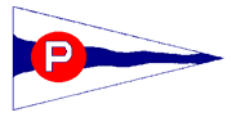


Palatka Yacht Club



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Webpage: www.palatkayachtclub.org

Whispers over the Waters

November 2010

2010 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Commodore:
Gail Hart

Vice Commodore:
Robert Trail

Secretary:
Karen Blankenship

Treasurer:
Steven Huntley

First-Year Director:
Constantine Foltis

Second Year Director:
Clark Hoyle

Past Commodore:
Keith Mehl

Coming Events

November 13 (Saturday) - 9:30 AM - Work party at the clubhouse

The following work is planned:

- (a) Complete the pilothouse projects;
- (b) Install the dock swim ladder;
- (c) Relocate the Sunfish to the dock.

In addition, maintenance chairman Bob Trail has connections that will enable the acquisition of the last remaining finger dock and its installation aft of the clubhouse, at no cost to the club.

November 13 (Saturday afternoon) - Pig Roast & Annual Meeting - The pig roast festivity will be combined with our official November meeting to elect the next Board of Directors. Arrive promptly at **2:00 o'clock** or before, because we will be taking care of club business first thing, before dinner. We will vote on candidates for the 2011 Board of Directors. They may be those chosen by the nominating committee, as shown below, or any Class I (Putnam County resident Senior Member) or Class II (Putnam County resident Intermediate Member) nominated from the floor. The nominees are:

Commodore Harry Gillean

Vice Commodore Larry McAfee

Secretary Karen Blankenship

Treasurer Steve Huntley

First-year Director Doug Mann

Second-year Director Connie Foltis

Dinner will be served at **3:00 o'clock**. Harry Gillean is planning to roast a 40-pound pig (dressed weight) at home, starting at 5:00 or 6:00 AM, and our dinner committee will prepare the rest of the meal, hors d'oeuvres, side dishes and desserts, at a charge of \$15 per person. Attendees are encouraged to bring guests, who may socialize on the upper deck while club business is taking place. We will also be welcoming our newest member, Carole Martin, into the club.

November 20-21 (Sat.-Sun.) - Murphy Creek Raft-up and Rendezvous by David Girardin

Fall is here with the cooler weather we expect this time of year. It is a great time to boat and enjoy the St. Johns River. The water has cooled off to a chilly 70° and the alligators should be sunning themselves on the logs behind Murphy Creek.

Interested club boaters should rendezvous at the club house at noon on Saturday for a slow trip around Murphy Island. After this we may continue on to 7-Sisters Islands or return to the clubhouse. Regardless, once back at the club house we will gather on the upper deck or

2010 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Barkeeper: Guion Lindsay

Boating rendezvous:
David Girardin

Dinner planning:
Karen Blankenship & Dorothy McAfee

Door Committees:
Ella Lindsay

Facilities:

Fund Raising:

Improvements & Maintenance: Robert Trail

Internal Communications:
Constantine Foltis

Membership:

Planning Committee:

Programs: Robert Trail

Publicity: Jean Morris

Public Relations: Gail Hart

Sunshine:
Jeannine O'Connor

Webmaster: Keith Mehl

Charities:

Murphy Creek Raft-up and Rendezvous - continued

inside for hors d'oeuvres and libations in preparation for sunset and an evening of conversation. We will spend the night on our boats at the club house. On Sunday, we will leave late morning for a return trip around the island in search of more alligators and other critters.

Bring an appetizer to share with others, and what you would like to eat for supper, breakfast, and snacks.

Please note that we have changed our original plans regarding anchoring up behind Murphy Island, because we now have electricity on the dock, which is attached to an underused club house.

Trip leader is David Girardin. Call him if you have any questions.

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

December 4 (Saturday) - Christmas Lighted Boat Parade - Entrants should have their boats at the Palatka city dock around 6:00 PM, already decorated. The parade starts at 7:00 from the city dock. See the discussions below in "Past Events - October 23 Dinner" and "November 4 Board of Directors Meeting". For more details and latest instructions, call Richard Ashley of the RIYC at 386-336-3035.

December 11 (Saturday) - 9:30 AM - Work party at the clubhouse - Details will be provided later.

