



BRANT BEACH YACHT CLUB

DECEMBER 2023

The Flag Bag

Flag Bag Minute

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As winter's whisper graces our shores, let's reflect on the splendor of our recent fall season at Brant Beach Yacht Club. The vibrancy of Sunset Saturdays and the heartwarming aura of FriendsGiving, complete with the delicious, deep-fried turkey, elevated our community spirit.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated members who generously volunteered their time to make these events memorable. Your commitment and enthusiasm have truly enriched our club. Also, heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to another successful workday. Your efforts ensure smooth sailing ahead.

Preparations for next summer are well underway, and I'm thrilled to share that the Board has passed the budget, solidifying our plans for the coming year. Antoine and the Program Committee are diligently working on enhancing our sailing and camp programs, promising even more excitement on the horizon. While B by the Sea and Bay Bites snack bar take a winter hiatus, anticipation grows for their return with delightful menu upgrades, making next summer a feast for the senses.

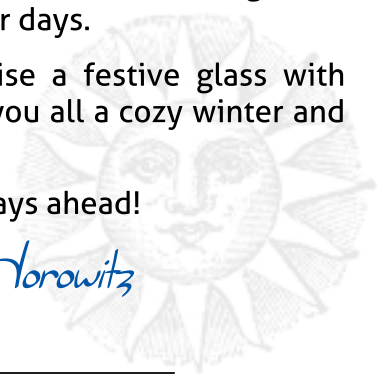
I hope everyone who joined the recent Question and Answer session had their questions answered, and I trust it was an informative exchange. I will keep you informed as our MCH project planning progresses.

Our December Social was a resounding success, with laughter echoing through the clubhouse as friends came together, bringing warmth and cheer to our winter days.

I eagerly await the opportunity to raise a festive glass with many of you in the new year. Wishing you all a cozy winter and a happy, healthy New Year.

Fair winds and looking forward to the days ahead!

Commodore Mark Horowitz





BBYC

"..to promote yachting and foster all athletic sports upon the water; to promote social functions and camaraderie amongst the membership; to advance the general prosperity of Long Beach Island."

Brant Beach Yacht Club

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The Flag Bag is the newsletter of the Brant Beach Yacht Club to keep members informed about the Club and its many activities. The contents of the Flag Bag may not be published or distributed without written permission of its Publisher.

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SOCIAL CHAIRS' MESSAGE



As we bid farewell to 2023, it's a pleasure to reflect on the recent successes of our social events and share some exciting news about the upcoming social calendar for the spring and summer of 2024. The Brant Beach Yacht Club has always been a vibrant club, and the past months have been no exception.

The month of November saw the Brant Beach Yacht Club come alive with warmth and gratitude during our FriendsGiving celebration.

Friends and family gathered for a delightful evening filled with laughter, camaraderie, and, of course, a feast fit for the occasion hosted by the Leinhausers, who, along with the Messinas, delivered the perfect turkeys.

Members, looking festive, shared stories of gratitude and indulged in a delectable spread prepared by our talented members. The FriendsGiving event not only highlighted the culinary skills of those who cooked but also showcased the strong bonds that tie our community together. It was heartening to witness members, both new and seasoned, coming together to create memories. As always, the Giving Tree was there, organized by Pat Prout, and once again our members came through by choosing items from the tree to purchase for those in need.

The December Social continued the festive spirit. Due to all the work of hosts Donna and Vic Harris, the club sparkled with twinkling lights, festive decorations, and an air of anticipation. The Giving Tree was swamped by the sheer volume of gifts that were donated by our members. The holiday event also served as a reminder of the importance of togetherness during this special time of year, and it left everyone with a warm glow that carried through the holiday season.

None of these events would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our incredible day chairs and event hosts. Their hard work and meticulous planning ensured that each gathering was a resounding success. From coordinating logistics to curating engaging activities, they went above and beyond to make sure every member felt welcome and included.

