

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

April 2008

2008 OFFICERS &

DIRECTORS

Commodore:

Keith Cheshire

Vice Commodore:

Gail Hart

Secretary:

Karen Blankenship

Treasurer:

Steven Huntley

Second-Year Director:

Linda Girardin

First-Year Director:

Constantine Foltis

Past Commodore:

Clark Hoyle

2008 COMMITTEE

CHAIRS

Special Events:

Communications:

Constantine Foltis

Fund raising:

Membership:

Linda Girardin

Dinner meeting Programs:

Robert Trail

Facilities:

LaVerne Cheshire

Improvements & Maintenance:

Commodore's Corner..... by Keith Cheshire

Ahoy, hoy! This greeting was once a term to greet or get the attention of small sloop-rigged coasting ship or a heavy barge used for freight. Ahoy = Hello (in Dutch).

Hoy = A small sloop-rigged coasting ship or a heavy barge used for freight. However did you know that is also the greeting for answering the telephone suggest by its inventor Alexander Graham Bell, who was also a yachtsman. In addition, Alex was an accomplished boat designer and co-inventor of the hydroplane boat! His designs at one time, held records for the fastest boats on water!

But enough trivia for now; April showers bring May flowers, and rain or shine the PYC bunch can be counted on to show up at our St Johns River Clubhouse. LaVerne and I just returned from a wonderful Sunday Brunch at the clubhouse. For those of you who were not able to attend, you missed a wonderful time. We had just over 40 members and guests who lined up for Karen's Kustom Kooked omelets, and much, much more. We had southern style biscuits with your choice of sausage or creamed chicken gravy and of course Harry's famous cheese Grits! Plates of fruits and wonderful desserts rounded out the selection. ---- Did I mention the Bloody Marys and Mimosas?

This new event is just one of the many ways we can look forward to enjoying our club as well as sharing our river fun with friends, neighbors and (natch) each other. Dorothy and her committee deserve a rousing round of applause for the well-planned and executed activity, and I understand they have more in store for us as the year goes by.

And speaking of plans, mark your calendar, GUYS, 'cause MOTHERS DAY is our day to treat the ladies to a great brunch (No work for the girls!!). The Mimosas will be back along with Belgian Waffles, custom omelets and much more. The phone committee will be checking with each member over the next couple weeks to verify who plans to come (a n d g u y s , w h o p l a n t o h e l p c o o k !)

Well I will shove off for now, keep the wind in your sails and may you never know the Doldrums.

Coming Events - 2008 Boating Schedule

Except for the Mug Race and the one event listed for this month, the following schedule is tentative and subject to change. A summary of this schedule and other special events scheduled for 2008 will appear in the 2008 club handbook, and additional instructions or information will be contained in later newsletters just prior to each event. Also check our web site (www.palatkayachtclub.org) for updates. If you think fuel prices are too high to take your boat to any of these events, consider "boat pooling" with other members or prospective members who could share in the costs.



Boating Schedule - continued

April 12, Saturday - Gator Landing

- 11:00 AM Meet at Palatka Yacht Club for bloody Marys, mimosas, and/or poinsettias;
- ~12:30 PM Motor north to Gator Landing;
- 1:00 PM Order lunch.

May 2–3, Friday–Saturday - Mug Race – The PYC and the Rudder Club are working to move our clubhouse to the Palatka city dock for this event.

May 11, Sunday - Mother’s Day Brunch at the Clubhouse

Arrive by boat. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

May 17-18, Saturday-Sunday - BBQ and Saturday Night Live

Meet at the Palatka Yacht Club with your own meat to grill and a covered dish to share;

View the “radical boat reunion” (tentative date) held near the sandbar, also known, as the Redneck Riviera (the radical boat reunion usually starts about 9:00 AM);

Eat whenever the group decides it’s time;

Sleep over on your boat or in the clubhouse with a sleeping bag and air mattress.

June 14-15, Saturday-Sunday - Silver Glen Springs

8:00 AM Meet at the Palatka Yacht Club for trip south on the river for either an overnight visit or a day visit.

