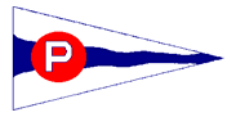


# Palatka Yacht Club



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Location: 107 Marina Road, Palatka  
Webpage: [www.palatkayachtclub.org](http://www.palatkayachtclub.org)

## Whispers over the Waters

June 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

### Commodore's Corner ..... By Gail Hart

I want to encourage every member to make use of the clubhouse. Come by water or by land. Use it as refuge from a sudden thunderstorm on the Saint Johns, or simply a place to sit and enjoy the sunset. The keys give you access to restrooms, umbrella tables on the Texas deck, and the air-conditioned salon. There is a television with an extensive DVD and VHS library. Too, a member has donated a computer equipped with charting and navigation packages, world-wide tide tables, and standard seafaring texts such as Bowditch, the Sailing Directions, and Coastal Pilots.

So kick back, watch an America's Cup or Hornblower movie or plan your next arm-chair voyage to the Lesser Antilles.



### Coming Events

**June 17 (Thursday) - PYC-Sponsored Chamber of Commerce "Business after Hours" at the clubhouse - Cancelled**

**June 24 (Thursday) - Dinner meeting -** Aboard our floating clubhouse. Dinner will be provided by the club, at a charge of \$10 per person. The menu will be: appetizer, spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, bread and dessert. The door committee will be David and Linda Girardin. The 50-50 drawing this time will include the collection from the May 27 dinner meeting, and ticket holders should bring their tickets to this meeting. See explanation following in the May 27 dinner meeting write-up.

### June 26-27 (Saturday-Sunday) Boat rendezvous - Seven Sisters raft-up

..... by David Girardin

There will be a full moon on Saturday night, so come one come all.

We will gather all boats at the clubhouse at 2 PM, and then move to either the sand bar directly off of the clubhouse or the Redneck Riviera in front of Murphys Island (green marker "23") for a little R & R in the river. Bring lawn or boat chairs for use in the river.

At about 5 PM, we will move the fleet from the swimming hole on to 7 Sisters Islands for our evening anchorage. Enter the island grouping just downstream (north) of green marker "31". The specific anchorage will be dependent on



### 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:

## **Seven Sisters raft-up - continued**

weather conditions, particularly the winds. The odds are that we will continue swimming to cool off and to finish out the day.

Please bring a side dish to share with others spending the night and of course your evening entrée.

After breakfast on Sunday morning on board our vessels, we will probably head back to the Redneck Riviera or another sand bar for more in-the-water activity before making our way back home.

**July 1 (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting** - At 6:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

**July 22(Thursday) - Dinner meeting** - The door committee will be Clark Hoyle and Gemma Rastatter.

## **July 30-August 1 (Friday-Sunday) - St. Marys, Georgia, Boating Adventure**

*..... by David and Linda Girardin*

We (the Girardins) will be leaving the Elgin Grove Boat Ramp at Forester Point in East Palatka, 3.5 miles north of the US 17 Bridge, at 10:00 AM on Friday. From this point to the marina in St. Marys, you will travel approximately 105 statute miles, or as Gene O'Connor likes to say, 91 nautical miles.

We cruise at about 25 mph and will "lead" the way. Anyone upstream can meet us near the ramp at 10:00. We'll monitor Channel 68. Those living downstream can pick us up on the way. Fuel is available in downtown Jacksonville, Fernandina, and St. Marys.

For those staying ashore in St. Marys, the Riverview Motel renovated rooms in August of last year. Check out the rooms and prices at [www.riverviewhotelstmarys.com/index](http://www.riverviewhotelstmarys.com/index). If you mention that you are part of the Palatka Yacht Club, you may receive a discount on the room. Their phone number is 912-882-4452.

If you are planning on staying on your boat, please let us know the length of your boat and power/water needs. We will call in a group reservation to the dock master, who usually doesn't take reservations.

