

Palatka Yacht Club

P.O. Box 2004, Palatka, Florida 32178-2004

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Webpage: www.palatkayachtclub.org

Whispers over the Waters

July 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

Commodore's Cornerby Gail Hart

Hi Everyone!

Hot summer is here, so don't forget the upcoming rendezvous to St. Mary's, GA. The Girardins are leaving Elgin Cove Boat Ramp at 10am Friday. Our club always monitors channel 68 when "on the move". We'll be able to take a swim and walk the beach on Saturday. Fisherman, bring your poles!

Now is the time to start thinking of nominees for next year's officers. We must announce the nominees at the October meeting. You will be receiving information soon from our Nominating Committee as to how and when to submit names. So, please be thinking of who you would like to nominate for 2010 officers.

Thank you and I hope each of you and your families are having a wonderful summer!

Gail Hart

Commodore



2009 COMMITTEE

CHAIRS

Barkeeper: Guion Lindsay

Boating rendezvous:
David Girardin

Calling Committee:
June Henley

Dinner planning:
Karen Blankenship &
Dorothy McAfee

Door Committee:
Ella Lindsay

Facilities: LaVerne Cheshire

Fund Raising:

**Improvements &
Maintenance:** Robert Trail

Internal Communications:
Constantine Foltis

Membership:

Planning Committee:

Programs: Robert Trail

Publicity: Jean Morris

Sunshine:
Jeannine O'Connor

Webmaster: Keith Mehl

Coming Events

July 10-12 (Friday-Sunday) - St. Marys, Georgia by Linda and David Girardin

Here are the latest updates for this adventure. Refer to the June newsletter for other details. We (the Girardins) will be leaving the Elgin Grove Boat Ramp at Forester Point in East Palatka, 3.5 miles north of the US 17 Bridge, at 10:00 AM on Friday. We cruise at about 25 mph and will "lead" the way. Anyone upstream can meet us near the ramp at 10:00 o'clock. We'll monitor Channel 68. Those living downstream can pick us up on the way.

For those staying ashore in St. Marys, the Riverview Motel will give us a discount on room rates if you mention the Palatka Yacht Club: \$69 for river-view/balcony rooms and \$59 for interior rooms.

If you are planning on staying on your boat, please let us know the length of your boat and power/water needs. We will call in a group reservation to the dock master, who usually doesn't take reservations.

If you are traveling up by boat or launching your boat in St. Marys and want dock space, please let us know as well. We'll need the length of your boat for the reservation.

For food planning purposes, the Girardins are planning on stopping at the Jacksonville Landing to get lunch to go on the way to St. Marys. We will order box lunches on Friday for Saturday's boating activities. The hotel provides continental breakfast. Lunch on Sunday will depend on weather and the urge to get home.

Friday and Saturday nights, we'll visit local restaurants.

St. Marys Trip - continued

Weather permitting on Saturday, we'll circumnavigate Cumberland Island, anchoring up some place for lunch. For those who want to walk to the ruins, we can arrange for a drop off and pick up. Plan to just plain relax and enjoy the scenery. Fishing poles might be a nice addition; we'll just fish in Florida waters. Don't forget the cameras either.

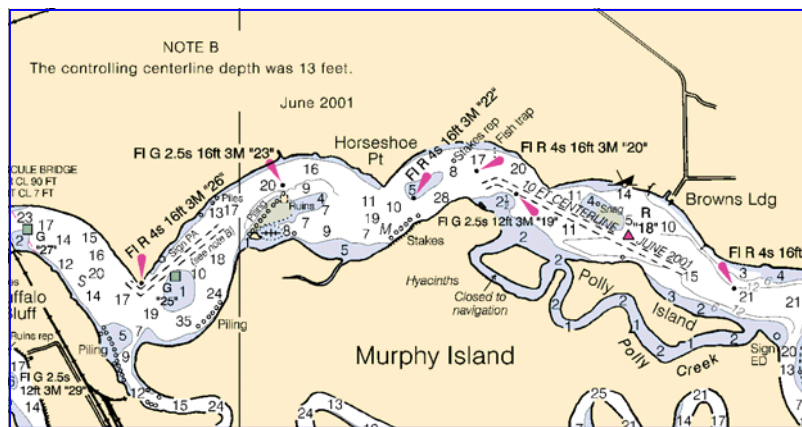
Please confirm your attendance (phone 328-1774) so that we can make sure you receive any last minute information (which we hope won't be necessary).

