

# Palatka Yacht Club

*WHISPERS OVER THE WATER*

*March 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:**

Susan Barton

**PR & Communications:**

Constantine Foltis

**Fund raising:**

Erika Heine

**Membership:**

Susan Barton

**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

**Sick Members** - I would like to start by offering best wishes and speedy recovery to our ill members or those who have been ill:

- Delores Grace – welcome back!!
- Bob Collins - recovering at home after surgery
- Jean Morris – recovering at Gainesville Hospital after surgery
- Don Straker – had a stroke, any news??
- Rogers Hart – not doing well, let's keep Rogers & Gail in our prayers



**Recognition/Accomplishments/Events** – I want to thank the many members who, since the last dinner meeting, have donated time, labor and support, and paid for things out of their own pocket for the club. They and their accomplishments are all described in **Clubhouse Update** following, so I won't detail them here.

### Membership Update

- As of March 3<sup>rd</sup>: 68 members in good standing (as of Feb. 26: 59 - 8 said they were leaving the club due to moves, health, or personal reasons).
- The balance of members who are NOT in good standing (delinquent) as of 2/26, is 34.
  - o Unless you have paid and in good standing, you will not be able to attend future meetings (next town hall/dinner meetings and club events).

### Upcoming Events

- Townhall meeting, Friday (3/9), 6:30pm – **open dish**, of course the bar will be open: finalize new dues, fees & paying off the balloon debt.
- Next dinner meeting moved from 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday night to 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in each month, the next dinner meeting being Thursday, March 15.

### Announcements

- New officers – let's give them a hearty welcome:
  - o Vice Commodore: Keith Cheshire
  - o Secretary: Karen Blankenship
- Several new committee and sub-committee chair positions – there are many functions under each chair that requires help from members. They need volunteers to put in some time to help out, especially from members who are able but have not yet contributed. Remember that the success and energy of the

## Commodore's Corner—continued

club is the involvement of members. Please seek out each chair in the area that you may have interest and see what you can do. We invariably have fun with what we do!

- Increase Public Awareness
  - o PR & Communications Chair – Connie Foltis
    - § Website (Keith Mehl), historian (need someone to write the history of PYC), press releases (Steve Huntley - need 1/mo - needs help to write & review). Advertising, editing & publishing of newsletter (needs help), etc.
  - o Special Events Chair – Susan Barton
    - § Events at clubhouse targeting non-members, that increase awareness of PYC. (Needs help to plan & stage)
- Fund Raising - Events that help raise \$ for the club
  - o Chair – Erika Heine (has some volunteers, may need more help)
- Membership Drives - recruit new members beyond what is normally done by current members
  - o Susan Barton – (needs help to plan & stage)
- Membership Programs – provide interesting, stimulating and good member participation programs
  - o Dinner Programs Chair – Bob Trail (needs to know what you would like to hear in 30 minutes or less - minimum of 1/qtr)
  - o Weekend Program Chair – Sara Szczes (will need help to create fun things at the clubhouse, going to try 1/month to start)
  - o Boating Program Chair – David Girardin
- Managing our Facilities
  - o Facilities Chair - Ensure proper usage & tidiness of clubhouse & grounds for all functions that included club reservations, club opening/setup, teardown, closing, cleaning, door committee, bar/refreshments.
    - § Facilities Chair – Keith Cheshire (needs volunteers to help, please seek out Keith BEFORE he approaches you)
      - Grass & weed wacking, monthly
      - Pressure washer upper & lower decks, sidewalk & pad, monthly or as required
      - Keeping clubhouse interior clean
  - o Improvements Chairs - Ensure that all clubhouse projects are completed within budget, timely and in good order. Includes: safety/security, maintenance and capital improvements
    - § Facilities Co-Chairs - Gene O'Connor & David Agniel (they too need help with the various maintenance items, so again, we need member involvement of some of your time)
      - Painters
      - Water/aerator maintainer
      - Plumbing (aerator)

Volunteer summary – every member must get involved to help the chairs in their areas. This is a formal call for volunteers! There are physical things, writing, planning, editing, copying, staging and attendance required by all members. Get involved and let's make the PYC more successful than ever. Thanks – Clark Hoyle

