



Fort Lauderdale
Mariners Club

MAY/JUNE 2025

Monthly

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

Newsletter



From L- R: Tony Gandolph - Program Chair, Chris Andronis, Roy Scott - Activities Chair, Bryan Emond - Seminar Committee, Evan Andronis - Past Skipper, and Hector Valdes at MLS Soccer Game Night in May.

■ News & Updates

Seminar Committee calling on Members to submit articles for 2025 Marine Seminar Program.

■ Galleries & Events

Check out some cool pix from this month's events and take a moment to send us some.

■ In the Spotlight

From the Air Force to forensic engineering/expert witness industry, Meet Tony Gandolph.

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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34th MARINE SEMINAR
OCTOBER 28th & 29th, 2024
Westin Resort | Fort Lauderdale

A Final Salute To Our 2024 Seminar Sponsors

Presidential Club Sponsors

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Commodore's Club Sponsors

Captain's Club Sponsors

Commander's Club Sponsors

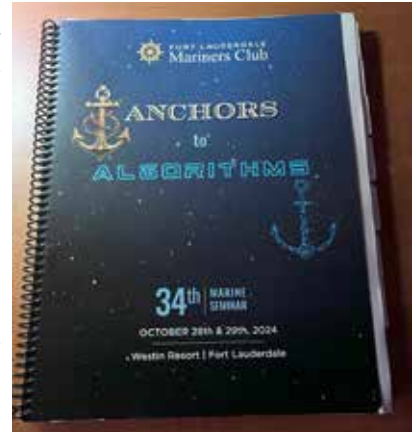
For Interest in 35th Marine Seminar 2025 Sponsorship Opportunities
Contact Laura Sherrod 954-802-7429/Laura.Sherrod@newcoast.com

FLMC 2025 Annual Marine Seminar: Call to Submit Your Published Papers for the Program Book!

Our 2023 and 2024 seminar program books have each included four 2-page journalistic papers about contemporary topics. The articles have been written by club members and repeat seminar attendees/sponsors. With the 2025 seminar on the horizon, we are asking for topics/writers from the club membership first.

The basic requirements are as follows:

- Contemporary topics.
- Insurance or legal subject matter, or point of view about a new trend that is happening in the marine industries.
- Recreational marine, large yacht or commercial marine topics. The seminar audience is quite diverse.
- The paper should fit on two pages (About 1,000 words max).
- Avoid "advertising", it should be about the subject in general to be informative to the audience.
- We will publish your Name, Company and a Photo so that you are properly acknowledged and receive credit for the article.
- No publishing skills needed. Any basic font in WORD format. We will format to fit the program book.



If you have an idea for a topic/subject and wish to be considered to include your article, please contact club member Christopher Karentz at ckarentz@sealimited.com. The seminar committee will decide on the four papers to be published.



MARINE INSURANCE SEMINAR 2025

OCTOBER 27th & 28th

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

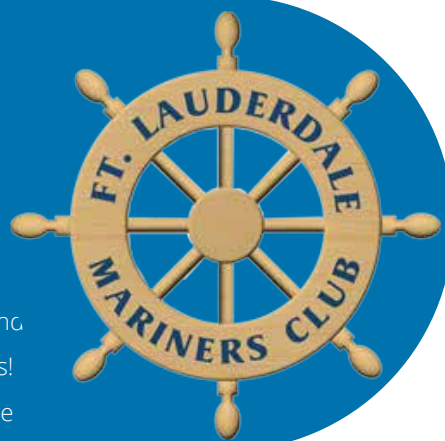
Members Captivated by Presentation on Lithium-Ion Polymer Batteries on Marine Vessels

The May Luncheon was hosted at our favorite spot, the Lauderdale Yacht Club. Captain Herb Magney gave a wonderful presentation on Lithium-Ion Polymer Batteries aboard marine vessels, and some of the preventative measures to take to avoid a catastrophic fire and loss. It was very insightful, topical, and captivating. Captain Herb also introduced some vendors of products that can help mitigate the risk of having LiPo batteries aboard a marine vessel. It was definitely a topic that captivated a lot of members' interests, and was interesting and useful at the same time. Sadly, it was the last Luncheon prior to the summer break, but we were definitely left with one of the best presentations to take with us through the summer months. Until August . . .



