

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

April 2007

2007 OFFICERS &

DIRECTORS

Commodore:

Clark Hoyle

Vice Commodore:

Keith Cheshire

Treasurer:

Steven Huntley

Secretary:

Karen Blankenship

First-Year Director:

Linda Girardin

Second-Year Director:

David Agniel

Past Commodore:

Keith Mehl

2007 COMMITTEE

CHAIRS

Special Events:

Susan Barton

PR & Communications:

Constantine Foltis

Fund raising:

Erika Heine

Membership:

Susan Barton

Programs:

Robert Trail - dinner meetings

Sara Szczes - weekend events

David Girardin - boating events

Facilities:

Keith Cheshire

Improvements:

David Agniel

Gene O'Connor

Commodore's Corner

Announcements

Volunteers Needed – See “Clubhouse Update” below to see what a few volunteers have accomplished in the last month. We need more of the same. Volunteers are required to help - every member must get involved to help the club.

- Physical exercise: labor/physical things, painting, grounds work, pressure washing, etc.
- Light exercise: copying, help setup for events/meetings, bar tender things, ice.
- Time – help plan events, phone calling newspaper for publishing PRs, meeting notices and placements in other media.
- Mental exercise – writing, proof reading, flyers for events, etc.



PR & Comm Chair (Connie) needs help.

- PR (1 every 2 months), PYC history (for free publication) in glossy *Welcome Putnam County* magazine, various flyers, etc.

Facilities (Keith C)

- Main bar tender (has backups)
- Pressure washer
- Grounds cutting & weed whacking

Maintenance (David Agniel, Gene O'Connor)

- Painting for a few days
- Aerator maintenance, once per quarter

Dinner Phone Calls

Phone calls to members for dinners are not working well. If you commit and do not show up, please pay your dinner bill.

Membership Update

- 74 members in good standing (about the same number of members we had at this time in 2006)
 - o Members NOT in good standing cannot attend further meetings or functions until they obtain “Good Standing” status

Commodore's Corner - continued

Debt Update

Foolish 4 (now Fantastic 4) have agreed to refinance the entire debt, thus removing the balloon payment. We thus have no need for an assessment. The refinance terms are as follows:

- \$58,800 @ 7% for 18 years
- P&I payment of \$479.42 (prior was \$415.77, w/ \$55,000 balloon due 2/09 – now gone)
- 1st payment due June 1, 2007
- Special prepayment terms
 - o PYC can prepay this Note in whole or in part, prior to maturity, without penalty.
 - o Fantastic 4 have the option to sell one-half, up to the balance of their portion of the loan, to any member at the prevailing terms. So, if any of you are interested in getting in on the 7% money, see me and advise on what amount you would like to invest, when.

Membership Vote: We will put the offer to the membership for vote in our April 19 dinner meeting. Per the bylaws, we have notified all members of this by mail, e-mail and this newsletter.

Dues & Fees Update

Was discussed at our last Town Hall Meeting, and consensus was reached by the members that we should vote to pass the proposed increases. It is important to note that we all need to look to the future and visualize our clubhouse several years from now and understand why we believe increasing the fees are important to provide this growth:

- Now have something to offer, a real clubhouse of our own as opposed to being at the mercy of rent or availability of a facility.
- Have great food, good and new friends, and a reasonable priced bar.
- Now have people focused on providing;
 - o weekend festivities for members
 - o membership growth through membership drives, member guests.
 - o Increased public awareness through special events, PR & press activities.
 - o More boating activities.
- Visualize our future dock (ideally sometime next year). It will be great dockage for member/guest boats, boating activities for youth.
 - o Permitting is underway.
- Build out of the salon with counter top space for serving and cabinetry, entertainment, books, trophies, memorabilia & game shelving.
 - o Plans for review are under development.
- How about a proper bar, reverse osmosis water, under-the-counter ice maker, bathroom water that does not smell?
- Functioning dumbwaiter to bring food and other items up from below?
 - o Plans are under development.
- Last but not the least, a functioning galley down below?
 - o Plans for this will soon be under development.

Commodore's Corner - continued

- Our clubhouse will become the place that many people will want to be a member of or better yet aspire to become a member of! – You can't beat the view anywhere at a club in Palatka!

With regard to dues and fees, the Palatka Yacht Club has never really had anything to offer before this. We now have a clubhouse that we own, activities being planned for members throughout the year and a vision for the future. At our last Town Hall Meeting, members overwhelmingly agreed that we get the Board and members to pass the increase of annual dues and initiation fees to new members shown below and move on with affairs of the club.

