



# Fishing Bay Yacht Club

# The Log



Deltaville, Virginia

[www.fbyc.net](http://www.fbyc.net)

**FROM THE QUARTERDECK**

**JANUARY 2009**



**"OptiMan" Commodore Noel Clinard**

Last month I described the austerity measures the Club would implement in light of the economic storms on the horizon. Already this past month, we have implemented that cautious approach by postponing deferrable renovation on the bottom of *Mr. Roberts* for a year and selecting the least expensive repair approach to the engine for *Wildcat*, which burned a cylinder. But, apart from these financial reef points, the club continues to beat to windward on the usual course.

As usual, the winter watch is working hard on the Sailing Events Schedule under the leadership of Vice Commodore Mayo Tabb. The most recent draft of that Schedule appears elsewhere in this issue of the *Log*. In the next six weeks they will be finalizing that schedule and printing the Sailing Events Book for 2009, so if you spot any conflicts they may have missed, please let Mayo know immediately.

In parallel to the Sailing Events Committee work, Mary Spencer will be

revising the Yearbook for 2009 as well. In particular, the new Yearbook will include changes to the club protocol for recognition of One Design Fleets. Mayo Tabb and Jere Dennison are chairing a special committee to update the provisions in the Yearbook and Bylaws to reflect the identities of one design fleets which remain active at the club, new offshore one design fleets such as the J-105s which have sought recognition, and to address the process for changing the status of increasingly inactive fleets and the related storage fees for non-fleet or inactive fleet boats. However, as indicated last month in this column, no storage fees will increase this year.

To take advantage of the lull in capital expenditures this year, Tom O'Connell, last year's One Design Division Commander and this year's Docks Chair is chairing another long term, special Fishing Bay Dock Committee to consider design alternatives for a new dock on Fishing Bay. That committee will work in phases, including an orientation phase in which old design proposals and long range land use plans will be reviewed, a discussion phase to identify the needs of the one design and junior divisions, a final planning phase, a member and community input phase, a permitting phase, a bid solicitation and contracting phase, and culminating with a construction phase in the Winter of 2010-2011. Upon the recommendation of the Community Advisory Board ("CAB"), our non-member neighbor Robert Whitehurst, has been asked to participate in the committee's work as a representative of the CAB. Our member neighbors, the Jacob and Swenson families have also been included, as has Ed O'Connor, our Cruising Division Commander. We have assured the CAB that

the mission of this committee is to plan for less congested one design and junior launching and recovery, not large boat slips or long term mooring.

Set forth in this issue are several articles by Jay Buhl, Junior Division Commander, regarding the extraordinary plans for the junior program this year, the bios of the exceptional national and international coaches, and the planned organization of the junior parents to spread the enormous responsibilities. Special thanks to all those people who will be the heart and pulse of this year's program, too many to list here. The junior program has special meaning to me, because I took that divisional path in the club. The program is about to round the mark for a new leg of the course begun many years ago by recent Junior Division leaders Lud Kimbrough, Jan Monnier, and Kelly O'Toole, and continuing with Ruthanna Jenkins, myself and Eric and Danelle Powers. The sailors who were young enough to be amused by my ridiculous appearance as "OptiMan" pictured above, a children's "superhero" based on "Artie" in the show *Pete & Pete*, and play "pooper-scooper" in the "Dog Days Regatta" now sail on national teams and are almost ready to "age out" into interscholastic or collegiate competition. While continuing to serve those exemplary juniors in their finest hour, one primary focus of this year's program will be to entice a new generation of young sailors to join the fun and glory. Since it cannot be pointed out too many times, please note NOW that Junior Week and Opti-Kids have slipped one week in the sailing events calendar to accommodate later school closings in 2009 and SAVE THE DATE.

