



**Gulf Yachting Association Winter Meeting
Sunday, January 10, 2021
Pensacola Yacht Club**

Call to Order – 10:30 hours by Commodore Jimmy Ruthven

Executive Committee & Other members present: Commodore Jimmy Ruthven, Vice Commodore Gary Rogers, Rear Commodore Robbie Schmidt, Immediate-Past Commodore Shan Kirk, Secretary-Treasurer, Jennifer Schmidt and acting Parliamentarian Past Commodore John Matthews.

Roll Call – 22 Clubs were present: BWYC, BYC, BucYC, FYC, FWYC, GLYC, GMSC, GYC, JYC, LFYC, LBYC, MYC, NYCP, NOYC, PCYC, PYC, PBYC, PtYC, PontYC, SYC, SABYC, TYC - a quorum was met.

Vice Commodore Gary Rogers led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commodore John Matthews led us in a prayer and recognized the recently deceased commodores and/or sailing friends with a moment of silence: Walter T. “Buzzy” Bolton (BYC), Hank Rogers (BYC), Billy Daughdrill (PYC), Lloyd Stagg (PYC/NYCP) and Peg Minnich (PYC).

Introduction of all the Ex-Com members & other members as listed above.

Conduct of the Meeting – Acting Parliamentarian Commodore John Matthews- We honor Robert’s Rules of order. Anyone may make a motion, take part in discussion once recognized. Seated club commodores or their representatives are the only voting members of the GYA Board. Reports are limited to five minutes, comments to three minutes. No one may speak until recognized by the chair. He reminded those that once you speak on a subject, you will be allowed to speak once more after everyone has spoken on the subject, please keep all comments directly to the chair.

GYA Past Commodores Recognized- John H. Matthews (PYC/NYC-P), Danny Killeen Jr. (PCYC), Ewell C. “Corky” Potts (SYC), Catherine “Cathy” Cromartie (FYC), Michael G. Hage (GYC) and immediate past Commodore Shan Kirk (SYC).

Welcome: Commodore Jimmy Ruthven introduced Pensacola YC Commodore Tom Pace. Commodore Pace welcomed everyone to Pensacola YC, he thanked the GYA for hosting the event at Pensacola YC this year. He recognized his bridge of officers that worked to organizing the meeting.

Minutes – John Matthews (PYC/NYCP) made a motion, seconded by Cathy Cromartie (FYC) to waive the reading of the minutes from September 5, 2020 Semi-Annual meeting and to accept as published, unanimously approved.

Financial Report- Secretary-Treasurer- Jennifer Schmidt Reported as of December 31, 2020 GYA account balances are: Invest I (Trophy) \$24,795.30, Invest II (GYA) account \$27,079.54, checking account \$15,239.13, Total of all accounts \$67,113.97. There will be \$2,500.00 contributed to the GYA Trophy self-insurance account for 2022.

Executive Committee – Commodore Ruthven reported the approval of a Viper charter for Houston Yacht Club for 2021 Capdevielle scoring year and approved to spend up to \$1,000.00 to host Tucker Thompson at the 2021 Winter Meeting dinner banquet. The Executive Committee has been working with Race Management and Capdevielle Committees over the last few months in regard to the tabled motion to review the removal of the 2019 Race of Champions from the Capdevielle series. The executive committee is pleased to report that we fully agree to support the recommendation that

the Race Management & Capdevielle committee will jointly propose today to resolve this issue and agree no further action should be required. Opening regatta/GYA Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 30- May 22, 2021 at St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Racing Regulations – Richard Heausler reported the Racing Regulations Committee would like to make the following recommendation to change the following regulations so that our GYA regulations fall in line with Viper Class rules. **Mike Hansen (BWYC) made a motion, seconded by Michael Hage (GYC) to approve all regulations changes as provided in the notice of meeting, unanimously approved.**

2.2 Capdevielle Interclub Events. Part 2 of these regulations and the International Viper 640 Class Association Rules, when not in conflict with the RRS or these regulations, shall govern. The following sections of the International Viper 640 Class Association Rules shall not apply for GYA Capdevielle events: 10.5, 10.6, 11.1, 11.3.

7.2 Series Winner Selection

(a) Scoring. The Cox-Sprague Scoring System, as described in Appendix B, shall be used to score the annual series. Each competing club's score shall be the highest score calculated from the club's 2/3rd (rounded to down to nearest whole number) best Capdevielle Series Regattas in the calendar year with a minimum of 5 events sailed.

8.0 CAPDEVIELLE INTERCLUB BOAT

8.1 The GYA chief measurer shall serve as the class liaison and authorized representative of the International Viper Class 640 Class Association and shall enforce all class and GYA rules.

