

# BOW WATCH

## BEAUFORT YACHT & SAILING CLUB

**NOVEMBER 2022**

**COMMODORE RANDY ATKINS**



Ahoy BYSC!

What a great turnout we had for our Fall Member's Meeting and oyster roast! I'm not sure whether the draw was election of new Board members, the wonderful weather, prospects for good camaraderie or the aroma of the fire pit but whatever, it worked. The porch and bar maintained a good and lively crowd and folks lingered on the lawn shucking oysters well into the night. That is what makes BYSC so special!

The Board election netted two new young(er) and energetic members in Kristin Williams and Tad Davis, who will take seats left by departing members, Judy Alling and Sean Quigley, who deserve a very special thanks for their years of service to the Club. Among other duties, Judy has been one of our most dedicated pickleball advocates and previously served as secretary. Sean and wife Lynn have been long-time bar managers and constant cheerful faces at our social events. Both will be missed at the Board level, but we'll undoubtedly see them around the Club (though Sean and Lynn will be commuting from Thailand part of the year, as I hear). Welcome Kristin and Tad to the BoD!

The BYSC constitution states that we are "organized for the purpose of promoting sailing, boating, tennis and swimming, and other activities supported by the Club." Well, those "other activities" have emerged and expanded as the Club has grown to reflect the divergent interests of our members. Pickleball is a prime example as is our active and energized social environment that has evolved in scope to include the eclectic demographic that is BYSC. Healthy attendance at Sunset Fridays on the porch has remained constant but crowds at the pool pavilion, especially during the summer months, have grown significantly. The success of Club sponsored regattas is a testament to our "sailing bonfires" as is our very active launch ramp verification that "boating" is a central focus. I think our Club founders would be pleased to see that their vision has not only survived the test of time but evolved into a truly dynamic and treasured asset to Club members and the Beaufort community.

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**COMMODORE RANDY ATKINS**



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One obvious testament to the attractiveness and value of BYSC is demand for membership. Starting near the beginning of the pandemic until August 2021 we welcomed over 70 new member families which prompted the Board to place a cap on membership at 400 as impact on Club infrastructure and operations were assessed. After much observation and discussion, the BoD raised that cap to 450 at its October meeting and over 30 new members were activated from the waitlist. We will see in time whether membership demand at the current level can be sustained or whether the surge was artificially induced by COVID migration. But, in any event, the growth we have experienced has been good for BYSC and our financial position is strong and sustainable. We will no doubt be able to maintain and refine current facilities but also make improvements going forward, as Vice-Commodore Jason Ruhf explains in his message below.

It is hard for me to reconcile that almost a full year has passed since I was elected Commodore and that this is my final Letter to you. The year has been both enriching and exciting, and I am honored to be associated with such a wonderful organization and beautiful people who embrace our Club family and the unique life we enjoy here in The Lowcountry. We have created and maintain something that is very special which affords us all the opportunity to have fun, delight in great friendships and benefit from interaction with one another. Let's continue to make a good thing even better!

In the meantime, see you at The Club!

Randy

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**VICE COMMODORE JASON RUHF**



Ahoy There-

My name is Jason Ruhf and I am excited at the prospect of serving as your Commodore in the coming year. We are fortunate to have such a special place to come together to share our interests and I look forward to participating in the enrichment of club activities across the spectrum. As mentioned at the Annual Meeting we have some exciting infrastructure advancements in the works including an update to the Cottage which will allow it to serve as an ancillary clubhouse and initiation of phase two of the Bulkhead / North Dock Project which will add much needed North Pier Head which will add boat storage facilities and additional water access. We are also preparing for a volunteer workday to repaint the boat storage racks and to finish residing and repainting the Sail Shed. Please keep an eye out for this upcoming opportunity to get your volunteer hours in. We will need your help.

This weekend the Inaugural BYSC Trout Fishing Tournament will take place at the club Saturday, November 05, 2022, 7:00 AM until 4:00 PM. I would like to thank members Bobby Newton, Shep Caldwell and Thomas Tayloe who have taken the initiative to put this new event together. All winners will be determined by the heaviest trout and there are participation classes for youth, children. You can find the full rules and enter on the club website calendar or reach out to Bobby, Thomas, or Shep directly with questions.

Also on the horizon is the BYSC Change of Watch Ceremony November 12 where we formally welcome our new board and recognize our members who work tirelessly in different capacities to make this club great. Please join us to celebrate their collective efforts! Dinner will be Fried Chicken & sides catered by Q on Bay. Tickets may be purchased in advance through the website.

