

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

November 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:

Clark Hoyle

PR & Communications:

Constantine Foltis

Fund raising:

Erika Heine

Membership Growth:

Clark Hoyle

Programs:

Robert Trail - dinner meetings

Sara Szczes - weekend events

David Girardin - boating events

Facilities:

Keith Cheshire

Improvements:

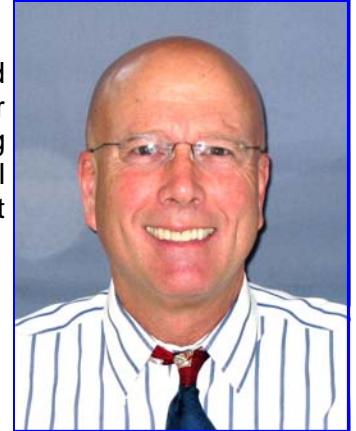
David Agniel

Gene O'Connor

Commodore's Corner..... by Clark Hoyle

During our October dinner, I announced more details around the use and rental of the clubhouse by members and their guests. As discussed, we are in the process of developing and finalizing policies around each. Regarding the rental fees, I mistakenly switched a couple around. To clarify that for the record, the fees are:

	<u>1-4 hrs</u>	<u>5-8hrs</u>
· Members	\$50	\$100
· Guests	\$200	\$300



We have quite a few things going on at the clubhouse in October and November. Those are listed in detail in the newsletter – make sure you take advantage and help wrap up 2007 on a high note.

In the 1st part of 2008, we have several activities that each of you need to put on your calendar now and plan on participating to make them successful – as help is required. We will form a small committee to organize our participation in the Azalea Festival March 1-2, organize and hold our spring Open House on April 12 and hosting activities of the Mug Race on May 3.

At the next meeting (Oyster Roast & Shrimp Bash), we take nominations from the floor and vote on 2008 officers and board members. We are still lacking a member willing to serve as Vice-Commodore for 2008. This club needs members willing to serve and help manage the club business, arrange various affairs and participate in activities. Simply using the club as a dinner affair will not suffice and puts the club on dangerous grounds.

You know that I am not going to serve as Commodore or Vice Commodore in 2008, but am willing to serve as a Board member. I have been asked by several members why I would not serve another year as Commodore, especially since I mentioned in a prior newsletter that officers should serve 2-years. I think an explanation on this would help answer that question.

In 2006 I was approached by a Board member and asked if I would serve as a Board member. I explained that I was no longer retired and had a full time job (one which I still have). With that said, that Board member assured me that as a Board member the demands would be less on my time and that the officers were to do the heavy lifting of putting in more time and effort. Considering that comment, I agreed to serve as a Board member in 2007.

I was then presented to the membership as a Vice-Commodore – what a surprise to me! Within one month, the 2007 Commodore had resigned due to health reasons, and I was then the Commodore. I went along with all those unanticipated changes as I felt it was the right thing to do for the club – knowing the toll it would take on my time. I assumed that getting members to help on various functions (chairpersons and co-chairs, etc.) would help with some of the load. As many of you know, this works well in many cases and not so in other cases. In the cases where it did not work, I picked up that work and found that it is simply too much for me.

Commodore's Corner - continued

If I were not working full-time and had a part-time job or was retired, I would gladly serve 2 years as an officer of this club. I simply cannot commit to it right now – in the future, yes. I hope each of you understands and someone finds the passion and commitment to step forward and serve as Vice Commodore and help the officers move this club forward. I am certainly going to participate, although not as Commodore.

Clubhouse Update

On October 11th or 12th, the aluminum gangway and wooden boarding platform were damaged by the effects of a very large powerboat wake. An eyewitness from next door advised that the clubhouse had rolled and surged from the wave action and pulled the shore end of the gangway off the platform. The nylon mooring lines had evidently stretched considerably for that to have happened. As the hull surged back in, it pushed the gangway under the platform, destroying one of the handrail assemblies and splintering some of the wood structure. Also, one of the piling braces was knocked off. At this time there did not appear to be any damage to the clubhouse itself. Much later, however, it was discovered that the sewage holding tank below deck had overflowed due to a kink in the discharge hose, possibly caused by the above-mentioned violent motion of the hull.



