

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

January 2009

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

Boating events:

David Girardin

Communications:

Constantine Foltis

Dinner planning

Karen Blankenship &
Dorothy McAfee

Dinner-meeting Programs:

Robert Trail

Facilities:

LaVerne Cheshire

Bar: Guion Lindsay

Fund raising:

Improvements & Maintenance:

Membership Growth:

Membership programs:

PR:

Special Events:

Commodore's Corner By Keith Cheshire

A MOST HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !!! - Well, the year has passed like a Clipper under full sail in a storm! Thanks to the wonderful support of our membership, we have had a year of great events, though I regret that we had so few guests to share these wonderful times! Well, you chart a course and you takes your chances (as Popeye might say) and to that end, at the January meeting, I will be passing the Commodore's flag over to our new Commodore Gail Hart! Gail has some great ideas for 2009 and a level of enthusiasm that is infectious! I am counting on each and everyone of you to give Gail 100% support as she takes the helm.



In wishing Gail the best for the coming year, I want to thank each and every member for your support of the Board and me and most especially this club in the past year. We have had some rough waters to plough, but I see clear sailing ahead. So as we enter this new year, let us all be not only thankful for this wonderful club, great friends and a clubhouse to be envied, but for the opportunities that lay before us as well. I know that in the coming months, your board can count on each and every member to assist us in taking this club to the next level!

Thank you, it has been a pleasure to serve you, Keith

Fees and Dues

This is a reminder that dues for 2009 were due and payable as of January 1st. However, you may remember that last month's newsletter told that, at the December Board of Directors meeting, Clark Hoyle proposed to modify this requirement because of the present difficult economic climate. After some discussion, the Board approved the following recommendation to the membership for further discussion and vote at our January 22nd dinner meeting:

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

Coming Events

January 22nd (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. Remember that we will have a **chili cook-off dinner** this time. All members and guests are welcome to compete, and please bring your chili recipes. Your pot of chili, or pots, will be registered as either vegetarian, mild/medium, or hot. We will issue a ribbon to the winner in each category and a ribbon for the best overall chili. The winners will also be announced in the next newsletter, along with their recipes (with the owners' permission). The chili will be judged on the following criteria:

- (a) Smell
- (b) Texture
- (c) Appearance
- (d) Taste

There will not be any other main entrée besides the chili. Those who plan to compete, please contact Dorothy McAfee (328-2103) or Karen Blankenship (328-3887, 546-6385 or kdb@bellsouth.net) to give them an idea of how much chili there will be. Those not wishing to compete should bring appropriate side dishes or desserts. There will be a \$5.00 charge per person to cover the event's overhead costs. No reservations are necessary. Connie and Helene Foltis will serve as the door committee for this meeting.

After dinner there will be club business to attend to, including membership voting on the above-mentioned fees and dues proposal and inaugurating the new Club officers and Board members. They 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

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

Past Events

New Year's Eve at the Clubhouse - As far as anyone knows, that this writer spoke to about it, no one attended, so there was no New Year's Eve gathering at the clubhouse.

January 8th Board of Directors Meeting - The commodore and treasurer were out of town, and there was no monthly treasurer's report. Subjects discussed were:

1. Karen Blankenship read the minutes of the last meeting, which the Board approved after discussion and correction.
2. The Board members present discussed the dues and fees change proposals noted in the last newsletter and modified them as shown above. The membership attending the January 22nd dinner meeting will be asked to vote on the proposals, and if approved they will go into effect immediately.
3. Karen Blankenship is working on getting a Palatka Yacht Club telephone number listing. As yet she has no details of how it is to be done.
4. Details of the coming chili cook-off were decided and are given above in the January 22nd dinner announcement.

Board of Directors Meeting - continued

5. The Board approved a motion for Linda Girardin to write a letter to the editor of the Palatka Daily News to correct our greatly outdated listing in their 'Clubs and Organization Meetings' section. Her letter will also announce a new membership drive and a listing of our new fees and dues schedule if approved.
6. We are asking for favorite members' recipes to make up a Palatka yacht Club Recipe Book. This would be a money maker and a publicity aid if we could get enough recipes to fill a book.
7. David Girardin will chair the boating committee this year. Gene O'Connor and Larry Hayes will help out. They have not yet worked out a boating event schedule for this year, however. It will be in the first newsletter after the schedule is made up.
8. The possibility was discussed of going back to using dinner reservation calling committees for the partial pot-luck dinners we have been having lately. The dinner committee (Karen Blankenship and Dorothy McAfee) have been providing the main entrée at club expense, and the club charges attendees \$5.00 for the entrée and general overhead for the event. There is often a lot of food left over, because the committee misjudges the number of people that will attend. No decision was made.
9. On the subject of dinners, Keith Cheshire was to have contacted our caterers to see if they would reduce their minimum dinner count from 50 to 30, but we haven't heard anything on that.

Don Straker – Long-time club member Don Straker, who had to resign due to health problems, died on January 1st. He was always willing to give us impromptu programs, and while he still owned the boathouse north of the bridge where Capt. Noah Tilghman kept his 'Noah's Ark', he allowed club members to use his dock for boating-related activities such as the Mug Race. Don enjoyed the yacht club and really enjoyed the social contact with its members.

Miscellany

Punch Bowl Set - Ohio resident Joanne Wilson, an old sailing friend of Gene O'Connor and Connie Foltis, has just donated a 14-piece antique punch bowl set to the Palatka Yacht Club. It originally came from a luxury yacht named 'Jaystar' over 50 years ago and was passed down through Mrs. Wilson's family to her. While many members have donated money or items of value to the club, this deserves special note as having come from a non member who has never been to the club nor even to Palatka. We will have the set engraved and kept on display and use it for serving drinks or food as per her suggestion. We use this venue to thank Mrs. Wilson for that very interesting and valuable gift. If there are any members who have a way to research the yacht 'Jaystar', its history would make an interesting anecdote in a future newsletter. 'Jaystar' had been berthed at either the Detroit Boat Club or the Detroit Yacht Club in the mid-20th century or before.



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 with surplus books, VHS tapes, DVDs, pictures, or whatever, that relate to boating or boats, or even club memorabilia, could donate them to the club. 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.

Miscellaney - continued

Websites of Interest to Boaters – Here is another nautical website Bob Trail found for us: <http://www.sailflow.com/> countrywide sailing information (winds, tides, etc.)

Nautical Origins of Some Common Expressions – ‘Port and Starboard’ - The double-ended Viking ships of the Dark Ages and later did not have rudders as we know them today. They probably sailed by using spare oars lashed to the side of the hull close to the stern for steering. Eventually these steering oars became specialized and were known, in what would become the English-speaking countries, as ‘**steerboards**’. Also they were, by custom, always secured on the right side of the ship. To avoid damage to the steerboards, these double-ended ships were always docked with their left side against the pier, with the steerboards facing the open water. Eventually the word ‘steerboard’ morphed to ‘**starboard**’, and the left side of the ship was then called the ‘larboard’ side. Later, to avoid confusion between ‘starboard’ and ‘larboard’, the left side was renamed the ‘**port**’ side, because it faced inshore toward the seaport.

Test Your Yachting Knowledge - Shank, crown, stock and fluke may be found where? Answer at the end of the newsletter.

- (1) In the boatswain’s kit bag;
- (2) In the galley;
- (3) In the chain locker;
- (4) In the head.

For sale - Antique 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.



The Trails' Crestliner

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.

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. 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” - (3) in the chain locker