May Luncheon Speaker Herb Magney kept members' full attention and several had interesting follow-up questions.

Photo Gallery



May buzzed with activity, from our captivating luncheon presentation and thrilling game nights, to various events with FLMC partners and friends! We've shared a few photos from the soccer game and luncheon below, but we know many more memories are likely tucked away on your phone or camera's memory card! As a friendly reminder: we're always looking for photos that capture the great times shared by FLMC friends, old and new. Please take a moment to email your favorite moments to info@ftlmc.org. We'd love to feature them here or in our website photo gallery!



Top Left: Lionel Messi poses with the Gandolf family who came out for a fun Soccer Game Night.



Middle Right: Past Skipper Evan Andronis, his brother Chris and Yeoman Charly Zubizarreta chatting and enjoying the game.



Bottom Left: Yeoman Charly Zubizarreta and Alex Allen-Valley of Southern Boating Magazine bring the newest generation of FLMC members to see Inter Miami's win.



Middle: Hector Valdes and young Messi fan chatting at the game.



May Luncheon Speaker Herb Magney and Tony Gandolf.



Hunter De Camp from TowBoatUS and a Guest smile for the camera at May Monthly Luncheon.

News & Updates

New Club Email Address for Your Member Inquiries - Info@FTLMC.org

We're excited to announce that our new email, info@ftlmc.org, is now live! This is now the primary contact for all inquiries submitted via our website or sent directly to the club. The inbox is actively monitored to ensure prompt responses and thorough follow-up.

Several inquiries have already been successfully handled, highlighting the system's efficiency and our commitment to member support. In addition to general inquiries, use this address to share news, submit newsletter articles for publication consideration, or send photos for the website and newsletter galleries.

We encourage all members to use info@ftlmc.org for seamless communication with the club. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out—we're here to help!

Rumbling at the Rugby Game

FLMC hosted its' first ever tailgate and cheered on the Miami Sharks at its' first ever Rugby Game event! The Miami Sharks did us the honor of winning the match against the Free Jacks. The tailgate beforehand was a hit, but not even as good as the after party! The event took on a life of its' own, and FLMC members partied the night away after watching one of the most entertaining sports South Florida has to offer. The tailgate boasted free drinks and excellent food, and the drinks continued flowing throughout the event. Everyone voted that the rugby match was a fan favorite, and we will definitely be looking at doing it again next year - but this time larger, louder, and rowdier!

A Night at the Soccer Game

FLMC cheered on Inter Miami at the game against Montreal on May 28, and were there to witness Messi and his teammates clinch the win! The group enjoyed a 3 level VIP area which featured buffet style food ranging from hot dogs to sushi, open bars, and spectacular views of the field! Spirits were high and cheers were loud as we witnessed one of the greatest of all time, Lionel Messi, score a goal right in front of us! And continued as we dominated on the pitch. The game was a rousing success, and came as a package deal: live action for Inter and virtual watch party for the Florida Panthers. We all agreed this is not an event to miss, and are looking forward to hosting it again in the future. Better, hurry when the game is announced, tickets are not likely to last.

New Member Welcome

Welcome to the following new members who joined FTLMC in April, May and so far in June 2025. Here, you'll find a community of like-minded individuals passionate about the marine industry in its many shapes and forms of small and big boats. Whether you're here to learn, contribute, or just connect and build friendships, we're excited to support your journey. You'll find that fellow members are always happy to help and we can't wait to see the impact you'll make. We are thrilled to introduce you to the Club and, welcome aboard!

Neil Cooper,
Summit Marine Fire & Safety

Pieter Jan De Nul,
Optiriver USA

Justin Grubb,
Grubb Marine Surveying & Consulting

James (Jamie) C. Hart
Hart Marine Consulting, Inc.