July 18-20, Friday-Sunday - St. Marys, Georgia

This trip is about a 100-mile journey from Palatka with fuel available in downtown

Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach, and St. Marys. If the weather permits, we will circumnavigate Cumberland Island. Potential passengers, please remember about sharing fuel and other costs.

For information on dockage, call Langs Marina at 912-882-3242;

For information on accommodations, call Riverview Hotel reservations: 912-882-4452.

The hotel is across the street from the marina.

August 16-17, Saturday-Sunday - Redneck Riviera Sandbar

10:00 AM Shuttle members without boats to the sandbar;

Eat whenever you want, on the boats or at the clubhouse;

Sleep over on your boat or in the clubhouse with a sleeping bag and air mattress.

September 13-14, Saturday-Sunday - 7 Sisters Raft Up

10:00 AM Meet at Palatka Yacht Club for trip south on the river to the islands just across from the entrance to the Cross Florida Barge Canal

Boating Schedule - continued

October 5, Sunday - Three Bananas

10:00 AM Meet at Palatka Yacht Club for bloody Marys, mimosas, and/or poinsettias
~12:30 PM Motor up Dunns Creek into Crescent Lake to the restaurant
1:30 PM Order lunch

October 25-26, Saturday-Sunday - Blue Angels Air Show off NAS

11:00 AM Arrive off NAS Jax in the St. Johns River for a show that begins around 3 PM, and lasts for about an hour and half.

Raft up for the night off NAS in an area appropriate for the weather conditions, or travel home. The group will decide at the time on the best offshore anchorage for the raft-up.

November 15, Saturday - Oyster and Shrimp Roast at the Clubhouse

Arrive by boat

December 13-14, Saturday-Sunday - St. Augustine Marina

Other Coming Events

April 19th (Saturday - 12:00 noon until 4:00PM) - 29th Annual Fish Fry, Oyster Roast & Gospel Sing at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Federal Point, East Palatka. This is no longer a Palatka Yacht Club event, since there will not be an ice-cream social afterwards at Barton's next door as in past years. It will be a boating event, however, since the church now has its own dock and invites attendees to come by boat. GPS coordinates for the church's new L-shaped dock are 29 degrees 45.100'N, 081degrees 32.754'W. For those of us doing it the old way, it is 0.20nm (1230 ft) bearing 069 degrees magnetic from day marker G-"37". Caution: At mean low tide, the dock's deck is 6 feet above water level, but we were told they will be installing ladders. Check with the church first about that. Also, there are two lines of sandbars parallel to the shore. Check with Steve Huntley about these. For those driving, take Rt 207 in East Palatka toward ST Augustine, turn left on 207A, then immediately right on Federal Point Road to the end.

For more information or for advanced ticket sales, call Dawn at 904-692-2522 or Lynda at 386-546-2400. For an e-mail copy of the church's flyer on the event, contact Connie Foltis or Steve Huntley.

April 24th (Thursday) - Dinner Meeting - Aboard our floating clubhouse at Browns Landing. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM, and we will be served our usual catered dinner beginning at 7:00 o'clock. The price per meal remains at \$15. The door committee will be Ernie and Brenda Ricard.

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, April 18th. If you must cancel or wish to make last-minute reservations, call June Henley at 325-7016 no later than the evening of April 18th, which is the deadline for any changes. You will be billed if you fail to attend without canceling in time and do not pay for your reservations. If you are leaving town, remember to telephone your caller before you go and advise him or her of your plans. Members and guests who wish to attend the meeting without eating dinner are welcome to do so at no charge. If you then change your mind and wish to have dinner, and if there is still food available, you may pay for the meal at that time and eat.

May 1st (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - 6:30 PM aboard or floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

Past Events

March 15th (Saturday) - USCG Auxiliary Boating Refresher Course at the Clubhouse – Cancelled due to lack of participation.

March 27th - Dinner Meeting - Attendance was a little low at this meeting: 38 including guests, but we had an enjoyable evening nevertheless. The happy hour was happy, with chips and dips along with the usual liquid refreshment. Our caterers served a delicious dinner of Caesar salad, rolls and butter, mashed potatoes, fresh green beans, meat loaf, chicken, three kinds of cake desserts, and iced tea.