**FBYC BOARD HIGHLIGHTS January 2009**



Noel Clinard  
Commodore



Mayo Tabb  
Vice Commodore



David Hinckle  
Rear Commodore



Chip Hall  
Treasurer



George Burke  
Secretary



Ted Bennett  
Log Streamer

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Commodore Noel Clinard.

**REAR COMMODORE – DAVID S. HINCKLE SECRETARY** – George Burke named the members of his Membership Committee: Alex Alvis, Lyons Burke, David Hazlehurst, David Hinckle, Susan O’Connell, Ed O’Connor, and Carrie Russell. *Ex officio* members are Noel Clinard and Ric Bauer. The members of his Associate Junior Membership Committee are Jay Buhl and David Hinckle.

The following Resolutions were presented by the Secretary and, upon Motion duly made and seconded, the Resolutions were approved by the Board.

**RESOLUTION** to accept the inspection report dated August 29, 2008 listing the contents of Safe Deposit Box #84 at First Market Bank, 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond, VA. This inspection was made when new Certificates of Title were placed in the box.

**RESOLUTION** to renew the Honorary Memberships of Mr. & Mrs. Gary A. Jobson and Fishing Bay Yacht Club’s Deltaville neighbors, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald S. Hall, Mr. William R. Moseley, Mr. Edward E. Ralston, and Mr. J. B. Richardson, and to provide them with membership cards.

**RESOLUTION** to vote into membership the 15 children who have reached 10 years of age by January 1, 2009.

**LOG STREAMER** – Ted Bennett and Valerie Hubbard will be sharing the duties of preparing the Log in 2009. The cut-off date for articles, notices and ads is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month and they should be sent to [tbennett@ideaweavers.com](mailto:tbennett@ideaweavers.com).

**HOUSE** – Ken Odell reported that the floor in the pump house is too low and concrete will be poured to raise the level.

**DOCKS** – Tom O’Connell has named a committee to put together plans for a new Fishing Bay dock. He expects to have a working plan in place by the end of 2009. The date construction will begin will then depend on when the club is financially able to go forward with the project.

**LONG RANGE** – Lud Kimbrough has identified an “oyster farmer” who will help us with an oyster-planting program. The VMRC requires us to plant oysters to preserve our leases and we will do so in the early Spring.

**WEBMASTER** – Strother Scott has hired a pro to help him with the navigation improvements on the web site. When completed, there will be cascading lists when you “mouse over” the links in the banner. Jon Deutsch fixed a problem with Mary Spencer’s email so that the notices going to club members will now show that they are coming from [execsecy@fbyc.net](mailto:execsecy@fbyc.net) rather than from her personal email address.

**OPERATIONS MANAGER** – Dixon Cole has been making repairs to the well and working with Wes Jones about water system issues.

**VICE COMMODORE – C. MAYO TABB, JR. FLEET CAPTAIN** – Allan Heyward is making plans for a seminar in March on the New Rules of Racing as well as crew training classes and PRO and race management seminars.

**OFFSHORE DIVISION** – Alex Alvis advised that just under half of the PRO’s for next year’s offshore races have been identified and that Rick Klein is working on dates for PRO and race management seminars.

**ONE DESIGN DIVISION** – Matt Braun expects to have Fleet Captains lined up for the one design fleets on time. He will inventory the boats in the small boat lot when the weather warms up. Travis Weisleder has loaded JavaScore and believes he will be able to use the program. Matt Lambert is using the web volunteer lists to obtain telephone numbers and email addresses of members who have indicated a willingness to serve as PRO’s for one design races.

**CRUISING DIVISION** – Ed O’Connor reported that six events for 2009 have Chairs and they hope to have at least six additional cruising events. A planning meeting has been scheduled.

**JUNIOR DIVISION** – Jay Buhl discussed the 2009 Junior Division Organizational Structure and reported that two Junior coaches have been hired for the coming year. Peter Strong will serve as the Opti Race Team Coach and Alejandro Coos will serve as the Laser Race Team Coach. Club members will be taking responsibility for various aspects of the Junior program (*see related article elsewhere in the Log*).