- \$200 annual dues/member, effective 1/1/07
 - Prior dues were \$125 (If each of us will remember, the membership voted to pay \$5/month for cleaning. At \$5/mo x 12 mos., this comes out at \$60/yr. \$60 + \$125 prior annual dues = \$185, only \$15 short of the proposed new dues of \$200.)
- \$250 fees/new resident member
 - \$100 fee prior (Please remember that we now have a clubhouse that we have not had before.)
- **Membership Vote:** We will put the offer to the membership for vote in our April 19 dinner meeting. Per the bylaws, we have notified all members of this by mail, e-mail and this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- Boat US Event: The state of Florida is hosting a series of public workshops around the state concerning anchoring and mooring. At each workshop, they will explore with local governments, stakeholders, and the boating public, potential solutions to issues surrounding the anchorage of vessels in state waters.

You may have experienced some anchoring issues yourself in Florida, or may have read about them in the March issue of the *Boat U.S. Magazine*. Now you have a chance to learn more, and let your thoughts be known to state officials including the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC).

- Wednesday, April 11, in St. Augustine, 5:30-7:30 pm, St. Johns County Judicial Complex, Auditorium, 4020 Lewis Speedway

See below for upcoming club events.

Clubhouse Update

We now have a small trailer (donated by Bob Trail) to house our tent and a lawn mower (donated by David Girardin) and other grounds maintenance equipment. The galley area below now has a hinged access door to provide easier and safe entrance to the stairwell. A second wider ramp has been set up towards the forward starboard side to accommodate the caterer's entry and exit. David Agniel serviced the aerator and Clark Hoyle donated a new refrigerator, which is in operation below in the future galley area. Our floating docks have been delivered and are temporarily moored pending permitting. We have begun work on disassembly and alteration preparatory to final placement. Many hands have made this possible. Thanks to Harry & Clay Gillean, David Girardin, Clark Hoyle, Bob Trail, Gene O'Connor, Keith Cheshire, Steve Huntley and Hans Heine for making this all happen. Without them, none of the above could be reported this month. And all this at no \$\$ cost to the club.



Now, Spring cleaning time is here and your garage is screaming, "HELP!" Lucky you! Your prayers are answered as we can use any of the following that you can donate, for future work projects: Rust-inhibiting paint - any color, plywood, framing lumber, shelving, electrical wiring & accessories, galvanized pipe & fittings, dock screws, nails, bolts, fittings, paint brushes, solvents, lines and cleats. Also a small workbench, a vise, and a cabinet suitable or adaptable for use as an open trophy case, possibly that we could incorporate the TV into as well. Just contact David Agniel at 386-649-9075 or dobbyb@bellsouth.net to arrange pick-up, or if not a hauling

Clubhouse Update—continued

problem, bring to the clubhouse next time you are in the area, and he will arrange to meet you to help stow the items.

We can also use your gift of time to help on projects. We especially need a volunteer (or two) who knows a thing or two about painting and is willing to come out on their own schedule to help us keep the vessel ship shape. It's amazing what a difference one person's dedicated efforts can make in the upkeep of our fine vessel. Let Dave know if you can spare some time to come out and do some painting.

Coming Events

April 14th (Saturday) - Dock Work Party – Weather permitting, let's plan to meet again at the clubhouse @ 9:00 AM this coming Saturday for a dock work party, to continue the work that was begun last Saturday. David Agniel will bring his boat Halfpint, but we will also need another shallow-draft boat to help in moving the dock sections. We could also use a few more hands than we had last Saturday. See you then.

April 19th (Thursday) - Dinner Meeting – Aboard our floating clubhouse at Browns Landing. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM, and dinner will begin at 7:00 o'clock. **Our caterers will not be available that evening to provide our dinner, so everyone planning to eat should bring a covered dish, salad or dessert.** Paper plates, paper napkins, and plastic cutlery and glasses will be provided. The bar will be open as usual. Our regular calling committees will be calling just to get an idea of how many members and guests plan to attend, but we will not need to make reservations. There will be no charge for this dinner meeting, but donations are always cheerfully accepted. We will vote on acceptance of the terms of the Fantastic 4 refinance and increasing membership annual dues and new member initiation fees. Everyone please come to this meeting and vote.

April 21st(Saturday) - 6:00PM - Mexican Night - Everyone bring a Mexican covered dish to share.

May 3rd (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - 6:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

May 5th (Saturday - Exact time TBA) - “Welcome-to-Spring” Barbecue - Barbecue will be provided. There will be a sign up for sheet for the rest of the food.

Other Weekend Activities at the Clubhouse – Sara Szczes has more weekend activities in the planning stage for later months, and these will be announced in following newsletters after she has the details worked out and solid dates nailed down. For more information, contact Sara at 325-1748 or lhether3@aol.com.

