



# Towline

Hernando Beach Yacht Club

July 2020

## Commodore's Corner

## Welcome to Summer



**Commodore  
Patti Ames**

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Welcome to Summer everyone! We officially experienced the Summer Solstice on June 20, which marked the longest day of the year; early dawns, long days, late sunsets, short nights, and the high arc of the sun across the sky each day.

### ***A Few More Months***

I had hoped that by the 4th of July the Club would be open and we would be able to celebrate summer and the birth of American independence, but it was not to be. It looks like it will be a few more months before we consider opening the Club.

We want to make sure that, in our desire to get back to normal, we do so in a safe and prudent way. We need to remain patient, careful, and hopeful.

### ***Assessment Vote***

Because we will be closed until further notice, I am so grateful that HBYC Membership approved the proposal to collect a \$100 Special Assessment Fee from each Club member.

Of the 70 active HBYC members eligible to vote on this proposal, 59 (84.3%) cast votes, which was well above the participation threshold needed for the vote to be valid. Of those members casting ballots, 56 (80%) voted in favor of the proposal, 3 (4.3%) voted against it, and 11 (15.7%) did not respond (abstained).

Members have until July 31, 2020 to submit this Assessment Fee to

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**Thanks**  
FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!  
*you are*  
**SERIOUSLY**  
THE  
**BEST**

Thank you P/C Jim and Peggy Secrest  
for your incredibly generous donation  
to the Club of \$1,000!





# 2020 Bridge and Board Members

## Bridge Members

### Commodore

P/C Patti Ames  
206-919-8921

### Vice Commodore

Susan Myers  
845-551-9346

### Rear Commodore

Ralph Kennedy  
813-480-3015

### Fleet Captain

Dennis O'Keefe  
352-442-4942

### Treasurer

Terry Lemmons  
352-600-2580

### Secretary

Judie Kennedy  
813-469-6191

### Asst. Secretary/ Treasurer

**VACANT**

## Committee Chairs

### Budget and Finance

Terry Lemmons

### Membership

Patti Ames

### Planning

Jim Secrest

### Building and Grounds

Ralph Kennedy

### Ways & Means/Social

Susan Myers

### Memorial/Repast

Susan Myers

## Board Members

- P/C Mike Belshaw  
352-683-0537
- Rose Procopio  
352-540-0395
- Donna Savage  
352-382-0205
- Lidia Verdon  
352-556-5691
- P/C Dick Weichman  
352-597-2535
- P/C Aaron Nangle,  
Immediate Past  
Commodore  
727-916-0001

## Life Members

- P/C & Mrs. Don Bendickson
- P/C Sally Cosenza
- Mrs. Betty Ferguson
- Mrs. Jan Johnson
- Mrs. Stella Kelly
- P/C Bill & P/C  
Carmen Lavin
- P/C Dan McCann
- P/C Hank Quattro
- P/C Jim Secrest
- Mrs. Nancy Tooman
- P/C Dick Weichman

## Appointed

### Bar Manager

Susan Myers

### Bartenders

- Susan Myers
- Rose Procopio
- Patti Ames (back-up)
- Jill Prindle

### Kitchen Manager

Susan Myers

### Rental Manager

Rose Procopio

### Chaplain

Stella De Jesus-Kelly

### Dock Master

Dennis O'Keefe

### Roster

Suzanne Lemmons

### Historian

**VACANT**

### Towline

Terrence Dunne

### Webmaster

Fred Ganz



## My Yacht

# The Suzy Spoons

## HBYC Dock Master Dennis O'Keefe's Silverton Convertible

I've owned her for eight years now, had her shipped down from Rhode Island when we moved here in 2015. We weighed the options of navigating her down, but it was more efficient to put her on a boat mover and put her back together when she got here.

### Favorite Day On The Water

My favorite day on the water was the second Thanksgiving we were here, in 2016.

All the kids were busy across the country with their families, so Sue and I decided to get Publix turkey sandwiches, key lime pie, appetizers, beer and wine, and we headed out until I got tired of navigating. We dropped anchor and spent the afternoon relaxing in the sun, eating and drinking.

### Spent The Night

We ended up spending the night right where we were and came in the next day.

Since then, the kids and family have come down to duplicate that day, but either the weather or grandkids haven't cooperated!

— Dennis O'Keefe



**Dock Master Dennis O'Keefe's Suzy Spoons is moored at the Hernando Beach Yacht Club.**



**Dennis O'Keefe**

### 1986 Silverton Convertible Built by Silverton Marine Corporation, Maryland, USA

- Length: 34'
- Beam: 12.5'
- Displacement: 16,000 lbs
- Draft: 2.5'
- Engines, twin General Motors 350 cubic inch gas engines



### Continued from page 1

HBYC Treasurer Terry Lemmons.

If you feel that the Assessment Fee will cause you economic hardship, please contact me privately. Exceptions may be made when authorized by the Commodore.

### Many Thanks

On behalf of the HBYC Board of Governors, thank you to everyone who submitted their vote and participated in this process.

In closing, I would like to wish ev-

eryone a very happy and safe 4th of July! And share a BIG THANK YOU to all the brave men and women that have served our Country and are serving now to provide and protect our freedom!

**We are HBYC STRONG!**

Your Commodore,

*Patti Ames*



**Commodore  
Patti Ames**



# 20 Ways to Stay Safe During the 4th of July

The Fourth of July is just ahead, a time when people typically enjoy the summer holiday with backyard barbecues, fireworks, and water fun. But this year, celebrating Independence Day will be different due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The American Red Cross offers safety tips you can follow.

## Reopening

If your community is reopening, know which precautions to take in public settings.

