



Towline

Hernando Beach Yacht Club

February/March 2021

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Commodore's Corner

Greetings HBYC members!



Normally we begin the new year with the Change of Watch, which is an annual time-honored tradition. This event has been our opportunity to honor and thank the outgoing Bridge and Board Members for their service to the Club and to swear in newly-elected Bridge and Board Members to their positions for the coming year.

Even though we were not able to hold the Change of Watch because of COVID-19 pandemic issues, we completed the transfer of leadership from 2020 to 2021 by filling several vacancies at our January Board Meeting.

The Office of **Assistant Secretary/Treasurer** has been vacant for several years, but on January 11, the Board of Governors unanimously voted to appoint **Suzanne Lemmons** as **Assistant Secretary/Treasurer**. Suzanne has held the **Office of Treasurer** three times and the **Office of Secretary** twice. We are thrilled to have her experience and expertise on the Board!

Dennis O'Keefe resigned as **Fleet Captain** in January 2021. Dennis did an excellent job as Fleet Captain, but his new promotion at work does not allow him the flexibility or time to fulfill the responsibilities of this position. Even

though Dennis will not be the Fleet Captain, he will continue as **Dock Foreman**.

To fill this vacancy, **Donna Savage** was appointed as **Fleet Captain** after unanimous approval from the Board. Donna served as a Board Member in 2016 and from 2019 to present. She also has a lot of experience that directly relates to the responsibilities of this position and we are very to have her as our new Fleet Captain.

Once Donna was appointed to the Office of Fleet Captain, there was a vacant Board Member position. After a unanimous approval from the Board, **Terry Dunne** was appointed to this vacant position. Terry joined the HBYC in 2019 and currently serves as the **HBYC Towline Editor** and the **HBYC Webmaster**. Terry brings lots of energy and new ideas to the Board.

Lidia Verdon chose not to continue as a **Board Member** for 2021. She loved being on the Board, but she has personal reasons for not continuing this year. We appreciate her passion and commitment to the HBYC serving as a Board since Member since 2018.

After a unanimous approval from the

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2020 Bridge and Board Members

Bridge Officers

Commodore
P/C Patti Ames
206-919-8921

Vice Commodore
Susan Myers
845-551-9346

Rear Commodore
Ralph Kennedy
813-480-3015

Fleet Captain
Donna Savage
352-442-4942-+

Treasurer
Terry Lemmons
352-600-2580

Planning Committee
VACANT

Secretary
Judie Kennedy
813-469-6191

**Asst. Secretary/
Treasurer**
Suzanne Lemmons
352-639-1040

Committee Chairs

Budget and Finance
Terry Lemmons

Membership
Patti Ames

Building and Grounds
Ralph Kennedy

Ways & Means/Social
Susan Myers

Memorial/Repast
Susan Myers

Board Members

- P/C Mike Belshaw
352-683-0537
- P/C Dick Weichman
352-597-2535
- P/C 3 Aaron Nangle
Immediate Past Commodore
727-916-0001
- Rose Procopio
352-549-0395
- Terrence Dunne
352-999-1576
- Jeff Prindle
440-251-5024

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/C3 Aaron Nangle
- 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 Newsletter
Terrence Dunne

Webmaster
Terrence Dunne



Updates from the Bar and Kitchen

In anticipation of reopening, we have had the kitchen professionally cleaned and sanitized. The bar surfaces have been cleaned and sanitized as well as all of the glassware. Our ice machine was cleaned and is ready for use with fresh ice.

I would like to invite all members interested in bartending or just helping out, to attend our bartending seminar. The seminar will be held at the Club on April 23 from 2pm-4pm. It does not matter if you have bartending experience, have never been behind a bar, or are simply curious, mark your calendar and join the fun!

Face mask or Face Shield required.

Susan Myers,
**Vice Commodore
Bar and Kitchen
Manager**

February Anniversaries

- **February 29, 2008**
Terry & Suzanne Lemmons

February Birthdays

- **February 2**
Matt Hoover
- **February 19**
Patti Ames
- **February 21**
Claire Ganz
- **February 22**
Frank Pietrucha
- **February 25**
Mitch Strong
- **February 26**
Joe Procopio

March Anniversaries

- **March 13, 2008**
Jeff & Jill Prindle

March Birthdays

- **March 23**
Melly Martin
- **March 27**
Dan McCann

Commodore's Corner (cont.)



Commodore Patti Ames

Board, **Jeff Prindle** was appointed to this vacant **Board Member** position. Jeff and his wife Jill have been active members of the HBYC since 2019 and we look forward to the addition of his skill set, fresh ideas, and positivity to the Board.

