

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

February 2009

2009 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Commodore:
Gail Hart
Vice Commodore:
Robert Trail
Secretary:
Karen Blankenship
Treasurer:
Steven Huntley
First-Year Director:
Clark Hoyle
Second-Year Director:
Constantine Foltis
Past Commodore:
Keith Cheshire

2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Boating Rendezvous:
David Girardin
Membership:
Facilities: LaVerne Cheshire
Publicity: Jean Morris
Barkeeper:
Guion Lindsay
Dinner Planning:
Karen Blankenship & Dorothy McAfee
Communications:
Constantine Foltis
Improvements & Maintenance:
Door Committee:
Ella Lindsay
Calling Committee:
June Henley
Sunshine: Jeannine O'Connor
Webmaster:
Keith Mehl
Programs: Robert Trail
Planning Committee:

Commodore's Cornerby Gail Hart

Greetings to all from the wheel house! I just finished presiding over my first Board meeting as Commodore, and I am so excited about the events and activities planned for this year! As you know, one important component of any club is growth of membership, and this year we will be undertaking a number of actions to help grow this wonderful club.

The first of these is that I want each and everyone of you to help me with is the return of former members. To that end, the Board has agreed, that for the next few months, we will waive the initiation fee for ANY and ALL returning members. A copy of this edition of our newsletter will be mailed to all former members' known addresses, and I would ask our membership to take a few minutes to contact those that they know and tell them of this opportunity. This waiver will only last a short time, so please get out there and shake the rigging, trees and bushes. If a former member falls out, grab him or her and tell them how much we would enjoy their return to our club.



Coming Events

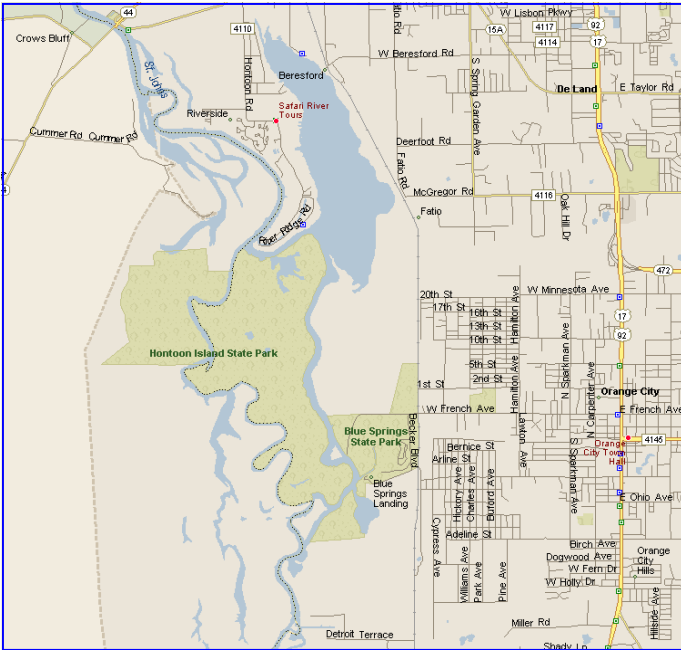
2009 Boating Schedule - The following schedule is tentative and subject to change, except for the Mug Race, which is always held on the first Saturday in May. Additional instructions or information for each event will be contained in the newsletter just prior to that event. Also check our web site (www.palat kayachtclub.org) for updates. Arrive by boat or car to most of these activities. Consider "boat pooling" with other members or prospective members to share fuel costs.

February 22 (Sunday): Start from the clubhouse at 11:00 AM. Flotilla to Welaka for lunch at the Cafe Bleu, and poker run back to the clubhouse. "Boat-pool" passengers should arrange for your rides ahead of time and meet at the clubhouse before 11:00 o'clock departing time. Tie up at the Welaka floating dock (about ¼ mile past channel marker R-48, about ten miles by water from the clubhouse), and walk to the restaurant (address 1100 Front Street). In case of foul weather, this will be a car trip instead of a boat trip. Driving directions are: Take Rt. 17 to just south of Satsuma; turn west onto Rt. 309; go about 6 miles to Welaka; turn right onto Palmetto (the street just before the stop light and before the Log Cabin Bar); turn right into the old Palms parking lot (it is white limerock gravel). You will see the restaurant on the west end of the parking lot. Meet there about noon. Clark Hoyle is the leader on this activity, and he needs a head count ASAP, but no later than Saturday, February 14th, to advise Cafe Bleu. Contact him at 649-6795, cell 916-761-7405 or clarkhoyle@mindspring.com.

