



**Gulf Yachting Association  
Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, September 2, 2023  
Pass Christian Yacht Club**

**Call to Order** – 10:06 hours by Commodore Robbie Schmidt.

**Executive Committee & Other members present:** Commodore Robbie Schmidt (SYC), Vice Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC), Rear Commodore Alan McMillan (PYC), Immediate Past Commodore Gary Rogers (JYC), Secretary-Treasurer, Jennifer Schmidt (SYC) and Parliamentarian Cary Trapani (BWYC).

**Roll Call** – 17 Clubs were present: BWYC, BucYC, FYC, FWYC, GYC, JYC, LFYC, MYC, OSYC, NOYC, PCYC, PYC, PontYC, SRYC, SYC, StABYC, and TYC - a quorum was met.

GYA Past Commodore Shan Kirk led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer. The follow deceased commodores and sailing friends were recognized with a moment of silence: 1978 GYA Past Commodore Buddy Pollak Sr., (PYC), Billy Cruthirds (MYC), Dr. John Taylor (BucYC), Richard B. Durgin (JYC) and Mr. Jimmy Buffett, long time sailing friend of us all.

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

**Conduct of the Meeting** – Parliamentarian Cary Trapani (BWYC) stated that 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 5 minutes, comments to 3 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-** Harry G. "Harry" Chapman (BWYC), Thomas D. Beery (SRYC/PontYC), Basil Kennedy (BWYC), John B. Morrow (StABYC/GYC), Tom A. Batty (MYC), David Boylard (PontYC), Daniel B. Killeen Jr (PCYC), Ewell C. "Corky" Potts (SYC), Catherine Cromartie (FYC), Michael G. Hage, Sr. (GYC), Gary Rogers (JYC), and Shan Kirk (SYC).

**Welcome:** Commodore Frank Lopiccolo for Pass Christian Yacht Club extended a warm welcome. If you need assistance over the weekend, please let him know or seek out any member of the staff. He thanked everyone for their attendance and is looking forward to a great weekend of sailing and onshore activities.

**Minutes** – Catherine Cromartie (FYC) made a motion, seconded by Dillan Allen (JYC) to waive the reading of the minutes from May 20,2023 Annual meeting hosted at Southern Yacht Club and to accept as amended, unanimously approved.

**Financial Report- Secretary-Treasurer-** Jennifer Schmidt Reported Account Balances as of August 31, 2023:

\$25,233.65	Checking Account	\$30,620.75	Invest 1 (Trophy)
\$29,077.80	Invest 2 (GYA)	\$84,932.20	Total of all accounts.

**Executive Committee** – Commodore Schmidt reported that Jerry Thompson will be stepping into the role as Area D Regional Administrative Judge, he replaces Edith Collins. SARYA and FDA sailing associations met to appointment a new Regional Area D Coordinator, this will be voted on and presented by the end of October, the representative comes from FSA for the next 2 years. The

following have been selected by resume to represent the GYA at Mallory's – Chris Alexander (GYC), Jackson Benvenuti (SYC/BWYC) and Chandler Self (LWYC).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Racing Regulations** – Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC) reported that the committee is working to review the host regulations for the Jr. Lipton Challenge and a few other clerical clean up modifications, these changes will be presented at the Winter Meeting.

**Capdevielle Committee** – Paul Kleinschrodt (BucYC) reported that the committee met this morning, 10 clubs were represented. Participation is up this year, 14 clubs attending events compared to 13 last year. The proposed regulation changes regarding the Junior Lipton number of races, and host club rotation, and that discussion is currently ongoing. The committee discussed the Capdevielle schedule and ideas to make improvements to reduce travel/wear with mast up storage, that discussion is ongoing. Lastly, it was discussed planning an event with a professional coach and we are moving forward with that planning.

**Race Management** – Steve Nolte (GYC) reported the committee is working to revamp how the race management trophy is to be awarded. The committee is working to have a race management seminar at the Winter Meeting about effective race management. If anyone needs assistance, please reach out.

**Youth Committee** – Scott Hartwell (FYC) reported the committee is working for input from team captains regarding the rotation of the Jr. Lipton.

**Chief Administrative Judge** – James “Doc” Hunter (BucYC) announced no new judges and he asked that Commodores encourage club members to become certified to build the pool of available judges within the GYA. We currently only have 1 judge in the states of Mississippi, and Alabama, 3 in Louisiana, and 2 judges in Texas that assist with GYA events. There is a class certification class being held on February 3, 2024, at Lakewood Yacht Club, Chris Luppens will be the instructor.