As you can see, the 2021 Board is composed of a balance between new board members, that bring a fresh perspective and renewed passion and interest to the team, and those who have been there for a while that have institutional knowledge and experience. This is the perfect Board to meet the challenges we will face as we work to safely open the Club and move forward. I am very excited to work with our new leadership and our entire Membership to get our Club back on track and stronger than ever!

Your Commodore,

Patti Ames

HBYC's Mobile Website Delayed

Redesign of the Yacht Club's mobile website, originally scheduled for a March 1st completion, has been rescheduled to April 1st.

Unforeseen technical problems, i.e., scaling down the website pages to fit on a smart phone, are causing the delay.

**Terry Dunne
Webmaster**

Short Stories, Poetry, History**A Tale of the Weeki Wachee**

My Black Lab Chloe-girl was an old dog. Pushing 17, her hearing was near gone and her vision not what it used to be. I used to walk her twice a day and go easy on her while she doddered along beside me. But she was still the good-natured, happy dog I raised from a pup and I stuck by her always.

Across from the Hernando Beach Yacht Club sits the 11,206-acre Weeki Wachee Preserve, a spectacular Florida wildlife sanctuary. On a warm summer afternoon, I grabbed Chloe and my walking stick and entered the preserve for a late afternoon stroll through the jungle to Linda Pedersen Park.

I'd crossed one of the Minnow Creek tributaries when I looked back to see if the dog was keeping up. Uh-oh! The hair on the back of my neck creped up when I saw what was happening.

A Cottonmouth, a big one, was poised to strike Chloe and she was unaware of the danger. She had probably disturbed the snake and now the Cottonmouth, close to her right shoulder with its head cocked back, was ready to strike. You could see the inside of its creamy white mouth.

I had no desire to mess with a Cottonmouth but this was my little girl we're talking about and a strike

was imminent. I ran toward Chloe to get between her and the snake and the closer I came the worse it looked. The Cottonmouth really

**The Dog**

was big, maybe three or four feet in length and thick as my forearm. It looked mean and venomous.

The only weapon I had was my walking stick, a Blackthorn Shillelagh, and I lunged to get it between the dog and the snake. I was lucky. The snake struck and got a mouthful of Blackthorn. But it wouldn't

let go and I could feel its weight and strength on the end of the stick—a nasty, mean critter if ever there was one.

I twisted the stick and the snake shook loose but now, free and angry, it came for me. Lunging at the snake had left me sprawled on the ground without leverage and I watched frozen as the snake slithered to a foot in front of my face. With a hiss, its cottonmouth opened as I squirmed in fear defenseless.

But then I heard a growl, a vicious snarling growl. The snake heard it too and its attention shifted. When I turned to look, there was Chloe. But it wasn't my sweet little girl anymore. It was a different dog, far different and much bigger, what with the fur

on her back and shoulders standing rigid and her fangs

bared for **The Shillelagh** attack.

She was magnificent! Still, this snake was deadly poisonous and no good could come from Chloe attacking. But just as I was trying to decide what to do, the snake struck first.

Chloe was bit on the neck and the

snake was hanging on. But the dog didn't care. She bit the snake, jerked it off her neck, and tried to shake it to death. When she smashed it to the ground I could see the puncture marks in the snake's body as it tried to escape.

Chloe was on it in a flash and the snake, losing steam, turned to face Chloe. But the dog, moving fast now, feinted left and right to avoid the snake's jaws. Then she bit the snake again and tossed it in the air. The snake hit the ground with a thud and Chloe pressed the attack.

But enough was enough so I poked Chloe with the shillelagh to let the snake go. She was in a froth of rage and beyond control but I poked her again and yelled "Stop"—and this time her life-long training took hold and she ceased the attack.

Minnow Creek and raced away downstream. It was hurt but I'm sure it lived.

Chloe, panting and exhausted now that the fight was over, looked up at me as if to say "Did I do OK?". Then

she licked my hand, sighed, and collapsed at my feet.

My dog!

Frantically, my fingers probed for the snake bite in her neck. Vague notions of sucking out the venom crossed my mind but I knew the best way to save Chloe was to carry her back to my

car and get her to the emergency vet. But Chloe was 85 pounds and the car more than a mile away. My fingers probed her neck fur but couldn't find the puncture marks. There was plenty of snake venom but her neck fur is thick and, even though I parted it

again and again, the bite eluded me.

