

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

June 2007

2007 OFFICERS &

DIRECTORS

Commodore:

Clark Hoyle

Vice Commodore:

Keith Cheshire

Treasurer:

Steven Huntley

Secretary:

Karen Blankenship

First-Year Director:

Linda Girardin

Second-Year Director:

David Agniel

Past Commodore:

Keith Mehl

2007 COMMITTEE

CHAIRS

Special Events:

Susan Barton

PR & Communications:

Constantine Foltis

Fund raising:

Erika Heine

Membership Growth:

Susan Barton

Programs:

Robert Trail - dinner
meetings

Sara Szczes - weekend
events

David Girardin - boating
events

Facilities:

Keith Cheshire

Improvements:

David Agniel

Gene O'Connor

Commodore's Corner

As of June 2007, we have made a number of accomplishments. I want to thank all members for their participation and support in this year of change. Let's reflect back on some significant things we have accomplished so far.

A big achievement was the refinancing of the club debt. This refinancing removed the large balloon payment in exchange for payment over a term, which has no prepayment penalty. A big thank you goes to the new participants and lenders on this loan.

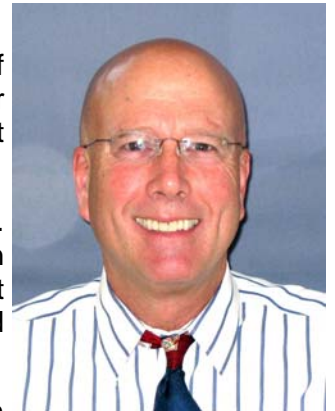
Equally as important was the restructuring of the initiation fees and annual membership dues. We raised to annual dues to \$200 per person from \$125. Actually the increase is only \$15 beyond what was previously agreed to (\$125 prior annual dues, add the \$5/mo each member previously agreed to pay for clubhouse cleaning [\$5x12 mos = \$60]; \$125 + \$60 = \$185 + \$15 = \$200). This annual dues base provides the platform to reach operating in the black, assuming we recruit 20 new members in 2007 and 20 new members in 2008. Coming very soon will be a new class of membership that is intended to attract a younger set of members that will propel the club to the future.

This year also represents our initial steps in creating programs designed to provide entertainment for members and guests at the clubhouse over various weekends. We also will be holding membership drives, fundraising events and kicking off several public relations campaigns that are designed to bring more community awareness to the club. Under the leadership of various program chairs, we will continue to refine, modify and develop more interesting programs. I have no doubt given the initial results of our new initial programs that we are creating a club full of fun, fellowship and interesting things for our members and guests.

Dockage at the clubhouse is almost a reality as we have a floating dock moored to the clubhouse for several boats to tie up. While we continue working with the property owner to create even more dockage, the use of our floating docks will be enjoyed in the interim. Having sufficient dockage for many future planned youth boating activities, membership and guest functions is critical for the long term. With the support of our landlord, we will work together to get the grounds in "tip-top" shape so that the Palatka Yacht Club and waterfront is pristine for all members and guests.

Looking to the future, I can see Mother's Day brunches and other special occasion brunches at the clubhouse, participation in the Azalea festival, a growing membership with more new expanded club functions and activities. Reviewing our salon area, I cannot help but think of the various ways we would enjoy cabinets, countertop, sink, reverse osmosis drinking water & ice in the ice maker, etc. Then there is the future galley down below.....

In summary, we have come a long way in this year of change and still have many things to do and new accomplishments to be made. With the support and involvement from our current members on clubhouse functions today, membership recruitment and



Commodore's Corner—continued

financial support, I am sure we will have an even better club tomorrow. It is my hope that the Palatka Yacht Club becomes the club of preference in Putnam County.

Clubhouse Update

Improvements Committee Report - May, 2007.... by *David Agniel and Gene O'Connor*

Karen Blankenship completed the window valence project. What a superb job she did! The improvement in looks and the acoustics are remarkable. Jay Holt and David Agniel assisted her in installing the large valence sections, also hanging Susan Barton's marine signal flags and the pictures that Hans & Erika Heine donated. The flags not only add a nautical accent but will help with the acoustics problem as well.

