

# The Windscoop

North Florida Cruising Club (NFCC) Newsletter • November 2010



Joan Rogers

## From the desk of the Commodore

It seems like yesterday that I became your Commodore for 2010. Now we are rapidly approaching the end of the year and at our upcoming November General Meeting we will be electing our new Board for 2011. My life has been enriched by so many opportunities and friendships that I have been a part of while serving on the Board. I believe that everyone, if given the chance, serve on the Board and you, too, will have the opportunity to have your life enriched tenfold. Next year I will be joining other Past Commodores and wondering... what do I do on the 2nd Thursday of the month, since I won't be attending a Board Meeting?

Actually, though, I will be standing next to other Past Commodores and know that we have ALL done our best during the year that each of us serve our Board and Members. As I reflect back on the past year as Commodore, we have accomplished a lot for the Club in 2010. We moved our location for the General Meetings to The New Orleans Café. Members started arriving early and staying later into the evening enjoying the camaraderie and fellowship.

We increased our Membership from 78 to 104 members and still growing. We have stayed financially stable and in the black. We purchased our own PA system that we can use at our General Meetings and other club functions. Our First Coast Offshore Challenge Chaired by Guy Anderson was a success once again.

With the Hands on the Helm for Hubbard House event, we rose over \$4500 plus an additional \$500+ in donated items and at least 10 members had a "Hand" in building the Dinghy. Tom Bell, our Race Captain, found various Race Committee(s), boat, and someone to pay for our Brag Flags for

each of our races and still skippered "Whisper" in the Spinnaker Class. We returned to Fernandina Beach for Labor Day weekend of races and had a successful Rear Commodore Party pirated by John Spierre! It was such a success that we ran out of both food and beer. The Board (2011) will consider having both of the races to Fernandina during the Labor Day weekend with a party on Saturday evening again next year. This year we hosted the Interclub Regatta at Fleming Island Marina. While the club didn't bring home the Trophy, we still had a huge turnout with party goers from NFCC, and all of the other clubs enjoying the food, beer, and cooling off in the new pool and watching our sailors race against other clubs. In summary, I believe that we have an awesome group of sailors in both racing and cruising that want to be a part of the fellowship, camaraderie and fun of the NFCC. With our 2010 Board, we've made sure that each and every member achieved just that!

The last event as Commodore for 2010 will be a party! – The Change of Command Dinner on Saturday, January 15, 2011. The dinner party will be held at The Rudder Club. This is a time where we get to dress up, have a delicious dinner, recognize our fellow members for their achievements in racing and cruising throughout the year, Photo Contest winners, Scheu Award winner and most importantly, observe the traditions of passing the to our new Board. In closing, I would like to thank Tom Davis for asking me if I would be the Secretary for the 2003 year. I am so glad that I accepted. And, I want to thank all of you for placing your confidence and trust in me during the 2010 year and helping make this a memorable year. I look forward to staying active in our club! Joan Rogers

*Mark your calendars for our upcoming programs:*

- **General Meeting – Thurs. Nov. 18th, New Orleans Café**
- **Nov. 26th-28th Cumberland Island Friday Night at Sister's Creek to Cumberland Island**
- **Light Parade Saturday, November 27th**
- **Change of Command Dinner, Saturday, January 15, 2011**



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**John Spierre**  
**From the desk of the Rear Commodore**

Some of you may be planning to participate in the Cumberland Island Cruise the weekend after Thanksgiving. The plan I believe is to depart Friday, November 26th, overnight at Sisters Creek. Spend Saturday on Cumberland, and return on Sunday. I hope to be joining you via powerboat from St. Marys.

Now for the ambitious, please be aware that the sailing community of St. Marys is expending an open invite to all cruiser for a pot luck Thanksgiving. It was 10 years ago that a group of sailors, forced off the Atlantic by bad weather washed up at Seagle's Saloon with no options for Thanksgiving. Some of the locals got together and fried up some Turkey's for them. The boaters brought side dishes, and a holiday tradition was born. Word has spread through the cruiser network and they are expecting 300 people and close to 120 boats this year. The festivities kick off with an Oyster Roast Wednesday around 5PM. Dinner Thursday around 1PM, bring food around noon.

