



From the Quarterdeck by Dick Cole, Commodore



November 2003

FBYC Web Site: <http://www.FBYC.net>

The Annual Meeting was held on Friday October 25 and your new officers and Board were elected. David Hazlehurst and Jay Buhl will be joined by Lud Kimbrough as Rear Commodore. Lud is not new to Club Management. He has held many positions including Secretary, Protest, Junior Division Commander, and House Chairman. Lud has also served on several important committees and is an active offshore racer. He brings to David's team a great deal of knowledge and a can-do attitude. David, I know you guys will do a great job, and I ask the membership to join me in wishing you success and good luck. The full list of elected Officers, Board and appointed committee chairs are in this log.

It was a pleasure to present to Bev Crump and Jim Rogers The Matthew Fountain Maury Trophy. This trophy is awarded for "outstanding contribution to sailing" and can only be presented by the Board of Trustees of the Club. Please join me in congratulating Bev Crump and Jim Rogers, recipients of the 2003 Matthew Fontaine Maury Bowl for their significant contributions to sailing and FBYC. On October 14, 2003 the Board of Directors unanimously elected our Club Manager, Virgil and Myrtle Miller, to Life Membership. Congratulations and thank you Virgil and Myrtle!

To quote one past Commodore, "the year really went by fast." Being Commodore is a unique experience and I have enjoyed every minute. You, the members, David Hazlehurst, Jay Buhl, Mason Chapman, Elizabeth Staas and the Board have made being Commodore an enjoyable experience and one I will never forget.

I had several objectives when I became Commodore, and I am confident that

your new Flag and Board will be able to expand and add to the work that has been done on each. My first objective was to **expand the Junior Racing Program**. We made a good start. We hired older coaches with teaching backgrounds and previous experience working with young sailors. With their skills, and many volunteers, we were able to upgrade the training throughout the summer, give more on-the-water coaching and in general give our young sailors the guidance they need to build confidence.

The second objective was to re-establish **the Fishing Bay Dock Committee**. **This was done**. Thanks to the excellent chairmanship by Noel Clinard, the Committee was able to hammer out a waterfront usage plan and develop a new dock design. This was presented to the Board and a short time later the Stull property went on the market and was sold. The possible effects of purchasing the adjoining land and the destruction of the Fishing Bay Dock by Hurricane Isabel has caused a temporary hold on these plans.

My next objective was to **establish a ten-year business and financial plan** that would be a living document (updated annually) that would give guidance to the future management of FBYC. Waddy Garrett and thirteen committee members have drafted a ten-year business and financial plan that will give future club management guidance in managing the direction of the club.

My fourth objective was to **Increase Racing Activity**. Racing activity is what FBYC is all about. It is a fact that over the last years, our fleets in one design and offshore have been declining. David Hazlehurst, Vice Commodore, Allan Heyward, Fleet Captain, and

the Division Commanders took this on as their objective to get more boats on the water. Through their efforts racing interest has been very high and, if the weather had cooperated, I believe boats on the water would have increased compared to 2002. I also think we have seen the bottom of the curve and racing numbers will increase in 2004.

Your new Flag and Board have many challenges for 2004. We still have things to learn about the usage of the new Club House. We must continue to upgrade our Junior Racing Program. And we need to stay focused on how to increase race participation.

Our infrastructure will require consistent attention, particularly in the following areas: replacing the Fishing Bay Dock, repairing-replacing the Jackson Creek piers and the problem seawalls, and establishing a future seawall replacement program. Also, we need to continue to work on club management as well as the question "do we buy more land and, if so, how do we finance it?"

Finally, I hope we can continue to fine-tune the Ten-Year Business and the Financial Plan.

I told the new Flags that there are many things that will distract them over the next year but keep in mind two things. Continue to give our members a quality club at an attractive cost and have fun.

In closing, I would again like to thank all of you for your support that you gave me. A special thanks goes to David, Jay, Mason, Elizabeth, Strother and Mary.

See you at the club.