

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

December 2006

2006 OFFICERS &

DIRECTORS

Commodore:

Keith Mehl

Vice Commodore:

Robert Collins

Treasurer:

Steven Huntley

Secretary:

Lenore Cowan

First-Year Director:

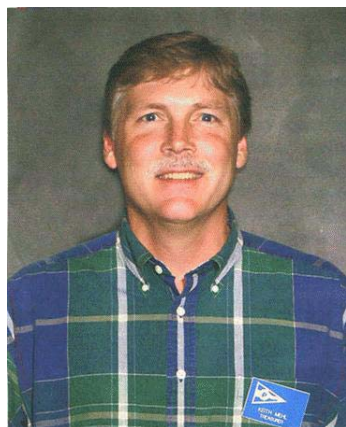
David Agniel

Second-Year Director:

Robert Trail

Past Commodore:

Wayne McClain



Commodore's Corner

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope the club's Christmas party helped ring in the holidays for those people attending. We had a very good response for the party, and everyone had a good time. There were more bottles of wine to try than most fine restaurants stock. The weather worked out perfectly, and we had the wine tasting on the upper deck as planned, then moved downstairs to munch on finger foods, mingle with friends, drink more wine and dance the night away. We had three boats tied up to the clubhouse and a land yacht in the parking lot that made the event an overnight adventure. The clubhouse was decorated beautifully, and I would like



2006 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMEN

Web Master:

Richard Vangunten

Historian:

Marcia Vangunten

Reservations:

June Henley

Rendezvous:

Harry Gillean

Sunshine:

Andrea Gillean

Membership:

Marcia Vangunten

Members' Nametags:

Robert Collins

Programs:

Robert Trail

Bar Keeper:

Jerry Hafner

Editor & Publisher:

Constantine Foltis

Hospitality:

Sherry Mehl

Facilities:

Robert Collins



to thank all the members who volunteered with set-up, cleanup and serving. It takes a lot of dedicated people to pull off an event like this!

At the last Board of Directors meeting there was a long discussion regarding the finances of the club. We heard from a Board member who had asked a loan analyst at a bank to look at our current situation. The analyst said that at our current membership and dues schedule, we probably would not be approved for a bank loan and that in a couple of years we would be in financial difficulty. Several Board members had independently drawn the same conclusion. It was brought to the Board's attention that the forecasts used when purchasing the clubhouse had predicted membership growing much faster than it has (expecting the downtown location) and at a level about 25% higher than today. With this information, the Board discussed two options: raising dues and initiation fees or implementing a special fee. A motion to raise the dues and initiation fee was made and seconded for discussion. After more discussion, the Board unanimously approved the amended motion, contingent on approval by the membership. At our next Board meeting, we will discuss

Commodore's Corner (continued)

other options available to our membership. Look for the final proposals in the January newsletter.

At the January dinner meeting we will have a financial presentation and then a question and answer session before asking the membership to vote on the changes. Please plan on attending. We need input from the membership so the new Board understands the direction to take the club in the future.

Keith Mehl

Coming Events

December 31st - New Year's Eve - The club has no special plans for a New Year's Eve celebration this year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in January.

January 4th (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - At 5:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Please check with the Commodore if you plan to attend. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

January 24th (Wednesday) - Dinner Meeting - Aboard our floating clubhouse. Details will be in the January newsletter.

Past Events



Dickens Oyster Party - November 11th - On the basis of having unexpectedly obtained two bushels of oysters, Dick and Sandie Dickens decided to throw an impromptu "oyster party". Along with the oysters, they served every other variety of good food and drink on the spacious grounds of their beautiful home next door to our clubhouse. They gave very short notice of their party,



but over 80 people came, PYC club members and others. The weather gods were kind this time (there had been heavy showers during one of their earlier outdoor parties), and it was a very enjoyable occasion. Thank you, Dick and Sandie.



