

# Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

February 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

#### Special Events:

#### PR & Communications:

Constantine Foltis

#### Fund raising:

#### Membership Growth:

#### Programs:

Robert Trail

dinner meetings

#### Facilities:

#### Improvements:

## Commodore's Corner..... by Keith Cheshire

Well ahoy! That seems like a good way to greet you as we begin our journey into 2008. This year promises to be an EVENT-FILLED year for our club! I hope you share my enthusiasm for our upcoming gatherings and will demonstrate by bringing friends, neighbors and other potential members as your guests to not only our regular meetings, but to the mid-month rendezvous and other group events we will be holding throughout the year.

For those of you who missed the January meeting, I made two announcements intended to assist in our desire to grow our membership and expand the enjoyment of our facility and the wonderful St. Johns River on which it floats.

First is the membership challenge, whereby you have a chance to win one of three gift certificates of \$50, \$75 or \$125, with the winners' tickets to be drawn at our November meeting. Throughout this year, whenever a new member is installed, the sponsoring member will receive one or more raffle tickets for the November drawing. Ticket earning is progressive. That is, the more members you bring aboard, the number of tickets you get per new member increases. Put another way, a member who brings in three members will have almost 6 times as many chances to win as someone who brings in one member! So get out there and sell our club! We have a great group, a wonderful clubhouse and excellent events to offer anyone who loves the water or just good times with good friends.

Lastly, in the next few weeks you will begin to see posters appearing around the community bringing attention to our club. These posters will have contact names for those interested in more info on the club. If you want to be on the contact list, drop me a note at my email address ([keith.Cheshire@mindspring.com](mailto:keith.Cheshire@mindspring.com)) or speak to me at the meeting.

See you at the February meeting and thank you in advance for your support for our great club!



## January Improvements Report ..... By David Agniel

Although the weather was decidedly wet, Steve Huntley, with Connie Foltis' assistance, bolted down the two large mooring cleats to the starboard deck that Clay Gillean had donated to the club. They will be used to separate the mooring lines that are now bunched up on the two bollards on that side. Connie, Robbie Brackett, Gail Hart and Ella Lindsay took down and packed away the Christmas decorations. Guion Lindsay mounted a new lifting handle on the galley trap door. Down below, Guion and I moved the freezer to a good position next to the refrigerator and opposite the main kitchen cabinet units set up at the last work party. We also installed an additional section of flooring in front of the main



Steve drilling for the cleat

## January Improvements Report - continued

cabinets and positioned the small cabinets where they can be well utilized. The wet weather precluded painting outside as we had originally planned.

**Annual Club Dues** - The 2008 dues were due and payable as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Any that haven't been paid yet are overdue. Checks should be made out to the Palatka Yacht Club and either mailed to the club at P.O. Box 2004, Palatka, FL 32178-2004, or submitted at the February 28<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Members residing in Putnam County owe \$200 per person or \$400 per couple. Those who live outside Putnam County have a reduced rate of \$150 per person or \$300 per couple.

## Coming Events

**Las Vegas Night, February 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** – Las Vegas Night has been deferred to a later date, to be announced. At the January dinner meeting, Erika Heine had reported to the club that her committee lacked enough participation to insure a successful event by the original date scheduled. New commodore Keith Cheshire then announced that it would be deferred and asked for additional volunteers to work the project under Erika's leadership. Five more members volunteered to help. The committee will report at a future date on recommendations for a new time for this exciting event. Anyone else who wishes to provide assistance in this event should contact Erika at 467-2484 or [hansheine@bellsouth.net](mailto:hansheine@bellsouth.net), or Keith Cheshire at the above contact. We will need workers to work the gambling tables (card dealers, roulette spinner, etc. etc.) and waiters/waitresses to serve hors d'oeuvres, etc. Gifts that have already been donated for the auction will be held for the upcoming event. Look for more information in future newsletters.

**February 28<sup>th</sup> (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 David Agniel and Robbie Brackett. There will be a sign-up sheet available at the meeting for volunteers to register for the remaining 2008 dinner meeting door committees.

The evening's program will be given by the new owner of the Boathouse Marina in downtown Palatka, Scott LaGasse, who also now owns the historic wooden vessel "Noah's Ark", built in Palatka in the 1920s. He will talk about salvaging the boat and his plans for restoring it and putting it back in its original service on the river.

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you must cancel or wish to make last-minute reservations, call June Henley at 325-7016 no later than the evening of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 your reservations. If you are leaving town, remember to telephone your caller before you go and advise him or her of your plans. 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.

