

The Naples Sailing and Yacht Club



A Commemorative History 1964 - 2014





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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A strong debt of gratitude also is owed to NSYC members, Lynn Shoemaker and Sally Lowdermilk,, both of whom spent countless hours researching and collecting the historical record of the NSYC, as well as members Susan Becker, Angela Brisbane, Alan and Elaine Buffington, Lila Corner, Liz Grogan, Jack and Cheryl Harkins and Carolyn Mollers for their contributions to the research for this book. The Chapters on the First 50 years of the Club was developed by Carolyn Mollers and Lynn Shoemaker,, Chapters 2 (The Marina), Chapter 4 (Cruising), and chapter 5 (Fleet Review) were written by Sally Lowdermilk; Chapter 5 (Sailing) was the work of Mike and Lynda Davis; Chapter 7 was composed by Liz Grogan; and Chapters 6 (Change of Watch), Chapter 8, with the assistance of Lila Corner (Social Events), and Chapter 9 (The People Who Make Us Great) were by Linda Butler. Our grateful appreciation also goes to Anna Smith at Sunbelt Web-to-Print, whose graphic design experience was invaluable, as was the time and attention of our copy editor, Susan Becker. For all of us on the Committee, the project has been a labor of love and we hope that you will enjoy this 50-Year retrospective of the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club.

We have taken every measure to insure that the material presented on these pages is as factually correct as was possible to ascertain, given the material the Committee had at its disposal. Space constraints made it impossible to include everyone who has played a role in our history. We sincerely apologize for these omissions and for any inadvertent errors to this record.

Commodore Linda Butler





PREFACE

To mark Naples Sailing and Yacht Club's 25th Anniversary in 1989, Commodore, Henry Stozier wrote the following letter to the "future" members of our Club.

Where do we go from here? As we look back over the past 25 years, we are reminded that the Club has come a long way. Growth from a membership of 18 enthusiastic sailors to a Club of 475 members – with a mortgage-free plant valued in excess of two million dollars – has taken the vision and dedication of many loyal members. We have a great Club with an interesting history. As we celebrate the Silver Anniversary, let's look forward to the next 25 years.

In 2014, when some lucky members are celebrating the Golden Anniversary, what will the Club be like? Much depends upon what we do now. We can be complacent and stay as we are. We all speak of the "good old days;" these are the "good old days." Since we have a good thing going, why change? Had our past commodores and members followed this line of thought our club might still have only 18 members! Fortunately, our predecessors had vision. And so do we. Naples is growing and we know that the club must keep pace. We know that if we allow the club to stagnate it will decay. It is a well known law of economics that an organization is either moving ahead or falling behind – none stays the same very long.

It is obvious that we can grow by increasing membership. However, there are other areas of growth. We can stay our same size, but improve our programs. There is nothing so good that it cannot be improved. It should be a challenge to our committees to study all of our activities and come up with new and innovative ideas. There are many programs that make Naples Sailing and Yacht Club an attractive Club – the envy of those in the area. To name a few: entertainment, cruises, dining, bowling, card games, and just plain friendliness. To prevent getting in a rut, all of these activities need constant reevaluation – new shows, different types of cruises, more varied menus, more interest in card playing, more bowlers, more Sunday afternoon sailing races, and new activities that we haven't even thought of. If we do this and the time ever comes when the Club size needs to be increased, then we can cross that bridge. If we maintain our vision, I believe that the members in 2014 will say, "Those were a pretty good bunch of guys and gals back in 1989."

Henry Stozier
Commodore, 1989



NSYC Time Line

October 27, 1964: Jack G. Messmer founds the Naples Sailing Club

November 17, 1964: Naples Sailing Club charter approved
Club Burgee designed

1964: First inshore sailing race by members of new club (from Messmer's home dock in Aqualane to Gordon Pass)

1964-1965: Weekly sailboat races
Family potlucks
Youth Sailing Program, Sea Scouts, established
Purchase of land on Beaumaris Island
Naples Realty Corporation Formed
Bulkhead, dock and building permit obtained
Plans for new building completed

THIS DESIGN IS COMING BY WEDNESDAY!!!

1965 Phase 1 of new clubhouse, "Outrigger Room," begun

1966 Topping Out party for Phase 1 ("Coming Down the Ways")
Volume I, No. 1 of Club newsletter, *The Spinnaker*, is published
First Club Christmas Party for Children, Santa arrives by boat

1967 First Club New Year's Eve celebration held at Cove Inn
First Power Fleet formed

1968 Phase 2 of Clubhouse completed
Sunday "Family Days" begun

1970 Gala dedication and final Topping Out party of Phase 3 of Clubhouse

1971 Club changes name to 'Naples Sailing and Yacht Club

NSYC admitted to the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs

1972 First Fleet Review
First Mates founded
First Boating Safety Class for First Mates
Total membership: 350

1973 First "Dock and Do" party (later known as the NSYC Boat Lighting party)

1974 Fleet Review cancelled due to energy crisis
NSYC member, Barbara McKinney becomes first woman Fleet Captain in the State of Florida

1978 First Annual Messmer Cup race
Total membership: 400

1984 Floating docks installed

1985 First Kentucky Derby party

1986 Club remodeled: dance floor doubled in size, kitchens and restrooms remodeled

1989 NSYC celebrates its 25th Anniversary
Total membership: 425

1991 Naples Community Sailing Center founded; NSYC teaching prams donated to new sailing school and program moved out of NSYC

1992 Hurricane Andrew (NSYC suffers only minor damage)

1993 Yacht Basin expanded to 81 slips, one of Florida's largest

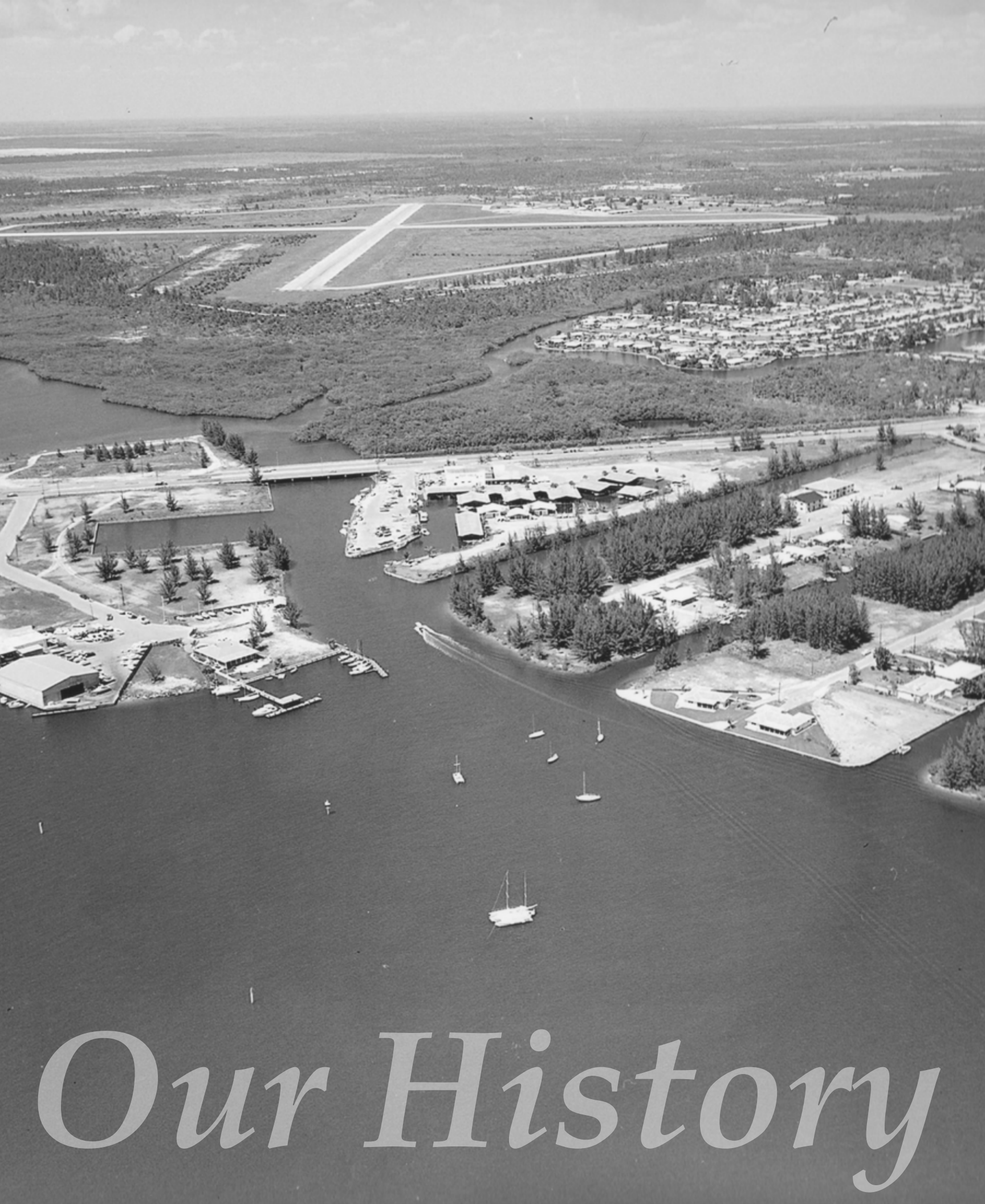
2004 Final demolition of old Clubhouse; activities continue at various sites throughout Naples
Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan (NSYC suffers\ no damage)

2005 New Building opens with grand gala
Membership: 450
Hurricane Wilma (NSYC suffers minor damage)

2009 Social Memberships initiated

2012 Captains' Table approved
New Ships Store opens
Lounge remodeled
Club Trophies refurbished and displayed





CHAPTER ONE: Our History

A Sailing Club is Born

In the 1950's, Naples, Florida was a peaceful vacation destination with a local economy based on commercial fishing and winter tourism. Visitors sought a quiet place in the sun, pristine beaches, great fishing, and were willing to endure the mosquitoes without the luxury of air conditioning. Jack Messmer and his wife, Lucille ("Tiny"), retired to Naples in 1963 and found a town still recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Donna. This massive hurricane swept through the region on September 10, 1960, with 150 mph winds and a 133-foot storm surge that swamped Naples as far north as Vanderbilt Beach Road.



Damage from Hurricane Donna, 1960



Naples Pier after Donna

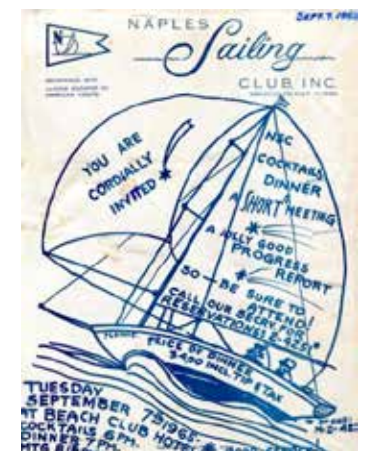
Insurance money and investment funding from wealthy private entrepreneurs poured into the area after Donna. The following five decades of growth transformed "Naples-on-the-Gulf" into the world-class resort destination it is today.

When they arrived, however, the Messmers were surprised to find Naples Bay filled with a wide variety of vessels, but not a single sailboat! Undaunted, Jack called together a group of local sailing enthusiasts to meet at his home on October 27, 1964 to develop plans for a new sailing club.

The Charter of Incorporation for the Naples Sailing Club was approved by the State of Florida on November 17, 1964. The Club's first officers included Jack Messmer as the first Commodore (Commodore 1964-65) and Arthur Neumann as Vice Commodore. Member Dave

Webber designed the new Club burgee which, with some modification, is still the burgee we use today.

With a fleet of 10 sailboats, the new club organized numerous races and family picnics. The first social affair was a cocktail hour and dinner at Tahitian Cove (near what later would become the Cove Inn); other events and dinner parties were at various locations in Naples. According to John Druffel (Commodore 1973), "The activities then were pot lucks and family affairs, much like a church dinner, but with cocktails."



Our History



Our First Clubhouse

With a growing and enthusiastic membership, the Naples Sailing Club soon needed a permanent home. The Club's treasury held only \$320.00, hardly enough to buy waterfront property. To raise funds, Jack Messmer and Arthur Neumann created a non-profit organization, the "Naples Sailing Club Realty Corporation" in 1966 and raised enough money that first year to purchase 400 feet of waterfront property on Beaumaris



Island at the point where the Gordon River empties out into Naples Bay (the Club's present location). The following year they negotiated contracts to purchase other lots for future expansion. Vice Commodore Neumann then obtained a bulkhead permit, dock permit and the first building permit for a new clubhouse. Members pooled their resources and built a barbecue pit, picnic tables, and regularly held cook-outs and pot-lucks on weekends. The T-Dock was installed in August and remains in the same location and configuration today, at the heart of our thriving marina.

These early years were busy ones for the new club. Arthur Neumann (Commodore 1966-1967) instituted



No building yet but members enjoy a picnic

a Club newsletter, *The Spinnaker*, and Tiny Messmer, Club Historian, began compiling a history of Club events. Between 1964 and 1966, the Bridge increased initiation fees from \$25 to \$200 and annual dues from \$10 to \$50, and then later to \$125 per year.



1965 T-Dock Christening



New T-dock



1966 Topping Out Party with Commodore Jack Messmer, Mrs. Mamie Tooke (center) and Mrs. Ira Hall



Our first structure, the *Outrigger Room*, was christened on March 26, 1966. 200 members attended the party, dubbed *Coming down the Ways* (unfortunately, we do not have a photo of that earliest clubhouse). In April additional land was purchased and work was begun on a building with a 12-foot bar, a seawall, a 120 foot pier, a patio, and walkway. Commodore Neumann also instituted a Club newsletter, *The Spinnaker*.



First Spinnaker

Years of Expansion

In 1968, Commodore Emeritus, Jack Messmer, on behalf of the Naples Sailing Club Realty Corporation, assigned all real estate to the Naples Sailing Club, Inc. The Bridge began immediately to plan a major addition to the clubhouse. The building was to be designed in the newly popular "Neo-Polynesian" style. To pay for the addition, Captain "Jib" Voegelin oversaw the sale of \$30,000 in bonds that were offered to members in \$200.00 denominations.



Aerial View of First Clubhouse



BUY BONDS!

Your officers and board members are just as anxious to start construction of our new building as are all of the members . . . BUT . . .

WE NEED YOUR HELP! WE MUST SELL MORE OF OUR BONDS! We have for sale NAPLES SAILING CLUB BONDS that will help finance our fine new building. If every member of our Club will buy just one \$200 bond, we can start construction immediately.

FACTS!!

1. Bonds are \$200 Denomination
2. Bear interest of 6% retroactive to January 1, 1968
3. Bonds mature in 20 years BUT CAN BE recalled in 1978
4. Bonds are secured by NSC assets

THINK! . . . Recently a piece of property adjacent to our building sold for \$250,000.

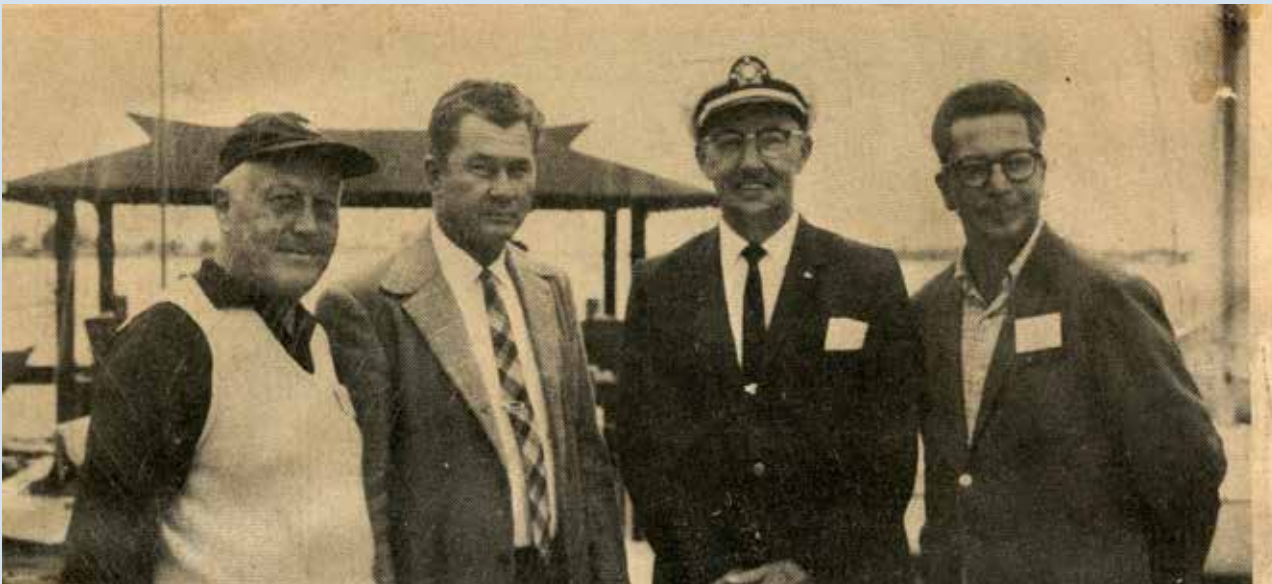
DON'T DELAY . . . DO IT NOW!