**FLEET LT.** – Jim Poindexter is working with Dixon on repairs to the Wildcat motor. A piston was blown because of an obstruction in the fuel lines. Mayo Tabb advised that we need to install some big auxiliary filters because the only gas now avail-

able for use in Deltaville contains ethanol and it is causing major problems with boat motors. The bottom of *Mr. Roberts* will be painted but some other work has been deferred.

**PROTEST** – Brooks Zerkel is putting together a “protest panel” to hear protests next year and also plans to hold training sessions using the newest rules book and other materials.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Noel Clinard reported that Mayo Tabb is chairing a committee to study and establish club policy concerning use of the clubhouse for private events by members. The committee will set up guidelines if it is determined that the clubhouse will be available. Noel asked Mayo Tabb and Jere Dennison to chair a fleet committee to make recommendation about our one design fleet provisions as they now exist, determine what to do about the J-24 one design fleet status, suggest fee plans, and address the establishment of one design fleets. The committee will make recommendations about offshore one design fleets and the issues that must be worked out before the Board can act on the request by the J-105 Fleet for active fleet status.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Mayo Tabb introduced a Bylaws change relating to the make up of the Sailing Events Committee. Upon Motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the following Bylaws change:

**RESOLUTION CHANGING THE MEMBERS OF THE SAILING EVENTS COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RATIONALE:** Since the list of Board members who make up the Sailing Events Committee does not include more recently established Board positions, the list of members needs to be increased to include the Cruising Division Lieutenant Commander, the Junior Division Commander, the Junior Division Lieutenant Commander and the Junior Division Race Chair

**RESOLUTION RESOLVED,** that the Bylaws be amended to include the Cruising Division Lieutenant Commander, the Junior Division Commander, the Junior Division Lieutenant Commander and the Junior Division Race Chair on the permanent list of members of the Sailing Events Committee Proposed and   X   adopted/        rejected by vote of the Trustees of Fishing Bay Yacht Club this 11th day of December 2008.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

## EVENTS

## 2009 Fishing Bay Yacht Club Sailing Events Schedule

Day	Date	Offshore	One Design	Junior	Cruising
Sun	Feb-23			Winter Program	
Sun	Mar-8				
Sat	Mar-14	Race Comm. Training	Race Comm. Training	Race Comm. Training	
Sat	Mar-21	Spring Clean-up Day	Spring Clean-up Day	Spring Clean-up Day	Spring Clean-up Day
Sun	Mar-22				
	Mar 23-27				
Sat	Mar-28	Protest Comm. Training	Protest Comm. Training	Protest Comm. Training	Welcome Cruisers/PC Training
Sun	Mar-29	<i>Crew Training</i>			
Sat	Apr-4	<i>Crew Training</i>			Safety at Sea seminar
Sun	Apr-5				
Sat	Apr-11	<i>Crew Training</i>			
Sun	Apr-12	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter
Sat	Apr-18	Opening Day	Opening Day	Opening Day	Opening Day
Sun	Apr-19	Spring Series			
Sat	Apr-25		Stew Pot Regatta/Spring Series	Stew Pot Regatta/Spring Series	
Sun	Apr-26	Spring Series			
Sat	May-2	Spring Series			
Sun	May-3		Salsa Bowl/Spring Series	Salsa Bowl/Spring Series	
Sat	May-9	Spring Series			
Sun	May-10	<i>Mothers Day</i>	<i>Mothers Day</i>	<i>Mothers Day</i>	<i>Mothers Day</i>
Sat	May-16				Hole-in-the-Wall Cruise
Sun	May-17		Piankatank Regatta/Spring Series	Piankatank Regatta/Spring Series	
Sat	May-23	Long Dist Series - Urbanna			FBYC to Rosegill
Sun	May-24	RRYC Race(s)			Yankee Point Cruise
Mon	May-25	<i>Down the Bay (May 23-25)</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>
Fri	May-29				
Sat	May-30	<i>South Bay Race (May 29-31)</i>	OD Leukemia Cup/Spring Series		
Sun	May-31				
Friday	Jun-5	Art on Fishing Bay - LC	Art on Fishing Bay - LC	Art on Fishing Bay - LC	Art on Fishing Bay - LC
Sat	Jun-6	Long Dist. Series - Cut Channel Race			Hampton Cruise
Sun	Jun-7				
Sat	Jun-13			Opti Kids/Race Team	
Sun	Jun-14	<i>Fathers Day</i>	<i>Father's Day</i>	Opti Kids/Race Team	<i>Father's Day</i>
Sat	Jun-20			Opti Kids/Race Team	
Sun	Jun-21			Opti Kids/Race Team	
Mon-Fri	Jun 22-26	<b>Junior Week</b>	<b>Junior Week</b>	<b>Junior Week</b>	<b>Junior Week</b>
Tue	Jun-23		Parents Race - Laser 420		
Thur	Jun-25			Leukemia Sail-a-thon	
Sat	Jun-27			<b>Jr Regatta</b>	
Sun	Jun-28		Summer Seabreeze #1	Summer Seabreeze #1	
Wed	Jul-1				
Fri	Jul-3				St. Mary's Fireworks Cruise
Sat	Jul-4		Long Distance Race	Long Distance Race	
Sun	Jul-5		Summer Seabreeze #2	Summer Seabreeze #2	

