



RELATIVE BEARINGS

Latitude 29.48



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Official Publication Of The Flagler Beach Yacht Club Inc.

March 2026

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



Ahoy! Hopefully the winter cold spell is over, and we can start enjoying our boating lifestyle again. Well, some of us didn't stop and attended the maritime event this past month, Luckily the weather warmed up and was nice for event. The board has been working to plan and schedule the events for this year, so please read on to see what they have in store for everyone's boating and social pleasure!

One of the wonderful things I enjoy and love about this area is the waterways! Unfortunately, it needs some help, Last year we did a waterway clean up event. That event was well attended, and we removed a lot of debris from the canals and ICW. We plan on doing that event again this and hopefully we can double the amount of debris we collect. Not that I want more trash in the waterways but unfortunately there is! I ask everyone to be mindful of our waterways and ecosystem here. While out enjoying your time on the water keep an eye out and if you see things floating, try to pick them out of the water. Safety is first but if you can get to it, please pick it up.

My next subject is Oysters. They are a huge part of our ecosystem here and are struggling. The oysters here filter approximately 50 gallons of water a day. This helps our water quality here by removing algae, removing suspended sediment, and organic particles among other things. This helps improve water clarity and supports seagrass growth. This in turn helps aquatic life thrive and makes our water look better. Unfortunately, due to human and natural reasons the Oyster beds here have been suffering. A couple of ways to help is to be mindful when you are out boating. Not that anyone wants to run up on an oyster bed, but if you're out walking at low tide watch where you step and try not to crush the oyster beds. Be careful of what you put overboard, pollutants damage oysters and all the aquatic life. And lastly, you can help to restore the Oyster population. The CCA (Coastal Conservation Association) has started a program to help replenish the oyster population in the Northeast and could use our help. They have developed a Vertical Oyster Garden that goes in tidal water to promote the growth of oysters.



Continued on next Page

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

Once the oysters mature they will transfer from the Dock to a location that is designated for an oyster bed to help grow more Oysters. If you would like to help with this cause, please read further down in this newsletter to the section about the Oyster Garden workshop and sign up.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the water and our next event!

Jim



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Vice Commodore — Nancy Maylum**Vice-Commodore@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com**

As we move into spring, our club calendar is full of great opportunities to learn, connect, and enjoy the water together. Our recent social at Tokyo's was a tremendous success—thank you again to Jeanne for making it such a memorable evening. On March 7, we'll host an Oyster Garden Workshop led by Jim Kelley, a wonderful educational program that supports cleaner waterways and hands-on stewardship. Later in the month, we'll enjoy our annual Chili Cookoff on March 19 with eight contestants, judged by our board members, along with our new Cornbread Competition featuring three contestants, where the entire membership will cast their votes. We also have two great outings lined up: Blue Springs on March 14 and Caribbean Jack's on March 22.

Looking ahead, please note that our April general meeting has been moved up to April 9, where we'll enjoy Derby-themed spring appetizers—if you haven't signed up yet, please do so. We're also excited for our upcoming trip to Silver Springs, a beautiful way to welcome the season and enjoy the warmer weather that's finally arriving. Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm and participation; it's your involvement that keeps our club vibrant.

Nancy

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

I was not able to attend the February meeting, but the board stepped in and we were able to induct a new member, Zee Barukic. She is very fun and will fit in well with our group. If you see her at meetings, socials, or boating events, make sure to introduce yourself. Thank you to Rick and Darla for bringing her into the club!

We also had more new people attend this meeting thanks to everyone who brought friends. Pat and Lisa Spatola and Don and Morgan Hanrahan have now finished all their requirements, so will be inducted at the March meeting. I love to see the group growing! Continue to spread the word, and give anyone interested my information so I can help them through the process.

Diane



Social Director — Jerry Imbriani

Director@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



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Social



Continued on next Page

Social

March 7: Oyster Garden Workshop. How to grow Oysters for restoration, which help filter the waterways as a single oyster can clean up to 50 gallons of water per day.

