

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

September 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:

Linda Girardin

Membership programs:

PR:

Special Events:

Commodore's Corner By Keith Cheshire

Well it's time to batten the hatches, duck and head below; looks like we have quite a hurricane season this year. I feel like a yo-yo, with our running back and forth between NC and Palatka as storms threaten. Many thanks again to all the members who showed up to restore the gangway (thanks Fay), re-tie the lines and fight the ants!!

Meanwhile I see from Connie's updates that Karen is keeping everyone straight at the meetings in the Commodore and Vice-Commodore's absence, and Dorothy has again set up some wonderful events for our weekends. Thanks to both you ladies!

The last meeting (in which your Commodore was again absent) generated discussions on whether we should table dinner meetings in the light (summer) months and just concentrate on outings. etc. The idea has merit and we will discuss this further as the year goes on and make a firm plan before next season's summer retreat (by members).

A couple of reminders: First, we need the gifts for the Casino Night ASAP as we will begin advertising this month. Tickets will be available at the Sept. meeting, so start annoying your friends about getting their names in the pot. Second, I am sure going to save some \$ if we don't see some visitors and membership applications. Remember Nov. is cutoff for the new member contest. Hello, anyone out there?



Coming Events

September 13-14 (Saturday-Sunday) - Seven Sisters Raft Up - On Saturday September 13, we will make our way down the St. Johns River to just south of the Buffalo Bluff Train Bridge to 7-Sisters Islands, across the river from the entrance to the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. All interested persons should plan on meeting at the clubhouse at 1:00 PM on Saturday. Any landlubber types without boats can meet at the club house for transportation to the Rendezvous location, and we will bring you back to the club house before dark. For those traveling on their own, later or earlier than the scheduled time, here are the navigation directions:

Just north of green channel marker #31, turn Southeast between the islands, then south to the rendezvous location (see chart following page). Since it will still be a hot time of the year, be sure to bring swim suits and floats. There are no land-based activities at this location, so bring plenty of food and beverages for the overnight stay. The next morning we will get up and likely cruise around the islands and then over near Murphy's Island to spend some time at the Redneck Riviera (sand bar). by David and Linda Girardin

Contact David or Linda at 328-1774 or DLBG75@hotmail.com for additional details.



Chart of Seven Sisters Islands Area

Coming Events - continued

September 25th (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Aboard our floating clubhouse at Browns Landing. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM, and dinner starts at 7:00 o'clock. By member vote at the last dinner meeting, it was decided to continue the potluck dinners another month, 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. The door committee will be Gene and Jeannine O'Connor. The speaker for the evening will be Mr. Ben Brierley, a nuclear expert, who will give a short talk on energy. No dinner reservations are necessary.

October 2nd (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - At 6:30 PM aboard or floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

October 5th (Sunday) – Three Bananas Lunch

10:00 AM ---- Meet at Palatka Yacht Club for bloody Marys, mimosas, and/or poinsettias.

12:30 PM ---- Motor up Dunns Creek into Crescent Lake to the restaurant. Monitor channel 68

before the start and while traveling to keep in touch, and fly your PYC burgee.

Bring cash. 3 Bananas does not accept credit cards.

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.

1:30 PM ----- Order lunch

Coming Events - continued

October 25-26, Saturday-Sunday - Blue Angels Air Show off NAS

11:00 AM ---- Arrive off NAS Jax in the St. Johns River for a show that begins around 3 PM, and lasts for about an hour and a half. Raft up for the night off NAS 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.

For a schedule of later PYC events, see the entire 2008 activity calendar published in your April 2008 newsletter and summarized on page 8 of your PYC handbook.

Past Events

Redneck Riviera - August 16-17 - This turned out to be an informal and rather disorganized affair, with people arriving at different times. But seven people did finally meet up at the Redneck Riviera sandbar and spent a relaxed afternoon in and around the water. All together there were three boats. One couple, Clay and Heather Gillean, spent the night at the clubhouse dock.

Clubhouse Storm Damage repair - August 24th - This was covered by e-mail of August 24th, but it is mentioned again here for those members without e-mail. Evidently the western quadrant NW (offshore) winds of Tropical Storm Fay pushed the clubhouse away from shore and stretched the mooring lines sufficiently for the shore end of the gangway to fall off the platform into the water, as it had done last fall from the wave action of a large powerboat wake. The Girardins noticed this situation the day after the storm and notified the Board of Directors. The following day, Sunday 8/24, a work party assembled and quickly raised the gangway and set about rearranging and retying the mooring lines. As was done last fall, the mooring lines were tightened, one at a time, by use of a secondary line secured to the mooring line with a rolling hitch and the other end tied to a truck on shore, then tensioned by backing up the truck. See the November 2007 newsletter for more details on how this was done.