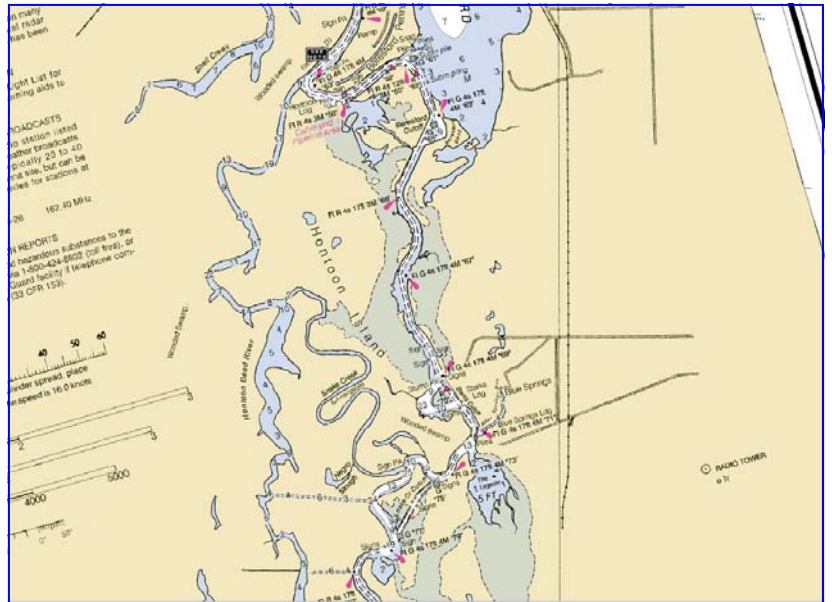
March 6-8 (Friday-Sunday): Hontoon Island by David Girardin .

Linda and I will be leaving the Palatka area aboard *Gator Bait* about 10:00 on Friday morning, March 6th. We travel about 25 miles per hour, and anyone interested in traveling along with us, please let us know. While enroute we will be monitoring channel 68 on the VHF radio. Contact us ahead of time at DLBG75@hotmail.com, 386-328-1774, or my cell phone 386-937-1566. We will probably be stopping along the way to enjoy the river so come join us if you can. See you on the river.

Hontoon Island trip - continued



We will meet at Hontoon Island at 3:00 on Friday afternoon. This will give us time for cocktails on the boats before we go by water to the Sunrise Club for supper. Hontoon Island is 64.5 miles south of the club house by water, and 73 miles south of Palatka. See accompanying charts. On Saturday we will go to Blue Springs State Park, since the manatees will be thick in the run at this time of year. They typically have over 95 manatees in the spring run during the winter months. We will plan on using the grills at Blue Springs for lunch that day, as there are grills in the State Park for cooking hamburgers and hotdogs. On Sunday we will make our way back to Palatka.



Directly across from the State Park is Hontoon Landing Resort & Marina. Although they have a motel there, because of bike week there was only one room left when we visited the resort last week. Anyone interested in spending the night ashore there should seek a room as quickly as possible. Their telephone number is 1-800-248-2474. If anyone is interested in trailering a small boat, there is a great launch ramp at SR-44 and the river. This is about 3 miles from Hontoon State Park. If you trailer a small boat you can spend the day on the river with us and make the trip by water to Blue Springs.

If anyone is interested in renting a boat, Hontoon Landing Resort & Marina has 24 foot pontoon boats for rent for \$175 per day. If several of you boatless people would like to get together and rent for the day, the price would be quite reasonable.

May 2nd (Saturday) - Mug Race - The Rudder Club has asked us if we would care to participate in the Mug Race again this year by moving the clubhouse to the Palatka city dock and offering hospitality to the race participants. No decision was made and no action taken on this so far. New commodore Gail Hart will bring up this subject for discussion at the next general meeting.