1. Continue to social distance by staying six feet away from others, especially if you are at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19 (over age 65 or any age with underlying medical conditions).
2. Continue to wear cloth face coverings in public. Face coverings are most essential when social distancing is difficult.
3. Follow guidelines for your area when it comes to how large gatherings can be. Avoid crowds and mass gatherings.
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
5. Stay home if you are sick.

## Fireworks Safety

Many public fireworks shows may be canceled this summer as communities try to avoid holding events where large crowds will gather. If you plan to use your own fireworks, check first if it is legal in your area.

1. Never give fireworks to small children, and never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials. Always follow the instructions on the packaging.
2. Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
3. Make sure the person lighting fireworks always wears eye protection.

4. Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight “a dud.”
5. Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.

## Grilling Safety

Grilling fires spark more than 10,000 home fires on average each year in the U.S. To avoid this:

1. Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use. Don’t add charcoal starter fluid when coals have already been ignited.
2. Never grill indoors — not in the house, camper, tent or any enclosed area.
3. Make sure everyone, stays away from the grill, including children and pets.
4. Keep the grill away from the house or anything that could catch fire.
5. Use the long-handled tools especially made for cooking on the grill.

## Water Safety

Warmer weather means enjoying the water. Be “water smart,” have swimming skills, and know how to help others. This includes home pools — where young children are most at risk of drowning — and open water, such as ponds, rivers and lakes — where older children and teens are more likely to drown than any other location. With less access to lifeguarded aquatic facilities this summer, youth and teens may consider open water environments that are not designated for swimming.

1. Talk to your children, including older youth and teenagers, about water safety. A variety of resources are available at [redcross.org/watersafety](https://www.redcross.org/watersafety) and [redcross.org/watersafetyforkids](https://www.redcross.org/watersafetyforkids).
2. If you choose to take your family to the water, make sure the area is designated for swimming and has lifeguards on duty. Once there, maintain social distancing both in and out of the water, between you and people who don’t live with you.



3. Wear face coverings on land, especially when physical distancing is difficult. Do not wear them in the water as it may be difficult to breathe. Don’t share goggles, nose clips, snorkels, or other personal items.
4. Designate a water watcher whose sole responsibility is to supervise people during any in-water activity until the next person takes over.
5. Kiddie or inflatable pools can be a great way to have fun. Drain the water from the pool and flip it over after swim time is over.

## July Anniversaries

- July 25, 1997  
Joe & Rose Procopio

## July Birthdays

- July 9  
Judie Kennedy
- July 19  
Aaron Nangle
- July 19  
Jim Secrest
- July 24  
Nancy Tooman
- July 27  
Chuck Lary
- July 28  
Ann Vogel

## Short Stories, Poetry, History

# The “Yachts” of the Revolution

When the Declaration of Independence was signed, in July 1776, Ameri-



Signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

ca’s meager Continental Navy totaled two frigates, two brigs, and three schooners.

## The Durham Boat

But there were plenty of good “yachts” available, the most famous the Durham boat. The Durham name was associated with the Durham Ironworks of Durham, Pennsylvania, which used the boat to haul freight on the Delaware River.

## Battle of Brooklyn

The Durham was most effective in August, 1776, at the Battle of Brooklyn. Flanked and outgunned by the British, George Washington’s decimated Continental Army— 9,000 troops, plus horses and cannon—escaped in the dark of night across New York’s East River to Manhattan in Durham boats (and barges, scows, and sailboats).

Massachusetts militia manned the oars against the treacherous currents of the



The Durham Boat

river and the Continental Army survived to fight once more, most notably at Trenton, NJ.

## Battle of Trenton

The day after Christmas, 1776, the Durham Boats were called to duty once

again when General George Washington crossed the Delaware in a blinding snowstorm to smash the British at Trenton. His daring surprise attack turned the tide of the war and lifted the spirits of the battered American nation.

No Durham boat remains have been found and very little written description exists. But oral description allows us to know what they looked like.



Washington crosses the Delaware in Durham Boats



Washington is victorious at Trenton

## The Bonhomme Richard

It was another “yacht”, a famous one, that stirred to new heights the pride of the American nation. It was a second-hand gunboat named the Duc de Duras, donated by the French and renamed the U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard.

Under the command of Captain John Paul Jones, in August, 1779, the U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard took the war to the British, attacking the English coastline and capturing 16 British merchant vessels as prizes. But on September 23, 1779, the Bonhomme encountered the dreadnought HMS Serapis

off Flamborough Head, England. British victory seemed inevitable, as the more heavily armed Serapis used its firepower to rake the Bonhomme Richard with devastating effect.

## I Have Not Yet Begun To Fight

On fire below decks, and with half its crew dead and wounded, the Bonhomme Richard’s American flag fell when a cannon ball snapped the main mast above the topsail.

The commander of the Serapis, mistakenly assuming the American ship had lowered its colors in defeat, called on Jones to surrender. Captain Jones replied, for all time, “Sir, I have not yet begun to fight!”

## Defeat of HMS Serapis

Captain Jones lashed the crippled Bonhomme to the Serapis, nullifying the 50-gun frigate’s superiority in size and cannon. In brutal hand-to-hand combat, the Bonhomme’s sailors and marines swarmed over the Serapis’s gunwales, overwhelming the ship’s commander and crew. The HMS Serapis surrendered.

The Bonhomme Richard, shattered, on fire, and leaking badly, defied all efforts to save her and sank beneath the waves of the North Atlantic. Captain Jones sailed the captured Serapis to Holland for repairs, eluding capture by the British fleet.

## Father of the U.S. Navy

The battle’s outcome was a factor in convincing the French crown to back the colonies in their fight for independence. Forever after, John Paul Jones was “Father of the U.S. Navy.”



The U.S. S. Bonhomme Richard, aflame and sinking