richter	29-Jan



Melaleuca

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

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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



Ship Store Newsletter

Wishing everyone in the new year a relaxed mind, a peaceful soul, a joyful spirit, a healthy body and a heart full of love. Cheers to 2026!

The Ship Store will be open at our January meeting, January 15th. Please stop by to see what's new. We will be at the Maritime and Social planning meeting to get new ideas for the Ship Store, so please bring your ideas of what you would like to see in the store and we will start the year off with new merchandise. 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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Director@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Past Commodore

Nick Ward

PC-Director@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



PAST COMMODORES

- 1992-1993 Tom McBride
- 1994 Ed Finney
- 1995-1996 Tom Johns
- 1997-1998 Denis Thornton
- 1999-2000 John Darrow
- 2001 Paul Van Buren
- 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
- 2025 Nick Ward