

# THE **SIREN**



Cmdre Bob Jones

## Commodore's Log

Let's reflect on three Club priorities for 2021.

**Patio Transformation.** First, we are driving forward with the full update of our patio, aimed at creating the undisputedly best waterfront socializing and dining space in all of Vero. Our north patio pergola is being completed, and automatic opening doors are being installed for the Burgee-to-patio and club entrance doors. Concurrently, we are in the early stage of developing a plan to transform our south patio and create a water-facing rectangular bar in the far south section of the patio. It is our hope that the transformation can be completed this fall. Stay tuned!

**Food Taste and Dining Experience.** For some time, Shawn has recognized the need to inject culinary expertise into our hard-working kitchen team. However, after Bill's passing, we held off hiring a replacement because of the club's lower COVID operating level. With the vaccine rollout accelerating, now is the time to initiate a search for a talented executive chef. In February, we revamped the menu to reinforce entrées and have reviewed the Club's wine offerings. We also issued a food survey to better understand member priorities and provide a benchmark on our food and beverage performance.

**Member Communications.** Whether it be related to dining, committee initiatives, governance or member activities, members deserve to know what is going on in their club. We have a talented team, including our chair of House and Grounds Kiki Rohr, Publicity chair Karen Donofrio, Siren publisher Pam Young, the fabulous Witmer-duo, and all members of the BoD, who are committed to sharing not only the "who, what and when" of club activity and decisions, but also the "why."

Clearly, cutting across these priorities is the need remain conservative and vigilant as we thread the needle between vaccination rollout and new, more infectious COVID strains — please help by wearing masks when away from your table and socially distancing, particularly at the bar.

VBYC enjoys a unique-to-Vero waterfront location and an energetic staff eager to serve and improve; but mostly, our club is blessed by a vibrant, fun-loving and diverse collection of member-owners. Let's make 2021 truly memorable and safe as we emerge from the pandemic's cloud!

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## VBYC COVID PROTOCOL – STILL IN EFFECT

It's been a year since the COVID virus has impacted life at the Yacht Club. We have been blessed with a low number of infections, and that is due to the care and cooperation of our members and staff. As we move through the vaccination process, it is important to not become complacent. Please review the current club protocols listed below. These guidelines will apply to all regular and special club events. If you have questions, please contact the office.

- RESERVATIONS MANDATORY (for both dining and drinks)
- Masks are required when inside the clubhouse and on the patio. Masks may be removed only when seated.
- Guests are permitted (limited to 2 guests per member per visit).
- Seating at designated tables only, to ensure the distancing requirement.
- Maximum 8 members at a table that can accommodate up to 8 seats.
- Please do NOT add additional chairs to tables.
- Limited Bar seating permitted in groups of no more than 2.
- No standing at the bar for any reason.

## VBYC MEETINGS – MARCH 2021

All members are welcome to attend committee and board meetings as a guest. The March schedule is listed below. Please check the website for additional information.

**Fleet** - Tuesday, March 2@ 4:30 p.m.

**Planning** Tuesday - March 9@ 9:30 a.m.

**Membership** - Tuesday, March 9@ 3:30 p.m.

**Shipmates** - Friday, March 12@ 11 a.m.



**House and Grounds** - Tuesday, March 9@ 9:30 a.m.

**Publicity & Publications** - Wednesday, March 10@ 10 a.m.

**Board of Directors** – Tuesday, March 16@ 9:30 a.m.

## PUBLICITY

If photography is your hobby, if you find Facebook or other social media sites interesting or have a publishing or PR background, you might enjoy being a member of the Publicity and Publications Committee. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. for about an hour. Our goal is to keep our members, as well as the community at large, informed about happenings at VBYC through the Siren, our website and various print media. Even if you can't attend on a regular basis, please know that you are always welcome to join any meeting. To that end, we are always looking for people to take pictures at our club events, and you don't need to be a committee member to help out in this way if your inner shutterbug is calling out to you.



## SPOTLIGHT ON ACTIVITIES



Last month, The Siren spotlighted the major VBYC committees. This month we focus on the other activities enjoyed by our spirited VBYC family. Most of us are seniors, but we remain vibrant, have passionate interests, and are committed to living life to the fullest.

Since we are a yacht club, it is natural that our activities focus on the water, including sundown cruises, kayaking, beach-ups, Florida Council of Yacht Club events and our spoil island cleanups. Check out the Waterfront page for more details.

