

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

September 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

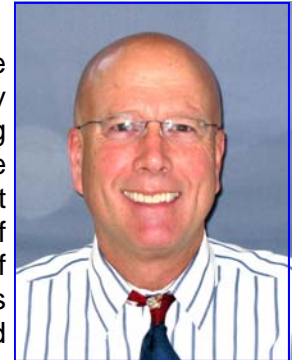
Improvements:

David Agniel

Gene O'Connor

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

Although August was a very hot month, it did not stop the clubhouse work being done by many members. It is very encouraging to see the continuing effort to maintain our floating clubhouse and provide more safety improvements to the clubhouse. The good food, refreshments and fellowship that followed the work detail was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Those of you who did not participate missed out on a good time. Much of the work was not very strenuous and just about any effort is appreciated – even simple attendance, moral support and encouragement are needed. I want to encourage those who have not participated or helped on these regularly scheduled maintenance events to get involved. The next one is on Saturday, Sept. 15, 9am-1pm. Burgers and the extras will be served up afterwards as a means to say thanks to the workers – so don't miss out!



Our caterer again provided an excellent meal at our last dinner meeting. We were pleased to have Senator Jim King and wife, Linda, join us along with many of our members. It is most important that we seat at least 50 members and guests at dinner so that we satisfy the minimum fee from our caterer, thus preventing digging into the treasury to make up the difference. I am hopeful that our dinner attendance will increase in the fall as many members return from their summer homes.

The upcoming Board meeting will tackle numerous items: new flag officers and Board members for 2008, dinner cost, the balance of '07 events/programs, '08 calendar of events and club house mooring rental. A worthy note is that our caterer has committed to 11 monthly dinners and a Mother's Day brunch (if successful, perhaps a Father's Day brunch?). The club needs "hands-on" people willing to serve as officers, Board members and committee chairs to move the club through 2008.

As we enter September I look forward to the many clubhouse events, boating rendezvous and 1 recurring annual event – Oktoberfest at the Gilleans! Additionally, remember to sign up (members and guests) for the Oyster & Shrimp Roast (Nov 17) and the Commodore's Ball (Dec 8). An accurate count is needed for food, etc. The sign-up closes on Oct. 31 for the Oyster/Shrimp Roast and Nov. 17 for the Commodore's Ball (appetizers, desserts and dance). Read the calendar closely for more information on all the events and be sure to list them on your own calendar. They are not-to-miss events and are an excellent way to see the work on the clubhouse and banter with friends.

Lastly and certainly not least are a few comments about membership. It is imperative to our financial plan and economic viability that we recruit new members. While the majority of members are Class I Senior Members, we need to make sure we try to recruit new members that fit in our new Class II Intermediate Members. This new class offers reduced initiation fees and reduced annual dues. Class II members possess new energy and drive to help move the club forward in the future. I submit that the Class II membership will provide a solid foundation for the future of the club. I want each member to actively seek out, solicit and recruit new members of any class into the club. This Commodore will pay \$100 to the person or couple who recruit the most members between September 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008. Should any member wish to contribute and enrich this "Membership Award" kitty, let me know. WE NEED TO GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP!

Improvements Committee Report by David Agniel

The heat was considerable for our work party and burger bash on August 11th, but there were no shrinking violets amongst the willing and talented folks who turned out. The progress they made is readily apparent. Check out: (1) the newly-painted shiny black smokestacks, courtesy of David Girardin; (2) main deck railing posts, all finish coated by Linda Girardin; (3) red rub-rail anti-chafing polyethylene buffers installed by Steve Huntley; (4) forward outer stairway and floating-dock stair units spray painted by Clay Gillean; (5) new storage shed under the forward exterior stairs assembled by Harry Gillean and Clark Hoyle (the tent has been folded up, tied onto a dolly, and wheeled up the gangway and along the side deck directly into the new shed); (6) galley flooring fitted and installed courtesy of Guion Lindsay, Clark Hoyle & Connie Foltis (Guion and David Girardin donated the plywood); (7) Connie constructed and installed a final step at the bottom of the stairwell; (8) torn carpeting expertly cut out and replaced by Ella Lindsay. Keith Mehl lent a supporting hand to several of these operations – altogether a great team effort. Thanks to Karen Blankenship for obtaining & trucking out the new storage shed & dolly and then furnishing and preparing the “fixins” for the burgers that everyone consumed afterwards. And here is a big thank you from the club, to everyone that participated and made this a stellar day of progress.