On October 17th, a group headed by Harry and Clay Gillean eased off the three aft mooring lines and pushed the stern out far enough to lift the shore end of the gangway back up. They then disconnected the hinge, skidded the gangway onto a trailer and took it to a welding shop for repairs.



What followed was an interesting exercise in knot tying, worth describing here in detail. Gene O'Connor used a rolling hitch for tightening the aft mooring lines to hold the stern tightly against the pilings. (See **Knotsmanship** following, showing the rolling hitch.) Using a spare piece of old line he just happened to have in his truck (smaller brown line in photos), Gene directed the procedure to: (1) tie the rolling hitch around one of the mooring lines (larger dirty white line), (2) pass the running end around the ship's mooring bollard, and (3) connect it to his truck on shore. (4) Then he backed the truck away from the clubhouse, tensioning the spare line until both it and the mooring line were bowstring taut and the stern was snug against the aft pilings. (5) In the next step, David Girardin on deck secured the mooring line to the bollard, (6) Gene moved the truck forward to slack off the spare line (while the mooring line remained taut), and (7) the rolling hitch was released. This procedure was repeated with the other two aft mooring lines. The same will be done with the forward mooring lines after the piling brace in that area is reinstalled. The accompanying photos show a bowline and loop at the end of the old spare line that had been tied for too long and was too stiff to bother untying. They had no effect on this operation.



On Oct 20th Guion Lindsay, Keith Cheshire, David Agniel and Gene O'Connor repaired the damage to the platform. On Oct. 24th, the day before the dinner meeting, Harry, Clay, Gene, Connie, David and Dick Dickens reattached the repaired gangway.



In the meantime, there is lots of clubhouse maintenance still to be done. Mark these dates - November 10th and December 1st, both Saturdays, and please come out. We depend on your help to make these things happen, and we actually have fun in the process (except for jobs like cleaning up spilled sewage). See details following.



Coming Events

November 10th (Saturday) 9:00 AM –1:00 PM: Clubhouse Maintenance – We need painters, preppers, and general workers, your choice; we have a job for you. We hope to have a tractor available to move some pilings and help prep the piling reinforcement area to receive concrete and possibly do some filling-in of rough spots in the entrance road. We will be cleaning the exterior of the main deckhouse steel bulkhead all around (outer walls of the main deck salon to landlubbers) and getting it ready for painting. Below-deck work of various types is also on the agenda. There is already a volunteer to clean up the sewage tank overflow, so don't be afraid of being assigned to that job. When we shut down the work detail, we will cook up some great burgers on the grill and chill out with a few libations. Contact David Agniel at 649-9075 or dobbyb@bellsouth.net if you are interested in helping.

November 10th (Saturday PM) - Las Vegas night – Postponed until February 2008 - For more information, contact Erika Heine at 386-467-2484 or hansheine@bellsouth.net.

November 17th (Saturday) - Oyster Roast and Shrimp Bash - 2:00 PM at our floating clubhouse, for members and invited guests only. This event takes the place of a November dinner meeting. Please be on time, because we will be taking care of club business before the festivities start.

Schedule: 2:00 - Meeting start
2:15 - 2008 Officers & Board members election
2:30 - Conclude meeting, start cooking and partying

Apalachicola oysters will be roasted over oakwood coals, fresh Mayport shrimp will be roasted on the grill, and vegetable and cheese platters will be provided. Of course the PYC bar will be open the whole time. The price is \$15 per person; pay at the door as usual. If you haven't made your reservations yet, you're too late. **Sign up closed on October 31st**. The organizers needed as much advance notice as possible to reserve the right amount of oysters and shrimp. Late cancellations and "no shows" will be billed as in the policy for dinner meetings. Contact Clark Hoyle at 649-6795 or clarkhoyle@mindspring.com for more information.

November 29th (Thursday) 10:30 AM-12:30 PM - Non-Club Event - Putnam County Waterways Committee Meeting - Nancy Harris, Putnam County Commissioner, chairman. Five PYC members are also members of this committee, and some or all will attend. The purpose of this committee is to address and pursue solutions to problems relating to the river, its tributaries and surrounding infrastructure, and report on progress of same. Interested PYC members are welcome to attend and participate, or just listen. Lunch will be brought in, and each person will pay for his or her own. If you wish to attend, contact Yvonne Parrish at 386-326-2799, 1-800-826-1437, or yvonneparrish@putnam-fl.com by November 23rd (day after Thanksgiving) to reserve a lunch.

