

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

October 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:

Clark Hoyle

PR & Communications:

Constantine Foltis

Fund raising:

Erika Heine

Membership Growth:

Clark Hoyle

Programs:

Robert Trail - dinner
meetings

Sara Szczes - weekend
events

David Girardin - boating
events

Facilities:

Keith Cheshire

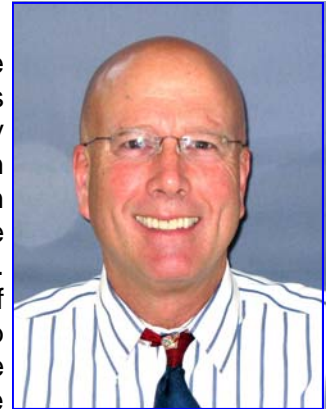
Improvements:

David Agniel

Gene O'Connor

Commodore's Corner..... by Clark Hoyle

It seems that I just finished writing my comments for the September newsletter and find the October newsletter is beckoning at the door. Or maybe it is just that time steadfastly continues while we catch a breath – or maybe I just need to run faster? I am pleased that we continue to make progress on needed maintenance and improvements that should make the clubhouse more appealing in addition to enhancing its use. There is an immense amount of pleasure when, after a bit of physical effort working on the clubhouse, one sits on the top deck enjoying food fresh from the grill, cool refreshments in the shade while needlessly viewing ones private journey on the water. Ah – what a life!



Our September dinner was enhanced by the number of members and guests that showed up, arriving by boat and auto. Now that we have a handrail from the dock to the deck, I hope more members will take advantage of our dockage for dinner meetings and other activities. We look forward to the October dinner meeting and the return of many members from cooler climates north of the clubhouse. Hopefully we will see our member participation in the many upcoming activities leading up to the Commodore's Ball in December.

The October Board meeting discussed several important topics. Membership dues will stay the same for 2008, although we are behind in our plan of recruiting new members. It is hoped that fund raisers, participation in the Azalea Festival and other activities will drive more interest from potential members and add to the treasury.

We are in the final efforts of policies for member use of the club house "at any time", membership rental and guest rental of the clubhouse. A brief overview of each follows:

Membership Use

Any member who may want to visit the clubhouse by boat (or land) to bring guests to see, cook some food on the grill on the top deck, enjoy something from the bar, should be able to do so. This is a good way to encourage the use of the clubhouse and expose our club to potential new members. Keys will be provided to those members who have such interest. Sign-in (and out) sheets will be provided with how to start up and shut down the clubhouse utilities. This use is for drop-by use – not a party or function.

Clubhouse Rental

The club can be made available to members for a function or party at a highly discounted fee for a period of 4-hours and 8-hours. Also, non-members can also rent the club house for an event or party for a 4-hour or 8-hour rate. Facilities Reservation Policies and Procedures and Clubhouse Rental Application forms are ready for use. Other polices are in the final stages of development.

I look forward to seeing each of you in the final 2 months of the year. The Boat Outing to 3 Bananas is a great short trip. My boat is full with 6, and others are filling seats – this is a worthwhile trip by boat – weather permitting. Make sure you mark your calendar for each of the upcoming dinners and events culminating in the Commodore's Ball.

Improvements Committee Report by David Agniel

Some of the tasks scheduled for the September 15th work party had to be deferred because too few volunteers responded. Nevertheless, in the four hours allotted on that day we were able to: (1) prep and paint the top deck fascia, (2) paint the railing post caps, (3) install a banister for the galley stairwell, (4) run some electric conduit in the lower hold, and (5) set up a permanent gas grill on the top deck (thanks to Keith Cheshire for this generous donation of the grill). After that we enjoyed some succulent grilled burgers, libations and good fellowship. Thanks go to the following loyal members who continually come to help: Karen Blankenship, Keith Cheshire, Guion Lindsay, Connie Foltis and Clark Hoyle. Of course I'm always there on these occasions, also. Later, we installed handrails on the floating dock stairs in time for the 9/27 dinner meeting, to facilitate access for those coming by boat.

