

# Palatka Yacht Club

*WHISPERS OVER THE WATER*

*February 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

## 2006 COMMITTEE

### CHAIRPERSONS \*

**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

\* Revised chair list to be announced at Feb. 28 dinner meeting

## Commodore's Corner

As we enter 2007, the clubhouse and members face challenges and opportunities, depending on your perspective of things being half-empty or half-full. The challenges at hand are:

- Get more public awareness about PYC;
- Grow the membership;
- Have more clubhouse usage for the members and guests;
- Provide proper safety/security and facility maintenance;
- Address our debt while keeping fees affordable.



One thing continues to resonate is with greater membership involvement and support together as a unified team we can solve these challenges! Some members have volunteered to take leadership roles in specific areas while others will help them as required. For the remainder of members who are not involved for personal or other reasons, you can help with ideas, suggestions and brainstorming conversation – and your support. Together we can meet our challenges and provide the foundation for PYC growth.

To address many of these challenges, we have volunteers in some very important chair positions as follows:

- Increase public awareness to non-members;
- Membership growth (beyond what members currently do);
- Programs for members (after dinner meetings, weekends at the clubhouse and away from the clubhouse);
- Clubhouse utilization and tidiness;
- Fund raising;
- Facility projects.

We are revising the budget with an emphasis on actual operating cost while stripping out capital improvements. Future capital improvements will require approval of the membership on the project and approval of funding by donations, fundraising and or special assessment.

## Commodore's Corner—continued

Regarding the debt and membership dues/fees, I look forward to working together with each of you and the board to come up with different alternatives to address the debt, while maintaining affordable fees for current members and new members.

With a strong and committed membership focused on meeting our challenges, we can move the PYC forward by providing growth. Let's all remember, *the secret of success is the consistency of purpose.*

Thanks,  
Clark Hoyle

## Coming Events

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> (Friday) – “Town Hall Meeting”** – This is an open forum to be held at the clubhouse. The bar will be open at 7:00 PM, and the business meeting will begin at 7:30. All members are urged to attend this most important meeting concerning the future of the club. The commodore will discuss fully the implications of where the members' dues go and the financial situation of the club. He does not want to just pass off the present 'monster' debt to club members, but wants to figure out strategies to handle the situation differently. He wants suggestions from members and intends to solicit these at the meeting. He wants to fully involve members in the situation for ideas before just passing increased costs onto them. Several different scenarios will be presented on how we might navigate our way forward with the present debt situation. There may be very well be other scenarios not yet thought of which the membership might propose. The club needs people to help be part of the solution or help find solutions to our problems. Please will join that effort.

**February 28<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) - Dinner Meeting** - Onboard our floating clubhouse. Social hour will start at 6:00 PM, and dinner will be served at 7:00. Ernie and Brenda Ricard will be the door committee for that evening. There will be a signup sheet posted at the meeting for volunteers who are willing to be the door committees for the remaining 2007 dinner meetings and the first one or two in 2008. Members are urged to pick a convenient month to host one of these meetings.

We will be selling tickets for the 50/50 drawing with one important change. The club will not accept a winner's half of the winnings. Should any winner wish to donate, please utilize the donation bucket after the meeting is over. Also at the dinner meeting several new chairpersons will be presented to the membership. These chairpersons are chartered to increase public awareness, grow our membership, provide interesting programs for members at dinner meetings and weekend activities, prioritize expenditures on our clubhouse and overall management of the PYC facilities. Let's welcome each of these volunteers and stand-by to help them as required.

The evening's program will be a presentation on the use of solar panels and similar equipment on boats, by Mr. T.C. Clements of Solarstik Co.

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you must cancel, or if you wish to make last-minute reservations, call June Henley at 325-7016 no later than the evening of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 reservations you made. If you are leaving town and plan to return in time to attend the meeting, 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.