We will be helping the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of Florida make the Vertical Oyster Gardens that will be placed up and down the ICW and local canals to help filter and clean our water ways. You don't have to live on the water to participate in this event. If you do you can take what you need to place on your dock to participate in this program. If you don't live on the water, you can still help us make them for the CCA to find places to put them. Please come and help support the CCA. Also, breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Lead Jim Kelly

[Click here to sign up for the Oyster Garden Workshop](#)

March 14: Blue Springs SP River Adventure & Manatee Viewing, and Cooks Buffet Café in Deland. For one of the best values in Florida you'll not soon forget, you will learn about the local and river history, along with illustrated accounts of the numerous bird species, alligators, snakes, turtles, eagle's and other wild critters that call this area home. You can Zelle the club \$29.00 pp at: treasurer@flaglerbeachyachtclub.com or make your check out to FBYC and mail to PO Box 2065, Flagler Beach, FL 32136. The cut-off to sign-up and pay is March 8th. If you already signed up, be sure to pay by March 8th. Leads Nick & Jean Ward.

[Click here to sign up for Blue Springs, lunch, or both](#)

April 11: The Fire on the Beach event has been cancelled due to difficulty meeting permitting requirements and a current fire ban.

April 16-19: Captain Hiram's Resort in Sebastian Fl. A popular waterfront destination featuring a marina, sandbar, good food and live music. Also sign up and pay for the Capt. Hiram's River King Cruise on April 18th. There's still time to sign-up. . Debbie Smith is the lead.

Please read further for more information



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Social

Captain Hiram's Resort

Looking forward to a relaxing but fun filled weekend at **Captain Hiram's Resort** April 16, 17, 18 and 19. The block of rooms reserved for FBYC will be released on March 16. If you haven't reserved a room. Room rates depend on the room you choose and also have a \$15 per day resort fee. Please call Tracey Montesano at the resort at (772) 388-8599 ext. 544 as soon as possible. Room rates depend on the room you choose and also have a \$15 per day resort fee. www.hirams.com

Every room features a balcony, coffeemaker, mini fridge, microwave and internet. There's so much to do, including an outdoor pool, along with bicycles, stand-up paddle boards and kayaks for rent. There are 2 restaurants and 4 bars with live music. Charter a fishing boat, then bring back your catch and have Captain Hiram's cook up your fish.

There is much to do nearby! Please look up Captain Hiram's online and find Mel Fisher's Treasure Museum, La Porte Farms, Mo Bay Grill, and Sugar Bones Bake Shop (Shelley, the owner, used to bake at Debbie's bakery in Columbus, Ohio), the Pareidolia's Brewery menu looks tasty, <https://www.pareidoliabrewing.com/> or shop 5 miles away in Vero Beach!

Plan on meeting up Friday evening at 4:30pm with attendees at the Sandbar on the premises for cold drinks and fellowship. Happy Hour is Mon-Fri from 3-6.

As a group event, we are going on the River King boat ride with fellow FBYC members on Saturday at 1:00 (arrive at the boat 30 minutes ahead). It's a 2 hour cruise on the Sebastian River. Bring your own cooler (no glass). More info at: <https://hirams.com/things-to-do/riverking/>

To receive the group rate of \$30 per person payment is due no later than 3/13/26. Please see the treasurer's page for information on how to send payment. If you choose to go on your own, it is subject to availability and a higher fee, however there are other types of tours and times available. Click on the website for more details.

If you have any questions call:

Debbie Smith (lead) at 614-580-2999

Social

May 2: Mark your calendar for the Kentucky Derby at Loopers. More information to follow. Lead is Nancy Maylum.

October 8-11: A three night away event at Renegades on the St Johns River, in Crescent City. This event is a combined Maritime/Social Event. Come by car, boat or RV, for the day or the weekend. Rent a cabin, pontoon boat, jet skis or a slip for your boat. Enjoy a restaurant, Tiki Bar, live bands, swimming pool and a Social on Saturday night. Don't wait as cabins are going fast. Sign up today on the FBYC Calendar. Lead: Jerry Imbriani

[Click here for more information and to let us know if you are attending any part of this event](#)

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Social



Blue Springs Nature River Cruise March 14th, 2026

Be sure to join the FBYC on March 14th for a two-hour nature cruise, which takes visitors through the awe-inspiring sights and sounds of native wildlife in the rich ecosystem of the St. Johns River basin area. The quiet and smooth operation of their boats allows you to hear the sounds of nature as they surround the trip. With an average cruising speed of 6 mph, nothing passes by too fast. Frequent stops are made for photographs, intimate encounters, and a thorough look at this most fragile ecosystem. During the 2-hour tour our Captain provides interactive narration of local and river history along with illustrated accounts of the numerous bird species, alligators, and other wild critters that call this area home.