December 18 (Saturday) - Flag Officers' Christmas Party - See discussion in Item 8 of the October 7 Board of Directors meeting in "Past Events" below. Other details will be provided later.

Preliminary 2011 Boating Schedule

At the last dinner on October 23, several club members put together a preliminary boating schedule for next year. Some of the events proposed are:

- December 31, 2010-January 2, 2011 (Friday-Sunday) - New Year's celebration and raft-up at the PYC clubhouse.
- April 7-10 (Thursday-Sunday) - Raft-up at Hontoon Island State Park.
- May 13-15 (Friday-Sunday) - Raft-up at Fernandina public marina.
- June 9-11 (Thursday-Saturday) - Raft-up at Silver Glen.
- July 8-10 (Friday-Sunday) - Trailer small boats to Cedar Key for fishing and scalloping, stay in hotels. This event may have to change if scallop season opens July 1 and rooms are unavailable. We will have to secure hotel accommodations early.
- August 19-21 (Friday-Sunday) - Raft up at PYC clubhouse and spend the day Saturday at the sandbar (Redneck Riviera).
- November 4-6 (Friday-Sunday) - Raft-up at Green Cove Springs public marina and take smaller boats up Black Creek on Saturday.
- Over-nights at the Club house dock and social weekends.

If any club member would like to see a special boating event take place that may replace some of the options listed above, or may be scheduled in the months not taken, please contact David Girardin.

Past Events

October 7 - Board of Directors Meeting - The following subjects were discussed and/or decided upon at this meeting. This was not included in the October newsletter, because for convenience that newsletter was published before the meeting took place.

1. The Board reviewed Secretary Karen Blankenship's minutes of the September 2 Board meeting and approved them with minor corrections.
2. Treasurer Steve Huntley summarized his monthly treasurer's report. He predicts that, at the end of the year, the club will have spent considerably more than it took in from various sources of revenue, mainly from membership dues. Unless we increase our membership by a considerable amount, this trend will continue until our club eventually goes bankrupt. Steve also included in his report, the current membership list, which with corrections now stands at 43, compared to 60 at the end of last year.
3. Steve announced that he and Bruce Drackett had mostly completed the outdoor shower and electric dock-power receptacle installation during times of their convenience, rather than waiting until the next scheduled work party. (a) The shower plumbing is now complete, so the shower is usable, but there is not yet a privacy enclosure. (b) There are four 30A/120V and one 50A/250V marine electric receptacles under the port-side deck overhang, within easy reach from the floating dock, so five boats can now be plugged in using marine shore-power cords. Steve and Bruce still plan to install a standard exterior 20A/120V GFI receptacle accessible from the dock, for use with standard exterior-use extension cords. The total power that can be used at one time is limited, however, by the 200-amp capacity of the clubhouse's electric power panel.
4. Steve also mentioned that Bruce had mowed the grass in anticipation of Oktoberfest on the coming weekend.
5. The Board discussed finishing the clubhouse galley, for which Connie Foltis had made preliminary drawings of a few suggested alternate arrangements and sent them to the Board and other interested parties. The main items yet to be added are: (a) work table, (b) range hood, (c) dishwasher, (d) plumbing and (e) wiring. Steve will check prices of used restaurant equipment for a suitable table 2' x 6' or larger. He will also check the donated electric range to see if it is operable. Harry and Andrea Gillean have a workable dishwasher they will donate. No date was mentioned for this work.
6. It was announced that arrangements for the Oktoberfest were complete.
7. The November 13 pig roast was discussed. It was estimated at the time that a 120-pound pig would suffice for the expected attendance. How it was to be cooked and by whom was still in question.
8. For the Christmas party, our dinner committee, Karen Blankenship and Dorothy McAfee, will prepare a meal of heavy appetizers, the same as they did for last year's Christmas party. There will not be a hired DJ this time, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own CDs of favorite "golden oldies" dance and listening music. It all doesn't have to be that old, but no rap, please. Someone on the Board will provide a CD player that is compatible with the clubhouse PA system.
9. Mooring cleats have to be replaced on the dock where they have been pulled out, and/or where more are required. The club has the cleats, and Steve Huntley has extra-long lag screws that should be strong enough for the job. This will be addressed for a future work party.
10. The club donated \$100 to the Humane Society. The Society will have 2011 calendars for sale later, to bring in more revenue to this all-volunteer non-profit organization. Club-members Sherry Mehl and past commodore Keith Mehl are very active in the Humane Society.
11. The Board voted unanimously to welcome Carole Martin into the club as our newest member. Bob Trail is her sponsor.
12. Nominating committee chairman Keith Mehl said there had been no responses to date to his request for applicants for the 2011 Board of Directors. We are looking for nominees for commodore, vice commodore and first-year director.
13. The club plans to redesign our vanity front license plates, which now show only the club burgee logo. The new design will include the name "Palatka Yacht Club" and our website, in addition to our burgee logo. The