CALL
JIM TOPPING . . . BOND CHAIRMAN
 OFFICE . . . MI 2-5133
 HOME . . . LY 7-3036
 NOW! . . . NOW! . . . NOW!

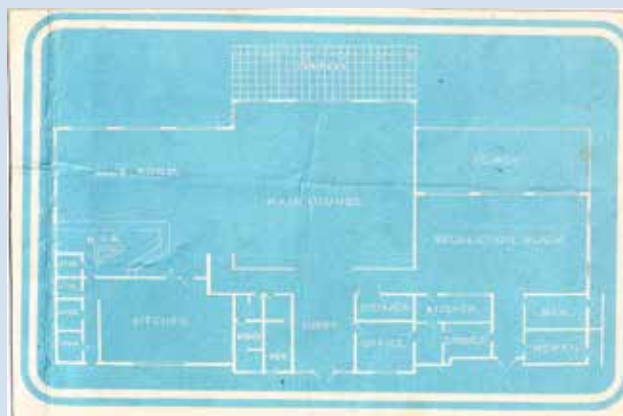
BUY BONDS!



*Geo. Ahern pays for the last bond available
 150 x 200 = 30000
 To the right Capt Jib Veogelin
 Chairman of the Bond
 Committee.*



Charles Hashagen, Mayor Archie Turner, Commodore Jack Messmer, and Arthur Neumann, Chairman of the Building Committee



1965 Architectural rendering of draft building plan for a "Polynesian style" clubhouse



The addition created a three-room building that was completed in 1970, along with an extended "T" dock and new docks to the west. On October 1, the new kitchen served its first meal. When the Club acquired its liquor license, the Board reported that it was an on-going challenge to get members to leave their bottles at home—many resisted paying 15 cents for a soda, 45 cents for a beer and 60-75 cents for mixed drinks!

1970 also was the year the Club applied for admission to the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs (then known as the Council of 13).



Outrigger Room



Main Dining Room



Power boaters were invited to join early in our Club's history. The first meeting of the Power Fleet was January 30, 1967. They began a regular cruise program to Coon Key, Everglades City and Caxambus Pass. These cruises became so popular that within a few years, power boaters began to outnumber sailors.

By 1971, the Naples Sailing Club had a very active membership. They enjoyed covered dish dinners, a bridge group, regattas, cruises, a youth sailing program, Sunday Brunches, and



Family Night dinners in their new clubhouse. Gene Carr (Commodore 1999) recalls “a crowded old clubhouse with a long bar to slide drinks down!” Commodore Carr was the first to institute a “No Smoking” environment at the Club and was the founder of the Wisdumb table (it was a guy thing!).



Wisdumb Table, 1970's



Wisdumb Table today

Members used their clubhouse—a lot. As Howard Heathman (Commodore 1972) pointed out, “... our late Commodore Emeritus Jack Messmer had the perseverance and generosity to take our Club from a fishing shack, a refrigerator and a propane stove to the beautiful facility that we have now.” Yet because members used their clubhouse with such frequency, and because various additions and ad hoc repairs had created problems, the clubhouse had begun to experience serious maintenance issues. It is at this time that the Board began debating whether or not to do extensive repairs or build a new building. That debate would continue for several more decades.

The Club was admitted to Florida Council of Yacht Clubs and Commodore James Topping (Commodore, 1967, 1968) was inducted as President of the International Order of the Blue Gavel, all significant steps forward in the growing prestige of the Club. Boasting one of the largest fleets in SW Florida, on December 15, 1971, the Naples Sailing Club received the approval to rename itself the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club.



MAMIE TOOKE

Mamie Tooke began her career as a banker in 1949 as head cashier of the newly founded Bank of Naples, which was the first bank in Naples. By 1975 when the bank merged with Barnett Bank (now Bank of America), she was named President and then CEO. She reigned as queen of the financial community until her death in 1984, and some still refer to her as the “Mother of Naples.” Virtually all of the early financial arrangements for the Club were made from her office on Fifth Avenue South.



Naples Sailing Club Marina, 1970's

During the 1970s, the Bridge began what would prove to be unsuccessful negotiations to purchase land from its neighbor, Bay Marina. When that failed, the Club instituted an extensive remodeling of the kitchen, foyer, Quarterdeck and main dining room. Next, more docks were added, the new lounge was improved, an 18-foot extension was added to the dining room, and a new patio area outside the Quarterdeck was built. As a testament to the renown and growing respect for the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club throughout Southwest Florida, NSYC's James Russell (Commodore 1974) was elected to serve as Commodore of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs in 1980.

Throughout the 1980s, improvements and repairs to the clubhouse were ongoing. The Bridge undertook a thorough review and revision of the Club's By-Laws and assigned the Club's Vice Commodore to chair the House Committee. In addition, Commodore James Bulkley (Commodore, 1980) wrote the Protocols and Procedures of the NSYC, which is still in use and published annually in our member directory.

On June 8, 1983, Commodore Emeritus, Jack G. Messmer, passed away. The newly expanded marina was dedicated to him on our 20th Anniversary, Oct. 27, 1984, at the “Berth of the Dock” celebration. A plaque in his honor was placed on the handrail along our seawall, just east of the T-dock and can be seen there today.



COMMODORE EMERITUS, JACK MESSMER

A native of Hamburg, Germany, Jack Messmer came to the U.S. when he was 23 yrs. old, with less than \$20 in his pocket and a degree in architectural and structural engineering from the University of Hamburg. He had grown up sailing in the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas and brought with him his love of sailing.

He quickly established himself in Indianapolis, creating a successful construction company as well as founding the Indianapolis Sailing Club in 1954, where he was elected Commodore in 1957. He and his wife, “Tiny,” made many trips to Florida to sail, trailering his Holland-built sailboat, *Wanderlust*. They purchased a home in Aqualane Shores and retired to Naples in 1963. It is to Jack Messmer and those who have followed his example that we owe our ability to enjoy our wonderful Naples Sailing and Yacht Club today.

Celebrating Twenty-Five Years

From 1985 until the Club's Silver Anniversary in 1989, Commodores of the now 400-member Naples Sailing and Yacht Club approved glassing in the aft deck patio for year-round use, instituted a ten-week Pram sailing course for children in cooperation with the Gulf Coast Sailing Club and Optimists' Club, and installed floating docks.

Throughout the '80's we enjoyed a reputation as a lively, engaging boating club with a growing waiting list. In 1988, another huge improvement resulted from member Richard Vogel lobbying the city for a traffic light at River Point Drive and US 41. Prior to that, it was a risky venture to leave the Club at night turning west onto US 41. In addition, a Hospitality Committee was formed in 1988 to meet, greet and host incoming boaters from other clubs of the FCYC. In 1988, Netherlands' Royal Highness, Princess Margriet, visited the Club for dinner as the guest of member, Chris Duvekot.



We celebrated our Silver Anniversary with an Anniversary Commodore's Ball on January 7, and two additional Anniversary Balls on October 27 and 28 in order to accommodate everyone. A highlight of each Anniversary Ball was watching Tiny Messmer “pop” out of a huge birthday cake! Under the direction of Tiny Messmer, our Club Historian, a Silver Anniversary Commemorative History was published.



Tiny Messmer Jumps out of 25th Anniversary 'Cake'!



Coming Down the Ways... Again

NSYC ushered in the 1990s with a full schedule of social events, cruises and regattas. Naples was enjoying a building boom and membership continued to grow. Our clubhouse, however, was starting to show the wear and tear of so much activity.



A New Clubhouse

By the mid to late 90's, however, NSYC membership began to decline. Many new restaurants and golf clubs had opened in Naples, and competition from other venues for dining and social activities increased considerably. Opinion was deeply divided over what should be done. Many members wanted to do nothing. They loved the laid back and friendly atmosphere of their worn-out clubhouse. Commodore Tony Maio (Commodore 2001) initially agreed, saying that "... our leaky old clubhouse saw lots of dining and partying, our marina was full (with a long waiting list), and the Club cruises were great!"

But he also recognized, as did others on the Board, that the building was out-of-date and had serious structural issues. One of the strongest arguments for building a new building was that a beautiful new clubhouse could take advantage of the finest view in all of Naples and would attract many new members. To prove their point, they put a crane in the parking lot and photographed what would become our second-story view – and it was spectacular!

And, as Commodore Eugene Carr (Commodore 1999) pointed out, with a larger membership, there might not be a need to raise a great sum of money to build a new clubhouse. Before taking the proposal to members, the Bridge submitted concept drawings to the Naples City Council, after which Jack Harkins (Commodore 2003) began developing a marketing strategy to persuade members to vote for building a new building. In 2000, the Naples City Council approved the final plans, though several neighbors protested that the proposed new docks would ruin their views. Fortunately, however, the City of Naples gave the NSYC the needed approvals and planning began in earnest.

In 2001 Commodore Tony Maio and Rear Commodore Jack Harkins assembled a package of drawings and financial plans to take to the membership. It proved to be a hard sell. Proponents for a new building needed a 66% affirmative vote; when votes were counted, however, the membership was evenly divided: 50% in favor; 50% against, so the project stalled.

Then, in 2002, then-Commodore David Nordhoff presented to the membership the idea of a \$7,500 assessment to be spread over three years. It would be guaranteed refundable and would not be spent until an affirmative vote was achieved to approve the project. 84% of the members cast their votes and the measure passed. The next vote gave proponents the majority they needed: 70% voted in favor of building a new clubhouse.

With Jack Harkins as Commodore in 2003, a design was chosen, competitive bids received, and building permits acquired. A myriad of details were hashed out at on-going meetings. It was important to assure members that the Club's social activities would continue, even during construction.



In November, 2003, the permit to demolish part of the clubhouse was denied because the "final" plans differed from those the city had agreed to in 1999. Eventually, the problems were resolved. The City Planning Commission gave unanimous approval and put the project on a "fast track." The building was to have a "Naples Nautical Look" and be no higher than 40 feet. Before the building was torn down, however, members were invited to a party to write their memories on the walls.

The project was a complicated one. The building's footings rest on 22 different levels; 60-foot pilings were required, and each bucket-load of dirt for the foundation and each load of concrete had to be inspected. Moreover, government bureaucracies questioned our submerged land lease. Our crumbling sea wall had to be reinforced, and the swimming pool required a "floating sea" of rebar without being tied to the structure.

Commodore Harkins and his development and construction team successfully met each of these as well as other challenges to produce the beautiful clubhouse we enjoy today.



Building Committee Members, Bill Grafstrom (Commodore, 2008), and Don Hubbard (Commodore, 2004) review plans



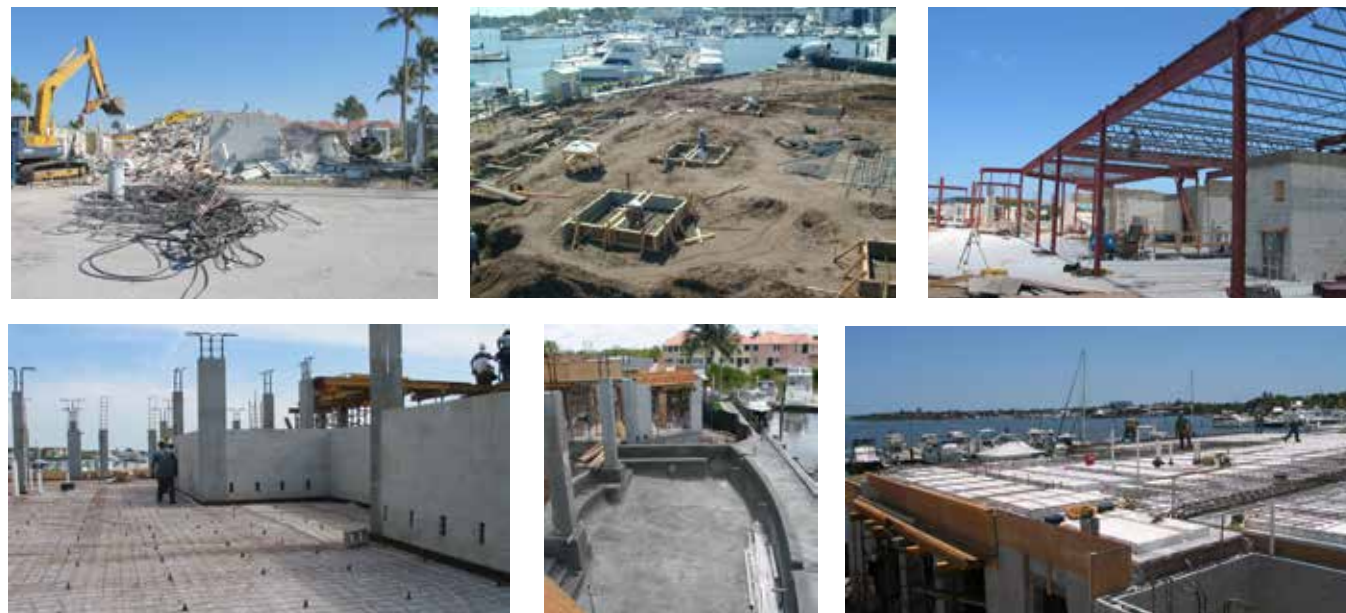
At first, just a portion of the clubhouse was demolished and a temporary structure brought in. Members were able to use the east section of the clubhouse for dining and some limited activities. From January through February 2004, the old clubhouse was completely torn down.





JACK HARKINS, Commodore 2003

The journey to a new clubhouse was long and, at times, difficult. It might never have come to fruition had it not been for the commitment of Commodore Jack Harkins. Jack and his wife, Cheryl, retired to Naples in 1993, purchased their first boat, *Endless Summer*, joined NSYC in 1996, and quickly became involved. His skills in organization, attention to detail and ability to keep the project from getting derailed along the way was invaluable. He is quick to give credit to Past Commodore Tony Maio and the other commodores and members who played key roles in the 7-year project, such as member and engineer, Bill Barton.



Our Certificate of Occupancy finally was issued on January 19, 2005. It had taken five years to get members to agree to the project; construction took but one year. With 20,000 square feet under air, 117 parking spaces, 81 boat slips and an easement for public access to water, it was a fine credit to the Club's leadership and member support that we were able to complete this project at all. Members who had strenuously objected to tearing down the old building resigned. Yet, as Commodore Eugene Carr had predicted in 1999, our beautiful new building attracted 130 new members within the first four months of opening!



To commemorate the completion of the new clubhouse, a time capsule was buried at the base of the flagpole on the east side of the building. This time capsule will be opened in 2056 at the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the new building.



The Great Recession and Recovery

The Great Recession of 2007-2010 hit Naples and its private clubs hard. We found ourselves with a spectacular new clubhouse and a rapidly declining membership due to tough economic times. The Executive Board, led by Commodore Bill Grafstrom (Commodore 2009), responded quickly and hired our first full-time Membership Director, Suzie Bausman. Members also approved Commodore Grafstrom's By-laws amendment creating Social Memberships. Since then, our Social Members have become an integral part of our events and programs. In 2013 we welcomed our second membership director, Ann Marie Ashline and our first full time comptroller, Ed Lantz.



