

# Palatka Yacht Club

*WHISPERS OVER THE WATER*

October 2006

## 2006 OFFICERS &

### DIRECTORS

**Commodore:**

Keith Mehl

**Vice Commodore:**

Robert Collins

**Treasurer:**

Steven Huntley

**Secretary:**

Lenore Cowan

**First-Year Director:**

David Agniel

**Second-Year Director:**

Robert Trail

**Past Commodore:**

Wayne McClain

## 2006 COMMITTEE

### CHAIRMEN

**Web Master:**

Richard Vangunten

**Historian:**

Marcia Vangunten

**Reservations:**

June Henley

**Rendezvous:**

Harry Gillean

**Sunshine:**

Andrea Gillean

**Membership:**

Marcia Vangunten

**Members' Nametags:**

Robert Collins

**Programs:**

Robert Trail

**Bar Keeper:**

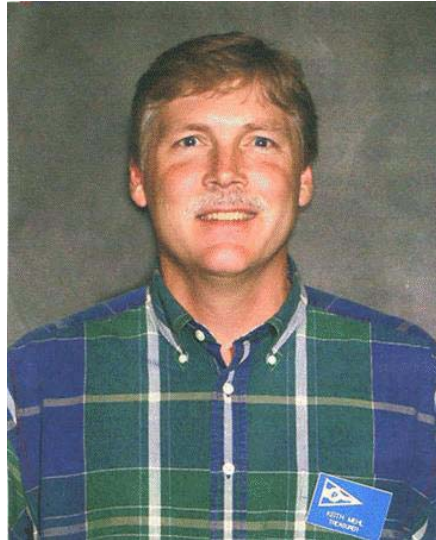
Jerry Hafner

**Editor & Publisher:**

Constantine Foltis

**Hospitality:**

Sherry Mehl



## Commodore's Corner

Don't look now, but summer is over and the holiday season is upon us. If you like the social scenes, then you are going to like the next few months at the club. The Hospitality Committee is planning and working hard to come up with events to go along with the rendezvous and to add to the calendar. In October we have the Oktoberfest, a dinner meeting, and a Halloween party. In November we have the Bull Creek rendezvous and our last dinner party for the year. Come December we have the Murphy's Island rendezvous, a Christmas party, and last but not least for the year, a New Years Eve party. That's a lot of activity in a short period of time.

I think that the Hospitality and Rendezvous Committees have done an outstanding job this year, and all members should thank the committee members when you have a chance. It's hard to come up with events that are appealing to all members of the club. At our next dinner meeting we will be passing out a survey to get ideas from members about future rendezvous and parties that would interest them. With this information we can plan for another exciting calendar at the Yacht Club next year. - Keith Mehl

## Coming Events

**October 25<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) - Dinner Meeting** - Onboard our floating clubhouse. Social hour will start at 6:00 PM, and dinner will be served at 7:00. The door committee for this evening will be Sherry Mehl & Don Straker. Helene Foltis will provide the gift basket for the evening's raffle. There is no special program planned, so there will be two social hours instead, with the second one after dinner during a discussion of club business. The names of candidates for the 2007 Board of Directors will be presented during this time. We will vote on them at the November meeting, along with any nominations from the floor. That meeting will be a week earlier than usual, to avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, October 20<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 October 20<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.

## Coming Events—Continued

**October 31<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday) - Halloween party** - Straighten out those bunny ears (Marcy), it's time for a Halloween Party at the Yacht Club. The Hospitality Committee is pleased to invite all members and their guests to celebrate All Hallow's Eve, Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> (of course), from 6-9 PM. Costumes are strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. Prizes will be presented for scariest, funniest, most creative, and best couple.

Sherry, Keith and Paddy Mehl will be your hosts for the evening. J&M will be catering. The food is being provided by a club member in exchange for donations given at the party to the Humane Society of Northeast Florida.

