

# Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

May 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:

#### Communications:

Constantine Foltis

#### Dinner meeting Programs:

Robert Trail

#### Facilities:

LaVerne Cheshire

#### Fund raising:

#### Improvements & Maintenance:

#### Membership Growth:

Linda Girardin

#### Membership programs:

#### PR:

#### Special Events:

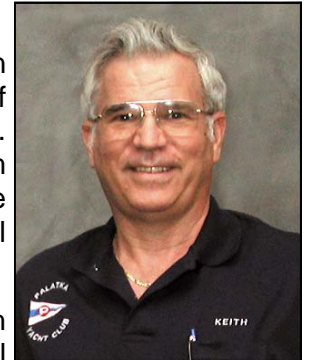
## Commodore's Corner..... by Keith Cheshire

Anchor's A'Veigh! The phrase *anchor's aweigh* is an acknowledgment to the commander that the anchor is clear of the sea bottom and that, therefore, the ship is officially underway. Yes that was the cry as our humble clubhouse pulled away from our mooring at Brown's Landing and slipped gently down the river and into place at the city dock, in preparation for the annual Mug Race!

This year, our participation was expanded significantly with the presence of our clubhouse at city dock and the usual hospitality (coffee & snacks) provided for race participants Friday evening and Saturday morning. In addition, our Vice Commodore Gail Hart skippered her boat front and center, as the official starter boat for the event. In addition, a number of our powerboat owners acted as race security lookouts along the racecourse between Palatka and the Shands Bridge in Green Cove Springs.

While we have a long way to go in many areas, I feel the club is really picking up steam. Our brunch committee continues to roll out delightful events, including in June, a smoked pork shoulder ("pickin") event! The men of the club showed their appreciation to the special women in their lives at a Mother's Day Breakfast held at the clubhouse at the city dock!

On a more serious note, though our meetings are spirited and well attended, we must continue to focus our attention on promoting our club to friends, neighbors and associates. We must grow, to be able to continue with the wonderful activities and events that this group is known for, It is for each of us to spread the word and INVITE others' who might share our love of boating, the river or just plain southern hospitality to come aboard and join the fun.



## Coming Events

**May 17-18, Saturday-Sunday – Cook-in and Saturday Night Live** - Meet at the Palatka Yacht Club with your own meat to grill and a covered dish share; View the "radical boat reunion" (tentative date) held near the sandbar, also known, as the Red-neck Riviera (the radical boat reunion usually starts about 9:00 AM); Eat whenever the group decides it's time; Sleep over on your boat or in the clubhouse with a (member provided) sleeping bag and air mattress.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday) - Dinner Meeting** - Aboard our floating clubhouse at Browns Landing. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM, and **this dinner will be a covered dish starting at 7:00 o'clock.** Members are invited to bring salads, side dishes, and/or desserts. Meats will be provided by the club. The price per meal will be a \$7.50 per person, to cover the main course items and coffee/tea. Tentative plans are for Fried Chicken from Popeye's and BBQ (pork and beef) from Sonny's BBQ. The door committee will be Hans & Erika Heine. In Commodore Keith Cheshire's absence

(vacation), Vice Commodore Gail Hart will be officiating.

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, May16<sup>th</sup>. If you must cancel or wish to make last-minute reservations, call June Henley at 325-7016 no later than the evening of May16<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 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.

**Please note that due to the reduced attendance in summer months, the club has chosen not to have our regular catering for the May, June, July and August meetings.** Watch your newsletter for information on the main course and bring your special side dishes, salads and desert to compliment the core meats.

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

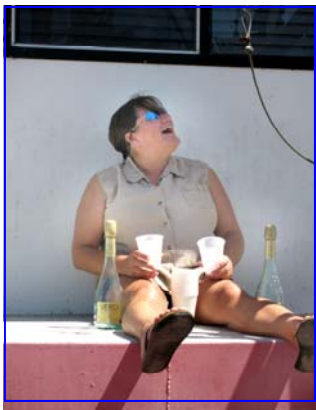
**June 14-15, Saturday-Sunday - Silver Glen Springs** - 8:00 AM - Meet at the Palatka Yacht Club for trip south on the river for either an overnight visit or day visit. If there is any change in schedule, it will be in the next newsletter.