Linda and David

July 23rd (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Aboard our floating clubhouse at Brown's Landing. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM, and dinner starts at 7:00. The club will provide a full dinner this time, featuring low country boil with all the trimmings, desserts, etc., at a charge of \$10 per person. Reservations will be required for this dinner, and the past calling committees will be reactivated to call the membership and take your reservations. "No shows" that do not honor their reservations may be billed for their uneaten meals. No after-dinner program is scheduled at this time. The door committee will be Larry Hayes and Ella Lindsay.

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

August 9 (Sunday) - BBQ at the Redneck Riviera sandbar by Clark Hoyle



- Fun at the sandbar starts at 10:00 or whenever you get there;
- Distance from clubhouse out to the channel, then to flashing green "23" is 1.41 nm;
- See chart - coordinates of marker "23" are 29d 35.877' N and 081d 39.825' W;
- Hitch a ride if you do not have a boat (it's a long swim from the clubhouse);
- Boaters anchor/raft up to the boats with the club burgee;
- Bring big hats, sunscreen, water floats or chairs (low tide around 1pm, hi-tide around 7pm);
- Bring your own food and refreshments, eat whenever you want, on the boats or on the sandy beach;
- Leave when you have had enough fun and before you've had too much sun;
- Looking forward to see you there;
- Call me before the event on 649-6795 if you have questions.

Remaining 2009 Events

August 27 (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - door committee open - call Ella Lindsay at 325-1878 to sign up
September 3 (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting
September 13 (Sunday) - Canoe Haw Creek in Flagler County - contact David Girardin
September 24 (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - door committee open - call Ella to sign up
September 26 (Saturday) - Las Vegas Night at the clubhouse - contact Karen Blankenship
October 1 (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting
October 2-4 (Fri-Sun) - Bull Creek Marina rendezvous - contact Gene O'Connor or Clark Hoyle
Oktoberfest at the clubhouse (no date set)
October 22 (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Keith & LaVerne Cheshire on door committee
November 5 (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting
November 7-8 (Saturday-Sunday) - Outback Crab Shack rendezvous - contact Gene O'Connor
November 14 (Saturday) - Oyster and Shrimp Bash - contact Clark Hoyle
Christmas Party/Commodores' Ball (no date set)

Past Events

June 6-26 - Work Parties ... with input from Bob Trail & Steve Huntley



Steve Huntley photo

A series of work parties over the dates listed addressed a number of maintenance items on the clubhouse, some major and some minor. (1) They started with the fascia around the upper deck, cutting pieces of the new vinyl covering to length, replacing some rotted plywood on the fascia



Bob & Steve repairing upper deck fascia & covering it with white vinyl
Steve Huntley photo (left)



Steve & Bob on fascia repair

itself and portions of the roof structure behind. These rotted areas were at the lowest point of the deck sheer, where rain water drains overboard port and starboard. (2) The crew fitted drip shields at those low points to deflect future rainwater. The upper dack fascia job took weeks to finish, as participation gradually dropped off, but (3) they did complete the port side facing the river before the Radical Boat Reunion.



Steve Huntley photo

(4) Gene Roberds installed and glassed in a 4-inch-high threshold at the pilot house door and replaced some lower rotted sections of the door frame, to prevent cloudburst-type rainwater intrusion through the entryway. That stopped rainwater from entering the pilot house in that area, but it still came in elsewhere, where the caulking had failed around the deck seal at the pilot house base, and ants were seen going in and out. On Friday, the last day before the expected big event, the crew (5) worked on our landlord Ron's dock, in anticipation of some Radical Boat people docking there; (6) cleaned up the clubhouse; (7) put the big freshly-scrubbed PALATKA YACHT CLUB sign back upon the port (river) side over the new fascia; and (8) put away all tools, ladders, etc., in preparation for serving our lunch guests the next day.