If you are traveling up by boat or launching your boat in St. Marys and want dock space, please let us know as well. We'll need the length of your boat for the reservation.

Those planning to travel to St. Marys by car must use their judgment on timing. The road distance from Palatka to St. Marys is also about 100 miles. Take I-95 six miles into Georgia and turn east on Rt. 40, then eight miles to St. Marys. If you are trailering your boat to the area, launch at the public boat ramp near the Riverview Hotel. Those coming by car without a boat in tow, do not expect a space on a boat unless previously arranged. Most of those coming on big boats will not take them off of the dock once they are in St. Marys, and they will have 1st dibs on space on the small boats for daytime boating activities.

For food planning purposes, the Girardins are planning on stopping at the Jacksonville Landing to get lunch to go on the way to St. Marys. We will order box lunches on Friday for Saturday's boating activities. The hotel provides a free continental breakfast to its patrons. There is a restaurant nearby that serves a regular menu for breakfast. Lunch on Sunday will depend on weather and the urge to get home. Friday and Saturday nights, we'll visit local restaurants.

## St. Marys trip - continued

Weather permitting on Saturday, we'll circumnavigate Cumberland Island, anchoring up some place for lunch. Hopefully, we'll see plenty of the wild horses and maybe even a submarine around Kings Bay. The majority will rule on what we do on Saturday.

For those who want to walk to the ruins, we can arrange for a drop off and pick up. Plan to just plain relax and enjoy the scenery. Fishing poles might be a nice addition; we'll just fish in Florida waters. Don't forget the cameras either.

Please confirm your intentions (our phone: 328-1774) so that we can make sure you receive any last-minute information (which we hope won't be necessary).

Linda and David

## Remaining 2010 Events

Details of each of the following will be included in the newsletter preceding each event. Weekend events may be subject to later change or cancellation.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Leader</u>
August 5	Board of Directors meeting	-----
August 26	Dinner meeting - door committee: Connie & Helene Foltis	-----
August 28	Boat rendezvous - Lunch at Welaka Lodge & Marina	Larry Hayes & Bob Waldow
September 2	Board of Directors meeting	-----
September 11	Work party at the clubhouse	Bob Trail
September 18-19	Boat rendezvous - Bear Island in Crescent Lake	G. O'Connor & D. Girardin
September 23	Dinner meeting - door committee: Keith Mehl & Ella Lindsay	-----
October 2	Work party at the clubhouse	Bob Trail
October 7	Board of Directors meeting	-----
October 9	Oktoberfest	-----
October 23-24	Boat rendezvous - Green Cove Springs Public Marina	Gene O'Connor
October 28	Dinner meeting - door committee: B. Drackett & R. Masters	(Nominate 2011 officers)
November 4	Board of Directors meeting	-----
November 6	Work party at the clubhouse	Bob Trail
November 13	Oyster Roast <u>or</u> Pig Roast - elect 2011 officers	Connie Foltis
November 20-21	Boat rendezvous - Murphys Creek raft-up	David Girardin
December 2	Board of Directors meeting.	-----
December 4	Work party at the clubhouse	Bob Trail
No date	Christmas party	-----

## Past Events

**Erika Heine** - Erika, beloved wife of Hans Heine, passed away Thursday, May 13, from the effects of a stroke suffered a few months earlier. A memorial service was held for her on May 22 in San Mateo.

**Clara Hightower** - Clara passed away on June 6 after a brief illness. Her funeral service was held on June 8 at St. James Methodist Church in Palatka. She had spent some time in Flagler Hospital being treated for a long-term esophageal problem, in which she had been unable to swallow solid food.

