



Fort Lauderdale  
Mariners Club

MARCH 2025

# Monthly

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

# Newsletter



## ■ News & Updates

Read informative marine insurance seminar article on duty to advise on safe operation.

## ■ Galleries & Events

Lots of member events in March. Check out some of the photos. Be there next month!

## ■ In the Spotlight

Purser Tom Worthington: A trusted business leader with 20+ years in marine industry.

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:**

PO Box 21750,  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335  
(305) 789-9200

# From the Bridge

**Tyler Tanner, ESQ**

2025 Skipper

Member of FLMC since 2014.

## Notes from the Skipper's Log

Dear Members,

It has been exciting to see great turnouts at our events and luncheons so far this year. In March alone, members attended the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games in honor Art Campbell and his decades of club service, our group tickets for the Panthers v. Blue Jackets NHL hockey game sold out quickly, and our March Club Luncheon was very well attended where we learned about the initiatives and invaluable services offered by Seafarer's House at Port Everglades.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events and stay tuned for club emails with further details and information. Please remember that your colleagues, families, and friends are welcome to join us at all club events, so continue inviting them:

- April 3: Monthly Club Luncheon at Lauderdale Yacht Club. Our

speaker will be Scott Herman, Founder & Executive Director of Spectrum Sailing.

- April 6: Fort Lauderdale Sunday Jazz Brunch. Always a great event. We will have tents set up for club members who attend, great food, and of course, Jonathan Dunleavy manning the bar.

Yes, our dedicated officers have been busy, but so have our committee members. The seminar committee recently held its first meeting and plans are now well under way for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Marine Insurance Seminar this October.

Once again, thank you for your continued membership and for being an integral part of our community. Thanks to you, 2025 is turning out to be another great year, and it's only March!

Warm Regards,

Tyler J. Tanner, Esq.



**Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club**

## April Member Luncheon

**Speaker: Scott Herman**  
Founder/Exec. Director  
Spectrum Sailing

Spectrum Sailing provides maritime education, programming, and outreach for autistic individuals.

**Venue** Lauderdale Yacht Club  
1725 SE 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

**Date** Thursday, April 3, 2025

**Time** 12:00pm - 2:00pm

**Why Join Us For Lunch?**

We Have Been Providing Opportunities for Social & Professional Development in the Fort Lauderdale Marine Industry and International Marine Insurance Since 1989.

**Spectrum Sailing - Sailing for Autistic Kids -**

**01 Mission**  
Our camps provide opportunities for skill development, social interaction, and confidence building.

**02 How FLMC Helps**  
Along with other sailing community organizations FLMC helps Spectrum offer camps at no cost to the sailors.

**03 Future Plans**  
Hear more about what's already in store for 2025 and the difference you can help make.

**Register at [ftlmc.org](https://ftlmc.org)**

Event Questions:  
[jo@lawstanley.com](mailto:jo@lawstanley.com)

Visit Us:  
[www.ftlmc.org](https://www.ftlmc.org)

## SEAFARER'S HOUSE SHARES UPDATES AND NEWS OF POSITIVE IMPACTS ON UNSUNG HEROES OF THE SEA

The March Luncheon was an absolute success, and featured a fan-favorite speaker that everyone looks forward to every year. This month, Launa and Devin from the Seafarer's House honored us with their presence, and gave us an update on one of the most important missions and institutions the Fort Lauderdale Maritime industry boasts: the Seafarer's House. Members were shown heartwarming videos from Seafarer's House highlighting their service, and positive impact, that they make on the daily lives of the unsung heroes of the sea, our crewmembers. They highlighted that Seafarer's is a place of welcome for those crewmembers that are in port at Port Everglades, but also for the general public.

They also provided updates on other useful benefits available to anyone who visits the House, including on-site dining, recreational games, wifi, and a whole host of amenities. In addition, the House now boasts a state-of-the-art conference room that holds up to 50 people and is available for anyone to book for meetings, seminars and presentations. Seafarer's House is always looking for volunteers and donors. They also invite everyone to come take a tour! If you would like more information about Seafarer's House, please visit <https://seafarershouse.org>. FLMC made a \$5,500 donation to the Seafarers House this month and continues to proudly donate and support the work they do. *(Cover photo and Gallery photos from March Member Luncheon)*



# Photo Gallery

Every month, FLMC offers a range of opportunities for members to get together at business and social events. If you've made it to a Panthers game, the Scottish Festival this month, or the Monthly Luncheon, you know it's always time well spent with long-time friends and new acquaintances alike, and always lots of fun. The Photo Gallery is the proof that a great time is had by all, so see if you made it into one of the photos, or take a few yourself and send them in to guarantee your face makes the gallery next month.



