

# Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

March 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

#### Special Events:

#### PR & Communications:

Constantine Foltis

#### Fund raising:

#### Membership Growth:

#### Programs:

Robert Trail

dinner meetings

#### Facilities:

LaVerne Cheshire

#### Improvements:

## Commodore's Corner..... by Keith Cheshire

Well, Spring is almost upon us and the outlook is bright. Our club's appearance at the Azalea Festival the first weekend in March was a rousing success! Traffic into our booth was steady, with many people remarking "I didn't know Palatka had a YACHT CLUB!" In addition, our sale of flavored and regular water essentially covered most of the cost of our participation as well as giving people one more reason to notice PYC!

Our booth volunteers again and again told the story of our group and our exciting clubhouse. We were rewarded by almost a dozen individuals who expressed interest in visiting our club with intentions of joining! In the coming weeks, I will be contacting these individuals and scheduling a meeting or event that is convenient for them to attend. I will be looking for "volunteer hosts" to take them under your wing at that event and introduce them to our club and membership. If you want to be a guest host, please drop me a note ([keith.cheshire@mindspring.com](mailto:keith.cheshire@mindspring.com)) or mention it at the meeting.

My special thanks to Dorothy, Hans, Keith M, Connie, Sandie, Steve and Ernie R. for working the booth and to Jay for bringing one more of his wonderful models to display add further draw to our booth.

In closing, one urgent reminder: **DUES ARE OVERDUE!** If you have not yet paid, please stop now and write a check for your membership dues for 2008. Mail it to the club at P.O. Box 2004, Palatka, FL 32178-2004. Our cash outflow and payments on our loans, etc., are based on the expectation that January-Feb revenues will be on time. Please do your part to KEEP OUR CLUB AFLOAT! Members residing in Putnam County owe \$200 per person or \$400 per couple. Those who live outside Putnam County have a reduced rate of \$150 per person or \$300 per couple.



**Clubhouse Improvements** - There was no work done on the clubhouse since the last (February) newsletter.

## Coming Events

**March 15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - USCG Auxiliary Boating Refresher Course at the Clubhouse - from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM** - Members with e-mail have already seen this announcement, but it is worth repeating here. A boating refresher course will be offered at the clubhouse on March 15th by Flotilla 14-9 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. It will be similar to the one given at the clubhouse last August 25<sup>th</sup> by the same group and will be limited to 40 people, including members of the public. Advance reservations are necessary, and registration begins at 8:00 AM on the morning of the event. Lectures and demonstrations will run from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, with a break for lunch. The cost to cover instructional materials is \$25 per single person or \$25 for couples sharing a book. We will provide lunch for those who want it - a sandwich and soft drink for \$5.00 additional per person. Contact Keith Cheshire at 328-3420 or

## Boating Refresher Course - continued

[keith.cheshire@mindspring.com](mailto:keith.cheshire@mindspring.com) to make your reservation. Please do so ASAP to allow time for assembling the instructional materials and ordering lunches. Payment is due the morning of the event. Participants are encouraged to come by boat, as the Auxiliary will be available to perform safety inspections on vessels. Participants will receive a Safe Boating Certificate from the Coast Guard Auxiliary and should be eligible for a reduced boat insurance rate.

The course will include recent changes to state and federal laws, a section about tying knots, the proper components of a float plan, navigating waterways such as the St. Johns River, safely operating a vessel, and what to do in case of boating emergencies. Last year David Girardin, who holds a 100-ton Captain's License, said he took that refresher course and found it to be the best one he ever had. Think about this: would you get in a car and drive it without knowing anything about the rules of the road? This type of course is the best that you can have for the time and the money. This writer took it last August and learned quite a bit. This was after (a) a lifetime of small boat sailing, (b) a transatlantic crossing under sail, (c) a few years of extensive inland and offshore cruising while living aboard full time, and (d) having previously taken other USCG Auxiliary courses elsewhere.

Part of the Palatka Yacht Club's objectives is to promote the sport of yachting, safety afloat, and techniques of good seamanship. This is the reason that the club decided to host this course. Commodore Cheshire encourages husband and wife teams to register together. Past commodore Clark Hoyle said about last August's course, "If the husband usually captains the boat, it is important for the wife to know the principles of boating, if for no other reason than to be able to navigate the boat to a safe haven during an emergency involving her husband".

**March 27<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 Bob Trail & Sue Merritt Trail.

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 21<sup>st</sup>. If you must cancel or wish to make last-minute reservations, call June Henley at 325-7016 no later than the evening of March 21<sup>st</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 your reservations. If you are leaving town, remember to 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 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Brunch** – The club will be serving brunch at the clubhouse from 11:30 until 2:00 o'clock. More details will be given at the March 27<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Also, look for a special e-mail bulletin about it. The next newsletter will be too late for an update. Those interested, call Dorothy McAfee at 328-2103 to give her and her committee an idea of how much food to prepare. Come by boat or by car, and bring guests.

