

# Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

July 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

## 2007 COMMITTEE

### CHAIRS

**Special Events:**

Clark Hoyle

**PR & Communications:**

Constantine Foltis

**Fund raising:**

Erika Heine

**Membership Growth:**

Clark Hoyle

**Programs:**

Robert Trail - dinner  
meetings

Sara Szczes - weekend  
events

David Girardin - boating  
events

**Facilities:**

Keith Cheshire

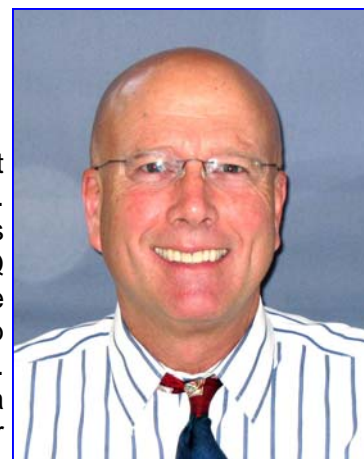
**Improvements:**

David Agniel

Gene O'Connor

## Commodore's Corner ..... by Clark Hoyle

We have had our 1<sup>st</sup> open house membership drive BBQ at the club that invited guests and interested parties. Although my illness prevented me from attending, I was pleased to hear the many positive comments. Our BBQ was preceded by a very good article on the club by the Palatka Daily News. This must have had good readership as I received phone calls from people in Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Melrose. It was great that we had such a good turnout of many guests and most importantly, our members enjoyed the event and festivities immensely. As a result, we have membership interest from many visitors, prospective members seeking sponsorship and even new member applications – well done! We need to have more of these types of events!



As mentioned in my last comments, the Board of Directors has approved a by-law change that will be presented to the membership for consideration and vote. These changes include a new definition of a membership class designed for younger members, with reduced initiation and application fees. Other fees are adjusted accordingly. Make sure you attend the next dinner meeting to discuss and vote on the Board recommendations as shown following under the July 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting report.

I am particularly glad to see members arriving at special functions and dinner meetings in their boats and using our floating dock. Although the space is limited next to the dock, the raft up/beam approach can accommodate many boats. Estimations have ranged from 10 + can be accommodated at our floating dock.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this year, our activity calendar lists numerous activities. Most of these events are designed to bring members, guests and perspective members to the club so we can utilize the club facilities. Others are designed for those desiring activities associated to boating, while some are dedicated to clubhouse maintenance. Make sure you and your guests take advantage of the many planned functions. Look for the Oyster Roast & Shrimp Bash & Commodore's Ball sign-up sheets at the dinner meetings.

Looking forward, we are planning for 2008 club activities and the election of new officers. Work has already begun on some key dates for membership drive(s), fund raising, "special event" parties, brunches and dinner meetings. It would be great to see the clubhouse open on some Saturdays in each month in 2008. Planning in advance will provide plenty of notice to the members and will ensure the availability of volunteers and caterer(s) as required – all of which will increase the chances of greater success. We should give serious consideration to increasing the term of officers to 2-years. The reason for this consideration is that new officers have to get their arms around their positions, the many tasks at hand, and create new plans. Very soon the 1-year term is

almost over, and all the plans have not been implemented. A new group then enters and the process starts all over again – we lose continuity, momentum and time. Please let your officers and board members know how you feel on this important subject.

As always, support from the membership is crucial for club success. The old saying “that in any club, there are a few that do a lot and many that do little” – can only work so long. Each member should get involved, help shape the club and ask each chairperson, officer or Board member – what can I do to help! After all – it is your club!

## Clubhouse Update ..... by David Agniel

June was clean-up month for the clubhouse and grounds. We had a stout-hearted group turn out for our June 9th work party. Our goal was to clean up the grounds and re-set the missing piling that was originally broken when the clubhouse collided with it and broke it upon its initial arrival at Browns Landing. We were successful in setting the piling, though the effort had its moments of doubt. Harry Gillean and Ernie Ricard brought their tractors, without which we could not have completed the mission. Steve Huntley manned the jetting pipe and oftentimes disappeared beneath the river in his quest to sink a hole for the piling and adjust chains with which we were able at last to properly position the piling. All hands were needed for this task. Keith Cheshire, Chell Uhl, Jay Holt, Clark Hoyle, Gene Roberds and David Agniel were all involved in helping Harry & Ernie. Everyone did their share of hollering and yelling above the roar of the tractor engines while trying to heave, haul and coax the huge piling into position. At times it resembled what could only be called a “Chinese Fire Drill”, but in the end we were successful. We have now cleared the landing of all leftover dock building materials, and with the new boarding platform in place, the caterers have their own separate route for bringing provisions aboard at the forward entrance. Also, all the remaining bits and pieces of the floating dock project have found new homes amongst members who wanted some of the leftovers.