**EVENTS**

**2009 Fishing Bay Yacht Club Sailing Events Schedule (continued)**

Day	Date	Offshore	One Design	Junior	Cruising
Tue	Jul-7				
Fri	Jul-10	Leukemia Reception			
Sat	Jul-11	<b>Leukemia Cup</b>			<b>Leukemia Cup</b>
Sun	Jul-12	<b>Leukemia Cup</b>			<b>Leukemia Cup</b>
Sat	Jul-18		Summer Seabreeze #3	Summer Seabreeze #3	Little Bay Cruise
Sun	Jul-19	<i>Screwpile (July 19-21)</i>			
Fri	Jul-24				
Sun	Jul-26				
Thur	Jul-30				
Sat	Aug-1	Long Dist. Series - Moonlight Race			Maine Meet
Sun	Aug-2				
Wed	Aug-5				
Fri	Aug-7		50th Mobjack Nationals	Race Team Travel	
Sat	Aug-8		50th Mobjack Nationals	Race Team Travel	Tides Inn Cruise
Sun	Aug-9		50th Mobjack Nationals	Race Team Travel	
Sat	Aug-15		<b>70th Annual Regatta</b>	<b>70th Annual Regatta</b>	
Sun	Aug-16		<b>70th Annual Regatta</b>	<b>70th Annual Regatta</b>	
Sat	Aug-22	Long Dist. Series - Smith Point			
Sun	Aug-23				
Fri	Aug-28				
Sat	Aug-29		Deltaville Regatta/Fall Series	Deltaville Regatta/Fall Series	Corrotoman River Cruise
Sun	Aug-30				
Fri	Sep-4	Stingray Point Welcome			Stingray Point Welcome
Sat	Sep-5	<b>Stingray Point Regatta</b>			<b>Stingray Point Regatta</b>
Sun	Sep-6	<b>Stingray Point Regatta</b>			<b>Stingray Point Regatta</b>
Mon	Sep-7	<i>Labor Day</i>	<i>Labor Day</i>	<i>Labor Day</i>	<i>Labor Day</i>
Sat	Sep-12	Long Dist Series - Wolf Trap			
Sun	Sep-13		Stove Point Regatta/Fall Series	Stove Point Regatta/Fall Series	
Sat	Sep-19		Low Country Boil/Fall Series	Low Country Boil/Fall Series	Mid-Bay Cruise
Sun	Sep-20	Fall Series			
Sat	Sep-26	Fall Series			Crab Feast Cruise
Sun	Sep-27				
Sat	Oct-3		Indian Summer Sail Against SIDS	Indian Summer Sail Against SIDS	
Sun	Oct-4	Fall Series			
Sat	Oct-17	Fall Series	<b>Laser Masters</b>		Wilton Creek Cruise
Sun	Oct-18		<b>Laser Masters</b>		
Fri	Oct-23				
Sat	Oct-24	Staggered Start Race/Oyster Roast			Staggered Start Race
Sun	Oct-25		Chilly Cilli Bowl/ Fall Series	Chilly Cilli Bowl/ Fall Series	
Fri	Oct-30				
Sat	Oct-31				
Sun	Nov-1	Frostbite			
Fri	Nov-6	<i>Annual Party</i>	<i>Annual Party</i>	<i>Annual Party</i>	<i>Annual Party</i>
		<i>indicates an event elsewhere</i>			