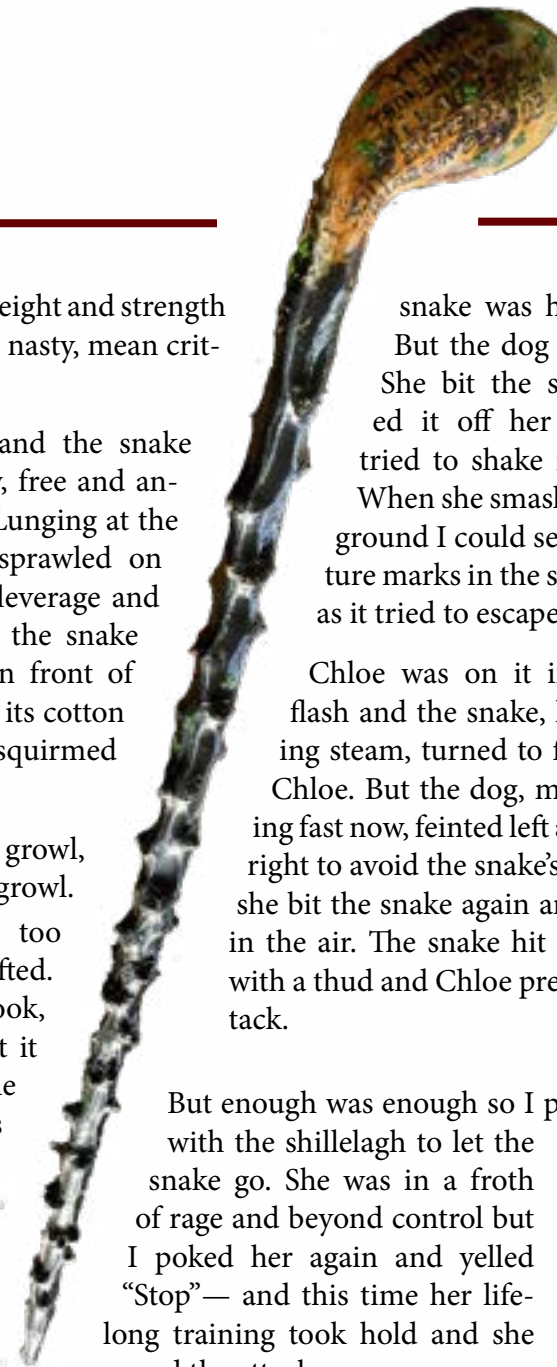
And then the dog did a strange thing, strange for a dying dog. She woke up and started biting an itch on her hindquarters.

What was this? Could it be? Labradors are known for thick fur, a top layer of robust shiny fur with a dense second coat underneath. Could it be that the snake's fangs hadn't penetrated Chloe's fur? I looked again and still couldn't find the bite. That was when Chloe, rested now, looked up at me as if to say, "What's all the fuss about?"

She nuzzled against my leg, licked my hand, then turned to head back to the car. When we got home, I gave her a double helping of dog treats under the Queen Palm out back. A subsequent check could find no snake bite so the snake, tough as it was, had never gotten past Chloe's thick Labrador fur.

Chloe, always gentle, always good natured, passed away in her sleep six months later. Loyal and faithful to the end, she was one tough Black Labrador.

— Terrence Britton Dunne



"But just as I was trying to decide what to do, the snake struck first."

**The Snake**

Building and Grounds Repairs

Tom Owens replaced the rotten board on the right hand side of the upper deck near the grill, fixed two legs on one of the picnic tables, and pruned the bushes near the wheelchair ramp. Tom also ordered a part for the beer cooler that has quit working.

Additional Repairs:

- Fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, and kitchen exhaust hood fire suppression system were serviced.
- The anti-siphon valve on the connection to the water supply was serviced and a “passing” report sent to Hernando County
- One of the womens toilets had the fill valve replaced.
- The large refrigerator was checked for leaks and the thermostat was calibrated.



Rotten Board



New Board



Old legs



New legs



Bushes pruned near wheelchair ramp

Nearby Yacht Clubs

Davis Island Yacht Club



Brunch Menu	
Served from 0900-1500	
Adult Chicken Tenders & Fries	\$7.99
Hamburger & Fries	\$9.75
Side Salad	\$2.95
add a scoop of DIYC Chicken Salad	\$7.99
Caesar Salad	\$7.99
add Salmon \$5, Shrimp \$4, Chicken \$3	
Spinach Salmon Salad	\$10.50
DIYC Chicken Salad Wrap & potato chips	\$7.99
Buffalo Chicken Sandwich & French fries	\$9.50
Beyond Burger	\$9.99
Cuban Sandwich	\$9.00
Traditional Reuben Sandwich	\$8.25
Kids	
Hot Dog	\$3.95
Kids Mac & Cheese	\$3.95
Kids Chicken Tenders & French Fries	\$3.95