In addition to rearranging the bar set-up for easier access, Clark Hoyle sorted through all the items in the hold; then segregated, boxed and labeled them. It will make the work of decorating for special occasions much easier, as all the props and décor items are segregated. Prep work continues in the below deck area for rust control and painting prior, to laying a sub-floor in the galley area. The freezer has been moved below to make the bar and serving area more spacious.

Thanks go to Ernie and Brenda Ricard, who donated two cases of large new mooring cleats for the floating docks. We hope to have them installed in the near future.

The Gilleans brought their trailer and were instrumental in hauling off the scrap remains of the dock building project. We also removed the storage trailer from the property, as requested by our landlord. The mower and other items stored there for use in maintaining the grounds are relocated. Upon completion of the planned project to re-set a fourth piling and reinforce them all, our goal is to dispose of the excess materials temporarily stored on the hard-stand and beautify the area as much as possible. We will only need to retain the extra pilings for use in permanently installing the floating docks after permitting is completed.

Guion Lindsay and David Agniel have lent a hand in keeping the vegetation tamed, as this is an ongoing problem complicated by balky weed whackers. Jay Holt mowed open areas with our newly donated push mower. David also built a set of steps for use by the caterers, so they can come aboard at the starboard bow entrance.

Coming Events

June 16th (Saturday) – Welcome to Summer Membership Drive Barbecue – From 2:00 o'clock until 6:00 at the clubhouse, rain or shine. We will have our big tent set up on the grounds this time. This will be a combined event, because the June 2nd Membership Drive Barbecue was cancelled due to Tropical Storm Barry passing through. The schedule for this date published earlier is changed to meet the needs of the membership drive. This is important, because we will have a lot of publicity this time. For those of you who might have missed it, the June 9th Palatka Daily News featured a major article about our club, describing its history and activities, and including photographs of the clubhouse. It also mentioned this June 16th BBQ membership drive, with an invitation to the public to stop by, have some lunch and look around. This publicity should interest a larger crowd than would have come on June 2nd. Please plan to come, have some fun, meet a lot of new people and introduce them to our club. We need a large member presence for this occasion. Bring as many guests as you can, especially anyone you think would be a potential member. And wear your name tags and your Palatka Yacht Club T-shirts or polo shirts.

The club will provide barbecued hamburgers with all the condiments for the number of members and guests expected. Members are asked to bring a side dish to share. We are hoping for a large number of guests, who will naturally come empty handed, so make those side dishes super size. It's unfortunate about the ones some of us made for the cancelled June 2nd cookout. Thank you to all who prepared dishes for this occasion, and our apologies for the last-minute change in plans. RSVP by June 12th to Sara Szczes at 325-1478 or Lhether3@aol.com. When RSVPing, tell Sara the side dish you plan to bring.

The bar will be open to members with the usual donations. Of-age guests will be given two free coupons upon arrival, for beer, wine or spirits. Guests will not be allowed to donate for drinks directly. There will also be a plentiful supply of soft drinks. Donations to help defray the cost of all this will be gratefully accepted.

Coming Events—continued

June 28th (4th 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 [Connie and Helene Foltis](#).

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, June 22nd. If you must cancel, or if you wish to make last-minute reservations, call June Henley at 325-7016 no later than the evening of June 23rd, 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 reservations you made. If you are leaving town and plan to return in time to attend the meeting, 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.

