

VERO YACHT CLUB PROMOTES BETTER BOAT FACILITIES

Press Journal ~ February 16, 1940

The fact that Vero Beach has a yacht club is not widely known. The reason is obvious. There are no yacht club facilities and only the most meager facilities for accommodation of boats of any kind.

But Vero Beach does have a yacht club!

Eventually the Vero Beach Yacht Club will provide certain privileges to its members, but for the time being, this organization has but one purpose and that is to assist in putting this city "on the map" of the boating world.

OUR 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thursday, January 14, 2016 ~ 6 pm
Grand Opening: 90 Years of Archives
Night at the VBYC Museum
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony ~ 6:30 pm
Gourmet Tasting Stations w/Free Libation \$19.26
Friday, January 14, 2016 ~ Lunch (Regular Menu)
~ Museum ~

Charleston Dancing Lessons (\$10) 1 pm

Friday, January 15, 2016 Thanks for the Memories Happy Hour & Open Mike: Please Share Your Memories

Saturday, January 16, 2016 ~ 6 pm Nifty Ninety Roaring 1920's Party with the Z Street Band Special Menu ~ Champaign ~ Birthday Cake ~ \$XX.XX

Sunday, January 17, 2016 ~ 10 to 1:30 pm Closing Ceremonies & Special Brunch \$XXXX Blessing of the Club ~ Commodore Glenn Rose

Thanks to Cheryl Casano & her crew for decorating the Club.

THANKS TO THE MEMORY KEEPERS! HISTORICAL ARCHIVE ROOM

Walter McCahan for writing his book, A Definitive History of the VBYC, and sharing background data.

P/C Bill Walker for sharing tons of articles & photos.

Past Commodores & Longtime Memberswho wrote letters and shared articles & photos.

P/C Chuck Ranson & P/C Jim Stanley f or their help with Club protocol.

And a special thanks to Pat Byers, our bartender, for keeping & sharing copies of The Siren from late 1989 to the present! They were indeed a treasure.

Thanks to the Shipmates' for their generous cash donation to the project.

Your 90th Anniversary Team:

Peter & Michele Hollingworth, Jayne Hustead, Kitty Kennedy, Jim & Mary Ann Miskel, Rey & Mary Neville, Kathy Peterson, Richard & Annie Rogers, and of course Shawn Witmer.

Special Issue Editor: Annie Rogers

In his book, A Definitive History of The Vero Beach Yacht Club, Walter McCahan shared that the idea for a Yacht Club in Vero Beach was first conceived in 1921 by several local boat owners. This group, however, did not proceed with the idea. On January 15, 1926, a charter was granted to the Club. The founders kept the vision going until 1938, when a group of outstanding businessmen formed and funded the Club.

In researching for our 90th Anniversary Historical Archive, an article from the

Historic Properties Survey of the City of Vero Beach ~ compiled in 1990 ~ stated the following: Launched by a nationwide thirst for cheap Florida land, the so-called Great Florida Land Boom of the 1920's brought millions of speculators and settlers to the state and sparked an unprecedented period of development. This land boom was the most significant period of historical development in Vero Beach. The speculative bubble, which some predicted would continue indefinitely, burst near the end of 1926, throwing the Florida economy into a depression three years in advance of the rest of the nation. It was not until after WWII that Vero Beach recovered from the effects of the Depression.

Thus perhaps the Club's original founding fathers in 1926, were forced to regroup.

In 1938 a group of local, forward looking business leaders did continue. If one person could be called the Founder of the Club it would be the first Commodore, Prescott LeB. Gardner. As Commodore, he and R/C Waldo Sexton, spent voluminous time building on and operating the Club. R/C Sexton donated the property now owned by the Club and Commodore Gardner gifted the Club \$1,500. The other officers were V/C Paul Goodridge & Fleet Captain/Secretary E. G. Thatcher. As Walter McCahan states in his book, It was clear that these men meant business and that they planned to expand the membership of the Club and to build a Clubhouse. While the Club has no privileges to accord its members . . . funds from initiation fees and dues will be used for the construction of the Clubhouse & other facilities so those accepting membership will be rendering a community service and aiding in the development of a civic asset that which will not only give distinction to the city but will be of great economic importance.



Without dreams of the future we bog down. With dreams of the future, and a desire, we can accomplish any undertaking.

Commodore Don Watters May 1968 Bells & Buoys

Photos of VBYC

1936

1950

2015







Our Club is often referred to as the friendliest little Club on the east coast of Florida. This did not just happen. Rather it was the willingness & joint effort of the flag officers, directors, staff and members alike who brought this about.

Commodore Ed Llerena



NINETY NIFTY YEARS OF TIDBITS

Did you know it was in September 1987 when collars on shirts were required for casual dress occasions?

Did you know the Siren was originally laid out & pasted up on the pool table & you best have your article in by noon on the 12th of the month?

Did you know that non-smokers had to call in early to reserve a seat in the non-smoking section?