**March 1-2 (Saturday & Sunday) - Azalea Festival** - See discussion on page 4, Feb. 7 Board of Directors Meeting.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>(Saturday) - USCG Auxiliary Safe Boating Course** - This will be repeat of the one-day course given US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-9 at the clubhouse on August 25<sup>th</sup>, with any upgrades and/or new rules that might have come into effect since then. There will be a number of lecturers, each of whom will concentrate on one subject, and it will be open to the public. We will give more information about it later, by special notice and/or the March newsletter. Anyone who did not attend the August 25<sup>th</sup> event and who would like to know more may refer to the September 2007 newsletter for information about the past August 25<sup>th</sup> event. Linda Girardin had made all the arrangements for that one, but she and David will be out of town on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We need someone else to take the lead on this one.

## Past Events

**January 19<sup>th</sup> Work Party** - See "January Improvements Report" above.

**January 24<sup>th</sup> - Dinner Meeting** - Forty paid members and guests attended this first dinner meeting after the holidays, plus two complimentary guests, the evening's speaker, Chief Deputy Putnam County Property Appraiser Timothy Parker, and his wife Melanie. The PYC bar was available as always, adding to a busy and convivial social hour. Then we had a great dinner served by our regular caterers, consisting of Caesar salad, rolls and butter, beef tips and pearl onions over rice, breaded chicken cutlets, steamed vegetable medley, apple pie, cheesecake, chocolate cake and iced tea. Mrs. Parker asked if we always eat this well, and the first answer that came to this writer's mind was something like, "Yes, but *overeat* would be closer to the truth."



After dinner, commodore Clark Hoyle thanked everyone who had worked so hard to improve the club. He then called David Agniel to the stage and named him "2007 PYC Member of the Year" and presented him with the club's new perpetual trophy for that prize. This was for all his hard work in planning and supervising the improvements and maintenance done on the clubhouse and grounds over the past year, as well as having done much of that work himself. The trophy is a mahogany plaque with 12 brass nameplates, one for each year's winner. As of this meeting, David has resigned his post as Improvements Committee Chairman. A new chairman has not yet been chosen.

Next, in his last official act as commodore, Clark called the new Board of Directors to the stage that were elected in November and introduced them individually. These are:

Commodore ..... Keith Cheshire  
Vice Commodore ...Gail Hart  
Treasurer ..... Steven Huntley  
Secretary ..... Karen Blankenship  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Director ... Linda Girardin  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Director .... Constantine Foltis



Clark will remain on the Board for another year as Past Commodore. After finishing these introductions, he turned the floor over to new commodore Keith Cheshire.

Keith also thanked everyone for his or her past efforts, who had helped out during the year, especially Jay Holt for his gift of the beautiful ship model he built for the club. Keith then called our newest members to the stage, Keith and Ann Holland, along with their sponsors, Jay Holt, David Agniel and Robbie Brackett, and he welcomed the Hollands to the club. In addition, Keith announced a couple of initiatives for recruiting new members this year. The first was a plan for a recruiting challenge, with \$250 in gift certificates to be awarded at the November meeting. Each time a current member is successful in bringing a new member into the club this year, the recruiting member will receive one or more chances in a drawing to be held in November for the gift certificates. Secondly, Keith is preparing recruiting posters to be distributed to local businesses where boaters might see them, hopefully generating interest in finding out more about our club, etc. Their theme will be based on the WW I and WW II recruiting posters with Uncle Sam pointing and saying, "I want YOU!" Cards listing contacts for more information will be attached to the posters. During all this speechmaking, Karen Blankenship mingled with the crowd, selling tickets for the 50-50 drawing. Our guest speaker was asked to pull the winning ticket from the basket, and our by-then-ex-commodore Clark Hoyle was the winner. He took home \$39, and the club profited by an equal amount.



Ann & Keith  
Holland at right

## January 24th Dinner Meeting - continued

For the final segment of the evening's program, Keith introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Parker, who presented a slide-illustrated explanatory talk on the then-Proposed Florida Constitutional Amendment concerning property tax reduction. He also distributed copies of a sample ballot and an objective summary description of how the changes would affect home and personal property taxes. The Palatka Daily News later noted that he had been criss-crossing Putnam County, giving this message to as many audiences as he could reach before Florida's primary election day. This was not a boating-related subject, but it was very pertinent nevertheless, since it affected all taxpayers. We know now that the state's voters overall approved the proposed amendment, though Putnam County's did not.



