

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

November 2006

2006 OFFICERS &

DIRECTORS

Commodore:

Keith Mehl

Vice Commodore:

Robert Collins

Treasurer:

Steven Huntley

Secretary:

Lenore Cowan

First-Year Director:

David Agniel

Second-Year Director:

Robert Trail

Past Commodore:

Wayne McClain

2006 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMEN

Web Master:

Richard Vangunten

Historian:

Marcia Vangunten

Reservations:

June Henley

Rendezvous:

Harry Gillean

Sunshine:

Andrea Gillean

Membership:

Marcia Vangunten

Members' Nametags:

Robert Collins

Programs:

Robert Trail

Bar Keeper:

Jerry Hafner

Editor & Publisher:

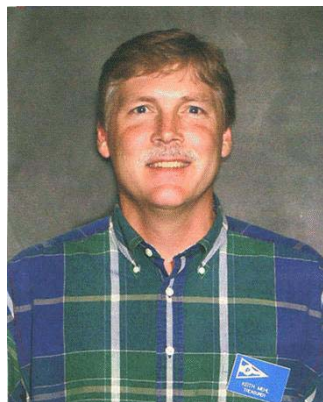
Constantine Foltis

Hospitality:

Sherry Mehl

Facilities:

Robert Collins



Commodore's Corner

What a party. I didn't know you had it in you. If you weren't there you missed good food, a good time and fantastic costumes. We probably need to perform an exorcism to clear out all the ghosts, goblins and other ghoulish creatures. And oh, I almost forgot, the proceeds went to a good cause, the Humane Society. See following stories for more details about the party.

We have a full slate of candidates for next year's Board. They were announced at the last dinner meeting, and we will have the election at our November dinner meeting. My thanks and congratulations to all. Please plan on attending to participate in the election. Wayne did a great job assembling an excellent group to meet our ongoing objectives, which are completing work on the clubhouse inside and out, improving programs and attendance, increasing membership and finally, refinancing the clubhouse. There are also multiple committees looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please let me know and I will make sure the new commodore gets the information.

The dinner is one week early this month because of Thanksgiving. It is also the last dinner meeting of the year. I hope to see you there. If I don't, please have a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Finally, hope to see you at the Christmas party on the 16th of December.

2007 PYC Candidates

Commodore:	Bob Collins	Vice Commodore:...	Clark Hoyle
Treasurer:	Steve Huntley	Secretary:	Sandie Dickens
1 st Year Director:..	Linda Girardin	2 nd Year Director: ...	David Agniel

by Keith Mehl

Coming Events

November 15th (Wednesday) - Dinner Meeting - Onboard our floating clubhouse. Note that this date is the third Wednesday of the month instead of the usual fourth Wednesday, to avoid conflict with Thanksgiving. Social hour will start at 6:00 PM, and dinner will be served at 7:00. Ernest and Dolores Grace will be the door committee for that evening. The membership present at this time will vote on candidates for the 2007 Board of Directors. These will include the members shown above that have been chosen by the incumbent Board, plus any additional candidates nominated from the floor at that time. To lighten the tone of the evening, singer Todd Dixon will entertain us with a selection of sea chanties and guitar accompaniment.

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, November 10th. 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 November 10th, 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.

December 2nd (Saturday) - Christmas Light Parade - The Rat Island Yacht Club has invited the Palatka Yacht Club to participate in this annual event at the city waterfront area. We have been advised that, in accordance with the planned route of the parade on the water, the special lighting on the boats should be shown on the port side. Those interested in participating should contact RIYC Commodore Richard Ashley at 328-9387 evenings or weekends.

December 3rd (Sunday) - Murphys Island - This is a one-day picnic to Murphys Island by boat (no other way to get there). In addition to socializing and lunching on the dock, some of us will hike across the island and back, and some of us will circumnavigate the island prior to the trip back home. Plan to meet at the Palatka city park launching ramp at 10:00 AM and/or the Murphys Island pier around 11:00.

December 7th (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - 5:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Please check with the Commodore if you plan to attend. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

December 16th (Saturday) - Christmas Party - Planning for the party is still in the works. It will begin in the early evening and end when we are too tired to dance anymore. The place is the clubhouse, of course. The menu is still being decided, and it will dictate the price. At the request of the Board, we will be planning the party to be "self-funding", i.e., we must cover all of our out-of-pocket expenses for food, drink and decor with ticket proceeds (or donations!). As such, we will be requiring reservations as we do for the monthly dinner meeting.

