

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

October 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:

David & Linda Girardin

Communications:

Constantine Foltis

Dinner planning

Dorothy McAfee &
Karen Blankenship

Dinner meeting Programs:

Robert Trail

Facilities:

LaVerne Cheshire

Fund raising:

Improvements &
Maintenance:

Membership Growth:

Membership programs:

PR:

Special Events:

Coming Events

October 12th (Sunday) – Oktoberfest at the Clubhouse - Arrive at 1:00 PM & eat at 3:00. This event will be the same as similar past get-togethers at Harry and Andrea Gillean's home, except that it will be at our clubhouse. Harry will prepare the meats as usual in Oktoberfest style, but this time the club will provide them, and there will be a \$5.00 charge per person to cover the club's costs. Members are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres, side dishes or desserts to round out the meal.

This will be a special occasion, as we have invited the Palatka city commissioners and other city officials to attend, as guests of the club. Please make every effort to attend and help show off our beautiful clubhouse. Come by boat if possible.

The Las Vegas casino night is coming up soon, November 1st. Karen Blankenship will have tickets with her at the clubhouse at this event and also at the work detail the day before, October 11th.

October 23rd (Thursday) – Dinner meeting at the clubhouse - Aboard our floating clubhouse at Browns Landing. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM, and dinner starts at 7:00 o'clock. This will be another potluck dinner, where the club provides the main entrée, and attendees bring hors d'oeuvres, side dishes and desserts. There will be a \$5.00 charge per person, to cover the club's costs. See the discussion on this subject below in notes of the impromptu Sept. 21st Board of Directors meeting. The door committee will be LaVerne and Keith Cheshire. No reservations are necessary, but the traditional calling committees will resume polling the membership to remind everyone about this meeting and to give the main entrée preparers an idea of how many are expected.

October 25-26 (Saturday-Sunday) - Blue Angels Air Show off NAS - Meet at an anchorage off NAS Jax in the St. Johns River for an air show that begins around 11:00 AM. The Blue Angels are scheduled to start their spectacular performance around 3:00. Clay and Heather Gillean will be at the anchorage around 10:00 to hold a good spot. Look for them in their white Proline 21-ft "Reel Offroader". Anyone wanting to trailer up and launch in the area, contact Clay at 904-268-3235 or chg1100@bellsouth.net for local ramp information and any last-minute updates. After the show, raft up for the night somewhere off NAS Jax in an area appropriate for the weather conditions, or travel home. The group will decide at the time on the best offshore anchorage for the raft-up.

November 1st (Saturday) - Las Vegas Night at the Clubhouse - There is a total of 80 tickets for this event available now, to be advertised area wide, first come-first served. Each ticket costs \$10 and buys \$300 in play money to be used for gambling from 7:00 to 9:00 PM and for the gifts to be auctioned off after 9:00. Some gifts have already been donated, but more are requested. Volunteers are needed to man the gambling tables, tend bar and do other miscellaneous duties required. Anyone interested, please contact Erika Heine 467-2484 or hansheine@bellsouth.net Karen Blankenship (328-3887 or kdb@bellsouth.net).

November 16th (Sunday) - Oyster and Shrimp Roast at the Clubhouse - 2:00 PM - Note date change from the original schedule of November 15th. The club will provide the oysters, shrimp, various kinds of chowder and everything else to round out the meal. Shrimp and oysters are expensive, so there will be a \$15 charge per person for this event. This event will take the place of a November dinner meeting and will be early enough in the

Oyster and Shrimp Roast - continued

month to avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday. Be prompt, because we will be taking care of club business before the festivities start. This will be to vote on the candidates for the 2009 officers and Board of Directors that were proposed at the October meeting, along with any nominations from the floor (or from the deck in this case).

December 6th (Saturday) – Christmas party at the clubhouse. Heavy appetizers will be served, at an \$8.00 charge to cover the club's costs. Dinner attire requested. More details later. Please make your reservations and pay for the Christmas party at the November Oyster and Shrimp Roast. If you do not attend that event but wish to attend the Christmas party, call Dorothy McAfee at 328-2103 and mail your payment to her at 101 Pine Street, Satsuma, Florida 32189. The committee does not wish to be handling money at the door at this party.