## Past Events

**April 12, Saturday - Lunch at Gator Landing** – This event started off with a slight glitch but went smoothly and very enjoyably the rest of the day. Commodore Keith Cheshire had planned to begin the event with Bloody Marys, mimosas, and/or poinsettias at the clubhouse, but his boat engine wouldn't start. Many people on three boats and two cars did show up, however, and we had a party with some eye-openers on the port deck of the clubhouse and on the nearest boat (Scraps).

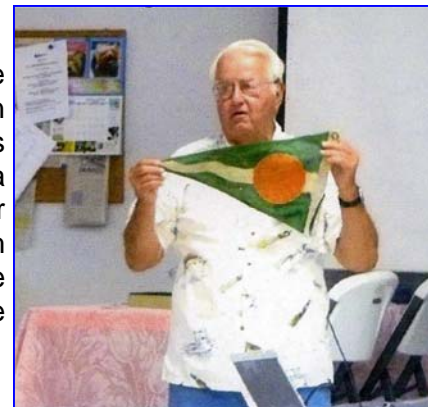


After a while everyone, including those who came by car, boarded the boats for the ride to Gator Landing, arriving at the scheduled time of 1:00 PM. Red-faced Commodore Keith was already there, along with some others that had driven directly there, and the Bloody Marys and Mimosas flowed, courtesy of the commodore. **Thank you, Keith!** There was a total of 14 club members and one guest, all seated on the Gator Landing deck in the shade of umbrellas and overhanging trees, overlooking the river with a wonderful breeze keeping us cool. As usual, this restaurant's food was delicious and the "modest lunch portions" were more than many of us could eat. We left with doggy containers, to enjoy the rest of our meals another day. Life can't get better than that. Clay Gillean ferried back the people that had driven to the clubhouse, and everyone else went directly home, by car or boat.



**April 24<sup>th</sup> - Dinner Meeting** - The monthly meeting of the Palatka Yacht Club was held Thursday evening at our floating clubhouse moored at Browns Landing on the St. Johns River. In addition to a picture tour and brief program on last month's Antique Boats Cruise by member David Girardin, the club welcomed visitors from the Jacksonville Rudder Club. Attending from Jacksonville were Vice Commodore Greg McGilloway, Rear Commodore John Winslow and Mug Race Official Bubba Futch. Greg, John and Bubba were down to our meeting to thank our club for our continuing support and participation in the annual Mug Race event.

The Palatka Yacht Club has a long history of participating in the Mug Race and is proud to boast member Gene O'Conner who skippered one of the boats in the very first Mug Race over 50 years ago and won it overall a couple of years later. In conjunction with the discussions of the Mug Race, Gene presented a very special gift to the club this meeting, an original burgee from the predecessor club to the PYC. Gene displayed a burgee from the St. Johns Yacht Club, which was the first yacht club organized here in Palatka. It was under the flag of the SJYC that Gene and other long time members initiated and participated in the very first running of the Mug Race!

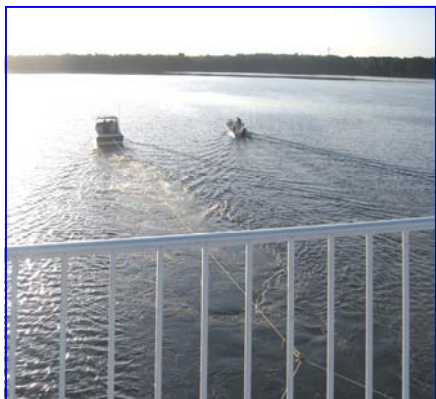


**Mug Race, May 2-3** - This year, our club instituted a new level of participation in the Mug Race by bringing our floating clubhouse to the city dock for benefit of and use by the Rudder Club and Mug Race Officials. Harry Gillean on *High Times* provided the tow. Ernie Ricard on *Rock-N-Chair*, and David and Linda Girardin on *Gator Bait* rode shotgun and provided the brakes to slow the heavy barge and ease it into position at the city dock. As in past years, the Palatka Yacht Club hosted coffee and snacks Friday evening and again the next morning at sunrise with hot wake-up pots of coffee and orange juice for the race participants, this time on our clubhouse instead of the PYC tent. The advantage to the club was in getting a lot of exposure downtown and in letting many people know there is such a thing as the Palatka yacht Club.