So if you are looking for a chance to kick back and share libations and stories with like-minded sailors from around the world, please plan on joining us in St. Marys before heading off to Cumberland Island.

<http://sites.google.com/site/nfcc2010cruise/home/nfcc-2010-cruise-schedule/>



**Tom Bell, Race Captain**  
**From the desk of the Race Captain**

**2010 Racing Season**

Well, this was the club's last sponsored race of the year and as usual we had a good turn out with 14 boats participating. The Fall River Race started on time with a light northeast breeze. When you couple that with an outgoing current, you had some interesting things happening at the starting line. Everyone finally made it to the windward mark, No. 11, and the things went downhill from there. The race results show the wind building from "really light "to ENE at 8 knots. The only problem is it took over 4 hours for that to happen. Fifteen out of the 17 starters finished the race. That alone should show anyone that we are serious about our racing. I salute each and every crew that hung in there and finished!

With our season quickly coming to an end there are some sailors we all need to thank. Without their help I could not have such a good season. They are Allen Jones, George Alston, Adam Norwood, and Hal Runnfeltdt. They volunteered to be PRO and they all did a great job. When you see them please give them a great big thanks for their effort. We also like to thank Jeff knoll for allowing us have our races at Fleming Island Marina. We also all need to thank Jay Gardner for allowing us to use his trawler as our committee boat. What a great platform that was for us. If you ever need any canvas work please remember Jay. I hope to see all of you at the Kings Day Regatta.



Fall River Race 2010 Group Shot

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## Adam Norwood From the desk of the Vice Commodore

We had a fun time rafting up on Saturday October 23 for the NAS Air Show. Well, fun is a relative term. Oh heck, I guess rafting is a relative term too – at least this was the case on that day in the St. Johns river. We had in the neighborhood of 16 to 20 boats out there at one time or another. No one really kept count, but there were a lot of NFCC burgees flying that day.

The day began with three raft-ups, then one broke up into two, then one of those disappeared and joined with the others, then ... oh heck, I can't really remember – there was so much moving around. The problem was that the wind became a steady 15-18 knots out of the Northeast. Boats were rocking in the fetch, and no one seemed to be able to get good holding. At least one cleat ripped out of someone's deck, and someone else's rub rail was peeled out of its socket. A little bit of yelling a screaming was heard, if not from our group, then from the little power boaters that thought our dragging rafts were going to plow into them.

Nevertheless, it was a fun day watching the deep blue planes streak by on a sky blue background.

There once was a NFCC member named Kyser, who was brave enough to write down rafting guidelines to help us be wiser. He took many a snide remark on the chin, for putting some thoughtful things to pen, and now we find ourselves repeating them again – in the Windscoop that is. I've edited Dave's guidelines slightly and added a few little things of my own. Such things bear repeating every now and then I guess. Nothing personal. Who needs a beer?

### Rafting Etiquette

RAFTING UP? The only "Rules" are to have FUN and Be SAFE; but if you follow the following guidelines, you will help everyone else to have fun and be safe also.

- 1) When approaching a raft of vessels, communicate with the raft ahead of time to determine which side to approach, and which side your fenders and lines should be rigged on. (If you will need to leave the raft earlier than the group, communicate that early and expect to stand-off and be the last one joined, so as not to inconvenience others.)
- 2) Never approach a raft unless your fenders and lines are completely ready to go. 'Lines' mean four individual lines that include a bow line, stern line, and spring lines fore and aft. If the lines have spliced loops (or bowline loops) on one end, that end stays on your boat. (Hint: 3-strand braided lines have the most stretch and make the best docking/rafting lines.)
- 3) If there is a raft coordinator, please do not argue with his/her directions. (Even if the raft coordinator seems abnormally stupid!)
- 4) The vessel you approach to raft with has the authority/permission to reject your vessel if your fenders and lines are not adequate. It's not their fault if your fenders and lined are inadequate!