**Membership Committee** – PC Danny Killeen stated there is one new application, Shreveport Yacht Club. This application is missing a second endorsement, if anyone has any input, please reach out.

**GYA Foundation** – PC Danny Killeen announced Karen Reisch has put together a liquor basket raffle, you may purchase tickets for \$10 a chance. The winner will be drawn at the trophy presentation, must be present to win.

**Offshore Council** – Scott Sonnier (SYC) announced that Tom Beery has officially retired as the PHRF Committee chairman. Tom was acknowledged for his 42 years of service, 1981 – 2023. Kevin Blank from Ft. Walton YC has been appointed as the new PHRF Chair.

**PHRF** – Tom Beery (SRYC) reported he will be retiring from the PHRF committee effective at the end of 2023. Current PHRF/ORA-1 certificates are at 434. All clubs GYA clubs have access to the NextSailor scoring system at no cost through the PHRF Committee, see Kevin Blank for details. The ORA has notified the GYA that it will no longer be supporting the ORA-1 PHRF rating system after 2024. All ORA-1 certificates will be transferred over to the ORR-EZ, this transfer will move the GYA over to one system.

**One Design** – Zac Fanberg (BWYC) reported we have many active classes within the GYA currently: Lasers, Laser Radials, Finn, RS Aero, J80 (New Orleans) while the 420's have seen

a decline. We have had lots of action over the last year hosting Viper North Americans and Viper Worlds, One Design sailing is on the rise. Zac stated he currently serves as the Gulf Coast Representative on the Viper Board and would like to encourage club Commodores to let their members use the Vipers for events out of the direct GYA area, which in turn would encourage others to come to our events. Viper Gulf Coast Champions will be hosted at BWYC in October, and Sears Cup in August 2024, possibly in Flying Scots due to the number of boats a host club needs to provide.

**Trophy** – Chris Dabney (FYC) reported the committee met this morning, they are reviewing two new perpetual trophies – Formula Wave Championship and the 4<sup>th</sup> Race of the Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge. Please make note, on all trophy cases there will be a QR code, if you are the winner of a perpetual trophy, just scan the code and it will bring you to the accountability forms to fill out and complete online. He reminded clubs to be sure to keep up with the trophy cases, if a perpetual trophy case is lost, the recipient club will be billed for the cost of the replacement case.

**Sail Measurement** – William Zehner (StABYC) reported measurement for Lipton went smoothly, 3 boats new boats to the GYA were measured in.

**US Sailing Championships** – Sam Vasquez will be stepping down at the end of the year as chair. The US Adult Sailing Championship team submitted was by resume this, Chris Alexander (GYC) and his team has been selected to represent the GYA.

**By-Laws** – PC Catherine Cromartie, no report.

**Schedule** – Randy Wainwright-Fitzpatrick reported the links for 2024 will be going out soon. She asked the Commodore's to ensure the link was forwarded to the correct person within their club to use for publication of all regatta information for their club. If anyone has any request for next year, please submit prior to Winter Meeting for review. David Boylard asked the Club Mangers to be added to the list to help ensure delivery to property individuals.

**Appeals Committee** – Charles Harp, No report.

**US Sailing Representative** – GYA Executive Committee, No Report.

**Unfinished Business and General Orders** – none.

**New Business** – Michael G. Hage (GYC), nominating committee chair announced the following will be presented for vote at the Winter Meeting: Commodore - Randy Fitzpatrick – Wainwright (FYC); Vice Commodore - Alan C. McMillan (PYC); Rear Commodore – Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC); Immediate Past Commodore Robert J. “Robbie” Schmidt, Jr. (SYC); Secretary-Treasurer – hannon Weatherly (PCYC).

**Closing Remarks/Announcements** – Commodore Schmidt announced the Winter Meeting & GYA Annual Awards banquet will be held January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Biloxi Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum. He recognized Southern YC who will be sailing in the 2023 NYYC Rolex Invitational in Newport RI, as the defending champions, September 12-16 - good luck sailors.

**GYA Past Commodore Catherine Cromartie (FYC) made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by GYA Past Commodore Michael Hage (GYC)**

**Adjourned** – 10:45 hours.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jennifer Schmidt