New pilot house door threshold
Steve Huntley photo



Bob Waldow photo



Steve Huntley photo

Work parties - continued



Steve Huntley photo

After the Radical Boat Reunion and over the next few weeks, the work crew, now reduced to Bob Trail and Steve Huntley, with occasional help from others: (9) completed the vinyl covering installation around the upper deck fascia; (10) replaced the starboard PALATKA YACHT CLUB sign, a major job in itself; (11) replaced some rotted wood at the forward end of the pilot house roof; (12) fitted a new red-painted vinyl fascia around three sides of the pilot house roof



New vinyl pilot house fascia & soffit

(P,S, & Fwd - because of the relatively small surface area involved, it would not be much of a job to repaint when necessary, compared to the upper deck fascia); (13) installed a new vinyl soffit under the pilot house fwd roof overhang; (14) recaulked the deck seal at the pilot house base where rainwater and ants were intruding; (15) refastened the port stack sections with stainless sheet metal screws to replace the corroded drywall screws; (16) cleared a clogged toilet (**Note to members and guests: Only that which has first been eaten or drunk shall be put in the toilets.**); and (17) foamed in the wireway access opening in the pilot house bulkhead sole plate and through the salon roof, where accumulated rainwater is thought to have intruded.

Still to be done in near-future work parties are: (18) installing vinyl fascia on the aft end of the pilot house roof; (19) painting the red trim all around; (20) repairing the steel steps; (21) totally fixing water intrusion in the pilothouse and salon; and (22) repairing the salon ceiling.

June 13th - Radical Boat Reunion by Keith Cheshire

Keith Cheshire bought all the lunch supplies for the expected number of "customers", but after all the expectations and preparations for this big fund raiser for the club, there was more of a whimper than a big bang. Eighteen club members showed up as volunteers to help out, many assisting the



"Radical" Boat

cooks, docking assistants, corn steamers and servers, and socializing with the few boaters that came to eat. Fewer than 40 boaters registered for the event with the event organizer, Russ Matos, although at least twice that many boats went past the clubhouse straight to the Redneck Riviera to hold their "reunion". We sold about 35 lunches, some of which were to our PYC volunteers, plus we collected "prepaid tickets" from registrants for about 15 more. The receipts from the lunch sales and delicious homemade cookies, cupcakes and brownies, along with Ernie Ricard's hand-picked sweet corn, plus Russ' \$200 deposit, put us ahead financially, but not by much. Most



Event organizer Russ Matos

importantly we covered ALL costs, and we also have a lot of paid-for food supplies and drinks remaining, now stored for future events in the new refrigerator/freezer the Waldows donated to the club.

June 25th - Dinner meeting - The slow summer season is at hand, when many of our members travel or move to their vacation homes in the mountains to escape the heat. Around 20 members and the speaker attended this meeting. Dinner consisted of some the food frozen after the small turnout at the Radical Boat Reunion, plus some new delicious desserts and three different kinds of fresh salad brought for the occasion. Dex Blankenship won \$13 in the 50-50 drawing.



Our speaker, Mr. Jose Artigas of the St. Johns River Water Management District, spoke interestingly about how we, and those on farms, in municipalities and industries contribute to pollution of the river. He also



Jose Artigas with diorama

showed a TV educational documentary on the subject and, most interestingly, demonstrated it on a diorama with model residences, an industry, a farm, a road and a waterway. He sprinkled various “pollutants” (granular food coloring of different kinds representing lawn clippings, fertilizer, pesticide, road oil, etc.) in appropriate places, then designated a few members with spray bottles of water to simulate rain. As expected, all the “rainwater” ran downhill, washing the “pollutants” with it, and found its way into the “river”, which had become “muddy” as a result. In reality, some rain is absorbed by the soil and slowly percolates to the aquifer, purifying in the process, but most rain from heavy downpours runs downhill along the surface or in storm drains until it reaches a waterway (in our case the St. Johns River).