June 30 (Saturday) - Dinner Excursion to Outback Crab Shack (by boat or car)

There will be a full moon that night, so we thought about boating north to the restaurant by sunlight and returning by moonlight. We will rendezvous off the Crystal Cove Marina at 6:00 PM for the ¾-hour journey north to Six-Mile Creek on the east shore of the river, and we hope to be back to this area by around 9:30 PM. The Girardins are willing to escort those boaters back to Palatka who are not comfortable motoring after the sun sets. It will be the perfect time to gain some confidence and see the river in a totally different setting. Those with sleep-aboard boats may choose to spend the night tied up at the Outback's ¼-mile-long dock and return the next day. For those coming by land, the Outback Crab Shack is on Route 13, a few miles south of the Shands Bridge. Expect the boaters' arrival at the restaurant dock around 7:00 PM, which by then hopefully will have been cleared out of day-time travelers.

July 13 - 15 (Friday to Sunday) - Boating Excursion to St. Marys, Georgia

This trip has always been a highlight of the boaters, about a 100-mile journey from Palatka. We will meet at 10:00 AM off of Crystal Cove Marina. For boats with limited fuel capacity, we can stop at the halfway mark in downtown Jacksonville for refueling. Sleep-aboard boats will be tying up at Lang's Marina in downtown St. Mary's (call ahead at 912-882-4452). Those not wishing to sleep onboard may stay at the Riverview Hotel (912-882-3242) across the street from the marina. It is an historic hotel that provides continental breakfast. Upon advance request, the hotel will package box lunches, which can come in handy if we are lucky to have perfect seas to circumnavigate Cumberland Island. Frequently, we leave the larger boats at the dock, with their occupants boarding the smaller boats for the trip. If the weather is not conducive to boating around the island, we can plan to either explore the museum and ruins by foot or motor over to Fernandina to explore the town. We usually have picnic lunches or eat at the hotel (if staying there) or on board our boats. We dine in the evenings at local restaurants. Look for the cocktail flag going up in the evening, a signal for everyone to gather on the hotel balcony, where we will also have delicious hors d'oeuvres.

2007 Activity Calendar - Changes will be announced in the newsletter as they come up. A more detailed description of each event within the month covered will be announced in each newsletter.

June 2007

- Saturday, 9th, 9-1pm: Clubhouse maintenance (painting, yard, pressure wash, repair, etc.)
- Saturday, 16th, 2pm: Membership Drive BBQ at clubhouse (see above)
- Thursday, 28th, 6pm: Monthly dinner meeting at clubhouse
- Saturday, 30th, 6pm: Boating/driving to Outback Crab Shack

Activity Calendar - continued

July 2007

- Friday-Sunday, 13th-15th, 10am Fri: Boating to St. Marys, Georgia
- Saturday, 21st, 9-1pm: Clubhouse maintenance (painting, yard, pressure wash, repair, etc.)
- Saturday, 21st, ___pm: card party at clubhouse (time TBA)
- Thursday, 26th, 6pm: monthly dinner meeting at clubhouse

August 2007

- Saturday, 11^h, 9-1pm: Clubhouse maintenance (painting, yard, pressure wash, repair, etc.)
- Saturday, 11th: Bingo at clubhouse
- Thursday, 23rd: Monthly dinner meeting at clubhouse

September 2007

- Saturday, 8th, 6pm: Gators vs. Troy State game at clubhouse
- Saturday, 15th, 9-1pm: Clubhouse maintenance (painting, yard, pressure wash, repair, etc.)
- Saturday-Sunday, 22nd-23rd, 10am: Raft-up behind Seven Sisters islands
- Thursday, 27th, 6pm: Monthly dinner meeting at clubhouse

October 2007

- Saturday, 6th, 9-1pm: Clubhouse maintenance (painting, yard, pressure wash, repair, etc.)
- Saturday, 13th, 12pm: 1st Annual Palatka Chowder Debate, at clubhouse (public is invited)
- Thursday, 25th, 6pm: Monthly dinner meeting at clubhouse
- Friday-Sunday, 26th-28th: Boating/driving to St. Augustine - cancelled
- Saturday, 27th: Las Vegas Night - Fund raising at clubhouse (time TBA)