At 1:00 o'clock all work ceased, the cold libations came out, and Clark Hoyle lit off Keith Cheshire's grill that he had brought out for this purpose. A couple of more people then showed up to eat, but primarily it was the work party who enjoyed the cookout and ate hamburgers with all the “fixins”, in the clubhouse in air-conditioned comfort, while the commodore cooked over the hot grill outside in the heat. The PYC tent remained in place during that time and provided shade until the cooking was done. The hamburgers and rolls came out of the club's freezer, leftovers from the June 16th membership drive cookout, and a couple of members brought other side dishes for the occasion.

We have received an offer of some surplus kitchen cabinets from club members, to use for galley area storage below deck (new custom cabinetry is envisioned for the meeting room). Also, the club is still on the lookout for the following items that might be cluttering up your storage area and are also surplus or in excess of your needs: (1) lighting fixtures that can be used or adapted for overhead lighting in the hold area below deck; and (2) additional plywood 1/2 to 3/4 inch or thereabouts that can be used for expanding the floored-over areas. Also, after seeing how great the cookout went (but ever mindful of our limited funds), we can definitely give a second life to a still-serviceable gas grill that you plan on replacing. It will then always be on hand at the clubhouse for future cookouts. As the cooler weather is not too far in the distance, the top deck, with our array of umbrella tables & chairs, will soon be an ideal gathering spot for such activities.

Coming Events

September 15th (Saturday) - 9:00 AM -1:00 PM - Clubhouse Maintenance by David Agniel

To all of you who helped out on past workdays, thanks for your enthusiastic support. We have made a ton of progress in catching up on needed tasks. We are now in sight of a point where we may no longer need to hold monthly work parties but can schedule them on an as-needed basis, perhaps quarterly. In the meantime, we have some tasks to be completed this month. The next work party is being held Saturday morning, Sept 15th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Mark your calendar and please come lend us a hand, especially those of you who haven't yet helped and who can. You all know the old cliché: “Many hands make light work.” You can E-mail me at dobbyb@bellsouth.net or call me at 386-649-9075. If you would like to work on one of the following jobs, just let me know and I'll put you down for it.

- 1) Prime and paint the main deck railing post caps and a small portion of galley floor steelwork not already painted. Materials available.
- 2) Wash down the main deck exterior and deckhouse bulkheads with a truck washing brush and hose (We tried pressure washing and it just doesn't remove the grime). Materials available.
- 3) Repaint the blue fascia around the edges of the deckhouse roof. Materials available.

- 4) Run conduit below deck for additional outlets and lighting in the dark areas. Conduit available.
- 5) Devise and install a restrainer for the tent storage building to keep it secure against wind when the heavy tent is not in there holding it down: perhaps a seatbelt-like cinchable webbing strip with a quick release, that could be secured to the deckhouse front bulkhead.
- 6) Construct & install a handrail for galley stairwell (Connie Foltis already working on this one).
- 7) Construct & install a handrail for the floating dock stairway.
- 8) Brush-paint the metal work on the auxiliary starboard boarding platform. Materials available.
- 9) Learn how to safely check and clean the A/C system water intake filter. A clogged filter is the main cause of A/C failures. We need several more people who are well versed in how to do this. The river water contains suspended debris which builds up and clogs the filter, and a clogged filter can stop the cooling or heating with little warning. I will demonstrate the procedure and give you a chance to do it yourself. It's not difficult, and even though there is a checklist posted, you need to understand the steps and not miss any.