Due to Manatee Season there could be a long line to get into the park. This is why we ask you to arrive by 7:45AM. This should allow sufficient time to get through the line and explore the park, seeing 500 + manatee in the park springs. There will be no refunds if you miss the boat, so come early.

Blue Springs State Park Ranger Station (386-775-3663)

Address: 2100 W French Ave, Orange City Florida

Drive Time: 1 Hour drive from Palm Coast. **Limited parking so please Car Pool**

Entry: When in line let the first Ranger know you're here for the St Johns River Cruise.

Admission: \$6.00 per carload, up to 8 people per car. For park admission pay at entrance. If you have an annual or lifetime Florida State Park Pass everyone in the car is free.



Social

St Johns River Nature Cruise (407) 821-1349

Boarding 945 AM, departs 10AM, and Returns 12:00 PM.

Plan to arrive no later than 7:45 AM to ensure you don't miss the boat.

Boat Cost: \$29.00 PP. Checks made payable to FBYC or pay by Zelle

Cutoff Date: March 8th, NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.

Capacity: 60 People. Sign up early to reserve a seat on the boat.

Bring: Coolers, drinks, wine, liquor, beer, food, snacks, warm cloths and sun protection.

Lunch at Cooks Buffet Café (386) 734-4339 1PM

Address: 704 N Woodland Blvd, Deland Fl. 32720

Three ways to sign up: Flagler Beach Yacht Club Calendar, at monthly meetings, or

[Click here to sign up for the Blue Springs tour, lunch, or both](#)

Lead Nick & Jean Ward

Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



AHOY!!!! I hope that everyone is getting ready to start boating as our weather finally turns from the dull drums of Winter to the benefits of Spring. Our Maritime Event for February was a great success. Thank you to all those who participated and to Nick Ward and Dean Doner for leading the event. The captain's prize was awarded to Chuck and Jody Banjak. The maritime event for March is taking us south on the Intra Coastal to visit Caribbean Jacks. This event will be on March 22, 2026. We will be departing the Palm Coast marina area at 9:45 and heading south to arrive at Caribbean Jacks at 11:00 am. Please make sure to sign up on the calendar. If there are any members needing a ride, please reach out to me. We are looking forward to a great event. As a reminder, all of our boat-to-boat communications are on channel 68. Happy Boating and see everyone at our next meeting on March 19, 2026, for the Chili Cook off.



Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

Basic Boat Maintenance Checklist for New Boaters

There's nothing more disappointing to a boating family than having a mechanical issue ruin a day on the water. Fortunately, with a little **basic maintenance** boat owners can avoid the most-common situations that can bring an outing to an abrupt end.



Modern boats and engines are very reliable, and professional marine technicians tell us that the vast majority of engine problems today are related to fuel or the battery. Here's how to avoid those issues.

7 Basic Boat Maintenance Tasks

1. Check your batteries and battery cables before every outing.
2. Use a battery maintenance charger for extended periods of non-use.
3. Replace your battery every four to five seasons.
4. Always use fuel with no ethanol.
5. Use a marine-specific fuel stabilizer to prevent oxidation and phase separation.

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

6. Check your engine oil before every outing.
7. Remove the propeller and check your prop shaft a few times a season.

Explore the Complete Boat Maintenance Guide**Marine Battery Care**

Before every outing check the battery (or batteries). All boat batteries should be secured in either a battery box or frame that is firmly mounted to the boat. If the battery that is not secured it could bounce around as you pound through the chop, abuse that will shorten its life.

- Check that the battery cables are tight on the battery terminals.
- Just grip the red and black battery cables and wiggle them near the terminal. They should not budge.
- A loose cable could be the only reason your engine won't start or can't keep the battery charged.
- Vibration from normal use can cause the nuts holding down the cables to loosen.