December 13-14 – Saturday-Sunday- St. Augustine Marina – Cancelled. See discussion following.

Past Events

Seven Sisters Raft Up, September 13-14, 2008 by Linda and David Girardin

As has been customary for many recent boating activities, the turnout for this event was paltry. Four boats started, but only three stayed for the day, and no one stayed overnight. The Girardins had decided to start off by assisting Gail Hart in getting "Hart's Desire" to the appointed rendezvous spot. They traveled upriver in "Gator Bait" to Acosta Creek Marina, where Gail moors her boat. David hopped onboard with Gail to assist her in maneuvering the boat, while Linda stayed on her boat and escorted "Harts Desire" downstream until it was time for her to meet interested individuals at the clubhouse.

Prior to reaching the clubhouse, Linda received a call from David stating that he was going to tie Gail's boat up at Hoyle's dock, because Gail was not feeling well, and it was hot during the trip. Now that we were off the original plan for the raft-up, we started making all kinds of alternative plans - enhancing our skills in the art of flexibility.

Meanwhile, Gene O'Connor was at the club house in his Panga, waiting for others to show up. No one did, so about 1320 hours he headed to the Hoyle's dock to assist in whatever needed to be accomplished. In the meantime, Gemma drove Gail to meet her daughter, who took her to the hospital. David then took Gail's boat back to Acosta Creek Marina to remove it, assisted by Don Lockhart, a friend of the Girardins who lives on board his boat at the marina. It turned out later that Gail had only a mild case of heat exhaustion and dehydration.



Anchorage at 7 Sisters

Now we had the Panga, "Gator Bait," and soon Hoyle's boat "Triple Play", en route to the raft-up location. The Girardins dropped anchor, and the other boats rafted up. Cooling off in the tannic waters ensued, leaving someone on board to spot for curious alligators. The usual banter for a raft-up continued along the swamps, which were just beginning to turn into fall Florida colors. More serious discussions also took place about the future of the club and its offerings for members, but these subjects will be covered elsewhere.



Clark and Gemma in Triple Play

At about 1700 hours, we all picked up anchor and headed to our respective homes. The Girardins had been prepared to spend the night anchored up near "Harts Desire" but decided not to spend the night out by themselves, as they had already crammed too many activities into too short a time period.



Keith Cheshire

Last paragraph by Keith Cheshire Although there was no sleepover Saturday night due to the small number of participants, activities did continue on Sunday at the Red Neck Riviera! Your Commodore Keith, his lovely wife LaVerne, and members Brenda and Ernie Ricard, June Summers (and guest - husband Larry) arrived at the sandbar about 11:30 am to join the fun. Although there



Ernie Ricard

7 Sisters Raft-up - continued

were no other PYC members in attendance, there was a lively crowd on the sandbar. With the Ricards' "*Rock-N-Chair*" as an anchor/party boat, the group had a lively afternoon out there. A great time was had by all ----- except that Commodore Keith and LaVerne had overestimated their sun capacity and have been paying for it! It was "RED LOBSTER" time at the Cheshire house that evening, bring on the lotions!

Board of Directors Meeting, September 21st - This was an impromptu meeting called on a Sunday, to discuss important affairs concerning the club, a date picked when both commodore and vice commodore were in town. The meeting started off with everyone wading through 6" or 8" of water over the low part of the sidewalk to get to the gangway, an aftermath of storm water runoff that hadn't yet all run off. Subjects discussed were as follows:

1. Steve read a summary of the treasurer's report, which showed we are in good financial shape for the present, but we need new members to avoid going into the red in the future.
2. The calling committees will resume calling about dinner meeting attendance, beginning with the October dinner meeting. The partial pot-luck arrangement will continue indefinitely, or at least until we have enough attendance to merit the use of a caterer (they all charge for a minimum of 50). Bringing a covered dish is not mandatory to attend these dinners.
3. Oktoberfest – discussed above.
4. Three Bananas trip – discussed above.
5. Format of future meetings – Should we continue with our regular dinner meetings, mixing club business and social events, or only have weekend social events and the minimum of business meetings during the year.
6. Invite Palatka city officials to Oktoberfest - discussed above.
7. Need to set up work parties for clubhouse and grounds maintenance.