July 2nd - Board of Directors meeting—Four of the seven Board members were present at this meeting.

The following subjects were discussed and decided upon:

- (1) Radical Boat Reunion – It was decided not to participate in any event like that, for various reasons. We came out slightly ahead financially, but not enough for all the effort put into it. The clubhouse is still not insured, and we will not have any more outside events until we are insured.
- (2) The galley refrigerator needed to be checked to see that all the food left over from the Radical Boat Reunion is properly refrigerated or frozen. (Steve Huntley & Clark Hoyle later checked & found it OK.)
- (3) We called the club’s telephone number and decided the recorded message was too abrupt or curt. Will redo.
- (4) We are still trying to get our landlord (and club member), Ron Dore, to fix the road in to the clubhouse. He is agreeable to doing this, but he hasn’t done anything to date. We will get a quotation from a contractor and give it to our him.
- (5) The used fishline collection device we planned to reinstall at Brown’s Landing has disappeared. We need to get another one from Jose Artigas to install in its place.
- (6) Bob suggested we improve the galley area below with a large commercial sink, for washing our big serving trays, and the plumbing and sump pump that it would need. It was agreed, however, that finishing up the repairs to the pilot house and the salon ceiling were more urgent and should be done ASAP.
- (7) Bob will organize the next work party (no date set). The work planned will be (a) pilot house improvements; (b) remounting the signal mast more securely; (c) repairing the split main entry door with epoxy; (d) fitting a restraining device to the door which will prevent it from swinging too far open in a strong wind and again splitting it at the hinges; (e) a permanent, secure seal around the pilot house joint to the deck to prevent any further water intrusion in the future; and (f) odds and ends of paint touch-up. The salon ceiling repair (g) will be done last, after it is certain there are no more leaks.
- (8) Steve is still contacting prospective insurers, but either they do not insure something like our clubhouse, or their rates are unaffordable.
- (9) Early in the year the Board decided to reduce the new-member initiation fee to ½ the normal amount, and others in the same household to ¾ the regular amount. The Board now decided to extend this policy to the end of 2009. Former members rejoining the club will pay no initiation fee.
- (10) Records show that the clubhouse was last professionally cleaned in February. Members always clean up after every event, but it is now time for it to be thoroughly done professionally.
- (11) The time is now to start looking for candidates for next year’s Board, namely commodore, treasurer and 1st year director. Present treasurer Steve Huntley proposed that Commodore Gail Hart create a nominating committee for this purpose. Steve Huntley to agreed serve again if no other candidate for treasurer can be found.
- (12) Steve summarized the monthly treasurer’s report, and the Board approved it. The Secretary was not present, so there were no minutes from the last meeting.

Miscellany

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 at 649-8710 or griffinaero@gmail.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.

Miscellany - continued

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 for more details.

Test Your Yachting Knowledge – To what is a lady guest aboard a yacht referring if she compliments the captain on his “bright work”?

- (a) The captain's navigational prowess;
- (b) The gleaming brass he has ordered his crew to polish to perfection;
- (c) The maintenance of the boat's exterior woodwork.

Nautical Origins of Some Common Expressions - “Aloof” - The word *aloof* derives from the Old Dutch nautical term *loef*, meaning “windward”. It also means sailing to windward to avoid a lee shore. A sailing vessel that maintained a position to windward of other ships in her company was said to “stand aloof”. An individual who is reserved and keeps at a distance is considered to be aloof.

Interesting stuff you may never need to know - Coca-Cola was originally green.

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.



Club-owned Sunfish

Bob Trail photo

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 prototenus@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 Gail Hart at 386-329-8460. 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 at cfoltis@bellsouth.net. He will e-mail your newsletter to you each month as a PDF file in color, which you can then print out yourself. 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. Personal advertisements by members are free. Entries should be received before the end of the first week of the month to be included in that month's newsletter. If anyone knows of a member who is not receiving his/her newsletter, please notify Connie.

Answer to “Test your Yachting Knowledge” – (c) The maintenance of the boat's exterior woodwork.