# Essential Bearings

*Marine Insurance Seminar Articles - Insights to Help You Navigate the Industry*

## A SUMMARY JUDGEMENT FOR THE DEFENCE

by Raul Chacon, Jonathan Dunleavy, Katherin Kaplan - Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

In a case of first impression, the Southern District of Florida addressed whether a website can be liable for a vessel owner's acts or omissions as a livery, statutorily or under general maritime law. On February 9, 2024, the Southern District of Florida granted summary judgment in favor of a large peer-to-peer boat rental company represented by Raul Chacon, Jonathan Dunleavy, and Katherine Kaplan, in a wrongful death case, finding that the web-based peer-to-peer boat rental platform cannot be liable as a livery under the Florida livery statute § 327.54 Fla. Stat. (2021) and amended (2023). Given the growth of the peer-to-peer vessel rental market, such a decision has the potential to have strong national implications as to the liability of web-based vessel sharing platforms.

The case arose from an incident that occurred in March of 2022, when the Decedent was thrown from a boat operating in the Atlantic Ocean just off the Boca Raton inlet. The boat encountered heavy seas, which caused the rented boat to roll, ejecting her from the boat, resulting in injuries which lead to her untimely death. The Decedent had chartered the boat utilizing an online peer-to-peer boat rental platform. The platform allowed the owner of the vessel ("Owner") to post his boat for rental by potential users who requested rental through the platform. However, the platform did not dictate the terms of any rental, nor was it involved in the exchange of any boat for hire.

Because the subject boat was chartered through the peer-to-peer platform, the Decedent sought to hold the website liable for the breach of duties owed to the renter and/or charterer of a boat under the Florida Livery Statue as well as those owed under general maritime law. Despite many states having similar livery statutes, and the wide usage of peer-to-peer boat rental platforms, prior to the Court's ruling, there was no clarity as to the liability of an online platform for a maritime incident. Livery statutes govern the

rental, lease, or charter of vessels, setting safety requirements to protect boat renters. Like many states with such statutes, the livery statute applicable in Florida at the time of the incident failed to define a livery. While Florida's legislature recognized this deficiency and has since made efforts to clarify who qualifies as a livery through the Boating Safety Act of 2023, the application in the context of peer-to-peer rental has not yet been addressed.

Prior to the Court's ruling, it was unclear whether the duties to advise as to safe operation, and those to ensure vessel safety for renters under the livery statute § 327.54 Fla. Stat. could be read to extend to a peer-to-peer website. Because the underlying basis

*Prior to the Court's ruling, it was unclear whether the duties to advise as to safe operation, and those to ensure vessel safety for renters under the livery statute § 327.54 Fla. Stat. could be read to extend to a peer-to-peer website.*

of the liability stemmed from the third-party posting of a vessel on the website, it was determined the company was immune from liability as a livery where it merely offered a forum for information provided by

third-party vessel owners to connect to renters. The Court determined that the web-based platform was merely a conduit in the vessel rental process and was subject to the protections afforded under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. 47 U.S.C. § 230 (2018). Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act prohibits the treatment of providers or users of an interactive computer service as "publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider." *Id.* § 230(c)(1). Under Section 230, immunity arises when the platform can show that: "(1) [it] 'is a provider . . . of an interactive computer service, (2) the claim is based on information provided by another information content provider, and (3) the claim would treat the [party] as the publisher or speaker of that information.'" *Doe on Behalf of Doe v. Grindr, LLC*, No. 5:23-CV-193-JA-PRL, 2023 WL 7053471 (M.D. Fla. Oct. 26, 2023). Prior to this, Section 230 had not been applied in the context of a marine charter, forcing the Court to consider the website's

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# News & Updates

## The 2025 Southeast Scottish Festival

The 2025 Southeast Florida Scottish Festival & Highland Games were once again attended by Fort Lauderdale Mariner's Club members on March 1, 2025 at Plantation Heritage Park, and it was a massive success! We were honored to once again host a tent in Art Campbell's name, and feel we made his memory proud.

Members were able to cheer on athletes participating in traditional Scottish highland games such as throwing a hammer, tossing a sheaf of hay, and most impressively, tossing the caber (a long, straight tree trunk)!

This event is also quickly becoming the Board's favorite choice for a family event, as children's games such as face painting, kid-sized caber toss, and trying on kilts are available for all! Food is abundant and delicious, refreshments flowed, and fellowship abounded. It was an absolute roaring success, and everyone is already talking about upping the games (literally) next year!



*A great time was had by all at the Scottish Festival.*

## Cheers were Shouted & Rats were Thrown at the Game!

The Fort Lauderdale Mariner's Club once again cheered on the Stanley Cup Champions, the Florida Panthers! If you have joined us at a game, you know that our Master of Thrills, Roy Scott, secures us excellent seats in the Corona Lounge for the game. The buffet was visited, the open bar was frequented, cheers were shouted, and rats were thrown! The great thing about this section is everyone is able to move around freely and mingle, so there is no one seat you are tied to. This gave everyone a chance to meet and chat in between the game, and also was a fantastic networking opportunity for those that are unable to attend the Luncheons every month. This event has become so popular amongst members, a 4th game will actually be added for next year - so look out for those ticket announcements! In addition, the Corona Lounge doors open an hour before the puck drops, so get there early to truly take advantage to everything the section has to offer. While this was the last game FLMC will attend as a group in the 2025 season, we encourage everyone to continue cheering on the Panthers into their Playoff run, and join us for a game in the 2026 season!

