

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

April 2009

2009 OFFICERS &

DIRECTORS

Commodore:

Gail Hart

Vice Commodore:

Robert Trail

Secretary:

Karen Blankenship

Treasurer:

Steven Huntley

First-Year Director:

Clark Hoyle

Second Year Director:

Constantine Foltis

Past Commodore:

Keith Cheshire

Commodore's Cornerby Gail Hart

The Mug race will soon be here! It will take place on Saturday, May 2nd, but on Friday evening, May 1st, we will "man our hospitality tent" at the riverfront with at least three people. I am the only one who has signed up so far, and we need more volunteers. Those of you who have signed up for Saturday morning, don't forget to be there at 5:30 AM. If anyone has a 10-to-12-cup coffee pot, please bring it to be available at 5:30 Saturday morning.



It's not too early to start thinking of donations of prizes to be auctioned off at this year's "Las Vegas Night", to take place on Saturday, September 26th. Karen Blankenship is chairman of this event. She and her committee are planning to give us and the community an exciting night. Please help make our auction a good one.

A three-person committee will draft a contract for the "Radical Boat Reunion", to be held on Saturday June 13th at the Redneck Riviera Sandbar. In the contract we will agree to provide hamburgers or hot dogs with all the trimmings, with chips and soda, for \$5.00 per serving. The number of servings will be determined later. This should be profitable for the club and fun for us. Refer to the February 2009 newsletter for more details.

2009 COMMITTEE

CHAIRS

Boating rendezvous:
David Girardin

Membership:

Facilities: LaVerne Cheshire

Publicity: Jean Morris

Barkeeper: Guion Lindsay

Dinner planning:
Karen Blankenship &
Dorothy McAfee

Newsletter:
Constantine Foltis

**Improvements &
Maintenance:**

Door Committee:
Ella Lindsay

Calling committee:
June Henley

Sunshine:
Jeannine O'Connor

Webmaster: Keith Mehl

Programs: Robert Trail

Planning Committee:

Past Events



Jean Morris with Bob

March 14th (Saturday) Non-club event: Bob Solomon Birthday Party

Freda Solomon organized a very nice birthday celebration at our clubhouse for husband Bob's "Happy 86th". Their family and many friends attended, including a few PYC members and a professional rock band from Jacksonville. When playing at full volume (there's any other way?), they rattled the tables and made tiny waves in the water bottles, and people danced. A lot of fun.



Party time



Keith Mehl & Joe Morris with the dead freezer

March 21st (Saturday) - Work Party at the Clubhouse

The usual group of about ten people showed up on this chilly windy morning to help spruce up the clubhouse. There were a lot of projects on the 'to do' list, of which some were completed, some only started, and some not yet started. Jobs completed were: (1) added more fire-hose bumpers to the floating docks; (2) repaired the tent-storage shed; and (3) carried the dead freezer up from the lower hold and out to the concrete patio ashore. No one knew what to do with it after that, because everyone so far had arrived in small cars. Then Keith Cheshire

Work party - continued



Keith the electrician



Bob power washing

drove up in his big SUV and won the prize of the day, which was to haul away the old freezer and dispose of it. Keith started going over the electrical systems, and others power washed most of the hull and deck exterior. Bob Trail repaired the plastic storage shed on the bow. At some point during the work period, Gail announced that our club is now a member of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce and held up a plaque to be displayed somewhere in the clubhouse. At lunch time,

Karen Blankenship and Dorothy McAfee showed up with pork BBQ sandwiches for everyone, with all the 'fixins' and sides. That pretty much put an end to the projects for the day. There is still a lot to do to get our clubhouse looking at its best for the coming season, however, so we will be looking to schedule another work party soon.

March 26th (Thursday) - Dinner Meeting - Thirty-six members and guests showed up for this very interesting and unusual dinner meeting, including guest speaker Patrick Bourgeau and his wife Susan. Karen and Dorothy had worked very hard at putting together a different kind of meal, a fondue dinner. To start with, they had rearranged the tables and chairs to encourage mingling for sociability. Then they placed platefuls of skewered meats for everyone at the tables and put bowls and dishes here and there around the room with all kinds of hors d'oeuvres with dipping sauces and cheeses. Two pots of boiling oil were kept in constant demand for cooking the skewered meats. Then an unusual dessert appeared: bite-sized pieces sponge cake and fruits of various kinds, all to dip in a steaming bowl of melted chocolate. Yummy! All this led to everyone continuously mixing and mingling throughout the dinner hour. After dinner there was the 50-50 drawing, and Larry Hayes won the prize: \$32 out of the \$63 collection.