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

**Junior Program Management Team & Schedule**

Detailed below are the leaders of the various Junior functions and programs for 2009.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of us with questions.

**2009 Junior Division Organizational Structure**

- Division Commander**.....**Jay Buhl**
- Division Lt Commander**.....**Alison & David Lennarz**  
Responsible for Junior Week & On Shore Activities  
- Registration – Jr Week/Opti Kids/Jr Race Team
- Opti Kids Program Director**.....**Chris Rouzie**  
Responsible for two weekend Opti Kid Programs
- Division Race Committee Chair**.....**James Jacob**  
Responsible for organizing Race Committee for all Junior events

**Race Team Program**

- Race Team Director**.....**Jay Buhl**
- Opti Team Coordinator**.....**Joe Roos**
- Laser Team Coordinator**.....**Mary Buhl**  
- Responsible for Regatta Scheduling and Logistics
- Coaching Staff**
- Opti Race Team Coach**.....**Peter Strong**
- Laser Race Team Coach**.....**Alejandro Coos**
- Opti Development Team Director (ODT)**.....**Ted Steadman**
- ODT Coach**.....**Corie Radtke**
- Race Team Communications Officer(s)**.....**Steve & Jacie Swenson**  
Monthly Log Articles to include  
Upcoming Events  
Past Events & Results  
Promote Race Team  
Encourage Participation

**Junior Program Schedule – 2009**

**Optimist & Laser Race Team Practice**

First Practices are the weekends of:

June 13 & 14

June 20 & 21

Practice and Regattas thru mid August

**Optimist Development Team**

June 25<sup>th</sup>

**Opti Kids**

June 13 & 14

June 20-21

**Junior Week**

June 22 - 26

**Jay Buhl – Junior Division Commander**

**Membership Update**

**FINAL APPROVAL:** Mr. & Mrs. Cameron N. Cosby

**ASSOCIATE JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:** Mr. Brian T. Kusiak; Mr. Thomas C. Chiffrieller

**DEATH:** Mrs. Alicia T. Archer

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

## **Meet The 2009 Junior Race Team Coaching Staff**

Plans for the 2009 FBYC Junior Race Teams are well underway.  
We are fortunate to have two world class coaches for our 2009 Program.



### **Opti Race Team Coach**

*Peter Strong*

#### **Selected Experience**

Executive Director US Sailing Center Jensen Beach FL  
2008 US National and Development Team Coach  
2008 IODA North American Coach  
2006 USSCMS Optimist Race Team Coach  
2005 Fall High School Sailing Coach

#### **Selected Accomplishments**

USODA Nationals Top 10 finishes  
Team Trials- USNT & USNDT qualifiers  
North American Championships qualifiers