VBYC also offers interesting and engaging activities away from the dock. Listed below are the current groups. However, if you see an untapped idea, consider starting a new group — perhaps travel, adventure, a gourmet club, or one for those passionate about art, music, or theatre. Give our general manager Shawn Witmer a call for information about starting up a group.

**Book Club** – Kathy Kinasewitz - [kkinasewitz@hotmail.com](mailto:kkinasewitz@hotmail.com) – Calling all Readers. Just like going for a jog exercises your cardiovascular system, reading regularly gives your brain a good workout! Join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

**Bridge** - Helga McCahan (Friday Lunch) - [helgam@live.com](mailto:helgam@live.com) - Friday Bridge Group is welcoming new members to join. We play year-round, on Fridays, at 11:30 a.m. We have lunch and play Chicago Bridge. If you would like to play, please contact Helga McCahan. Another Bridge group also meets Tuesday evening. Please contact Judy Allan for additional information. - [jadallan@yahoo.com](mailto:jadallan@yahoo.com).

**Card Creations** – Marilyn Van Tassell – [mvantas@verizon.net](mailto:mvantas@verizon.net) – Cut, color, paste, stamp, glitter, get your creative juices flowing on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

**Friday Night DJ Dances** – Returning Soon!

**Friends Table** – Kiki Rohr – [comstrat@earthlink.net](mailto:comstrat@earthlink.net) If you're new to the club (or not), single (or not), and would like to make some new friends, consider joining us at the Friends' Table for cocktails and/or dinner. We're a lively, welcoming group that meets several evenings each week to enjoy good times and great company. Email Kiki to be added to the list.

**MahJong** – Jean Tisdall - [tisdalldj@icloud.com](mailto:tisdalldj@icloud.com) – Meets on Thursday at 11:30 for lunch, with play immediately following (seasoned players only). A tile-based game, MahJong is played by four players and involves memory, observation, and a lot of luck!

**9 & Dine** – Ginny Hustead - [virginia.hustead@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.hustead@gmail.com) – The group plays 9 holes of golf twice a month, every other Friday at 2:00 p.m. at Sandridge Golf Club, followed by dining at the Yacht Club. Please contact Ginny for details and sign-up information.

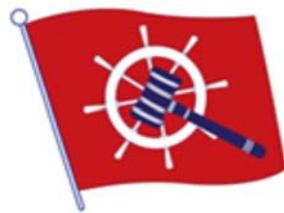
**Poker** – Sean Kashawlic - [skashawlic@comcast.net](mailto:skashawlic@comcast.net) Typically plays mid-week; the group meets for drinks and dinner first. Play all night with a minimal buy-in. No big winners or losers, just a night of great fun!

**Pickleball** – Gary Kinasewitz - [gkinasewitz@outlook.com](mailto:gkinasewitz@outlook.com) – Invented in the mid-1960s, pickleball is a paddle sport combining a bit of tennis, a bit of badminton and a bit of ping-pong into one fun game. The only requirements are a pair of athletic shoes and somewhat reasonable eye-hand coordination. Join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the club's east parking lot.

**Skipper's Table** – Returning Soon!

**Trivia Nights** – Returning Soon!

## BLUE GAVEL



The International Order of the Blue gavel is a worldwide organization. Membership includes past commodores from qualified yacht clubs. This group works to preserve traditions and customs of boating. The VBYC chapter was formed in 1987 by past commodore Norman Badenhop and is a part of the organization's District 8 in Florida.

The Blue Gavel burgee can be flown by members from their boats and are worn as a patch on the right sleeve of the uniform blazer.

The VBYC chapter president is p/c Chuck Ranson and the District 8 representative (and current president) is p/c Frank Bilotta. The group meets on the first Friday of every month in the Commodore's room.



## WINEAUX' CORNER

Why drink wine? Maybe because your dinner plate looks lonely or maybe because VBYC is offering a couple of special wines that pair easily with the new menu. While supplies last.

**Anselmann Spatburgunder, 2014, Germany, Pinot Noir** / Translated from German, Spatburgunder means Late Burgundian. But in most of the world the grape used to make it is known as Pinot Noir. This wine is also a "Trocken," meaning it is a dry wine typical of Pinot Noir wines. This Pinot Noir has a nose of fresh fruit, cherry, and strawberry; a flavor of strawberries and cherry, with the addition of light cooking spice; you'll find it round and well balanced. You Pinot drinkers know what you like to eat while enjoying Pinot Noir. Our menu items that would pair particularly well are the Braised Lamb Shanks, the Beef Short Ribs, and the Sliced Tenderloin. In the wine world, the old saying is, "If it grows together, it goes together." In other words, food and wines from the same regions tend to pair well together. Why not try this one with the Pastrami Reuben?