**February 7<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors Meeting** - Commodore Keith Cheshire was not present due to illness, and vice commodore Gail Hart presided. The following items were discussed:

1. Secretary Karen Blankenship read the minutes of the last meeting, which were then approved. Treasurer Steve Huntley read the monthly treasurer's report, which was also approved. Anyone wishing details should contact Karen or Steve.
2. The subject of the upcoming Azalea Festival was brought up. It will be held on March 1-2, and we will need a group of volunteers to man a booth to publicize our club. The booth will be a small tent belonging to Helene Foltis, with one 6-foot table and a few chairs from the clubhouse. Anyone interested in volunteering for this event should contact Keith Cheshire at 328-3420 or [keith.cheshire@mindspring.com](mailto:keith.cheshire@mindspring.com). Some members have already volunteered to help.
3. We set a publication date of April 1 for the 2008 club handbook. By that time we expect that all the membership data for the year will have been brought up to date and all special events scheduled. As was done last year to minimize club costs, the new handbook will be e-mailed to members that have e-mail, and the recipients will be responsible for printing and binding their own copies. Black and white paper copies for those without e-mail will be distributed at the April dinner meeting. Any not claimed will be mailed.
4. Steve noted that, as of this meeting, 37 members had paid their 2008 dues. He is expecting a total of 73 when all are paid up who are expected to continue their membership.
5. There was some talk about changing the method of paying for dinners, but nothing came of it, and we will continue as at present.
6. The status of the club Sunfish was discussed, as to whether the club needed to own a boat to continue being classified as a yacht club. The legal answer was that it does not. Therefore the club is at liberty to sell the Sunfish if desired.
7. Last but not least, before the meeting someone discovered that the club's freezer in the lower hold had failed sometime after the last time it was opened. This must have happened quite a while ago, because all the hamburger meat left over from previous weekend burger parties was rotten and gave out a terrible odor. After the meeting was adjourned, Steve Huntley and Clark Hoyle took on the horrible job of cleaning out the freezer and feeding all the spoiled meat to the crabs and the one alligator that live near the clubhouse. We do not know, at this point, what happened to the freezer.

## Miscellany

**Carl Fiscella** – Old-time PYC members will remember former PYC commodore (1989) Carl Fiscella, who died in January from a heart attack. He and his wife Mollie had been living in the Jacksonville Beach area since 1995.

## Miscellany - continued

**Boating Information** – The following information was received from Wayne Beard, USCG Aux., Flotilla 14-9, on January 9<sup>th</sup>: For more details, contact Wayne at 386-698-2353 or [jew@gbso.net](mailto:jew@gbso.net).

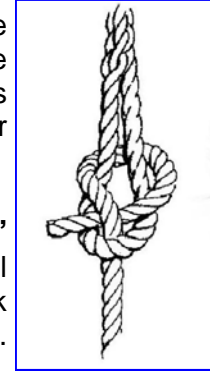
1. Selling or Buying a Boat - The new buyer has 30 days to register it in his or her name. In the case of a private sale of a used boat with outboard motor and trailer, and the seller entered the entire price on the Bill of Sale or Transfer Portion of the Vessel Title, the buyer must pay a Florida Sales Tax on that amount. Instead, the seller should use an itemized Bill of Sale listing the price of each item, i.e. Boat, Motor, and Trailer. The new owner will then only have to pay sales tax on the boat and trailer, not the motor.
2. Referring to #1 above: When you sell your boat you should make sure the new owner registers it in his or her name. If not, and the boat is abandoned, then the registered owner (previous actual owner, meaning you!) is still responsible. See Florida Statute 705.103(b)(4): If owner of an abandoned vehicle or vessel does not remove such property and the state does it for them, then that person is liable for costs of removal, storage and destruction of the property. The Dept. of Motor Vehicles will not issue a Certificate of Registration to any person who does not pay these costs. This means that person will not be able to register a car, trailer, next boat, motorcycle, etc., until all costs are paid.
3. *Groco*, the makers of sea valves, has issued a recall. Inspect the sea valves on your boat to check the metal components. If the valve has a stainless steel stem, it will need to be replaced. If the valve has a bronze stem, it is OK. Contact Groco at 410-712-0160, Dept 224, or [www.groco.net](http://www.groco.net), with a request for a replacement valve if yours is stainless steel.
4. The 2006 Florida Boaters Guide on page 34 states that marine sanitation device "Y"-valves must be secured so as not to direct waste overboard within Florida waters. Florida waters are defined as: 3 miles off the Atlantic Coast or the edge of the Gulf Stream, whichever is greater, and 9 miles off all of Florida's Gulf Coast. Ref: [www.mit.edu](http://www.mit.edu). In Florida latitudes the western edge of the Gulf Stream runs at about 80 degrees longitude. Off Miami it is close to the coast, but here in the Jax area it is about 20 miles offshore. This means the "Y"-valve must be secured up to 20 miles offshore near Jacksonville, but only 3 miles offshore near Miami, and varying distances in between.
5. Self Bailing Cockpit Boats - If you were looking at two center-console type boats, and one was self bailing and one depended on a bilge pump to clear water from an open cockpit, which one would you want to take offshore? The cockpit or watertight floor of a self-bailing boat is above the waterline and watertight, so the water in those areas cannot drain below and instead runs overboard by gravity. This makes the boat more seaworthy than one requiring a pump to clear those areas. Some boats of either type have more reserve buoyancy than others by having a limited cockpit size in relation to the size of the boat. Water spread over a large open area anywhere in the boat creates a free surface effect, which reduces stability. A couple of hundred pounds of water in a large cockpit can capsize the boat.  
  