Vice Commodore Gail Hart in *Hart's Desire* provided the race start boat, with Gail, David and Linda Girardin and the Rudder Club race committee aboard. After all the boats had started, from 7:30 to 10:30, depending on the class, the race committee went ashore and drove to the Rudder Club in Jacksonville in time to check off those crossing the finish line. Bob and Sue Trail crewed in the race on a friend's 37-foot Herreshoff leeboard ketch in the cruising class. Despite the total lack of sailing experience on the part of the new owner of the boat, Larry Boughner, and Bob's and Sue's relative inexperience in racing, they placed 5<sup>th</sup> in their class. Read Bob's and Sue's write-up of their experience in a separate e-mail.



Unfavorable weather soon followed, which prevented the clubhouse move back to Browns Landing for over a week. Harry scheduled the return tow early AM on May 14<sup>th</sup> after a favorable weather prediction. Again *High Times* was the tugboat, with Ernie's *Rock-N-Chair* and Gene O'Connor in his Panga runabout riding shotgun. Halfway through the tow, Gene raced ahead and pulled the floating docks out of the way at the mooring site. Larry Boughner and Bob Trail also showed up in a small boat to assist with moving the dock. By this time the east breeze had started up, and Harry and Ernie braked the barge's



## Mug Race - continued

forward motion to ease it gently into position. Ernie's towline snapped at the last minute, which made the landing a little bumpier than planned, but no harm was done. A gang of members and one guest (Larry) were then available to secure the mooring lines and reinstall the gangway, after which everyone left for home by noon.

**May 11, Sunday - Mother's Day Brunch at the Clubhouse** – Thirty-one people showed up at the Palatka City Dock for this well-advertised event to be staged by the men in the club. Of course Murphy's Law was in plain evidence, with a strong west wind pushing the barge far enough away from the dock that only the most athletic made the jump. Ernie Ricard raced home and brought back a small gangway that just fit the bill. Helene Foltis' 94-year-old mother Betty, who came out on the dock in a wheelchair, easily walked aboard. There was no air conditioning, water or sewage disposal, but Keith Cheshire's portable generator provided power for lighting and the electric cooking appliances. There were porta-potties ashore, the clubhouse was comfortable with the windows open, and the feast was on. Commodore Keith prepared his well-advertised and delicious Belgian waffles.



Karen Blankenship served her famous omelets, and Harry Gillean prepared a huge pan of his mouth-watering cheese grits. Also, the mimosas, poinsettias, coffee and tea flowed. This brunch was to have been prepared and served by only the men in the club, but



Dex Blankenship was called in to work at the last minute, and Karen filled in for him. A great event. Too bad for the members that didn't come.

## Miscellany

**New Contact Numbers** – Gail Hart now has e-mail: [Irishpower@yahoo.com](mailto:Irishpower@yahoo.com). She also has a new cell phone number: 817-201-4353. Connie Foltis now has a cell phone number: 904-252-3718. Please mark these in your 2008 handbooks.

**For Sale** - MacGregor 25 sloop - \$2000. Contact Bob Trail at 386-649-8710 or [griffinaero@yahoo.com](mailto:griffinaero@yahoo.com).

**Dinner Meeting Programs** - Our program Chairman Bob Trail has been having a hard time lately finding presenters with interesting 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. 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](mailto: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** – **“Give them a wide berth”** – When anchoring a ship, it should be far enough away from another anchored ship so that their swinging circles don't intersect. Then they can't collide if both ships swing unevenly with the wind and current.

## 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 future time. 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.

**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)