18(a) A GYA-assigned sail number shall appear on each mainsail. Bow numbers shall be 3 digits and in accordance with class rules. The only exception shall be for boats and/or sails duly chartered from another GYA club. Sail number size, location and spacing shall be in accordance with US Sailing and the International Viper 640 Class Association specifications

Capdevielle Series Regattas. Interclub events established by the BOD and managed as specified in Regulation 11 – Host Club Requirements. Certain regattas have special regulations as defined below in addition to the regulations common to all series regattas. Series regattas may be added with the approval of or deleted by the action of the BOD only. Series regattas established by the BOD are:

Regatta Name	Abbreviated Name	Designation	Host Club
Mardi Gras		Non-Championship	New Orleans Yacht Club
GYA Opening	Opening	Non-Championship Regulation 23	GYA Commodore's Club
Spring		Non-Championship	Buccaneer Yacht Club
Candler		Non-Championship	Saint Andrews Bay Yacht Club
Meigs		Non-Championship	Fort Walton Yacht Club
Summer		Non-Championship	Mobile Yacht Club
Weatherly		Non-Championship	Gulfport Yacht Club
Junior Lipton Challenge	Junior Lipton	Championship Regulation 20	Determined by previous year results
Knost Ladies Championship	Knost	Championship Regulation 21	Pass Christian Yacht Club
Sir Thomas Lipton Cup Challenge	Lipton Cup	Championship Regulation 19	Determined by previous year results
Wadewitz		Non-Championship	Fairhope Yacht Club
Sugar Bowl Race of Champions	Sugar Bowl	Non-Championship Regulation 22	Southern Yacht Club

11.3 Regatta Probation. A host club whose Capdevielle status is on probation, in addition to meeting the requirements set forth in Regulation 11.2, shall also have a certified Race Officer as PRO for the Capdevielle course, have a certified Judge review and approve regatta documentation before it is posted, and shall have a Qualified Observer, appointed by the Race Management Committee, on the Capdevielle course.

Commodore Johns Matthews (PYC/NYCP) made a motion, seconded by John Farris (FWYC Proxy) to approve reg 5.2(b) regulation change as published below. 19 Yes, 3 No, motion approved. *(This motion required a ¾ majority, it was not included with the notice of meeting).*

Reg 5.2 (b) For the Opening, Lipton Cup, Junior Lipton Championship (Junior Lipton), Knost Ladies Championship (Knost), GYA Race of Champions, GYA Fish Class Championship, and GYA Offshore Challenge Cup, judges shall be appointed by the GYA Administrative Judge, be approved by the Executive Committee, and shall include a US Sailing certified judge as the Chief Judge. Judges at these events shall be on the water during the event.

Commodore Ruthven thanked Boo for his dedication to the racing regulations committee and wished him safe travels to the Saints game.

Capdevielle Committee – Paul Kleinschrodt reported the Committee met Saturday Jan 9, 2021. Present were BucYC, SYC, BWYC, JYC, FWYC, PYC, GLYC, NOYC, NavyYC, PBYC, LBYC, STABYC, GYC, PCYC, FYC. The committee reviewed the notable regulation changes over the last few years to re-educate everyone on the latest rule changes. He reminded all host clubs need to award a trophy to top Challenger Division finisher at every regatta. Quite a few forgot in 2019. Paul stated at the 2020 Winter meeting, the BOD approved to waive the suspension of NOYC Mardi Gras for one year, since 2020 Series was canceled, that waiver of the regatta will be this year 2021. The committee reviewed the notable rule changes to the Viper Class and how that effects the GYA. Most notable is the class requires hull numbers on the bow for all class events. The Committee discussed the BOD directive to take up the motion made and TABLED to not count the 2019 Sugar Bowl Race of Champions for the 2019 Capdevielle. Based on the bylaws for the Capdevielle Committee it is not our duty to collect and provide evidence or testimony from protests parties for litigation on whether a regatta should be scored or not. Therefore, it is our committee's recommendation to keep all the regattas scored in 2019. We referred this to Race Management to strengthen the regs to ensure the race managements issues encountered at the 2019 Sugar Bowl Race of Champions does not happen in the future. All 2021 Proposed ruled changes were reviewed and all are in favor of the proposed changes. The committee discussed and would like to recommend to the BOD to make a motion today to add Race of Champions to rule 5.2(b), which is the list of regattas that require judges. **Commodore Tom Pace (PYC) made a motion, seconded by Commodore Shan Kirk (SYC) to approve the Capdevielle committee report as presented, unanimously approved.**

Race Management – Randy Wainwright-Fitzpatrick thanked racing regulations committee and Capdevielle committee for all the work since semi-annual meeting with cleaning up regulations. She reminded everyone to keep in mind COVID and how we need to adjust hosting events in the future to help get everyone on the water and sailing. She reminded everyone if any club needs help with race management – judges, race committee, qualified observers, please reach out. The committee is working to publish an online list that may be reference in the future. She encouraged each club to promote members becoming qualified in race management and the importance of race officials within our sport. NOYC Mardi Gras regatta will be on probation for 2021 since 2020 Capdevielle year was not scored/held.