In Europe, boats are designated into 4 categories: (1) sheltered, (2) inshore, (3) offshore and (4) ocean. Not so in the U.S. Self-bailing boats also have different methods of draining: Rain and Wash-down water versus Large Wave. ABYC (American Boat and Yacht Council) standards require not less than a 1" scupper, which can easily clog with fish scales or leaves, even with its built-in strainer. ISO (International Standards Organization) rules require that self-bailing boats must drain from fully flooded to 4" of water remaining in 40 seconds, whereas ABYC states 75% drainage in 90 seconds, a lot longer time for bad things to happen than the European standard allows. A better standard is that of USCG-inspected commercial passenger vessels. They require Freeing Ports mounted along the bulwark sides and along the stern as well, usually 10"-12" long x 1"-2" wide, mounted at the deck line. Ref: 46CFR42.15.70. Recreational boats do not have to meet this requirement.  
  
Some drainage scuppers use hoses inside the boat that connect to the strainer and then lead overboard. These hoses can leak in hidden places, and the leaked water stays inside the boat. Also some scuppers use one-way flaps to keep water out. These can leak, and you take water from both directions. Bigger is better with scuppers. If a 10-pound fish will not clog it up, that's the one you want. Whatever type you have, be aware of the surroundings and know the boat's limitations.
6. Go to [www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com), a website to give you more choices in finding out about the weather.

## Miscellany - continued

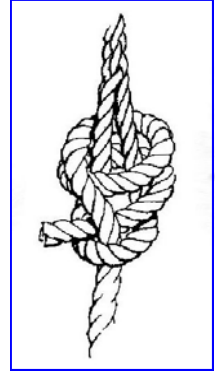
**Knotsmanship – Becket Hitch** – This is identical to the second half of the sheet bend described last month. It is applied to an existing loop such as an eye splice or bowline. Take an extra round turn to make a double becket hitch. As with the sheet bend, this knot is especially useful when the added line is smaller than the one with the existing loop.

### Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “At Loggerheads”

A loggerhead was a maintenance tool found on wooden ships, an iron ball attached to a long handle. The ball was heated and used to seal the pitch in deck seams, but sometimes it also became a handy weapon for quarreling crewmen. When fighting this way, those crewmen were **at loggerheads**.



Becket hitch



Double becket

hitch

## Announcements

**Club-owned Sunfish** – At present, the Club's Sunfish sailboat is on a trailer at David and Linda Girardin's residence and is available for any member to use, however it will be moved to the clubhouse at some point, as mentioned previously. If interested, contact David or Linda at 328-1774 or [DLBG75@hotmail.com](mailto: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@peoplepc.com](mailto: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](mailto:keith.cheshire@mindspring.com). The tent is stored onboard the clubhouse when not in use.

**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](mailto: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** - 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 ([cfoltis@bellsouth.net](mailto:cfoltis@bellsouth.net)) 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.

To write an article for the newsletter (including a short description of an interesting trip you have taken) or to place an advertisement or digital photograph in it, contact Connie at 328-6783 or the above e-mail address. Entries should be received by the end of the first week of the month.

**PYC Web Site** - <http://palatkayachtclub.org/> or [www.palatkayachtclub.org](http://www.palatkayachtclub.org)