

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

December 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

Bar: Guion Lindsay

Fund raising:

Improvements
& Maintenance:

Membership Growth:

Membership programs:

PR:

Special Events:

Commodore's Corner By Keith Cheshire

Shiver me timbers, it's cold up here! Yes, I am in the NC mountains again, but headed home in time for the December Board meeting and of course the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY! (aka Commodores' Ball). --- and speaking of "balls", our November Oyster and Shrimp Roast was a shucking good time. Both the fire and gas-roasted oysters and Karen's skewered shrimp seemed to flow forever. Inside the clubhouse, well if you went away hungry, it was your fault! Many thanks to all the cooks, roasters, decorators, et all, for a job well done!

As the year winds down, I am sorry to see that our membership has not only decreased, but we had only one couple join this year. Even worse, we seem to have a decline in "guests" despite the great events that have been prepared this year. I suspect that one problem might be that we had too much focus on business early in the year, and that was not conducive to "entertaining". I would appreciate individual comments and suggestions as to how we might turn this trend around and make next year a banner year for our incoming Commodore and our wonderful club.

Last but not least, your Board continues to work all potential opportunities to bring our clubhouse into the PALATKA waterfront plans. While last year's Mug Race appearance was a nice start, wouldn't it be nice to be one of the first things people see as they come west across the Palatka bridge day in and day out!



Coming Events

December 31st (Wednesday) - New Year's Eve at the Clubhouse - This will be an informal gathering of members and friends on this special night. Arrive at 9:00 PM, and bring a pot-luck dish of finger food or snacks suitable for the occasion. The regular bar will be available, and there will be music for dancing or just listening. Dress is optional. There will not be any charge, and no reservations are necessary. Those who don't want to drive home afterwards, come by boat and sleep over at the dock, or bring an air mattress and sleeping bag and sleep in the clubhouse. If there are any changes in plans, there will be a special e-mail announcement about it and telephone calls to those without e-mail.

January 8th (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - At 6:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members. Note this change from the regular first Thursday in the month to the second Thursday **for this month only**, to avoid interfering with the New Year holiday.

January 22nd (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. We will inaugurate the new Club officers and Board members at this meeting, as well as taking care of other club business. We will also continue with the potluck dinner arrangement for this meeting, only this time **with an extra flair, a chili cook-off**. All members and guests are welcome to compete in this competition, and please bring your chili recipes. Those not wishing to compete should bring appropriate sides or desserts. The club will not provide an entrée this time, but there will still be a \$5.00 charge per person to cover the event overhead costs. No reservations are necessary. Further details will be in the next newsletter.

Past Events

November 1st – More on Las Vegas Night by Erika Heine

I want to thank all the members who donated gifts for the auction at the Las Vegas Night. We had over 50 items, (see photo in Nov. newsletter....ed.) including some from non-club members, who received individual thank-you notes. The items were mostly of good quality and not something one wanted to get rid of.---Not bad for a first try. Next time we will make some changes and make it even more successful. On behalf of my committee, thanks again. Erika

November 16th - Oyster and Shrimp Roast at the Clubhouse - The uncertain weather that preceded this day passed quickly, and our party took place in cool, sunny conditions. It was fortunate, because both the oysters and shrimp were to be cooked outdoors. All in all, it was a very enjoyable afternoon of good eating and socializing. Forty-two members and guests attended. Two did not eat but came for the business meeting. Commodore Keith Cheshire started off the proceedings by holding elections for the 2009 club officers and directors. There were no nominations from the floor, and the attending membership unanimously voted in the slate of candidates presented at the October dinner meeting. These are:

Commodore ----- Gail Hart
Vice Commodore ----- Robert Trail
Secretary ----- Karen Blankenship
Treasurer ----- Steven Huntley
First-Year Director ----- Clark Hoyle
Second-Year Director -----Constantine Foltis
Immediate Past Commodore -----Keith Cheshire



David Agniel won the 50-50 drawing, taking \$16 of the \$32 collection. Erika and Hans Heine talked about the very successful Las Vegas Night party on November 1st, mentioning that they had sold 72 tickets (at \$10 each) out of the maximum 80 available. See above for more about that. Dorothy McAfee had spoken ahead of time to everyone who was planning to bring a pot-luck side dish to this oyster and shrimp feast, so there was a good balance of hors d'oeuvres, sides and desserts. But the main treats were the oysters that Ernie Ricard and Steve Huntley steamed over a fire on the ground near the tent and then shucked before serving, and the shrimp that Karen Blankenship grilled on the upper deck. It all was cooked to perfection, and everyone kept going back for more. There was enough of each so that there was still a lot left over after everyone had had their fill, and the extras were sold for people to take home. All in all, it was a very enjoyable afternoon, except for the one who was supposed to be the oyster chef, Clark Hoyle. He was ill at home with the flu, but he still had the energy to bemoan by telephone and e-mail about having to miss out on all those good shellfish. Sorry about that, Clark. We hope Gemma brought some home.