Did you know in 1968 Commodore Watters stated that the Club has had its ups and downs, but the ups have been higher than the downs, and without these the Club wouldn't grow?

Did you know what awaited Howard & Phyllis Brewer when he became Commodore in 2004? Little did anyone know the impact two ladies would have on the Club, causing the October & November calendars to be blank!

Did you know a suggestion was made at the 1974 Annual Meeting that the Club be changed to a Social Club instead of a Yacht Club? This suggestion was rejected because the Constitution and the By-Laws state that the property is to be used to encourage and extend the use and navigation of water craft upon the waters of the Indian River near Vero Beach, Florida, the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent waters, to encourage the improvement of waterways, and to promote water safety and conduct such water sports and contests as may appear to be to the best interests of the Club.

Did you know one Commodore decided to donate money to the Club rather than have The Commodore's Ball?

The Club was in process of the Burgee Room Expansion.

Did you know in August 1975 the Club had a boat outing to see the Apollo launching?

Did you know in August 1975 the telephone problem was corrected? Money had been received for toll calls made illegitimately by outsiders and a lock put on the phone in the kitchen.

Did you know between April & November 1974 decorating & party planning was handled by an informal group of women who called themselves the swingers? This name was dropped because the members begin asking if we really were swinging.

Did you know in 1981 a member loaned the Club \$130,000 at 6% interest and her only request was that her name never be mentioned in connection with this mortgage?

Did you know that one day in May 1968 someone asked Barbara Mills, "Where is Wes?" She said, "He's playing with Nancy Snyder." (Pool, of course!)

Did you know we have been bringing happiness to children at our hospital for many years, thanks to the Shipmates for initiating our teddy bear program?

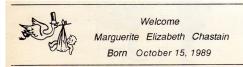
Did you know that in a May 1976 survey, members stated they wanted shoes required in the Club at all times, including on the dance floor?

Do you know that Boat Island, where many members in the past partied, still exists and has the original sign on it? If so, pay a visit and listen for the happy sounds of years' past!

Did you know that a BOD meeting in August 1983 a motion was made that all employees are to address all members by the title of Mr., Mrs., or Ms. ~ whichever is appropriate, and this is a firm & fast rule? *Motion defeated 4 to 2*.



Did you know that in May 1987 the cause of poor bar attendance between 4 and 6 pm was investigated and found to be due to the vulgarity and loudness of xxxx who is present almost every day?



Did you know this welcome announcement was often published in earlier newsletters and not for grandchildren?

Did you know at sometime in the past one member wanted to bring his parrot when dining?

Did you know the staff remembers the Club's "lovebirds"? Every Tues-

day, Thursday and Saturday night they sat in the same corner of the dining room. One's vision was impaired and the other's hearing, but they sat in their chairs enjoying the ambiance holding hands.

Did you know Jack Grossett followed Sumner Lapp as Commodore and after the Changing of Command, Sumner wanted to buy a drink for Jack? Pat, our bartender, happily served Jack, but quipped to Sumner that she didn't have time for a past commodore.

Please take time to Browse The Historical Archive Room for many more tidbits!

A special thanks to Pat for sharing the Sirens she has kept since she began working at the Club in 1989.

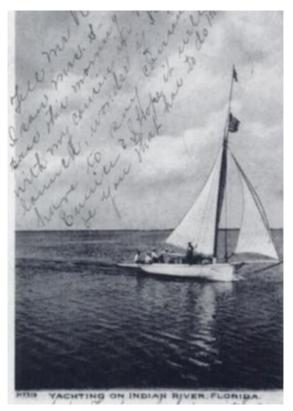
A TRIBUTE TO LIVING PAST COMMODORES ***

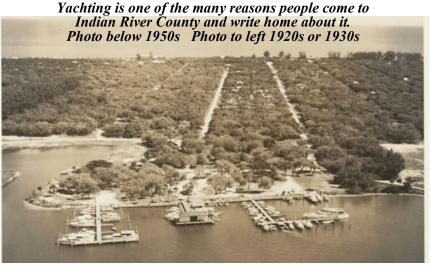


Front Row: P/C Howard Brewer, P/C Tom Ellis, P/C John Barringer, P/C Tom Lockwood, P/C Zoe Lee Marks, P/C Bill Thompson, P/C Bruce Anderson (Manalapan YC)

Back Row: P/C Paul Ives (Lewes YC), P/C Chuck Ranson, P/C Ed Davis, P/C Dennis Joslin, P/C Doug Case, P/C Jim Stanley, P/C Harold Leh, P/C Frank Bilotta, P/C Mike Wisniewski, P/C Tom Sullivan (North Palm Beach YC)

Not Pictured: P/C Larry Bottiger, P/C Ruth Ritter, and P/C William Walker





I have been involved in yachting along the coastal waters of Southern California for the past twenty five years, and I cannot recall visiting another yacht club that so favorably impressed me as the facility and membership of the Vero Beach Yacht Club.

Commodore's Log October 1992 Excerpt from a letter by John C. Otto, Attorney, LA, California