December 1st (Saturday) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM - Clubhouse Maintenance and Commodore's Ball Decoration - We need decorators for Christmas and the Commodore's Ball. There will be something to do for everyone who can come out to help. Ladies, this is your chance to make a contribution. All necessary Christmas decorating materials are already onboard, boxed up in the lower hold. Gents will be needed too for numerous tasks in the maintenance department. The usual recreation break with grilled burgers and libations will follow the work detail. Contact Clark Hoyle (649-6795 or clarkhoyle@mindspring.com) or David Agniel (649-9075 or dobbyb@bellsouth.net) if you can assist in any of these projects.

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

December 8th (Saturday) - Commodore's Ball at the Clubhouse, 7:30 to 10:30 PM – The clubhouse will be decorated for Christmas. The dress code is jackets and ties for men, appropriate dress for women. Finger foods will be available, and attendees may bring additional goodies such as appetizers or desserts. There will be no charge, and the PYC bar will be open, with the usual donations expected. Guests are welcome. The cutoff date for reservations is November 30th, to allow time to obtain and prepare the proper amount of food.

Past Events

Dinner Meeting - October 25th - Door committee Keith and Sherry Mehl greeted the convivial gathering of members and guests at this gathering, but there were not as many this time as we would have liked. We really need to have more dinner attendance to break even on our dinner costs. After the pleasant social hour, Guion Lindsay said the blessing, and we settled down to a delicious dinner of tossed salad, rolls and butter, green beans, mashed potatoes, chicken marsala, prime rib, two kinds of cake desserts and iced tea.

Clay Gillean won the 50-50 drawing and took home \$38. Returning member Gail Hart brought husband Rog's regrets that he was not able to make the meeting, that his back was bothering him too much. Unbeknownst to this writer until this meeting, and perhaps to many or most other members, Rogers had broken his back 2-1/2 years ago and has had a slow and painful recovery since then. More power to you, Rog. Keep on recovering. Then Commodore Clark Hoyle made a number of announcements, as follows:

- (1) The names of next year's officer and Board of Directors candidates, chosen so far by Past Commodore Keith Mehl and approved by the present Board of Directors, are:

Commodore Keith Cheshire
Treasurer Steve Huntley
Secretary Karen Blankenship
2nd Year Director ...Linda Girardin
1st Year Director Connie Foltis

There is as yet no candidate for new vice commodore. If anyone is interested in that position, who in all likelihood will become commodore in 2009, please contact Keith Mehl ASAP at 386-326-1607 or mehl@gbso.net. We will vote on the candidates at the November 17th oyster and shrimp bash, along with any others nominated from the floor at that time.

- (2) Keith Cheshire will make a door key for any member who would like to use the clubhouse in off hours – see October 2007 newsletter, Commodore's Corner, for membership use of the clubhouse. Contact Keith at 386-328-3420 or keith.cheshire@mindspring.com.
- (3) The clubhouse rental rate policy has been decided. Contact Clark Hoyle for more details.
- (a) \$300 for eight hours, or \$100* for four hours, by a group with which no club member is affiliated. A club member must sponsor the group and be present at all times during the event. The group will be that member's guests.
- (b) \$100 for eight hours, or \$50 for four hours, by a group with which a club member is affiliated. The member must be present at all times during the event.

*Error. See Commodore's Corner.

- (4) Clark mentioned again the importance of a head count for the 3 Bananas trip and all boats flying their burgees. He also gave a reminder that the October 31 cutoff date for the Oyster and Shrimp bash was fast approaching.

- (5) Dress code for the Commodore's Ball is "dress up".



Clark then introduced the evening's guests, Cecile Langston and Wayne Beard from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 14-09. Cecile presented Certificates of Accomplishment to the following members for completing "America's Boating Course" at the clubhouse on August 25th and passing the test given afterwards. These are Connie Foltis, Clay & Heather Gillean, Harry Gillean; Guion and Ella Lindsay, Keith Mehl, and Bob Trail. Three others took the course but were not present this time to receive their certificates: Keith Cheshire and non-members Lynn & Robert Harris. Cecile then announced that the course will be repeated at the clubhouse on March 15, 2008, although it may be subject to change.