SOCIAL CHAIRS' MESSAGE ... *continued*

We are also excited to announce that they have been tirelessly working on finalizing the social calendar for the upcoming spring and summer. Anticipate a diverse array of events and activities that will cater to the varied interests of our members. Be prepared for a season filled with excitement, connection, and the unmistakable spirit of the Brant Beach Yacht Club.

Whether you're an avid sailor, a social butterfly, or a family seeking wholesome activities, there will be something for everyone. Upcoming are the Chili Cook Off, hosted by the Hannah and Townsend families and, potentially, a game night in February (details are still being finalized).

In conclusion, let's toast the success of the FriendsGiving and December Social events, express our gratitude to the hardworking day chairs and event hosts, and eagerly anticipate the adventures that await us in the upcoming months. As members of the Brant Beach Yacht Club, we are part of a community that knows how to celebrate, connect, and create memories that last a lifetime.

Jennifer and Kyle Stretch

JR. COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

My name is Emma Stahl and I am this year's Junior Commodore. This will be my sixth summer on the Junior Board. This year, I am happy to have selected such an incredible charity. Ocean of Love is a non-profit, charitable 501(c)(3) organization that supports children and families with cancer. Its mission is to help Ocean County children with cancer and their families. It provides financial and emotional support so that they can experience the "normal" joys of childhood, knowing their lives are significant and meaningful to each and every person.

Specifically, Ocean of Love provides household bill assistance to help cover expenses such as rent and utilities. They also provide assistance with transportation by supplying gas cards, parking and toll reimbursements. Along with this, they help with grocery bills and holiday food assistance. These are three big factors that they provide support with, but they do many other things like birthday gifts, family adoptions for the holidays, graduations gifts, etc.

This charity spoke to me because our family's been impacted by cancer. To be able to support families in our community that are going through a difficult time is meaningful.

If you have any questions about this summer, or are looking to do anything in the off-season, you can email me at emma.r.stahl@icloud.com. If you'd like to check out their website, please go to <https://oceanoflove.org/about-us/>

GIFT OF WARMTH

Our members show how much they are a blessing in many ways: donations to the Junior Board Charity, HomeFront and Regattas to name a few, but it is so evident when we have our Gift of Warmth Tree in the Fall.

You are true blessings that were over the top this year. Our members bought clothes for 225 tags (along with assorted socks and small toys), which meant that 75 children were warm this year! We were also able to provide some board games and gift wrap for the families to make their lives a little brighter for the holidays!! In addition, we gave the St. Francis Community Center Food Pantry over \$500 in gift cards for any additional children who might have missed the original signup for the Gift of Warmth.

The Gift of Warmth Project at the Food Pantry is open to all children in Southern Ocean County through their Senior Year in high school. We have many groups throughout the area that provide toys, but we are the only ones that provide warmth for the cold days and nights. Although many groups in the area have gotten involved in the project, BBYC still donates more than any of the others.

I would like to thank all of those that helped make this event possible: Antoine for helping us with the project and the Virtual Trees; Antoine and Kelly for accepting all of the gifts that were delivered to the club, along with setting up the tree (twice!); Jennifer and Kyle Stretch for stepping up at the December Social event and making sure that we had everything that we needed; Vic and Donna Harris who host the event every year, even if this year they were under the weather; all of those who attended the party and brought cookies which were donated to Ken's Kitchen; and Kathleen Rieck, Kathy Dowe, Elle Wilson and Phyllis Carile for helping to sort and bag the gifts to be delivered to St. Francis.

Thank you again to all for helping to keep our kids warm!!

Pat Prout



FRIENDSGIVING

Hosted by
Ann and Rich Leinhauser
at the South Harbor



DECEMBER SOCIAL



Hosted by
Donna and Vic Harris
at the Main Club House



ENJOY A HOLIDAY COCKTAIL



Brandy Alexander

This was my father's special holiday drink, notable as the only time the under-18-year-olds were invited to sip. I'd give anything to share it with my dad one more time, but instead we raise a glass to him each year.