**March 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - 6:30 PM** aboard our floating clubhouse. Note the new time. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

## Past Events

**Dinner Meeting – January 24<sup>th</sup>** - There were 59 members and guests this evening, and a number of no-shows. Social hour was helped along with a spinach dip and mini-toast. Dinner was mixed green salad, rolls & butter, green beans, mashed potatoes, beef tips with onions, four kinds of cake desserts, and iced tea. Bar donations were \$148. The raffle was a “50-50” drawing this time, because there was no gift basket this month. It netted \$84, and Betty Poteet won but gave her half of the pot back to the club.



In his last evening as commodore, Keith Mehl announced that Clay Gillean had corrected the problems with the air conditioning system, and it is now working perfectly. Thanks, Clay. Keith then thanked Lenore Cowan for her thirteen years as club secretary. She retired from that position as of this meeting, as Sandie Dickens became the new secretary. Then Keith went on to a more serious subject, the state of the club’s finances, and how to work toward eventual financial solvency. He showed flow charts with various scenarios of different proposed increased dues rates and initiation fees, projected a few years into the future. The Board of Directors had chosen one of these proposals at the last Board meeting, which was to double the dues and initiation fees and make them payable quarterly. This initiated a storm of comment for and against, most of it constructive, but with some Monday morning quarterbacking using 20-20 hindsight, that this subject should have been addressed long ago. After the discussion, the members present voted on the proposal by a show of hands, and the vote was a tie: 22 “for” vs. 22 “against”. The members present voted twice more, but the vote remained a tie after two recounts. Because of the tied vote, Commodore Mehl wisely abstained and sent the issue back to the Board. The dues and initiation fee schedule will remain the same for now, and the Board will take up the subject again.



Former Commodore David Girardin was master of ceremonies to inaugurate the new PYC Board of Directors into office. Bob Collins had advised earlier that he would be unable to assume the position of commodore because of health issues. Therefore Clark Hoyle, who was to be vice commodore, is the new commodore. There was no vice commodore at the time of this meeting. Sandie Dickens is the new secretary, but she was not present at this meeting. Linda Girardin is the new first year director, and David Agniel became second year director.

**Board of Directors Meeting – February 1<sup>st</sup>** – Secretary Sandie Dickens announced that her travel schedule has increased and that she would not be able to attend all meetings. Therefore a replacement should be found. (Later, Karen Blankenship agreed to become the new secretary.)

Clark Hoyle summarized his movement from Vice-Commodore to Commodore in relation to Bob Collins being unable to perform the office. Keith Cheshire was then presented as Clark’s replacement for Vice-Commodore, which was approved by the Board.

Steve Huntley presented the treasurer’s report, which included the following items: Balance sheet as of 1 Feb, 07, Cash flow report by month 1 Jan 07 through 1 Feb 07, dinners-YTD 01 Jan 07 through 01 Feb 07, Bar-YTD 01 Jan 07 through 01 Feb 07, Building Supplies 01 Jan 06 through 01 February 07. Depreciation and tax-exempt status was discussed. The cash flow report was analyzed. The cash flow report from Jan 1 07 through Feb 1 07 showed that inflows exceeded outflows by \$2160.08. It was brought up that there was a surplus of \$402.65 from dinner profits. It was noted that there was a large number of dinner-meeting ‘no shows’ and that bar profits were \$86.99 to the good. A lively discussion of club expenses, debt resolution, and income ensued, which was far too lengthy and complicated to cover here. These will be fully discussed in the “Town Hall Meeting” on Friday, to

## Board of Directors Meeting—continued

which all members are urged to attend. At this meeting the Board decided to raise prices for bar in the following way: beer will now be \$2.00; wine; liquor will be \$3.00; and a liquor “double” will be \$6.00 each. Sodas and non-alcoholic drinks such as tonic will remain at \$1.00. Folks can also BYOB.

The Board agreed to change the time of the Board meetings be changed to 6.30 PM. The dates will remain the same (first Thursday in the month). Also discussed was changing the date of the monthly club meeting from Wednesday to a different day during the week in order to accommodate church goers, but no action was taken on this. Several new committees are planned, and volunteers were found to chair them, which will all be discussed at length at the dinner meeting.