Dinner Meeting, September 25th - Twenty-nine people made it to this meeting, including guest speaker Ben Briery and his wife Sue. That was more attendance than expected, because of the extra-high water in the river. The early arrivals had to wade through low spots on the sidewalk and came into the clubhouse barefoot. The tide was ebbing, so later arrivals did not have that problem, but everyone had to walk in mushy saturated ground getting out of their cars. Hopefully all the remaining storm water will have soaked down to the aquifer or run off into the ocean by the next event at the clubhouse. Dinner this evening was partly pot luck, where the club provided the entrée of roast beef, and the attendees brought everything else. In Commodore Cheshire's absence, Vice Commodore Gail Hart presided and brought up some items for discussion:

1. Should we change the day of the monthly dinner meetings? If so, what day? The membership can think about this over the next few weeks and discuss it further and vote at the next meeting.
- 2..Should the club confine its business to three dinner meetings a year (October, November & January), and the remaining monthly dinners be purely social affairs? Discuss and vote at the next meeting.



Vice Commodore Gail Hart

September 25th Dinner meeting - continued

Dorothy McAfee spoke about the upcoming Oktoberfest, discussed above. Karen Blankenship sold \$78 worth of 50-50 tickets, and Guion Lindsay won the drawing. Then guest speaker Brierly gave an interesting talk about his professional experiences in the fields of nuclear engineering and non-destructive testing. That title sounded dull to our general audience, half of which was female, but his talk was not dull. It was very interesting, with mostly personal anecdotes about his work and travels in the industry.



Speaker Ben Brierly

Board of Directors Meeting, October 2nd - The following subjects were discussed:

1. St. Augustine trip, December 13-14 - After review, Linda and David Girardin, who would be leading that trip and making all the arrangements, decided to cancel it. It would be too expensive a boat ride for most, considering the present cost of fuel, and too complicated to make slip arrangements.
2. Las Vegas Night, November 1st - Questions were asked about preparations for the event, which is approaching very quickly. There is still a lot of organizing to be done, and it has to be publicized in the community very soon for it to reach the public in time.
3. Treasurer's report -Treasurer Steve Huntley discussed our financial position as set forth in the treasurer's report. Our semi-potluck dinners are making money, instead of losing as was the case with the last few catered dinners, and the bar is making even more money. We have \$4,576 in liquid assets plus \$20,000 in two CDs. Our liability to members holding clubhouse loans is \$92,740 .We need new members.
4. Mug Race mural – Steve has checked it out that there are notations for the Palatka Yacht Club, the Mug Race and the artist's signature (Carolyn Stevens, 2001). He is checking to see if it needs new clear-coating. If so it will require 1 gallon of clear acrylic sealer.
5. Club officers for 2009 - There is still no candidate for the vice commodore, as of this writing. Anyone who is interested, or can recommend someone for the position (with their permission), please contact Clark Hoyle (386-649-3795 or clarkhoyle@mindspring.com).
6. November Dinner Meeting – There will be no November dinner meeting this year, as discussed above under “Coming Events”.
7. Lawn Service - The commodore found someone, Johnnie Lewis, to do our regular lawn service (mowing and weed whacking) for \$35 a shot. If we need to have that done for the Oktoberfest, we will have him do it.
8. Dinner Meeting Speakers – It has been brought to the Board's attention that some members are holding normal dinner-time conversations during a guest speaker's presentation. This is rude, and we should have better manners than that. Please at least give the appearance of listening to the speaker, even if you are not interested in the subject.



