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## From the Quarterdeck by David Hazlehurst, Commodore

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March 2004

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

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It is still four weeks before Opening Day and the Club is already a hive of activity.

On the weekend of March 20 there was a first session of Race Committee training with 21 attendees, 6 of whom could be classified as newcomers. The biggest challenge for the trainers was keeping the large cardboard props in place for the outdoor practice session.

On the following day, Sunday March 21, Nancy and Sam Stoakley put on an excellent brunch for the 2004 Bermuda High Party, with 87 attendees. Observations included ages ranging from Mason Chapman at less than one year old, on up to who knows where, a good number of new and prospective members. And the effortless way the Stoakleys have of finding kitchen help.

A second Race Committee training session was held at Retreat Hospital on Sunday, March 28 with 18 attendees. All the telephone calls our two Division Commanders made helped attract a total of 16 newcomers to these training sessions, not a lot given that 140 members were called, but another small step towards improving the quality of our race committee work.

One larger step occurred when 8 members attended a two day Advanced U.S. Sailing Race Officer training meeting at Hampton YC March 6-7, a write up on this is on the club web site.

Amongst other signs of Spring, was

the Clean-up organized by Chip and Jane Hall who are in a close tie with the Stoakleys for indefatigable members of the year.

Saturday, March 27 was a day to dream about, and a latter day record 62 members helped, including a number of younger as well as new and prospective members. As well as trimming hedges, spreading mulch and general clean-up, a boat rack was repaired and at least two members further developed their window cleaning skills.

Those who missed the opportunity to help prepare the grounds will also notice the freshly painted white fence and the newly painted Junior Storage shed. And lunch was served by two of our closest members, Andy and Evelyn Turner.

For those who have yet to visit our larger club this year, as well as the obvious improvements outside the clubhouse, you will be pleasantly surprised with the inside of Fannie's House and the rebuilt docks.

The middle pier is all but complete except for power and water, likewise the Fishing Bay dock except for the removal of old pilings. Provided Mother Nature cooperates, we can expect the East pier to be ready for occupancy before April 15. As if all this was not enough we also have repair work underway around the hoist in the dry sail area.

Finally for those interested in how we plan to use the new land, a recommendation from a short range

Planning Committee will be presented to the Board at their April 6 meeting.

Our club is truly a work in progress and we look forward to welcoming all of our members, new, young and old back for a new season on Opening Day, April 24. Please join us.