A New Ships Store

In 2012, the Bridge approved the construction of a new Ships Store in what was once a small meeting space. Since its opening, the Ships Store has given members the opportunity to purchase a variety of logo items, including outerwear, mugs, cruise wear and more. Donna Issenman and Pat Holmes ran the store in its first year. Now that job is in the hands of Administrative Assistant, Ana Maria Aquino.

The Captains' Table

On a visit to the Isles Yacht Club In 2012, Commodore Peter Ladell was impressed with its member-contributions program called the "Compass Club" and discovered that, as a result of the financial fallout of the 2007-2010 recession, many clubs within the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs had similar programs to help their clubs fund projects that capital budgets could not accommodate. To make it possible for the NSYC to do the same, Commodore Ladell founded the Captains' Table.



Under the leadership of Chair Janet Belle, the program became an integral part of the NSYC and, in 2014, became one of the Club's standing committees. Since its inception, the Captains' Table has funded construction of a fabulous new *Ships Store* off the lobby; refurbishment of the upstairs lounge; new kitchen equipment; refrigerated drawers, new TV and coffee machine for the Board Room; refurbishment of the Club's pool furniture, and purchase of a poolside TV, the dredging of our yacht basin, and more.

Contributors to the Captains' Table are recognized by having their names engraved on brass plates and affixed the Captains' Table, a beautiful plaque on the wall in the second floor lobby.



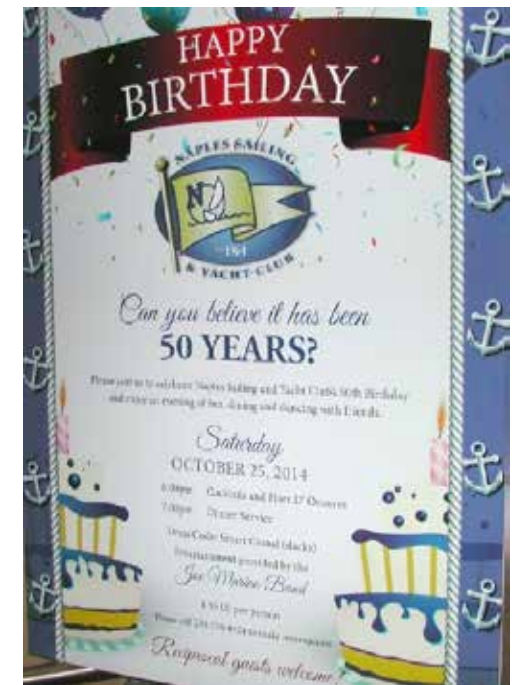
Guests wore white to Outstanding on the Bay

In 2014, member Faith Schwalack and her committee held an event to raise funds for the Captains' Table. "Outstanding On the Bay," was a farm to table dinner for 100 people at the home of Dr. Fred and Caryn Buechel. Dressed in white, members were ferried to the Buechel's aboard the *Double Sunshine*. All food was locally sourced and the gourmet dinner was prepared by the Club's new head chef, Chris Jones. The evening was described by GM Manny Blanco as "magic in a bottle."

Celebrating Fifty Years 1964-2014

In 2014, we find ourselves with a first class clubhouse that takes advantage of the most magnificent view in all of Naples, a great setting for meetings, dining and a full calendar of events for members. The Club's Golden Anniversary celebrations included a WKBW '1964' Party, two dinner shows featuring Motown Sounds and Sounds of the Four Seasons, 'Outstanding on the Bay' and a 'Happy Birthday Party'. The First Mates and the Captain's Table Committee hosted a very successful Golden Anniversary Kitchen Tour on November 13th, and the 50th Anniversary of the Commissioning of our Club on November 15th was commemorated with a festive Golden Gala.

Other important changes that took place during our Golden Anniversary year included having a woman as Commodore (Commodore Linda Butler); having our yacht basin dredged; welcoming our new Executive Chef, Chris Jones; the introduction of the Legacy Membership whereby Regular member may bequeath the membership to a family member; and the publication of our Commemorative Anniversary Book. We are especially happy to have an official Legacy Membership category and look forward to the children of current and future members being able to more easily join the ranks of our wonderful second generation members.



NSYC Second Generation Members

The hallmark of an enduring private club is the family traditions it engenders. Our Club has several families with second generation members and one family that is even in it's third generation! These wonderful members have great memories of their families' milestones, celebrations and activities at the Club.

The Worcester Family:



"My parents, John and Margaret Worcester, went on the Club waiting list in 1981 and became full members in 1983. They were avid boaters and participated in many cruises to South Seas, Sarasota, Key West and others. I came along on many of them. Their boat, the *Martini* is still in use by my brother on Cape Cod. We have wonderful memories of the Club. We have spent virtually every holiday there

from 1981 to the present. When my father passed away in 2010, we lost our family's membership. I missed it so much I decided to join myself in 2011. I feel as if I have grown up at the Club. Heather and I share old memories of time past."

~Patrice Worcester



The Whitney Family:



Mr. & Mrs. Bill Whitney, Jr.

My parents, William and Janet Whitney were long-time members of the Club. I remember especially the wonderful brunches at Easter and Christmas they used to take me to. They really enjoyed all the cruises and the social activities the Club offered, and the friendships they made there were a big part of their lives.

The O'Connor and Reagan Families:



Bill and Jinny Reagan

"My parents, Tim and Vicky O'Connor, joined NSYC in 1969 when they moved here from the Pacific Northwest with their five children. Tim was the new Publisher of the *Naples Daily News*. We remember the Club



gatherings back then as simple family fun of potluck dinners served on the screen porch. My youngest brother, Tad, learned to sail in one of the Club's prams, and he continues to sail both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans today! Bill and I had our wedding reception at the Club and left for our honeymoon by boat.

We joined the Club in 1982. Bill served on our Board of Directors, and we have just recently rejoined. We missed the camaraderie and fun!"

The Thomas and Lowdermilk Families:



Jon and Sally Lowdermilk

"My parents, Ted and Maxine Thomas, were members from 1968 until the early '80's. They were life-long boaters. Ted served as cruise leader ("fearless leader") for several cruises, and Maxie was active in First Mates. In fact, she was Chairman of a First Mates luncheon in 1972 which

included a boating safety class by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, our first "SeaGals" class! NSYC has such a long history with us, we still call it by its original nickname, "The Sailing Club, which confuses newer members.



For all of us, including our children, the Club has been our special place to celebrate holidays and weddings, and is home port for our many cruises. Our favorite memory from the '90's was regularly bringing five or six hungry teenagers to the spectacular Sunday Brunches. The staff must have prepared extra blintzes and French toast when they saw "Lowdermilk, table for 10" on the reservation list!

The Doane Family:



Mr. & Mrs. Jim Doan

I believe my dad was one of the original members of the Club. Second Commodore Arthur Neumann was Dad's first captain in Naples and my mentor. Art traveled with us to the Abacos, Bahamas, and taught me to sweet talk and dance with the girls. If I had to pick a first memory of the Club

it would be the old low ceiling dining area, and racing trophies. Back then everyone really dressed up: coats and ties and fashion dresses. I remember Art and Dad in their blue blazers and white pants and Mom dressed like a model. We would usually go to and from the club in Dad's 4-door suicide convertible Lincoln Continental so it was a real scene.



Frankly, my first memory of racing sailboats was off the pier on Dad's fire-engine red Tarten 41 with Bloopers, only Nylon and Dacron and Ray bans. Dad usually raced against Bob Taylor with *Kristi*, Joe Bonness on *Maria* and Fred White on *Folly Too*. It is simply amazing to remember the cast of characters as crew and Tommy Tomlinson, Fred White, Sam Gymo, Jud Goldman, Charlie Shumway to name a few. I have been skippering in NSYC events since 1989. I can't count how many Commodore's and Messmer Cups I have raced in, but I will always remember Tiny saying to me with trophy in hand, "Where's your Dad? You must tell him hello for me. We used to have so much fun."

We had Dad's 90th birthday in the new club and many, many great lunches and dinners. It truly made me proud to be a member again for the family and treat Dad to the sophistication that NSYC exudes. My daughter Annabel was there for most of these events as well as her childhood thus far. She knows Luois, Heather and Manny by name. New buildings are nice, but the heart of this club are its characters: staff, members and guests.



The Ruedebusch Family



Jim and Nancy Ruedebusch

Jan and Fritz Ruedebusch enjoyed membership in the NSYC after Fritz's retirement as comptroller of Western Auto in 1983. They cruised on *Badger Two* with numerous NSYC club cruises through 1997, when they moved to Moorings Park. Jan and Fritz loved the social activities and camaraderie NSYC brought to their lives. The family remembers many holidays and spring breaks at the yacht club. Our fondest memory is the surprise 50th anniversary party at the Club. We know Jan and Fritz would be delighted the tradition continues."



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The Meek Family:



Julianna Meek

My grandparents are Col. John William Meek II and Margaret Meek. They joined the Club in 1968 and were members until 1975 when my grandfather died suddenly of a brain aneurism. My grandma sold their sailboat and gave up her club membership. Too many memories, plus I think it was different back

then for a single woman - I am glad today I can be a member as a single woman. She is 91 now and still living in Naples. Grandma has many fond memories of NSYC. She and grandpa were always game to participate in the wacky activities at the Club, like dressing in togas for "Caesar's Night" or western wear for "Beer and Steer Night."

They also enjoyed Club sailing trips to Key West. When I moved back to Naples in 2012, I was so excited to learn about the Junior Membership at the Club. For me, it was a way to connect to my Grandpa, even though he passed before I could know him. One of the first things I did as a new member was take my grandma there for dinner. Even though the building has changed, tears were in her eyes as she recalled many happy memories with my grandpa at the Club. She is so proud that I have continued the legacy by becoming a member of NSYC.





CHAPTER TWO: Our Yacht Basin...Waypoint at the Top of the Bay

We are a club proud of our unique and picturesque yacht basin, and our marine facility has always been a crucial part of our identity. In fact, one of the first priorities of the new Naples Sailing Club was acquiring water frontage and permits for the construction of a seawall and docks to accommodate members' sailboats.



The Evolution of Our Yacht Basin

Our T-Dock was completed in 1965 and is much the same today as it was then, although the original roof cover has been replaced. In 1966, the eastern end of the seawall was expanded with the first 120' section of the east pier dredged to accommodate larger sailboats.



In 1970, Scofield Marine extended the western portion of the T- Dock and added seven new slips to the west. The seawall for the entire waterfront was completed, as well as a boat ramp and floating dock for small boats that's since been removed.

As Club membership grew and our marina hosted more and more boating activities, it soon became clear that the wear and tear on our docks was taking a toll. In 1981, Harold Lankton (Commodore 1982) presented to the Executive Board the Harbor

Improvement Committee's proposal for a major dock expansion, noting that "the current docks are in woefully bad condition and not suitable to accommodate many of our members' boats or visiting yachtsmen...". Although the Board disagreed with that report, members voted otherwise. The two-year project came in under budget at \$280,000, and our docks have since withstood the vagaries of saltwater, hurricanes, and time.



Our Yacht Basin... Waypoint at the Top of the Bay





Photo of NSYC yacht basin, 1984

Members celebrated the completion of the new floating docks and the Club's 20th anniversary on October 27, 1984 with a "Berth of the Docks" party. Although Commodore Emeritus Jack Messmer did not live to see this vastly improved marine facility, a plaque in his honor was installed on the railing above the seawall abreast of the current flagpole.

Five years later, there was a need for still more boat slips. Demand remained strong, and so in 1989 the Club built seven new finger piers, adding fourteen slips to the south side of the south dock. An additional thirteen slips along the Gordon River were completed in 1996 at a cost of \$285,000. Our yacht basin now could boast 81 slips.

Throughout the 1990's available dockage in Naples bay was limited. With a long waiting list for our slips, Commodore Tony Maio (Commodore 2001) suggested that the Board begin to consider a major marina expansion project to add twenty new slips south of the current south dock. Although the Board approved the project, the proposed expansion soon ran into difficulty. Local, state and federal regulations had become far more stringent and other problems arose, including a lawsuit filed by a neighboring property owner as well as a dispute regarding our riparian rights beyond the existing south dock. The project eventually received the necessary approvals—just in time for the Great Recession of 2007. Dock expansion currently is on hold.

In September 2014, however, through the diligent efforts of Vice Commodore Ken Dabrowski and the Dock Committee, our yacht basin was dredged. Docks that previously were unusable can now easily accommodate larger vessels and, we expect, usher in yet another period of growth for our Club.



In 1971, the NSYC became a member of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs, (originally called the "Council of Thirteen" for its thirteen founding clubs). The FCYC is an organization of 41 Florida yacht clubs. Members of a Council club are welcomed visitors at FCYC member clubs, and the first night's dockage is free! The Council represents a voting population of over 37,700 boaters and maintains a legislative presence in Tallahassee. The Council is a well-established, respected organization of dedicated yachtsmen.



Evolution of the Marina



In constant use by members and FCYC guests, our marina is an active place. Members work on their boats and regularly embark or disembark from cruises. It is a well-lit and meticulously maintained facility that offers electric power, fresh water, satellite television, and round-the-clock surveillance cameras, with guest slips available for visiting boaters. It has evolved from that simple T-Dock of 1965 to the beautiful and welcoming 81-slip yacht basin of today. It is the heart of our nautical activities and traditions, including the annual Fleet Review and Christmas Boat Lighting. And, from our marina, one can see what has been deemed the best view on Naples Bay.

Dock Masters

The first dock masters at NSYC were member volunteers. By 1991, however, we were the only club in FCYC without a professional Dock Master. Mr. Bill Mustin was hired in 1993 and a "Ted's Shed" (\$2500) was our first Dock Master's office. NSYC dock masters, have included Bill Mustin, Glenn Jackson, Sam Fleeman followed, and our current Dock Master, Marilyn Hanson, joined us in 2006.



Marilyn Hanson

Marilyn Hanson grew up boating and fishing in Maine. She founded a boat maintenance company in Sarasota and served as head Dock Master at Bradenton and Venice Yacht Clubs before joining our staff.

Her office is a busy place with phones ringing, boaters calling on the radio, and boat owners popping in with questions. She oversees dock maintenance, seawall integrity, pilings, and removal of grass and debris that collects in the basin. Since coming to the NSYC, she has overseen the development of an Emergency Preparedness Plan for our marina and achieved the coveted "Clean Marina" designation for NSYC, an award from the Dept. of Environmental Protection that takes more than two years to achieve. Our boaters and guest yachters always give highest praise to Marilyn and her assistant, Francisco Milan.





CHAPTER THREE: Sailing

Lines Are Hoisted

Before our marina became a reality, members sailed from the City Dock. By 1965, the Club had 65 members and needed a permanent home. Jack Messmer made a thorough search of the Naples waterfront area for a place that could accommodate the vessels of the newly formed sailing club. The head of Naples Bay at River Point Drive was obviously the perfect spot, so Jack purchased the property with his own funds.

To further promote sailing and establish a fleet where there was none, in 1965 the new club became the agent for what was then considered the best day-sailor in the world, the Flying Scott (inducted into the Sailing Hall of Fame in 1998). Club members were encouraged to purchase the vessels for regattas and other Club events.

By 1966, the Naples Sailing Club's new sailing fleet included Optimist Prams, Sailfish, Sunfish, the Flying Finn, the Snipe, the O'Day Day-sailor, and the Lightening, as well as the Flying Scott. In 1970, the Snipe became our official Club class boat, sold to club members for \$1,196 (minus sails and trailer).

Since then, the NSYC has hosted numerous sailing regattas over its 50-year history, drawing many boats from Southwest Florida clubs to the Naples area. A regatta typically consists of anywhere from three to five races, with vessels of the same class competing against one another on a marked course. Southwest Florida regattas are held from November through May with a break during summer's hurricane season.





Founders of the Summerset Regatta:
Marco Island and Naples Sailing Clubs

NSYC Regattas

The first regatta was held on July 3rd, 1966. In 1967, the Naples Sailing Club and Marco Island Yacht Club organized the Somerset Regatta for Labor Day weekend, a race that ran from Naples to Marco Island. In 1968, the Summerset included a powerboat race dubbed the "Marco Roulette." Today, although its starting point was moved from Naples Bay to Ft. Myers in 2007, the Summerset Regatta continues to be a popular SW Florida event.