We're strongly considering setting up a Christmas gift registry for the clubhouse as part of the festivities. At the top of the list will be Christmas ornaments (nautically-themed, if possible), but we're also thinking about items for the clubhouse like a stereo, wireless remote speakers, marine radio, storage unit for the women's room, etc.

A separate invitation will be sent out for the Christmas party, with additional information. Also, the December newsletter will recap. Please keep the date open! - by Sherry Mehl

December 31st/January 1st (Sunday/Monday) - New Year's Events - Details will be in the December newsletter.

Past Events

Dinner Meeting - October 25th - There were 61 paid members and guests at this, the first meeting in our new clubhouse when we could open the windows and enjoy the fresh air off the river. At 6:00 o'clock starting time there were many people enjoying their own social hour and cocktails at the picnic tables on the upper deck, and it was difficult coaxing them down to the meeting indoors. The bar brought in \$208 to the club, then our caterers served a delicious buffet dinner of rolls and butter, tossed green salad, mixed steamed vegetables, beef stroganoff over noodles, ham, two kinds of cheesecake, chocolate cake, apple pie and iced tea. The raffle brought \$99 into the club treasury. Craig G. Brock, a guest of Chell and Sharon Uhl, won the raffle basket of wine and holiday-embroidered fingertip towels that Helene Foltis had prepared. Craig also submitted his application to join the Palatka Yacht Club at this meeting. Dave and Janet Keister volunteered to donate the next gift basket.

Treasurer Steve Huntley filled us in on the club's finances with highlights of his monthly treasurer's report.

Dinner meeting (continued)

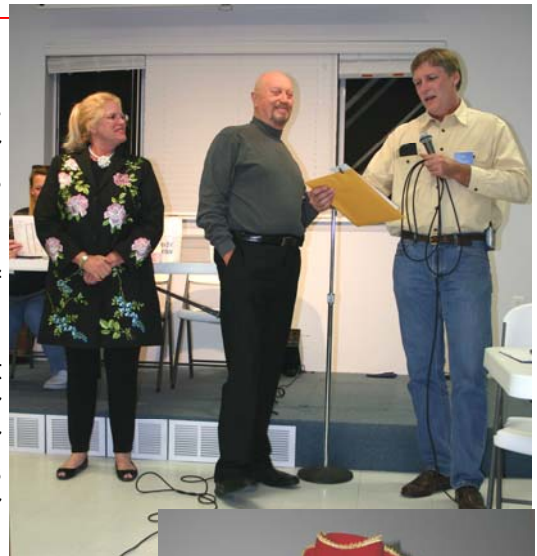
Anyone wishing further details on this should contact Steve at 904-692-2952 or protopterus@earthlink.net. Commodore Keith Mehl welcomed our newest member, George James, into the club, with Susan Barton as his sponsor. George can be reached at 904-692-2818 or sab751@yahoo.com. Filling in for past Commodore Wayne McClain, who was not present, Keith announced the candidates recommended by the incumbent Board of Directors for next year's Board, as named above under "Coming Events".

There was no program for this meeting, other than club business, but Bob and Sue Trail set up two reflecting telescopes on the upper deck for stargazing after the meeting was over. There was supposed to be a meteor shower, but Bob only saw one meteor. This

writer never saw any. However, a thin crescent moon hung low over the river in a clear sky and made gorgeous viewing through the telescope.

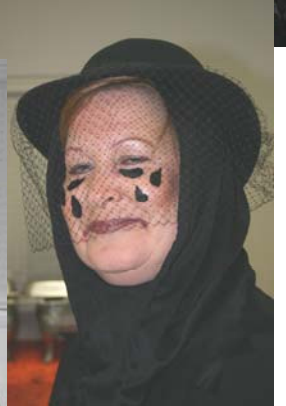
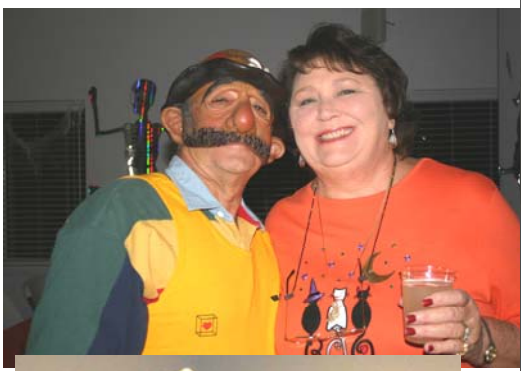
Halloween Party October 31st

- There were about 35 members and guests at this wonderful Halloween party. Most came in costume, and it was great to have so many of us costumed 70-plus-year-olds prancing around like 12-year-olds. Not everyone was that old, of course, but age didn't make any difference. The extravagant buffet table of exotic hors d'oeuvres served by our regular dinner meeting caterers, J&M, was out of this world.