As the holidays approach we will be having a NO Turkey theme for Sunset Friday the day after Thanksgiving: November 25. Please also plan on participating in the annual Angel Tree: November 12th- December 15th (choose child to buy for) and Toys for Tots November 1st- December 15th (any unwrapped new toy) programs to help make sure a child in need has the Christmas they deserve.

Thanks to you all for making the Beaufort Yacht & Sailing Club such special place to be a part of.

See you at the club,

J. Ruhf

# From the Crow's Nest



November 11th 5-7pm  
November 12th 11am-3pm



November 12, 2022  
Catered Event  
Get your tickets now



*November 12th-December 14th*





# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Frank and Marilyn Pontious



Contributed by Jean Woodworth

The significant contributions made by Frank and Marilyn Pontious over the past two decades have helped to create the culture of the BYSC as we know it today. Prior to joining the club in 2000, Frank and Marilyn were active in various sailing clubs in the midwestern and southeastern U.S. Upon joining, they, along with John and Cheryl Potter and several others with racing experience from other clubs, worked to increase BYSC's series racing, regattas and junior sailing activities to the level that we currently enjoy (John Barber, General Manager, and his wife, Marge had done an admirable job managing the series racing and the Lowcountry Regatta by themselves prior to that time). John Potter was Commodore at the time, and he tapped Marilyn as Secretary of BYSC because of her prior experience, and Marilyn went on to serve as Secretary and Board Member for the next 8 years. John appointed Frank as assistant to Jim Sweet (Cheryl's father) on the race committee. Frank has since served the BYSC in various roles over the years including Chairman, Commodore and various other club sailing and race management positions. Along with other Board members, he was successful in effecting improvements such as the increased dock space, ramp launching area, moorings and construction of a new bulkhead. Frank has received various BYSC club awards in sailing and race management and the John Bonds Race Management Award from the South Atlantic Yacht Racing Association. Frank and Marilyn are recipients of the Commodore's Service Award and were inducted into the Topsail Society in 2015.



Frank's love of sailing started on Diamond Lake, a small lake in southwest Michigan near Chicago. While still in high school, he raced as crew on a friend's C Scow (20') until he was able to obtain his very own aging, leaky C Scow, in which he finished last much of the time. Frank went on to attend the University of Illinois where he met and later married the pretty girl in his Psychology 100 class, Marilyn McWard.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Frank and Marilyn Pontious**

Continued



After graduating in 1959, Frank and Marilyn married and he went on to a career in the steel construction industry, and also served 6 years in the Illinois Air National Guard between Korea and Viet Nam. It was during this period that they started their young family, two sons and a daughter. While sailing was put on hold during those early years, they were eventually able to spend most summers at Diamond Lake along with a number of families with children of a similar age. Frank and Marilyn cultivated a wonderful, positive environment in which their children learned how to swim, sail, and respect and relate to adults while enjoying the same activities: They have worked over the years to bring these same positive and healthy lifestyle opportunities to families at BYSC.



After the Air National Guard, Frank returned to sailing in the Snipe class, a dinghy of 15'6. Marilyn crewed most of the time for the next 30 years in both good and nasty weather including rain, cold, wind and hot drifters. They raced primarily at Diamond Lake, but also at many regattas in the Midwest, and as well made the annual trip south for the Atlanta Yacht Club (AYC) Halloween Regatta, where they fell in love with the south, Atlanta and the AYC (a small boat racing club on Lake Allatoona, northwest of Atlanta). In 1983 the Pontious' moved to Atlanta and as members of AYC, they met Woody Norwood (current BYSC member and catboat sailor) sparking a four-decade long, friendly racing competition (both Frank and Woody served as Commodores of AYC).

In 1994, Frank and Marilyn started attending the Lowcountry Regatta and fell in love with both the BYSC and Beaufort. In late 1999 they made the move to Beaufort, and Frank also moved from the Snipe class to the MC Scow (16' version of the 20' C Scow), which he raced extensively in the southeast for next 18 years, and in 2019 he joined in the start of the new Catboat fleet. Having been involved in racing and sailing clubs for over 70 years, and the BYSC for the last 22, Frank and Marilyn appreciate all that this sport and positive lifestyle have afforded their family, and the many good friends they have made along the way. They've watched the club change over the years as more and more people have found the Lowcountry and BYSC to be so special, and while not all newcomers sail, many enjoy the club's pool, pickleball and social activities. Although Frank and Marilyn have become less involved in the operation of the Club, they are confident that BYSC is in very good hands with the current Board and superb cast of volunteers.