After all that, we decided to give all you good folks a break who come out and work on the clubhouse, so we cancelled the October work party. We will be back on track in November, however. As a home needs constant care and upkeep, so too does our clubhouse. We have come a long way this year in catching up on maintenance and even made some remarkable improvements. One of the results of all this progress are some exciting ideas being discussed to make the clubhouse more available to all members and their guests for casual gatherings, as Commodore Hoyle outlined above.



Clark scraping fascia



Guion painting railcaps

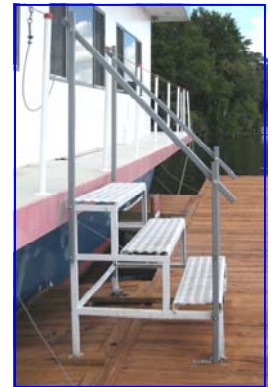
Coming Events

October 13th (Saturday) - 1st Annual Palatka Chowder Debate - *Postponed until further notice.* Contact Sara Szczes at 325-1478 or Lhether3@aol.com for more information.

October 25th (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 **Keith and Sherry Mehl.**



Karen preparing burger "fixins"



Dock stair handrails

Cecile Langston, Commander of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-9 D7 that conducted the recent boating safety class at the clubhouse, plans to attend the meeting and will present Certificates of Completion to the 11 people who took the test given at the end of the class session. She will also talk about that class and announce a date for the next class next spring.

The names of candidates for the 2008 PYC officers and Board of Directors will be presented at this meeting. There will **not** be a regular November dinner meeting, therefore we will vote on these candidates at the November 17th Oyster and Shrimp Bash, along with any nominations from the floor (or the deck in this case). See more details in the description of that event below.

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 19th. 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 19th, 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, telephone your caller before you go and advise him or her of your plans, whether or not you plan to return in time to attend the meeting, or if you plan on being away for a long time. 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—contiued

November 1st (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - 6:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

November 4th (Sunday) - Lunch at 3 Bananas via Dunns Creek and Crescent Lake

Those going by boat shall meet at the clubhouse at 10:30 AM, then travel north in convoy a short distance to Dunns Creek and then into Crescent Lake. Monitor channel 68 before the start and while traveling to keep in touch, and fly your PYC burgee. The 3 Bananas is a waterfront restaurant in Crescent City with a large dock on the lake. We plan on eating at about noon, and we will need an approximate headcount by the preceding Friday (November 2nd) so the restaurant staff can arrange that we all sit together. **Bring cash.** 3 Bananas does not accept credit cards. After lunch we may end up boating a bit around the lake before heading home, depending on the sea conditions in the lake.

By car, take Rt. 17 to the traffic light in Crescent City and turn east toward the lake. The restaurant is the last building on the right facing the lake.

November 10th (Saturday) 9:00 AM -1:00 PM: Clubhouse Maintenance - Need some people to come out and do a number of necessary chores: (1) we want to wash down the main deckhouse bulkhead (outer walls of the main deck) all around so they can be painted; (2) we also have a couple of additional simple painting tasks that anyone can do; (3) we can use some help to move forward on our conduit hanging and below-decks cleaning & flooring projects. Contact David Agniel at 649-9075 or dobbyb@bellsouth.net if you are interested in helping.

November 10th (Saturday) - Las Vegas night - Fund raising at clubhouse - Note the change of date from the original activities calendar. Details are not yet finalized, so watch for a special e-mail bulletin later. Those members without e-mail, contact Erika Heine at 386-467-2484 for more information.