November 22nd - Surprise Party at the Clubhouse.....by Connie Foltis

As most of you know, because you were in on the secret, my wonderful wife Helene arranged a surprise 80th birthday party for me and invited the whole Palatka Yacht Club, some former members and other friends, and our children from Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. Around 45 people came, and



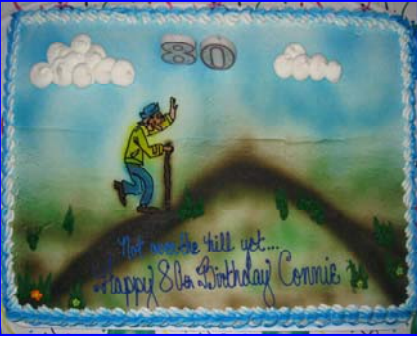
all seemed to have a great time. Helene had arranged for our regular caterers, "J&M Caterers", to serve an excellent buffet. With all our recent pot-luck dinners, we have almost forgotten how good this pair really is, and we should all think seriously of ways to get them back on a regular basis. Thank you all again everyone, for coming and for all the good wishes, cards and gag gifts, and for keeping it



all quiet for as long as it took.

L-R: My daughter Chris, Helene's daughter Debby, her husband Rock, my daughter Rosemary, me, Helene, Helene's mother Betty, Chris' husband Phil.

Bob Solomon Photograph



Evidently Helene started planning this affair months in advance. The most amazing part of it was that I hadn't a clue about what was going on, until we got to the clubhouse and saw it all lit up.

Until then I thought we were going to a restaurant for dinner. I've been called "clueless" before, and I'm afraid this was another example of it.

Birthday cake - big enough for the whole crowd

December 4th Board of Directors Meeting - The Board discussed the following topics:

1. Secretary Karen Blankenship read the minutes of the November meeting, which the Board then approved. She also read the October meeting minutes that were reconstructed from other members' notes, and the Board approved these also. (The October Board meeting minutes had been tabled at the November meeting, pending addition of more information.)
2. Treasurer Steve Huntley summarized his monthly treasurer's report, which the Board then approved. A copy is posted on the bulletin board by the clubhouse door.
3. Clark Hoyle advised that the oysters and shrimp for the November 16th Oyster and Shrimp Roast had cost around \$450. Earlier, Steve had noted that we grossed \$600 on the meals, \$97 on take-home shrimp and oysters, and \$150 from the bar, with the result that we came out \$397 ahead for the event, less bar depletion, incidentals and overhead.
4. The Board again discussed getting a listed telephone number but didn't decide anything. This is a complicated matter, because the officers change every year, and the phone number must remain the same.
5. The subject of new PYC license plates and burgees also came up again. The new plates should have some kind of PYC identification. We could fashion PYC decals to glue onto existing plates that have only the burgee logo. Gail Hart also talked about designing and printing a club flyer to be available where the public would see it. Nothing was decided on these subjects.
6. Steve mentioned that we need a new insurer, and he is presently searching the industry. It seems our original insurer had assumed our clubhouse was a building on land, but when they found out it was afloat, they did not wish to continue coverage.
7. Steve mentioned that our \$10,000 CD has matured. He later advised that if we continue to use the clubhouse but defer any maintenance, the first six months should cost us around \$3,900. He thinks we should have enough cash to cover that, so we would be able to roll over that CD for another 6 months with little risk. (The Board has since approved this action.)
8. The Rudder Club in Jacksonville asked if our clubhouse would again be available on site for the start of the 2009 Mug Race. This will have to be arranged early, as the Rudder Club needs a lot of time to make its own arrangements.

Board of Directors meeting—continued

9. Clark Hoyle suggested reducing initiation fees for new members, since times are tough at present, and the PYC Board is committed to increasing club membership. After some discussion of dues and fees, the Board of Directors, in recognition of our desire to make membership more attractive to prospective members, has approved the following recommendations to the membership for discussion and vote at our January meeting:

(A) The Board proposes a reduction of the membership initiation fee from the current (\$250 per member) level to the following:

- (1) Initiation fee for a new Class 1 member shall be \$125.00.
- (2) Additional Class 1 memberships at the same residence address shall be \$75.00 each.

(B) In addition to the proposed change in initiation fees, we are offering a membership dues payment schedule for 2009 as follows:

- (1) Dues postmarked by January 15th may be discounted by 5% if the member so desires.
- (2) Members desiring more time to pay their dues may pay upon the following schedule:
 - (a) First Class1 payment 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.