If you won't be using your boat for a week or two and your boat has a battery switch, turn it "off" to disconnect the batteries from boat systems that could drain the battery over time. Consider using a battery maintenance charger to keep the battery up to full power and ready for your next outing. A battery that's kept fully charged will also last longer.

Expect to get four to five seasons of life from a good marine starting battery that has been well-maintained. When it's time to replace the battery, only use a marine battery, never an automotive battery. Marine batteries have the correct threaded terminals and are much more rugged, and will last much longer in marine duty than an automotive battery.



Fleet Captain — Bob Solms

Fleet-Captain@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



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Treasurer — Doris Houslander

Treasurer@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



Calculations from the Treasurer

Happy Spring! Let's give a shout out to our Advertisers, many of them are club members. Our support of their business is appreciated; their support of our club is even more appreciated.

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Gratium Wealth Planning - *Abby Santiago*

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Are you interested in placing an Ad in our newsletter?

Contact Rear Commodore, Diane Doner for more information at rearcommo-dore@flaglerbeachyachtclub.com



Treasurer — Doris Houslander

Treasurer@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com

On another subject:

We have 2 upcoming events that require prepayment. The details about the events are elsewhere in this newsletter, this information is only for payment:

Blue Springs State Park Boat Ride:

Event Date: Saturday, March 14. Cost is \$29.00 per person.

Payment required by March 8, 2026.

Captain Hiram's River King Cruise

Event Date: Saturday, April 18. Cost is \$30 per person.

Payment is required by March 13, 2026.

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

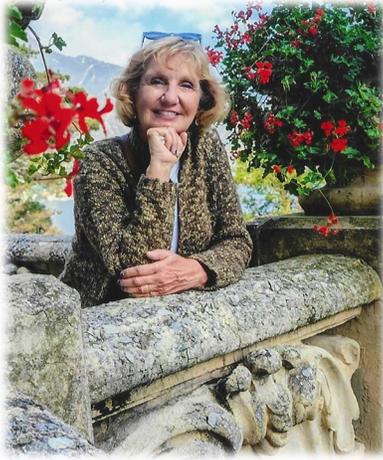
Mail it to: P.O. Box 2065, Flagler Beach, FL 32136 or drop it off at my house, I have 2 baskets hanging by my front door that you can use. If you opt for my house, please send me a text and let me know. Thanks!



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

Secretary — Kathy Imbriani

Secretary@FlaglerBeachYachtClub.com



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating their special occasion in March! Amy Beth Krisanda, Jim Russo, Deanna Dennehy, Sherry Lipari, John Jr. Burek, Susan Bereda, Eileen McSherry, Michelle Kelly, Jeanne Florio and Phillip Rahner. Remember I give out treats to all those celebrating their special day after the general meeting.

Sending out cards to those for various occasions, remembrances, thank you and support. If there is someone that would like a sunny card or a special day shout out, please let me know. Received a lovely card from Carol Caso on thanking everyone who attended Len Caso Memorial Service and all the cards and well wishes she had received from FBYC members.

What a fun and great evening enjoyed by everyone on the “Loveboat” with your Captain Jody Banjak and crew!!! All the food dishes prepared and brought in by FBYC members was delicious and fantastic. The tables and center pieces tied to the theme and the cruise ship back drop added such a great flair that actually you almost felt you were on a cruise and now perhaps tempted to plan a cruise.




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

Amy Beth Krisanda	3-Mar
Jim Russo	3-Mar
Deanna Dennehy	7-Mar
Sherry Lipari	9-Mar
John Burek, Jr.	10-Mar
Susan Bereda	13-Mar
Eileen McSherry	18-Mar
Michelle Kelly	20-Mar
Jeanne Florio	24-Mar
Phillip Rahner	24-Mar



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

“March is the month when the weather can’t make up it’s mind, just like me trying to choose what to wear every morning!” -unknown

We can help you out with some new apparel. The Ship Store will be open at our next meeting, March 19th. Please stop by to see new shirts, hats and visors plus some sample items that will be ready for placing an order. Come check out the store, as many items were marked on sale, to make room for the new merch. If you have any questions/suggestions 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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