September 22nd (Saturday) - Raft-Up Behind 7 Sisters Islands - These islands are just upstream of the clubhouse and close to some club members' homes (e.g., Agniel and Hoyle). We will rendezvous at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM to motor to the best anchorage that we can find among the islands. Monitor channel 68 before the start and while traveling, to keep in touch and coordinate finding the place to tie up or anchor. This event is an overnight activity. We will be able to swim from the boats and just have a great time enjoying everyone's company. We will be able to ferry non-boaters to the raft-up from the clubhouse or close-by member docks. Contact David or Linda Girardin for more information at 328-1774 (home), 937-1566 (cell), or DLBG75@hotmail.com. The ferry service will start at 10:00 AM unless other arrangements are made in advance. The return trip(s) will start mid-afternoon until about 6:00 PM. Everyone, including day-trippers, should bring a covered dish to share for lunch (about noon on Saturday); their own beverages of choice; and plates, cups, and eating utensils - nothing is being provided except transportation for non-boaters. For those staying overnight, self-sufficiency is the mode. Bring your own dinners, Sunday morning breakfasts and possibly Sunday lunches. All boats should fly their PYC burgees.

September 27th (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 **Tom and Sara Szczes**. For the evening's program, Steve Huntley will give a short talk entitled, "Burial at Sea in the 21st Century - Variations on a Viking Funeral"

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, September 21st. 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 September 21st, 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 whether you are leaving on an extended vacation. 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.

October 4th (Thursday) – Board of Directors Meeting - 6:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

October 6th (Saturday) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM – Clubhouse Maintenance (Painting, yard maintenance, pressure wash, repair, etc.) Check with David Agniel (649-9075 or dobbyb@bellsouth.net) if you can assist in these important ongoing projects.

October 7th (Sunday) – 14th Oktoberfest at the Gilleans’ – 11:00 AM until ??? - This is a one-day luncheon and get-together at Harry and Andrea Gillean’s house, for a time-honored Oktoberfest. This gathering should be a great time, as always. Harry and Andrea live at 347 West River Road, Palatka, and there is plenty of parking space. For those not familiar with the area, West River Road extends between the traffic light on Rt 17 a few miles north of Palatka, and Palmetto Bluff Road (Rt 209) in Bostwick. For those coming by boat, the Gilleans’ home and pier are on the north shore of the river about ¼ mile directly north of channel marker 41. Look for the club burgee on the end of the pier. There is plenty of docking space for any size boat. Plan to arrive early enough for libations and lots of socializing. Food will be served at 3:30 PM. The Gilleans will supply the meats Oktoberfest style and some drinks. Bring hors d’oeuvres, a side dish or dessert to share. Also bring your own chairs and if you wish, your own drinks, and have the usual great time. Contact Harry or Andrea at 386-325-0802 for more information.

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 - 6:00 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Proposed candidates for the 2008 officers and Board of directors will be presented at this meeting.

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

November 4 (Sunday) - Lunch at 3 Bananas via Deep Creek & Crescent Lake - Details TBA in the next newsletter.

November 10th (Saturday) - Las Vegas Night - Fund raising at clubhouse - Details TBA in the next newsletter. Note date change from original schedule, to avoid conflict. For more information, contact Erika Heine at 706-746-6968 from now until October 1st, and 386-467-2484 after October 1st.

November 17th (Saturday) - Oyster Roast and Shrimp Bash – 2:00 PM at our floating clubhouse, for members and guests only. 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. 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 proposed at the October meeting, along with any nominations from the floor (or the deck in this case). Apalachicola oysters will be roasted over oakwood coals, shrimp will be roasted on the grill, and vegetable and cheese platters will be provided in addition to the PYC bar. 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 to reserve the right amount of oysters and shrimp. Sign-up closes on October 31st. Contact Clark Hoyle at 649-6795 or clarkhoyle@mindspring.com for more information.

Past Events

Work Party and Cookout at Clubhouse - August 11th - See “Improvements Committee Report” above.

Dinner Meeting - August 23rd - There was the usual friendly crowd for the social hour. Dex Blankenship said the blessing, and we all enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by our caterers. Len Freeman won \$65 in the 50-50 drawing, out of the total \$130 collection. After dinner Commodore Clark Hoyle talked about the accomplishments of the last work party. See “Improvements Committee Report” above. David Girardin described Ron Dore’s new pier next door, for which he has been obtaining permitting. It will extend 200 feet straight out into the river in front of Woody’s work area, just to the west of our clubhouse.