Schedule- Randy Wainwright-Fitzpatrick announced the 2021 schedule in on the website, we are still missing several clubs sailing schedules, but this committee will continue to work to finalize the entire scheduled. Randy pleaded for club contacts to forward the link to the correct person at each club if received in error. Please keep you clubs officer information update with the GYA.

Commodore Cathy Cromartie made a motion, seconded by Shan Kirk to approved the 2021 GYA Sailing schedule as published online, unanimously approved.

Centennial – PC Corky Potts state that the Lipton Centennial is scheduled for September 3-5, 2021. The event will be a free event for clubs. The committee is hosting a raffle to raise funds for the event, \$100 each. There are still a few books available for sale “Centennial Salute”, \$60 per book. A draft of the commemorative artwork was on display, this masterpiece will be auctioned off at the event. The Committee continues to meet and plan.

Chief Administrative Judge – James “Doc” Hunter reported that 2020 was a challenging year for maintaining a judging schedule for GYA sanctioned events (postponements). Only two events were sailed. The biggest challenge thus far is the limited roster of certified judges within the GYA. US Sailing has promised an on-line equivalent, to date this has not yet available. He announced that now is the time for you to engage your club members to become certified, we would love to see one certified judge per GYA club. Edith Collins is working to conduct an online judge’s seminar; information will be shared with all as received. Doc reported there were issues at the Junior Lipton with conflicts between GYA regulations and Viper Class rules, racing regulations has addressed this issue earlier in the meeting.

Membership Committee – PC Danny Killeen stated that Birmingham Sailing Club has withdrawn its status as a general member club. Dixie Inland is currently not operating, letters are being sent to those clubs to try to acquire as new club members.

GYA Foundation – PC Danny Killeen announced that the foundation stipend was not renewed for 2021 during the semi-annual meeting held at BWYC in September 2020. The foundation has a market value of \$186,000 for stocks, \$30,000 grants requests, paid out \$16,000, donated \$1,000 to SYC Centennial celebrations. The foundation accepted the donation of a Viper that will be chartered back to Gulfport YC over a 3-year period. PC Killeen ask for everyone’s support of the foundation, for example John Farris donates monthly via paypal to help sustain the organization. It’s easy to do, let us know if you are interested as well or you can go online to the GYA website.

Trophy Committee – PC John Matthews reported the committee met over the weekend, the meeting started with two, ended with five. The following have been added to serve on the committee: Patrick Burns (PCYC), Chris Dabney (FYC), Karl Kleinschrodt (BucYC) and Michael Hage (GYC). The committee is working to update a 2020 trophy location documents, due to lack of regattas in 2020 confirmation is required. Out of 44 events, only 2 were sailed for in 2020. The Trophy Committee is working on a trophy for the Finn Championship, it’s the only event the GYA does not have a perpetual trophy for.

Youth Committee– Sam Vasquez submitted a written report: As the standing Youth Chairman I am part of the GYA Safety Committee and have a few things to mention. Unfortunately, there was a fatal accident at Sarasota Youth Sailing involving an optimist sailor. A coach lost their footing and kicked the coach boat gear tossing him from the boat. The boat proceeded to hit a couple of optimists killing one upcoming sailor. See full story <https://sarasotayouthsailing.org>
We ask all Commodores & Program Directors to remind boat operators to wear the kill cords & PFD’s and also make sure all boats have some type of prop guard installed. It’s a good time to install safety measures during the slow months of the winter. Link to a prop guard we use at GYC: https://www.ebay.com/itm/Propeller-Safety-Guard-11-Outboard-25-35hp-Marine-Thruster-Protective-Cover-/274088138800?_trksid=p2349624.m46890.l49292

Covid 19: Please follow your local & state regulations regarding the Coronavirus. If hosting an event, we encourage hosting all Skipper’s Meetings and Awards Ceremonies online and not in person. Yacht Clubs & regattas are not immune to the virus and cases have spread through our clubs and our association.