November 2007

- Sunday, 4th, 10:30am: Boating/driving to 3 Bananas Restaurant
- Saturday, 17th, 9-1pm: Clubhouse maintenance (painting, yard, pressure wash, repair, etc.)
- Saturday, 17th - *Oyster Roast at the clubhouse (tentatively around Saturday 17th)*
- Thursday, 22nd, 6pm: Monthly dinner meeting at clubhouse

December 2007

- Saturday, 1st, 9-1pm: Clubhouse maintenance (painting, yard, pressure wash, repair, etc.)
- *Commodore's Dinner & Dance December 8th, stay tuned*

Past Events

May 19 - Canoe/kayak Excursion



Nine people, with three two-seater canoes and three single-seat kayaks, showed up for this excursion starting from the Welaka public boat ramp. We crossed the river with the wind behind us, then paddled south



along the west shore, within the calm shelter of Nuphar plants, to the mouth of Bear Creek. We entered Bear Creek and paddled upstream until time to break for lunch. We were in a swamp, with no dry land nearby, so the Girardins tied their canoe to a tree, and the others rafted up to the Girardins' canoe while we ate. Continuing upstream on Bear Creek led us to the Oklawaha River, where we then went downstream back to the St. Johns. Crossing back over to the east shore of the river was a memorable experience, with the northeast wind on our port bow blowing about 25 knots. Paddling against this wind was made more difficult than expected because of the long fetch which allowed steep choppy waves to form, made worse by power-boat wakes. The kayaks appeared to have an easier time of it than the canoes, because of their low freeboard, full decks, and tiny cockpits. We all got good upper-body workouts under these conditions, getting back to the Welaka boat ramp. The round trip took us no more than four hours.

May 24 (4th Thursday) - Dinner Meeting

This was our first meeting aboard after the clubhouse was fitted out with new decor. Thank you, Susan Barton, for all the maritime flags hanging from the ceiling, and thank you, Karen Blankenship, for all the time and hard work you put in to make those beautiful valences. And thank you to the work party that put them all up, while some of us were enjoying a day on the water canoeing. Our catered dinner was, as usual, delicious. Starting with an appetizer of spinach dip and Melba toast during the social hour, we then went on to Caesar salad, rolls & butter, black beans over rice with sour cream and grated cheddar cheese, roast chicken, pork tenderloin, three kinds of cake dessert and two kinds of iced tea. Dinner receipts were \$630, and bar donations were \$165.50. Clay Gillean won the 50-50 drawing, taking home half of the \$93 total collection. After dinner, Commodore Clark Hoyle gave a pep talk about the coming membership drive barbecue and other coming events, and David Girardin described the previous Saturday's canoe trip. There was no other club business discussed that evening.



For the evening's program, Mr. Jim Krueger, Vice President of Operations of Mainship Trawlers, presented a very interesting talk and slide show about his company's boat-building operation. He took us step-by-step through the process of producing a new boat, starting with researching prospective owners' requirements for size, speed, range, accommodations, etc. After that, the basic hull design and powering requirements are developed by an outside naval architectural firm. The in-house engineering staff take it from there and design the exterior, accommodations and machinery, first by computer visualization followed by cardboard mockups, and finally the hull structure, using the latest computer aids and fiberglass design technology. Mainship is part of a conglomerate that includes Hunter, Luhrs and Silverton Yacht. Together they are the third largest independent boat builder in the United States. Mainship is the largest trawler-yacht manufacturer in the world.



Membership Drive Barbecue - June 2nd – As most of you know by now, this event was rained out by Tropical Storm Barry, ironically on only the second day of hurricane season after months of clear skies and record-breaking drought.