## Clubhouse Update

### Clubhouse Improvements - 02/01/07 through 02/28/07

1. The last mooring line is installed. That safety item is completed. Heather Gillean contributed her talent for splicing lines to finish the final mooring line for the clubhouse - safety and capital improvement value \$75.00.
2. Strengthen & Reinforce Upper Deck Railings. Safety item completed - gift of materials from Clay Gillean and David Agniel \$80.00 - Installation by Clay, Gene O'Connor, and David - 8 hours free labor valued at \$160 - safety and capital improvement value \$240.00.
3. Electric Meter - gift from Steve Huntley; installation parts from Keith Cheshire; installed by Steve and Keith Cheshire - total capital improvement value: \$95.00.
4. Two Fire Extinguishers - gift from Steve Huntley; installed by Clay Gillean - total capital improvement value \$75.00.
5. Stairs to lower hold forward - gift from Gene O'Connor & David Agniel; free installation by Clay Gillean with assistance from Harry Gillean and Steve Huntley - labor value est: \$1080; total capital improvement value: \$1155.00.
6. Cabinet for Ladies Room - gift from the Keith and Sherry Mehl - capital improvement value \$175.00.
7. Quick disconnect on men's room faucet for attaching water hose - gift from David Agniel - capital improvement value \$11.00.
8. Ballast installation - About five tons of discarded concrete compression test plugs, @27 lbs each, were loaded in the lower hold stern on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. Following members donated their hard labor on Saturday morning to accomplish this: Sandie Dickens, Keith Mehl, Keith Cheshire, Guion Lindsey, Clark Hoyle, Jay Holt, Herb Winstead, Gene O'Connor, Connie Foltis, Hans Heine, Steve Huntley, and David Agniel. The work was followed up with drinks, snacks and conviviality on the Dickens' front porch. The clubhouse now floats at even keel fore and aft. Value: Priceless! Several volunteers reported that extra long afternoon naps that day helped to soothe their aching backs.



### No. 1 Priority Projects Yet to Do

1. Reinforce light poles by filling existing lumber forms with concrete. Awaiting donation of concrete – (safety item).
2. Sink piling braces deeper - (safety/security). In progress, and when completed will require concrete fill.
3. Create member docking. Hans Heine obtained gift of a 160-foot floating dock with slips attached, donated to club. Pending any required permitting, we have to tow it to the clubhouse and secure it for use - (capital improvement). We will be calling for volunteers to help with the move and installation.
4. Replace missing piling - (safety/security). To be accomplished in conjunction with floating dock work, as we will need assistance with a crane or other heavy lifting device at that time.
5. Service and maintain the aerator. We would like a member to step forward to adopt this task as their project for the club. Several of our people who are involved in other work areas can show and assist, but we need to spread the maintenance efforts amongst more members, so if you are able to do this, please call and let us know.

### Lower Priority Items Yet to Do

1. Improve access road. Needs fill and grading. No money available at present.

## Clubhouse Lower Priority Items - continued

2. Install window valences. Karen Blankenship in charge/ making - (capital improvement).
3. Improve acoustics. Pending valence installation, then evaluate - (capital improvement).
4. Fit hinges on the trap door over forward stairwell for easier/safer opening. In progress.
5. Install rub-rail buffers. On hand and in progress.
6. Other maintenance items: label electrical outlets, repaint outside stairways, complete painting lower deck railings, treat rust in lower hold, repaint upper deck, repaint hull.
7. Other capital improvement items: hang wall art, onshore storage for tent and other equipment - (Bob Trail donated enclosed trailer), design/build trophy case, replace refrigerator & freezer, build galley, fit canopy over upper deck.

None of the capital improvement items are budgeted (galley alone est. @ \$25,000 if done by contractor to commercial building standards), but some items can be accomplished, or are in the process of being accomplished, with volunteer work and/or donations, at no cost to the club.

Contact David Agniel and/or Gene O'Connor for a more detailed breakdown of these projects yet to be started or completed. By all means add your name to the volunteer list for any of the above items in which you may be interested in helping to accomplish.

## Coming Events

**March 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday) - Town Hall Meeting** – At the clubhouse @ 6:30pm. Bring a covered dish to share. This meeting will finalize the dues/fees and method of funding to pay the club's balloon debt due February 15, 2010.

**March 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - Dinner Meeting** – Please note the date. From now on the dinner meetings will be held on the third Thursday of every month. The time is unchanged: social hour starting at **6:00 PM** and dinner served at **7:00**. This rescheduling was done in response to requests of members who attend church on Wednesday evenings. It was also necessary to find an evening other than Wednesdays in which our caterers were available. The door committee will be [Guion & Ella Lindsay](#).

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, March 9<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 March 9<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, 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.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - 6:30 PM** aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

## Past Events

**Town Hall Meeting – February 23<sup>rd</sup>** - About 50 members attended this meeting. Commodore Hoyle led an organized discussion of the club's present and future financial picture, assisted by slides headlining the main topics.

**Facilities** - The club's budget will now include:

- (1) Paying for cleaning – inside & out and grounds.
- (2) Donations for refreshments are now \$3.00 for single-shot mixed drinks and wine, and \$2.00 for beer. Sodas are unchanged at \$1.00.

## Town Hall Meeting—continued

(3) Dinners will remain at \$15 for the time being – essentially breakeven, loss if under 50 people.