6 ounces cognac (or brandy)
4 ounces dark crème de cacao
4 ounces light cream or half-and-half
Grated nutmeg, for garnish

Directions:

Pour the cognac, crème de cacao and cream into a shaker with ice and shake well. Strain into chilled cocktail glasses. Garnish with nutmeg. Makes 4 servings.

PC Rick Metz

WHO WANTS TO BAREBOAT?

Editor's note: BBYC has a long history of members chartering vacation sailboats in the Caribbean, but few have increased their sailing proficiency for this challenge as quickly as new member Sherry Roth, who takes over as captain of the Sunfish Fleet in 2024. She previously wrote in the FlagBag about getting hooked on sailing in Croatia and is now certified to bareboat, in other words, to charter a boat without a skipper or crew supplied.

After experiencing Bareboat Cruising last year and learning that I could pursue obtaining certification to skipper my own boat, I flew down to Flagship Sailing School in Ruskin, FL, to complete the American Sailing Association (ASA) 101 Basic Keelboat and 103 Coastal Cruising classes, with the intent of tackling the 104 for Bareboat Cruising this fall or winter.



As luck would have it, Captain George Norwood (aka "Nordie"), suggested I join a roundtrip from Tampa Bay to Key West this past May. So, this is my story about how I fast-tracked earning my International Proficiency Certificate (IPC), required for chartering a Bareboat.

My first question to Nordie about the trip was whether he vetted the crew (because who wants to be stuck with subpar crew on a 40-foot Island Packet Cutter for 10 days?) When he informed me that the additional students included a retired Marine Corps Major General (Gregg) and a retired Army officer (JT), it sealed the deal. After all, Nordie is a Major General and retired fighter pilot, so this would truly be a Top Gun experience! My second question to Nordie was whether fellow BBYC member Elle Wilson could join me.

WHO WANTS TO BAREBOAT ... *continued*

In preparation for the trip, we all received a detailed list of instructions, float plan and watch schedule. JT was our engineer, Gregg was our navigator, Elle was on weather, and I was emergency coordinator. I was a bit concerned because I was assigned the 0000 to 0400 watch. Elle was thrilled to be assigned watches during sunrises and sunsets.

Elle and I flew south a couple of nights before our planned departure. We spent our first day getting to know the crew and receiving classroom and on-board instruction on all boat systems, procedures for boat checks, watch changes, hot bunk etiquette, safety procedures and even how to set up the whisker pole on the jib.

When we finally set sail, we were a well-oiled crew. It was so interesting to learn more about navigation charts, how to plot courses and even a bit of celestial navigation. We practiced using the Automatic Identification System (AIS) to navigate through Tampa Bay and identify cargo ships traveling nearby through the shipping channel. We would also practice using the radar system when we were offshore. On our return trip, we motored through the Intercoastal and learned how to call ahead for bridge openings.

With the sun setting on our first day at sea, I went below to try to rest for my midnight watch, when the wind and waves picked up and the weather grew increasingly formidable. As I lay there, growing increasingly nauseous, I heard the men yelling over the screaming winds about reefing the sail. I wanted so desperately to go above to help, but I was glued to the couch. Here's the thing that no one warns you about a boat that size heeling during heavy weather ... being below feels like you have an elephant sitting on top of you and it takes so much effort to move! In hindsight, I should have gone up to the cockpit and scrapped any attempt to sleep before my watch. Did I mention that Elle was sound asleep during all this drama?

Being seasick rendered me worthless to serve my watch. JT took over my watch, but when he went below deck afterward, he turned green as well. As a man who has served in the army and done many brave things for his country, it took him a while to regain his strength and dignity. On the second evening at the helm, I was rewarded with a gorgeous, peaceful sail under the light of a waning moon, a night that I will never forget.