**Vie de Romans Dessimis, Italy, Pinot Grigio** / This wine is slightly pink in color, because the juice is left in contact with the skins for 2-3 hours, picking up a light salmon tint. The nose has notes of crushed flowers, red berries, peach, and a hint of citrus fruit. On the mouth it is fresh with a full body, you'll find it minerally with flavors of apricot and lemon on a lingering finish. This is a perfect wine with many different seafood and grilled fish dishes and would pair well with our Crab Stuffed Flounder or the garlicky Key West Shrimp. Also note that pairing this with the Tuscan White Bean Skillet knocks it out of the park.



How many of you Pinot Grigio drinkers knew that it is made not with a white grape, but with a grape that is grayish/blue in color? Another interesting note is that it is a mutant of Pinot Noir.



## SHIPMATES



Our featured speaker for February was Jim Romanek from the Veterans Council of Indian River, who spoke about several ongoing programs that support our local Veterans. Commodore Bob Jones attended the meeting and swore in our Shipmates Vice President Janet Leh, who was unable to attend the January meeting. It is great to have Janet back on board.

Spring into spring with the shipmates! Come join the Shipmates for a Patchington fashion show featuring our very own models. Lunch and the fashion show will be held under the soon to be covered north patio at noon on Thursday, March 25. Lunch choices are Teriyaki Glazed Salmon with Asian Noodle Salad or Chicken and Mushroom Crêpes. Both entrées will include cheesecake topped with strawberries and will cost \$18.00 inclusive. Reservations are required, and please make your luncheon selection at the time you make your reservation.

The Shipmates business meeting will be Friday, March 12 at 11 a.m. in the main dining room. The guest speaker will be Carolyn Nelson, executive director of Friends After Diagnosis.

A Ship Store sale will be held on Friday, April 9 from 4 – 6 p.m. in the main dining room. Many new items have been added to our inventory, including children's clothing.

Shipmate membership is open to all female members of the club. It is a great way to meet other members and make new friends.

I hope to see you soon. Mary

## CONCERT IN THE PARK (-ING LOT)

*We Didn't Start the Fire* ("It was always burning, since the world's been turning ...") but The Turnstiles sure turned up the heat on Thursday night when they presented a musical review of Billy Joel's best! The *Uptown Girl(s)* danced the night away as the *Piano Man* "sang us a song and got us feeling all right".

For those of you who missed this event, we're *Keeping the Faith* "yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, keeping the faith" that soon, maybe "with a bottle of white, a bottle of red, perhaps a bottle of rose instead, we'll get a table near the street" and see your familiar faces at the March concert.



Check the photo album on the VBYC website for more photos. <https://verobeachyachtclub.com/photos>

# CHANGE OF COMMAND - SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021



Let's get this show on the road.

The Time-Honored Tradition Continues....

Our ever-efficient Master of Ceremonies PC Jim Stanley starts the program.

Followed by a presentation of the fleet, complete with canon salutes.



And then, the Flag Ceremony — the lowering of the past commodore's flag as the incoming commodore's flag is raised, symbolizing the official Change of Command.



Who are those masked men?



As usual, our fearless club manager has it all under control.

For the first time in VBYC history, women comprise the majority of our leadership team...what is the world coming to??

# ON THE WATERFRONT

**VBYC PADDLE GROUP OUTING** – Saturday, March 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Turkey Creek. Kayak though this idyllic wildlife refuge. Never kayaked before? We will teach you! Contact Toby Jarman at [jotoby@moonriveriii.com](mailto:jotoby@moonriveriii.com) if you are planning to attend. Call Maddy at Adventure Kayak Tours for a kayak reservation (772-538-3265 / 772-567-0522).



## SUNDOWNER CRUISE

Save the date! Sundowner Cruise/ Raft Up will be returning on Thursday, March 18, weather permitting. Captain Piecuch will e-mail all captains a week before with time and place.



**BEACH UP** – Thursday, March 25 at 11 a.m.

Destination: Spoil Island # SL-2

Bring your beach chairs and picnic lunch. Please let Toby Jarman know at [jotoby@moonriveriii.com](mailto:jotoby@moonriveriii.com) if you plan to bring your boat.