US Sailing Championships – Sam Vasquez submitted a written report: Some of the US Sailing Championships dates have been posted. Just the Sears, Bemis, Smythe, and Match Racing are posted for the youth. Please keep checking for new dates on their website.
<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/championships>

Fairhope YC will be hosting the Area D Semi-Finals for the Bemis (420's) & Smythe (Laser Radial) on June 26-27. We are still waiting to hear about the Sears dates, either at St. Petersburg YC in the J/70's or at Fairhope in Vipers. I will let everyone know as soon as possible. The GYA will only be allowed to send teams to the Sears Semi-Finals. This might require a quarter final to be held on May 15-16. The Finals are in RS21's at Eastern Yacht Club in Massachusetts on August 10-13.

We are still looking at a few dates for the GYA's US Sailing Adult Championship Qualifier. Possibly at GYC, August 7-8 with the Gulf Coast Sportboat Championship. The Finals are at Texas Corinthian October 22-24.

US Sailing Area D – Sam Vasquez submitted a written report: I will serve another two years as the US Sailing Area D Coordinator. SAYRA did not nominate a replacement and elected to wait. I have been working along the four Regional Associations. (RA's) Representatives and the Junior Championship Representative to update the Area Agreement and increase the communication between the RA's themselves and also US Sailing.

The Area D Operational Fund at \$538.37. No money was taken in or given out in 2020. The total amount for 2021 Area Dues & Reimbursements will be known 30 days after the completion of the US Sailing Chubb Finals.

Offshore Council – Scott Sonnier submitted a written report. The Challenge Cup will be hosted at Gulfport Yacht Club on June 18-20, 2021, ORRez will be used for ALL classes. The class breaks will be determined by GYA-PHRF (average). The Pensacola Race is tentatively set for June 25, 2021. The following were nominated and elected by unanimous vote to serve on the offshore council: Bobby Tassin, Benz Faget, William Zehner, Chris Dabney, Paul Gillette, Michael Charbonnet & Scott Sonnier.

PHRF – PC Tom Beery submitted a written report: All current GYA PHRF certificates will expire 12/31/2021. The PHRF Committee is supporting all GYA PHRF certificates through 12/31/2021, including new applications, changes, modifications and appeals. We are doing this to support those clubs that want to continue scoring races under the PHRF rating system, or dual score PHRF and ORA-1 rating system during this transition period. There will be no fees charged in 2021 for PHRF applications, changes, modifications or appeals. 12/31/2021 the GYA PHRF rating system will end and the ORA-1 system will continue to be fully supported.

GYA PHRF will mail the completed ORA-1 certificates, with the 12/31/2023 expiration date, to all current GYA PHRF members, along with an invoice and self-addressed, stamped envelope. Note that the fee for the ORA-1 certificates (with 20% discount if paid within 30 days of invoice) is approximately \$1.50 per month (depending on release month) (\$0.75 per month for 2021 ORRez members). All members are encouraged to work with race organizers, clubs, and race committees to implement this new system so that the benefits of having ratings for W/L and RLC courses for light and medium wind conditions for Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker classes can provide more equitable racing for all (rather than our current single rating system for all conditions and courses and is also used for non-spinnaker classes).

By-Laws – Cathy Cromartie, No report.

Appeals Committee – Dwight Leblanc, No Report

Sail Measurement – Steve Nolte, No Report

One Design – Paul Reese, No Report

US Sailing Representative – Holly Murray, No Report

Safety Committee – Miller Guice, No Report

Unfinished Business and General Orders- None

New Business – PC Michael Hage presented the 2021 slate of officers as follows: Commodore Jimmy Ruthven (StABYC), Vice Commodore Gary Rogers (JYC), Rear Commodore Robbie Schmidt (SYC), Immediate Past Commodore Shan Kirk (SYC), and Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Schmidt (SYC). **Commodore Richard Provensal (SYC) made a motion, seconded by Commodore Ewell “Corky” Potts, to accept and approve the nominations as presented, , unanimously approved.**

Closing Remarks/Announcements – Commodore Ruthven (SABYC) thanked Commodore Tom Pace and Pensacola Yacht Club flag officers and staff for hosting 2021 winter meeting. A thank you was extended to Talbot Wilson for acquiring the dinner presentation sponsor Tom Patterson with Tocaro Blue Group. He acknowledged Commodore Cathy Cromartie (FYC) as the recipient for the Jack & Flo Scheib Service award. And he also thanked the Florida Commodores Association for hosting the bloody mary/mimosa bar. Please make note, the GYA Annual Meeting and Opening Regatta will be hosted at St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club April 30 – May 2, 2021. The GYA Semi-Annual meeting and Centennial Lipton Celebration will be held at Southern Yacht Club September 3-6, 2021 and GYA Winter meeting 2022 will be hosted at Gulfport Yacht Club January 14 – 16, 2022.

Past Commodore John Matthews made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Past Commodore Michael Hage.

Adjourned – 11:17 hours.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Schmidt

Approved: _____