Past Events—Continued

Board of Directors Meeting - June 7th – A number of things were discussed on the following topics:

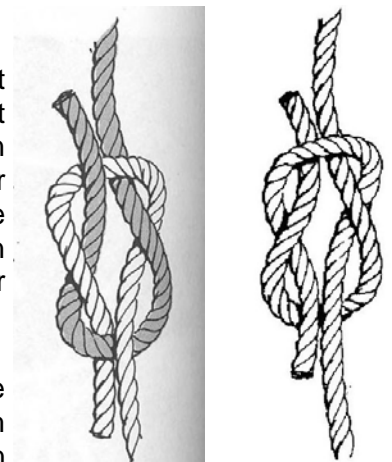
- (1) Treasurer Steve Huntley reviewed the past month's financial report. Contact him for details if desired.
- (2) David Agniel announced clubhouse updates planned for June: the Board approved the concrete reinforcement around the light pole bases and piling braces. This work will be done before the end of June.
- (3) Linda Girardin read a draft of proposed changes to the club By Laws to create new classes of membership, which if enacted would affect members' and applicants' fees and dues.
- (4) Plans for the October 27th "Las Vegas Night" were discussed.
- (5) Due to the high prices quoted for printing this year's handbooks in color, and the absence of an "angel" this year to print them gratis, the following has been decided: (a) We will e-mail the handbooks as pdf files to everyone who has been receiving e-mail newsletters, and those members can print them themselves. (b) We will then print black-and-white handbooks for everyone else, at a fraction of the cost of color.
- (6) In conjunction with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, plans are being made for a boating refresher course at the clubhouse in August. This will be open to the public.

Miscellany

Recovering – Former member **Bob Collins** is home again after having his right carotid artery "roto rooted". He did great this time, a far cry from a similar procedure on his left carotid artery in February, when he had a mild heart attack while in recovery. He and Nancy send their regards to all their PYC friends. Commodore **Clark Hoyle** is recuperating at home from arthroscopic knee surgery. We wish them both a quick recovery.

Knotsmanship – Granny Knot – It is useless and even dangerous. Sometimes it slips, and sometimes it jams, and it should never be used on a boat. The granny knot looks a little like the square knot, and many people mistakenly tie a granny knot when they are trying to tie a square knot. The difference is that on a granny knot the bitter ends are at opposite sides of the bights from the standing parts, whereas on the square knot the bitter ends are on the same sides of the bights. (Additional note on the square knot, forgotten in last month's writeup: both lines must be the same size for the square knot to hold properly)

Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – "Adrift" – A ship is said to be **adrift** if it is not propelled, is not moored and is not under navigational control, much like society's drifters who are carried along by the tidal forces of life, without direction or purpose. The word derives from the Middle English **drifte** (to float).



Granny Knot Square Knot

Signal Flags – Now that our clubhouse is ceremonially "dressed" with signal flags, some of us might want to become familiar with their meanings for historical reasons. Though not used by present day yachtsmen, they represent a colorful part of the history of the art of communication. See last page.

Announcements

Dinner Meeting Door Committees – More volunteers are needed for the remaining openings: **July, August and October**. Will a few people please step forward and fill these vacancies? We need your help. Please contact Keith Cheshire at 328-3420 or keith.cheshire@midspring.com.

Club-owned Sunfish - The Club's Sunfish sailboat is on a trailer at David and Linda Girardin's residence and is available for any member to use. If interested, contact David or Linda at 328-1774 or 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@earthlink.net 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 Clark Hoyle at 386-649-6795 or clarkhoyle@midspring.com.

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. 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.