We received a donation of concrete from Keith Mehl to fill the forms around the light poles and provide needed reinforcement. This also adds immensely to the finished look of the on-shore approach to the clubhouse. Below decks, work continues on rust control in preparation for putting down plywood flooring. Karen Blankenship finessed the fine folks at the Interlaken Fire Department into a donation of numerous “retired” fire hoses to be used for cushioning the edges of the floating docks. All in all, it was a successful month of improvements, and the appearance of the grounds especially is a blessing.

The next clubhouse maintenance work party is scheduled for Saturday, July 21st, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Mark your calendar, and make it a point to come out and help us move forward on needed improvements. Call David Agniel at 649-9075 a few days beforehand and find out what we need you to do or bring. We hope to accomplish some needed painting tasks and some on-shore and below deck work projects.



## Coming Events

### July 13 - 15 (Friday to Sunday) - Boating Excursion to St. Marys, Georgia

This trip has always been a highlight of the boaters, about a 100-mile journey from Palatka to St. Marys. We will meet at 10:00 AM off of Crystal Cove Marina. Monitor channel 68 before the start and throughout the trip to keep in touch. For boats with limited fuel capacity, we can stop at the halfway mark in downtown Jacksonville for refueling. Sleep-aboard boats will be tying up at Lang's Marina in downtown St. Mary's (call ahead at 912-882-4452). Those not wishing to sleep onboard may stay at the Riverview Hotel (912-882-3242) across the street from the marina. It is an historic hotel that provides continental breakfast. Upon advance request, the hotel will package box lunches, which can come in handy if we are lucky to have perfect seas to circumnavigate Cumberland Island. Frequently, we leave the larger boats at the dock, with their occupants boarding the smaller boats for the trip. If the weather is not conducive to boating around the island, we can plan to either explore the museum and ruins by foot or motor over to Fernandina to explore the town. We usually have picnic lunches or eat at the hotel (if staying

there) or on board our boats. We dine in the evenings at local restaurants. Look for the cocktail flag going up in the evening, a signal for everyone to gather on the hotel balcony, where we will also have delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Note: Those considering going on this excursion, please contact David or Linda Girardin at 328-1774 or DLBG75@hotmail.com, to give them an idea of how many people and boats will be making the trip.

**July 21<sup>st</sup> (Saturday), 9:00 AM-1:00 PM - Clubhouse Maintenance** - (painting, yard, pressure wash, repair, etc.) Check with David Agniel at 649-9075 or dobbyb@bellsouth.net if you are interested in helping.

**July 21<sup>st</sup> (Saturday), 7:00 PM - Card party at Clubhouse** – Informal, anything goes. Bring your own refreshments. Contact Sara Szczes at 904-347-7377 or lhether3@aol.com for more details.

**July 26<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday) – Dinner Meeting** – Aboard our floating clubhouse at Browns Landing. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM, and we will be served our usual catered dinner beginning at 7:00 o'clock. The price per meal remains at \$15. The door committee will be Gene and Jeannine O'Connor.

The program for the evening will be a question-and-answer session by Wayne Beard of the local chapter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, on the topic of "All you ever wanted to know about the Coast Guard Auxiliary". Bring in any old flares you wish to get rid of, and bring lots of questions. See August programming below for more about the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, July 20<sup>th</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 July 20<sup>th</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, contact 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.

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - 6:30 PM** aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

**August 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), 9:00 AM to 1:00PM - Clubhouse Maintenance** (painting, yard, pressure wash, repair, etc.) Check with David Agniel if you are interested in helping.

**August 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - Bingo at Clubhouse (Time TBA)** Sara Szczes will discuss this coming event at the July 26<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting and call for a show of hands to get a consensus for planning purposes.