Clark and Gene O’Connor presented the new “Palatka Yacht Club, Gene O’Connor, Commemorative Mug Race Trophy” to Len Freeman, who was the first PYC racer over the finish line in this year’s Mug Race. This is a



D. Girardin Photo

Dinner meeting August 23rd - continued

perpetual trophy to be presented to the winner in that category every year from now on. Len was the first recipient. Fittingly, the trophy is a pewter beer mug with a cleat for a handle (Herreshoff Mug) mounted on a wooden pedestal. Len also received an etched glass beer mug to take home, as the perpetual trophy will remain at the clubhouse. For those who do not know Gene that well, he is one of the originators of the Mug Race* (in 1954), the only one surviving, and the only Palatka Yacht Club member to have won it overall (in 1957), as well as being one of the founders of the Palatka Yacht Club itself (in 1976).

*The Mug Race is a handicap race for all classes of sailboats, billed as the longest river sailing race in the world (around 40 miles from Palatka to Jacksonville), and is held annually at the beginning of May. Though originated by members of the St. Johns Yacht Club, predecessor to the Palatka Yacht Club, the Rudder Club of Jacksonville now sponsors it. The perpetual trophy the Rudder Club presents to the overall winner (first in any class to cross the finish line) is a giant Bavarian-type beer stein.



L. Girardin Photo

USCG Auxiliary Boating Refresher Course - August 25th

This was a very interesting and valuable one-day course held at the clubhouse, presented by members of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-9 and an officer of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement. There were a number of lecturers, each of whom spoke mainly on one subject. There were 16 registered participants in the class, 14 PYC members and two non-members that had read about it in the newspaper. Linda and David Girardin were also present but were not registered participants. The subjects discussed can be broadly defined as: (1) before you get underway; (2) operating your vessel safely; (3) dock work – tying up properly; (4) definition of boat speeds/wakes; (5) navigating the waterways, including interpreting buoy directions; (6) the legal requirements of boating; (7) enjoying water sports with your boat; (8) boating emergencies - what to do; (9) knot tying demonstrations; and (10) a practice session on tying several types of knots. At the end of the day, those of us that wished were tested on all the subjects covered.



This writer learned quite a bit from all that even after a lifetime of sailing, which included a few years of extensive inland and offshore cruising while living aboard full time, and having previously taken other USCG Auxiliary courses elsewhere. A substantial lunch was served at midday, and there were short breaks between speakers. Otherwise the entire day's instruction was fairly intense from 9:00 to 5:00. A strong storm with a downpour of much-needed rain took place during the day, but we were snug inside the clubhouse. The USCG Auxiliary presenters were: Cecile Langston, Flotilla Commander, Wayne Beard, Reid Tillary, Stephen Steele, Howard Graves, and Kenneth Seipp. Lt. George Pottorff was the presenter from the Fish and Wildlife Commission.



All of us who participated in this valuable session owe David and Linda Girardin a big round of applause for having arranged it.



Board of Directors Meeting - September 6th - A number of topics were discussed. Those that are newsworthy to the general membership were:

1. Treasurer Stave Huntley noted that we now have 75 members, and everyone has paid up their retroactive dues.
2. Former Commodore Keith Mehl is actively searching for candidates for the 2008 vice commodore and 1st-year Board positions. Anyone interested please contact him at 386-326-1607 or mehl@gbso.net. See voting procedures in the announcements above for the October dinner meeting and the Oyster/Shrimp Roast in November.
3. Linda Girardin discussed David's and Steve Huntley's work on obtaining permitting for Ron Dore's new dock just to the west of our clubhouse. They have been doing all this normally-expensive consulting work gratis, in exchange for the club's free use of the pier when it is completed.
4. It was mentioned that Cecile Langston, USCG Flotilla 14-9 Commander, will attend the October dinner meeting. See October dinner meeting announcement above.
5. The Las Vegas Night party was mentioned, but the arrangements will have to be made after Erika Heine returns home on October 1st.
6. The work party scheduled for December 1st will also be the time to decorate the clubhouse for the Commodore's Ball the following week. See Calendar of Events in the June 2007 newsletter.
7. Tom and Sara Szczes attended the meeting to talk about plans for the Chowder Debate affair to be held at the clubhouse some time in the future. This will take many months of planning and organization and will involve many restaurants in the area that may participate.
8. Commodore Hoyle presented a proposed 2008 calendar of events for present discussion and consideration by the next Board of Directors.
9. The Board discussed the options of renting the clubhouse to outside groups. The consensus was that a club member could rent it, and the outside group would be that member's guests. That member would have to be present at all times when outside people are in the clubhouse.

Miscellany

Illness

We talked to Bob Collins a couple of weeks ago, and he said to say hello to everyone. He has recovered from the 'roto-rooting' surgery of his carotid arteries, but his non-operable heart condition prevents him from engaging in most activities, and he is no longer working.

Ken Smith is going through his second round of chemo and is doing remarkably well so far.

Sherry Mehl injured her spine in a recent fall and has undergone surgery to repair the damage.

Former club member Rogers Hart is doing very well, according to his wife Gail, considering all of Rogers' health problems. Gail was very proud to be able to expound on his condition.

Alternate Addresses

Hans & Erika Heine - Summer only:

997 Ridgepole Drive, #112

Sky Valley, Georgia 30537

Phone: 706-746-6968 (also in handbook)

No e-mail at this residence

David and Arie Hammers - Various times in either residence

Beach phone: 904-241-9040 (incorrect in handbook)

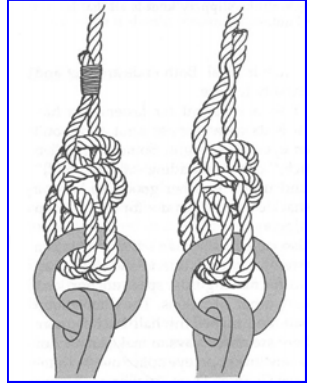
Satsuma phone: 386-649-9923 (no mail delivery at this residence)

E-mail: k60341@aol.com (any time)

Alternate Addresses - Continued

Any other members with second addresses and/or telephone numbers, who would like to have them listed in the next newsletter and succeeding PYC handbooks, please contact Connie Foltis at 386-328-6783 or cfoltis@bellsouth.net.

Knotsmanship - Anchor Bend - See illustrations; it can't be described. Under load, the loops of anchor rode tighten around the ring and prevent chafe. Sailtwine seizing, in the left illustration, is added to give extra security. A variation, right, is to pass the free end of the rode through the standing part. Either of these arrangements is, at best, a temporary measure for connecting the anchor and rode. A permanent ground tackle arrangement should include a length of chain between the anchor and rode, of the same breaking strength as the rode and of length varying with size. Its purpose is to weigh down the anchor shank so it is parallel to the bottom, for best holding power. The usual shackle-thimble-and-eye-splice connection between chain and rode is usually too bulky to pass through the chain pipe, which leaves an untidy pile of chain on deck. However, it is possible to splice a 3-strand rode and chain together, forming a cleaner connection that will pass through the chain pipe into the rode locker, for a neater anchor stowage arrangement.



Nautical Origins of Common Expressions - "Taking the Wind out of his Sails" – Sailing in a manner as to "steal" or "blanket" the wind from another ship's sails. Historically, this term has a similar meaning to that described last month under "**Overbearing**", but in the modern American vernacular the two terms have entirely different meanings.

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@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. The tent is stored onboard 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 - To write an article for the newsletter (including a short description of an interesting trip you have taken) or to place an advertisement or photograph in it, contact editor Connie Foltis at 328-6783 or cfoltis@bellsouth.net. Entries should be received by the end of the first week of the month.

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 Connie and arrange to receive your newsletters by e-mail as pdf files. This would lessen our cost and labor of printing and mailing paper copies every month.

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