Speaker Patrick Bourgeau with Gail

The highlight of the evening was Mr. Bourgeau's talk and video presentation on his work managing the support team for *The Discovery Channel* in its production of the documentary "*The Last Mysteries of the Titanic*". Director/producer James Cameron (who also directed the hit movie "*Titanic*") was the overall director of this operation. The team traveled to the site on the same Russian research ship that was used in the final scenes of the movie, then descended in a small manned submersible to the deck of the ship on the sea bottom at 12,500-foot depth. From there they launched tiny submarines with fiber-optic tethers that entered the ship and moved around the interior, videographing eerie scenes of once proud and beautiful interior passenger spaces, now muted in color and covered with marine growth.



More fire-hose bumpers on the dock



Gail and Chamber of Commerce plaque



Digging in to the fondue

April 2nd (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - The major items discussed and the decisions that were made at this meeting are described in "Commodore's Corner" above. One additional minor item: Karen Blankenship has ordered the blue vinyl sheets to cover the peeling and delaminating plywood fascia around the edge of the upper deck. Installing them will probably be a project for the next work party, as yet unscheduled.

Palm Sunday Luncheon (April 5th) by Gail Hart - I know that many of you had conflicts and were unable to make it for the Palm Sunday's SOUP & SALAD gathering at the clubhouse. Those that made it were treated to a light lunch of soup, salad, and desserts. Though this event was lightly attended (15 members), those who were there enjoyed Dorothy's delicious minestrone soup or (mostly "AND") Karen's equally delicious version of Zuppa Toscana (served at the Olive Garden), and salad 'fixins' by Keith Cheshire. The dessert table overflowed with banana pudding, cheesecake and three kinds of loaf cake which we all did our best to consume! There was plenty of dockage available.

Palm Sunday Luncheon - continued

The McAfees were the only ones to come by boat, because the meteorologists said possible rain, but what do they know! Thank you, ladies, for another memorable and delicious event! See you on the 23rd for our general meeting.



Palm Sunday Luncheon

Coming Events - All PYC events scheduled for the remainder of this year are shown below. Details of each will be added in the newsletter just prior to it. Weekend events may be subject to later change, or new ones may be added.

April 23rd (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. No potluck dishes are needed, as the club will provide the entire meal, with the main entrée of chicken cacciatore. There will be a \$10.00 charge per person to cover the club's costs. No reservations are necessary, but the traditional calling committees may poll the membership to remind everyone about this meeting and to give the main entrée preparers an idea of how many are expected. The door committee will be Gail Hart and Ella Lindsay. The program for this meeting will a talk by Steve Huntley entitled, "GPS - How It Works and What It Can't Do"

May 2nd (Saturday) - Mug Race (PYC participation tentative) - Present plans are to offer our hospitality to the racers with refreshments in our club tent, but we will not be able to move the clubhouse to the race site. Gail Hart has offered the use of her trawler *Hart's Desire* as the race committee start boat for the occasion.

May 7th (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting - At 6:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

May 16th-17th (Saturday-Sunday) - Raft-up at Silver Glen Springs - contact: Larry Hayes
May 28th (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Gene and Jeannine O'Connor on door committee
June 4th (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting
June 13th (Saturday) - Radical Boat Reunion - See "Commodore's Corner" above
June 25th (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Door committee open
July 2nd (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting
July 10th-12th (Friday-Sunday) - St. Marys, Georgia - contact: David Girardin
July 23rd (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Door committee open
August 6th (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting
August 9 (Sunday) - BBQ at the Redneck Riviera sandbar - contact: Clark Hoyle
August 27th (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Door committee open
September 3rd (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting
September 13th (Sunday) - Canoe Haw Creek in Flagler County - contact: David Girardin
September 24th (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Door committee open
September 26th (Saturday) - Las Vegas Night - contact: Karen Blankenship
October 1st (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting
October 2nd-4th (Fri-Sun) - Bull Creek Marina - contacts: Gene O'Connor and Clark Hoyle
Oktoberfest (no date set)
October 22nd (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Keith & LaVerne Cheshire on door committee
November 5th (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting
November 7th-8th (Saturday-Sunday) - Outback Crab Shack - contact: Gene O'Connor
November 14th (Saturday) - Oyster and Shrimp Bash - contact: Clark Hoyle
Christmas Party/Commodores' Ball (no date set)