**Clubhouse Update** - We now have satellite TV hooked up at the club, and it is getting an excellent signal. Sherry Mehl was instrumental in obtaining Dish satellite service, and Hans and Erika Heine donated a 32” flat screen TV set. It will be an excellent addition to our home on the water and will be useful at various functions and weekend gatherings. So far, the following members have all volunteered to sponsor one month or more of our contractual commitment: Jay Holt, Craig Brock, Tom and Sara Szczes, Keith and Sherry Mehl, Steve Huntley, Keith and LaVerne Cheshire, Harry and Andrea Gillian, David Agniel and Robbie Brackett. Anyone else who would like to help, contact Sherry Mehl at 326-1607.

The dish is mounted on one of the wooden light poles, far enough from the clubhouse to get a clear shot to the open sky. David Agniel spent almost a full day working with the company technician to make the installation, and after it was completed he dug a trench to bury the cable in the ground. Onboard, he and the technician snaked the cable through the existing hole in the hull with the other utilities, then along the overhead below the main deck and up through the stage for the TV connection. Thank you, David, again, for all your dedicated work. Mounting the dish on the clubhouse would not have worked well, because the movement of the barge at its mooring would not have kept the dish focused on its geosynchronous satellite.

Some upgrade items were completed this month: (1) a hose connection to facilitate filling mop buckets. (2) hung the fire extinguishers; (3) installed a prefabricated steel staircase from the main deck forward to the lower hold. Gene O'Connor and David Agniel had purchased the unit for a nominal price and donated it to the club. Clay Gillean installed it. (4) Steve Huntley and Keith Cheshire installed our own electric meter. (5) Hans Heine donated a stand for the TV that he and Erika had donated earlier. (6) David Agniel moved everything that had been stored below in the stern, where the concrete ballast is to be installed, then cleaned, acid treated and painted the area. (7) Keith Cheshire ran a conduit from the electric box on the concrete pole under the concrete forms, to bring electricity to the gangway for additional illumination. (8) Heather Gillean is splicing a line around a thimble to complete the final mooring line, to replace a temporary one tied together. (9) David Agniel is working on deepening and reinforcing the on-shore pilings to better brace the main pilings. Thank you to everyone mentioned, and especially to Clay Gillean, for your outstanding work and devotion to moving the club forward.

Remaining high priority items on the “to do” list are: (1) complete mooring; (2) repair/replace refrigerator; (3) create member docking - we are receiving a 160-foot floating dock section free of charge from Hans & Erika Heine's condominium. Remaining medium and low-priority items (not in any order) are: (1) reinforce light poles & fill holes in ground - Terry Geck donating concrete; (2) replace missing piling; (3) redo piling braces; (4) strengthen upper deck railings; (5) label light & power outlets; (6) aerator maintenance; (7) repaint exterior stairways; (8) paint lower deck railings; (9) treat rust in lower hold; (10) clean hull exterior; (11) repaint upper deck; (12) repaint hull; (13) hang wall art; (14) build galley; (15) improve acoustics; (16) install ballast; (17) design/build trophy case; (18) canopy over upper deck; (19) install rub rail buffers.

## Miscellany

**New Board of Directors Members** – As noted earlier, Bob Collins declined the commodoreship, and Clark Hoyle, who was to have been this year's vice commodore, is now the commodore. The Board then chose Keith Cheshire to be vice commodore. Out-of-town commitments have required Sandie Dickens to resign as the club secretary, and Karen Blankenship was chosen to be the new secretary. Both Keith and Karen will be presented

## New Board members—continued

to the club members at the February 28<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Let's give them both a hearty welcome.

**Club Dues** - Payment of club annual dues were due on January 1<sup>st</sup> and were considered overdue on February 1<sup>st</sup>. For the present, the dues schedule is unchanged from last year.