**August 23rd (4th Thursday) - Dinner Meeting** - Aboard our floating clubhouse. Steve Huntley will give a short talk entitled, "Burial at Sea in the 21st Century - A Viking Funeral".

**August (Date & Time TBA) - USCG Auxiliary Boating Refresher Course at the Clubhouse** - Representatives of that organization will present a boating refresher course to be held on a weekend and will be open to the public. This course will be applicable to the experienced boater as well as the novice boater. It should include information on any recent changes to maritime/boating laws. All participants are encouraged to come by boat as we will practice select skills on board our own boats. A fee will be charged to cover materials and lunch. Boat inspections will be offered to those who bring their boats to the meeting. Further information will be offered in the August newsletter, but anyone desiring more information now should contact Linda Girardin.

## Past Events

**Membership Drive Barbecue – June 16<sup>th</sup>** – This was a great success, supported by many members who worked hard before, during and after the event to make it happen. Keith Cheshire was busier than a "one-armed paper hanger", prepping the bar and getting the facilities organized for the event. Ernie Ricard and Clay Gillean



were busy flipping burgers and dogs on the Ricards' cooker, while Ernest Grace manned a deep fryer and turned out mountains of tasty French-fried potatoes. Let's not forget Tom Szczes doing the advance work for Sara, who organized the whole thing, and then Tom was conscripted into a last-minute power wash of the clubhouse! The biggest hand of all goes to all the ladies and their wonderful plates of side dishes,



salads and desserts! It was impossible for anyone to sample them all, but as usual this writer gave it the old college try. At least 35 guests signed in, and a few indicated they wanted to join the club. We who were there enjoyed meeting a lot of new people as well.

One more point from southern guy Keith Cheshire: BBQ is a style of cooking pork or beef and does not imply hamburgers or hotdogs on a grill (unless you are in Canada or Australia!). What we had was a Riverside COOKOUT! So when the club is ready, we can have a REAL BBQ Southern Style!!!! If you remember, the club was originally scheduled to have a real BBQ on this date for members only, with barbecued ribs from Sonny's. Unfortunately the membership drive cookout originally scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> was cancelled due to Tropical Storm "Barry" passing through on that date. As a result the membership drive cookout was rescheduled to June 16<sup>th</sup>, and Sonny's barbecued ribs got lost in the shuffle. Let's go find them and set up another date for a real BBQ.



**Dinner Meeting – June 28<sup>th</sup>** – Commodore Clark Hoyle had recovered sufficiently from his recent hospitalization to preside over the occasion, but some of the people who normally arrange the clubhouse for the dinners were out of town, resulting in some last-minute scrambling to get things in order. Nevertheless it all went well.

Clark made some announcements, among which were reminders about the July 21<sup>st</sup> card party and the Coast Guard Auxiliary talk at the dinner meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Bob Trail mentioned that there will be kayak demonstrations and related information in Ocala and Gainesville by Brasington's, Inc., who sell kayaks. Anyone interested could find out more information online at [www.brasingtons.com](http://www.brasingtons.com). David Girardin reported that he is in the process of attempting to secure a permit for a 200-foot-long, 28-slip floating dock for our landlord, Ron Dore'. It will be located near the bow of the

clubhouse.



Harry Gillean announced that this year he, Andrea and Clay will continue their annual tradition of an Oktoberfest party at their house, to be held Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, noon till? Food will served at 3:30. Mark your activity calendar and look for more details in the September newsletter. There was a large collection for this evening's 50-50 drawing, and June Summers won, taking home \$46 as her half of the pot. There was no special program this time.

**Dinner Excursion to Outback Crab Shack - June 30** – Eleven people, including two prospective new members, traveled to the Outback in three boats and two cars on this beautiful Saturday evening. Others may have been discouraged from going on the trip by storm predictions, but luckily the bad weather held off until the following day. We have had numerous boating rendezvous to the Outback in the past, but this was this

writer's first time there on a Saturday evening. To paraphrase '40s jazz musician Fats Waller, *the joint was jumpin'*, but we had little trouble finding seating together. As usual, the meals were marvelous, but before our orders were served, restaurant owner Joe Tully sent us, on the house, two huge trays of mixed steamed seafood (crab legs, shrimp, crawdads, etc.).