Dinner Meeting - November 15th - There were 59 people at this dinner: 57 paid members and guests and our complimentary entertainer and his friend. Our caterers served the equivalent of a Thanksgiving dinner, starting off with appetizers of chips & salsa, then mixed green salad, rolls & butter, turkey & dressing, roast beef, green beans, three kinds of cake desserts, and iced tea. Dinner receipts were \$855, bar donations were \$187, and the raffle netted the club \$144. An additional \$82 was donated toward the clubhouse. June Henley won the raffle and took home the gift basket. Dave and Janet Keister volunteered to donate the next one for the January dinner meeting.

November 15th Dinner Meeting (continued)



After dinner Commodore Keith Mehl welcomed our two newest members into the club: Nuna Holloway Basler (contact: 386-328-5676 or nuna328@bellsouth.net) and Craig G. Brock (contact: 904-296-8085 or Cbrock7@juno.com). Chell and Sharon Uhl sponsored them both. Please note that Ms. Basler's telephone number that was shown in the November newsletter is incorrect, and your records



should be changed to the above. Treasurer Steve Huntley read the highlights of his monthly treasurer's report. Anyone wishing further details should contact Steve at 904-692-2952 or protopterus@earthlink.net. A vote by the club members present at this meeting elected all the candidates that the present Board of Directors had recommended for next year's Board. There were no nominations from the floor. These 2007 Board members-elect will be inaugurated at the January dinner meeting. They are:

Commodore:	Bob Collins	Vice Commodore:...	Clark Hoyle
Treasurer:	Steve Huntle	Secretary:	Sandie Dickens
1 st Year Director:.	Linda Girardin	2 nd Year Director:...	David Agniel

To round out the evening, Todd Dixon from the Rat Island Yacht Club entertained us with sea chanties and other folk songs, singing and accompanying himself on his guitar.



Murphys Island Rendezvous - December 3rd - About 16 or 17 members and guests made it to the island on four boats for this social get-together, though not all were there at the same time. Three more members passed by on their boat, waving and calling out, but they didn't stop because they "had" to get back home in time for the football game. We all picnicked



on the dock, "splicing the main brace" *, eating snacks and lunch, and having the usual social good time. Two members took a walk to the island interior, but most just continued to party. One lone camper on the island had his weekend solitude rudely interrupted by this rowdy group, but he soon joined in and helped to enliven the occasion even more.

* See "Nautical Origins of Common Expressions" following.

Board of Directors Meeting - December 7th - Henry and Kay Hope applied for non-resident membership in the Club with reduced initiation fee and dues, since they are only here for half the year. The Club By Laws do not address reduced payments for part-year residents, but the Board members present at this meeting unanimously approved their application anyway. Linda Girardin mentioned that she has been researching the types of trophies available on the market with the intent to procure a perpetual trophy for inscribing PYC Mug Race winners, but the Board took no action at this time.

Board Meeting December 7th (continued)

Bob Collins announced that he plans to organize a strong-arm work party sometime after the holidays, to load the approximately five tons of concrete test plugs from the ground next to the gangway into the clubhouse stern for ballast. Earlier a group of club members had moved them from Price Brothers Concrete Company, where they are usually thrown away as waste. This should bring the hull close to even keel, after which we can better estimate how much more ballast will be needed. Bob plans to entice participants to this work party with a barbecue and perhaps some liquid refreshments, to make the job easier and a bit festive. See "Clubhouse Update" following.

Other plans and proposals for improving the clubhouse are ongoing, and a little bit is accomplished each month. High-priority items on the latest project list are: (a) how to save electricity – discussion included fixing the A/C system and installing our own electric meter; (b) install fire extinguishers; (c) improve the doors; (d) complete the mooring; (f) paint lower deck railings; (h) strengthen upper deck railings.

Medium-priority projects on the list are: (a) install a new dock for boat tie-up – an offer has been made to purchase floating dock sections – no reply as yet; (b) repaint/paint the upper deck; (c) finish the concrete work; (d) replace the broken piling and prepare storm lines before next hurricane season; (e) repaint both outside stairways; (f) install an easy gangway removal system; (g) label all light & power outlets; (h) evaluate acoustical requirements - wait for valences and see how that affects the condition; (i) clean barge exterior.