**SPOIL ISLAND CLEAN-UP DAY** – Saturday, March 27, 2021, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Calling all VBYC Volunteers! Please email Connie Dominianni @ [conid@aol.com](mailto:conid@aol.com) by Wednesday, March 24, 2021 for additional information.

## NEW KAYAK LAUNCH SYSTEM

Attention all current and future club kayakers. Recently Bob Scofield, Paul Chatterton, Gary Kinasewitz, and Toby Jarman installed a state-of-the-art kayak launch system on the north end of our seawall.

The City Marina added a new slip near our former gangplank-and-floating barge kayak launch system, which interfered with the new slip holder getting in and out of the slip. VBYC turned lemons into lemonade in three ways: We now have a safe and efficient kayak launch system; we donated the barge to the Youth Sailing Foundation, thus helping young sailors enjoy our beautiful waters; and, finally, we purchased the used kayak launch system at a great price from new Vero Beach residents Frank and Terry Brown, who later entered the VBYC membership waiting list. Now that's a win-win-win solution!

The system involves placing a kayak in the “cradle” and lowering both the kayak and the built-in ladder down to the water with an easy-to-turn self-braking winch. The kayaker then climbs down the ladder, sits in the kayak, and paddles off leaving the cradle in the water ready for the returning kayaker to move back into the cradle. To make it easy and safe to get onto and off the ladder, the club members also installed a sturdy 2' folding boarding platform on the seawall. The following link: <https://youtu.be/c9NUYfOKLtw>, will provide a detailed look at the process. Happy kayaking!



SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

# Commodore's BALL

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres — 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Elegant Dinner to Follow

Entertainment  
BEACHSIDE TRIO

\$50.00++

Reservations Required  
Jacket & tie / Black Tie Optional

CONCERT IN THE PARKING LOT

**BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTE BAND**

COMING TO VBYC



THURSDAY, MARCH 11 — SHOWTIME: 7:30 PM

COST CONCERT ONLY — \$25.00 ++

## SHIPMATES

LUNCH & FASHION SHOW

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

\$18.00 ++

Arrival 11:30

Lunch 12:00

Fashion Show to Follow

**Patchington**  
Patchington.com

### LUNCH ENTRÉE CHOICES

- \* Teriyaki Glazed Salmon & Asian Noodle Salad
- \* Chicken & Mushroom Crepe

### DESSERT

Cheesecake topped with Strawberries

Wednesday, March 17



## St. Patrick's Day

Dinner Entrée Specials

Soup or Salad

Corned Beef and Cabbage - \$22.00

Poached Salmon with Dill Cream Sauce - \$24.00

Lamb Shanks - \$26.00

Parsley Buttered Redskins, Green Beans and Baby Carrots



Wear Your Best Green!!

**THURSDAY  
THEMED DINNERS**

MARCH 4  
**ASIAN NIGHT**

MARCH 11  
**ITALIAN NIGHT**

MARCH 18  
**GREEK NIGHT**

MARCH 25  
**HOME COOKIN NIGHT**

**\$20.00++**

**REGULAR DINNER MENU NOT AVAILABLE**

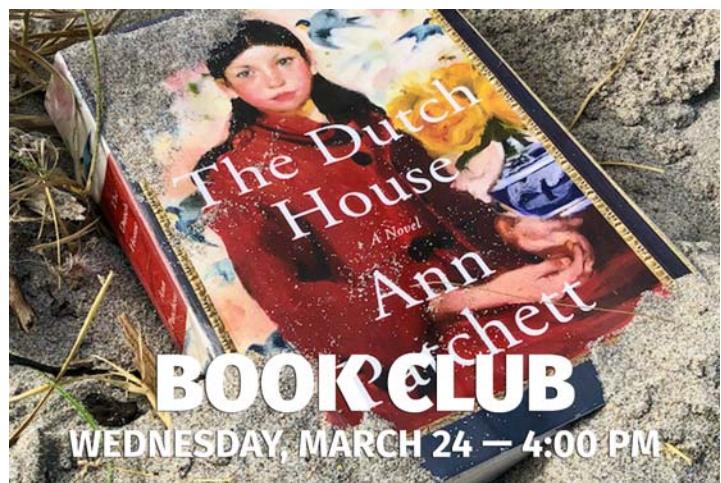
**CARD CREATIONS**

The next card class will be on Tuesday, March 2, and Wednesday, March 3, at 10 AM in the Burgee Room. We will be making 3 Easter Cards, which are pictured below. Cost remains the same at \$15 for materials. Please contact Marilyn Van Tassell at [mvantas@verizon.net](mailto:mvantas@verizon.net) to reserve your choice of day.