May 16-17 (Saturday-Sunday) - Raft up at Silver Glen Springs - Arrive between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm. Raft to the largest boat, if possible. Bring your own food and water toys. We will depart about the same time on Sunday. Larry Hayes is the leader on this activity. Contact him at 467-2462.

July 10-12 (Friday-Sunday) - Annual trip to St. Marys, Georgia - Includes Cumberland Island National Seashore, Fernandina Beach, and fishing (in Florida). David Girardin is the leader on this activity.

August 9 (Sunday) - BBQ at the Redneck Riviera Sandbar - Upstream of the clubhouse. Clark Hoyle is the leader on this activity.

September 13 (Sunday) - Canoe Haw Creek, in Flagler County - David Girardin is the leader on this activity.

October 2-4 (Friday-Sunday) - Bull Creek Marina - In Dead Lake (off Crescent Lake) with lunch on Saturday at 3 Bananas, Crescent City. Gene O'Connor and Clark Hoyle are the leaders on this activity.

Boating Schedule - continued

November 7-8 (Saturday-Sunday) - Outback Crab Shack - For lunch with an overnight at Green Cove Springs Marina and an excursion up Black Creek. Gene O'Connor is the leader on this activity.

Non-Boating Coming Events - Unless notified otherwise, regular dinner meetings will be held at the clubhouse on the fourth Thursday of each month through October 2009. Special events will be announced in the newsletter as soon as they are planned, with details just prior to each event.

February 26th (Thursday) - Dinner Meeting - Aboard our floating clubhouse at Browns Landing. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM, and dinner starts at 7:00 o'clock. Dinner will be potluck, where the club provides the main entrée, and attendees bring hors d'oeuvres, side dishes and desserts. There will be a \$5.00 charge per person, to cover the club's costs. No reservations are necessary, but the traditional calling committees may poll the membership to remind everyone about this meeting and to give the main entrée preparers an idea of how many are expected. There will be an after-dinner speaker, Ms. Donna Rhein, a Florida State Park Service Specialist. She will talk about Ravine Gardens State Park, covering the park's history and the latest updates on present programs and upcoming events. The door committee will be Clark Hoyle and Gemma Rastatter.

March 5th (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - At 6:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

March (no date set) - Work Party at the Clubhouse - Details to be in a later newsletter or in a special announcement.

June 13th (Saturday - tentative) - Radical Boat Reunion - An opportunity has come up for our club to get some exposure to a large number of other members of the boating community, and perhaps make a little money in the process. Russ Matos, organizer of the annual **Radical Boat Reunion**, met with our Board of Directors at its February 5th meeting and asked if we would be interested in providing some hospitality for this event. As you may know, the Radical Boat Reunion is held each year at the Quality Inn in Palatka, formerly Holiday Inn. Participants bring their high-performance boats from all over the Southeast to visit, show their boats and gather on a Saturday at the sandbar, aka Redneck Riviera, just up river from our clubhouse. This year it will be on June 13th, and Russ wants to include a lunch in his package for the registrants. He has approached the PYC about hosting and catering that element of his event. The idea he presented was for us to prepare hot dogs and hamburgers, chips, etc., which participants can pick up on their way to the sandbar. Each registrant will have gotten a coupon for his or her "meal", which they will turn in to us when they pickup their meal. PYC would sell drinks, cookies and other "optional" foods as a supplemental. Russ would pay us for the meals he requires, and any additional meals requested by the participants would be ours to sell! We will discuss this further at the February dinner meeting, and if the membership is in agreement, reply in the affirmative to Russ.

September 26th (Saturday) - Las Vegas Night - Karen Blankenship will be in charge of this event. Details later.

November 14th (Saturday) - Oyster and Shrimp Bash - This will be in place of a November dinner meeting. Clark Hoyle will be in charge of this event.

Past Events

Dinner Meeting - January 22nd Thirty-five members and guests attended this special dinner, our first chili cook-off competition. With the social hour still in full swing, Karen Blankenship and Dorothy McAfee set out six pots of chili for the competition, along with all the side dishes and many desserts that we have come to expect with our potluck dinners. Everyone ate their fill, and then came the process of deciding the winners. Linda Girardin explained the rules of the competition, then passed out ballots for everyone to rate all the chili entries they tried, in the categories of smell, appearance,



Linda explaining the chili cook-off rules

January 22nd Dinner meeting - continued

texture and taste. Linda tallied all the ballots, and Jean Morris won first-place for best overall. Andrea and Harry Gillean won 1st runner-up. Gemma and Clark Hoyle won 2nd place.