Harry & Guion mowing

Clubhouse Maintenance - October 4th - Four ladies and nine men, turned out for the first scheduled clubhouse work party in a long time: Harry Gillean, Ella and Guy Lindsay, Steve Huntley, Karen and Dex Blankenship, Gene O'Connor, Sue and Bob Trail, Dorothy McAfee, Clark Hoyle, Joe Morris and Connie Foltis. There was plenty to do. Harry and Guion mowed and weed-whacked most of the lawn that was not still saturated from the flood. That means we probably won't have to engage Johnnie Lewis to do any mowing before the Oktoberfest. Steve and Dex reset some of the tent stakes and fabricated new PVC pipe caps for all of them. Harry then took charge of raising the tent from its muddy bed on the concrete pad, where it had lain and floated, folded up, since just before Tropical Storm Fay. At the end of the day it still was quite muddy and needed to be power washed. Joe, Gene, Bob and Connie power washed most of the upper and lower deck exterior, taking turns with two machines, while Sue scrubbed other exterior areas. Ella and Guion cleaned and lined the galley cabinet drawers and shelves and suggested that cabinets be labeled when supplies are placed in them. Ella, Dorothy, Sue and Karen straightened up and unpacked the galley, which included moving the two small cabinets into a place where they could be more easily accessed and used. After finishing in the galley, the ladies moved up to the main deck to clean and reorganize the bar area. This enabled the barkeeper to move all supplies up to the bar to make for a more accommodating situation. They also began the job of reorganizing the area by the stage. Dorothy and Karen will complete that on Saturday, October 11, around 9:30, together with anyone else who would like to come and help. They hope to put the finishing touches on the clubhouse prior to the Oktoberfest the next day, October 12th. Dorothy and Karen prepared a tasty lunch for the tired workers of pulled pork sandwiches with hot HOT barbecue sauce, baked beans, pickles, chips and condiments. The work started at 9:00 o'clock and continued well into the afternoon.



Gene powerwashing



Steve repairing blinds



Steve & Clark rigging mast

3 Bananas Trip – October 5th - Twenty-three people arrived at this fun restaurant in Crescent City at the edge of Crescent Lake, for an enjoyable luncheon and social get-together. Most came by car, but nine came in three boats from the St. Johns River, through Dunns Creek and across part of Crescent Lake to the 3 Bananas dock. It was a pleasant boat ride, but a bit bumpy crossing the lake and in parts of the river, due to a moderately strong NE wind. We had a pleasant dock party before going in to eat, but it was marred by the Hoyles' "Triple Play" having mechanical trouble. Clark thought it had hit a submerged object coming across the lake, causing vibration. After lunch he hitched a ride home and came back with his trailer. Bob Trail and Steve Huntley had stayed behind to help him haul his boat at the launching ramp right next to the 3 Bananas, and he towed it home. Let's hope the damage is not serious.



Dock party

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Gene checking for damage

Miscellany

Amphibious Vehicle – On October 1st Ernie Ricard called some members to witness an amphibious vehicle called "Amphijeep" at the city dock. It was owned and demonstrated by Dr. Peter Martin, a semi-retired orthopedist from Great Britain. It had a four-wheel-drive road mechanism and a jet drive for propulsion afloat. Unfortunately on this occasion there was some difficulty in getting the jet drive in gear, so an outboard motor was used. Dr. Martin launched and retrieved it at the city dock boat ramp, then drove to Browns Landing, launched it again and motored to our PYC floating dock. This was similar in principle to the "Amphi-Car" manufactured in this country some years ago, and to the "Seep" in World War II (a Willys military jeep with a barge-shaped body and a propeller in the rear). Witnesses to this demonstration with Dr. Martin (at right in picture) were Ernie and Brenda, Ernie's associate Bill Urquhart,

Amphijeep—continued

Gene O'Connor and Connie Foltis.



Dr. Martin admired our clubhouse and mentioned that, years ago, he and some others in Great Britain had done something

similar, converting a retired lightship to a yacht club. He and his wife are visiting yachtsmen from the County Down Cruising Club, Northern Ireland.

Phone Number Correction - Karen Blankenship's correct cell phone number is 386-546-6385. Please correct that entry in your handbooks.

Dinner Meeting Programs - Our program Chairman Bob Trail sometimes has a hard time finding presenters with topics for after-dinner programs. We club members have all taken some interesting trips and done some interesting things in our lives, or know someone who has done so. 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. 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.

PYC Library - Anyone who has surplus books, VHS tapes, DVDs, pictures, or whatever, that relate to boating or boats, or even past club memorabilia, could donate them to the club, where they will be kept in the clubhouse for anyone to look at or sign out and take home. Contact Bob Trail (649-8710 or griffinaero@yahoo.com) for more details.