Another popular race was the St. Petersburg to Naples regatta. In 1967, our Club had three Class A entries: *Debbie Sue* owned by Chuck Smith, *Flame* owned by James Doane (Sr.); and *Folly Too*, owned by Fred White. Thanks to our enthusiastic Club members, sailing quickly became popular in Naples after just a few years!



1967 Somerset Regatta
Winner, Jim Doane, Sr.
(From: *The Naples Star*)



Early NSYC Regatta



Jim Doane, Jr., and daughter receive
trophy from Tiny Messmer



2014 Messmer Cup Winner
Jim Doane Jr. aboard *Flame*

The Messmer Cup

Among the annual regattas hosted by the NSYC today, April's Messmer Cup (inaugurated 1965 in honor of our Club's founder) is a two-day race on a triangular course off Naples Pier where spectators enjoy a spectacular vantage point from which to watch the beautiful sailing vessels compete in the traditionally windy conditions. Perennial entrants into the Messmer Cup Regatta is the Doane family. Both Jim Doane, Sr., and current member, Jim Doane, Jr., have won the Cup. Jim's young daughter, Annabelle, pictured here with her father receiving the award from Tiny Messmer in 2009, is sure to carry on that tradition!

The Commodore's Cup

The final race of the year is the Commodore's Cup. The triangular course runs between Naples Pier and Gordon Pass. At the annual dinner hosted by NSYC, the "Boat of the Year" award is given, the winner having completed 50 races during the season, 27 of which are scored.



2013 Commodore's Cup Regatta

After Jack Messmer's death in 1983, it became a tradition for the NSYC Commodore to host Jack Messmer's widow, Tiny, to watch the Commodore's Cup. Don Hubbard (Commodore 2004) recalls the year when Sailing Fleet Captain, Jerry Watkins, announced that Tiny was present on the aft deck of the Commodore's boat and suggested that the participants wave hello to her. The scene that unfolded as each boat came by to salute with a "Hey Tiny" brought tears to her eyes as well as goose bumps to those aboard.



Vessels Circle Commodore Ladell's Boat, 2012

Other regattas include the New Year's Regatta (Naples Pier to Doctor's Pass to Gordon Pass and back), and the perennial favorite, the Bone Island Regatta. This regatta has sailboat crews start the race from points up and down the west coast of Florida and enter a 97.5 mile race from Naples to Key West. NSYC hosts the "Naples to Key West" leg of the race.



Fleet Captain, Jerry Watkins, skippered H2O in the "True-Cruising Class" and finished in first place.

2014: A Special Year for the NSYC Sailing Program



Brian MacInnes

On March 27 and 28, the NSYC co-hosted the 38th annual Gulf Coast Sailing School's Porsche Cup Regatta. Guest speaker Brian MacInnes of Team Oracle USA, 2013 winner of the prestigious America's Cup, he spoke to our members about the greatest and most dramatic comeback wins in the history of competitive sports. Needless to say, this program was one of the highlights of our Jubilee Year!

In April 2014, the Messmer Cup was privileged to have Bill Gladstone, director of sailing for North University's renowned sailing school as keynote speaker. Having video-taped sailors' performances during the race, Bill reviewed the videos at the awards dinner and critiqued individual performances. It was one of the most entertaining and beneficial award dinners ever!



Jerry Watkins and Bill Gladstone





JERRY WATKINS:

The success of our modern regatta program is, in large part, due to the efforts of our Sailing Fleet Captain, Jerry Watkins, who has served in that capacity since 2002. In 2010, Jerry Watkins “rescued” what had been called the Rendezvous Regatta, a race from Clearwater to Key West and re-established it as the popular “Bone Island Regatta.”

Every year since becoming Sailing Fleet Captain, he and his wife, Susan, have organized each regatta as well as the awards dinners that follow. It is a huge job, and our members are well-served by his energy and enthusiasm.

Youth Sailing Programs

In 1966, Jack Messmer instituted classes and workshops for teenagers on everything related to sailing and sailboats, including rebuilding boats in various states of disrepair to make them suitable for Club races.



During the summer of 1966, 15 teens took their first “Sea Explorer” course that Jack Messmer taught, learning the history of sailing, parts and types of boats, and points of sail. The Sea Explorers competed in weekly regattas on Naples Bay. Spectators were encouraged to bring picnic baskets and watch from the dock – which they did. At first, classes only were for young men, but soon a second group, ‘The Mariners’, was formed for girls and young women of the Club who wished to learn the art and skill of sailing.



With the help of member Mamie Tooke, six prams were donated to the Club in 1967 for children aged 8-13 began. Competition was fierce but fun, and the program became very popular.

By the early 90’s, however, the Club’s sailing school fleet had outgrown the Club’s capacity for the number of vessels and young sailors involved. A new location was needed. Thus, in July of 1996, the NSYC and Gulf Coast Sailing Club founded a thriving sailing school, the Naples Community Sailing Center. The NSYC donated our entire youth sailing fleet to the new sailing school. Over the years, many Olympic sailors have graduated from the school including Naples resident, Trevor Moore, who participated in the 2013 Summer Olympics.

A Renewed Focus on Youth

In 2014, NSYC’s Fleet Captain, Tony Prestifillipo, and his wife, Maureen Russell, inaugurated the Club’s first “Family Fun and Watersports Day.” Children and grandchildren of members met at the yacht basin to try out a variety of fun activities and water-sport events, including a morning fishing excursion on the Gulf, kayaking, paddle -boarding, and sailing. All participants enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next year’s event.



In addition, to encourage NSYC families to enjoy all that our Club has to offer, in 2014 a Youth Sailing program was approved by the Board and is set to begin in October 2014 in conjunction with the Naples Community Sailing Center. With the newly dredged yacht basin and the renewed interest in sailing instruction for members of all ages, we look forward to a reinvigorated sailing program at the NSYC in the near future.



Student Prams



Family Fun Day Sailing Lessons



Sailing and Paddle Boarding at Family Fun Day.

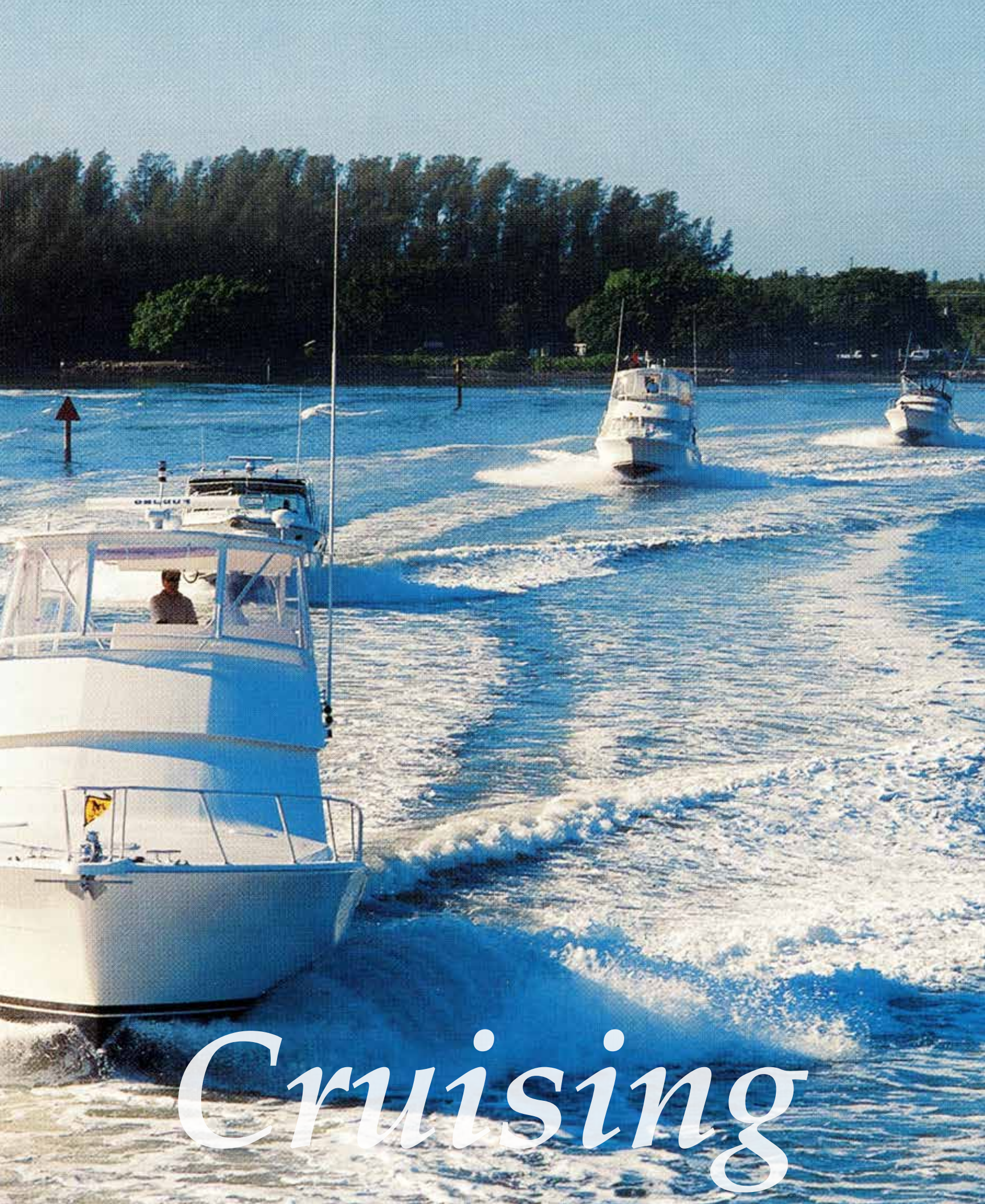


NAPLES SAILING CLUB



NAPLES ON THE GULF, FLORIDA





Cruising



CHAPTER FOUR: Cruising

Although the NSYC originally was founded to provide a home for sailing enthusiasts, under Art Neumann (Commodore 1966-1967), the Bridge decided to admit power boaters into the Club. The Power Fleet was formed in 1967 and within a year boasted 50 boats!

Our Fast Fleet enjoyed many SW Florida cruise destinations. A second group of power boaters, known as the Shallow Drafters, consisted of smaller vessels whose owners enjoyed short-distance excursions for picnics on local beaches.



Bert Newcombe, Jr. playing with fiddler crabs next to his parents' Shallow Drafter

A Club for Boaters Only?

As Naples became a popular destination in the 1980s, the Club's waiting list grew. Everyone wanted in! The Executive Board voted to restrict new membership approvals to one non-boater for every five boating members. Two years later, the Board voted to deny non-boaters entry into the Club altogether! That policy was vetoed in 1989, yet by 1996 the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club boasted 255 powerboats and 30 sail boats, more than any other yacht club in Southwest Florida! In a 1998 report by the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs, 78% of NSYC members owned boats, a greater number than any other FCYC club in the State.



A Grand Tradition of Cruising

Over the years, NSYC cruises have ranged from one-day beach outings and fishing tournaments to voyages of several weeks. Early favorites were Faro Blanco on Marathon in the Florida Keys and tarpon fishing trips to Keys and Caxambas Pass.



Faro Blanco

Members especially enjoyed cruising to the now-defunct Faro Blanco in early August for the first weekend of lobster season. A 1968 *Spinnaker* read: "Our third annual lobster hunt... had 8 sailboats, 5 powerboats, and a total of 60 people (some drove). We spent one week at Faro Blanco and Content Key '...because that's where the lobsters are! They live under the rocks and many boats anchored in position that night to be ready to start bringing them in at midnight.'" Club member and *Naples Star* reporter, Ruth Cooper, wrote of the 1971 trip: "...lobstering, fishing, eating, good fellowship and just plain fun...much boat hopping and we are proud to say that on the whole four-day cruise, not a single person fell overboard."



Bill Reagan, whose wife, Jinny, is second generation NSYC, recalls how he and his father-in-law, Tim O'Connor, would assemble two to three NSYC members to crew on his 26' Seacraft, *Ronnoco*. They would depart Naples at 6 a.m. and, because it was a fast boat, be in Key West for lunch. He recalls member Bob Hill taking his 20' Mako on a particularly rough day. When he finally arrived at the Key, Bill remembers asking Bob how the ride was. The response: "Uphill all the way!"

Another popular event was the "Trip to Nowhere." Members boarded their boats at the NSYC docks and partied there for several days! They enjoyed having Shipwreck parties complete with crazy costumes, picnics, and rubber raft races, all followed by dinner and dancing.



In 2003, four boats, led by Ted Spurlock aboard *Champagne Lady*, traveled up the west coast of Florida to Sandestin in the Panhandle, stopping

at several yacht clubs along the way. An ambitious East Coast cruise in 2006 included five boats that cruised through the Keys and north to St. Augustine, visiting 13 separate ports!

In the 1980s, the outgoing Fleet Captain gave a party to wrap up the cruising year and award trophies to the "Most Directionally Challenged," "Docking Displays Worth a Laugh," and "Cruise Cancellation Record Holder." Evenings included lots of good-natured ribbing about mishaps and misadventures, hence its name, "The Dock Wallopers Ball."

FLEET CAPTAINS

More than a few "old salts" as well as some of our best storytellers have occupied the office of Fleet Captain, and their stories often have been told at their own expense. Our 1996 Fleet Captain, Doug Gebbie, gained the nickname "Manatee Doug" when, leading a Club cruise, he confidently radioed the fleet, "Follow Me!" then proceeded to get "disoriented" (i.e. lost), in the Manatee River, executing an unprecedented triple U-Turn with the whole fleet dutifully following behind. Apologies ensued to the captain of the small fishing boat who took the brunt of our huge wakes.

1998's Fleet Captain, "Wrong Way Fred" Napel, took much kidding when he accidentally followed a fleet from another yacht club, wondering why they weren't flying the NSYC colors. The next day he got a speeding ticket, ran aground, and was almost attacked by a great white shark while pushing his boat off a sandbar. Bystanders swore they saw him walking on water to get back into his boat.

Another (nameless) Fleet Captain ran aground an unbelievable three times in one day with everyone following him, each time stacking up like logs on the sandbars.

Today's Popular Destinations:

Useppa Island

Useppa Island, a perennial favorite, is a picturesque private island, accessible only by boat. The agenda usually includes cocktails and pot-lucks on the dock, dinner at the famous Barron Collier Inn, croquet tournaments, and a quick trip to nearby Cabbage Key Inn and Marina, famous for burgers and dollar bills lining the walls. It's been a favorite of many VIP visitors, such as Ernest Hemingway, Carl Hiassen and former U.S. President, George H.W. Bush.



Members enjoy dinner at the Old Collier Inn



The Money Room at Cabbage Key Inn



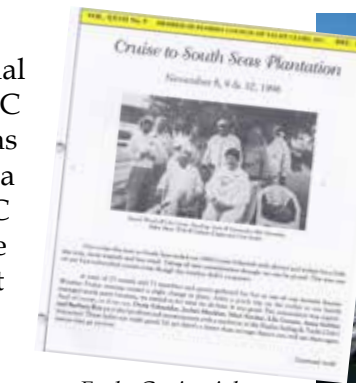
A Relaxing Game



A quick boat ride back to Useppa from Cabbage Key

South Seas Resort

The longest standing annual cruise destination for NSYC has been the South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island. Since 1966, NSYC cruise leaders have made this as fun-filled cruise that includes golf tournaments, tennis, shelling, fishing spa outings and bocce games. Record participation was set in 1997 when 107 NSYC members and guests filled the South Seas marina.



Early Cruise Ad



Dave and Carole Simpson greeted on arrival



Golf Tournaments



Bocce Tournaments



2013 Hone made Boat Race at South Seas, Sarah Torres and V/C Butler Race for the Finish Line





Boca Grande

Another annual cruise favorite destination is Boca Grande on Gasparilla Island, where cruisers enjoy scavenger hunts, golf cart rallies, BBQs on the dock, and great shopping!



