

Cassandra Earle, Fleet Captain, hosted the Hatteras Classic Club spring rendezvous in Jacksonville Beach, FL on March 24-26, 2022. The Marriott Courtyard Oceanfront hotel was the venue to begin our event with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Afterwards, we enjoyed dinner together in local, nearby restaurants.

On Friday, we headed to Amelia Island, Fernandino Beach, for lunch at Brett's Waterway Cafe and a trolley ride around this historic, quaint town. Upon returning to Jacksonville, we readied for dinner.

The Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club was a spectacular venue for the evening. During our cocktail hour, the General Manager spoke to us about the history of the mansion. Happy hour was held outside overlooking the fabulous St. Johns River. The 58-acre estate, built by Alfred I. du Pont and his wife, Jessie Ball du Pont in the 1920's, boasts a rich history as a meeting place for industrial giants, heads of state and powerful politicians, including the Vanderbilts, Carnegies and the Goulds. Dinner was delicious and elegant. We had a choice of salmon, NY strip, risotto, and a chicken delicacy. We celebrated the birthday of Evelyn Northrup, our matriarch, who is 95 years young.

On Saturday morning, we headed to St. Augustine and lunch at the Columbia Restaurant. The exquisite Columbia Restaurant sits in the heart of St. Augustine in the historic district of the nation's oldest city, which was founded in 1565. We enjoyed award-winning Spanish-Cuban cuisine with hundreds of hand-painted tiles and Spanish-style fountains. After lunch, we had the opportunity to shop and/or ride the hop-on, hop off trolley to soak up the sights.

Upon our return to Jacksonville, the gals tried their luck at the Escape Room. Actually we did it! We escaped! We managed to escape in under 60 minutes, with 8 minutes left. This was not an easy task, even with clues, puzzles, hints, etc. But we succeeded. The guys did not mind waiting for the gals; sipping cocktails and eating munchies at the Ida Claire Restaurant, where we all dined together after "our great escape". This was the perfect ending to a perfect weekend.

This was a great, fun packed event.