

G.Y.A.

GULF YACHTING ASSOCIATION

“Supporting Yachting in the Southeast since 1901”

February 2017



Your 2017 G.Y.A. Executive Committee

Commodore - Michael Hage (GYC)

Vice Commodore - Chris Luppens (MYC)

Rear Commodore - Shan Kirk (SYC/PontYC)

Secretary/Treasurer - Jennifer Schmidt (SYC/MYC)

Past Commodore - Catherine Cromartie (FYC)

<http://www.gya.org>

A Note from the Commodore



For those of you I haven't met yet, my name is Michael Hage and I'm truly honored to be your GYA Commodore this year. I'm from Gulfport Yacht Club where I grew up sailing and learning to race and fell in love with this great sport. Over the many years since I started, I have competed in many Capdevielle regattas as well as several big boat one design circuits. In addition to racing, I also enjoy the race management side of the sport. Putting on quality races for sailors is paramount when running regattas and we in the GYA shouldn't settle for anything less.

First of all, I would like to thank my predecessor, Past Commodore Cathy Cromartie for all she has done for the GYA and continues to do. It was great to work with her and learn the inner workings of the GYA and I look forward to this year and her continued support especially with the Viper class. Also, I must thank Janace Batty, who served us as Secretary / Treasurer for the last five years. She was great to work with and really has a love for the GYA. Jennifer Schmidt from Mobile Yacht Club, is our new Secretary / Treasurer and has been working with Janace over the last year in preparation for the this transition. I know she will do a fine job and I look forward to working with her as well.

For those of you who weren't able to attend the GYA Winter Meeting in Pensacola in January, it was very well attended despite the arctic blast that blew through that weekend leaving us with below freezing temperatures. The Excom met on Friday night and in addition to other business, made some adjustments to the GYA savings account that will allow us to invest our money more wisely and begin saving for a self-insured trophy fund.

All the committees were represented and their meetings were very well attended. I want to thank all of the existing committee chairs who continue to do a great job and I look forward to working with

new committee chairs and welcome them aboard. Elizabeth McGriff from Fairhope Yacht Club is the new Youth Committee Chair. She is very involved with the youth sailors and has some great ideas to keep our young sailors involved and move up to the next level. Richard "Boo" Heausler, Bay-Waveland Yacht Club, is the new GYA Racing Regulations chairman. He will be working with Larry Taggart, who is the long time past chairman of this committee, to insure that our transition over to the new Viper 640 will be a smooth one.

The GYA Awards Banquet was held Saturday night at this meeting and it was a packed house. Congratulations to our sailors who were recognized for their accomplishments throughout the year. Keep up the great sailing! Also, congratulations go out to Cheri Dillard, our GYA Directory Chair, for winning the Jack & Flo Scheib Service Award.

I would like to thank the clubs that have purchased Vipers thus far and would encourage you to continue to race them and include your junior and women sailors when doing so. I also urge the other clubs who don't have one yet, to continue your fundraising efforts to get one, so your club can be ready to compete on this new platform. It is a great boat and exciting to sail. I hope to see more and more of them on the race course as the year goes on.

One of the perks of being GYA Commodore is that I get to host the GYA Opening Regatta at my club. Gulfport Yacht Club is honored to do so and looking forward to putting on a great regatta in May. I would like to personally invite everyone to attend as it promises to be a great time for all.

Please note that I, along with the rest of the Excom, are here to serve you, so if there is anything we can help you with, please let us know. Please continue to check www.gya.org for the most up to date information along with our GYA Facebook page.

Fair winds and following seas,

Commodore Michael G. Hage
commodore@gya.org



Thank you Cathy!

Commodore Cromartie was presented with a framed GYA burgee to commemorate her tenure as the 2016 GYA Commodore. Presenting the burgee is 2017 GYA Commodore, Michael Hage (left) and outgoing GYA Secretary/Treasurer Janace Batty (right).

Youth Committee

Elizabeth McGriff has taken the role of Chairmain for the Youth Committee. One of her goals is to revitalize the Junior Bridge in the GYA to encourage better communication between young sailors and the GYA leadership. Junior applications for officers are due by February 15th to Elizabeth. Junior bridge will be in place by March 1, 2017.