At one point while in the cockpit, I noticed the winds were shifting a bit, requiring putting up the whisker pole. Under the intense scrutiny of the captain, Elle had to tie a bowline knot, which she could normally do with her eyes closed, except the stress and the sudden appearance of dolphins off the beam created a hilarious set of circumstances.

After docking in Key West, Elle and I enjoyed our free time. We walked for miles, ate, drank and shopped, sneaking our wares back onto the boat so that Nordie wouldn't scold us for the extra cargo.

The highlights of the trip were the times underway, the camaraderie of our crew, and eating Dinty Moore stew and ginger snaps. Our crew worked seamlessly as a team, and the work assignments fell to the wayside because everyone pitched in and did what was needed. Together we computed bearings, adjusted our heading and kept a lookout. My most memorable moment was being at the helm in Tampa Bay surrounded by lightning storms while holding our heading to avoid shallow reefs, keeping steady as the boat heeled, and finally bringing her back to safe harbor.

If you are interested in learning to sail or Bareboat cruise, please reach out to me. ASA.com has good information about sailing schools, online courses, articles, and resources. The off-season is a great time to learn more from books or YouTube.

Looking forward to seeing you out on the water next season!

Sherry Roth

BBYC MARINER SAILORS RETURN TO PUERTO RICO

Beautiful sailing -- but not for the faint of heart!



It has become a regular event for BBYC Mariner sailors to travel to Puerto Rico to enjoy the hospitality and camaraderie of their growing fleet.

In November, Bill Watters and I flew there to sail in the "Discover the Caribbean" regatta held at the Ponce Yacht & Fishing Club (Club Nautico de Ponce). Both Salinas and Ponce have vibrant and growing O'Day Mariner sailing communities, and many sailors are members of both clubs. There are now two BBYC'ers who keep a second Mariner in Salinas.

Bill's Salinas-based Mariner is an unchristened work in progress, and may remain so for a bit as Bill tackles the rebuilding of his 53rd Street house following a major house fire this month (no injuries, thankfully). In contrast, his BBYC-based Mariner, *Black Ice*, is optimized and outfitted to perfection, in my humble opinion.

BBYC's Joanne McCarthy and Cooper River's Steve Creighton, who together make a formidable sailing couple, also keep a Mariner (originally Tom Boyer's *Grumpy Geezers II*) in Puerto Rico, which they sent over in a shipping container.

Since this regatta was almost thirty miles away, one of Bill's friends in the Salinas sailing community arranged to have Bill's boat towed to Ponce. Joanne and Steve bravely sailed their Mariner downwind to Ponce, accompanied by some of the other Mariner enthusiasts from Salinas.

Before the trip, I had been told that the wind conditions were often quite breezy. And the conditions certainly didn't disappoint! I can't recall the exact forecast, but it was the type of conditions that would cancel a Mariner race for us mainlanders. During the regatta, more than half of the fleet had some kind of significant equipment failure. In fact, of the 19 boats that started the regatta, only seven finished the last race.



BBYC MARINER SAILORS RETURN TO PUERTO RICO ... *continued*

The Mariner fleet in Puerto Rico is "adapting" the fleet rules and determining which ones should be applied strictly and which ones should be flexible to accommodate the local conditions. For example, the Mariner fleet in Puerto Rico typically sails with a crew of three onboard, unlike the customary crew of two usually sailing on the mainland. In fact, a few of the boats had four - including the winner of the regatta.

The only two boats that sailed with a crew of two were ours from New Jersey, and we both finished in the middle of the pack. Next time we will recruit a volunteer for additional crew if the conditions are as gusty.

The Puerto Rico Mariner sailing community is exceptionally warm and welcoming. If you have a chance to experience a regatta in Salinas or Ponce, I highly recommend that you seize the opportunity. The majority of the sailors are fluent in English, and they are wonderful hosts.

The next Mariner sailing event in Puerto Rico is going to be held in Salinas on February 16th-18th, 2024. BBYC will be represented, and you would be warmly welcomed!

Tim Gallagher