First Mate Pam Ladell



The Bahamas

Since 1966, many Club members have braved the Gulf Stream to visit these lovely islands, a destination Past Commodore Peter Ladell (Commodore, 2012) and his wife, Pam, have recently revived with their annual cruises to the Exumas.

The Lowdermilks also enjoy spending time in the Abacos with various relatives and friends in tow (sometimes literally!). The Mosers, Simpsons, Harkins, Tetis, Krisses Bozzos and other NSYC members all have enjoyed their Bahamian adventures, returning with stories and priceless memories to tempt more of us to try our luck visiting this beautiful island chain.

The Florida Keys and Beyond

One of the most successful long cruises in Club history was organized by 2013's Fleet Captain, Scott Schwalback and his wife, Faith. Members cruised to Ocean Reef (Key Largo), Key West and the Dry Tortugas. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then these photos tell the story of NSYC members having the time of their lives!





Hurricane Pass Lobster Bake



Cookout at Burnt Store



Sarasota Yacht Club

Other Destinations

Burnt Store Marina is still on our cruising list with its easy access and shopping. Everglades City, Goodland, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Venice, Longboat Key, Tween Waters and Everglades City round out our usual ports-o'-call, but our Fleet Captains always seem to find new, exciting destinations for our members to explore.

Marco Island Yacht Club

Sunday luncheon cruises to the Marco Island Yacht Club, open to both boaters and non-boating Social Members, also is a favorite. Other venues are being added to the Sunday luncheon cruise schedule every year, much to the pleasure of our members.



Tony Prestifilippo 2014 Fleet Captain

It is the Fleet Captain's job to select each year's cruise destinations, appoint cruise leaders, and oversee cruise planning and preparation with a skippers' meeting before each cruise. In addition to these responsibilities, the Fleet Captain is charged with organizing the Club's annual Fleet Review, one of the most important events in our yearly calendar. The Holiday Boat Lighting event also is under the aegis of the Fleet Captain, a holiday event that draws appreciative applause everywhere on Naples Bay as NSYC vessels light up the night and members enjoy holiday cheer.

In 1974, NSYC's Fleet Captain, Barbara McKinney became the first woman Fleet Captain in our Club's history, as well as the first woman to hold the position of Fleet Captain in the entire State of Florida! Charlene Allen was the second woman to serve as the Club's Fleet Captain.



A Typical Skippers' Meeting



Florida's First Woman Fleet Captain, NSYC's Barbara McKinney



NSYC's Second Woman Fleet Captain Charlene Allen and husband, Jules

In 1974, NSYC's Fleet Captain, Barbara McKinney, was the first woman Fleet Captain in our Club's history. She also was the first woman to hold the position of Fleet Captain in the State of Florida! It would be another 20 years before the NSYC Commodore would choose another woman, Charlene Allen, to serve in that capacity.



Past Commodore Peter Ladell receives 2014 Fleet Captain's Award

The Fleet Captain's Award

In 2012, NSYC Fleet Captain, Mike Kehoe, reinstated the Fleet Captain's Award, given to an individual who has made significant contributions to our boating program that year. The award alternates between Power Fleet Captain and Sailing Fleet Captain. The first recipient was Jim Zimmerman. In 2013, the award went to Past Commodore Tom O'Reilly and his wife, Jo. Past Commodore Peter Ladell received the 2014 award.

Powerboat Races

As the first club in Naples devoted to sailing, we also have been one of the most active clubs for power boaters in the area. The Club's scrapbooks are filled with articles on the many races – sail and powerboat – that the Club has hosted through the years.

In 1988, another entertaining but short-lived tradition was born: the "Chamber Pot Challenge Cup," where "Stink Pots" (power boaters) vied with Rag Toppers (sailors). They raced prams by paddling and/or sailing a course off our docks; winners won bragging rights. The last Chamber Pot Race was in April 1999. Final results have been lost to history, but Dr. Jeannie Moran (wife of Mark Moran, Commodore 1993) remembers, "It was a mess! Mark didn't know a thing about sailing and neither did the other power boaters. I think they all ended up capsizing so who knows who won?"

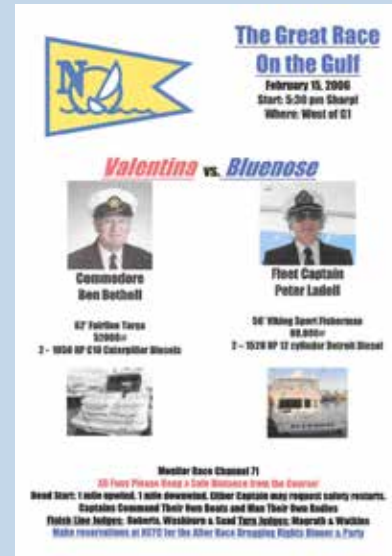


Bluenose vs. Valentina



In 2006, Commodore Ben Bethell challenged his Fleet Captain and future Commodore, Peter Ladell (2012), to a race, boasting that his sleek *Valentina* could “run rings around” Ladell’s “old fishing boat, *Bluenose*” —and the race was on! Advertised in the *Spinnaker* as “The Great

Race on the Gulf,” spectators were invited to watch, but were warned to “keep a safe distance from the course.” From a dead start west of Gordon’s Pass, the captains raced one mile upwind, then back 1 mile downwind. *Bluenose*, the “old fishing boat” won!



handling, navigation, radio and electronics operation, weather, CPR, and lessons in emergency preparedness. Most classes provided in-water, hands-on practicing of skills. SeaGals have led Club cruises and have participated in sailing lessons and regattas. One participant wrote: “What a wonderful day! I have been on the water for 60 years. I realize now there is always more to learn. Thank you, SeaGals.”



2012 SeaGals' South Seas Cruise Leaders, Sally Lowdermilk, Liz Grogan, and Maureen Russell



Linda Kehoe

Under Linda Kehoe, 2014 SeaGals Chair, a SeaGal’s luncheon cruise and instruction on marine electronics was added to the array of programs on boating safety and navigation skills. Classes have helped even the most experienced helmswomen hone their skills.



Keels and Wheels

Many NSYC members found that they missed the fun and fellowship of Club cruises after they had sold their boats. To answer this need, the NSYC car club, Classy Cruisers, petitioned the Board in 2013 to approve a program that would allow non-boating Regular members to join the fun. Thus the Keels and Wheels program was born. Regular members now can continue to be part of fun and camaraderie of NSYC cruises.

Sunset Cruises

Although cruising is limited to Regular Members and their guests, our sunset cruises offer opportunities for boaters to invite non-boating members aboard to experience our waterways and look for the elusive “Green Flash.”



SeaGals

The boating safety programs begun by former Fleet Captains Barbara McKinney and Charlene Allen were revived in 2005 by Linda Butler and Jan Lane. The curriculum offered monthly classes in boating safety, boat handling and navigation. Under the leadership of Liz Grogan in 2010, the boating safety program became known as SeaGals with a course of study that leading to a certificate in safe boat handling.

2012-13 Chairs Maureen Russell and Sally Lowdermilk and 2014s Chair, Linda Kehoe, have continued the focus on helmsman skills, docking practice, line





Fleet Review



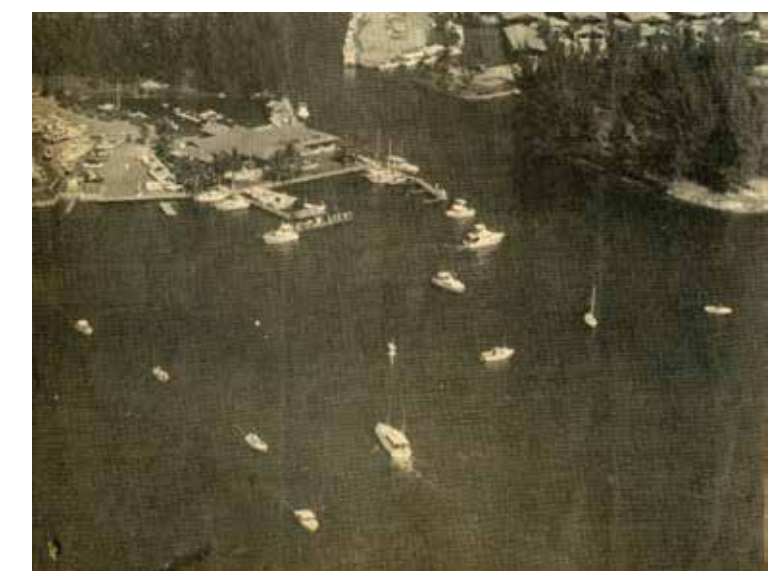
CHAPTER FIVE: Fleet Review

The Annual Fleet Review is one of our Club's most important events. The tradition of the fleet review is an ancient one, though the first non-military review of the ships can be traced back to Portugal's great exploration fleets of the 15th century.

Early Fleet Reviews

The NSYC held its first Fleet Review on January 15, 1972. The announcement came over marine radios at 1:00 pm: "Flotilla Captain, pass your fleet in review!"

Sixty vessels joined in the Line of March. First came the sailboats, then the small powerboat fleet followed by the cruiser fleet to pass by the reviewing craft to salute the Commodore and his flag officers while spectators watched from the T-Dock.



Arial View of Early Fleet Review



1992 Line of March



1992 First Mates' Vessel



At the Club's 1996 Fleet Review, Mark Moran (Commodore 1993) was disappointed to find that his boat, *Stay Loose*, had to undergo repairs. Not wanting to forego participating in this important event, he is seen here passing the reviewing stand in his 13' Boston Whaler. With guests on board and flags flying, he stood in full uniform at the stern to salute the Bridge, water almost over the gunwales, looking very much like George Washington crossing the Delaware!



P/C Mark Moran saluting the Bridge



2014 Fleet Review

Recent Fleet Reviews

While the NSYC continues the traditions and procedures required by Fleet Review protocol, each Fleet Captain leaves their unique mark on the ceremony. In 2013, Fleet Captain Schott Schwalback moved the commissioning ceremony to the Club's riverside parking lot to allow everyone an unobstructed view of the ceremony as flags were raised by members Jan Lane and Jeanne Williams. Miss Camlyn Belle, granddaughter of members Janet and Jerry Belle led everyone in a heartfelt Pledge of Allegiance. An echo rendition of "Taps" and the reading of names of members who had passed away followed. In Past Commodore Jack Harkins' words, "This was the most outstanding and prestigious Fleet Review in our Club's history."

Festooned in colorful flags and with burgees waving, they fell into the Line of March behind the Club's Past Commodores aboard Miles Strohl's *Continuity*. All were saluted by Commodore Linda Butler, Vice Commodore Ken Dabrowski, and Rear Commodore Art Lottes. Flag Officers welcomed Naples Mayor John Sorey and his wife, Deloris, among the day's special guests.



Fleet Captain Scott Schwalback and Camlyn Belle



1991 Flag Ceremony



2010 Fleet Review, Rear Commodore Peter Ladell, Vice Commodore Rick Jennewine, Commodore Tom O'Reilly



Flag Ceremonies and the Commissioning of the Fleet

The Flag Ceremony follows the Commodore's review of the fleet to commission the Fleet and the Club for the following year. Once the flag is raised, the Commodore steps forward to commission the Fleet and the Club for the following year.

At the first Flag Ceremony in 1972, Past Commodores, incoming Commodore Howard Heathman, Commodore Emeritus Jack Messmer, the Club Chaplain and visiting dignitaries assembled at the flagpole on the lawn between the Clubhouse and T-Dock. (Note: the flagpole was moved to its current location at the southeast corner of our lawn when the new clubhouse was completed in 2004). The cannon fired one round and the outgoing Commodore (Robert Kuttig, Commodore 1971) struck his flag while members listened to "To the Colors" played from a phonograph. Incoming Commodore Howard Heathman (1972) raised his flag, and the Chaplain gave an invocation.

For years, member Ruth Dodge playing her accordion, led guests and dignitaries through the Club to a barbeque lunch following the ceremonies. The traditions of the Fleet Review remain the same as they were in 1972. The accordion processional, however, seems not to have survived.



NEWS photo by Norman
FLAG RAISING CEREMONY — The change in command at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club was made Saturday afternoon at the traditional Flag Raising Ceremony. Participants, above are, left to right, Frank Kerrigan, raising the flag; Joe Knight; Howard Heathman, past commodore, at microphone; John Druffel, new commodore; Robert Nadeau, fleet chaplain, and Jack Messmer, commodore emeritus. Participating in the annual fleet review in front of the club on the Bay of Naples, at left, is Christiaan Duvekot.

Jan. 22, 1973, Fleet Review, Change of Watch and Flag Ceremony (From: Naples Star)





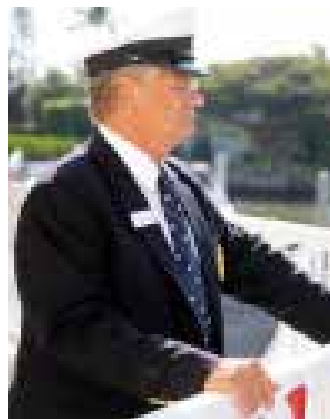
Miss Savannah McDonough

At the 2014 Flag Ceremony, members Jan Lane and George Dellas hoisted the flags as all were led in the singing of "God Bless America" by Donna Issenman. Miss Savannah McDonough, granddaughter of Members Carolyn and Jim Medeema, led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in clear, high tones. Chaplain Tom O'Reilly read the names of those NSYC members who had passed away, followed by a moving echo rendition of "Taps." Commodore Butler announced that the Fleet was commissioned for the year and welcomed members, special guests and visitors to accompany her and the 2014 Bridge to the main dining room, where the Club's new Executive Chef, Chris Jones, and staff served an outstanding lunch.



A 1999 Spinnaker first mentions the Club Chaplain's reading of the names of members who passed away followed by a bugler playing "Taps." That tradition has continued and is always a solemn, poignant moment.

Past Commodore, Mike Bozzo (Commodore 2009), recalled, "How honored I felt during the 2009 boat parade, seeing my boat, *Still Cruisin'*, pass the stands with my family on the bow and the fleet following. The ceremony was touching and members and honored guests all listened as "Taps" was played. It took our breath away."



2014 Fleet Captain Tony Prestifilippo



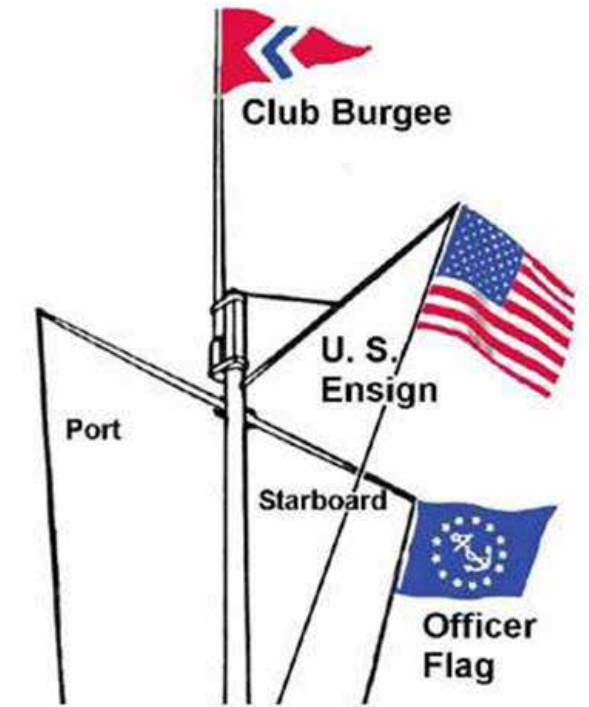
2014 Chaplain, P/C Tom and Bridge, R/C Art Lottes, V/C Ken Dabrowski and Commodore, Linda Butler



2014 Commodore, Linda Butler

Displaying the Flags

Nautical flag display is based on long-standing traditions that date back over 300 years. A yacht club's nautical-styled flagpoles simulate the masts of a nation's traditional naval sailing vessels' gaffs (forward masts) and yardarms (crosstrees). Historically, the yardarm was in front of the main sail with a national flag flown at the top of that line. On sailing vessels, the yardarm would have been in front of the main sail. A nation's flag would have been flown at the top of that line. Aboard modern ships, the place of honor became the stern, where U.S. flags now fly. On land, the place of honor is at the topmost forward position, with a burgee above the yardarm. Lacking a yardarm, however, the NSYC flags fly in the alternate formation, the US flag occupying the place of honor at the top of the "mast."