10. The Board is thinking about modifying our previous arrangements with the caterers, in hopes of bringing them back for our dinner meetings without our losing money each time. This would depend on their agreeing to a lower dinner count, perhaps 30 instead of their present 50 minimum. We would also be satisfied with one meat instead of two. It was also suggested that we plan the entire year's menu ahead of time and publish it in the newsletter each month. This could work with club-provided meals, but the caterers have already said they could not do that. They shop for the best buys just before each event and have no way of knowing ahead of time what they will find. They would probably have to raise their prices to follow such a pre-planned menu schedule, or cut corners elsewhere.

11. Karen Blankenship proposed writing a Palatka Yacht Club cookbook, with members contributing favorite recipes. It could become a hit, maybe get us some publicity and make us a little money besides. Anyone interested should contact Karen at 328-3887, 546-6385 or kdb@bellsouth.net.

12. We discussed the various committees required to keep the club running and acknowledged that many went unfilled in this current year, as seen on the left-hand margin of the newsletter, first page. We are looking for chairpersons and workers for the following committees in 2009: Boating Events, Membership, Improvements & Maintenance, Facilities, & PR. Anyone interested in taking on these duties, please contact Keith Cheshire at 328-3420 or keith.cheshire@mindspring.com. Dorothy McAfee & Karen Blankenship will continue in Club Events, Bob Trail will continue with programs for scheduled meetings, Guion Lindsay will continue with the bar, and Connie Foltis will continue with Communications.

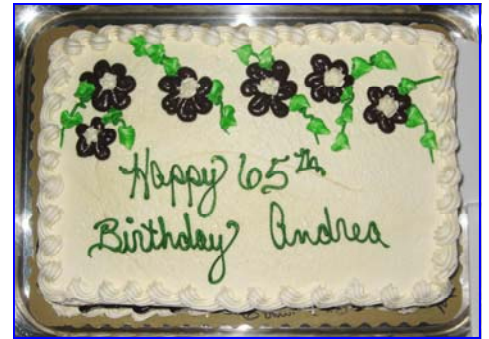
13. We discussed having a New year's Eve party, and details are given above under "Coming Events".



December 6th Christmas Party at the Clubhouse.- About thirty members and guests showed up for this gala affair. As usual, Dorothy McAfee, Karen Blankenship and their dinner committee set forth an elegant selection of mostly finger food of all kinds, and plenty of them. Andrea Gillean was surprised with a beautiful birthday cake and a serenade of "Happy birthday to you, etc, etc." The club Christmas tree was prominently displayed onstage, with understated lighting that set it off very tastefully. The evening was a pleasant time of socializing, eating, drinking, a little dancing, and no club business to be concerned about.



Who are all these well-dressed people?



Christmas Party—continued

Miscellany

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. Bob has just modified the trailer for more convenient long-term storage. See photo. The Sunfish is designed to "live" this way, upside down, and if necessary to launch from the trailer, the boat can be swung across the bunks, flipped over (it doesn't weigh much), and swung back. The lightbar is removable to preserve the lights and connections. The mast can be bungeed to the trailer frame for moving and the daggerboard & rudder carried in the tow vehicle. It is now ready to roll.



Bob Trail photograph

Bob is also still considering the possibility of moving the boat to the clubhouse and chaining it to the dock (with the key inside the clubhouse). Then any member could arrive early for an affair and sail it, or just come over any time and use it. This would add to the amenities of the club. The trailer would have to be stored safely in another location, conveniently located in case any member would like to tow the Sunfish somewhere else. Comments are requested on this idea. If interested, contact Bob or Sue at 386-649-8710 or griffinaero@yahoo.com.

New Boating Club in Town *By Bob Trail* - A paddling club has been formed in Palatka. Kayakers and canoe enthusiasts are welcome to join; there's no cost and several excursions have already been done to the enjoyment of all. The contact person is Susan Barber, endor51@aol.com, or 916-6071.

Dinner Meeting Programs - 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.

Dinner meeting programs—continued

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.

Websites of Interest to Boaters – Here is another website Bob Trail found for us: <http://demo.geogarage.com/noaa/>. It is a new Google service that is in Demo. It overlays all coastal US Nautical Charts on Google Maps! (note by editor: I checked it out and brought up a Mercator projection of the world, then repeatedly clicked to larger and larger scale, focused on our area, until I ended up with a satellite view of our house with our boats at the dock.)

Nautical Origins of Some Common Expressions - “Garbled” – Garbling was the prohibited practice of mixing rubbish with the ship's cargo. A distorted, mixed-up message was said to be **garbled**.

Test Your Yachting Knowledge - What is the derivation of the word "yacht"? (From the Florida Yacht Club newsletter) Answer at end of this newsletter

- (1) From the old Norse word for “sail”;
- (2) From the Greek for “sea chariot”;
- (3) From the Chinese for “seafarer”;
- (4) From the Dutch for “hunter”.

Announcements

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.

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. 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.

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

Answer to “Test your Yachting Knowledge” - (4)