There was so much food that everyone was stuffed, and those that wanted took some home. Check out







Halloween party (continued)

the decorations in the pictures, also.

A club member provided the buffet, with a request that donations be given at the door to the Humane Society of Northeast Florida. A total of \$1,020 was raised for the charity. Carol Mussoline, President of the Humane Society (in orange at right), was one of the guests. She gave a short talk about the Society's work and thanked the club for our donations. She also invited everyone to attend the "Paws for a Cause" auctions to be held Saturday night, November 11th, at the Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn). The silent auction begins at 5:00 and the live auction at 7:00. The list of items being auctioned is too long to include here, but there are some truly exciting travel packages, valuable sports memorabilia and tickets, art, and other home and garden items.



Bob and Sue Trail again set up two reflecting telescopes on the upper deck for anyone who wanted to look at anything in the clear night sky. One, with electric drive, tracked the half-moon as it slowly moved across the heavens and showed its craters and other features in stark detail. The sunset was spectacular that night, and the weather divine. No wonder so many people lingered on the upper deck until the call of the buffet was too hard to resist!

Board of Directors Meeting - November 2nd - Secretary Lenore Cowan read the minutes of the last meeting, then Treasurer Steve Huntley read the monthly Treasurer's Report highlights, and the Board approved both after some non-controversial discussion. These reports are available through Lenore and Steve for any member who is interested. The subject was brought up of refinancing our clubhouse through a financial institution, but no action has been taken so far.

We have had two new applications for PYC membership since the last Board meeting. The first was from Craig G. Brock, a retiree from the US Navy Department, now living in Orange Park. He can be contacted at 904-296-8085 or Cbrock7@juno.com. The second applicant is Nuna Holloway Basler, a retired Palatka elementary school teacher who is a long-time resident of Palatka. She can be reached at 386-328-9670 or nuna328@bellsouth.net. The Uhls sponsored them both for membership, and the Board unanimously approved both applicants at this meeting.

The clubhouse interior has to be cleaned after each event, and it was the overall choice of the membership present at the last dinner meeting that we should pay to have it done, rather than have volunteer club members do the cleaning each time. Various methods of funding this service were discussed, but none were decided upon. Also discussed were different proposals for funding future social events at the clubhouse. The next one coming up is the Christmas party, but nothing was decided at this time either.

Board of Directors Meeting (continued)

Plans and proposals for improving the clubhouse are ongoing, and a little bit is accomplished each month. High-priority items on the latest project list are: (a) how to save electricity – discussion included fixing the A/C system and installing our own electric meter; (b) install fire extinguishers; (c) improve the doors; (d) complete the mooring; (e) obtain and install ballast in the stern - Gene O'Connor is checking with his source to see if concrete test plugs are still available for ballast - need 475-500 of them @ 27lbs each; (f) complete lower deck railings - paint them; (g) repair starboard side storm damage; (h) strengthen upper deck railing.

Medium-priority projects on the list are: (a) install a new dock for boat tie-up - fixed and/or floating; (b) repaint/ paint the upper deck; (c) finish the concrete work; (d) replace the broken piling and prepare storm lines before next hurricane season; (e) repaint both outside stairways; (f) install an easy gangway removal system; (g) label all light & power outlets; (h) evaluate acoustical requirements - wait for valences; (i) clean barge exterior.

Low-priority or longer-term items under consideration are: (a) provide canopy over the upper deck; (b) additional landscaping; (c) design/build a trophy case/album stowage unit; (d) redesign the galley & adjacent areas on main deck - decide A/C requirements for that space, get money (est. \$25,000), and build the stairs, galley & dumbwaiter; (e) hang wall art - wait for valences; (f) storage space in both bathrooms; (g) provide a method to fill buckets for cleaning - hose clip to BR faucet or new high faucet; (h) water odor problem - aerator?.

Anyone interested in helping out with any of these projects, please contact Facilities Chairman Bob Collins at 325-5362 or 530-0806.

November 4th & 5th (Saturday & Sunday) – Bull Creek Rendezvous

In spite of cool and windy weather, eighteen PYC members and guests and three sleep-aboard boats showed up at the Bull Creek Marina on Saturday afternoon. Seven people who drove to Bull Creek left prematurely, however, chased away by unanticipated high-speed boat races and perhaps 1000 enthusiastic spectators at the marina. By late afternoon the races were over and the spectators gone, and the remaining eleven PYC people enjoyed happy hour on the dock until the dinner hour approached.