There has been only one cancellation of a Fleet Review in the history of NSYC, and that was in 1974. Commodore John Druffel's letter to members that year reads:

We had hoped, because of the Energy Crisis, to have a Sail Boat only Fleet Review in 1974; however, realizing every member's right to participate if he has fuel, it would be unfair to exclude the power fleet. We are aware that fuel consumption would be minimal; however we feel we must support the President's decision to conserve energy wherever possible. Today the Coast Guard in Miami called the Club regarding our proposed Ceremony and stated that they could not stop us from having a review but, because of the Energy Crisis, they hoped we would not. Further, they would be unable to furnish any policing of the Line of March with their own or Coast Guard Auxiliary boats.





Change of Watch



CHAPTER SIX: Change of Watch

The Commodore

*The term commodore comes from the Dutch word, 'komadeur'. It was adopted by the British Navy to demote the officer temporarily in command of a squadron or fleet. At one time, the United States Navy used the term to denote a one-star officer above the rank of captain but below the rank of rear admiral...Today, the word is used to designate the chief officer of a yacht club. The commodore of a yacht club is addressed in formal and most informal situations as 'Commodore.' The title also is used for all past commodores...in recognition of the time and effort it takes to become commodore of a yacht club: 'Once a commodore, always a commodore'. The commodore commands the fleet but does not necessarily lead it because leading the fleet is only one part of the operation of a yacht club.'*¹

Together with the Executive Board, the Commodore has responsibility for all club operations and, working closely with management, makes recommendations to the Executive Board on all matters affecting Club activities and policies. The Commodore also is charged with commanding the fleet, presiding over meetings of the full membership and Executive Board, and is ex-officio member of all Club committees. Each incoming Commodore must appoint a member to head each of the Club's standing committees and present a report at the Club's annual meeting on the "State of the Club." The Vice Commodore is second in command and chairs the Membership Committee, while the Rear Commodore is charged with serving as Chair of the House Committee.



¹ Excerpted from Houston Yacht Club's web page, <http://houstonyachtclub.com/>



Change of Watch and Commodore's Ball

The Naples Sailing and Yacht Club honors all Past Commodores, the outgoing Commodore and the incoming Flag officers at a Change of Watch Ceremony that begins with a Grand March.

At first, the NSYC Change of Watch were both held immediately after the Fleet Review, while the Commodore's Ball was held on New Year's Eve. At some point in the Club's history, the Change of Watch was combined with the Commodore's Ball and move to mid-January.



1966 Commodore's Ball Menu



Second Commodore's Ball at the Cove Inn, New Years Eve, December 31st, 1967



Beautiful Tables greet members at 2011 Commodore's Ball

The Commodore's Ball: Elegance and Ceremony



1999 Commodore Gene Carr and wife, Marjorie



2013 Grand March, Commodore Tom Thompson and wife, Niki



2013 Bridge: Commodore Tom Thompson, V/C. Linda Butler, R/C Ken Dabrowski



2013 Flag Officers receive their flags of office: (left to right) Liz Grogan, Secretary; Larry Pirnak, Treasurer; Scott Schwalbak, Fleet Captain; John Keller, FCYC Delegate; Jerry Watkins, Sailing Fleet Captain; and Tom O'Reilly (Commodore, 2010), Club Chaplain receive their flags of office



At the 2014 Change of Watch, the NSYC welcomed a woman to serve as Commodore for the first time in its history. Commodore Linda M. Butler has had the good fortune of working with a superb Bridge: Vice Commodore Ken Dabrowski; Rear Commodore Art Lottes; Treasurer Larry Pirnak; a dedicated Executive Board, and a management team to help oversee this milestone year, the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club's Golden Anniversary.

Our Club's past Commodores have much to say about their experience and some interesting stories to tell. Below are but a few that have come our way:



2014 Commodore: Linda Butler and husband, Hal

Past Commodore Howard Heathman (1972):

"...our late Commodore Emeritus Jack Messmer had the foresight, perseverance and generosity to take our Club from a fishing shack of five picnic tables, 40 folding chairs, a used refrigerator and a propane stove to the beautiful facility that we have now."

Past Commodore John Druffel (1973): "There were wonderful parties, and one morning I got an early call asking if I knew who belonged to the Rolls Royce in the boat slip as the tide was coming up...We only had one member in the club with the Rolls and it did not phase him. He and his wife were at every event helping to keep the social programs afloat. I had so hoped for a footprint expansion [of the Club] and made a tentative agreement with Mr. Keltner next door who owned the Bay Marina to buy his property for five hundred thousand dollars. I thought it would pass easily. It was close but no cigar. I have many wonderful memories. Lots of hard work and lots of great times I will never regret."

Past Commodore Richard Webster (1975): "...while I was Commodore I got a phone call late one evening from our club manager who was extremely upset. Our gourmet chef had entered into a confrontation with one of our waitresses, the conclusion of which ended with him breaking her nose and leaving her face very bloody. When I arrived the poor girl was laid out on the foyer sofa with ice on her nose. The chef had, left never to return."

Past Commodore Anthony Catalano (1997): We came to Naples in 1975 when my law practice was transferred here...I served as attorney for the Club during its dispute over the land lease. Our children remember the big soup pot that used to be in the old club, and our son would hope they would be serving chicken noodle, his favorite. Our kids grew up here. On Saturday nights there was dancing, and Mrs. Catalano has wonderful memories of dancing with her 8-year old son on our dance floor. It was a great family club back then. (Note: Past Commodore Catalano passed away in June, 2014, not long after submitting this to us.)

Past Commodore Gene Carr (1999): We joined in 1971 to make friends. I recall the crowded old clubhouse with a long bar – to slide drinks down! ...I insisted on a 'no smoking' environment and started the Friday 'Wisdom Table' in the aft deck room which was attended and enjoyed by many men. So then, Margie [Mrs. Margie Carr] started a women's group she called "First Mates."

Past Commodore Tony Maio (2001): [While] I served on the Bridge (1999-2001)...By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation were changed to permit spouses to hold office so long as a member and his or her spouse did not serve on the Executive Board at the same time. Charlene Allen was the first: she served

as Fleet Captain in 2001, and later as a member of the Executive Board...Clearly, the most important (and effort-consuming) topic during that time was the planning and eventual approval of the current clubhouse. As one would expect with a project of such significance, there was less than unanimity among the membership about what the new clubhouse should be, or whether we needed one at all...Apart from all of that, we had a wonderful experience as members; our leaky old clubhouse saw lots of dining and partying, our marina was full (with a long waiting list) and the Club cruises were great.

Past Commodore Jack Harkins (2003): "Originally from New Hampshire, we came south and joined NSYC in 1996. Two years later I was part of a six-year building project!"

Past Commodore Don Hubbard (2004): As nice as the current clubhouse is, thinking of the old one brings back...the camaraderie that developed when we all pitched in to decorate the clubhouse for holidays... virtually all of the decorating was done by the members. One of the very satisfying features during that year of construction was how well the members responded to our having to conduct our many social events at off-site locations. For four months we did not have any clubhouse at all."

Past Commodore Bill Grafstrom (2008): "I think that I contributed to the vitality and growth of the Club by implementing the position of Director of Membership and Marketing. Acquiring new members to replace the attrition is how we must grow...and I successfully got a By-Law change to allow a Social Member category..."

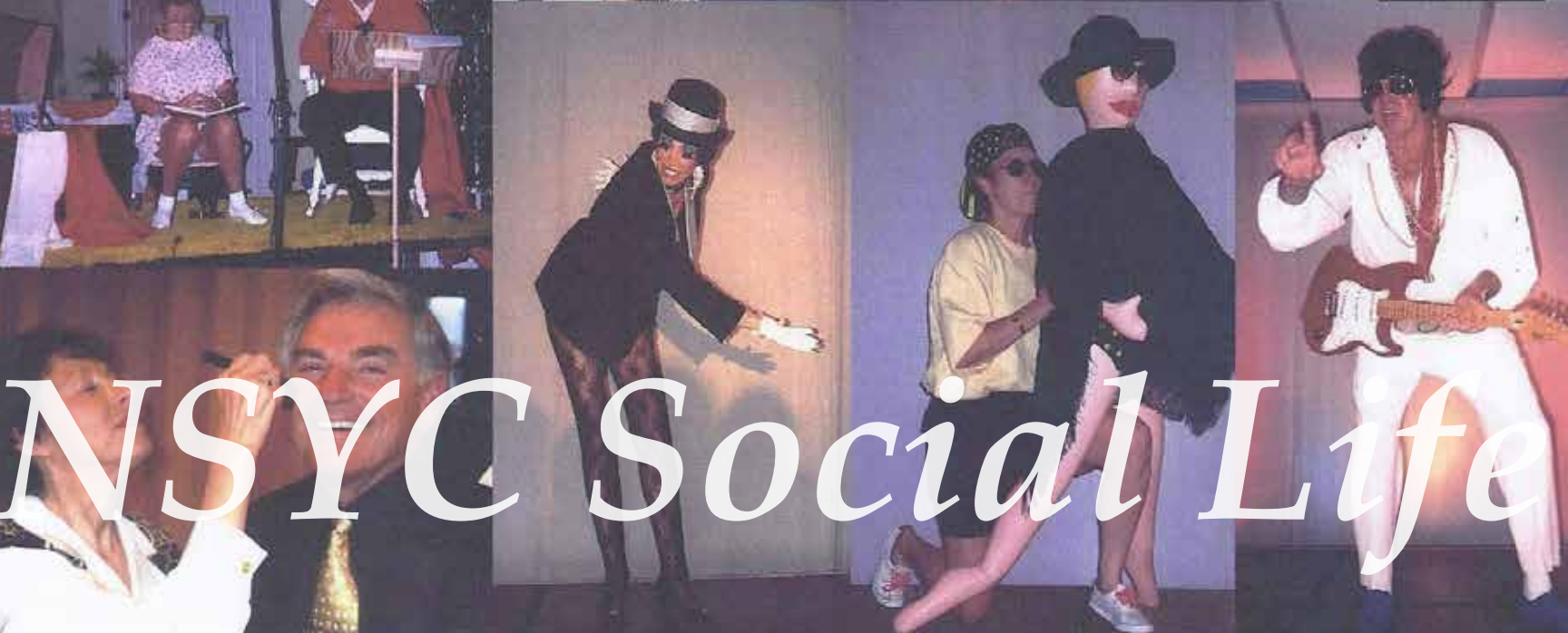
Past Commodore Mike Bozzo (2009): "With a weak economy, 2009 was an interesting year to start out as Commodore. However, serving with a wonderful Board, committee chairmen and caring employees, the year turned out to be just fine."

Past Commodore Tom O'Reilly (2010): The Commodore's Ball was truly special...because all three of our children and their spouses attended the event. This was a great start to a great year FULL of meetings, events, and cruises...Our senior staff are the "key" to a well run event...they are the BEST!

Past Commodore Rick Jennewine (2011): As Commodore, I received a lot of constructive feedback and many members expressed an interest in having the opportunity to develop more friendships within the club. Thus, 2011 became the year of "getting to know you." I also helped develop the clubs within our club...and they represent one of our club's best opportunities for meeting other members. On a sad note, during 2011, I lost my wife of 45 years to cancer. I am sincerely grateful to have been surrounded by my club friends during that difficult time.... We have a wonderful club and I wish the club and members continued success.

Past Commodore Peter Ladell (2012): "The introduction of the Captains' Table in 2012 made a huge difference to the Club. It provided a vehicle for members to donate to NSYC just as they might do to their 'alma mater'. This has allowed the Club to embark on capital projects that would otherwise be impossible in challenging economic times..."

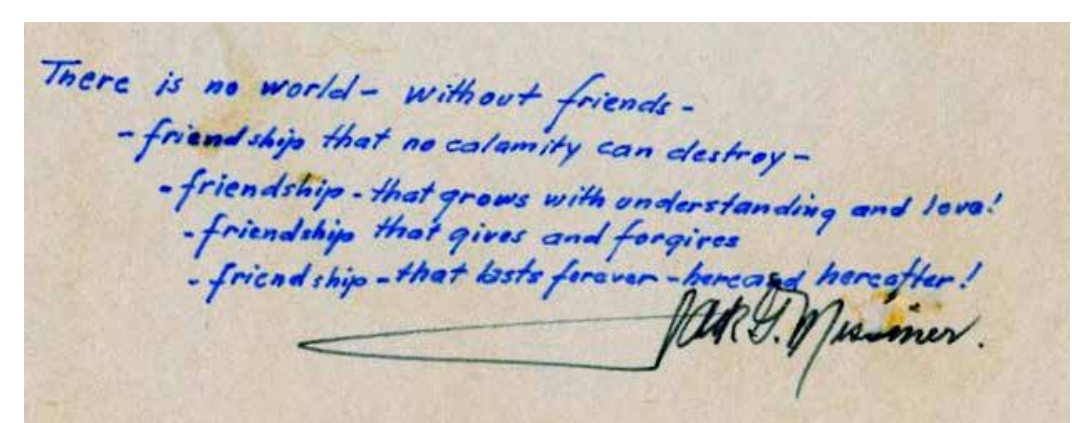
Past Commodore Tom Thompson (2013): I've always felt that the NS&YC is quite different when compared to other yacht or country clubs in that its members, through committees, truly drive the activities of the club. I'm continually amazed at the energy, dedication and creativeness of our committee chairpersons. They recruit their committees, schedule meetings and direct their respective activities. This reminds me of how Larry Pirnak, our Treasurer, renegotiated our club loan with Mutual of Omaha, which considerably helped our finances. Or how Scott Schwalback, our Fleet Captain, successfully changed the location and structure of our Fleet Review with 26 vessels participating.



NSYC Social Life



CHAPTER SEVEN: NSYC Social Life



While the Commodore, Bridge and Executive Board are entrusted with the task of Club governance, the heart and soul of the NSYC are our members.

Since its inception, our Club has been known as the best, most fun Club in Naples, and the hundreds of photos in our scrapbooks prove that point! Looking over our history, we find special events, fishing tournaments, guest speakers, dinner shows and parties of every conceivable flavor: western parties, seafood parties, balls, parties that celebrate the '20s, '40s, '50s, '60s, or '70s; parties with special themes – New York ballrooms, James Bond, TV shows, Halloween, Oscar nights, murder mystery dinners. Members have enjoyed dance lessons; golf, trivia nights and more. The list reveals an amazing fifty years of members enjoying great times and great friendships.



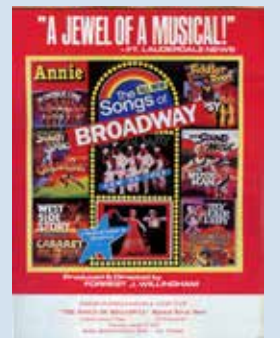
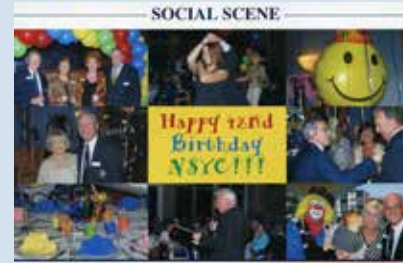


2014 Social Co-Chairs, Lynda Davis and Eileen Gallagher

Social Chairs are appointed by the Commodore and head the Social Committee. Their responsibilities include developing the year's social calendar, appointing chairs for each social event, planning and budgeting. They work closely with the General Manager to assure that all events run smoothly. It is an enormous but rewarding (and fun!) job.

As years passed, several social events became part of the NSYC annual calendar: The Commodore's Ball, a Valentine's Dinner or Dinner Dance, the Kentucky Derby Party, an End-of-Season Party, the July 4th Celebration at the Club, Welcome Aboard/Welcome Back, the Holiday Boat Lighting Party, Holiday Dinner Dance, the Naples Boat Parade, and the gala New Year's Eve Party.

In 2014, under the direction of member John Ghee, the NSYC added to its list of events a memorial Day service honoring service members and first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.