### **Laser Race Team Coach**

*Alejandro Cloos*

#### **Selected Experience**

1984 -1994 Optimist Trainer  
1984 -1994 Trainer in many classes in Europe, Snipe, Laser, 470, Lightning  
1995 - 2002 Head Coach Argentine Olympic Team  
1999 - Pan American Games Winnipeg. Lightning, Laser and Snipe coach  
2000 - Manager of the organization of the 2000 Mistral Olympic Class World Championship  
2000 - Olympic Games Sydney. Team Leader, and Laser, Tornado, Star and Europe coach  
2001 - 2002-Training of the Argentine Olympic team in Europe, 470, Laser.  
2002 - 2005 Sailing Coordinator and trainer-Ecuador  
2002 - 2005 -Head Coach and Sailing Coordinator- Salinas Yacht Club.  
2004 - General and Logistic Consultant for the Organizing Committee of the IODA  
2003 - 2005 Head Coach of the Ecuadorian National team  
2005 - Present: Head Coach Argentine Olympic Team and Sports manager  
2006 Coach of the Argentine Optimist Team attending the South American Championship  
2006 Principal Race Officer ODESUR Games (South American Games)  
2007 Head Coach of the ARG team and coach of Snipe, J24 and Lightning at the Pan American Games  
2007 Head Coach of ARG team, and Coach of Laser Pre Olympic Regatta in Qingao, CHN  
**2008 Head Coach of ARG team, Olympic Regatta in Qingao, CHN**

#### **Selected Accomplishments**

1979 1° South American Championship Finn Class  
1980 2° Snipe Class Youth World Championship  
1995 3° Europe Class South American Championship  
2008 1° Laser Master South and Central American Championship

**Jay Buhl – Junior Division Commander**

## Join the Opti Development Team (ODT) - 2009

**Read This.....**If you have children between the ages of 9-12 or want to sail in a program that is not as rigorous and the Opti Race Team.

**Schedule** - Practice Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday following Junior week for 3-4 hours per day. Practice Starts June 25<sup>th</sup>, following Junior Week and runs through mid August.

**ODT Coach – Cori Radtke** - Dedicated Coach whose skill set is aligned with this category of sailors.

**Parental Commitment** - Program Fee \$250. Regatta schedule will be defined by the parents and sailors of the ODT. Parents will be expected to be responsible for travel logistics to include Optis and the Coach Boat which will be provided.

**ODT Coordinator – Ted Steadman**

**Sign Up Deadline April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009** - Purpose for the deadline is to understand interest so we can plan for coaching, understand finances, review travel schedules etc. Deciding you want to be part of the program June 1<sup>st</sup> does not allow enough planning time for a high quality program.

### **Why Join the ODT?.....**

This program is a great follow up to Junior Week, a great introduction to next level of sailing, and provides a glimpse of what the Race Team is all about without such a large financial investment and time commitment. ODT is a low risk minimal investment program that will help you gauge whether or not your kids want to take sailing to the next level.

Over the past 5 years the FBYC Junior Sailors and the Race Team Program have become well known and respected not only on the Chesapeake Bay, but in the junior sailing community across the United States. Developing and sustaining a first class Race Team Program remains a top priority for our club, our board, and is articulated in the FBYC Long Range Plan. There are three key ingredients that make up a successful program: 1. Commitment from the Yacht Club, 2. First Class Coaches, and 3. Parental Commitment.. Financial commitment and leadership will drive the provision of First Class Coaches. The most critical ingredient is commitment from the Parents. Ask any current or past member of either the Opti or Laser Race Teams what this means. It is a lot of work and is very rewarding. But the real reward is the experience our sailors are provided.

The ODT is a low key way for parents and sailors to test the waters. Members of the Race Team did not just wake up one day and decide they wanted to spend their summer practicing and traveling to regattas. The kids desire and dedication to sailing happened over time. The kids decided this is what they wanted. Once they are hooked, parents need to hang on!! You should go for it!