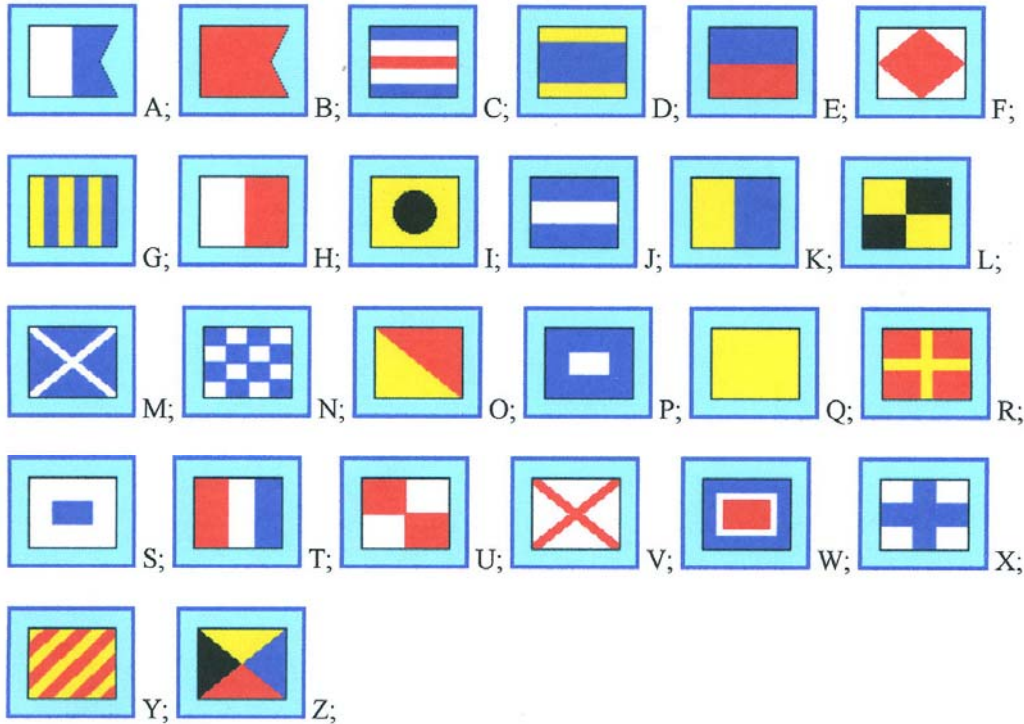
Newsletters - If you have an e-mail address and are currently receiving paper copies of our club newsletters, you are urged to file your e-mail address with publisher Connie Foltis (contact: cfoltis@bellsouth.net) and arrange to receive your newsletters as pdf e-mail files. This would lessen the cost of printing and mailing paper copies every month which, starting with this issue, is being done by a commercial printer at club expense. The club will have spent a sizeable sum on this by the end of the year, which we can ill afford, even though over half the members are now receiving their newsletters by e-mail. Thanks go to Sherry Mehl, who up to now was the most recent club member to do this work and bear the expense. There were others in the past that did the same.

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

International Marine Signal Flags

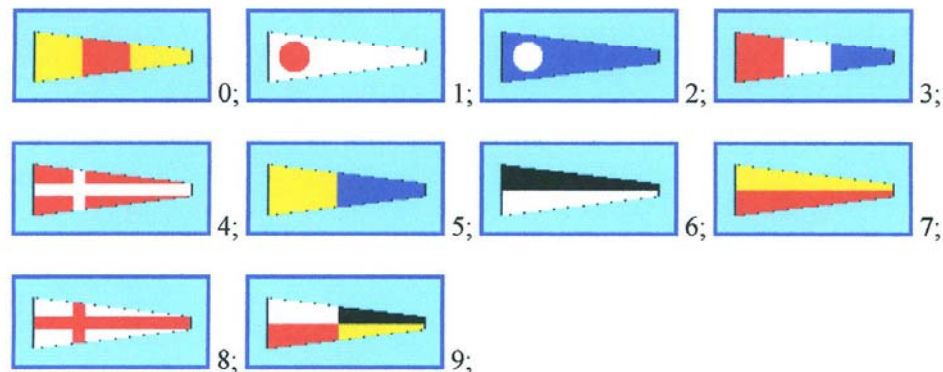
Alphabet Flags



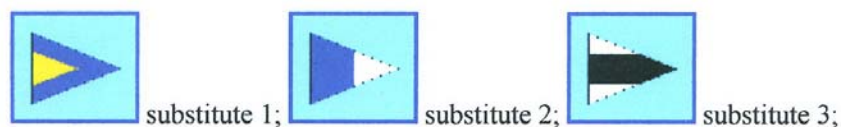
Answering Pennant



Numeric Pennants



Substitute Pennants



The first substitute repeats the upper flag or pennant of a hoist, the second substitute repeats the second flag or pennant, and so on.