October 7 Board of Directors Meeting - continued

changes will be shown on new plates, after we use up our present supply.

14. Gail Hart and Bruce Drackett plan to enter their boats in the RIYC Christmas Lighted Boat Parade on December 4. Doug Mann had also expressed interest in doing the same. Gail is looking for volunteers to help with her boat. Bruce plans to dress up his boat as Santa Claus' sleigh, with a team of jet-ski "reindeer" pulling it, or appearing to pull it. He already has most of the jet skis lined up, and he is looking into the legalities of having them out on the river at night in December.

15. There will also be a Christmas Parade in town, and we are looking for members with trailer boats who would enter them in the parade and advertise the Palatka Yacht Club.



Outdoor shower

October 9 - Work party at the clubhouse

Cancelled. Steve Huntley and Bruce Drackett had completed their ongoing projects (outdoor shower and dock-power electrical receptacles) at their own convenience, instead of waiting for the next scheduled work party. See item 3 of "October 7 Board of Directors Meeting" above. Other items were not considered urgent enough to convene a work party for that day.



Marine electrical receptacle

October 9 - Oktoberfest - That morning at 6:00 AM, Harry Gillean had started cooking his traditional Oktoberfest meats at home: tender smoked pork and bratwurst. Later, he and Andrea brought enough to the clubhouse for 60 people, although only 22 members and guests attended, 10 of them by boat. Others provided a variety of delicious side dishes and desserts to round out the meal. Needless to say, no one went away hungry, and there was enough smoked pork and wurst left afterwards for other PYC dinners. There were five members' boats tied to our dock for the occasion, filling all the available space. The crews of two of them planned to spend the night, plugged into the new shore-power connections on the clubhouse. There was some discussion at that time of moving the remaining section of the floating dock given to us earlier, from its present storage location at our landlord's dock, to the stern of the clubhouse. It would extend out from just offshore behind the gangway to the east end of our present floating dock. Additional pilings would be needed to hold it in place. This addition would give us more boat dockage space, although the water is shallow at what would be the shore end of the new dock.



October 16-17 - Overnight at Green Cove Springs by Linda Girardin photos by David & Linda Girardin

Eleven members and two guests of the Palatka Yacht Club enjoyed some part of the beautiful fall weekend of October 16-17 on the St. Johns River.

Saturday morning dawned cool and clear with eagles soaring over the East Palatka area. David and I, along with other members, cruised the river admiring the fall colors just beginning to peek out in the swamps and nearby residential areas. The destination was the public marina at Green Cove Springs, where members gathered in mid-afternoon.



The day was so beautiful, that Gene O'Connor, Doug Mann, Bob Trail, and Carole Martin joined us on "Gator Bait", our 23-foot Grady White, and cruised in and among the docks of a shipyard in the area. There were all kinds and shapes of vessels tied up - some were derelict, some were



Overnight at Green Cove Springs - continued



liveboards, some were being repaired, and some were just tied up. While we were doing that, former club members Kerry and Sandy Rowell joined Jeanine O'Connor on board the O'Connors' 40-foot Viking, "Scraps", to listen to football games.



Guests Kerry & Sandy Rowell



Back at the dock, Larry Hayes, Steve Huntley, and Bob and Irene Waldow arrived by car for some friendly discussion onboard the boats, while shrimpers and fishermen used the public dock. The evening repast was at a local restaurant, Ronnie's, owned by the same people operating the Ronnie's in Palatka.

Only the O'Connors with the Rowells on board, and David and I, spent the night at the dock on our boats.



