



Fort Lauderdale  
Mariners Club

Dec. 2024/Jan. 2025

# Monthly Newsletter

A member news, interests and club activities update  
highlighting our social and community engagement.



## ■ News & Updates

Membership Dues reminder  
emails sent out as online  
renewal is encouraged.

## ■ Galleries & Events

If a good picture is worth a  
thousand words... pages 4 & 5  
are worth millions!

## ■ In the Spotlight

Featuring First Mate Ben  
Dowers. Get to know your  
second in command.

## About the Club

FLMC is a non-profit, non-political organization devoted to promote friendly associations among our members, to encourage high standards of business practice throughout the community, and to provide a forum to improve the marine industry here in South Florida.

**Skipper: Tyler Tanner**

Overall management, direction and decision-making. Approves all purchases and expenditures. Approves all functional changes for the Club. Responsible for the execution of legal and/or financial documents. Has signature authority on all accounts.

**First Mate: Benjamin Dowers**

Approves all membership applications with Skipper and Membership Committee. Maintains all membership records. Works with Purser to finalize annual renewals. Assumes Skipper responsibilities should the Skipper not be able to do so.

**Purser: Tom Worthington**

Treasury/money management. Collects money from members for lunches, events and annual dues. Manages checking account and pays for all services offered to the club. Assists the Skipper in the execution of financial documents. Has signature authority on checking accounts.

**Yeoman: Charly Zubizarreta**

Produces and mails the newsletter each month which includes announcements for all club events including the monthly member meetings, sponsored events, annual events, member & guest profiles and other club news.

**Program Chair: Tony Gandolf**

Organizes the speakers for all the monthly meetings. Introduces the speaker during the meeting and handles the storage and purchase of speaker gifts.

**Bos'n: Jo Stanley**

Send announcements for all events including lunches and annual events, coordinates RSVP responses. Coordinates with meeting locations regarding attendance and menus.

**Activities Chair: Roy Scott**

Responsible for organizing all the special events for the Club and coordinating RSVP responses. This Chairperson coordinates with the Bos'n to communicate with Club members.

**Historian: Kate Kaplan**

Responsible for maintaining all the club photos for the year.

**Address:**

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(305) 789-9200

# From the Bridge

**Tyler Tanner, ESQ**

2025 Skipper

Member of FLMC since 2014.

## Notes from the Skipper's Log

Dear Members,

As we embark on another exciting year, I want to first take a brief moment to thank you for your continued membership. As respected professionals in the maritime industry, your active and consistent engagement is what fuels this club, so thank you for your involvement.

Right now our club really does have an incredible cast of dedicated officers and committee members who have stepped up into vital roles to guide our club forward. Their commitment ensures we can continue offering meaningful opportunities to connect, learn, and grow within our maritime community. I have no doubt 2025 will be another great year, and I'm excited about what lies ahead! Let me explain.

This year will be full of engaging events and activities for everybody to enjoy, and speaking from personal experience, there is so

much value to be had through your individual participation. Whether by attending monthly luncheons, our regular social gatherings, or the annual seminar, these events are designed not only to provide valuable insights into our industry, but also to strengthen the camaraderie that makes our club special.

As we continue to grow, I encourage each of you to invite colleagues and friends in the maritime industry to join us. Expanding our membership enhances the diversity and strength of our vibrant community, and there's no better ambassador for our club than its current members!

We also welcome your individual engagement in shaping the club's activities. If you know of local maritime events that might interest our members, please share them with our officers so we can spread the word. Likewise,

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## The 2024 Holiday Party: A Festive and Perfect Celebration to Wrap Up the Year



The 2024 Holiday Party at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort was an evening of elegance and merriment, perfectly capturing the festive spirit of the season. Guests arrived in their finest cocktail attire, creating a sophisticated atmosphere as they enjoyed a lively cocktail hour from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. The beautifully decorated venue on Fort Lauderdale Beach, with its sparkling holiday touches, set the tone for an unforgettable night. Adding to the holiday cheer, attendees brought unwrapped toys to support the Boys & Girls Club, spreading generosity and goodwill alongside the celebration. This has become a tradition that the FLMC members look forward to knowing how much of a difference the many gifts will make for the children who will receive them.

Dinner and dancing followed, featuring a gourmet

entrée of filet mignon and shrimp that delighted everyone. The ballroom was full of energy as a live band playing current and past favorites and festive tunes filled the air, keeping guests on their feet throughout the evening. The official business of the night was the transition of leadership from the 2024 to the 2025 FLMC Officers. All officers and members were thanked and recognized for their volunteer service and commitment to the strong history and the future of the club.

The party wasn't just a celebration of the season, but also a testament to the camaraderie and warmth of the FLMC and maritime community. With laughter, music, and the joy of gathering together, the 2024 Holiday Party left attendees with many memories to cherish for years to come. It was the perfect festive celebration to wrap up 2024!



# Photo Gallery

FLMC ended 2024 on a strong note with the success of the Annual Marine Insurance Seminar, and high levels of attendance to Club events that were filled with fun, camaraderie, friendship, and opportunities for community outreach, engagement, and generous support. As this issue's Photo Gallery shows, 2024 was filled with many occasions like the Golf Tournament, Seminar, Holiday Party, and Panthers games that lived up to their reputations as can't-be-missed events on our annual calendar.