As a trial this year, there will be team scoring for youth sailors at GYA Opening. Each team will receive a combined score from Laser Radials, 420s (trap and spin), and Flying Scots. Look for more information soon as the GYA Opening Regatta gets closer.

For questions or to send your application, please email youth@gya.org

Youth America's Cup News:

GYA sailor Matthew Whitehead (along with team mate Taylor Reiss, a four time winner of the F-18 World Youth Championship) has been selected to sail with the US Team at the 2017 RedBull Youth America's Cup in Bermuda.

One-Design Council

Welcome to one-design sailing in 2017! This year we would like to welcome some new members to our council. Clinton Edwards (BWYC) will be stepping up to the Vice Chairmain position. Paul Rees (PontYC) will be filling in the Secretary position. Michael McKnight (PontYC) rounds out the council as a member-at-large.

Once again we are looking for all skippers and boat owners to participate in our One-design Survey. This survey serves as a tool for us to better understand what boats are racing and where the fleets are concentrated. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and be sure to pass this link on to your club:

Survey Link - <https://goo.gl/AHRFQK>

The One-Design Council wants to try something new this year. We are planing on a "Demo Day" at the GYA Opening Regatta in Gulfport May 6th and 7th. We are inviting sales reps and manufacturers from all types of one-design boats to bring boats to look at and test on the water. We want to bring new and existing classes to give GYA sailors some in-person experience with these boats they may not otherwise get. More details will follow.

Kevin Blank - Chairman

Circuits

Optimist Circuit

Alfonso Sutter - April 29th-30th
GYA Opening - May 6th-7th
Juby Wynne - May 27th-28th
Junior Olympics - July 1st-2nd
Galloway - August 19th-20th
Wadewitz - Sept. 30th-1st
Opti Mid-Winters - Nov. 24th-25th

Laser / Laser Radial Circuit

Dogwood - March 25th-26th
Alfonso Sutter - April 29th-30th
GYA Opening - May 6th-7th
Junior Olympics - July 1st-2nd
Area D - June 9th-11th
Galloway - August 19th-20th

420 Circuit

Alfonso Sutter - April 29th-30th
Juby Wynne - May 27th-28th
420 Championships - June 24th-25th
Junior Olympics - July 1st-2nd
Area D - June 9th-11th
Wadewitz - Sept. 30th-1st



If you would like to see the circuit for your class on the GYA website, please have your class representative send the circuit information to:
one.design@gya.org

Offshore Council

Sanctioned Event Reports:

- GORC was hosted by GYC and PCYC. Best turn out in years with 19 boats. 10 PHRF and 9 Viper and VX's. Glen Tonguis took boat of the regatta with his Melges 24, Kryptonite. Be on the lookout for the 2017 Notice of Race.

- Southern Yacht Club added another year to their streak by winning all four classes of Challenge Cup this year. Solid turnout, 29 boats this year. We are all excited to see what PYC has in store for us next year.

- Beautiful skies and a steady West wind lead to a down-wind ride for the competitors in the Gulfport to Pensacola Regatta. Once the boats were able to get out of the light winds of the sound it lead to a smooth ride to finish. John Dane III and the crew of War Canoe were first to finish but Eric Aschaffenburg on Great Escape corrected overall for first in fleet.

- Ladies PHRF Championship was hosted by Pensacola Beach YC in conjunction with Race for the Roses. After three races in the bay, the ladies from Atlantic Union took the title for 2016.

- WFORC was a successful weekend. Josh Dupree on Hippy Chick took overall. Great reviews of the addition of the distance race. Would expect for the numbers to grow in the next few years.

- The regulations for the GYC PHRF Circuit are almost complete. It will include regattas along the coast to determine the GYA PHRF Boat of the Year. There was a motion made and approved to allow the Offshore

Council Executive Committee to spend up to \$1,000 for the perpetual trophy, base, travel case, and a keeper trophy.