**April 12<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - Gator Landing Restaurant** - Meet at the Palatka Yacht Club facility at 11:00 AM for bloody Marys, mimosas, and/or poinsettias. We will depart for Gator Landing about 12:30 PM to be at the restaurant for a 1:00 PM reservation. Anyone who would like to catch a ride on someone's boat should contact that person about it. You may also drive to Gator Landing and meet the group at 1:00 o'clock. Look for any updates in the next newsletter.

## Past Events

**February 28<sup>th</sup> - Dinner Meeting** - We started off the evening with our usual convivial happy hour and delicious dinner. Commodore Keith Cheshire made a few announcements, among which was a notice that his wife LaVerne is now the new facilities chairman for the club. He also advised that the evening's scheduled speaker, Scott LaGasse, was delayed out of town and could not make the meeting. Mr. LaGasse is the present owner of the Boathouse Marina in downtown Palatka. He also recently took possession of the historic vessel "Noah's Ark", built in Palatka, with intent to restore it to its original condition. Gene O'Connor spoke briefly, in his place, about the early history of Noah's Ark (built by Palatka resident Noah Tilghman in 1928) and his own experiences as a teenage crewmember

## March 28th Dinner Meeting - continued

on it. Ernie Ricard gave a timely lecture about spring boat maintenance, based on his long experience as a professional in that field. The 50-50 drawing sold \$65 worth of tickets, and Bob Trail won, taking home \$33.



**Azalea Festival - March 1-2** - Our club had a booth (actually a tent) at the Azalea Festival in downtown Palatka to meet the public and publicize our club. Members took turns manning the booth over the weekend. They were Keith Cheshire, LaVerne Cheshire, Hans Heine, Steve Huntley, Keith Mehl, Sandie Dickens, Dorothy McAfee, and Ernie Ricard. Jay Holt brought a beautiful Moran tugboat display model, and Connie Foltis stopped by with his daughter who was visiting from out of town. All talked about our club and its activities and passed out boating information. Some or perhaps most of the people who stopped at the booth did not know there was a yacht club in Palatka. We made 12 contacts of people who expressed interest, and we have to follow up on those. The weather was warm and sunny, and many people were thirsty. We sold \$65 worth of iced bottled water, which just about covered the club's expenses.

**March 6<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors Meeting** - The Board met at the clubhouse with two Board members absent. Attending were Karen Blankenship, Linda Giradin, Clark Hoyle and Keith Cheshire. Due to Steve Huntley's absence the treasurer's report was not presented. A report was given on the Azalea Festival (see Commodore's Message) and the list of prospective members was circulated. Linda Giradin is prime on contact and arranging invites. Rendezvous planning was discussed with Clark Hoyle, and Linda G. agreeing to co-chair that committee. (They had met along with Clay Gillian this past Saturday, and the first events planned are elsewhere in this newsletter). The board joined discussions at the conclusion of the meeting with Dorothy McAfee and her Brunch committee, who were also meeting at the clubhouse that evening.

## Miscellany

**Dinner Meeting Door Committees** – So far we have the following schedule:

February 28 ..... Lenore Cowan & Ella Lindsay (substituted for the original substitutes)

March 27.....Bob Trail & Sue Merritt Trail

April 24 .....Ernie & Brenda Ricard

May 22 .....Hans & Erika Heine

June 26 .....Jean & Joe Morris

## Door Committees - continued

July 24 .....Connie & Helene Foltis  
August 28 .....Larry & Dorothy McAfee  
September 25 .....Gene and Jeannine O'Connor  
October 23 ..... LaVerne & Keith Cheshire

There may be special events taking the place of regular dinner meetings in November and December, so door committees may not be necessary for them. Between now and the end of the year we need to add January and February 2009 door committees to the list, to allow time at the beginning of the year for the 2009 schedule to be arranged.

**Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “Fly-by-Night”** – A large sail used only for sailing downwind and requiring little attention, hence its popularity for use at night.

## Announcements

**Club-owned Sunfish** – At present, the Club’s Sunfish sailboat is on a trailer at David and Linda Girardin’s residence and is available for any member to use, however it will be moved to the clubhouse at some point, as mentioned above. 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@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](mailto:keith.cheshire@mindspring.com). The tent is stored onboard the clubhouse when not in use.

**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 file your e-mail address with publisher Connie Foltis ([cfoltis@bellsouth.net](mailto:cfoltis@bellsouth.net)) 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)