Photos by Tom Serio Photography

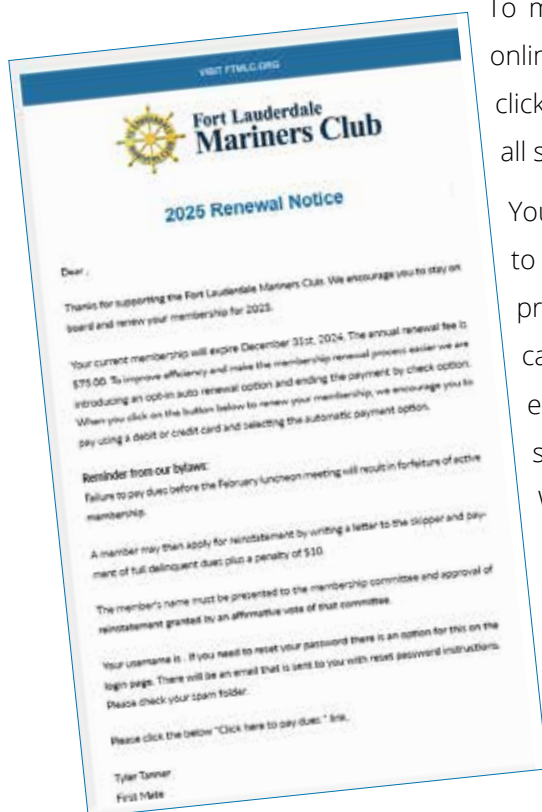




# News & Updates

## Dues Renewal Reminders Are In Your Inboxes

It's that time of year again—membership renewal! This year, we've made renewing your dues as simple and seamless as possible, so you can focus on what matters most: being part of our amazing community



To make things easier for you, we highly recommend renewing online. It's quick, convenient, and only takes a few minutes! Just click the link in the renewal email we sent to your inbox, and you're all set.

Your annual membership fee of \$75 gives you access to a ton of incredible benefits. From social events and professional development opportunities to industry camaraderie and educational perks, there's so much to enjoy. Plus, you get to be part of the invaluable knowledge-sharing at our FLMC Annual Marine Insurance Seminar. We're so grateful for your continued membership and involvement in FLMC. Your support plays a huge role in keeping our marine industry organization strong, vibrant, and thriving.

Thank you for being such an important part of our community. We can't wait to grow, learn, and connect with you even more in the year ahead. Don't wait—if you haven't done it yet, renew your membership today and keep the momentum going!

## A Spectacular Evening at FLMC's Rooftop Holiday Parade Viewing Party

The FLMC Rooftop Viewing Party for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Parade was nothing short of magical. As the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade lit up the waterways, guests enjoyed an unparalleled vantage point from the beautiful Kimpton Shorebreak Hotel rooftop. The event brought together a small but high-energy crowd who took full advantage of "Best Show on H2O," a cherished South Florida tradition that marks the joyous start of the holiday season. It perfectly blended holiday wonder with a sophisticated rooftop experience, making it a standout celebration of community and seasonal joy.



## From the Bridge: Notes from the Skipper's Log

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if you have suggestions for speakers at our monthly luncheons or the annual seminar, please share those too. Your ideas will help us deliver content that resonates with and benefits everyone.

Stay on the lookout as we introduce updates to our communications this year, including new email and newsletter formats packed with event announcements, highlights showcasing the great times we share, and other useful information. We are also rolling out planned updates to the club website aimed at making it an even better resource for staying connected and informed. We'll keep you posted as the updates go live.

Thank you for being an integral part of our strong and vibrant community. Here's to a fantastic 2025 filled with shared knowledge, professional growth, and lasting friendships. Let's make it a year to remember!

Warm Regards,

Tyler J. Tanner, Esq.

Skipper 2025

# In The Spotlight



Benjamin W. Dowers, the First Mate of FLMC, is a partner at Gunther Legal, PLLC in Fort Lauderdale, and a board-certified Construction Law attorney with expertise in admiralty and maritime law, business litigation, construction law, subrogation, and liability defense. Licensed to practice in Florida and Texas, as well as all U.S. District Courts in Florida, Ben represents individuals and businesses in complex legal disputes across state and federal courts.

His academic achievements include a J.D. cum laude from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he earned awards in Admiralty Law and Land Use Planning, served as Bylaws Committee Chair for the Florida Law Review, and competed with the Florida Moot Court Team. His undergraduate degree is a B.S. in Maritime Business from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, where he trained as a deck cadet in over fifteen countries and earned a U.S.C.G. Second Mates Unlimited License and a commission as a U.S. Naval Reserve Lieutenant.

Before pursuing law, Mr. Dowers worked as a Third Mate aboard drill ships and supply vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and Angola. Today, he is active in numerous professional organizations, including Leadership Florida Connect, Claims Litigation Management (CLM), and the Federal Bar Association. He has also held leadership roles such as President of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida.

A sought-after speaker and author, Mr. Dowers has contributed insights on construction defects, risk transfer, and maritime liens in various publications and conferences. His diverse background and dedication to client success distinguish him as a leading figure in construction and maritime law.



## Monthly Member Luncheon

Guest Speakers: Tony Santiago and Molly Ringberg

Marine Industries Association of South Florida

Topic: MIASF Annual Plywood Regatta

Date: February 6, 2025 :: Time: 12pm - 2pm

Venue: Bokampers Sports Bar & Grill, 3115 NE 32nd Ave., Fort Laud.

Visit [ftlmc.org](http://ftlmc.org) to RSVP

Join Us for

## PANTHERS VS. ISLANDERS

Amerant Bank Arena

1 Panther Parkway, Sunrise, FL 33323

Sunday, February 2, 2025 :: 6:00 P.M.



*THIS GAME ONLY HAS 10 TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE SO THE LIMIT HAS BEEN REDUCED*

*\$70 per ticket, 2 max per member - (online payments only)*

*Price includes food, drinks, and seating.*

*Discounted parking on SeatGeek app.*

*Seating located in the Corona Beach Lounge*

**Visit [ftlmc.org](http://ftlmc.org) to Register**

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