



**Gulf Yachting Association
SEMI-Annual Meeting
Saturday, August 30, 2025
Buccaneer Yacht Club**

Call to Order – 10am GYA Commodore Alan McMillan (PYC). Thanks to everyone for coming to Buccaneer Yacht Club, Thanks to BucYC Commodore Danny Robertson and all the volunteers for working so hard putting the event on this year.

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

GYA Past Commodores Recognized- Corky Potts (SYC), Shan Kirk (SYC). John Morrow (GYC/StABYC), Gary Rogers (JYC), Tom Beery (SRYC), Tom Batty (MYC/BucYC), Harry Chapman (BWYC), David Bolyard (PontYC) Catherine Cromartie (FYC), Harry Chapman (BWYC), Pete O'Neal (BucYC), Robbie Schmidt (SYC) and Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC)

PC Commodore Shan Kirk led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PC Shan Kirk led the assembly in the invocation. The following deceased commodores and sailing friends were recognized with a moment of silence: PC Basil Kennedy (BWYC), Eddie Adams (FYC), Delores Crosbie (SYC), Gregory Faia (SYC), Robert N. Bruce, Jr. (SYC), Mrs. John F. Dicks, (SYC), Mrs. Hary Hoskins, Jr. (SYC), Mr. John Winnig, Jr. (SYC), Sandra Rockwell,, (SYC), Keith Andrews (SYC), Linda Deane (SYC), Stephen D. Peller, III (SYC), Dr. Jim Keating (BWYC), Gayle Rosenblatt (PYC), Joaquin Lubkowitz (PYC), Joyce Nobles (PYC), James Scoggins (PYC), Myron Rosenthal (PYC), Janie Clark (PYC), Woody Fletcher (PYC), Mary Stitt (PYC), Dollie Cadden (PYC), Doug Sansom (PYC), Tommy Tolbert (FYC), Mary Hayes Peller (SYC)

Executive Committee & Other members present: Commodore Alan McMillan (PYC), Vice Commodore Richard "Boo" Heausler (BWYC/SYC), Rear Commodore Jennifer Brune Schmidt (SYC) Immediate Past Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick Wainwright (FYC), Parliamentarian Cary Trapani (BWYC), and Secretary-Treasurer, Shannon Weatherly (PCYC)

Conduct of the Meeting – Cary Trapani stated that Robert's Rules will be in effect. All comments should be directed to the chair Commodore McMillan and limited to 3 minutes. Any motions made need to be stated clearly and a 2nd is required for a vote. Committee reports will have a 5 minute limit. Thank you all for being here today.

Minutes – PC Shan Kirk (SYC) made a motion, seconded by PC Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC) to waive the reading of the minutes from the Annual Meeting May 3, 2025 at Pensacola Yacht Club and to accept, all unanimously approved.

Executive Committee – Commodore McMillan reported that an ExCom meeting was held last night at MYC. PC Basil Kennedy recognized for his significant service to the GYA and will be a tremendous loss for us all. The Knost Regatta pilot year in the Melges 15 was a success. At the Winter Meeting there will be further discussions on whether to do another trial year in 2026. The GYA Foundation and the PYC Satori Foundation will be offering to support a GYA Opti Racing Team to go the Nationals in 2026. Scott Hartwell will be working to get a team for this opportunity. Thanks for Jennifer and Robbie Schmidt for producing the 2025 Directory. Fantastic job!!

Financial Report- Secretary-Treasurer- Shannon Weatherly (PCYC) reported account balances as of July 31, 2025:

\$13,403.60 Checking Account
\$41,766.24 Invest 1 (Trophy)
\$51,047.63 Invest 2 (GYA)
\$106,217.47 Total of all accounts

COMMITTEE & COUNCIL REPORTS

Racing Regulations – VC Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC) reported that there will be no changes voted on today. Now is the time to submit any changes you would like to have addressed at the upcoming Winter Meeting.

Proposed changes received so far:

1. Notice of all regulation changes be distributed before the meeting
2. NOR's be published 1 month prior to the event
3. Hosts shall provide a boat for the judges to be on the water during the event.
4. Burgees appearance on Capdevielle sails, minor change.
5. Couple of changes to trophies, minor changes
6. 2025 Knost regatta was successful. There will be a vote at the Winter Meeting for the 2026 event. Please give feedback as to what you think is the best direction for the event.
7. Clerical changes on the Laser event
8. Adding a Melges 15 Championship

Capdevielle Committee – Paul Kleinschrodt (BucYC) - The Committee met this morning and discussed two proposals that are currently moving through committee review. The first proposal is for the 2026 Knost Regatta to be sailed in M15s again. The committee fully supports this and the Regulation Committee will finalize the proposal for Winter Meeting. The second proposal is for upgrading the fleet to Vakraos Atlas 2 units and yearly subscriptions to Racesense for regatta management. The committee fully supports this and is coordinating with the GYA Foundation and other financial sponsors to finalize the proposal for vote at the Winter Meeting.

By-Laws – PC Catherine Cromartie (FYC)– No report.

Race Management – PC Robbie Schmidt (SYC) -No report.

Schedule – GYA Commodore Randy Wainwright-Fitzpatrick(FYC) reported: Send your events submitted when you receive the link.

Appeals Committee – Charles Harp (PYC) – The appeals committee has received four appeals since June. Two have been decided (GYA 2025 -03 and 2025-02). The other two are in process.