Coming Events - 2007 Boating Schedule

May 19 (Saturday)—Canoe/kayak Excursion

We'll meet at the Golden Corral at 8 AM for leisurely breakfast, which will take us about an hour. After which, we'll drive to the boat ramp in Welaka. For those not attending the breakfast, we will be departing from the ramp around 10:00 AM. The plan is to canoe across the river to Bear Creek to the Ocklawaha River and back to the ramp. Bring a “brown bag” lunch and beverages. Most likely, we will raft up together to eat lunch, as we doubt that there will be a dry land for us to picnic on. It will take us as long as we want to complete the trip.

June 30 (Saturday)—Dinner Excursion to Outback Crab Shack

This night is a full moon night, so we thought about traveling north to the restaurant by sunlight and returning by moonlight. We will rendezvous off the Crystal Cove Marina at 6 PM for the journey. We hope to be back to the area by around 9:30 PM. The Girardins are willing to escort home those boaters who are not comfortable motoring after the sun sets. It will be the perfect time to gain some confidence and see the river in a totally different setting. Sleep-aboard boats may choose to spend the night tied up at the Outback's ¼-mile-long dock. Club members who wish to join us by land can expect our arrival at the dock around 7:00 PM, by then hopefully the dock will have cleared out of daytime travelers.

Boating Schedule—continued

July 13–15 (Friday–Sunday)—St. Marys, Georgia

This trip has always been a highlight of the boaters. It is about a 100-mile journey from Palatka. We will meet at 10:00 AM off of Crystal Cove Marina. For boats with limited fuel capacity, we can stop at the half-way mark in downtown Jacksonville for refueling. Sleep-aboard boats will be tying up at Lang's Marina in **downtown** St. Mary's (912-882-4452). For those not wishing to sleep on a boat, the Riverview Hotel (912-882-3242) is across the street from the marina. It is an historic hotel that provides continental breakfast. Upon advance request, the hotel will package box lunches, which can come in handy if we are lucky to have perfect seas to circumnavigate Cumberland Island. Frequently, we leave the larger boats at the dock, with their occupants boarding the smaller boats for the trip. If the weather is not conducive to boat around the island, we can plan to either explore the museum and ruins by foot or motor over to Fernandina to explore the town. We usually dine in the evenings at local restaurants, picnic lunch, and eat at the hotel (if staying there) or on board our boats. The cocktail flag goes up in the evening with everyone gathering at the hotel balcony where we will have delicious hors'd'oeuvres.

September 22 (Saturday) – Raft-Up Behind 7 Sisters Islands

These islands are just upstream of the clubhouse and close to some club members' homes (e.g., Agniel and Hoyle). We will rendezvous at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM to motor to the best anchorage that we can find among the islands. This will be an overnight activity. We will be able to swim from the boats and just have a great time enjoying everyone's company. We will be able to ferry non-boaters to the raft up from the club house or close-by member docks. Later we'll advertise a method for securing passage on a ferry to the event and the times during which this ferrying service will operate.

October 26–28 (Friday–Saturday)—St. Augustine

At 10:00 AM we will meet off of Crystal Cover Marina for the 110-mile journey to the St. Augustine Municipal Marina (904-825-1026). For boats with limited fuel capacity, we can stop at the half-way mark in downtown Jacksonville for refueling. We hope to arrive around 3:00 PM. For those without sleep-aboard accommodations, there are plenty of overnight accommodations in town, within walking distance of the marina. On Saturday, we will be exploring St. Augustine with our base of operations being the marina. All meals will be on your own, although we will meet each afternoon at 4:00 PM for libations and snacks, prior to enjoying the many restaurants in town. Some may choose to motor south on the Intracoastal waterway towards Ft. Matanzas, while others are enjoying the many activities in the old city.

November 4 (Sunday)—3 Bananas via Deep Creek and Crescent Lake

We will meet at the clubhouse at 10:30 AM to travel north on the river a piece to Dunns Creek and then into Crescent Lake. The 3 Bananas is a waterfront restaurant in Crescent City where we plan on eating at about noon. We will need an approximate headcount by the preceding Friday so that we can all sit together. We may end up boating a bit around the lake, depending on the sea conditions in the lake.

Note: Anyone desiring land directions to those activities where you might be able to join us should contact David Girardin at 328-1774 or DLBG75@hotmail.com.

Past Events



Dinner Meeting – March 15th – There were 44 members and guests for dinner, and two more came later and did not eat. The 50-50 drawing netted \$36 for the club, and David Agniel's guest, his high school classmate, took home \$37 out of the \$73 pot collected. Bar donations were \$92, and one license plate was sold at \$5. Deposit total, \$763.

Commodore Clark Hoyle reviewed the club's financial situation and explained the proposed changes in dues and fees described elsewhere in this newsletter. David Girardin proudly displayed his brand-new 100-Ton Coast Guard Captain's License to the membership. After dinner, Bob Trail hosted a "joke contest" and used an applause meter to judge which jokes got the most laughs. There were many impromptu contestants, and the prize winners, June Summers, Ernie Ricard and Guion Lindsay, all donned their prizes



Dinner Meeting March 15th - continued

for a mug shot afterwards. Lots of fun.