**Trailer** - Bob Trail has donated an enclosed trailer that will be used at the clubhouse site to store bulky items such as the club tent. The move to the clubhouse will be timed to coincide with picking up the tent from the Palatka Art League, who has reserved it from February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup>, when they are finished with it.

**Addresses and Telephone Numbers** - Lenore Cowan has a new address and telephone number:

1823 Ridgewood Ave, Apt. 302

Holly Hill, FL 32117

Telephone: 386-615-8826

E-mail: lenorecowan@bellsouth.net.

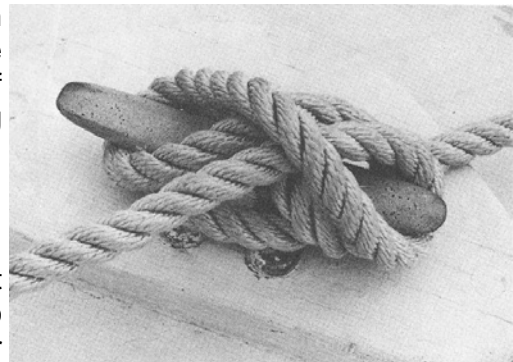
The telephone number listed earlier for new member Craig G. Brock is incorrect. The correct number is 904-269-8085.

**Trip** – This newsletter is late because the writer was out of town for 2-1/2 weeks, during part of which time he helped his daughter and her husband celebrate her birthday on the ski slopes at Aspen, Colorado.



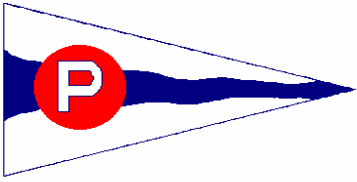
**Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “The Devil to Pay”** To pay the deck seams on a wooden ship meant to seal them with tar. The “devil” seam at the outer deck edge was the most difficult to pay because it was curved, and there were irregularities where it crossed the seams of the straight-line deck planking. Some other sources define the “devil” as the seam between the keel and the garboard strake (the first strake of bottom planking on either side of the keel) which, as with the rest of the bottom planking, had to be caulked with oakum fiber before being sealed with tar. In either case, **paying the devil** was considered to be a most difficult and unpleasant task.

**Knotsmanship – Cleat Hitch** – Many boaters have not thought of the cleat hitch as a knot, but it is. It is important to cleat a line correctly, because a small error could possibly cause major problems later. With an improper connection, the cleat could break, the hitch might be very difficult to undo, or the line could come loose by itself. To cleat a line, start with one full turn around the base of the cleat to snub up the line and keep the load as low as possible. Then make 2 or 2-1/2 figure-eight loops around the horns of the cleat, as shown in the illustration. When finished, lock the running end of the line (lower left) under the last figure-eight loop, as shown. The running end must always be on the last and topmost loop of the cleat hitch. For a temporary or quick-release connection, the last loop may remain unlocked but must be watched, and friction, together with the weight of the loops over each other, will hold the load on the standing end (upper right in the illustration). Big-ship mooring lines are secured similarly to pairs of vertical mooring bollards with many figure-eight loops, and the running ends are not locked.



## Announcements

**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.



Palatka Yacht Club

P.O. Box 2004

Palatka, FL 32178-2004

### **Announcements—continued**

**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.

**PYC Tent** - Any members desiring to reserve the PYC tent, contact Commodore Clark Hoyle at 386-649-6795 or [clarkhoyle@midspring.com](mailto:clarkhoyle@midspring.com) for details. The Palatka Art League has reserved the tent from February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**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](mailto: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 register your e-mail address with Publisher Connie Foltis (contact: [cfoltis@bellsouth.net](mailto: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. 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 the 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 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](mailto:van@gbso.net) or mail prints postcard size or smaller.

**PYC Web Site** - <http://palatkayachtclub.org/> or [www.palatkayachtclub.org](http://www.palatkayachtclub.org)