Past Events - continued

Board of Directors Meeting - November 1st – This meeting covered the following subjects:

1. Secretary Karen Blankenship's minutes of the last meeting were discussed and approved as amended.
2. Treasurer Steve Huntley's discussed his treasurer's report, and the Board approved it. Contact Steve at 904-692-2952 or protopterus@peoplepc.com for details.
3. Keith Mehl reported that he has been unsuccessful so far in finding a candidate for 2008 vice commodore. Nominations from the floor for that position will be requested at the November 17th Oyster and Shrimp bash.
4. David Agniel mentioned that the Womans Club has reserved the PYC tent for the weekend of Nov. 9-11. They will have to get it back to the clubhouse in time to be set up by the clubhouse for the Oyster and Shrimp bash.
5. David also noted that we should soon be getting some surplus cabinets to use for below-deck stowage in the clubhouse. Clay Gillean is remodeling a kitchen somewhere and putting in all new cabinetry.
6. David described the problem with the sewage tank overflow and noted that the kink had already been straightened out, but that we will have to secure the hose somehow so that it can't happen again. Steve Huntley volunteered to clean up the mess in the meantime.
7. A discussion of reinforcing the pilings brought out the necessity of setting the braces in concrete, because the ground just inshore of the clubhouse is too soft to support them. It is too wet now to do anything, as any excavation for the concrete would wash back in before it could be delivered and poured. It was therefore decided to wait until the ground dries out.
8. Clark discussed the upcoming oyster roast, saying he plans to assign duties to certain members to help out and will distribute a list of instructions for same. There are 57 reservations for the event. Steve will bill for late cancellations and "no shows". Attendees pay at the door as at dinner meetings. Keith and LaVerne Cheshire will be the door committee. Clark is buying the oysters, and Clay Gillean is buying the shrimp.
9. Regarding member use of the clubhouse announced at the October dinner meeting, we need to formulate a written policy for same, to be distributed with clubhouse keys.
10. A discussion of catered meals brought up the fact that we lose money on them during the hot months, July, August & September, when dinner attendance is low. We have to pay our caterer for a minimum of 50 dinners, and summer attendance is nowhere near that. Clark thought that we could provide our own dinners during that time with a combination of main entrees provided by the club and sides and desserts by the attendees. No decision was made on this. Comments are requested.
11. Details of the Commodores' Ball were discussed and are outlined elsewhere. The title of this event was given long ago in honor of all PYC commodores, past and present.
12. Parts of the proposed 2008 calendar was briefly discussed:
 - a) Spring Open House - April 12th date assigned
 - b) Fund Raising Events
 - Azalea Festival - March 1st-2nd - need committee (3-5) to organize
 - Las Vegas Night - Erika Heine organizing for sometime in February
 - c) Mug Race hospitality - May 3



Lunch at 3 Bananas Restaurant
November 4th - Forty-six members and guests showed up at the restaurant's new dock in Crescent City on this beautiful fall day. Most came by boat, some stopping at the clubhouse first to pick up passengers before heading to Crescent Lake. A few members drove their cars, but they missed the



3 Bananas Trip - continued



best part of the outing, which was the boat trip there and back. Conditions for a boat ride could never be any better than on this day. There were eight boats and two kayaks from our group. After a little socializing on the dock, lubricated by Karen Blankenship's refreshing Bloody Marys, we all repaired to the restaurant for lunch. We had given the management a head count ahead of time, and we had a separate screened-in room reserved for our use. A great day.

Miscellany

Knotsmanship - "Rolling Hitch" - Used to tie a small line to the standing part of a larger line to temporarily take up the tension on the larger line so it can be retied or reelected. Tied properly, the rolling hitch will not slip, even though tension on the small line is applied parallel to the larger line around which it is tied.



Rolling Hitch

Nautical Origins of Common Expressions - "No Room to Swing a Cat" - Back in the days of flogging to punish crew members, the entire ship's company was required to witness the punishment at close hand. The crew might crowd around so closely that the Bosun's Mate might not have enough room to swing his cat o' nine tails.

Announcements

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@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 Clark Hoyle at 386-649-6795 or clarkhoyle@midspring.com. The tent is stored on the clubhouse.

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 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 to be included in that month's newsletter.

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