### Improvements - see Clubhouse Update for Details

(1) Safety/security (1st spending priority)

(2) Maintenance (2nd spending priority)

(3) Capital improvements removed from budget. All capital improvements will require membership approval of project and approval of funding (whether via donations, fund raising or special assessment).

### Clubhouse Debt

We reviewed operating income and expenses showing the yearly balance assuming certain member levels, with a spreadsheet that showed the results based on **\$125 dues** per person and **\$100 fees**. It was clear that no change from the present fee structure would have us going out of business. A lengthy discussion ensued, which was helped with lots of member participation. We concluded the meeting as following:

(1) Consensus was reached to raise dues and fees to cover our annual operating cost - but we need to figure out a way that does not inhibit younger members from joining.

(1) Consensus was reached also that we need to raise funds to pay off the balloon loan payment in February 2010, through either special assessment or new loans

### Conclusion

We will have one final Town Hall Meeting on Friday, March 9 @ 6:30pm (a covered dish event) to wrap up. The refreshment table will be open, as usual.

**Dinner Meeting – February 28<sup>th</sup>** - There were 46 paid members and guests at this meeting. Jeannine O'Connor led the blessing before dinner the dinner of Caesar salad, vegetable lasagna, chicken cacciatore, green beans, rice, rolls, butter, desserts of apple pie and three kinds of cake, and iced tea. Larry McAfee won the 50-50 drawing and kept his half of the \$76 pot. The new rules of the game require the winner to keep his/her winnings, rather than donate them back to the club. Bar donations were \$174. The treasurer collected \$1,125 in dues that evening, but no one put anything in the club donation bucket.

There was no special program that evening. Commodore Clark Hoyle spent a lot of time reviewing in detail the recent accomplishments and future plans for the club that are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

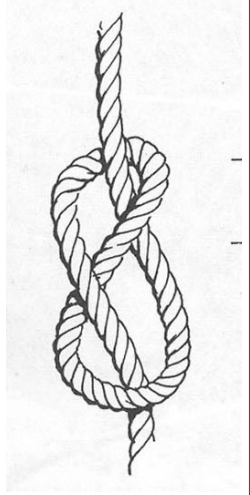
**Board of Directors Meeting – March 1<sup>st</sup>** – No decisions were made at this meeting. All the topics discussed are reflected in other areas of this newsletter.

## Miscellany

**E-Mail Addresses** – Tom and Sara Szczes have listed their e-mail addresses with the club: gator1tjs@ad.com (Tom – home); lhether3@aol.com (Sara – home); hethers@fcti.org (Sara – work).

**Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “Rummage sale”** – From the French “*arrimage*”, meaning ship’s cargo. Damaged cargo was sold at a discount at a rummage sale.

**Knotsmanship – “Figure Eight Knot”** – With one additional turn on an overhand knot, you have a stopper knot, which will prevent the running end of a running line from escaping through a block or grommet. Unlike the overhand knot, it is easy to untie.



## Announcements

**Dinner meeting Door Committees** – Following is a schedule of volunteers who have so far signed up for this duty, and more are needed for the remaining openings. Anyone interested in helping out with this necessary job, please contact Keith Cheshire at 328-3420 or [keith.cheshire@midspring.com](mailto:keith.cheshire@midspring.com).

### 2007

February - Brenda & Ernie Ricard  
March - Guion & Ella Lindsay  
April - LaVerne & Keith Cheshire  
May - Linda & David Girardin  
June - Connie & Helene Foltis  
July -  
Aug -  
Sept - Tom & Sara Szczes  
October -  
November - David Agniel & Robbie Brackett  
December - Keith & Sherry Mehl

### 2008

January - Guion & Ella Lindsay  
February - Nancy & Herb Winstead

**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](mailto: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](mailto:protopterus@earthlink.net) if you are not already included in this special arrangement for PYC members.

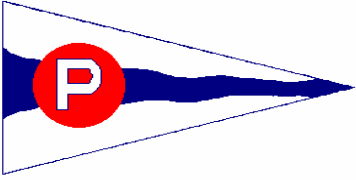
**PYC Tent** - Any members desiring to reserve the PYC tent, contact Commodore Clark Hoyle at 386-649-6795 or [clarkhoyle@midspring.com](mailto:clarkhoyle@midspring.com) for details. The tent is presently stored in an enclosed trailer next to the clubhouse.

**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](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 register your e-mail address with Publisher Connie Foltis (contact: [cfoltis@bellsouth.net](mailto:cfoltis@bellsouth.net)) and arrange to receive your newsletters as pdf e-mail files. This would lessen the work and expense of printing and mailing paper copies every month. The cost of doing this amounts to a sizeable sum at the end of the year, even though over half the members are now receiving theirs by e-mail. To write an article for the newsletter (including a short description of an interesting trip you took) 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)





Palatka Yacht Club

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