The annual downtown riverfront light parade will be held at 7pm on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. The City of Jacksonville is inviting all captains and crews to register for the 2010 Jacksonville Light Parade. This light parade is open to all sailboats and powerboats of all shapes and sizes and is limited to the first 100 vessels. This event is FREE.

Categories include: 30-foot and over (Private Individual), under 30-foot (Private Individual), Sailboat, Corporate/Commercial and Organized Club. Some of the awards include Grand Overall, Best New Entry for your decorations and holiday spirit. In addition, there will be preferred docking for the after parade fireworks display and a post event Captains Party. To register or to receive more information, please call 904-630-3690 or visit

[www.MakeASceneDowntown.com](http://www.MakeASceneDowntown.com)



4A) GO GET REAL fenders, not the little fenders with the naked mermaid, nope, big ones...PFD's DO NOT count as fenders! Old nasty ones with the texture of sandpaper will be rejected also. Round ball-shaped fenders are the best for rafting – they roll in all directions, not just two. (Hint: Fender-skirts will help fenders remain quiet as the two boats move next to each other, and will help you get a good night's sleep, if you haven't already passed out!)

4B) Use lines on the fenders that are reasonably sized both in diameter and length. You should be able to tie and untie them easily and quickly. Fighting with 1-inch thick lines, or 10 foot long lines is just aggravating and a waste of effort that could be put into having fun instead!

5) If asked by the raft coordinator to deploy an anchor, assess whether you need to set it before you tie on to the raft, or after you tie on. Depending on weather forecasts, every second or third boat may have an anchor out unless a current switch is suspected. Calculate when the current switch will be and make sure people are on deck during that time. (Go figure, in the St. Johns! Current switch, really?) If expecting bad weather during the night, consider breaking the raft apart before everyone retires (read: passes out) for the evening.

6) Once you tie up with the raft, sailboats please be sure your spreaders are not parallel with the spreaders of the vessel next to you. In an ideal world, with everybody showing up at the same time, we would put the biggest boats in the middle, and tie up in descending size-order, and line up the transoms, which would keep the spreaders apart. (But we know we're not going to all show up at the same time...) Also once tied on, set your rudder on center and lock it in place.

7) Once in the raft, please exercise normal boating etiquette:  
a. No loud music unless there is group consent – which is unlikely  
b. No black or dark-soled shoes  
c. Ask for permission to cross other's vessels  
d. If you are able to drop your lifelines, please do so in an area to facilitate safer crossings  
e. If you have a dinghy, please ensure it is tied in such a manner as to not rub on other boats  
f. Refrain from using a generator unless absolutely necessary – refer to 7a.

8) Please do not grill with charcoal-style grills in a raft as ashes may go on other boats. (Propane works best.) If there are gasoline powered boats in the raft, open flames of any sort are a bad idea.

9) It is EVERYONES responsibility to be safe. Please keep alert, and if you have an anchor down, regularly check that the raft is not dragging anchor. Also, being in a raft does not mean you don't have to have your anchor light on!

10) If the raft-up features a "Covered-dish" or "Bring-your-own" format, please be courteous and do not help yourself to the food & drink if you did not bring a covered-dish or a desert, unless you are specifically invited to do so.

11) When the raft breaks-up, please assist the boat outboard of you in getting underway. (Hint: Take pictures of each other's vessels as they join and leave the raft, or are under sail on the way to and from the raft, and trade them later!)

12) Have Fun and be Safe!

The hardest part of sailing is leaving the house.  
Adam Norwood

## Photo Contest

This year's photo contest will be held during the November general meeting (amazingly just like last year and the year before that). Here are the rules: Each member submitting photos is limited to eight photos total, which should be printed and no larger than 5"x7". Write your name on the back and submit them to John Spierre or Adam Norwood or bring them to the November meeting a little early so we can get them posted for viewing. The photos must have been taken by you the member, and not 'borrowed' from others. Each submitted photo will be assigned a number and the voting will decide which categories the winners shall be designated. A winner will be the declared for each of the following four categories based on the tally of votes received: Sailing People, Cruising Event, Racing Event, NFCC Event (this last category winner will also be the cover photo for the 2011 Roster pamphlet.)

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