

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

July 2008

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 & Linda
Girardin

Communications:

Constantine Foltis

Dinner meeting Programs:

Robert Trail

Facilities:

LaVerne Cheshire

Fund raising:

Improvements & Maintenance:

Membership Growth:

Linda Girardin

Membership programs:

PR:

Special Events:

Vice-Commodore's Corner By Gail Hart

I understand our commodore, Keith Cheshire, and LaVerne are having such a fun time roaming the country that we might have to threaten them with walking the plank to get them back.

Sunday, June 22nd, featured a delicious pulled pork luncheon. Karen and Dex Blankenship smoked the meat, and Karen also introduced a new drink called Jack-ade. With a little cajoling, perhaps she'll give you the recipe.

Dorothy McAfee is in charge of the July 6th fish fry. She and her committee always do a fine job for us. Come with a big appetite.

I hope all of you kept your April newsletters with the year's boating schedule. Just to remind you of the next two events, they occur on July 18-20 at St. Marys, Georgia, and August 16-17 at the Redneck Riviera sandbar near the clubhouse.



Coming Events

July 18-20 (Friday-Sunday) - St. Marys, Georgia - This trip is about a 100-mile journey by boat from Palatka, with fuel available in downtown Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach, and St. Marys. If the weather permits, we will circumnavigate Cumberland Island at some point during the weekend. Potential passengers, please remember about sharing fuel and other costs.

For information on dockage, call Langs Marina at 912-882-3242. Call the Riverview Hotel (across the street from the marina) for room reservations: 912-882-4452.

Departure times, meeting locations and any possible last-minute changes will be noted in the next newsletter. **Those interested, contact David or Linda Girardin ahead of time at 328-1774, 937-1566, 329-6566, or DLBG@hotmail.com.** Leave a message if you call and they are not home. Those traveling to St. Marys by car must use their judgment on timing.

For a schedule of later PYC events, see the entire 2008 activity calendar published in your April newsletter and summarized on page 8 of your PYC handbook.

July 24th (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. The club will provide the meats, and attendees should bring side dishes and desserts. There will be a \$5.00 charge per person, to cover the club's costs. Karen Blankenship and Dorothy McAfee are planning to form a calling committee that will coordinate the types of dishes the members will bring. Call Dorothy at 328-2103 for more information. The door

July 24th Dinner meeting continued

committee will be [Connie](#) and [Helene Foltis](#). There is no special program scheduled for that evening. No reservations are necessary.

August 7th (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - At 6:30 PM aboard or floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

August 16-17, Saturday-Sunday - Redneck Riviera Sandbar - Meet at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM. Boaters will shuttle members without boats to the sandbar. Eat whenever you want, on the boats or at the clubhouse. Sleep over on your boat or in the clubhouse with a sleeping bag and air mattress.

Past Events



Gail Hart with *Hart's Desire* - C. Hoyle photo

Silver Glen Springs - June 14-15 ----- by Clark Hoyle

The trip to Silver Glen started at 8am from the clubhouse, with Clay & Heather Gillean in "*Reeloffroader*" and Clark & Gemma Hoyle aboard "*Triple Play*". We caught up with our vice-commodore aboard "*Hart's Desire*" just south of Little Lake George. All were impressed with our Gail's seamanship in handling her trawler alone!



Gemma at Silver Glen Springs

It was a grand day for the cruise, with sunny & clear weather and flat mirror-like water. Entering the Glen with PYC burgees flying proudly from all, Clark led the way with "*Hart's Desire*" following "*Reeloffroader*" in the rear. After setting anchors in the middle of Silver Glen, all enjoyed the water and many sights with fellow boaters. Bob and Sue trail showed up later in their kayaks and enjoyed the afternoon with the group.



Clay & Heather in Reel Offroader



Heather, Gail & Clay
C. Hoyle photo

Cocktail hour before dinner was complemented by great fellowship and a rising full moon, and then dinner followed shortly thereafter. It was just beautiful.

A wonderful smell of breakfast welcomed in Sunday morning. We all were awakening to the sight and smell of Clay having prepared a mouth-watering breakfast that was consumed by all. Knowing that bad weather was brewing for the day, we decided to head out by 10am or so. You should have seen the crowd watching as Gail single-handedly eased "*Hart's Desire*" from its anchorage in reverse, then slowly motored out with "*Reeloffroader*" leading the way and "*Triple Play*" in the rear.

It was a grand trip with great weather for boating and wonderful fellowship. Each of us has many special memories of this outing. The only regret from all of us - was that many club members missed this. I am sure that we all felt: "Life is Simply Too Short not to seize the opportunity, as one day each of us may not be able to do so!

Maybe next time we will see more of you on our "Journeys into the Horizon".

Pulled Pork Luncheon - June 22nd ----- by Dorothy McAfee

Twenty-seven members and guests enjoyed the Sunday afternoon pulled pork party at the clubhouse. The weather was hot, and so was some of that barbecue sauce!

We sipped Lynchburg lemonade while we enjoyed pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, cole slaw, deviled eggs

June 22nd Luncheon—continued

and baked beans, topped off with pistachio cake, banana pudding and two kinds of brownies. Wow!

Thanks go to committee members Karen Blankenship, Guy and Ella Lindsay, Clara Hightower, Gail Hart, Jeannine O'Connor, Betty Poteet, Brenda Ricard and committee chairman Dorothy McAfee.