The 50-50 game took in \$59. Steve Huntley won the drawing and took home his share of \$30. Steve also presented a summary of this month's treasurer's report. The full report is posted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse for anyone interested in the details. Erika Heine announced a new date of October 25th for the "Las Vegas Night" event at the clubhouse. However, this would conflict with our attendance at the Blue Angels air show at that time, so she and her committee would find an alternate date (now Saturday, November 1). Erika also said she is now accepting gifts to be auctioned off for the play money to be used for that event. Contact her at 386-467-2484 or hansheine@bellsouth.net for more information. Ernie Ricard donated one gift at this meeting, a battery-powered underwater floodlight to brighten up an anchorage at night. Other gifts that were donated earlier are also being held for the event. Keith is shown holding one of these, an attractive wall hanging illustrating nautical knots.

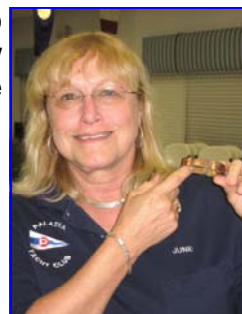


Ernie gave an interesting and informative talk about boat maintenance, boating safety and different kinds of boat insurance available. He also showed a video made by the Evinrude company, with the self-explanatory title of "Boat Smart".



An interesting sidelight: June Summers brought an old copper bracelet to the meeting that she had purchased a long time ago and wore for a few years. It was one of many sold during the Vietnam War, engraved with the name of a POW and came with instructions for the wearer to pray for that POW. She eventually put it away and

occasionally looked at it to pray that the man whose name was on it was still alive. Recently she looked at the bracelet again, and this time the name on it rang a bell.



April 3rd - Board of Directors Meeting – A number of various topics were discussed at this meeting:

1. Secretary Karen Blankenship read the minutes of the last Board meeting, and treasurer Steve Huntley reviewed the highlights of the monthly treasurer's report. The Board approved both. Steve discussed the treasurer's report, mentioning that we have 55 paid members at this point, compared to the 70s at this time last year. Dinner meeting attendance has traditionally been around 60%-63% of membership. The March meeting was a little more, 69%, but still well below the minimum number for our dinners to be self-sustaining. Dinners, so far this year, are in the red, whereas our bar in making a profit.
2. For the Mothers' Day Brunch on May 11th, the men in the club will be preparing the food in honor of the mothers who will be attending. A telephone committee will be formed to decide who does what. Any male cooks out there who would be interested in showing your stuff, contact Keith Cheshire at 386-328-3420 or keith.cheshire@mindspring.com.
3. Linda Girardin will head the membership committee. As mentioned in the last newsletter, LaVerne Cheshire is chairing the Facilities Committee.
4. Re Las Vegas Night at the clubhouse, Saturday, November 1st - Erika Heine and her committee requested approval of \$500 in club funds to purchase supplies, such as a roulette wheel, chips, cards, play money and tickets. She expects a gross intake of about \$2000 for the event. The Board approved the request.

Board of Directors meeting - continued

5. The Board briefly reviewed a preliminary copy of the 2008 handbook and recommended a few minor changes. The major differences between this year's and last year's handbooks are the By Laws modifications made last July, and they required no further review.
6. The Board approved the plan to move the clubhouse to the city dock for the Mug Race. The clubhouse utility hoses (water supply and sewage discharge) will be temporarily connected to the appropriate facilities on the city dock while there. We may need to fit extensions on either or both to make the attachments, however. Keith Cheshire will provide a generator for electric power. The move will be done sometime during the week preceding the race, which is Saturday, May 3rd, so as to be prepared to host racers who will be arriving a day or so before the race. Harry Gillean will provide the tow with his 25-foot cruiser "High Times", which he has done before. Ernie Ricard will ride shotgun with his 40-foot cruiser "Rock-N-Chair" and apply the "brakes" upon arrival. Towing the barge is not much of a problem, but stopping it in the right place is difficult in order to prevent damage, especially if there is much wind. Harry and Ernie will need at least 12 additional able-bodied persons to handle lines and help in other ways, both going to the city dock and returning to our permanent mooring. More power boats would also help. Call Harry at 386-328-0802 (h) or 328-1322 (w), or Ernie at 386-325-5068 (h), 386-328-0720 (w) or 352-215-4829 (c), if you would like to help.