Websites of Interest to Boaters - Bob Trail has researched a series of websites that should be of interest to anyone in this club. Here is the second one: <http://www.stormpulse.com/>, a hurricane tracking site. There is still a little time left in "that" season for this to be timely, and write it down for the storm season next year.

General Information for Boaters - The following was received from Wayne Beard, USCG Auxiliary, on September 12th: Subject: FSO-MS Report

1. An infrequent question asked at boat shows is about the Anchor Ball. A visitor recently received a violation for not displaying it. The Federal Requirement and Safety Tip Pamphlet, which quotes from the Nav. Rules #30, states: "If your vessel is 164' or less, during the "DAY" you "Shall" or "Must" display forward, where it can best be seen, a Black Ball Shape!
2. Water Reversion - This occurs mostly on inboard type boats but can occur on outboards as well. The exhaust pipes that exit at the transom are at the water line. If the pipes are not angled aft, water can back up the pipes and into the engine. Outboards sitting low on the transom can sometimes have the exhaust under or near the water. When the boat is going slowly and a following sea or wave comes toward the stern, or you are in reverse, water can back up into the motor. This happened recently to an outboard boater, damaging the engine.
3. Cape Canaveral Proposed Security Zone - Extending the waters from 3 miles offshore to 12 miles offshore during a shuttle launch, if the proposal becomes law.
4. Outboard Trim Tabs - Mounted on the bottom of the anti-ventilation plate and aft of the propeller is a trim tab usually made of zinc. The trim tab is usually at an angle to counter prop torque. Some outboard companies have omitted this (to save \$\$), and when you let the steering wheel or tiller go, the boat takes a hard turn. It is called a finless anode. Replace it with a fin type and you will increase efficiency and not have to struggle with the steering.
5. A "Lake Wind Advisory" is forecast on the weather channel. What is that? Wind 20-25 knots with gusts to 30-39 can capsize small craft due to large waves caused by the wind.

New Products

1. The UVI (Ultra Violet Index) is a measurement of the sun's rays. Want to know immediately without looking it up in the newspaper or internet? Go to www.oceanequipment.com or 949 588 1470 to purchase a Seawatch UV Measurement watch. Tell time and the UVI index. About \$50.00
2. EPCO products has a remote control boat latch. If you trailer your boat, one person can release and attach the

latching device remotely. It also has an LED light pole to help align the bow with the device.

www.epcomarineproducts.com or 1-800 879 3726

3. Need to tow a skier or another boat? How about the Turbo Swing. This unit mounts to the outboard motor (3 models from 40HP to 250HP). It loops behind the motor, easy access to fasten the towline with a pulley and is in use by rescue boats worldwide. www.turboswing.com

4. Tiedown Engineering makes several new products for boat trailers. The Turbolube Trailer Wheel Bearing Hub has SAE90w gear oil instead of wheel bearing grease. You no longer have to grease the wheel bearings again. A see-thru plastic cap ensures the unit is full of oil. They also make plastic-coated trailer guides for the bottom and sides of the boat to protect your boat when launching. No more torn carpeting or damaged boats.

www.Tiedown.com

5. Underwater Camera Snorkel/Dive Mask - This camera can be downloaded to a computer using a USB cable. Take pictures underwater and not have to carry an extra piece of equipment. 1 800 222 6161 www.jcp.com, JCPenneys #686-3020 or www.kidsstuff.com

Announcements

Club-owned Sunfish – At present, the Club's Sunfish sailboat is on a trailer at Bob and Sue Merritt Trail's San Mateo property and is available for any member to use. If interested, contact Bob or Sue.

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. There was a mix-up about this for a couple of months, but the arrangement is back on track now.

PYC Tent - Any members desiring to reserve the PYC tent, contact Commodore Keith Cheshire at 386-328-3420 or 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 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.

Contact Connie about writing an article for the newsletter (Ex: a boating autobiography or a description of an interesting trip you have taken) or to place an advertisement or digital photograph in it. Entries should be received by the end of the first week of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

PYC Web Site - <http://palatkayachtclub.org/> or www.palatkayachtclub.org

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