Miscellany

PYC Telephone Number - The Palatka Yacht Club now has a telephone number, 1-888-851-1811, whereby interested outside parties may contact the club. Callers will hear Commodore Gail Hart's recorded voice directing them to call her number at home. This message will change each year as new commodores take office. It will be shown on our website and in any PYC publicity distributed to the public, but it will not be in the telephone book.

Palatka Paddlersby **Bob Trail** - The "Palatka Kayak Club" has reorganized as "Palatka Paddlers" (so canoe folks won't get miffed). I will be the contact person to manage members' info, and everyone who wishes to be included should just send their info to me. I'll post their e-mail address in the list.

Anyone who plans a trip and wants company, just posts their plans and preferred phone number to the list and sends it out.

Sue and I usually paddle several times a week and have built up a list of many trips. Every time we go somewhere new we keep in mind just how nice this might work out for a group. We now also have a really neat GPS so nobody will get lost in Mosquito Lagoon or Lake Waldron!

Things are beginning to fall into place for a Lower Wikiva Run on Sunday, April 26. One of the members has a multiple-kayak trailer that can be used, so a leisurely one-way downstream paddle from Highway 46 to High Banks, where there's a fantastic restaurant for after-trip relaxation, can be enjoyed. Please contact me at griffinaero@gmail.com, 386-649-8710 cell 386-972-0507.

Lost and Found - Dorothy McAfee is looking for a good chef's knife that disappeared during the Oyster Roast. It is marked 'Chicago Cutlery' and has a wooden handle.

Dinner Meeting Programs - Our dinner-meeting program Chairman Bob Trail sometimes has a hard time finding presenters with topics for after-dinner programs. We club members could probably contribute some interesting 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 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. 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.

Test Your Yachting Knowledge – In sailing, a "broach" is what?

- (a) An insignia worn by yacht club officers, especially during regattas, to indicate their function or title;
- (b) The involuntary veering of a yacht sailing downwind and suddenly forced broadside to the wind and/or waves;
- (c) A yacht club prize-giving ceremony at the conclusion of a regatta;
- (d) A collision between yachts where the bow of one holes the hull of another.

Nautical Origins of Some Common Expressions - "All at Sea" – The expression originated as an allusion to the uncertain plight of a ship drifting about aimlessly, unable to find its bearings. At some point in recent history, individuals in a state of intellectual or emotional confusion began to be described as being **all at sea**.

Miscellany - continued

Interesting Stuff you may Never Need to Know - The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

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.



PYC-owned Sunfish

Boat U.S. Membership - Our club members are entitled to Boat US membership at half-price. Our member cost is \$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 Gail Hart at 386-329-8460. 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. He will arrange for you to receive your newsletters by e-mail as a PDF file. This would decrease 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 before the end of the first week of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

New E-mail Address - Bob and Sue Merritt Trail have a new e-mail address: griffinaero@gmail.com.

PYC Web Site - Our web page is: <http://palatkayachtclub.org/> or www.palatkayachtclub.org.

Answer to "Test your Yachting Knowledge" - (b) A 'broach' is the involuntary veering of a yacht sailing downwind and suddenly forced broadside to the wind and/or waves.

Laser Coffee Tableby **Connie Foltis** - Here is a suggestion for a similar project that might interest boaters handy with tools. I recently attended a social function at the Severn Sailing Association in Annapolis, MD, described by its members as the premier sail-racing club on the East Coast. There I noticed a strange-looking coffee table and was told that it was the middle portion of a Laser sailboat hull. It had teakwood ends pieces serving as table legs, a standard racing hiking strap in the cockpit and all the racing hardware normally in the that area of the boat (but not the daggerboard or tiller). I don't know if a new boat was deliberately destroyed for this or if the maker used a damaged or defective hull. It looked new or in new condition. Neat.



Laser coffee table