It seems that Mr. Tully is an old friend of Gene O'Connor's from the Marlin Club in St. Augustine, and this was his way of saying, "Welcome to the Palatka Yacht Club". Thank you, Mr. Tully, for your hospitality.

It was getting dark by the time everyone was ready to leave, and the full moon had just risen in a clear sky. The moon was red as it rose over the horizon. The ride back to Palatka was beautiful that night, with no need to use searchlights until approaching docks or ramps. This writer does not have a motor boat and had thought too late about trying to hitch a ride in someone else's boat, thereby missing that beautiful trip home by moonlight. ***The joint was jumpin'*** even more so by the time we left the Outback.

**Board of Directors Meeting – July 5<sup>th</sup>** – A number of topics were discussed at this meeting, the highlights of which are as follows:

1. Steve Huntley went over the monthly treasurer's report. So far this year we are making a profit on the bar and dinners. As of this meeting there were 13 members who still had not paid the differential of the increased annual dues. Contact Steve for further details if desired.
2. Caron Speas' application for membership was approved, and she will be welcomed into the club at the July 26<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Two other prospective new members, Gordon and Martha von Pusch, attended the Outback Crab Shack excursion on June 30<sup>th</sup> but have not yet applied. A new calling committee has been contacting other guests that signed in at the June 16<sup>th</sup> membership barbecue, to inquire if any are interested in joining.
3. The facilities, especially the clubhouse, were discussed in general. David Agniel reviewed his latest project list, describing many items to be undertaken on the scheduled work party days (next one July 21<sup>st</sup>). Plans have been made and funds approved (\$400) to widen and strengthen the gangway to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. That work will be timed so as not to interfere with scheduled club functions. No dates had been set at that time.
4. Club events scheduled for later in the year were discussed, but were not finalized and will be reported in later newsletters.
5. Linda Girardin presented a draft of proposed changes to the club By-Laws, based on discussions and agreements at previous Board meetings. The Board unanimously approved these proposals after review. The general membership will be asked to vote on them at the July 26<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. If approved they will replace the corresponding sections of the existing By-Laws. The affected sections are as follows, with remaining original wording in black and the proposed changes in red. Handouts will be distributed at the dinner meeting showing removed wording.

## Proposed By Laws Changes

### Chapter VI Membership

Membership in the Palatka Yacht Club shall be by invitation only. Invitations to prospective members shall be extended only after approval by the Board of Directors. There shall be **five** classes of membership as herein defined. Any member may be expelled from the Club by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors for any action that is detrimental to the Club. The decision may be appealed by the member or merchant to the general membership.

#### Class I. **Senior Member**

To qualify as a **senior** member, adults must be at least **35** years of age **by January 1 of the year of application**, will have full voting rights, and will have the privilege of holding an office or serving on the Board of Directors. This membership category includes children 12 years or younger who are dependents of the **senior** member.

#### Class II. **Intermediate Member**

*To qualify as an intermediate member, adults must be between the ages of 21 and 34 by January 1 of the year of application, will have full voting rights, and will have the privilege of holding an office or serving on the Board of Directors. Intermediate members, upon becoming 35, can become senior members without paying an initiation fee. This membership category includes children 12 years or younger who are dependents of the intermediate member.*

### **Class III. Junior Member**

To qualify as a *junior* member, the *junior* must be between the ages of 12 and *20 by January 1 of the year of application*. *Junior members who are dependents of intermediate or senior members*, upon becoming 21, can become *intermediate* members without paying an initiation fee. *Prospective junior members who are not dependents of intermediate or senior members must pay an initiation fee*. *Junior members are* entitled to purchase Club burgees. *Juniors* may not hold any offices or serve on the Board of Directors. *Junior* members may appoint a member *of this class* to advise the Board of Directors regarding *junior* activities.

### **Class IV. Nonresident Member**

To qualify as a nonresident member, adults (21 years of age or older) must have their permanent residence outside Putnam County. Nonresident members may attend Club functions, but may not vote or hold any office in the Club. Nonresident members may purchase and display the Club burgee and license plate. A nonresident member may elect to become an *intermediate or senior* member *depending on the member's age, by* paying the appropriate dues and fees of *that class of membership* and still live outside Putnam County.