Volunteers are needed to help with decorations inside and out. Contact Sherry, Nancy, Marcy, Ella, Jeannine or Lenore if you would like to help. We will decorate the inside of the clubhouse on Monday evening, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, starting around 5:15, and then do the outside work on Tuesday morning. - Submitted by Sherry Mehl

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday) – Board of Directors meeting** - 5:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Please check with the Commodore if you plan to attend. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

**November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> (Saturday & Sunday) – Bull Creek Rendezvous** – Those going by boat should meet at the Palatka city dock/launching ramp area around 10:00 on Saturday morning, if convenient, for the ride in convoy through Dunns Creek, Crescent Lake, Dead Lake and into Bull Creek. For those going separately by boat, Dead Lake is at the southeast end of Crescent Lake, and Bull Creek is at the end of Dead Lake. If you plan to stay overnight, you must have a sleep-aboard boat or some other means of spending the night. There are no sleeping facilities at Bull Creek. On Saturday we will plan on a picnic lunch on the water or on the marina dock, and dinner at the marina restaurant. The Bull Creek Marina has a great restaurant, and some (including this writer) claim that its fare is fit for a king. As always, there will be cocktails and snacks on the dock prior to going into the restaurant for the evening meal. We will also eat breakfast at the restaurant on Sunday morning. In between eating and partying, we will explore Dead Lake and Haw Creek by boat sometime on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. This is a great rendezvous, and the club members that have participated in the past have thoroughly enjoyed it.

For those who wish to drive to Bull Creek on Saturday for social hour on the dock and a fabulous dinner in the restaurant, directions by land are as follows. Go south on SR 100 approximately 16-1/2 miles from San Mateo; turn right (south) on SR 305 for 3.9 miles; turn right on CR2006E; and travel to the end of the road, about 3.7 miles. This trip takes about 30 to 45 minutes from Memorial Bridge.

**November 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** - Dinner meeting at our floating clubhouse. Note: this date is the third Wednesday of the month, to avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday) - Christmas Light Parade** - The Rat Island Yacht Club has invited the Palatka Yacht Club to participate in this annual event at the city waterfront area. Those interested should contact RIYC Commodore Richard Ashley at 328-9387 evenings or weekends, and look for further details in the next newsletter.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sunday) - Murphys Island** – This is a one-day picnic to Murphys Island by boat (no other way to get there). Some of us will walk a trail to the other side of the island, and we will circumnavigate the island by boat.

**December 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - Christmas party** – Details to be in the November and December newsletters.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>/January 1<sup>st</sup> (Sunday/Monday) - New Year's events** – Details to be in the December newsletter.

## Coming Events - Continued

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (Friday) - Pre-Mug-Race Party** - The Rat Island Yacht Club is considering hosting a pre-Mug-Race party for the racing sailors at the city waterfront on the evening before the race, and they are inviting the Palatka Yacht Club to be co-hosts. No details are available at present, however. Call Richard Ashley at the above number for more information.

## Past Events

**September 14<sup>th</sup> - Non-Club Event - Meeting of the St. Johns River Waterways Committee** - Between 25 and 30 people attended this meeting, chaired by Putnam County Commission Chairman Nancy Harris. The committee usually meets at the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce in Palatka, with about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> this number in attendance. Everyone at this meeting was impressed with our clubhouse, including Putnam County Supervisor and former PYC member Rick Leary, and Kurt Peterson, CEO of Atlas Hovercraft, Inc., of Green Cove Springs. His company plans to develop this type of high-speed water transport operation on the St. Johns River and in other areas around the nation. They were recently written up in the Palatka Daily News.



**September 15<sup>th</sup> - Cards and Games Night** - Bob Collins and Nancy hosted what was intend to be a game night at the clubhouse but turned out to be a great social time instead. Only eleven people attended: Keith Mehl, Gene and Jeannine O'Connor, Guion and Ella Lindsey, Bob Collins and Nancy Larrison, David and Linda Girardin, and Richard and June Harmon. June is Linda Girardin's sister. The Girardins and the Harmons came by boat. The get-together started with everyone gathered on the upper deck, socializing and enjoying cocktails. It was so pleasant that they spent the whole evening there, and no one made it down to the main deck for the card games. - Submitted by David Girardin and Keith Mehl

**Dinner meeting - September 27<sup>th</sup>** - We had 55 paid members and guests at this meeting, plus complimentary speaker Steve Miller, Director, Division of Land Management, St. Johns River Water Management District. Bar donations before and during dinner were \$173. Our caterers served a delicious buffet of fried chicken, barbecued pork, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls and butter, two kinds of cake desserts, and iced tea. The raffle bought in \$97 to the club. Steve Miller was asked to select the winning ticket, and Jim and Carol McDonald, guests of Dick and Sandie Dickens, won the basket that Sandie had prepared. Treasurer Steve Huntley filled us in on the club's finances with highlights of his monthly treasurer's report. Anyone wishing further details on this should contact Steve at 904-692-2952 or [protopterus@earthlink.net](mailto:protopterus@earthlink.net). Commodore Keith Mehl welcomed our newest members into the club, Michael Heeb and his wife Karen Sagett. Mike and Karen live in Welaka, and their telephone number is 386-467-7156. They can also be reached at [mhonriver@gbso.net](mailto:mhonriver@gbso.net) (Mike) or [ksonriver@gbso.net](mailto:ksonriver@gbso.net) (Karen).



