Left to Right: Past Commodore, George F. Goodall (FWYC), Vice Commodore, Michael G. Hage (GYC), Commodore Catherine Cromartie (FYC), Secretary/Treasurer Janace Batty (BucYC/MYC), Rear Commodore Chris Luppens (MYC)
Greetings to all. I am Cathy Cromartie and I hail from Fairhope Yacht Club where I’ve been a member since 1996 and have been involved with the GYA for almost as long. Over the years I’ve enjoyed Capdevielle racing, Challenge Cup and a little offshore racing. These days I am more inclined to enjoy coastal cruising with my husband on our C&C 30.

We had a great Winter Meeting where so much was accomplished in the various committee and council meetings, and in the Board of Directors meeting. Among other things, we welcomed new member Lakewood Yacht Club to the GYA, approved the 2016 sailing schedule and reviewed and approved recommendations for safety on the water. The most significant accomplishment, however, was the unanimous approval of changes to our Regulations for Sanctioned Events to confirm the Viper 640 as the Capdevielle boat beginning in 2018. As of the third week of January quite a few GYA clubs and individuals have purchased a pre-owned Viper or put in an order for a new one. I certainly hope this means we will have a significant number of Vipers on the start line at the Opening Regatta, May 21-22 in Fairhope.

The ExCom has meetings scheduled for the weekends of Opening Regatta, Jr. Lipton and Lipton. We will schedule other meetings if the need arises, and we are constantly in contact via phone and e-mail. Your ExCom is here to serve you, the members of the GYA, so please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

The GYA is fortunate to have so many dedicated members, all with a goal of promoting the sport of sailing. There are always hurdles to jump and a few bumps in the road, but the resolution of any hurdles and bumps can only make our organization stronger.

It’s going to be a great year in the GYA. I look forward to serving as your Commodore, and I thank you for the privilege.

Sail Fast. Sail Fair.

Commodore Cathy Cromartie
commodore@gya.org

In an effort to better understand current participation levels of one-design sailors in the GYA and to help promote one-design events to those who would be interested, the One-Design Council has created this survey to be filled out by any of your members who own a one-design boat or participate in one of our many one-design regattas throughout the year.

The information collected from this survey will only be used to better understand one-design interests and promote GYA one-design events specific to the type of boat the sailors indicate on their response.

Link to on-line survey:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13hO4tedHkw1c4eMkpB7aHDqvBSdlq7HkyNOFdepKMSs/viewform
I can be in Sarasota to start my planning trip in the gulf, early on Wednesday, November 18th. I will then work my way west and will plan on being at Southern YC on Saturday then to Houston on Sunday. Here is what I am hoping for if you can email your membership.

“The yacht America will be coming to the gulf states in 2016 as she continues the first ever America’s Cup Tour which visited 34 yacht clubs on the west coast last summer. America wants to visit as many GYA member clubs as possible. Troy Sears, owner and captain of America, will be conducting an advanced planning, scheduling and logistics trip at each club interested in hosting the yacht America starting in Sarasota on the morning of Wednesday, November 18th. Troy will then drive westward and hopes to visit each club on his way to Houston where he expects to be on Sunday, November 22nd.

To schedule with Troy contact him at:
official.tour@americauscup.com
or 858-922-6007

Some Basic Information:
• No financial cost to host yacht clubs
• Shore side Public Tours with 100% of proceeds donated to the host clubs junior sailing program
• Junior Sailor Presentation and Tour at no cost
• America’s Cup presentation and conversation which can be combined with a dinner at the host club’s option
• And, of course, a sailing aboard America for those who want enjoy a great on-the-water experience. Those who wish to go sailing pay $75 per adult/$45 per child.
• America is 138’ LOA, 25’ beam, 105’ mast height and 10.5’ draft. If direct access to your club is not possible, then Troy’s is ok with your suggested location for your area.
We had well over 100 people attend our winter meeting, held at Fairhope Yacht Club on Saturday, January 9, 2016. There were twenty-three GYA member yacht clubs registered, with a total of approximately 7,900 members among those clubs. I thought it was most interesting to have this information and how very strong the GYA is in the sailing community.

GYA Club Commodores of Fort Walton, Grand Maumelle, Long Beach, Pelican, Point

We need to add these new flags to replace your burgees on our flags represented at all of our three Board meetings. Your burgees that we presently have are in very poor condition. Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you all this year and seeing everyone at Fairhope Yacht Club again, May 21 & 22, 2016.

Sincerely,

Janace Batty
GYA Secretary-Treasurer
sectreasurer@gya.org
The GYA Foundation Board held its annual meeting on Saturday, January 9th, 2016. All members of the Board were present and welcomed the newest member, Bernard Moseby, past Commodore of the Mobile Yacht Club and new Alabama representative.

The minutes of the last annual meeting held on January 10th, 2015 were approved. Additional minutes involving online actions and votes during 2015 were also approved.

Foundation treasurer Michael Bauer presented the Financial Report. The balance as of December 31st, 2015 was $168,996.71. Copies of all financial documents will be appended to this report and will be sent to the GYA Secretary for archival purposes.

Under old business, a motion was passed to approve up to $1500 to commission a suitable GYA Judge Emeritus Award. This will come from money donated to honor the memory of Captain Pete Morrill.

The Foundation re-emphasized its commitment to assist member clubs in their efforts to acquire the new Capdevielle boat, the Viper 640. The Foundation is accepting tax-deductible donations from individuals, clubs and businesses to further this end.