### **Class V. Business Membership**

To qualify for a *business* membership, an applicant must be *the chief executive officer of the* business. The membership belongs to the business, not to an individual, which means no voting privileges *for this class of membership*. A business *member* may purchase and display the Club burgee *and advertise its organization to the Palatka Yacht Club without additional charge*.

## **Chapter VII—Fees and Dues**

### **Initiation fee**

Class I members shall pay an initiation fee that shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and shall be approved by a majority vote at any regular membership meeting provided that the membership is notified by mail prior to the vote.

Class II members shall pay an initiation fee that is *60% of the amount paid by Class I members*.

*Class III members shall pay an initiation fee that is 40% of the amount paid by Class I members, unless exempt from paying the fee.*

*Classes IV and V* pay an initiation fee *that is 50% of the amount paid by Class I members*.

### **Annual Dues**

Annual dues shall be as recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority vote at any regular meeting of the membership following notification to the members by mail. Annual dues shall be levied as follows.

- Class I shall be decided by the general membership as provided in the previous paragraph.
- Class II shall be *60%* of the Class I rate.
- Class III shall be at *40% of the Class I rate*.
- *Class IV shall be 75% of the Class I rate.*
- *Class V shall be \$100 more than the Class I rate.*

Annual dues are prorated for new members joining the Club after *January 1* of any year.

## **Chapter XI—Capital Improvements and Debt**

*Capital improvements to the Club include any item or its components if the components cannot be used independently and have a total purchase value in excess of \$1,000. No expenditure in excess of \$1,000 for a capital*

*improvement shall be authorized by the Board of Directors without prior approval of a majority of the membership in attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Club.*

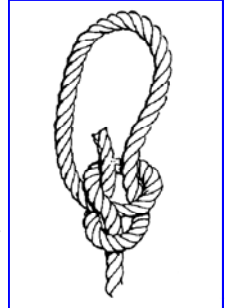
*All loans for indebtedness must have the recommendation of the Board of Directors and be approved by a majority of the membership in attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Club.*

*Club members shall be notified prior to the meeting at which a vote will be taken on capital improvements or debt. Notification shall be made using the Club's newsletter, which may be sent via the United States postal system or e-mail.*

## Miscellany

**2007 Activity Calendar** – See the 2007 handbook for the list of activities up to the end of this year. Any changes will be announced in the current newsletter as they come up. Also, more detailed descriptions of events to take place within the month covered will be included in each newsletter.

**Knotsmanship – Bowline** – This is the most useful of all the knots aboard a boat. Once learned (and practice is necessary) it is easy to tie, never slips or jams, and can always be untied. Two bowlines, one on each line and looped through each other, are an excellent method of tying two lines together. A bowline with a large loop is also an excellent way to make a dock line out of an ordinary piece of line.



**Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “Son of a Gun”** – “When in port with the crew restricted to the ship for an extended period of time, wives and ‘ladies of easy virtue’ often were allowed to live aboard with the crew. Occasionally children were born aboard, and a convenient place for this was between the guns on the gun deck. If a newborn boy’s father was unknown, he was entered in the ship’s log as “son of a gun”.

**2007 Handbook** – By now everyone should have received their 2007 PYC handbook. Please check your listings in the membership roster for correctness. Notify Connie Foltis of any errors at 328-6783 or cfoltis@bellsouth.net. Also check to see that your e-mail address book is up to date. Some new members have been added since last year’s handbook was issued, some old members have dropped out, and a few have added or changed e-mail addresses, as well as cell phone numbers or boats. More changes are expected and will be posted as they come up.

## 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 Clark Hoyle at 386-649-6795 or [clarkhoyle@midspring.com](mailto:clarkhoyle@midspring.com).

**Programs** - Any member that 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 file your e-mail address with publisher Connie Foltis and arrange to receive your newsletters by e-mail as pdf files. This would lessen the cost and labor of printing and mailing paper copies every month.

To write an article for the newsletter (including a short description of an interesting trip you have taken) 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 Web Site** - <http://palatkayachtclub.org/> or [www.palatkayachtclub.org](http://www.palatkayachtclub.org)