

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

May 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 Growth:

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

Recognition/Accomplishments:

Thanks to everyone who came out and worked to keep improving our clubhouse. The time, effort and out-of-pocket expense provided by all these people made this all happen. See "Clubhouse Update" following for details.

- Dock work - Harry Gillean, Clay & Heather Gillean, David Girardin, Tom & Sarah Szczes, Bob Trail, Chell Uhl, Gene O'Connor, Keith Cheshire, Steve Huntley, Hans Heine, Dick & Sandy Dicken's able bodied helper Billy Bob, yours truly – me, and last but not least David Agniel, who never seems to stop working on and around the clubhouse. .
- Grounds - Guion & Ella Lindsay, Andrea Gillean
- Electrical - Keith Cheshire ..



Announcements

We need to form a committee for planning PYC participation in some Putnam County events in 2008: Azalea, Blue Crab Festival, etc. Use for fund raising, membership and awareness. Need to have our event organized and ready to stage before the end of 2007. So some meetings with planning etc. will need to be held to organize this. Would like to ask current chairs (Erika, Susan and Connie) to head this up. As they cannot do all of this alone, they will need help from members to help plan the following:

- Which event(s), reservations, booth, flyers/photos, food, beverages, membership manning the event;
- Show of hand of volunteers to help.

Volunteers still needed for:

- Press/PR (Connie) – still needs help with:
 - o press release writing and getting placement in local newspapers;
 - o Writing history of PYC for free publication in glossy Putnam County Magazine, various flyers, etc.
- Facilities (Keith C):
 - o Main bar tender (has backups);
 - o Pressure washer;
 - o Grounds cutting & weed whacking.
- Maintenance (David Agniel, Gene O'Connor):
 - o Painting.

Commodore's Corner - continued

Dues & Fees Vote

The proposal to change the club dues and fees was approved by membership vote at our April 19th dinner meeting. Details are:

- \$200 annual dues/member, effective 1/1/07:
 - \$125 prior, + \$5/mo (cleaning) x 12 = \$60 = \$185 + \$15 more = \$200
- \$250 fees/new resident member:
 - \$100 fee prior. Never raised before as the club never had anything to offer. Now we have our own clubhouse, dockage, lots of member & guest events, boating activities, weekend activities, and a galley in the future.

Debt Refinance Vote

The Fabulous 4 (formerly Foolish 4) have agreed to refinance their entire debt, thus removing the balloon payment. We thus have no need for an assessment. This was also approved by membership vote on April 19th. The refinance terms as follows:

- \$58,800 @ 7% for 18 years;
- P&I payment of \$479.42 (prior was \$415.77, w/ \$55,000 balloon due 2/09 – now gone);
- 1st payment due June 1, 2007;
- Special prepayment terms:
 - PYC can prepay this Note in whole or in part, prior to maturity, without penalty.
 - The Fabulous 4 have the option to sell one-half (1/2) up to the balance of their portion of the loan to any member at the prevailing terms. So, if any of you are interested in getting in on the 7% money, see me and advise on what amount you would like to invest, and when. — Clark Hoyle

Clubhouse Update *by David Agniel and Gene O'Connor*

A section of the donated floating dock was modified, worn and broken planks replaced, then rafted up to the port side of the clubhouse and secured in place, for use by members arriving by boat. Clay Gillean was instrumental in getting this accomplished, including the acquisition and installation of new cables to hold two fendered extender sections tightly against the hull. He was assisted by numerous club members, who turned out for our work party on 7 April. This is a temporary storage solution, pending the approval of our piling permits. We held a second work party on 28 April to do finishing touches. The dock is now ready for use by club members, with steps up to the main deck that are straight, fixed and secure. Come out and tie up and have a look-see. The present dock arrangement has finger piers near the ends of the main section, with a large space between for larger boat tie-up. Smaller boats should use the finger sections and leave the center space clear.



The second long dock section was moved to the West side of Woody's dock and is secured temporarily to existing pilings, pending receipt of permits for final installation. This section has



Clubhouse Update - continued

three finger piers and is also usable by club members when the main dock is full.

Other improvements this month: Guion & Ella Lindsay cleared debris and vegetation from around the port side of the on-shore boarding platform. They also hacked out and hauled off several trailer loads of flotsam and jetsam. Keith Cheshire relocated and installed, in a protected spot, a new galley light donated by the Lindsays.