## Marine Insurance Seminar Articles - Insights to Help You Navigate the Industry

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role as simply a classified ad no different from Airbnb (peer-to-peer home sharing)<sup>1</sup>, Turo (peer-to-peer car rental)<sup>2</sup>, Grindr (location-based online dating targeted towards gay men)<sup>3</sup>, Offerup (customer-to-customer marketplace)<sup>4</sup>, or Craigslist (classified

ad website)<sup>5</sup>. Ultimately, the Court agreed that the Website was entitled to the federal immunity, where the platform had no right of disposition of a vessel and found that it cannot not be held accountable for any applicable safety standards relating to the rental of the boat itself.

In addition to the federal immunity afforded under Section 230, the Court found that the peer-to-peer platform was not a livery under the 2021 Florida Livery Statute. § 327.54 Fla. Stat. In particular, it found that because the 2021 statute provided no definition of a livery, it was found that to be a considered a livery,

<sup>1</sup> See generally *Smith v. Airbnb, Inc.*, 316 Or. App. 378 (2021), review denied, 369 Or. 675, 508 P.3d 501 (2022).

<sup>2</sup> See generally *Turo v. City of Los Angeles*, 2020 WL 3422262 (C.D. Cal., June 19, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> See generally *Doe on Behalf of Doe v. Grindr, LLC*, No. 5:23-CV-193-JA-PRL, 2023 WL 7053471 at 2 (M.D. Fla. Oct. 26, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> See generally *Rodriguez v. OfferUp, Inc.*, No. 8:19-CV-1290-T-30SPF, 2019 WL 13247290 (M.D. Fla. Aug. 29, 2019).

<sup>5</sup> See generally *Chicago Lawyers' Comm. for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc. v. Craigslist, Inc.*, 519 F.3d 666 (7th Cir. 2008).



# In The Spotlight



Tom Worthington, the Purser of FLMC, brings over 20 years of experience in business development, operations management, and strategic planning. Having served over 17 years as the Marine & Energy Practice Group Leader at a leading national forensic engineering firm, he managed and grew a diverse portfolio of regional, national, and international accounts. His expertise in fostering client relationships and driving business growth has made him a key figure in the maritime industry, particularly in the cruise, intermodal, and transportation industries. His ability to build strategic partnerships and secure high-profile clients has been instrumental in expanding business opportunities and strengthening client loyalty.

Tom's professional journey began with his degree in Geology from Miami University; Oxford, Ohio, and includes notable achievements at the R&D technology leader,; Battelle Memorial Institute based in Columbus, OH. Here he worked with the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps as well as NASA. He earned the prestigious Battelle Key Contributor Award in both 2002 and 2005 for leading complex environmental reclamation projects and wartime training projects, which included drilling multiple

10K+ft deep water wells in the Mojave Desert and

throughout California. His early career in the oil industry and as a Project Geologist at PSARA Technologies developed his expertise in environmental science and project management, and laid the foundation for his successful transition into business development and strategic leadership for complex projects and high-value clients.

Tom has an unparalleled ability to establish and maintain trust with clients and to build life-long connections. In addition, his scientific background and extensive business acumen has enabled him to be established as a well-known and respected name in the maritime industry. His approachable leadership, industry knowledge, and dedication to the diverse maritime community have made him a valuable asset to the Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club since 2008, along with a member of the Mariner's Club Seminal Committee. We are thrilled to have Tom on the Board and look forward to his continued contributions to the club and the maritime industry.

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the party must be in a position to "knowingly lease, hire, or rent a vessel to any person". § 327.54(1) (c), Fla. Stat. (2021) (emphasis added). The website lacked authority to enter into such agreements as it was neither owner nor owner pro hac vice with any possession or control of the vessel. Because the website simply provided a platform for a boat owner/livery to advertise a boat rental, negotiate a rate, rent

that vessel, and earn a rental fee, absent a small subscription charge, the website was not offering that vessel.

This holding by the Southern district establishes a basis for handling similar suits nationally involving the rental of a vessel through a peer-to-peer platform. Given the increased popularity of these platforms, it is likely more and more of these suits will be brought.

*Published October 2024, Marine Insurance Seminar Program*



**Jazz Fest 2025**  
**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Start off your Sunday with some Good Jazz Music, Good Friends, Jonathan Dunleavy's world famous Bloody Marys, Mimosas, Wine and Beer and Great Food.

Bring chairs and your specialty dish to share. Bagels and accompanying spreads included.

10am to 2pm Downtown Fort Lauderdale just east of the Riverhouse Restaurant near the Gazebo.

Please RSVP [roy@scottmarine.com](mailto:roy@scottmarine.com) with your family count and what you will be bringing. Any questions call 631-697-1013.



**Stay Connected with FLMC!**

Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club has refreshed its Facebook Page! Follow us at [facebook.com/ftlauderdalemariners](https://facebook.com/ftlauderdalemariners) for the latest club news, events, and maritime industry updates. Don't forget to follow us on Instagram too! [@ft.lauderdalemariners](https://www.instagram.com/ftlauderdalemariners). Join the conversation. Stay informed. Be part of the FLMC community! #FLMC #MaritimeNetwork #StayConnected