Flooded parking area



Tightening a mooring line



Tightening mooring line using a rolling hitch



Club tent floating - note duck

At the start of this operation, our commodore and other members of the work party found out the hard way that fire ants had fled the flooded ground around the mooring, climbed up the mooring lines and taken up residence inside the chafing gear fire hoses at the edge of the deck. They came out to investigate when the work party began rearranging their new home and expressed their displeasure the usual way. Before the storm, Steve Huntley had taken down the tent by himself but could not stow it onboard alone. Instead, he tied it up in place and left it on the

Storm Damage Repair - continued

concrete pad, which was under 6" or 8" of water when the work party arrived on that Sunday. It was decided to leave it until the water receded and it could be set up to dry out. One of the gangway aluminum handrails had sustained minor damage (broken welds) when it fell and then was pushed back against the platform underpinnings as the wind changed to onshore. It can be repaired in place by anyone with a portable welder. Not yet done. Any volunteers?

Dinner meeting - August 28th – This was a pleasant affair, but with only 22 attendees. We are still in the summer doldrums, with many members away for the season and others perhaps not wishing to brave the poor conditions at the mooring site. The ground in the parking area was still saturated with high water left over from T.S. Fay, and some of us sank up to our ankles in muck when we got out of the car. Nevertheless we all had a good time. To top it off, after the social hour got into full swing, the weather took a turn for the worse gave us a deluge of rain and a lot of lightning. Two unidentified young men in an open power boat took refuge from the storm, tied up at our dock and came into the clubhouse during the worst of it. By this time dinner had started, and they steadfastly refused our offers for them eat, saying their wives had dinner ready at home and they would be in serious trouble if they ate somewhere else. They left when the storm abated.

The commodore and vice commodore were both absent, and Secretary Karen Blankenship presided over the meeting. She made some announcements, the primary one being a request to hurry up and bring in gifts for Las Vegas Night on November 1st at the clubhouse (now less than two months away). Tickets for the event will be available at the next dinner meeting. Harry Gillean spoke briefly of his wife Andrea's medical condition. She still goes to the bookstore every business day, and Harry suggested that friends drop in to visit. Dorothy McAfee then discussed some recently-planned events that were not on the activity calendar listed early in the year. These are, with details to follow later, closer to each event:

- September 7th (Sunday) – New Orleans dinner at the clubhouse
- October 12th (Sunday) – Oktoberfest at the clubhouse
- November 16th (Sunday) – Oyster Roast at the clubhouse
(changed from Nov. 15th in the original schedule)

The main dinner entrée provided by the club was fried chicken from Publix, and everything else was pot-luck provided by the attendees. As usual, there was too much, and it was all delicious. The 50-50 collection was \$47, and Jeannine O'Connor won, taking home \$24. The storm was long gone by the time we left, but the low ground was even more sodden than before, and the concrete pad with the tent still folded up on it was again underwater.



Board of Directors Meeting, September 4th – Cancelled due to lack of a quorum. Too many club officers were out of town at one time.

New Orleans Luncheon at the Clubhouse, September 7th



This impromptu affair was very enjoyable, in spite of a low turnout. This was to be expected, however, because there was very little advance notice. Dorothy McAfee and her committee arranged it, and Karen Blankenship prepared and served up delicious New Orleans-style jambalaya, with tomato chutney. In addition there was corn bread casserole, Creole beans and artichoke casserole, salad with avocado and mandarin oranges, devilled



eggs, and many desserts and hors d'oeuvres. This writer had not tasted or even heard of many of these goodies before, but everything was delicious.

Miscellany

Dinner Meeting Programs - Our program Chairman Bob Trail sometimes has a hard time finding presenters with topics for after-dinner programs. We have all taken some interesting trips and done some interesting things in our lives, or know someone who has 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. Audio-visual resources are available, and all necessary assistance will be provided.

Nautical Origins of Common Expressions - "Scuttlebutt" – In sailors' speech during the days of sail, "butt" was another name for barrel, and scuttle meant to cut a hole in something. Therefore the ship's **scuttlebutt** was a water barrel with a hole cut in it so the crewmen could reach in and dip out their drinking water. The scuttlebutt was also the place where the ship's gossip was exchanged. The U.S. Navy today still refers to ships' drinking fountains as scuttlebutts. Ships' gossip and rumors are also still called "scuttlebutt".

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 first one: <http://www.wxtide32.com>, the beginning of a new series. Its title should be self-explanatory.

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, such as a boating autobiography, 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