Dinner meeting - June 26th - There were 23 members and two guest speakers at this meeting. Commodore Keith Cheshire was away on vacation, and vice commodore Gail Hart presided. It was noted that the new chafing dishes mentioned last time were used to serve the dinners. Karen Blankenship bought them with club funds after receiving Board approval, but donations are requested to offset these costs. See more discussion below under the July 3rd Board meeting writeup. Clara Hightower won the 50-50 drawing and took home \$19 of the \$38 pot.



Wayne Beard & Jose Artigas



The program for the evening was a talk and slide show by Jose Artigas of the St. Johns River Water Management District and Wayne Beard of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary on the WAV Program (Watershed Action Volunteers). Mr. Artigas is the Putnam County WAV Coordinator. Their volunteer effort is to help keep the river clean and free of debris. Among other things, they are promoting a program of placing recycle bins for used monofilament fishing line at all boat ramps in the county.



Gail with Recycling Bin

Board of Directors Meeting - July 3rd - The following items of note were discussed:

1. Treasurer Steve Huntley summarized the monthly treasurer's report. A copy is posted on the clubhouse bulletin board for all to read.
2. Secretary Karen Blankenship read the minutes of the last official Board meeting, which was on May 1st, and they were approved. The June 5th Board meeting did not have a quorum, so nothing official was decided.
3. The club has 55 paid-up members at present.
4. The Board decided on the arrangements for the upcoming July 24th dinner meeting, described above under "Coming Events".
5. The Board was advised that David Girardin and Harry Gillean serviced the clubhouse A/C water intake, repiped the sewage discharge line and repaired the sewage macerator pump. David worked under the bottom with scuba gear, clearing barnacles from the intake. There was some talk about getting a holding tank sometime in the future, for temporary occasions when pumpout facilities are not immediately available (as was the case with the clubhouse at the city dock during the Mug Race in May, when the toilets could not be used).
6. The blue-painted plywood fascia board around the upper deck edge is deteriorating. Aluminum was suggested as a replacement.
7. Most of the requested kitchen and serving equipment has been club-funded and purchased, but there are still more articles desired. Anyone wishing to donate the cost of these remaining items and/or donate to offset the club's cost of the items already purchased, please contact Karen Blankenship (328-3887 or kdb@bellsouth.net), who will purchase them.
8. It was mentioned that another protective coat of clear varnish was due on the Mug Race mural at the side of the ATT&T building (Gene O'Connor's former office building) on Reid Street.

July 6th Board of Directors meeting - continued

9. Gail Hart advised that the club now has a monofilament recycle bin, as described in the June 26th dinner meeting description above. Club members will install it for use at the Browns Landing boat ramp. Someone will be designated to periodically empty it and send the contents to be recycled into other plastic products.

10. Two other items were discussed but were tabled until the commodore returns in mid-July: clubhouse general maintenance and loan processing.



Harry preparing the fish



Dorothy & Karen setting up the Feast

Fish fry at the clubhouse - July 6th - Dorothy McAfee and her committee outdid themselves by presenting a very enjoyable afternoon luncheon. Harry Gillean, Karen Blankenship and Dorothy were the stars of the afternoon, with many of Dorothy's committee helping. Harry prepared and cooked the fish under the PYC tent; Clay brought up each batch to the clubhouse as it came out of the cooker, and Karen and Dorothy immediately served it out to the 31 or so members and guests who consumed it all by the end of the afternoon. Others of the committee prepared side dishes and desserts to round out the meal. Gene O'Connor had donated all the fish for the event "by just cleaning out the freezer of striped bass, red bass, speckled trout and a little bit of flounder."



Some had come to the fish fry by car and some by boat, including Bob and Sue Trail who towed the club's Sunfish sailboat to the clubhouse for any interested members to try out. Connie Foltis said he might but would wait until later, so that in case he capsized he would not have to spend the whole afternoon wet. Steve Huntley did take it out early, however, before the food was served. He was having a good time sailing in the middle of the river when a storm front blew through and knocked the boat over. He couldn't right the boat and get back in, because the mast had jammed into the river bottom, and rescuers in another boat had to pull it out instead. Steve spent the afternoon wet, and Connie never did get to sail the Sunfish.



Miscellany

Dinner Meeting Programs - Our program Chairman Bob Trail sometimes has a hard time finding presenters with topics for after-dinner programs. We have all taken some interesting trips and done some interesting things in our lives, or know someone who has done so. 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 at 386-649-8710 or griffinaero@yahoo.com. 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.

Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “Press into Service” – Back in the days of sail, the British Navy filled their ships' crew quotas by kidnapping men off the streets and forcing them or pressing them into service. This was called Impressment and was done by press gangs.

Miscellany - continued

TowBoat US Info - USCG Auxiliary member Wayne Beard sent us the following information, which should be of interest to all boaters in our area:

Capt. Matt Moss has 5 TowBoat US locations on the St. Johns River. They are:

Crystal Cove Marina Palatka - 25' Proline
Leonards Landing Crescent City on Crescent lake - 21' Hydrasports
Lake George BlackWater Inn - 5 boats ranges from 21'- 38'
Lake Monroe Harbor Marina - 21' Wellcraft
Lake Monroe Boat Tree Marina

Call 352-348-8697 or 800-391-4869 for service. Contact Wayne at waynebeard@windstream.net for more information.

PYC Library - Bob Trail just came up with a nifty proposal to start our own maritime 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 would be kept in the clubhouse for anyone to look at or sign out and take home. Contact Bob (649-8710 or griffinaero@yahoo.com) or Connie Foltis at (328-6783 or cfoltis@bellsouth.net) if you are interested in this idea.

Announcements

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. 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 and receive your newsletters by e-mail as pdf files. This would lessen 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 by 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