The NSYC Kentucky Derby



For almost 45 years, the Kentucky Derby has been considered a good reason for a party. In 1998, Past Commodore Jack and Cheryl Harkins elevated NSYC's Derby Day to one of our Club's most popular parties. Jack developed a computer program that allows odds and payouts to be based on in-house Club wagers, and members watch while "runners" post up-to-the-minute odds.

Mint juleps in hand, ladies don beautiful hats and men wear their Kentucky finery. Wagers are made, and payouts can be impressive. When the race is over, members enjoy a fine southern dinner, followed by music and dancing. May 3, 2014, marked the 140th Kentucky Derby, and the 16th year that Jack and Cheryl have chaired the Club's Derby event.



Musicals

NSYC Follies



Lila Corner and Assistant Producer, Barb Roy

NSYC has produced three major variety shows at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club, and the fun members have working on these productions have forged great and lasting friendships. Choreography, costuming and rehearsals require months of work, but the results have been well worth the effort.

Lila Corner wrote and produced the first show in 1995 when she was First Mates Chair. "Vaudeville's Back in Town" had over 50 members performing a variety of vaudeville acts. It was a huge success.

In 2000, Lila wrote and produced a second show with Barb Roy called "That's Entertainment." 75 members performed, accompanied by a professional band. Lila and Barb's hard work



paid off: both nights of the production were completely sold out!

In 2011, Barbara and Lila teamed up again to co-chair the production of the "Naples Sailing and Yacht Club Follies." Singing and dancing, comedy skits and performances delighted their audiences. Over 85 members put on a sold-out two-night dinner shows.



Holiday Traditions

Holidays are very special at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Mardi Gras, Passover, Easter, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas all have been well celebrated with special dinner events or parties. The most spectacular of these are the festivities that surround holiday celebrations every December: the Boat Lighting Party, the Naples Boat Parade and, of course, our annual New Year's Eve Gala.



The NSYC Boat Lighting Event

Our Annual Holiday Boat Lighting event was started by the First Mates in 1987 as the "Dock and Do" party. The first Mates decorate the clubhouse, while outside "elves" adorn their boats with strings of lights and holiday decorations. After the countdown by the First Mates' Chair over a loudspeaker, our yacht club lights up the night. Carolers, a hand-bell chorus, and dockside cocktails set the stage for the holiday dinner party inside. When our clubhouse can't accommodate all who want to attend, another boat-lighting party is added on the following evening.



NSYC Holiday Party and Boat Parade

The Holiday Party is held on the same evening as the Naples Holiday Boat Parade in mid-December. For the past two years, our marina has served as the viewing stand for the City's dignitaries and parade judges, for there is no better place in all of Naples to enjoy vision of the City's finest and most beautiful vessels decked out in their holiday finery competing for awards.

The New Year's Eve Gala

The final event of our social calendar is the New Year's Eve gala. Throughout the Club's history, planning committees have created fifty years worth of memorable evenings for members to bid the old year farewell and welcome in the new.



Membership Categories

At first, the NSYC had only one type of membership and those members were entitled to enjoy the Club's full range of activities. Today, however, there are several categories of membership: Regular Members are entitled to all the Club has to offer; and Junior and Associate Members also may enjoy full privileges. Social Members may take part in all Club activities with the exception of boating. And, as of 2014, Legacy Members may enjoy the rights and privileges of the membership they inherit.

Dress Codes

When the new wing of the clubhouse opened in 1980, the Executive Board instituted the following: "No dancing without tie and jacket, with the exception of Tuesday's Family Night." In 1982 they further refined the rule—men must have TIED ties and jackets in the dining room as well as on the dance floor after 6:00 pm (ascots and bolo ties were not permitted). In 1986, a motion was approved to require members who came to the Club inappropriately attired to return home to change. Twenty-four members were turned away in 1988's valentine's Ball due to improper dress. Today's dress code allows informal dress in the Lighthouse Lounge (but no short-shorts, bathing suits or flip-flops), and slacks and a collared shirt in the main dining room unless otherwise stated.

Getting the Word Out: Club Communications

The Spinnaker

A spinnaker is a large balloon-like sail that lets a vessel make the most of sailing downwind. Our newsletter, *The Spinnaker*, helps members make the most of their membership. Since its inaugural issue in 1966, *The Spinnaker* has advertised upcoming Club social events, cruise and regatta schedules, boating tips, favorite recipes, and monthly columns by NSYC Commodores, General Managers, Club Chefs, and Committee Chairs.

Content has varied over the years. Merle Harris, wife of Commodore Palmer Harris (1969) wrote a column in *The Spinnaker* called 'Seafarer's SeaKrits', with news of Club members whose son was killed in Vietnam or had family or friends in town visiting. Children away at school also were on the mailing list to stay current. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Club news also was regularly printed in Naples' daily newspaper, *The Naples Star*, thanks to Ruth Cooper, Club member and *Star* reporter.

Today's *Spinnaker* is a monthly high-gloss magazine. Our Club's magazine also can be found on-line, distributed to each member via e-mail. Event ads for sailing, cruising, parties, guest speakers, dances and outings continue to keep members posted on our full and interesting calendar of events.



Jerry and Patti Wachowczz returning from a Marco Island Lunch Cruise



Bob and Carolina Sorrentino looked for the "Green Flash"



Digital News:

Members are kept informed of upcoming events through print and digital versions of the Spinnaker, but also through "e-mail blasts" from our General Manager, Manny Blanco, staff members and Committee Chairs.



Clubs Within the Club

At the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club, no one can say that there's nothing to do! Within our organization, groups of like-minded members get together to enjoy specific activities. Groups change as interests change, but a review of the many special interest clubs and activity groups within our Club reveal an engaged and diverse membership.



NSYC Bridge is a long-standing activity. Today we have three groups: Partners, Ladies, and Couples Bridge.



Members of our Fishing Club look forward to tournaments, chartered outings, guest speakers...and bragging rights.



Since 2002, NSYC Book Club member, Susan Becker (seated) has facilitated discussions of both fiction and nonfiction titles.



The Computer Club keeps members updated on computing techniques and new technologies.



The Bowling Group meets once/week for open bowling then reconvene at the NSYC to enjoy our fabulous Surf & Turf Buffet.



Members of our Kayak Club enjoy the beauty of Florida waters via guided tours and group excursions.



The Culinary Club focuses on diversity of food preparation and gustation in conjunction with our chef and the Wine Club.



The NSYC Financial and Investment Forum informs, educates, and encourages members to share ideas on wealth management.



Past Commodore Rick Jennewine (Commodore 2011) organized Classy Cruisers in 2009. The car club has become one of the most popular clubs at NSYC, offering road rallies, cruise-ins, field trips, guest speakers and more.



The Sailing Solo Club reaches out to those members on their own to share Club events at the Solos' table and enjoy outings to local theaters.



Under expert guidance, weekly yoga classes and twice/weekly Zumba/Nia classes give NSYC members the opportunity to stay fit, and develop strength, flexibility, and balance in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.



The ancient game of Chinese numbered tiles challenges members of the Mah-jongg Club.



Wine enthusiasts and novices alike enjoy our Wine Club's offerings of guest experts, educational forums, wine tastings, and special dinners.





CHAPTER EIGHT: First Mates

"While the ladies play bridge twice each month, it was felt that perhaps the girls should have some additional activities so they could become better acquainted thus the First Mates Group has been established." -Naples Star, March 23, 1972

On board a vessel, a First Mate is one who is second in command and must take charge of the vessel when the captain is away or incapacitated. Many of the women members of our early Club were highly capable at the helm, but other than accompanying their captains at Club events, women had no official role, with the exception of our Club Historian, First Mate Tiny Messmer.



First Mate Jo O'Reilly at work

Perhaps, as the *Star* article claims, becoming better acquainted was one reason the First Mates Group was formed, but our March 1972 Board minutes give a somewhat different reason: "A First Mates Club, to be made up of women volunteers who will take charge of club projects such as decorating the ladies room, etc. was accepted by the Board. Publicity is to be given to this project in order to give the ladies an opportunity to volunteer their services." We have no record of who volunteered to take up the charge of "decorating the ladies room," but we do know that the group's first meeting took place on Thursday, March 30, 1972: a program on flower arranging, with \$2.25 for the luncheon and \$.60 per drink..

The first Chair of the NSYC First Mates program was the same Barbara McKinney who later was chosen to be the Club's first woman Fleet Captain. It should not be surprising, therefore, that during her two-year term as First Mates Chair (1972-73), Barbara organized not only fashion shows, day-time excursions, luncheon programs on home design and women's health, craft demonstrations, and an investment club, but also held a boating safety program for women.

Boating Safety Education

Barbara McKinney appointed Maxine Thomas (mother of 2012-2013 Boating Safety Co-Chair, Sally Lowdermilk) spearheaded the Club's first Boating Safety Program on Thursday, May 25, 1972, only two months after the First Mates Group was founded!



Maxine and Ted Thomas

The cost was \$2.50, with the Naples Coast Guard Auxiliary presenting the door prize: a fire extinguisher. *Naples Star* reporter and member Ruth Cooper wrote in the *Naples Star*: "The ever active First Mate's Club, held ...with a goodly group including many of them skippers, a short 2 hour course on boating safety. It was

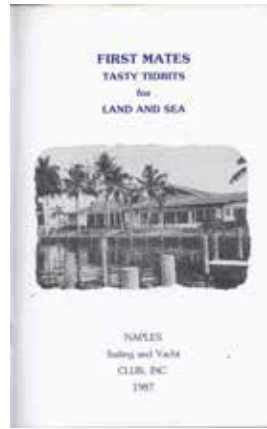


the most worthwhile 2 hours ... to make us realize that we as First Mates have a most important task to fulfill when the boat is on the water."

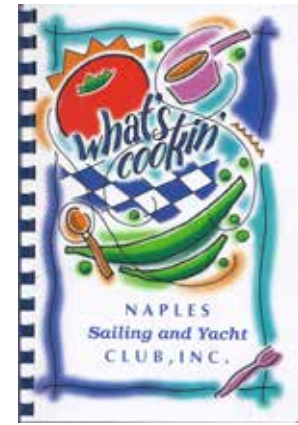
First Mates Contribute



Since its inception, the First Mates have taken on projects to decorate, refurbish, and improve the ambiance of the Clubhouse during its several different expansions. One of the most successful First Mates projects was led by First Mate led by Marjorie Carr, wife of 1999's Commodore, Dr. Gene Carr. Her committee, the NSYC Angels, purchased place settings of logo china for \$40 each in 1987. Over the years, the china saw so much use that when the new clubhouse opened in 2005, the china had to be replaced. Other projects have included humanitarian initiatives, children's programs, and cookbooks.



NAPLES SAILING & YACHT CLUB
 SATURDAY, MAY 13TH - TALENT NIGHT
 A Special Talent Show has been planned for this evening, featuring many of the Club's finest entertainers. This will be a memorable evening that you wouldn't want to miss.
 Cocktails - 6:00 p.m. - Dinner - 7:00 p.m. Talent Show - 9 p.m.
 Dancing - 10:00 p.m. Price \$7.00 per person. Reservations required by May 9th.
 THURSDAY, MAY 25TH - Ahoy There! All First Mates! Come bring your skippers to our May program. For non-boaters, would-be boaters & Old Salts; a Capsule boating course will be presented by several members of The Coast Guard Auxiliary. Time: 10:00 A.M. Place - Outrigger Room. Buffet Luncheon will be served at 12:00 noon - Price \$2.50. Don't forget to bring a "White Elephant" boating item for our sale table. Please put your price on the bottom of the item. All proceeds go to the 1st Mate's Club. Hurran! Reservations Required by May 23rd. See you there,
 Barbara McKinney
 Phone 774-0424



A First Mate Who Led And Inspired

Barbara McKinney loved boating on her beloved *Honey Bee*. After two years as the Club's first First Mates Chair, she became not only our first woman Fleet Captain, she also was the First Woman fleet Captain in the entire State of Florida! She again served as Fleet Captain in 1977. It wasn't until 2006, twenty-nine years later that another dynamic First Mate, Charlene Allen, anchored that position. Barbara was elected as Rear Commodore in 1979, and was on track to become NSYC's first woman Commodore. Yet when it came time for her serve as Vice Commodore and Commodore, the Board declined to give her the nomination. In the words of Evelyne Proffitt, our Club bookkeeper from 1971 to 2011, "It just wasn't done back then. Ladies were supposed to stay at home and be quiet."



Barbara McKinney and friends aboard Honeybee

A quiet stay-at-home was something Barbara was not. She loved the yacht club and devoted countless hours toward enhancing its programs. Her legacy lives on in today's dynamic First Mates program and SeaGals.



2014 First Mates Chair, Linda Palmer

Every woman of the Club is a First Mate, and the First Mates Chair is responsible for developing monthly programs and selects volunteers to chair them. She works with the commodore on all issues affecting women and serves as chief hostess of the Club. 2014's First Mates Chair, Linda Palmer, has continued this tradition.



A First Mates Chair assumes her duty at an annual "Changeover Luncheon," where the accomplishments of the out-going chair are celebrated and the gavel is passed to the new First Mates Chair.



2012 Changeover Luncheon: 2011 First Mate Liz Grogan with P/C Rick Jennewine hands gavel to Pat Holmes, 2012 Chair for Commodore Peter Ladell

First Mates' Programs: To Celebrate, Inform, and Entertain

NSYC scrapbooks are filled with photos of trips, events and programs hosted by the First Mates for women of the Club. Home design and crafts, women's health and beauty, financial planning, panel discussions, tours, talks by well-known experts and authors, as well as programs on industry, the arts and the environment have engaged and entertained our First Mates. Recent programs celebrated Women in the Military and a History of the Notable Women of Naples.



2014 First Mates Luncheon

On the Runway

Fashion shows have long been a favorite. Fashion shows for casual or nautical wear, evening and holiday attire have long been favorites. One early fashion show, "Bringing Paris to You" was attended by 150 First Mates, all without the benefit of Manny's email blasts!





In 1978, captains joined their First Mates on the runway, and did so again in 1987 for an evening fashion show by Boat Haven. Every fashion show includes great food, enjoyable entertainment, and a chance to make lasting friendships.

First Mates' Holiday Traditions

Decorating the Clubhouse

In 1973, First Mates Chair Barbara McKinney began what has since become a First Mates tradition. On the first Monday after Thanksgiving, our First Mates (and many captains) gather to turn our Clubhouse into a sparkling holiday wonderland in preparation for the holiday events that follow. First among them is the Holiday Boat Lighting Party on the first weekend in December. Following the Boat Lighting, First Mates begin preparations for the ever-popular Children's Christmas Party.



NSYC Children's Christmas Party



From the outset, the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club was a family-centered boating club, and the First Mates have made children's activities an important part of our club's holiday calendar.

Waiting expectantly for the arrival of Santa, children and grandchildren of Club members gather in the clubhouse for games, cookie decorating, face painting and a child-sized buffet. Santa arrives by boat, assisted by Mrs. Claus and a few elves to distribute gifts and add to the festivity of the event.

The Holiday Toy Drive

In keeping with the spirit of the holidays and desire to help those in need, Patti Summerfield and the late Maggie Hubbard launched NSYC's own "Toys for Tots" program. Between the Boat Lighting event and the Club's Holiday Christmas Party,



Schwalbak

members place unwrapped toys beneath trees and in our Santa's sleigh which will be delivered to school staff at Immokalee Elementary. In recent years, the event



First Toy Drive Organizers: (left to right) Sue Reynen, Patti Summerfield, Priscilla Washburn, Maggie Hubbard, Carolina Sorrentino



has been headed by member Faith Schwalbak.

'Nauti' - Nights

"Girls just want to have fun..." and the NSYC First Mates are no exception. Since 2010, First Mates and SeaGals have enjoyed hosting joint "girls only" evenings. Entertainment has included demonstrations in seaman's knots, skin care, and zumba; music and dancing; scavenger hunts and movie nights. Sometimes there's a buffet dinner, at other times a BBQ, but every Nauti-Night closes with nightcaps and a pajama party aboard the SeaGals' vessels.