Chris Kelly,
BOATDAMAGE.COM, LLC

Christian Merida,
Law Offices of Michelle Otero Valdes

Hector E. Valdes,
Davant Law

Joseph Turano, JDT

Hector Valdes, Davant Law

Eric E. Wargo,
Peninsula Insurance Bureau

Arthur J. Winne, Peninsula Insurance Bureau

Essential Bearings

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

Young Professionals in Yachting – A Safe Harbor for the Maritime Industry's Next Wave of Ambitious Professionals

by Christopher Coleman - President – Young Professionals in Yachting USA

A little backstory. I do not come from a family of sailors, nor do I have any notable over-the-water training. In fact, the only mariner in the family was my grandfather who served on the USS Carnelian (PY-19) during WWII. So given the lack of immersion or familiarity with this amazing industry, one would ask “so how did you even end up here?”. While the path of my entry into this industry is inconsequential, it does shine a light on what this organization I represent has strived to positively impact.

When I first joined the yachting industry, it felt as if I was an immigrant in a foreign land. No contacts, no experience... just my work ethic and ambition. There was this expectation of passed down expertise that only comes from being an heir apparent, a prior crew member, or one of the “families” who have always been in the game.

Pair that with the generational employment gap that is pervasive throughout our society today, and one can imagine it is not the most welcoming environment to outsiders. The “Old Guard” learned the hard way, and therefore you should too. Sharing best practices was (and at times still is) viewed as giving up a competitive advantage; and, unlike a game of poker in the James Bond film Goldfinger, cards are held close to the chest.

Enter the founding members of Young Professionals in Yachting. Those pioneers felt that this needed to change, and that only good things could come from creating an open, welcome atmosphere where new ideas and collaboration were celebrated, not shunned. As a result, Young Professionals in Yachting (YPY) was formed in 2009 as a non-profit in Fort Lauderdale, FL with one overarching mission, to create a safe harbor for young, land-based marine industry professionals to share their ideas, network, and grow into their professional careers in what is considered a very rigid and unwelcoming industry. Through a healthy balance of educational panels, speakers, and social gatherings, YPY USA has aimed to promote and support the continuing education

of the next generation of industry leaders, and ultimately facilitate future success for those that follow, through collaboration and ethical business practices.

Over the last 15 years, YPY has strived to educate, promote ethical business practices, and help curate business networks for young professionals within the major yachting industry hubs around the world. After creating a strong network of professionals in the South Florida area, that same board of directors seized the opportunity to expand internationally. In 2013, YPY opened the first international chapter in Monaco, followed by the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany, Turkey, Greece, and Italy. In fact, YPY is still accepting applications for new chapters in the global yachting hubs where a substantial young yachting community exists.



YPY | U.S.A

But what is Young Professionals in Yachting?

Our organization's membership is limited to land-based business professionals within the yachting industry between the ages of 21 and 40. Regular meetings occur on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on the chapter, and consists of circulating industry news, hosting professional development seminars with talks by top industry leaders, and fostering professional development. Members are encouraged to disseminate industry news, updates, employment opportunities as well as encourage new ideas and industry collaboration. The association also hosts sponsored social events for networking opportunities.

YPY also hosts boat show events, seminars, and superyacht summits in each country where a chapter exists. YPY USA in particular has partnered with other established associations, like the International Yacht Brokers Association (IYBA), US Superyacht Association (USSA), and the International Superyacht Society (ISS) to better collaborate with all corners of

Continued on page 7

In The Spotlight

Tony Gandolf is this month's FLMC Officer that we are highlighting. Tony is the Program Chair for the club, organizing the speakers for the monthly meetings and helping in other capacities as needed. Tony's connection to the FLMC started when he began working in the forensic engineering/expert witness industry for CED Technologies, Inc in 2019. Tony was hired by CED to open their Fort Lauderdale office and be the Director of Business Development for South Florida. CED is a professional, values-oriented expert witness firm that offers services in forensic engineering, accident reconstruction, rapid response services, and engineering studies since 1987. Marine/ Maritime is one of CED's areas of expertise, which led Tony to pursuing opportunities to connect with others in the maritime industry. These connections led to the Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club, and the opportunity to be a part of a wonderful organization and community of people. Tony is originally from the small town of Waupun, Wisconsin, just down the road from Fond du Lac (Home of Mercury Marine). As the youngest of seven brothers and an identical twin, Tony's early life was shaped by strong family bonds and a deep sense



Continued on page 8

Essential Bearings

Continued from page 6

the yachting industry.