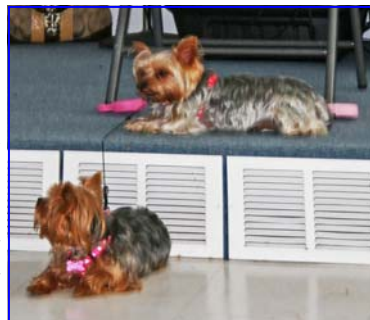
Sunday morning dawned cool with mist rising off the river close to shore. By the time everyone had completed breakfast it was almost 9:00 AM, and really too late to attempt boating to Black Creek. It would be an estimated 3-hour round trip event and wouldn't leave enough time to make it to Outback Crab Shack by noon. So we decided to make venturing up Black Creek another event for another time.



As the docks were a mess from the night activities of the Green Cove locals' shrimping, we motored to the dock at the Outback Crab Shack on the other side of the river, where we were able to enjoy the day at a clean dock as it warmed up. After a delicious lunch, which no other members attended, the O'Connors motored back to their dock, and David and I pulled out our boat at a local ramp near our home.

October 23 Dinner - Twenty-two members and two 4-legged guests attended, some arriving in three boats and the rest by car. We started out enjoying a convivial social hour, during which the Girardins and others brainstormed the beginning of next year's boating schedule shown above. When finalized it will be published in later newsletters. We had a delicious dinner of the bratwurst and pulled smoked pork originally prepared for the Oktoberfest, along with a selection of appetizers, vegetables, salads and desserts. After dinner, Commodore Gail Hart announced some upcoming events, details of which were available at that time are as follows:

- Palatka Christmas parade downtown on Friday, November 26 - Gail asked if anyone wants to enter this event to advertise the club. Any truck or trailer could be decorated with our logo and club name in large letters. Boats on trailers would be especially effective for advertising the club. Contact Ernie Ricard for details.



- "Toys-for-Tots" poker run on Saturday, December 4 - Ernie Ricard formed an ad-hoc committee to deal with our participation in both that event and the city parade mentioned above. Anyone interested should contact Ernie for details. PYC participation in these events will give us some much-needed advertising.
- Lighted boat parade, also on December 4 - The poker run noted above will be



October 23 Dinner - continued

held during daylight hours, whereas the lighted boat parade on the same date will be after dark, so it may be possible to participate in both. Bruce Drackett and Rhonda Masters plan to decorate their boat *FantaSea* as Santa Claus' sleigh, with a team of jet skis lighted as reindeer pulling it or appearing to pull it. Gail plans to enter her boat *Hart's Desire* and is asking for assistance in decorating it. Bob and Irene Waldow also plan to decorate their boat *Golden Daze* and enter it. Gail requested that those who are interested in entering this parade should have their boats at the clubhouse on Friday, December 3, for a "decorating party". Any members participating in the poker run and the lighted boat parade can decorate their boats at the clubhouse on Saturday after the poker run. Alternately, those who wish can decorate their boats at home and bring them directly to the parade. Keep in touch for the latest details.

- Club officers and Board of Director nominees for 2011 are:

Commodore Harry Gillean
Vice commodore Larry McAfee
Secretary, Karen Blankenship
Treasurer Steve Huntley
First-year director Doug Mann
Second-year director Connie Foltis

The evening wound up with a \$44 collection for the 50-50 drawing. Gemma Rastatter won it, taking home the \$22 prize.

November 4 - Board of Directors Meeting – The Board discussed the following subjects and decided on some of them:

