



2020 OFFICERS		
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COMMODORE	Marty Witt	(920) 642-3305
VICE COMMODORE		
SECRETARY	Mike Mahnke	(224) 406-3139
TREASURER	Brian Carter	(920) 539-6735

**MISSION STATEMENT** – *The mission of the Fond du Lac Sailing Club is to provide sailing events for the recreation, challenge, and pleasure of the membership, while promoting safety, fellowship and an opportunity to improve sailing skills and knowledge.*

### **COMMODORE'S COMMENTS**

Hello Sailors,

Now that we are in the thick of summer, I hope everyone is doing well and you are looking forward to getting out on your boat(s) some more before all the summer wind is gone. We will have another outdoor meeting again for August. See you then or before.

Marty

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, Aug. 6, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Dues for 2020**

Brian Carter is collecting dues and racing fees for 2020. You can either go to our website and print out a form that you can fill in or just bring your money and fill out a paper form that he has with him.

You can find the form by clicking the About Us tab on the menu and clicking Membership Form. Or, click [here](#).

### **Minutes of the FDL sailing club meeting July 2, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Commodore Marty Witt. The meeting was held outside the Yacht club in a social distancing environment. Sixteen members were in attendance with four guests Mary Thornton, widow of Dan Thornton, Will McClain, Byron Pegram and Blake Youwer.

The minutes of the March meeting were summarized by the secretary (due to the previous 3 months meetings being cancelled due to the Corona virus) and approved by the membership after motions by Rob Ritchie and George Winter respectively.

Correspondence received: Mike Mahnke read a thank you note from Betty Clausen to all FDLSC members for the flowers she received from the club.

Treasurer Brian Carter updated members on the latest expenses for the club: \$168 for the website and \$51.59 for flowers sent to Betty Clausen when she was hospitalized. His report was approved by the membership after motions by George Winter and Andy Gratton respectively.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Day Sailors report:** Andy Gratton reported that races have been taking place, with about six boats participating, using rabbit start without a race committee. He also reminded the club that the Entringer race was coming up.

**Cruisers report:** Jim Braun reported on the Cruisers, and that while not divulging exact standings he reported that the first half of the season shows a very close race in the standings. Stay tuned... With staggered starts being used again this year, Jim shares the course and starting times via email with all cruisers.

Jim also reported on the annual Trans-Winnebago race. Twenty-seven boats started

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the race, but when the wind died there was no way any of the boats could have finished within the allotted time. No finishers this year.

**Youth Sailing program:** Kevin Gratton reported that Youth Sailing had to be run differently this year due to the pandemic. Therefore, only advanced youth sailors would receive further instruction via the Lasers and Andy Gratton's coaching/mentoring. Kevin also reported that the "Unregatta" (Fun Regatta held for youth sailors in past years) would be renamed the Dan Thornton Regatta as a tribute to the many and long-term commitment, efforts and contributions Dan made to youth sailing.

Kevin also reported that Mary Thornton donated funds to youth sailing for PFD's identifying instructors and adult volunteers as such, to increase visibility of instructors and volunteers during the training sessions at the ramps, in the water and on nights when youth sailors are out using yacht club equipment. Mary Thornton also shared her desire to donate a sitting bench in memory of Dan Thornton near youth sailing activity areas. Yacht Club commodore Dave Whealon shared some thoughts with Mary and the club on sources for the bench to match other such benches in the park/grounds and some possible locations could be considered by the Yacht club. Some members suggested in the area near the ramps and dock used for youth sailing

### **Eight Bells End of Watch**

In recognition of Dan Thornton's Passing and to honor him, Commodore Marty Witt asked for a moment of silence as the End of watch, ringing of Eight Bells took place.

Afterward, the Chair called for a motion from the floor to include Dan's obituary as part of the official minutes, which was "so moved" by Bill Freund and Kevin Gratton. Approval by acclimation of the members.

### **Old Business:**

Location of the racing flags is in the big trailer, for race committees.

### **New Business**

**Racing Buoys:** Dave Whealon reported that he will be getting new lights for the racing buoys. Some were either worn out or broken. Tom Clausen volunteered to do some maintenance on the buoys if they were made available to him.

**Day Sailors race judging:** Marty Witt circulated a sign-up sheet for the 2020 schedule. More volunteers are needed. Karin Whealon volunteered to make some phone calls

### **Good of the Club:**

Dave Whealon shared an announcement that the Yacht club's Fun Day will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup> with plans including boats, fun, food and an opportunity for all Yacht club families. The vision is for it to become an "event" much like the club's Ice Party. Stay tuned for more details as the time draws near.

