

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

January 2007

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

2007 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:

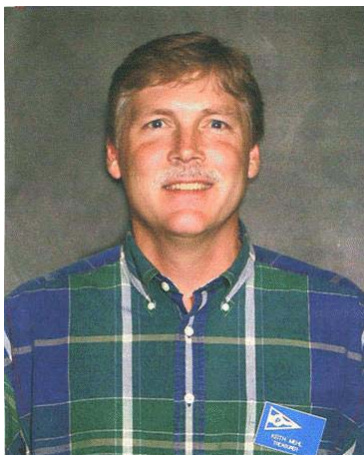
Constantine Foltis

Hospitality:

Sherry Mehl

Facilities:

Robert Collins



Commodore's Corner

It's hard to believe another year has gone by. I hope the membership understands and appreciates the progress made with the club this year. At the beginning of the year, the clubhouse was moored in Green Cove Springs, getting dirty and moldy, and on the verge of costing the club a substantial rental fee. We had been priced out of the Palatka Woman's Club and were searching for a new home for our dinner meetings. Our hopes had been raised and then dashed regarding the downtown riverfront mooring location that would showcase our clubhouse to the world. Every mooring location we could come up with fell through for one reason or another and things were looking bleak when we finally found a home for our clubhouse at Brown's Landing.

I would like to recognize the persistence of the Solomons and the vision of Ron Dore, without which we'd still be tied up in GCS. Once we relocated, things finally started looking up for the club and there was new energy and excitement within the membership. What I would like to ask now is that you carry this excitement and energy into the new year and make the new Board's year in office as enjoyable as you made mine. There are still many challenges ahead in the year and years to come, and this Board is going to need volunteers to step forward with energy, ambition and fresh ideas.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, there will be a proposal put before the membership to raise the dues and initiation fees. It is important that you attend the meeting as the membership will vote on the proposal. There will be a short presentation regarding our finances and then most likely a somewhat lengthy discussion before the vote. If the proposal is rejected, we need to discuss options available for the future.

Finally, I would like to say that I was proud to serve as your commodore for the last year. I know this Board has left a strong foundation for the next Board to build on. It could not have been done without the hard work of all the volunteers that stepped forward this past year. I would like to thank everyone that did volunteer their time, opinions, information, energy, material and money. I can only ask that you continue to help the new Board the way you helped this past year.

Thank You,

Keith

Coming Events

January 24th (Wednesday) - Dinner Meeting - Onboard our floating clubhouse. Social hour will start at 6:00 PM, and dinner will be served at 7:00. The door committee for this evening will be Lenore Cowan and Marcy Vangunten. Dave and Janet Keister will provide the gift basket for this month's raffle. The evening's program will be to inaugurate of the 2007 Board of Directors-elect into office. They are:

Commodore: Bob Collins

Vice Commodore:...Clark Hoyle

Treasurer: Steve Huntley

Secretary: Sandie Dickens

1st Year Director:.. Linda Girardin

2nd Year Director: ...David Agniel

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, January 19th. 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 January 19th, 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.

February 1st (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - 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.

Past Events

Non-Club Event – Hard Rock Materials Co. Party - December 23rd – Keith Mehl's employers held their Christmas party in our clubhouse and donated \$750 (not a rent payment) to the club for the privilege.

Board of Directors Meeting – January 4th – In the absence of both club secretary Lenore Cowan and treasurer Steve Huntley, Keith Mehl reviewed Steve's minutes of the last Board meeting, and they were approved after some discussion. There was no monthly Treasurer's report this time, but Keith presented four projected financial scenarios for the coming year, using four different proposed higher dues rates. This subject of increasing the dues will be discussed at the January 24th dinner meeting, but anyone interested in finding more about the subject before then should call Keith at 326-1607.

The Board was unanimous in their praise of the planning and hard work of the Hospitality Committee, and especially chairman Sherry Mehl, to present the club events they sponsored since they formed the committee. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire club membership, thank you. There was some discussion among the Board members about combining the Hospitality Committee and Rendezvous Committee to form an Events Committee, but they did not come to any conclusion. So far, the lists for the 2007 rendezvous and other events, and the remaining 2007 dinner meeting door committees, have not yet been made up. The new Board of Directors will decide on these, and they will be shown in the February newsletter.

Board of Directors meeting (continued)

There was no change in the membership status over the past month. The Palatka Art League has reserved our tent from February 28th to March 6th, leaving with us the usual \$250 deposit. The Flagler Beach Yacht Club is planning a cruise up the St. Johns River later this year and has expressed interest in making our clubhouse one of their rendezvous stops. No date has been set. Sounds like another PYC party coming up.

Plans and proposals for improving the clubhouse are unchanged from last month. High-priority items are: (a) how to solve the A/C problems – stop the sea water intake from clogging; (b) install our own electric meter; (c) install fire extinguishers; (d) improve the doors; (e) complete the mooring; (f) paint lower deck railings; (g) strengthen upper deck railings.

Medium-priority projects on the list are: (a) install ballast blocks now on the ground near the gangway and get more as needed; (b) install a new dock for boat tie-up – Hans Heine is inquiring about possibly obtaining a surplus section of floating dock at his condominium, where the existing docks are being replaced; (c) repaint/paint the upper deck; (d) finish the concrete work; (e) replace the broken piling and prepare storm lines before next hurricane season; (f) repaint both outside stairways; (g) install an easy gangway removal system; (h) label all light & power outlets; (i) evaluate acoustical requirements - wait for valences and see how that improves the acoustics; (j) clean barge exterior; (k) install interior stairway to forward hold.

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) - install galley & dumbwaiter; (e) hang wall art - wait for valences; (f) storage space 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 - fit an aerator in the system?.

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

Clubhouse Update

No work was done on the clubhouse over the past month.

Miscellany

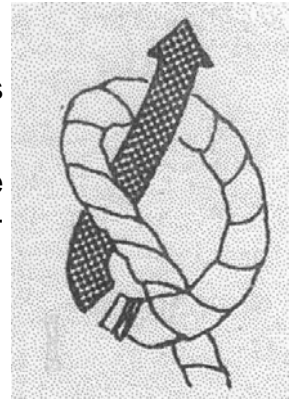
Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea” - The “devil seam” was the curved seam in the wooden deck planking at the outer edge of the deck, next to the scupper gutters. If a sailor slipped on the deck, he could find himself **between the devil and the deep blue sea**.

Knotsmanship – This is the beginning of a series on the art of tying knots. As yachtsmen, we should all be familiar with the many different types used by mariners. Some of us however, this writer included, have always gotten away with using only a few of the simplest. Others who are more experienced are familiar with many or all of them. To start with, in marine vocabulary, all fiber ropes used for running rigging are called lines, except for bolt ropes that are sewn into the leading edges of sails for strength.

Knotsmanship (continued)

The running end of a line is the end that is being manipulated. The standing end is the fixed or inactive end of the line. A bight is a bend or loose loop in the line.

The simplest knot is the overhand knot. Make a bight in the line, then pass the running end over, under, then through the bight. Use this sparingly, because it is almost impossible to untie after it is tightened.



Overhand Knot

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.

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 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.

Newsletters - To write an article for the newsletter or to place an advertisement or digital photograph in it, contact Connie Foltis at 328-6783 or cfoltis@bellsouth.net. Entries must 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 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' 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. This 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

New E-Mail Address - Hans and Erika Heine have a new e-mail address effective immediately: hansheine@bellsouth.net.