Low-priority or longer-term items under consideration are: (a) canopy over the upper deck; (b) additional landscaping; (c) trophy case/album stowage unit; (d) redesign the galley & adjacent areas on main deck - decide A/C requirements for that space - get money (est. \$25,000) and install stairs, dumbwaiter and galley (walls, flooring and appliances); (e) hang wall art - wait for valences; (f) storage spaces in both bathrooms; (g) provide a method to fill buckets for cleaning - hose clip to BR faucet or new high faucet; (h) water odor problem - aerator?.

Anyone interested in helping out with any of these projects should contact Bob Collins at 325-5362, 530-0806 or nrlrec@bellsouth.net.

Christmas Party – December 16th – Described in "Commodore's Corner" above.

Clubhouse Update

Jay Holt has repaired and primed the damaged fiberglass starboard aft corner of the upper deck and fascia and replaced the drip edge. He donated all the material and miscellaneous materials to do the job, not to mention the numerous trips he made out there between subsequent layers and the time involved. To do this he had to remove the railing and cut away and replace some of the plywood that was rotting underneath. Thank you, Jay, for a job well done.

David Agniel has finish-painted the area and touched up numerous other places where it was needed.

As noted in "Board of Directors Meeting" above, a group of members, using three pickup trucks over two days, transported about five tons of concrete test plugs from Price Bros. Concrete plant near the Barge Port to the clubhouse site to use as ballast in the stern. These became waste products after having undergone compression tests to determine the strength of each mix. Some samples failed the test and are broken, but they will serve us just as well as the unbroken ones. David Agniel labored on the first day and



Clubhouse Update (continued)



unfortunately is missing from this photo taken the second day. We estimate that it will require about 6-1/2 tons to do the job, but we plan to load these five tons before getting any more.



Miscellany

Club- owned Sunfish - One item inadvertently omitted from the last newsletter was mention of the Club's Sunfish sailboat. This 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.

Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “Splicing the Main Brace” – A sailing ship's rigging was a favorite target during sea battles, since destroying an opponent's ability to maneuver or get away would put the other ship at an obvious advantage. Therefore, one of the first things attended to after a battle was the repair of the rigging. This included the sheets (lines that adjust the angle at which a sail is set in relation to the wind) and braces (lines passing through blocks and holding up sails). The main brace was the principal fore-and-aft support of the ship's masts and one of the heaviest pieces of rigging in the ship. It was probably seldom spliced if damaged, but probably renewed in total instead. However, if this line was spliced it would have been among the most difficult chores aboard ship, and one on which the ship's safety depended. This operation was one of such rarity and difficulty in the days of sail, as to warrant the issue of an additional amount of rum to the ship's company. For sailors today, the term is used to congratulate the crew after a hard day (or not so hard day) and invite them to have a drink.

Announcements

Boat U.S. Membership - Our club members are entitled to BoatUS 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 Keith Mehl at 386-326-1607 or mehl@gbso.net for details.

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.

Newsletter - To write an article for the PYC monthly newsletter, or to place an advertisement or digital photograph in it, contact newsletter editor Connie Foltis at 328-6783 or cfoltis@bellsouth.net. Entries

Announcements (continued)

should be received by the end of the first week of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

PYC Photo Album – Marcy Vangunten is assembling a club photo album and is looking for new additions, such as pictures from various rendezvous and other get-togethers, recent construction progress on the clubhouse, etc. E-mail them to Dick at van@gbso.net or mail prints postcard size or smaller.

Advertising Committee – The club is looking for a volunteer to form a committee of one to look for individuals or businesses to sell advertising space in our directory and/or newsletter. Individual members' personal (but not business) newsletter ads would continue to be at no cost. Anyone who is interested, please contact Wayne McClain at 386-325-5910 or wmclain@putnamstatebank.net. Taking on this money-making project would be one way for newer members to become more involved with the club's activities.

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