Executive Session Report:

- Selected Gulfport Yacht Club as the host for the 2018 GYA Challenge Cup.

- Selected Gulfport Yacht Club as the host for the 2018 GORC.

- Selected Navy Yacht Club as the host for the 2017 GYA Women's PHRF Championship.

- The 2017 Challenge Cup will have a steeplechase/ fixed mark race. It will be sailed after a windward leeward on Friday or Saturday.

- The Executive Committee of the Offshore Council is done updating their regulations and by-laws. Be on the look-out for them in the notice Annual Meeting at Opening Regatta.

Samson Vasquez - Chairman



Safety at Sea Seminar Enroll Now!

Get the boating safety experience you need, before you need it ... March 25th-26th, 2017
<https://www.satorifoundation.com/safety-at-sea-seminar>

Summer Sailing Instructor Courses

Can I interest you in hosting a course for summer sailing instructors? We only have two so far across the GYA and we usually need 4. It's a 4 day course held by U.S. Sailing. The requirements to host are: a class room, a coach boat, and enough small boats to seat 12. I.E. 6 420's, etc. a mix of boats is ok. Just send me a point of contact and U.S. Sailing will do all the rest. You pick the schedule dates that will work for your club. Applicants minimum age is turning 16 this year, and be reasonably proficient sailors. Housing is not required but is nice
Thanks

George Goodall
U.S. Sailing/GYA Regional Training
Coordinator

Capdevielle Committee

Until there is a ruling on one of the appeals with US Sailing, the 2016 Overall Capdevielle Winner cannot be awarded. More information will be presented once a decision has been made.

Biloxi YC won the Mississippi Challenger Division. No club in Alabama or Louisiana met all of the requirements for Challenger Division, and the Florida winner will be determined once a ruling is handed down on the aforementioned appeal. Modifications to the Regulations for the Challenger Division are being considered.

At the Viper 640 Annual General Meeting the GYA sail numbering was approved, which allows for GYA sailing numbering to be recognized at sanctioned Viper events. Other Viper 640 class rule changes were discussed. The complete updated Viper 640 Class Rules can be found at:

<http://www.viper640.org/technical/rules/>

Buccaneer YC was the winner of the 2016 Sportboat Championship, with Gulfport YC 2nd and St. Andrews Bay YC 3rd.

Eight regattas in 2017 will be included in the Sportboat Championship: Mardi Gras, Opening, Candler, Meigs, Summer, Weatherly, Wadewitz and Sugar Bowl.

See the GYA Sailing Schedule for full details and dates.



New Racing Rules for 2017

Be sure to get your copy at:
<http://www.ussailing.org/race-officials/rules/rulebook/>

Safety at Sea Videos

The GYA ExCom and the Safety Advisory Committee encourages all GYA Clubs, Jr. Programs and individuals to purchase a subscription to the Storm Trysail Foundation Safety At Sea videos. The SaS videos, narrated by Storm Trysail Club member Gary Jobson, vary in length from 3 minutes to 27 minutes and cover subjects from Man Overboard Recovery, safety equipment, understanding weather and more. For a one-time fee of \$40 you receive lifetime access to the full library to view over and over.

The GYA will be reimbursing clubs the one-time fee when the club purchases these safety videos. Please save your receipt and send it to Sectreasurer@gya.org for your club's reimbursement.

The first ten videos cover:

- Practical Man Overboard Recovery (24 mins.)
- Understanding Weather (23 mins.)
- Understanding Offshore Weather (24 mins.)
- Flares and Pyrotechnic Devices (6 mins.)
- Storm Sails (12 mins.)
- Shipboard Firefighting Strategies (4 mins.)
- Fighting Shipboard Fires (7 mins.)
- Personal Safety Equipment (27 mins.)
- Cold water survival & Life Rafts (3 min.)
- Deploying a Life Raft (6 mins.)

The videos can be found at: <https://stormtrysailfoundation.org/21-safety/114-safety-at-sea-videos>



Alan McMillian welcomed the GYA Club Commodores for 2017 and provided them an introduction to Robert's Rules of Order at the GYA Winter Meeting.

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