**Jay Buhl - Junior Division Commander**

## Race Team Sign Up – Limited Space Available

Fishing Bay has two race teams, Optimist and Laser. The club also offers an Opti Development Team.

**The Opti Race Team** has the capacity for 9 sailors. The team begins practice two weekends prior to Junior week. Following Junior Week the program runs for another 8 weeks and consists of a combination of practices and traveling across the US to Regattas. The 2009 Team has 1 open spot as of November 2008.

**The Laser Race Team** has the capacity for about 6 sailors. The team schedule is basically the same as the Opti Race Team however the Regattas may be in different locations. The 2009 Team has 2 open slots as of November 2008.

**Opti Development Team (ODT)** has capacity for about 6 sailors. The schedule is detailed in an article found in this month's Log. The 2009 Team has 3 - 4 open slots as of November 2008.

**Jay Buhl – Junior Division Commander**

**FBYC HISTORY**

**Nautical Memoirs**  
**Jere Dennison**

*As Historian for several years, I have often heard riveting stories of members' past sailing and sea-going experiences. In spite of encouraging, cajoling, pleading, begging, and even threatening, I have been unable to solicit written submissions for this history column from these very same members. Such stories can enrich our FBYC experience and deserve an opportunity to be shared with the membership at large. (And a word of warning - if never recorded, these memories will almost certainly be lost to posterity.)*



*So recently I was pleasantly surprised to receive the nautical memoirs of FBYC Life Member, Club Chaplain, and nonagenarian Bill Egelhoff. It is obvious from his flawless prose that Bill's rhetorical skills have been honed over many years composing inspired sermons. His story follows for all of us to enjoy. And by the way, for those of you still searching for the elusive fountain of youth, check out Bill's picture here preparing to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last February on the slopes of Massanutten!*

*A word of counsel to all you would-be yarn spinners out there: there is no need to wait until you become a nonagenarian to share your maritime memories. I welcome material now, from young and old, and stand ready to assist in anyway possible to translate your literary dreams into reality! (Be advised that, if necessary, names may be changed to protect the innocent.)*

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**I'm Pisces**  
**By Reverend Bill Egelhoff**

Sometimes I wonder if in my former life I was a fish. So much of my life over the past 90 years seems to have revolved around water. Maybe it began with my baptism, though I don't remember that.

What I do remember as a nine year-old was learning to swim at Kamp Kaaterskill in Vermont. It was on Barber's Pond where blood suckers patrolled the shore. The sooner we learned to swim, the sooner we could swim away from the blood suckers. We all learned quickly so we could navigate the deeper water.

My ability to swim prompted Dad to teach my brother and me to sail. So in 1930 we had our first sail boat, a Ricelake

sailing canoe which we learned to sail on Lake Erie outside Buffalo. If nothing else we learned how to capsizes a canoe.

Other than ferry boat rides each summer from Buffalo over to Crystal Beach, a wonderful amusement park across Lake Erie in Canada, my next sail occurred in 1927 on my parents' 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. To celebrate they took brother Bob and me for a repeat of their honeymoon. From Buffalo we took a sleeper to Milwaukee to visit Dad's extended family there, then on to New Orleans, staying in the elegant Maison Blanc hotel. After a few days' exploration we boarded a ship bound for New York City. It was January and the Gulf of Mexico was not calm. So this was my first and only taste of sea sickness. But it was worth it – I couldn't believe how big the Atlantic Ocean was, particularly for an 8 year-old.

The summer of 1936 I really 'went to sea' with a job as third steward on the *Juanita*, a passenger ship plying the Great Lakes from Buffalo to Duluth and return. It was an 8 day cruise, stopping along the way at such places as Sault Sainte Marie, the Sault Locks, connecting Lakes Superior and Huron, as well as a stop at scenic Mackinaw Island, where no cars were allowed. As third steward I proudly wore a uniform and officer's cap. My job was to assign dining room seats for the passengers and serve as the magician's assistant. As such I had my head chopped off in the guillotine. It was great fun and I was paid \$50 a month, a lot of money back then!