Board of Directors Meeting – April 2nd -

The Board met at the clubhouse ahead of the usual date because of a special event that was to take place on the regular meeting date. See below.

The big 2 things discussed were: approving the new dues and fees AND refinancing the Foolish 4 debt to be presented and voted on at the dinner

meeting. Also it was noted that volunteers had not stepped forward to help do many things required to support the clubhouse. The alternative is to hire people to do the work and spend scarce clubs funds - something none of us want to do. The need help on our clubhouse, and functions require help! Items mentioned were: painting, running the bar at meetings, facilities open and close, power wash the hull, yard trimming and hedging, press release publication with newspapers, Palatka Yacht Club history for publication, creation of various flyers.



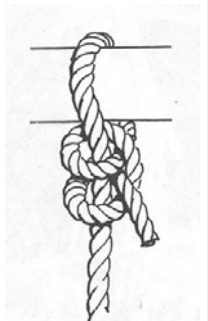
Social Gathering – April 5th - The Palatka Yacht Club hosted a social gathering aboard the clubhouse for Tom Kranz, author of the very popular *Boating and Cruising Guide to the St. Johns River*, and his wife Megan. The affair started around 5:00, and most everyone had left by 7:30. About 30 people attended, most bringing finger food for everyone. There was no special program, just the opportunity to meet the Kranzes and for them to meet us and learn a little bit about the club. Mr. Kranz mentioned that he had seen our clubhouse numerous times from the river but hadn't known anything about it at the time.

Miscellany

New cell phone number: for David Agniel: **321-431-2929**.

Knotsmanship – Two Half Hitches – For fastening a line to something else, such as a grommet in an awning, or a secure connection to a piling. It is quick and easy, but for many purposes there are better knots. Look in later newsletters for more knots useful to boaters and seafarers.

Nautical Origins of Common Expressions - “A Square Meal” - In good weather, crew's mess was a warm meal served on square wooden platters.



Announcements

Dinner meeting Door Committees – Following is a schedule of volunteers who have so far signed up for this duty. More are needed for the remaining openings. Anyone interested in helping out with this necessary job, please contact Keith Cheshire at 328-3420 or keith.cheshire@mindspring.com. Will a few people please step forward and fill these vacancies? We need your help.

2007

- February - Brenda & Ernie Ricard
- March - Guion & Ella Lindsay
- April - LaVerne & Keith Cheshire
- May - Linda & David Girardin
- June - Connie & Helene Foltis

Door Committees - continued

July -

Aug -

Sept - Tom & Sara Szczes

October -

November - David Agniel & Robbie Brackett

December - Keith & Sherry Mehl

2008

January - Guion & Ella Lindsay

February - Nancy & Herb Winstead

Club-owned Sunfish - The Club's Sunfish sailboat is on a trailer at David and Linda Girardin's residence and is available for any member to use. If interested, contact David or Linda at 328-1774 or DLBG75@hotmail.com.

Boat U.S. Membership - Our club members are entitled to Boat US membership while paying half-price dues. Our cost: \$12.50. Contact Steve Huntley at 904-692-2952 or protopterus@earthlink.net if you are not already included in this special arrangement for PYC members.

PYC Tent - Any members desiring to reserve the PYC tent, contact Commodore Clark Hoyle at 386-649-6795 or clarkhoyle@midspring.com for details. The tent is stored in the trailer at the clubhouse.

Programs - Any member who would like to present or suggest a dinner-meeting program, contact Program Chairman Bob Trail at 386-649-8710 or griffinaero@yahoo.com. Audiovisual resources are available, and all necessary assistance will be provided. Up to two presenters from outside the club will enjoy their meals as guests of the Palatka Yacht Club.

Newsletters - If you have an e-mail address and are currently receiving paper copies of our club newsletters, you are urged to list your e-mail address with Publisher Connie Foltis (contact: cfoltis@bellsouth.net) and arrange to receive your newsletters as pdf e-mail files. This would lessen the work and expense of printing and mailing paper copies every month. Individual club members have been donating their time and money for this, month-in, month-out, for many years, and they would appreciate anything we can do to lessen that load. The cost of doing this amounts to a sizeable sum at the end of the year, even though over half the members are now receiving theirs by e-mail.

To write an article for the newsletter (including a short description of an interesting trip you took) or to place an advertisement or digital photograph in it, contact Connie at 328-6783 or the above e-mail address. Entries should be received by the end of the first week of the month.

PYC Web Site - <http://palatkayachtclub.org/> or www.palatkayachtclub.org