Judges – Karen Reisch (SYC) –

Your GYA Judges have been very busy so far this year. There are currently 7 Judges and one Judge-in-Training. As of September 1, 2025:

64 Events

18 GYA Member Clubs
1,660 Registered Boats
282 Scored Races
52 Protest and Redress Hearings
4 Appeals
15 Out of Area Judges participated in hearings off-site

Judges uphold the integrity of interclub racing through consistent rule enforcement
Judges deliver cost-effective judging solutions, including hybrid/remote hearings, to minimize travel and housing burdens

We are actively training and mentoring the next generation of GYA Race Officials

We reinforce the credibility of professionalism of every GYA-sanctioned event

Judges are available and willing to review your race documents. There are also templates on the GYA website, and outlines in the Racing Rules of Sailing. There is a new Rule Book for the 2025-2028 quadrennium. Only a few rules changed, but the numbering did change, and this affects the references in your race documents. Good and standard race documents help the regatta run smoothly and fairly for all competitors.

Thanks to John Farris, who is still working on the Zoom and off-site hearing procedures. He is sharing this with other YRAs and Areas across the country. This increases the number of judges available, and helps judges in other areas get experiences for certification. We are always encouraging sailors to take the seminars and get certified as Race Officials and Judges. It is easier than you think. There is a Club Judge seminar on-line on 3 evenings in September.

Membership Committee – PC Shan Kirk (SYC) – A Shreveport YC GYA application for general membership along with 2 endorsement letters have been submitted and are in order. Commodore James Coe from Shreveport YC gave remarks on their desire to get involved with the GYA. He introduced several flag officers that came in for the meeting today. Motion by PC Gary Rogers (JYC) and 2nd by Commodore James Simpkins (PYC), all approved.

GYA Foundation – PC Danny Killeen (PCYC) No report.

Trophy – PC Shan Kirk – GYA Past Commodores Trophy is completed to be awarded for the Winner of the 4th Race. PC Basil Kennedy (BWYC) and PC Harry Chapman (BWYC) worked very hard to get this trophy produced and finalized. Weezie Kennedy expressed thanks to the GYA for accepting the trophy. PC Harry Chapman said PC Basil Kennedy did most of the work along with his cousin Bill Brundige from PCYC in getting it all put together. This trophy is sterling silver and is a tyg used for drinking. Karl Kleinschropt made the base, and it has all the Past Commodores names engraved on it.

Motion by PC John Morrow (GYC/StABYC) and 2nd by Commodore Margaret Taylor (BWYC) to approve and accept the Trophy and the Deed of Gift. All approved.

Sail Measurement – William Zehner (StABYC) , 7 boats measured today and all passed.

US Sailing Championships – Clinton Edwards (BWYC) – No report.

Youth Committee– Scott Hartwell (FYC) reported the following: BWYC and SYC team raced in the Sears Championship placed 7th out of 20 boats. Congratulations!

GYA Opti Team for Nationals in 2026. Team trials will be hosted by FYC so much easier access for the GYA clubs. The Valentines regatta will be at St Petersburg YC and would be a good event to try and get a team together.

Offshore Council – Scott Sonnier (SYC) No report.

PHRF/ Handicap– Kevin Blank (FWYC) reports the following:

Current committee: Kett Cummins - EZ rep Tom Beery Tommy Clark - Multihull Tim Molony - Multihull For EZ, we currently have 180 certificates in the Gulf region. For Multihull, we approx. 20 certificates. The multihull valid list will be completed soon. The current focus of the multihull PHRF is for cruising cats and trimarans. Be sure to check gya.org/handicap for links to current valid lists, links to apply for EZ certs and multihull certs. Lastly, for any clubs that wish to learn more about EZ Rule and how to apply it to their racing, you can visit gya.org/handicap to view some webinars on how EZ works and I am happy to get on a video call to walk anyone through the process of setup and scoring. A reminder to everyone that nextSailor.com scoring is available to all GYA clubs at no charge. The only fee is when a regatta collects credit cards for registration. nextSailor supports EZ time on-time, time-on-distance, and all the variations of the PHRF numbers. Also we'll have a handy staggered start calculator coming soon along with some enhanced scratch sheets to show boat/time deltas with EZ ratings

One Design - Susan Domagala (PYC) -In the Spring Regatta it will be sailing in the Fish Class for the Masters again this year.

US Sailing Representative – Shannon Weatherly (PCYC), No Report.

Old Business- None.

New Business – PC Shan Kirk on behalf of the Trophy Committee asks the the Race Management Deed of gift be amended to be awarded at the GYA Winter Meeting instead of the Opening Regatta. Motion by PC John Morrow (GYC/StABYC) and 2nd by Commodore James Simpkins (PYC), all approved.

Nominating Chairman PC Gary Rogers announced the slate for 2026:

Commodore: Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC)
Vice Commodore: Jennifer B. Schmidt (SYC)
Rear Commodore: Scott Hartwell (FYC)
Secretary/Treasurer: Shannon Weatherly (PCYC)
Immediate Past Commodore: Alan C. McMillan (PYC)

Closing Remarks- Commodore McMillan - The GYA winter meeting will be on January 10 at Pensacola Yacht Club. Martha Heausler with BWYC announces that Monk Smith Regatta will be in October.

Flag Raising ceremony will be at 11:20 by the flagpole.

Adjourned – PC Shan Kirk (SYC) moved to adjourn, 2nd by PC Corky Potts (SYC) and all approved. Adjourned at 10:55am

Respectfully submitted by:
Shannon Weatherly