## September 27th Dinner Meeting - Continued

In his presentation, Steve Miller gave a very interesting overview of how the SJRWMD manages its properties, which vary from floodlands in the north to wetlands in the south. He illustrated his talk with slides that covered many of his division's activities, such as controlled burning in certain areas and restricting or monitoring public access in other areas.

## September 29<sup>th</sup> - Non-Club Event - Palatka High School Class Reunion

The Palatka High School Class of '46 held their 60<sup>th</sup>-year reunion onboard our floating clubhouse on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Gene O'Connor was a member of this class, and when the organizer of the reunion asked if he knew of any meeting room that could be used, he thought this would be a great time to show off our new facility. None of these citizens that grew up in the Palatka area even knew the Club existed. All thought the clubhouse was well done and an asset to the community. Even the local alligator cooperated, swimming by at sundown for everyone to see. We did not charge this group for their use of the clubhouse, but afterward they contributed \$150 to the Club as a gesture of thanks.



- Submitted by Jeannine O'Connor

**Board of Directors Meeting - October 5<sup>th</sup>** - Secretary Lenore Cowan read the minutes of the last BOD meeting, and they were approved. Commodore Richard Ashley of the Rat Island Yacht Club attended our meeting and invited us to participate in the Christmas Light Parade and Pre-Mug-Race party mentioned above. Steve Huntley read highlights of the monthly treasurer's report, which he will repeat at the upcoming dinner meeting, so they will not be discussed here. Marcy Vangunten passed out the latest membership list, which with the addition of our newest members, Mike Heeb and Karen Sagett, brings our membership to 101. Keith Mehl mentioned that the Girardins have reserved the PYC tent for Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Past Commodore Wayne McClain distributed the list of candidates for the 2007 Board of directors. They are:

Commodore: ..... Bob Collins  
Vice Commodore: ..... Clark Hoyle  
Treasurer: ..... Steve Huntley  
Secretary: ..... Sandie Dickens  
First Year Director: ..... Linda Girardin  
Second Year Director: ... David Agniel

There was much discussion about plans and proposals for improvements to the clubhouse. Subjects covered were: (a) how to save electricity – discussion included use of a dehumidifier in place of the A/C running continuously when no one is aboard; (b) installing our own electric meter; (c) how to light the step off the end of the gangway at night; (d) building a new dock to replace the one that was originally at the east end of the property - no permitting necessary if it is the same size and location as the original - Steve Huntley has designed and priced it out; (e) floating dock – deferred; (f) upper deck canopy – deferred; (g) clubhouse rental – our insurers provided Keith Mehl with information to help us legally and safely rent out the clubhouse for non-club functions, and Wayne McClain has gathered examples of rental policies as used by other yacht clubs; (h) financing – deferred; (i) perpetual trophy – deferred; (j) chafing guards - Steve Huntley was authorized to purchase and install boards of ultra-high molecular-weight polyethylene on the hull gunwale plate in way of the mooring pilings (red colored to match the gunwale). This combination of slippery surfaces should make the mooring system maintenance free for a long time.

Many additional medium and low-priority items, and a few of high priority, still remain on the clubhouse "to do" list. Some have been started, but most have not. These projects are: (1) make pilot house a safe storage area; (2) obtain/install fire extinguishers; (3) complete mooring – replace broken piling and prepare storm lines;

## Board of Directors Meeting - October 5th - Continued

(4) evaluate acoustical needs; (5) design/build trophy case/album storage; (6) storage space in both bathrooms; (7) clean outside of barge; (8) strengthen upper deck railing; (9) repaint outside fore and aft stairs; (10) obtain and install solid ballast in stern; (11) paint lower deck railings; (12) repaint upper deck; (13) repair storm damage, starboard aft corner, upper deck; (14) additional landscaping; (15) evaluate lower deck air conditioning issues; (16) galley redesign/buildout (incl. stairs & dumbwaiter to lower hold); (17) design/build adjacent area on main deck; (18) hang wall art; (19) reverse exterior door swings; (20) repaint/touch up blue hull; (21) install registration numbers/decals; (22) provide easy method to fill buckets for cleaning; (23) label all light and power outlets. Anyone interested in helping out with any of these projects, please contact Facilities Chairman Bob Collins at 325-5362, or e-mail him at [nrlrec@bellsouth.net](mailto:nrlrec@bellsouth.net).