Club business followed, and treasurer Steve Huntley gave a rundown on our present financial position. A copy of this monthly treasurer's report is posted on the clubhouse bulletin board, for anyone interested in the details. Commodore Keith Cheshire then called for a vote on the club fees and dues proposals that were shown in the last two newsletters, and the attending membership unanimously approved the proposals: They are as shown below and went into effect immediately after the vote.



(A) The initiation fee for a new Class 1 member shall be reduced from the current \$250 to the following:

- (1) \$125.00 for the first applicant in a household;
- (2) \$75.00 for each additional applicant at the same residence address.

(B) The membership dues payment schedule shall be as follows:

- (1) Dues paid in full and postmarked by January 31st may be discounted by 5%, if the member so desires;
- (2) Members desiring more time may pay upon the following schedule:
 - (a) The first Class1 payment is to be remitted by January 15th ---- \$50 (January 31st – 2009 only);
 - (b) The balance (\$150) of Class 1 member dues will be due in five equal \$30 payments remitted by the 15th of each month.

(C) Fees and dues for other classes of membership are proportional to Class 1 fees and dues as shown in the By Laws

Keith also mentioned that he had been in contact with our caterers about reducing the minimum head count for our dinners from their present 50 down to 30, and they again said they could not. The next item of business, which was also Keith's last act as commodore, was to introduce and swear in the new club officers and Board of Directors. These are:

Commodore ----- Gail Hart
Vice Commodore ----- Robert Trail
Secretary ----- Karen Blankenship
Treasurer ----- Steven Huntley
First-Year Director ----- Clark Hoyle
Second-Year Director ----- Constantine Foltis
Immediate Past Commodore ----- Keith Cheshire



L-R: Keith Cheshire, Steve Huntley, Gail Hart, Karen Blankenship, Bob Trail, Connie Foltis & Clark Hoyle

January 22nd Dinner Meeting - continued

Gail then started off her tour as commodore asking for a show of hands on who would like the clubhouse to be downtown, within sight of the bridge. Everyone raised their hands in approval. She then asked for volunteers to sign up for a committee to work on that. Members were also asked to think of ways that our presence downtown could benefit the city. Call Gail at 386-329-8460.



February 5th (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - Topics discussed and decisions made at this meeting were as follows:

1. Secretary Karen Blankenship distributed copies of the last meeting, which the Board read and approved.
2. Treasurer Steve Huntley summarized the monthly treasurer's report, and there was some discussion following. The club is in a satisfactory financial position at present. A copy of this report is posted on the clubhouse bulletin board for anyone who is interested. Our former insurer has withdrawn from this market, and Steve is soliciting quotes from alternate providers.
3. Keith Cheshire introduced guest Russ Matos, who spoke about the upcoming Radical Boat Reunion on June 13th. See discussion above.
4. Bob Trail drew attention to the plywood fascia board around the edge of the upper deck, which is in need of repainting, and is delaminating in places. He proposed covering the whole area with blue vinyl, which can be screwed directly into the existing board and will never need refinishing. The Board approved this idea and will schedule a work party in March to install the vinyl covering and to implement other much-needed projects.
5. Clark Hoyle proposed to halve the initiation fee for former members who wish to rejoin the club, by way of enticing them to come back. This brought on alternate proposals including waiving the fee altogether. This discussion was then shelved, and decided later. This is covered in "Commodore's Corner" above.
6. Keith Cheshire is continuing to pursue getting a telephone directory listing for the club. It would have a voice-mail message referring the caller to the commodore of that year.
7. Jeannine O'Connor is now the 'Sunshine' chairperson. Anyone who knows of a member or former member who is ill or who has died, please inform Jeannine at 325-4405 or jeannine1@gbso.net, and she will send well wishes or condolences as applicable.
8. The poor condition of the entrance road to the clubhouse was brought up. Steve will ask our landlord to buy the road-fill materials needed, and club members will spread them.
9. Commodore Gail Hart mentioned that our waterfront committee has been conferring with Palatka City Manager Woody Boynton about our desire to move downtown. Woody advised that he plans to talk about it to each of the city commissioners and will get back to our committee with their answers.
10. Gail brought up the question of another Las Vegas Night this year. All were in favor, and some discussion ensued, mostly about extending the time for games beyond the time allotted for the games last time. Karen Blankenship will chair the committee for this event.
11. It was decided to have another Oyster and Shrimp Bash again this year, about the same time as the last two years. The date for this year was set at November 14th, and as before, it will take the place of our regular November dinner meeting. We will elect the new officers and Board members at this event. Clark Hoyle will be in charge and will make a flyer to advertise it outside the club.
12. Gail and Karen discussed ideas for other weekend events at the clubhouse but did not decide on anything else at this time.
13. Connie Foltis will check on engraving the donated punch bowl set with the club name and perhaps the logo as well.