1. There were no minutes of the last Board meeting, due to a computer failure.
2. Treasurer Steve Huntley summarized the monthly treasurer's report, noting that he had added an income line, "Docking fee" to the "Cash Flow" page.
3. The U.S. Marine Corps-sponsored "Toys for Tots" program includes the poker runs on December 3 and 4 (Fri-Sat). The first one on Friday will be between Palatka and Crescent City, and the second on Saturday will be between Palatka and Welaka, with a return stop at our clubhouse. No more about our participation in it is known at this point. For more details, contact Ernie Ricard at 328-0720 or organizer Russ Matos at 407-760-3481.
4. Palatka Christmas Parade on Friday, November 26 - Ernie Ricard is in charge of the club's parade float committee and needs volunteers. Bruce Drackett and Steve Huntley have designed a float resembling our clubhouse but have not done anything further on it. Any boat on a trailer can be entered, with "Palatka Yacht Club" banners or signs on each side to advertise the club.
5. Lighted Boat Parade on December 4 - Have your boat at the clubhouse on Friday, December 3 to decorate it for the parade and to avoid interference with boats on the poker run on Saturday.
6. Harry Gillean advised on the size of the pig (40 pounds dressed) for the November 13 pig roast, based on the expected number of attendees. Karen Blankenship will buy the pig. Some discussion ensued about the schedule, and the 3:00 o'clock dinner hour was decided. This meant the business meeting will start at 2:00 o'clock.
7. The Board discussed how to charge for electric power usage at the dock. It was decided not to charge fees, but to request donations instead, as we do with the bar. A \$5.00 donation per boat for one overnight use of dock power was suggested, to start with. This may change in the future if the extra expense for the added dock power usage is greater than the amount of donations collected.

November 4 Board of Directors Meeting - continued

8. Steve Huntley mentioned he expects to mail invoices for payment of club dues before the end of the year. He plans to include some proposals for alternate payment schedules similar to those offered in 2009, which were:

(A) The initiation fee for a new Class 1 member shall be reduced from the current \$250 to the following:

(1) \$125.00 for the first applicant in a household;

(2) \$75.00 for each additional applicant at the same residence address.

(B) The membership dues payment schedule shall be as follows:

(1) Dues paid in full and postmarked by January 31st may be discounted by 5%, if the member so desires;

(2) Members desiring more time may pay upon the following schedule:

(a) The first Class1 payment is to be remitted by January 15th ---- \$50

(b) The balance (\$150) of Class 1 member dues will be due in five equal \$30 payments remitted by the 15th of each month.

(C) Fees and dues for other classes of membership are proportional to Class 1 fees and dues as shown in the By Laws.

Miscellany

For Sale - 15ft Nissan bowrider powerboat presently being refurbished - \$2200. Will complete to buyer's specifications. If interested, contact Bob Trail at 649-8710 or griffinaero@gmail.com.

After-Dinner Programs - Our after-dinner program Chairman Bob Trail sometimes has a hard time finding presenters with topics for these programs. We club members could probably contribute some topics ourselves. We have all taken some interesting trips and done some interesting things in our lives, or know someone who has. Many of these experiences would make entertaining 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 649-8710 or griffinaero@gmail.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, boats or 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 for more details.

Nautical Origins of Some Common Expressions - "Dressing Down" - This expression dates from the 1600s, originally meaning to apply (**dress**) an oil preservative onto a ship's rope rigging. It was an unpleasant and sometime dangerous job, which might have been assigned to a crew member as punishment. Now it means a scolding or reprimand.

Interesting stuff you may never need to know - Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil? A. Honey.

Miscellany - continued

Club-owned Sunfish - At present, the Club's Sunfish sailboat is on a trailer chained and locked to the light post by the clubhouse, available for any member to use. The key is hanging on the bulletin board in the clubhouse. It is "tippy", so wear a life jacket.

Boat U.S. Membership - Our club members are entitled to Boat US membership while paying half-price dues, \$15.00, instead of the regular new membership price of \$30.00. Contact Steve Huntley at 904-692-2952 or protopterus@basicisp.net if you are not already included in this special arrangement for PYC members.

PYC Tent - Any members desiring to reserve the PYC tent should contact Commodore Gail Hart at 386-329-8460 or Irishpower71@yahoo.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 through the mail, you are urged to file your e-mail address with publisher Connie Foltis at cfoltis@live.com. He will e-mail your newsletter to you each month as a PDF file in full color, which you can then print out yourself. This would decrease the labor and club's cost of printing and mailing paper copies every month. The same goes for the annual club handbook.

Contact Connie about writing an article for the newsletter (ex: a boating-oriented autobiography or a description of an interesting trip you have taken). You may also place an advertisement or digital photograph in it. Personal advertisements by members are free. Entries should be received before the end of the first week of the month to be included in that month's newsletter. If anyone knows of a member who is not receiving his or her newsletter, please notify Connie at the above e-mail address, or call 386-328-6783.



Reflections on Six-Mile Creek

photo by David Girardin



Reflections on Six-Mile Creek

photo by David Girardin