November 17th (Saturday) - Oyster Roast and Shrimp Bash - 2:00 PM at our floating clubhouse, for members and guests only. The price is \$15 per person. This gathering will take the place of a November dinner meeting and will be early enough in the month to avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday. Please be prompt, because we will be taking care of club business before the festivities start, including voting on the candidates for the 2008 officers and Board of Directors that were proposed at the October dinner meeting, along with any nominations from the floor. Apalachicola oysters will be roasted over oakwood coals, shrimp will be roasted on the grill, and vegetable and cheese platters will be provided. The PYC bar will be open as usual. Contact Clark Hoyle at 649-6795 or clarkhoyle@mindspring.com for more information.

There is a sign-up sheet in the clubhouse, and all members who plan to attend are urged to make their reservations by this means ASAP. Include the number and names of your guests, if any. We would like as much advance notice as possible, so as to reserve the right amount of oysters and shrimp. **Reservation sign-up closes on October 31st.** Same rules for reservations apply as for regular Thursday evening dinner meetings. Call June Henley at 325-7016 by October 31st for any additions or cancellations.

December 1st (Saturday) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM - Clubhouse Maintenance and Commodore's Ball Decoration Party - Check with David Agniel for maintenance (649-9075 or dobbyb@bellsouth.net) or Clark Hoyle for decorating (649-6795 or clarkhoyle@mindspring.com) if you can assist in either of these projects.

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

December 8th (Saturday) - Commodore's Ball at the Clubhouse, 7:30 to 10:30 PM - Look for details in the November newsletter and/or in a special bulletin.

Past Events

Work Party - September 15th – See Improvements Committee Report above.

Seven Sisters Raft-up - September 22nd & 23rd by *David & Linda Girardin*

It was sort of like deja vu as we pulled in behind the southern-most island of 7-Sisters, because the two of us had spent the previous weekend in that same anchorage with David's two brothers and their wives on one of Len Freeman's houseboats. However, on that trip, we watched a couple catch a 12-foot alligator right where we planned to spend the following Saturday night. They caught the gator first on an 8-pound test line and worked up from there until they got the monster up to boat, to use a power head on it. Later we had the couple come over to talk to us about the catch and take some close-ups of the gator. When we got home, David sent the couple, Ben and Louann Williams, about 80 pictures that he and his two brothers had taken of the battle.



Back to the club rendezvous story: On our way to the clubhouse Saturday morning, the official start of the outing, we spotted a yellow pontoon in the river and stopped to check it out. As we pulled up to the pontoon Ernie Grace came out in his boat, also to check what it was. We originally thought it was a capsized kayak and that someone may be around it in trouble. When we got to it, we found it to be a pontoon off of a *seacycle*. We emptied the water out of it and took it to the clubhouse for the garbage man to haul away.



When we arrived at the clubhouse at 10:00, we found it deserted. Clay and Heather Gillean arrived about 10:15. We waited around another 10 minutes without anyone else showing up, so we headed for 7-Sisters and our usual anchorage. About 12:30 PM, David Agniel and Robbie showed up in their pontoon boat to join us for lunch. About 2:00 o'clock Clark Hoyle showed up in his boat with two guests and extra beverages. The 9 of us enjoyed each other's company, with most of us cooling off in the water. David and Robbie and Clark left about 5:00 o'clock. About a half-hour later, Ernie and Brenda Ricard arrived on their Mainship to spend the night. The food was great as always when we do covered dishes, and we spent a lot of time in the water swimming. We had cocktails on the fantail of Ernie and Brenda's boat and talked and looked at the stars. The weather was great, with no rain and great puffy clouds around us. Everyone marveled at how peaceful the anchorage was and just seemed to blend into the world around us.



We had a great time, as we generally do, and really enjoyed the peace and quiet in the backwaters. We did not see but about five boats the entire time we were there, and everyone had a great time relaxing and talking.

We only saw one alligator, and even though he looked to be the brother of the one taken there the previous weekend, he swam off away from us.



Dinner Meeting - September 27th - We enjoyed the usual convivial social hour, then buckled down to our delicious dinner of chicken and beef fajitas with all the "fixins", along with yellow rice and black beans. To finish off there was apple pie, three kinds of cake and iced tea. After dinner there were some announcements of upcoming events and the 50-50 drawing. Dolores Grace won the drawing, taking home \$36 of the \$72 collected.