**October 8<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) - Oktoberfest at the Gilleans'** - Approximately 50 members and guests came to Harry and Andrea Gillean's for their great annual fall party. Strangely enough, on this perfect Chamber of Commerce day, no one came by boat; everyone drove. We all sat out on the lawn overlooking the river and enjoyed socializing and savored the pleasant air and the wonderful meal. The Gilleans' main course of smoked turkey, pork and bratwurst was, as usual, out of this world, as were the many selections of hors d'oeuvres, vegetables and desserts brought by the guests. This writer was faced with a Catch 22 challenge to try a bit of everything that was set out to eat, but he did not succeed. Many others, if not everyone present, probably had the same experience. Thank you again, Harry, Andrea, Clay and Heather, for a wonderful party.



## Miscellany

**Erika Heine Illness** - Former PYC commodore Erika Heine suffered a stroke on September 12<sup>th</sup>, about a month ago, but she has now completely recovered and has no ill effects from the ordeal. On that day, she was away from

## Erika's Illness - Continued

her Sky Valley GA summer home when she suddenly found she had difficulty speaking and using her left hand. Knowing something was wrong, she drove home to Hans, who immediately took her to the local hospital. There she was treated with a fairly new medication, which in most cases can reverse the effects of a stroke if given on time. It has to be administered within three hours to be effective, and Erika's treatment fell within that window. Then she went by ambulance to a larger hospital in Asheville NC, where she was monitored for three days as the partial paralysis wore off, then discharged completely cured. The Heines arrived back in Welaka on October 8<sup>th</sup>, but arrived too late to make it to Oktoberfest. Let's all wish them both continued good health.

Some of you may remember that actor Kirk Douglas had a similar stroke affecting his speech some years ago. The above-mentioned medication may not have been available then, and he has had a long and only partial recovery. His speech remains impaired, a serious handicap for an actor.

**Clubhouse Update** - Terry Geck donated and installed a concrete sidewalk along the east end of the property to the boarding ramp. Thank you, Terry. Other improvements to the clubhouse that are planned or underway were discussed at the October 5 Board of Directors meeting and are described under that subject.

**Nautical Origins of Common Expressions - "Above Board"** - Anything on or above the open deck of a ship and in plain view is **above board** (meaning above the boards of the wooden deck). Figuratively, any activity that it is done openly, without attempt at concealment, is **above board**.



## Announcements

**Boat U.S. Membership** - Our club members are entitled to BoatUS membership while paying half-price dues. Our cost: \$12.50. Contact Lenore Cowan at 904-692-2799 or [cowan@gbso.net](mailto:cowan@gbso.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 Keith Mehl at 386-326-1607 or [mehl@gbso.net](mailto:mehl@gbso.net) for details.

**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.

**Newsletter Input** - To write an article for the PYC monthly newsletter, or to place an advertisement or digital photograph in it, contact newsletter editor Connie Foltis at 328-6783 or [cfoltis@bellsouth.net](mailto:cfoltis@bellsouth.net). Entries must be received by the end of the first week of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

**PYC Photo Album** - Marcy Vangunten is assembling a club photo album and is looking for new additions, such as pictures from various rendezvous and other get-togethers, recent construction progress on the clubhouse, etc. E-mail them to Dick at [van@gbso.net](mailto:van@gbso.net) or mail prints postcard size or smaller.

**Advertising Committee** - The club is looking for a volunteer to form a committee of one to look for individuals or businesses to sell advertising space in our directory and/or newsletter. Individual members' newsletter ads would continue to be at no cost. Anyone who is interested, please contact Wayne McClain at 386-325-5910 or [wmcclain@putnamstatebank.net](mailto:wmcclain@putnamstatebank.net). This would be one way for newer members to become more involved with the club's activities.

**PYC Web Site** - <http://palatkayachtclub.org/> or [www.palatkayachtclub.org](http://www.palatkayachtclub.org)