A History of Camaraderie

The “grand ladies” of the NSYC (all of whom once were First Mates and some who still are!) enjoyed an historic gathering at the Club in 2014. Many of the women hadn’t seen one another for decades, but came together to share laughter and stories. It was a wonderful afternoon. They shared laughter and great stories. The ladies agreed that chief among their fondest memories were the great parties and wonderful friends they made here.



2014 Luncheon to Honor “Grand Dames” of NSYC First Mates



Mrs. Merle Harris, wife of Palmer Harris (Commodore 1969) remembers her years at NSYC with fondness and outrageous stories. The original building, she recalls, was little more than a cabin with a screened porch and, although there was a small kitchen, most food was potluck, with women bringing potato salad and the men grilling burgers. Merle took over the *Spinnaker’s* “SeaKrits” column after the original author was “kicked out of the Club” for a rule infraction she chose not to mention. The Harris family introduced Clarke and Ruth Cooper to the Club. Ruth was a reporter with the *Naples Star*, and featured many of the Club’s events in her column. Clarke drove a Rolls Royce, the subject of another story. Merle is now 96 and has lived in Collier County for 91 years! When Merle met Commodore Linda Butler in 2014, her advice to the first woman Commodore was, “Hang in there, kid!”

Lucille “Tiny” Messmer December 23, 1917 - June 5, 2013



Tiny Messmer, wife of founder and Commodore Emeritus, Jack Messmer, recalled the day she and Jack discovered the perfect property for a sailing club on Beaumaris Island. While Tiny was never a First Mates Chair, she was a member of the steering committee that created the Club, helped plan the Club’s first events, and was appointed to serve as Club Historian.

In 1963, she and Jack retired to Naples and bought a home in Aqualane Shores. Jack had the idea of creating a club devoted to sailing, and Tiny recalled the day they discovered the perfect property. “I sat on the sand and picked up shells while Jack walked around



Over 90 women came out to honor Tiny at the Changeover luncheon of January 12, 2011, the 37th anniversary of First Mates.



Tiny attended every Commodore’s Cup until her death in 2013

to find out who owned the land. He bought two lots and put in an offer for two more.”

Tiny was happiest on the water. Some of her favorite memories on board *Wanderlust* were leaving a harbor at night, turning off the engine and enjoying the peace and quiet of sailing under the stars. She was an excellent First Mate. Once when Jack invited a friend to sail with them to Marco Island, at one point the friend lost the spinnaker line and Tiny had to climb the mast to retrieve it. She had “stern” words for Jack: “If you ever take anyone along to be the first mate again, you can leave me at home, because if I was the first mate, I wouldn’t have lost the line!”

Tiny Messmer served as Club Historian until her death in 2013. Her energy, her devotion to making ours a friendly and welcoming organization, her advice and unflinching support has earned Tiny a very special place in our Club’s history.

The Tiny Messmer Award

In 2012, First Mates Chair, Liz Grogan, initiated the Tiny Messmer Award. The Award is given to a woman who exemplifies the commitment and outstanding service to NSYC programs for women.



Lila Corner (center), First recipient of Tiny Messmer Award



Charlene Allen, 2012 Tiny Messmer Award recipient (right); Liz Grogan (center); Karen Kriss, 2013 Tiny Messmer Award recipient

The women pictured above are recognized for their singular achievements and commitment to our First Mates’ programs. Over the past forty-two years, the First Mates program has become an integral and valued part of NSYC life.





Employees



CHAPTER NINE: The People Who Make Us Great

That the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club is one of the friendliest, most efficiently yacht clubs in Southwest Florida is due in no small part to its superb employees. It wasn't until 1970, though, that a burgeoning membership required the Club to move from a fully volunteer enterprise to one needing a professional staff. The first managers were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bowen, with a joint annual salary of \$16,000. As the first major expansion of the old Naples Sailing Club got underway, the Bowens hired our first cook (\$175/wk), a "salad woman who also can bake" (\$125/wk), an assistant cook (\$100/wk), and a dishwasher (\$100/wk). Since then, members of the NSYC have enjoyed the services of many skilled and talented chefs and general managers, including former GMs DePasquale Bob Waid and the much-respected Millett brothers, Bill and Jim, to manage the Club.



Bill and Jim Millett, 1996

A Dedicated Staff

The longest-serving employee in our Club's history was Mrs. Evelyne Proffitt, former NSYC Office Manager/Comptroller, who served in that capacity for forty-one years!



Evelyne Proffitt

Evelyne Proffitt is a woman dear to the hearts of many long-time club members. On September 21, 1970, she began working 30 hours/week at the Club as a bookkeeper for \$3.00 an hour. Evelyne remembers the 1970's and 80's as some of the best years at NSYC. Members were close-knit and mostly year-round. There were dances on Saturday nights brunches, and family days on Sundays. "Being here was like being in one big family," said Evelyn during an interview in and she loved "almost every minute" of her forty-one-year tenure because the members made the Club the "greatest place to work ever." Her retiring words were, "I love this Club, and I love the people."

Today, the Club employees include a receptionist/administrative assistant, bookkeeper, a food and beverage manager, dining room staff, chef and kitchen staff, dock master and assistant, as well as maintenance staff. In 2004, we added a full-time Controller and a Membership and Marketing Director. Each of these employees provides critical services to our membership and helps to make our Club the wonderful place it has become.



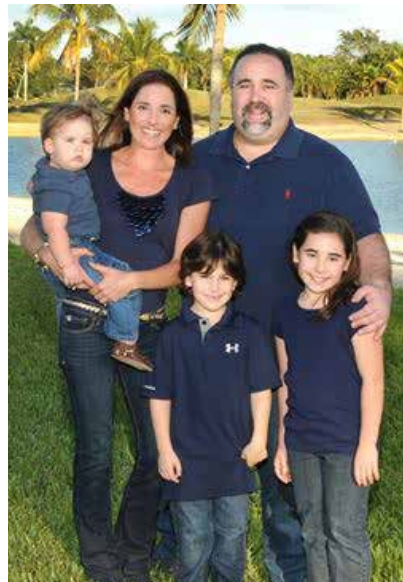
General Manager, Manny Blanco



Today, our Club is in the capable hands of General Manager Manny Blanco. Manny was asked to join our staff in 2004, relishing the challenges a new, modern building offered. We are so very fortunate that he did. "He is the glue that holds this club together ...is a man of infinite patience ...is our inspiration for top performance ...is the GM that no one wants to let down ...is the respected head of our NSYC family." With members' accolades like these, it is one of the most beloved managers our Club has had.

Manny has often shown his ability to handle the unexpected with dignity and calm. At one end-of-season party, a valet mistakenly put a member in the wrong car; Manny had the uncomfortable job of calming the true owner when he was told his car was gone and then making a rapid post-midnight vehicle switch!

During Hurricane Charley (August 13, 2004) at the time when the old building was being torn down--he remembers this date well because his own daughter was born just two days later--Manny showed up at the Club parking lot near the peak of the storm to check on the clubhouse and marina. He and assistant Dock Master, Bill Ermatinger, saw our floating docks bouncing up and down like trampolines. They attempted to re-secure a few boats on the south dock that were in trouble, but storm conditions made that impossible. They saw, however, that a member's sailboat had broken loose from its moorings and was headed toward Tin City. Using new lines, they lassoed and then secured the boat at Bay Marina!



A devoted husband and father to three young children, Manny nevertheless regards the members of NSYC as his extended family. He maintains close watch over every aspect of Club operations, and it is not unusual for him to be at the Club from early morning until the last member leaves at night. He states that he "especially enjoys addressing individual preferences of Club members." His task also is to balance Club traditions with innovations, adjust priorities with each new Commodore, manage expenditures, make himself available to his Board, Club Chairs, members and staff, as well as meet the myriad of routine and unexpected requirements of the job. We are indeed fortunate that he is here to meet, in his words, "a new adventure every day."

Administrative Staff



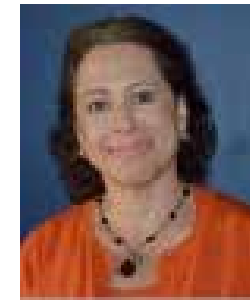
Ed Lantz, Controller

Ed is a Chartered Hospitality Accountant Executive and has served as controller at many of this area's premier private clubs. His job includes the preparation of monthly financial reports for the Board and working with the Club's auditors. He has become a critical staff member since coming to the NSYC in 2013.



Ann Marie Ashline, Membership and Marketing Director

Ann Marie Ashline has been with the NSYC since 2012. Jumping into the job with both feet, she has already made a significant improvement to our membership and marketing program. Before coming to us, she was Director of Marketing at the Grey Oaks Country Club. In addition to her duties marketing benefits of joining the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club to the Naples community and beyond, Ann Marie is a key member of the staff and assists both the General Manager, the receptionist and whoever needs a helping hand.



Ana Maria Aquino, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

Ana Maria Aquino is one of the first staff members to greet guests, visitors and members when anyone calls or visits the Club. Since joining the NSYC in 2006, her ready smile and extensive knowledge of the Club and its activities allows her to answer just about any question a member might have. Prior to coming to the Club, Ana was service Manager at Kensington Golf and Country Club (and named Employee of the Year in 2004). She joined the NSYC in 2006. In addition to her tasks as receptionist, Ana Maria manages the Ships' Store.



Mary Rush, Part-Time Bookkeeper

Mary Rush has been a bookkeeper for 43 years. Several years ago, she retired from Pelican's Nest, but decided to the NSYC as a part-time employee in 2013 to assist the Controller in his duties.



Raul Benitez, Facilities Manager

Raul was born in Cuba, but immigrated to the U.S. 14 years ago. He has been at the NSYC since April 2005 as Director of Maintenance. Previously, he held a similar position at the Grey Oaks Country Club. His tasks are endless and include anything and everything--from hanging posters and strings of lights to refinishing furniture and making repairs to the building.

Culinary Staff



2003-2014 Former NSYC Executive Chef, Ralph Feraco

Chef Ralph came to the NSYC after serving as chef and several fine restaurants and clubs in New York, where he became Vice President of his chapter of the ACF. He came to Florida and joined the NSYC team as the old building was being torn down and the new kitchen was in the planning stages. It is to Chef Ralph that the Club owes the design of our first-class kitchen as well as for training a staff to perform with excellence and pride. He won an international Gold Medal in the 2004 Culinary Olympics as a teammate of our current chef, Chris Jones.



Current Executive Chef, Chris Jones, CEC

Chef Chris joined the Club as Executive Chef and Director of Food & Beverage in April, 2014, after ten years as chef at the Old Collier Club. His list of accomplishments is long and impressive. He is former president of the Caxampas Chapter of the ACF and its 2008 Chef of the Year. Chef Chris holds two national ACF National Gold Medals and is a member of the 2008 Culinary Cup Championship Team as well as the 2008 ACF Educator of the Year. In 2010, Chef Chris was invited to the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama to represent SW Florida in the "Chefs Move to the Schools" program, and he has developed healthy recipes for the Collier County High Schools currently in use. A native of Canada, his background includes the prestigious Whistler in British Columbia, the Relais et Chateaux and has worked in both Napa Valley and New York City. He is especially interested in developing menus that feature sustainable, local, organic ingredients, and is a strong advocate and mentor in culinary education programs in this area. The NSYC is indeed fortunate to call him one of our own.



Food and Beverage Manager, Luis Roriguez

Luis joined the NSYC team in 2005. Despite a degree in biology and his former Hilton private club experience, Luis quickly worked his way up from waiter to Food and Beverage Manager. He currently manages 14 employees, meets and greets every member by name, honors special requests, and follows the golden rule to treat others as he would want to be treated. When asked how he is able to handle such demanding responsibilities, he said that he asks himself the question: How would Manny handle this?"

2014 NSYC Dining Room and Kitchen Staff

Our dining and kitchen staff deserve special mention. While the average tenure of private club employment is five-seven years, a brief review of the employees who serve us is evidence that the NSYC is a great place to work. We all are grateful for the years of service, care and attention these amazing staff members have given us.



Heather Laupert: 32 Years of Service

Heather has been smiling and greeting members with her signature Scottish brogue for the past 32 years! Members love to hear her 'How's everything? Would you like your usual tonight?' when she takes our orders. She loves her work and says unabashedly, "I love the members. I love the Club. Everyone is so nice...". Having worked under several general managers at NSYC, she holds Manny in especially high regard. Her smile and her efficient, welcoming manner are just two of the qualities that have made her a favorite among members.



Jennifer Kissell: 12 Years of Service

Jennifer, a former elementary school teacher, enjoys seeing members' children and grandchildren at the Club, especially at Christmas and Eastertime. It is no wonder that her kind and caring demeanor helps make our Club feel like home. She especially enjoyed the recent 50th Anniversary luncheon held for long-time matrons of the Club who reminisced about their many years as members. It is the members, she says, who have made her job so enjoyable over the past 12 years.

Our Wait Staff Serve Us Well



Waitstaff pictured left to right: Tony Ceccarelli, Matt Padovani, Pablo Avila, Mauricio Milan (not pictured), Juan Hernandez, Brad Hohl, Jeff Medina, Andres Mdjia, and Mitch Popov)

The Kitchen



Sous Chef Paul Prioli



Sous Chef Steve Matson

Chef Jones is assisted by and Sous Chef Steve Matson. When the Club was without Executive Chef for 3 months in 2014, they ably kept operations going without a misstep. Chef Paul's Sunday Buffet spread is a favorite among members (and guests!), Sous Chef Paul Prioli and Chef Steve is especially talented in food presentation and design. We are indeed fortunate to have two such talented gentlemen who help make our Club one of the best in all of Naples.



*Edina Lopez, NSYC
Kitchen Staff Member for
17 Years!*



*NSYC Kitchen Staff
Member for 17
Years!*



*John Alce, NSYC
Kitchen Staff Member
for 29 Years!*

what pictures do you want here?

Marina Staff



Dockmaster, Marilyn Hansen



Assistant to Dock Master, Francisco Milan



AFTERWARD

Letter to 2039...

In 1989, Commodore Strozier wrote: "In 2014, when some lucky members are celebrating the Golden Anniversary, what will the Club be like?" As you have seen through the pages of this commemorative history, there have been dramatic changes since Commodore Strozier and his members celebrated the Club's Silver Anniversary.

We have weathered several severe hurricanes. We tore down his clubhouse and built a beautiful new, two-story building in its place that takes advantage of the most magnificent view in all of Naples. We have added several new membership categories that did not exist in 1989 and have instituted a variety of clubs within our Club to accommodate our members' varied interests.

For Commodore Strozier, the biggest concern was that members not become complacent, that they not become entrenched in the same programs, the same way of doing things. For us, the concerns are somewhat different.

How should we in 2014 describe our Club to those who will celebrate NSYC's Platinum Anniversary in 2039? First, we should remind them of the challenges faced by private clubs throughout the US in 2014: the "Great Recession" of 2007 witnessed wholesale resignations by members for economic reasons which were still having an impact in 2014; at the same time, changes wrought by the digital age of social media meant that private clubs no longer were the chief source of networking for younger professionals, and that aging baby-boomers meant that clubs faced increased percentages of age-related resignations as our decade wore on.

In 1989 there were but two yacht clubs in Naples. Today there are at least five. In 1989, the NSYC had little competition from area restaurants; today that is not the case at all – Naples can boast of some of the best restaurants in Southwest Florida. Added to that is the growth of private golf and country clubs in Naples to which our members also belong, and which, in the wake of a recession, also has had its impact on our numbers.

And yet, if they take a moment to look closely at how the Club is handling these challenges, members of 2039 will see resilience, a willingness to change programs and policies to accommodate these changing times. Members elected a woman to serve as Commodore during this, our Golden Anniversary. Our Bridge is eagerly instituting initiatives to bring a new, younger generation into the Club, returning the NSYC to its roots as a family-centered club. Our membership continues to be one of the most hands-on, engaged, dedicated and creative members you will find in any organization. All the activities you read about in this book, the social events, cruises, regattas, parties, speakers, trips – all are planned and executed by our incredibly talented members!

When the next milestone is reached and those future Naples Sailing and Yacht Club members toast their 75 years as Naples' premier yacht club, I hope they look back on 2014 and say, "Wow, they hung in there, didn't they, and look how great our Club is now!"

*Linda Butler,
Commodore, 2014*