Steve Huntley presented a talk on the subject: "Burial at Sea - Variations on a Viking Funeral". He touched on that popular aspect of history, where Viking chiefs' remains were sent to sea in their flaming longships, but he noted that this was not always done. Some chiefs were buried in the ground in their ships instead, to the benefit of modern science. Archeologists have been able to recover and restore some of those buried longships, and they can be seen in Scandinavian museums today. The practice of burial at sea had been widely used in maritime cultures since ancient times and is still being done today. In the United States at least, there are many regulatory

requirements and limitations involved. Steve's talk outlined these complicated requirements.

In a recent variation of a traditional Viking burial at sea, the cremated remains of a friend and sailing companion of one of our club members was placed in a model sailboat, which was then set on fire and launched across the St. Johns River under sail.

Board of Directors Meeting - October 4th - A number of topics were covered at this meeting, some of which are touched upon in "Commodore's Corner" above.

- (1) A search is still on for new blood on the Board of directors. Anyone interested should contact Immediate Past Commodore Keith Mehl at 326-1607 or mehl@gbso.net.
- (2) Clubhouse improvements - (a) Steve Huntley is working to improve the gangway landing and hinge; (b) floating dock stair handrails need refinement; (c) the exterior of the steel deckhouse bulkhead needs to be scrubbed all around and repainted with white oil-base paint.
- (3) Clark Hoyle needs help setting up the November 17th Oyster and Shrimp roast. Starting time is at 2:00 o'clock, so as many members who can show up at 1:00 will help make the event start out smoothly.
- (4) The Clubhouse must be decorated for the Commodore's ball on December 8th. This will coincide with the Christmas season decorating and will be done on December 1st, in conjunction with the December work party.
- (5) The events suggested for next year were discussed, with no decisions made.
- (6) Clark Hoyle has had the requirements for renting out the clubhouse worked out with an attorney. Anyone interested should call Clark for more details.
- (7) A plan was discussed about members having access to the clubhouse at any time. Clark will explain this further at the dinner meeting.
- (8) The clubhouse TV satellite service will expire in two months and will not be renewed. This service has not been used and is a waste of money that had all been donated.

14th Annual Oktoberfest at the Gilleans' - October 7th – The Gilleans have done it again. Harry, Andrea, Clay, Heather and Keith outdid themselves with another great Oktoberfest. In anticipation of more rain, they had set up the PYC tent on the front lawn, but the sun came out shortly after noon and produced a beautiful afternoon. Around 55 people came and enjoyed themselves, including returning members Rogers and Gail Hart and former members Herb and Genevieve Miller and Dick and Linda Schauland. Dick and Linda are near the end of a long recuperation from a serious motorcycle accident incurred while they were traveling out of state. Linda had just come off a walker and was using a cane at the party. Dick had originally been told she would not walk again. Rogers is on the road to recovery from his latest illnesses, and he appeared frail but in good spirits.



Oktoberfest—continued

There was the Gilleans' standard feast of great hors d'oeuvres, smoked pork and bratwurst, augmented by delicious side dishes and desserts brought by the guests. After everyone had eaten, two non-club members entertained the group singing lively country songs and accompanying themselves with guitars. The Gilleans' dog Hoover joined in the music part of the time. All in all, it was a very enjoyable afternoon. Thank you again, Harry and Andrea.

Miscellany

Roster Information Changes - The following are new e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers and supersede those shown in the current club roster. Please make the appropriate changes in your handbooks and other records.