Three years later after our junior year at Williams College another friend and I boarded the British freighter, *Cairnmona* in Montreal for a summer of biking through England and Europe on the eve of World War II. Other than dodging icebergs in the North Atlantic the crossing was routine and uneventful, as was the food in the officers' mess. There was no question, biking through Germany, that the Nazi *Wehrmacht* was prepared. It seemed that we were always





**FBYC HISTORY**

just one step ahead of their troops. One day, we biked along a prison wall in Dachau, only to learn later that we'd passed the notorious concentration camp.

September 2<sup>nd</sup> we boarded another British freighter, *Cairnross*, in Leith, outside Edinburgh, heading home. The next day the ship's wireless operator called us twelve passengers to meet with the officers to hear Prime Minister Chamberlain declare war on Germany. With the British National anthem ended, the Captain informed us we were at war and under his command. His first order was for us all to join him with a drink. It was about the last thing I wanted at that point.

The wireless operator further informed us that a German U-boat had torpedoed the British passenger liner *Athenia* 80 miles to the south. As if that wasn't enough, the Captain added that if the U-boat headed due north it would cross our bow at midnight. Naturally we stayed up most of that night! From that point on we zigzagged across the North Atlantic all the way to Montreal without an incident. Three months later both of those freighters were resting on the bottom of the ocean.

WWII found me in the Navy at NAS Quonset Point, R.I., where I sailed Lightnings over at the Naval Base in Newport. My big-time sailing, however, was as air ordinance

officer aboard the newly commissioned aircraft carrier *Midway* in the North Atlantic near the end of the war.

Peacetime brought sailing Penguins in Hampton Roads at the Norfolk Yacht Club with Joe Kelly, one of FBYC's earliest members. With the early '80s, Dot and I proudly joined Fishing Bay Yacht Club and soon I was serving as Club Chaplain. Our first daysailor as members was a beautiful Hampton One, #138, one of Mr. Serio's originals. Before long we were proud owners of *C'est La Vie*, an Aquarius 23, allowing us easy beaching up and down the Piankatank. From the Aquarius we soon moved on to our O'Day 28, *Liebchen*, for many memorable cruises on Chesapeake Bay. Highlights were sailing over to Onancock where my Episcopal ministry began at Holy Trinity Church.

The late '70s opened up another "sailing chaplaincy," serving as chaplain on cruise ships. In the past 30 years Dot and I have enjoyed over 35 cruises, ranging from a week to over several months. We've sailed the Caribbean, the Pacific, to Alaska, the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Black Sea, the Baltic, the Arctic, Round the Horn, and to French Polynesia, and too many ports to mention. Needless to say, we never get tired of being on the water. It's good I'm a Pisces and that Dot loves the water too.



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**For Sale:** 1981 Beneteau First 33 "Sur Le Vent" Racer/Cruiser. 15 HP Yanmar diesel. New Navman Instruments. Propane stove. New batteries and overhauled electrical system. New portlights. Interior renovated over last 5 years. New prop, prop shaft, and strut. New Awlgrip on hull. Set of 6 sails plus spinnaker and pole. Many extras. \$26,500 Call Paul 804-683-9647 or [pauldbecker@verizon.net](mailto:pauldbecker@verizon.net).

**For Sale:** 1996 Freedom 24 Bill Tripp design racer (est. phrf 170)/thin water cruiser (1'9"-6'). Ramp launch, Triad trailer, electric retractable keel, kick-up rudder. Carbon fiber mast and bowsprit, UK large roach main and self-tacking jib, roller furling, asymmetric spinnaker. 2005 Honda 9.9, electric start/trim w/under 20 hrs. Deltaville, VA. Major refurbish '05. Bargain at \$29,500. Contact Yachtworld for details or Norman Camp, 804-285-0931.

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