Thanks to the Lindsays and Girardins, we are the recipients of some plywood and lumber that will be useful in below-decks projects. Sue Trail labored down in the galley area, cleaning up, in preparation for painting. Sharon Uhl worked at removing all the Christmas lights from the top deck so we can get at super-reinforcing the rails to OSHA standards. Chell Uhl and Harry Gillean humped scads of debris off the remaining dock sections so we could move them into final storage locations. Chell also provided us with the loan of a shop vac for use in cleaning up below decks, preparatory to painting and installation of flooring. Clark Hoyle, nursing a bum knee, rearranged the bar set-up to make it more convenient and efficient. Keith Cheshire, Bob Trail, and Keith Mehl worked at finishing carpentry touches on the rafted-up dock. Harry Gillean brought out his front-end loader and moved the spare pilings to a consolidated stack on the concrete hardstand. So now the area to the East (downstream) of the clubhouse is completely clear, both on land and on water, as requested by our landlord and honorary member, Ron Dore. Andrea Gillean, not to be outdone by Harry, hopped on the tractor and mowed the tall grass where the pilings had resided. All in all, a small but capable contingent turned out and got it done.

Let's hear it for these loyal members, and let's hope to see some new eager faces when the next call goes out for a work party. Everyone's contribution is a testament to our budding future as a real and viable water-based yacht club. It should also be noted that, due to the need to restrict expenditures, all of this year's projects so far have been accomplished at ZERO dollar cost to the club treasury.

More work needed ASAP:

(1) Volunteer with a truck or trailer needed to load and haul away the debris left over from the dock building project. Call David Agniel at 649-9075 to set up a time, and he will meet and help.

(2) One person or couple, on their own schedule, to come out and sort, inventory, label and stow the numerous holiday décor and miscellaneous articles stowed in the hold. If need be, you can purchase some plastic keeper boxes for this, and the club will reimburse you. Call Keith Cheshire or David Agniel for access to the clubhouse.

(3) Last but not least, we are looking for a stair unit similar to the one on the floating dock, to put on the forward starboard side landing for use by the caterers to come aboard by the forward entry door. If you have one or are willing to build one, we probably have sufficient scrap lumber for the job stacked on the concrete apron. Call David Agniel if you can handle this needed task and can get it done before our next dinner meeting on May 24th. Feel free to express your unique craftsmanship. We are not picky.

(4) See the May 3rd Board of Directors meeting write-up below for additional planned work items.

Coming Events

May 19 (Saturday) - Canoe/kayak Excursion - We'll meet at the Golden Corral at 8:00 AM for leisurely breakfast, which will take us about an hour. After which, we'll drive to the boat ramp in Welaka. For those not attending the breakfast, we will be departing from the ramp around 10:00 AM. The plan is to canoe across the river to Bear Creek, to the Ocklawaha River, and back to the ramp. Bring a "brown bag" lunch and beverages. Most likely, we will raft up together to eat lunch, as we doubt that there will be any dry land for us to picnic on. It will take us as long as we want to complete the trip.

May 24 (4th Thursday) - Dinner Meeting - Aboard our floating clubhouse at Browns Landing. We are again changing the dinner meeting dates to avoid another conflict, this time from the 3rd Thursday to the 4th Thursday in each month. It seems that the Chamber of Commerce meetings on the third Thursday conflicted with quite a few of our members. 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 [Linda & David Girardin](#).

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, May 18th. If you must cancel, or if you wish to make last-minute

Coming Events - continued

reservations, call June Henley at 325-7016 no later than the evening of May 18th, 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.

June 2nd (Saturday) - Membership Drive Barbecue – The public will be invited to the clubhouse at 2:00 o'clock to see what we are about. Flyers will be distributed and other public notice given ahead of time. We will be selling drinks and barbecued hamburgers. The more members we have as guides and mentors, the more successful it will be, so come on down and help out, and have some fun at the same time.

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

June 16th (Saturday) – “Welcome to Spring” Barbecue – Arrive at 5:00 o'clock for Happy Hour. BBQ from Sonny's provided by the club will be ready to eat at 6:00 PM. Bring your own side dish. RSVP by June 12th to Lhether3@aol.com or Sara Szczes at 325-1478. When RSVPing, name your intended side dish. The club bar will be open, but BYOB if you wish.