E-mail ... Ray & Lana Bunton:..... lanaray@hotmail.com

Len and Linda Freeman: .. lfreeman49@comcast.net; or: len@goodearth.us

Steve Huntley:protopterus@peoplepc.com

Ernie and Brenda Ricard:...bricard_se1@comcast.net

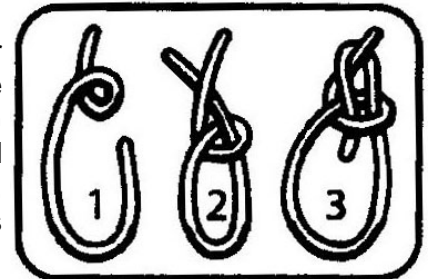
Cell phone ... Keith Cheshire: 386-972-1858

LaVerne Cheshire:386-972-1859

Bob & Freda Solomon are in their summer home in Sky Valley, GA, at present and will be there until the end of October. The telephone number is 706-746-2719. Their mail is being forwarded.

All members, please check your roster information in the 2007 PYC handbook and report any changes to club secretary Karen Blankenship and/or editor Connie Foltis, so that our records can be kept current and everyone receives their newsletters and other communications on time. Add any alternate summer addresses and telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses, boat descriptions, etc, that are not currently listed.

Knotsmanship - Bowline - This knot had already been shown in an earlier newsletter, but that writeup did not show or explain how to tie it. The bowline is one of the most important knots used in boating, yet even after the recent USCG Auxiliary knot-tying demonstration and practice session, some of the attendees had trouble tying one. Since then, we found a series of diagrams showing how it is tied, and they are reproduced here. For these reasons, the bowline description is repeated.



Nautical Origins of Some Common Expressions - “Let the Cat out of the Bag” - In the days of sail in the Royal Navy, the punishment prescribed for most serious crimes was flogging. This was administered by the Bosun's Mate, using a whip called a cat o'nine tails. The “cat” was kept in a leather or baize bag, and it was considered bad news indeed when the “cat” was let out of the bag. Other sources attribute the expression to the old English market scam of selling someone a pig in a poke (bag), when the supposed pig later turned out to be a cat instead.

Navigation Tips *Compliments of the trailersailor.com forum:*

You can download all NOAA up-to-date navigation charts free from this source:

<http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/mcd/enc/download.htm>

Download a free laptop navigation software, SeaClear, from:

<http://www.seaclear.net/>

All you need is a gps to plug into the laptop. <http://tinyurl.com/3e5equ>

Miscellany—continued

Humane Society Fund Drive - The Humane Society of Northeast Florida is currently selling 2008 calendars and has scheduled an auction, both to raise funds. The Palatka Yacht Club is well represented on the Board for the Humane Society of Northeast Florida, and we are featured on the December 2008 page of their calendar. PYC member Carl Beck is the current President, and John Browning, a PYC member, is also a Board member. The calendars sell for \$5 each and could raise \$25,000 for the charity if all are sold. They are available at the Humane Society Thrift Shop behind Antonio's Pizzeria (across the parking lot from Sears), AND Sherry Mehl will make sure there are some available at the next dinner meeting. Keith had already sold some at the last dinner meeting.

The Auction fundraiser will be held on Friday night, November 16th, at the Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) on the river next to the bridge in Palatka. There will be a silent auction from 5:00 to 7:00 PM followed by a live auction starting at 7:00. PYC member Len Freeman will be the live auctioneer, and Carl Beck will be one of the bid "facilitators", along with County Commissioner Hermon Somers. If people want to make donations of "gently used" items or artwork, gift certificates, etc., they can drop them off at the Thrift Shop or at the Humane Society Shelter in Hollister. At either location, the donors need to make sure they designate that the items are for the auction. This is the kind of community involvement that we should take pride in and encourage.

Announcements

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@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 Clark Hoyle at 386-649-6795 or clarkhoyle@midspring.com. The tent is stored 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 by e-mail as pdf files. This would lessen the cost and labor of printing and mailing paper copies every month. Also, if you have changed or are planning to change your e-mail address, please advise Membership Chairman Karen Blankenship at kdb@bellsouth.net so that our club files may remain current.

To write an article for the newsletter (including a brief 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