## Past Events - continued

**May 23 - Redneck Riviera Rendezvous** – This was originally scheduled as a Saturday-Sunday event but was changed to Sunday only because of the sad occasion of Erika Heine's memorial service on Saturday. Nevertheless, five PYC boats with 18 members, guests and three dogs arrived at the sandbar for an afternoon of swimming, socializing and partying. The



Bob Waldow caught a fish  
D. Mann photo

accompanying photographs describe the afternoon's activities better than words can. One problem occurred at the end of the day, however, as everyone prepared to leave. The gear-shift cable on Doug Mann's boat parted, and his boat was unable to use forward gear. It was virtually immobilized, and Gene and Jeannine O'Connor towed it back to the Palatka city dock with their Panga. Doug later hauled it out and trailered it home for repairs.



This was the third PYC rendezvous so far this year, and all three had problems. The first one, to Corky Bell's on February 27, was rained out and became a mostly drive-to luncheon instead of a boating rendezvous. On the second rendezvous, to Hontoon Island on April 15-18, organizer Clark Hoyle's boat had mechanical problems, so he and Gemma didn't go. Later that same weekend commodore Gail Hart was injured and spent a couple of days in the hospital.

**May 27 - Dinner meeting** – Twenty-six members attended this meeting and had a delicious summer barbecue meal that Dorothy and Larry McAfee and friends prepared. It was grilled hot dogs and hamburgers with all the 'fixin's', home-made chili, baked beans, potato salad, two kinds of cole slaw and three kinds of dessert, not to mention two kinds of appetizers beforehand. Afterwards the attendees were treated to a very interesting program that Bob Trail presented about Whooping Cranes. Members that didn't come that evening missed out.

The program was a videotape about the efforts to save the Whooping Crane from extinction. Not long ago these big beautiful birds numbered only in the teens, and then a few dedicated people started bringing them back from the brink, with a captive breeding program and flying lessons, using ultralight aircraft to lead the inexperienced birds from their summer home in Wisconsin south along a migratory flyway to a winter nesting area in Florida. In the spring they find their own way back to their birthplace, using nature's own built-in GPS. When this program was started there were 15 birds in a flock that was discovered in Texas. Now there are over 200. With the establishment



of an Eastern Migratory Flock, two independent groups offer hope for these magnificent birds. Bob is an ultralight flyer himself, so he has had an almost proprietary interest in this project, and he is willing to present this program to other groups. For those of you who missed it, you may catch the excitement at [operationmigration.org](http://operationmigration.org). This program was riveting enough that the 50-50 drawing was completely forgotten. Its collection will be merged with next-month's collection, and those that bought tickets should save them for next month's 50-50 drawing.

## Past Events - continued

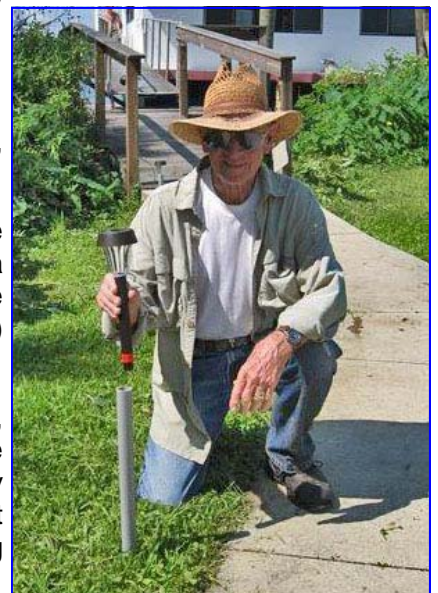
**June 3 (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting** - The following topics were discussed:

1. The minutes of the May 6 meeting were reviewed and approved with a minor change.
2. Treasurer Steve Huntley summarized the salient points of the treasurer's report, which was then approved. It was noted that the bar receipts were down from last time, with little change in restocking costs. Members, please remember the donations for drinks. We have 46\* paid-up members this year, compared to 52 last year.
3. We can now get a free Yellow Pages telephone listing for the club.
4. Secretary Karen Blankenship will rework the PYC application blank to reflect the present policy on initiation fees, as follows: "Initiation fees for new members are \$125.00 for the first Class I applicant in a household and \$75.00 for each additional applicant at the same residence address. Initiation fees for other classes of membership are proportional as spelled out in the By Laws. Initiation fees are waived for returning former members." All else will remain the same. When it is done, Karen will forward it to webmaster Keith Mehl, who will post it on our website in place of the existing application.
5. Keith now says that we can have a secure section of our website for confidential members-only information.
6. There was some discussion of lawn mowing. Our members have mowed it so far this season, but commodore Gail Hart will speak to our landlord about whether he is responsible for it.
7. The club is getting ready to form a nominating committee for next year's officers. Anyone who is interested in helping in this way, please call Gail Hart at 329-8460.
8. The date for Oktoberfest was set at Saturday, October 9
9. The oyster and shrimp roast this year may not be possible because of the Gulf oil spill. If those seafoods are available at all, they might be prohibitively expensive.
10. It was decided that the best time for our Christmas party would be either December 4 or December 11. Members who attend the June 24 dinner meeting can vote for their preference at that time.
11. It was agreed that members can dock their boats at the clubhouse at any time at their own risk.

\* Forty-three members now, after three deaths in a month.

**June 5 (Saturday) - Work party at the clubhouse** - Six members came to this work session and performed the following:

1. Bob Trail mowed the grounds with his riding mower brought from home.
2. Guion Lindsay pulled up the wiring and ground-level lamps along the sidewalk, then he, Bruce Drackett and Dog Mann weed-whacked all over afterwards.
3. Guion and Ella purchased solar-powered outside lights to place along the sidewalk and donated them to the club. Bruce Drackett purchased and installed a row of 18"-high PVC tubes along the sidewalk to hold these solar lights, which are to be stored in the clubhouse when not in use. (Last person to leave does this.) The permanent PVC tubes won't interfere with future weed whacking.
4. Bob Trail began further measures to prevent water entering the wheelhouse, with help from Doug Mann and Connie Foltis. They found 2" of water in the wheelhouse, after all the previous work over the past year to prevent it. It may have been caused by some of the recently-installed fiberglass at the deck joint pulling away from the wheelhouse bulkheads, opening gaps for the recent driving rains to intrude. Evidently the fiberglass resin does not adhere that well to the



Guion with solar light

R. Trail Photo

## Work party - continued

bulkhead material used in construction. There was no leakage down into the main salon, however, and the group mopped out the water in the wheelhouse. Bob's plan was to fasten aluminum trim strips bedded in caulk over what appears to be the leaking gaps, ensuring a tight seal.\*

5. Bob replaced a leaking plumbing part in the men's wash room.

6. Bruce Drackett and Steve Huntley planned out an extensive arrangement of additional wiring, lighting fixtures and electrical outlets in the galley area in the lower hold. They already had some of the materials on hand and then prepared a bill of materials for the remainder. Bruce suggested using magnetic light fixtures to be gripped to the steel deck over, which could be moved about as desired for best lighting.

\* Bob completed the job the next day.

## 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](mailto:griffinaero@gmail.com).

**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 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 at 649-8710 or [griffinaero@gmail.com](mailto: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 – “POSH”** – In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, British passenger ships steaming between England and India by way of the Suez Canal charged higher prices for their more comfortable staterooms. Since this was before the advent of air conditioning, the more comfortable staterooms were on the side of the ship facing north, away from the sun, during the easterly or westerly legs of the voyage. The port side of the ship was to the north in the outbound leg, going toward India, and the starboard side faced north in the homebound leg toward Britain. Thus the steamship companies advertised their best staterooms as “**Port Out, Starboard Home**”, which eventually was abbreviated to **P.O.S.H.** Now, **posh** stands for anything luxurious, exclusive or expensive.

**Interesting stuff you may never need to know** - Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Irishpower71@yahoo.com). The tent is stored onboard the clubhouse when not in use.

## Miscellany - continued

**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 at [cfoltis@live.com](mailto: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 telephone 386-328-6783.