At that point David Girardin rolled backwards over the dock railing and landed on his head, with a loud crack, in *Scraps'* cockpit. Afraid to move for fear of neck injury, he remained inactive until the paramedics arrived ten minutes after Keith Mehl called 911. The rest of us went to dinner in the marina restaurant as David and Linda were

driven by ambulance to Florida Hospital near Bunnell. There David was examined and then discharged after a few hours, diagnosed with a sprained back, sprained neck, and minor head injuries, but nothing broken. He and Linda had come to Bull Creek with the O'Connors on *Scraps*, so they were without transportation, and Ray Bunton went down to the hospital in the middle of the night and drove them home. David was stiff, sore and swollen the next day, but otherwise all right. Next time anyone accuses him of being hardheaded, he won't be able to deny it. Not the typical Bull Creek rendezvous.





Miscellany

Lenore Cowan Boating Bio – As most of you know, Lenore is relocating to Daytona Beach and will be resigning her long-standing position as Secretary of the Palatka Yacht Club. She is not resigning from club membership, however, but we may not see as much of her in the future as we have been up to now. As a sort of semi-farewell, she wrote the following mini-bio of some of her boating experiences:

“In 1972 Bill and I bought the first of our four sailboats, and full of excitement we moved out of our New York City apartment to live aboard at the World’s Fair Marina in Flushing Bay, Long Island, NY, across from La Guardia Airport. Our goal was to sail around the world, but I still had eleven years to go before I could retire. We took five years of classes with the New York Power Squadron, the basics and finally celestial navigation, until we became “Navigators”. That is, Bill became a “Navigator”. Although I had taught Advanced Piloting classes for three year, the U.S. Power Squadron had not yet let women into their charmed circle, and I was a “Lady Proficient”. We never went around the world, but we sailed from New York to Bermuda twice, using a \$26.00 plastic sextant years before the boating world had ever heard of GPS. After I retired we moved first to a marina in North Miami Beach and then, with Bruce and Susan Barton, to live aboard at our own Bill-and-Bruce-built dock in East Palatka. In the Palatka Daily News we read about a wonderful rendezvous at Gene and Jeannine O’Connor’s house and immediately called the telephone number given. Commodore Eddie Collins sailed across the river to our boats, beginning a happy relationship with the Palatka Yacht Club. After selling our fourth sailboat we tried a Bayliner 19’, but we could never adjust. In spite of that, my love of sailing and interest in boating will never diminish.

- Lenore Cowan

Boat US Discount - Steve Huntley will be taking over the discount "Boat US Membership Program" from Lenore.

Address Correction – The address given for new members Michael Heeb and Karen Sagett is incorrect as shown in the 10/22/06 Handbook Addendum distributed on that date. Their home is located at 122 William Bartram Drive, Welaka, but their mailing address is P.O. Box 369, Welaka, FL 32193. Their telephone number and e-mail addresses are shown correctly in the 10/22/06 Handbook Addendum.

Clubhouse Update – Half of the window screens are now in place, allowing windows to be opened for fresh air when the weather is right. Whoever opens the clubhouse windows must remember to close and lock them before leaving. Connie Foltis donated two small solar-powered lamps to illuminate the boarding platform at the shore end of the gangway, which neither the outside lighting on the clubhouse or the parking lot floodlights covered. The Lindsays donated enough surplus dock lumber to build most of the new dock next to the clubhouse for boat tie-up, and Guion, Bob Collins and Connie Foltis are in the process of moving it to the site. The pilings already on site will be used on the dock also.

Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “Overwhelm” – Old English for capsized or founder.

Announcements

Boat U.S. Membership - Our club members are entitled to BoatUS 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 Keith Mehl at 386-326-1607 or mehl@gbso.net for details.

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.

Newsletter - To write an article for the PYC monthly newsletter, or to place an advertisement or digital photograph in it, contact newsletter editor Connie Foltis at 328-6783 or cfoltis@bellsouth.net. Entries must be received by the end of the first week of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

PYC Photo Album - Marcy Vangunten is assembling a club photo album and is looking for new additions, such as pictures from various rendezvous and other get-togethers, recent construction progress on the clubhouse, etc. E-mail them to Dick at van@gbso.net or mail prints postcard size or smaller.

Advertising Committee - The club is looking for a volunteer to form a committee of one to look for individuals or businesses to sell advertising space in our directory and/or newsletter. Individual members' newsletter ads would continue to be at no cost. Anyone who is interested, please contact Wayne McClain at 386-325-5910 or wmcclain@putnamstatebank.net. This would be one way for newer members to become more involved with the club's activities.

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

More Halloween party Pictures !