Now with over 1,000 members worldwide, Young Professionals in Yachting continues to grow organically and support its members while also giving back to the yachting industry at large. The USA chapter has collaborated with various charities such as the Seafarers' House, Coral Restoration Foundation, and International Seakeepers Society.

What about those members who have aged out?

Anyone who has been a part of YPY understands the strong bonds that form while learning and growing together in the yachting industry. A love for YPY runs deep among our members. And likewise, we deeply value our members, both past and present. Therefore, in collaboration with all of the active chapters, The YPY Alumni Network was created to carry forward the ethos of YPY. It is intended to serve as a way for former members to keep in touch with their peers once they age-out of traditional YPY membership, which terminates at the end of the

calendar year in which the member turns 40.

Thus, the alumni status applies to former YPY members over 40 years old who have been a member for at least one full year. This overture is not a new membership status, but rather an informal way for former members to stay involved with the organization. Alumni are invited to attend select events at their former chapters by paying a per-event entry fee with a rate determined by that chapter.

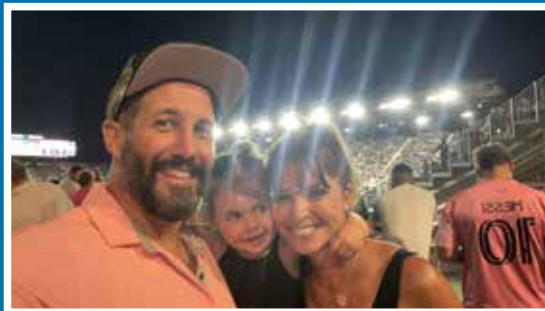
The best advice I can give to any individual who is looking to advance their career and solidify their place in the next wave of yachting industry professionals is to build your network now and surround yourself with aspirational individuals. Joining any one of our organizations' chapters is as easy as applying through our website, ypyinternational.org. As a yachting convert, I can attest YPY truly was my safe harbor at the onset of my career, and I would not be where I am without this organization.

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In The Spotlight

Continued from page 7

of camaraderie. Some of the strongest bonds of Tony's life were formed in the U.S. Air Force, as he attended and graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 2004. After exiting the Air Force, Tony entered into the world of Sales and through the twists and turns of life, Tony found his incredible position at CED. Tony is the lucky husband to Kim, who he shares a perfect daughter



Taylor with. 2-year-old daughter, Taylor. Kim and Taylor often accompany Tony to certain FLMC events; a testament to the awesome events the club hosts (shout out to Roy Scott!). The FLMC has become a close-knit community for Tony and his family, and he hopes to continue to grow the camaraderie of the club. Tony Gandolf embodies the principles of dedication, integrity, and gratitude, making him a respected figure both in his industry and among those who know him personally. Tony is

very grateful to be an officer in the club, and he looks forward to many more years of being involved in the maritime community, making friends, and making great memories!

Brain Break

Tired of doomscrolling? Give your brain a break! Dive into the connect-the-dots challenge below. Focus, connect the lines, and discover what hidden image awaits. You'll feel refreshed and accomplished!

Connect the Dots



Notes: 35 - (Connects back to Point 1) | 36 - (New Start Point) | 61 - (New Start Point) | 66 - (New Start Point) | 71 - (New Start Point) | 76 - (New Start Point) | 81 - (New Start Point) | 85 - (New Start Point) | 89 - (New Start Point) | 91 - (New Detail Point) | 100 - (Final Detail Point)



Stay Connected with FLMC!

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