Under new business, five requests for financial grants to assist sailors were considered. A total of $ 2781 was granted.

A discussion was held regarding additional possibilities to raise money to increase the Foundation’s endowment.

Bernard Moseby was elected vice-president of the Foundation Board.

The GYA Foundation silent auction raised $ 2100 to increase our endowment. Thanks to all those clubs who provided auction items and to those who participated.

Mardi Gras Race Week 2016, sponsored by Gulf Coast Bank, is partnering with Sails for Sustenance for a third consecutive year. Guy Williams, president of Gulf Coast Bank, pointed out that the MGRW 2015 donations exceeded 120 sails and other useful items; a total of five pallets were shipped to needy fishermen in Haiti.

MGRW 2016 one design weekend will take place February 12th, 13th, & 14th and the PHRF racing will take place the following weekend, February 20th & 21st. Boats that register for the one design races can participate in the PHRF races the following weekend free of charge.

Bring your old sails to donate for a tax deduction, enjoy the sailing on Lake Pontchartrain, and have fun at all the regatta festivities. Check out details and register at www.NOYC.org or for ANY questions regarding MGRW 2016 or Sails for Sustenance call Jay Smith at 504-512-3481 or David Wohlgemuth at 504-283-2581.

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During the GYA Board of Directors meeting earlier this month, the Viper 640 Class Association was asked to canvas sailors regarding the total crew weight they race with. To meet this objective, the Class sent an online survey to the 50+ boats that participated in the 2015 North American Championship regatta held at Larchmont Yacht Club from October 15-18, 2015. A total of 39 competitors responded to the questionnaire providing final standing, total crew weight, and crew headcount.

It should be noted that the conditions for the event ranged from 12-15 knot range the first day to winds in the higher teens with gusts in the low 20 knot range for the remaining days. Because the winds were from the north throughout the regatta, the sea state was relatively flat throughout (1-2 foot seas). That being said, for the most part, the personnel making up these crews are the same people most of the Viper owners sail with on a regular basis, so this data is applicable for most events.

The highlights are as follows:

Crew weight

- **There is a wide range of crew weights that is competitive in the Viper 640.**
- The average of all crew weights at the 2015 North Americans: 550 lbs.
- Crew weights ranged from a low of **490 (#10) to a high of 650 lbs.** (a new Viper sailor finishing 48th)
- The winning crew weighed-in at 610 lbs.
  - Of the nine respondents within the Top-10 finishers, the average crew weight was 568 lbs. Of note, only two of those crews weighed below 550. Range: **490-610 lbs.**
  - Of the 18 respondents within the Top-20 finishers, the average crew weight was 550 lbs. Range: **490-610 lbs.**
- These weights are largely in keeping with the same survey conducted after the 2014 NAs in Long Beach, where there were also strong breezes and 2-3 foot seas. In that study of the Top 15 finishers, crew weights ranged from 510 to 590 lbs.

Crew size

- 33 of 39 boats sailed with crews comprised of three sailors
- Of the six 4-person crews, most were two men and two women, one was three women and a man
- There is no statistic that indicates one crew size is better than another as the third placed boat was sailed by two men and two women.

The following is the detailed data on a boat-by-boat basis: (see page 7)
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<th>Final Position</th>
<th>Total crew weight</th>
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<tr>
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</table>

# Respondents 39

Average crew weight 555 Min. 490, Max. 630

Finishers within the top 10 568 Min. 490, Max. 610

Finishers within the top 20 550 Min. 490, Max. 610

# Crews sailing with four people 6

If anyone has question on this data, please contact:

Viper 640 Class Administrator
Ed “Buttons” Padin
epadin@padesta.com
Regata al Sol XXIX

Regata al Sol XXIX Starts May 11-12

Join the fun as we set sail in the 29th Regata al Sol from Pensacola FL to Isla Mujeres MX. Co-sponsored by Southern Yacht Club, Pensacola Yacht Club and Club de Yates Isla Mujeres this 555nm race is a test of man, woman and yacht. Once there the parties are legendary. For more info go to www.regataalsol.org.

North U Youth Match Racing Clinic

As part of a world wide promotion of match racing, North U is organizing a series of Clinics and Clinegattas (a clinic followed by a regatta with coaching) which are intended to introduce racing sailors to the thrills, skills and techniques of match racing.

Clinic Curriculum

The Match Racing Clinic Curriculum was created by Dave Perry and Liz Baylis with assistance from North U. Two formats are available: A full 3 day format, or a 2 plus format (one evening followed by 2 full days).

You’ll learn about dial ups, circling, lead / push, the hook, the shift right and many other match racing tactics during shoreside sessions, and then head out on the water to do them. On the water sessions include a series of drills, exercises, practice starts and races designed to emphasize the development of match racing know how.

North U Youth Match Racing Clinic (geared to high school and college sailors) will be held on April 8th - 10th at Southern Yacht Club. The clinic cost is $50 a person and includes Dave Perry coaching, video debriefs, use of boats (flying scot), dinner and all course materials. Coaches can attend for free. For more information contact Holly Murray: holly@southernyachtclub.org

Have an up coming Regatta & would like to have the NOR posted on the GYA website?
Submit your NOR to notices@gya.org

We will gladly post Regatta results, daily and final. Where do you submit?
results@gya.org The results will automatically be forwarded to the GYA Secretary, Webmaster and Capdevielle Scorer
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