



From the Quarterdeck **by David Hazlehurst, Commodore**

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

In last months Log I told you August would be a busy month and it was. The weekend with the Mobjack Nationals, J-24 match racing and the first session of Dog Days was as good as it gets.

And the 65th Annual OD Regatta went well despite the intervention of Hurricane Charlie. We had 50 boats racing, all but 17 from FBYC, thereby restoring my confidence in club sailors being willing to get wet after my doubts were raised in Spring, 2003.

Clearly the skippers made the right decision to go out and do what they came for, race. While we were limited to 2 races on the Spinnaker course and 3 on the non-spinnaker course on the first day the Optimists got in 5 races. And after the racing everything went according to plan, except for the deluge.

Some observations. Despite the concerns for safety and getting boats back to shore in the event the hurricane came through faster than we expected, we neglected to raise the "Y" flag on both outside courses. It is my opinion that Juniors, and single handed sailors, should always be required to wear life jackets while away from shore. We could usefully look at our sailing instructions and hopefully decide to add this provision. Many other clubs do. In the J-24 match races a visiting sailor from North Carolina was hit on the head by an errant boom and knocked overboard, a near disaster with a happy ending.

Off the water Dog Days bring other concerns. We have a club rule that you can all read on page 86 of the Sailing Events Book. We are getting regular complaints from members about some few members who are not respecting this rule. It is understandable that visitors do not know what our expectations are, as we found out during the Mobjack Nationals, even though the Notice of Race asked competitors to leave their animals at home, or put them in a kennel. Enough said.

One final observation. We are making progress towards using our new property; and your comments on our proposals, as requested in the August Log, are still needed. I believe your Board will be constrained by the lack of funds for major expenditures, but we must soon decide to spend some monies if we are to get some near term return on our \$685M investment. We sorely need to provide adequate parking space for a growing number of trailered boats. We are having too many problems with boats damaged because of cramped parking. This is clearly unacceptable.