Other Weekend Activities at the Clubhouse – Sara has more weekend activities in the planning stage for later months, and these will be announced in following newsletters after she has the details worked out and solid dates nailed down. For more information, contact Sara at 325-1478 or Lhether3@aol.com.

Past Events

Dinner Meeting – April 19th – Dinner was “pot-luck” at this meeting, because our caterers were not available for this date, so attendees all brought a dish to share, and there was plenty of good food for everyone. It appears that guests have been winning the 50-50 drawing more often than their percentages of total attendance would indicate, and that happened again this time. Ron Baker, from Crescent City-based Fast Boats, Inc., of Central Florida, that held the speedboat races in Palatka a few weeks ago, won the drawing. He took home \$37, his half of the total pot. He also took the podium to thank the PYC members who helped out with the “manatee watch” during those races and to present them with a plaque.

As had been announced at the March 19th dinner meeting, the membership present at this meeting voted on and approved the two proposals concerning club finances that are detailed in “Commodore's Corner”, above. Note that the new dues schedule is retroactive to this past January 1st, so we now owe the amount of the increase for this year. The additional payment for Class I members is \$75 per person or \$150 for a family. Class II, III and IV members should calculate their increases as spelled out in the Club By Laws, based on the new Class I rate.



Board of Directors Meeting - May 3rd - The Board approved plans to continue upgrading the clubhouse and grounds, including approval of funds for the concrete bases around the light poles and for painting the hull exterior, upper deck and lower hold interior with marine-grade paint. We will contact Keith Marine to buy the paint at a discount, as Dick Keith has so often offered. The Board also set a date, June 1st, by which the retroactive dues addition should be paid, for members to remain in good standing. Reminders will be sent out.

Past Events—continued

Mexican Night – May 5th – This **Cinco de Mayo** Mexican holiday party inspired the attendees to bring all manner of Mexican dishes to share. Sara Szczes and friends had decorated the clubhouse appropriately for the occasion, with red, white and green tablecloths and a hanging pinata. After a social hour and mealtime, where there was more good Mexican food than could be eaten (though this writer did his part by trying), some brave members stepped up, one by one, to be blindfolded, spun around a few times so as to become disoriented,



then they attempted to smash the pinata with a bat. Some swings were quite wild, and people had to duck. Eventually Ernie Ricard struck home and smashed the pinata, spilling wrapped candy treats all over the floor. He had counted his turns and steps correctly while blindfolded and knew which way to face to hit his target. Too bad for the folks that didn't come to this party. Those that did had a great time.



Miscellany

Illnesses – The last we heard, **Don Straker** was in the Gainesville Veterans' Hospital full time, except that he returned home occasionally to pay bills, etc. He wanted everyone to know where he was. **Rogers Hart** is recuperating from his latest bout with a variety of illnesses. He is up and around, and occasionally goes out by car, but Gail has someone tending him 24/7. **Bob Collins** is holding his own at home. He has recovered from carotid artery surgery on one side and plans to return to the hospital on May 16th for the same surgery on the other side. **Jean Morris**, who had been recently hospitalized, was well enough to attend the last dinner meeting. We wish them all well.

Knotsmanship - Square Knot or Reef Knot– If you are tying a bundle, this knot works. If it is made with a strip of canvas or webbing, as in gaskets to tie furled sails, it is a useful knot and easily untied even when wet. If it is used to tie two lines together to make a longer line, that would be a mistake. Use this knot sparingly.



Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “A1” – (The Best) – In the late 17th century the insurance firm Lloyds of London issued an **A1** rating to merchant ships whose hull and gear were of the highest quality. Over the years, **A1** came into general usage as a reference to excellence of any kind.

Announcements

Dinner Meeting Door Committees – Following is a schedule of volunteers who have so far signed up for this duty. 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@mindspring.com. Will a few people please step forward and fill these vacancies? We need your help.

2007

- February - Brenda & Ernie Ricard
- March - Guion & Ella Lindsay
- April - LaVerne & Keith Cheshire

Door Committees - continued

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

* December door committee may not be needed, depending on the Christmas party.

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 for details. The tent is stored in the trailer at 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. 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 (contact: 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. Individual club members have been donating their time and money to do this, month-in, month-out, for years, and they would appreciate anything we can do to lessen that load. 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 - Keith Mehl, Webmaster