**MUSIC ON THE PATIO**

Wednesday, 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
DAVE BIALOS

Thursday, 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
KENT TAYLOR BROWN



**Saturday Night Bands**

March 6  
*Johnnie Nick*

March 13  
*Tony & Holly*

March 20  
*Commodore's Ball Beachside Trio*

March 27  
*Kurtis Wilson*

**9 & DINE**

Sandridge Golf Course  
The golf group will be teeing off Fridays, March 5 and 19.  
For more information contact Ginny Hustead at [virginia.hustead@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.hustead@gmail.com).  
If you plan to have dinner or cocktails at the club, you must have a reservation.

Be sure to ask for a free libation during your birthday month.

# MARCH 2021

**Reservations Required ~ 772-231-2211**

Lunch: Wednesday through Friday: 11:00 a.m. ~ 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Brunch (Breakfast & Lunch Menus): 10:00 a.m. ~ 1:30 p.m.  
Wednesday and Thursday on the Patio with Music: 6:00 p.m. ~ 9:00 p.m.

Dinner Tuesday Through Saturday: 5:30 p.m. ~ 8:30 p.m.

Saturday: Music 6:00 ~ 9:00 p.m. Jackets optional in main dining room

| Sun                          | Mon               | Tue                                    | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat  |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
|                              | 1<br>Club Closed  | 2<br><i>Card Creation</i>              | 3<br>Lunch<br><i>Card Creation</i>   | 4<br>Lunch<br><b>MAHJONG</b>  | 5<br>Lunch<br><b>9&amp;DINE</b><br><b>BLUE GAVEL</b><br><i>Happy Hour Dinner</i> | 6<br><i>Kayaking</i>                         |
|                              |                   | VBYC Bucks Drawing Dinner              | Music on the Patio Dinner  | Music on the Patio Asian Night Themed Dinner  |  | Johnny Nick Dinner                           |
| 7<br>Pickleball 9:30 Brunch  | 8<br>Club Closed  | 9<br><i>VBYC Bucks Drawing Dinner</i>  | 10<br>Lunch  | 11<br>Lunch<br><b>MAHJONG</b><br><b>CONCERT IN THE PARK(ING LOT)</b>  | 12<br>Lunch<br><b>SHIPMATES</b>  | 13   |
|                              |                   |  | Music on the Patio Dinner  | Italian Night Themed Dinner   | <i>Happy Hour Dinner</i>   | <i>Tony &amp; Holly Dinner</i>               |
| 14<br>Pickleball 9:30 Brunch | 15<br>Club Closed | 16<br><i>VBYC Bucks Drawing Dinner</i> | 17<br>Lunch<br><b>Saint Patrick's Day SPECIALS</b><br><i>Music on the Patio Dinner</i> | 18<br>Lunch<br><b>MAHJONG</b><br><i>Sundowner Cruise</i>  | 19<br>Lunch<br><b>9&amp;DINE</b><br><i>Happy Hour Dinner</i>                     | 20<br><b>Commodore's BALL Beachside Trio</b> |
| 21<br>Pickleball 9:30 Brunch | 22<br>Club Closed | 23<br><i>VBYC Bucks Drawing Dinner</i> | 24<br>Lunch<br><b>B<br/>K<br/>Club</b>   | 25<br>Lunch<br><b>MAHJONG</b><br><i>Beach Up</i><br><b>SHIPMATES LUNCH &amp; FASHION SHOW</b>   | 26<br>Lunch<br><i>Happy Hour Dinner</i>  | 27<br><i>Spoil Island Clean Up</i>           |
| 28<br>Pickleball 9:30 Brunch | 29<br>Club Closed | 30<br><i>VBYC Bucks Drawing Dinner</i> | 31<br>Lunch<br><i>Music on the Patio Dinner</i>  | <b>APRIL HIGHLIGHTS</b><br>Easter ~ Sunday, April 4, 2021 ~ Serving Breakfast, Lunch, and Special Dinner Menu<br>Concert in the Parking Lot ~ Thursday, April 8, 2021 Joe Marino and All the King's Men<br>Wine Dinner – Thursday, April 22 |  |  |