Karin Whealon mentioned that the boat club was planning a trip to Menasha on August 1.

### **Remembering Dan Thornton**

Fond du Lac - Daniel Joseph Thornton passed away on May 16, 2020, due to complications after heart surgery. Dan was born April 30, 1945 in Belvidere, IL to George and Rose (McGrath) Thornton. He graduated from Belvidere High School in 1964 and following his military service graduated with a BS in Education from Northern Illinois University in 1973. Dan enlisted in the US Naval Reserve in 1965 and served on the USS Tawasa during the Vietnam War. He received the Vietnam Service Medal with one bronze star and the National Defense Service Medal. Following active duty he enlisted in the Army National Guard and was honorably discharged in 1982.

On June 28, 1969 he married Cathleen Coonley in Belvidere. They had two children, Shannon and Ryan. After 29 happy years, Cathy preceded him in death in 1998. Fate brought Dan and Mary together and on April 17, 2000, he married Mary (Kahlhamer) McClain in Negril, Jamaica. They recently

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reached their 20th anniversary.

Dan's work with Rockwell International moved him to several states during his long career and when his employment there ended he made his last move to Fond du Lac, WI, where he worked for Giddings & Lewis and then finished his working days at E.R. Wagner in Hustisford. After retirement he worked several hours a week at Menards to fill the winter hours and keep active.

Dan was a member of the Fond du Lac Yacht Club and the Fond du Lac Sailing Club, where he made many new friends and spent his summers teaching youth sailing with his good friend Kevin Gratton. Kevin and his mother, Joan, taught Dan to windsurf, a sport which he loved, and later to sail. He also served as a mate on Sea Scout Ship 5792 and helped his friend Paul Kaestner teach sailing to Scouts from Troop 792.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Cathleen; his parents, George and Rose; parents-in-law, Earling and Loretta Coonley; brothers, Richard, Larry and John Thornton; and a sister-in-law, Carol Zies.

Dan is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Shannon (Jason) Jones and their children, Ethan and Alexa; son, Ryan; step-daughter, Jennifer (Charles) Janz and children, Allison, Alex and Elyssa; step-son, William McClain; sister, Marylyn (John) Salvin; sisters-in-law, Colleen (Dana) Carroll, Sandy (Jerome) Van Buren, Kathy (Bill) Dobey, Cheryl (Bob) Pater; and brothers-in-law, Ken (Suzie) Coonley, Mike (JoAnne), Daniel, Richard (Robin), Walt (Carol) and Tom Kahlhamer; many nieces, nephews and good friends.

A special thank you to all who reached out during Dan's time in the hospital, and for all of you who prayed continuously for his healing, which sadly was not to be.

Thank you to Dr. Lilly and his team for their dogged efforts to get Dan well, and the dedicated nurses in the St. Agnes ICU for their care and compassion.

Memorials can be directed to Paddle, Power &

Sail Lake Winnebago for the youth sailing program.

Due to Covid-19, a private family service will be held at this time. Cremation has taken place.

Dan's family and friends lost a kind, loving, gentle man who will be missed more than words can ever express. May the wind be always at your back. We love you!

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Braun and Dave Whealon respectively. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:36p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Mike Mahnke, secretary

### **Photos for 2020**

Betty and I spent some time watching the races recently and taken some great shots. They are posted on our website. Take a look. If you manage to capture some shots worth sharing, email them to the address below. [Here are the latest photos from July.](#)

### ***MAINSHEET EDITOR***

Tom Clausen - Mainsheet Editor  
Please send items for publication to [fdlsailingclub@gmail.com](mailto:fdlsailingclub@gmail.com) or call 920.960.7484

### ***FOND DU LAC SAILING CLUB WEBSITE***

See all the new improvements that have been made to the site: <http://www.fdsail.com>.

### ***SELLING A BOAT or PARTS?***

If you are selling a boat, we will be happy to place your listing on our website. The **For Sale** page is under LINKS. Mike Elmergreen will also put it on his website at no-charge: [www.elmoandbig Sue.com](http://www.elmoandbig Sue.com) (navigate to "Boats for Sale"). Just send pictures and a write-up by email to [elmo@centurytel.net](mailto:elmo@centurytel.net).