Miscellany

Illness - Ernest Grace has recently had throat surgery and is convalescing well. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Lost and Found - Dorothy McAfee is looking for a good knife (chef's knife I think) that disappeared during the Oyster Roast last November. It may have been placed in the smoker/grill.

Dinner Meeting Programs - Our dinner-meeting program Chairman Bob Trail sometimes has a hard time finding presenters with topics for after-dinner programs. We club members could probably contribute some interesting topics ourselves...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. 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.

PYC Library - Anyone who has surplus books, VHS tapes, DVDs, pictures, or whatever, that relate to boating or boats, or even past club memorabilia, could donate them to the club, where they will be kept in the clubhouse for anyone to look at or sign out and take home. Contact Bob Trail (649-8710 or griffinaero@yahoo.com) for more details.

Websites of Interest to Boaters – Here's another that Bob Trail found for us: <http://geology.com/news/2005/08/historic-hurricane-track-maps.html> A site to go to for archived weather data with links to others, including the free Google Earth download.

Nautical Origins of Some Common Expressions – “Keel” and “Freeboard” - In many areas, boats started out as hollowed-out logs, but as they were made larger the builders added planks on each side to increase the **freeboard (boards or planks above or “free” of the water)**. As the structure became more complex, the original log became a backbone in the bottom of the boat, to which the rest of the structure was attached. In the English language this backbone log acquired the Middle Dutch name of **'kiel'**, which we now call **'keel'**. It can be in the interior or exterior of a ship or boat at the bottom centerline, to maintain structural rigidity. In sailing ships, the external keel also serves double duty in helping to prevent leeway when sailing. In many modern sailboats, the external keel has morphed to a deep fin which serves no structural purpose, with its only function to prevent leeway under sail.

Test Your Yachting Knowledge -.What condition exists when a sailing yacht is said to be “in irons”?

It is stalled, head to wind.

Its anchor has caught on an undersea cable, wreck or other such hazard.

It has been 'arrested' by port authorities for non-payment of dues or fees.

It has been repossessed by a finance company to be sold off to recoup overdue payments.

Answer at end of newsletter.

Interesting Stuff you don't need to know - In the 1400s a law was set forth in England, that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb"

For sale - Antique .18-foot Crestliner motorboat with 55 hp Evinrude, on good galvanized tandem trailer. Asking \$1800. Contact Bob Trail at 649-8710. Will deal for a smaller runabout.

Club-owned Sunfish – At present, the Club's Sunfish sailboat is on a trailer at Bob and Sue Merritt Trail's San Mateo property and is available for any member to use. If interested, contact Bob or Sue.



The Trails' Crestliner motorboat

Miscellany - 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 or protopterus@peoplepc.com if you are not already included in this special arrangement for PYC members. There was a mix-up about this for a couple of months, but the arrangement is back on track now.

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. He will arrange for you to receive your newsletters by e-mail as a PDF file. This would decrease the cost and labor of printing and mailing paper copies every month.

Contact Connie about writing an article for the newsletter (Ex: a boating autobiography or a description of an interesting trip you have taken) or to place an advertisement or digital photograph in it. Entries should be received before the end of the first week of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

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

Answer to “Test your Yachting Knowledge” – (a) It is stalled, head to wind.