April 6th - Sunday Brunch – Despite all-day rain, more than 40 people showed up at the clubhouse for the PYC's first-ever Sunday Brunch, including the crews of three boats (one a large sailboat). And it was well worth it. For a mere \$6, the following menu was offered: omelets made to order with a variety of "fixins", spicy sausage gravy, creamed chicken, cheese grits, fresh biscuits either with butter and blackberry preserves or under the sausage gravy and creamed chicken. For dessert there was carrot cake, peanut butter pie, chocolate cake, coffee cake and coffee (regular and decaf). For additional modest donations, mimosas and bloody Marys flowed freely. Dorothy McAfee, who planned all this, and all the members who helped out, deserve our thanks and a round of applause for their accomplishments that rivaled that of any good restaurant. They were: Karen Blankenship, LaVerne & Keith Cheshire, Helene Foltis, Harry Gillean, Clara Hightower, Ella Lindsay, Jeannine O'Connor and Brenda Ricard.



During brunch the rain increased to a deluge, and water poured over the stairs to the floating dock, which happened to be directly under the area of the roof from which all the rainwater drained. Anyone going to or from their boats would have to pass through a waterfall going up or down that stairway. Harry Gillean then recruited a team to shift some of the concrete ballast to heel the hull slightly to starboard. The change in heel angle was too slight to be noticeable but enough to shift the waterfall to the other side of the roof.

Miscellany

Rogers Hart – Long-time PYC member Rogers Hart, husband of our vice commodore Gail Hart, died on March 15th. A memorial Service was held for him on March 19th at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Elkton, at which many PYC members attended.

For Sale - MacGregor 25 sloop - \$2000. Contact Bob Trail at 386-649-8710 or griffinaero@yahoo.com.

Miscellany - continued

2008 Handbook - Members who wish to amend their roster information from that in the 2007 handbook and who have not been notified of such by e-mail should contact Connie Foltis ASAP at 386-328-6783 or cfoltis@bellsouth.net. The handbook will be published ASAP and e-mailed as a pdf file to those who can receive it in that form, the same as is done with the newsletters. Members without e-mail will receive printed copies.

Dinner Meeting Programs - Our program Chairman Bob Trail has been having a hard time lately finding presenters with interesting topics for after-dinner programs. We have all taken some interesting trips and done some interesting things in our lives, or know someone who has. Many of these experiences would make entertaining dinner meeting programs. They don't even have to be recent. Any member who would like to present or suggest something along this line, contact Bob at 386-649-8710 or griffinaero@yahoo.com. And remember, dinner is free. Also, up to two presenters from outside the club will enjoy their meals as guests of the Palatka Yacht Club. Audiovisual resources are available, and all necessary assistance will be provided.

Nautical Origins of Common Expressions - "No Great Shakes" - When wood casks on sailing ships became empty they were "shaken" (taken apart) so the pieces, called shakes, could be stored in a small space. Shakes had very little value.

Announcements

Club-owned Sunfish – At present, the Club's Sunfish sailboat is on a trailer at David and Linda Girardin's residence and is available for any member to use, however it will be moved to the clubhouse at some future time. 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@peoplepc.com 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 Keith Cheshire at 386-328-3420 or keith.cheshire@mindspring.com. The tent is stored onboard the clubhouse when not in use.

Newsletters - If you have an e-mail address and are currently receiving paper copies of our club newsletters, you are urged to file your e-mail address with publisher Connie Foltis (cfoltis@bellsouth.net) and arrange to receive your newsletters by e-mail as pdf files. This would lessen the cost and labor of printing and mailing paper copies every month.

To write an article for the newsletter (including a short description of an interesting trip you have taken) 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