

Palatka Yacht Club

P.O. Box 2004, Palatka, Florida 32178-2004

Telephone: 1-888-851-1811

Webpage: www.palat kayachtclub.org

Whispers over the Waters

October 2009

2009 OFFICERS &

DIRECTORS

Commodore:

Gail Hart

Vice Commodore:

Robert Trail

Secretary:

Karen Blankenship

Treasurer:

Steven Huntley

First-Year Director:

Clark Hoyle

Second Year Director:

Constantine Foltis

Past Commodore:

Keith Cheshire

Coming Events

October 10 (Saturday) Work Party at the Clubhouse by Bob Trail

Starting time is 9:00 AM. The jobs to be considered are: (1) Priming the upper mast support; (2) installing the fascia on the aft end of the pilothouse top; (3) painting the pilothouse top fascia all around; (4) prepping the base of the pilothouse for fiberglassing to the deck; (5) fiberglassing pilothouse bulkheads to the deck, 2 inches up and out; (6) repairing the interior sheetrock in the pilothouse; (7) properly securing the stacks; (8) repairing steel steps; (9) securing floating dock better; (10) making dock mounts and moving the Sunfish to the dock; (11) gluing the entry door; (12) improving the floor in the galley; (13) paint touch-up on the steel structure where needed; (14) clean and repair outdoor cooking grilles; and (15) other things of lesser nature that might arise. We don't really need to do everything this time (except the Sunfish relocation) but the variety of jobs allows each of us something significant to do. Contact me at 649-8710 if you are able and willing to help. The club will provide lunches for the workers at no charge. Call me if at the last minute the weather looks bad.

October 18 (Sunday) - Oktoberfest at the Clubhouse - Start arriving about 1:00 PM. Bring your thirst, your appetite and a side dish - hors d'oeuvre, salad, vegetable or dessert. Harry Gillean will prepare the main course of traditional Oktoberfest meats, which should be ready to serve around 2:00 o'clock or so. There will be a charge of \$8 for the club's costs.

October 22nd (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Aboard our floating clubhouse at Brown's Landing. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM, and dinner starts at 7:00. The dinner will be pot luck, but this time members are asked to bring the main entrée, which should be your favorite pasta dish. Bring the recipe too, to be included in the Palatka Yacht Club Recipe Book. The club will provide everything else - appetizers, salad and desserts. The charge for this dinner will be \$8.00 per person to cover the club's expenses. The door committee will be Keith & LaVerne Cheshire. As customary and as required by the club By Laws, we will nominate new 2010 club officer candidates at this meeting. The program for the evening will be a talk and slide presentation by Connie Foltis on his summer sailing trip in Maine.

November 5th (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting - At 6:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

November 15th (Sunday) - Oyster and Shrimp Roast at the Clubhouse - 2:00 PM - Note date change from the original schedule of Saturday, November 14th. The club will provide the oysters, shrimp, various kinds of chowder and everything else to round out the meal. Shrimp and oysters are expensive, so there will be a \$15 charge per person. This event will take the place of a November dinner meeting and will be early enough in the month to avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday. Invite friends to make this more fun and to expose others to the club. Be prompt, because we will be taking care of club business before the festivities start, while the guests continue to socialize. The club business will be to vote on the candidates for the 2010 officers and Board of Directors to be proposed at the October meeting, along with any nominations from the floor (or from the deck in this case). The sign-up for this event is underway. To reserve your attendance, either use the sign-up sheet in the clubhouse or call Clark Hoyle at 386-649-6795 or via email at clarkhoyle@mindspring.com. Signup concludes on October 31 as time is required to order the food. A special flyer about this event is included with this newsletter. Everyone should print out copies and give them to your friends. The more, the merrier, and it will expose more people to the club.

2009 COMMITTEE

CHAIRS

Barkeeper: Guion Lindsay

Boating rendezvous:
David Girardin

Calling Committee:
June Henley

Dinner planning:
Karen Blankenship &
Dorothy McAfee

Door Committee:
Ella Lindsay

Facilities: LaVerne Cheshire

Fund Raising:

Improvements &
Maintenance: Robert Trail

Internal Communications:
Constantine Foltis

Membership:

Planning Committee:

Programs: Robert Trail

Publicity: Jean Morris

Sunshine:
Jeannine O'Connor

Webmaster: Keith Mehl

Coming Events - continued

Christmas Party/Commodores' Ball - No date set. See Board of Directors meeting discussion on following pages.

Past Events

September 12 - Canoeing Haw Creekby David Girardin



Photo by David Girardin

Saturday morning, September 12, we gathered together at Cowart's Meat Market in San Mateo as our rendezvous point for the canoe trip on Haw Creek in Flagler County. Waiting in the parking lot were Gene and Jeanine O'Connor, Connie and Helene Foltis, Bob and Sue Trail, Gene Roberds, Betty Poteet, and Linda and David Girardin, altogether ten people with three canoes, two kayaks and a small jon boat. Some of us bought picnic lunch sandwiches from Cowart's while others brought food from home. David advised everyone that there was a 137% chance of rain, but everyone still wanted to go since all had gotten wet once before in their lives and had not died.



We caravanned to Russell Landing on Haw Creek and

everyone helped each other unload canoes, kayaks, and the one jon boat. Bob Trail got in the jon boat with a trolling motor on the stern, due to his bursitis bothering him and preventing him from paddling. Gene Roberds took Bob's kayak while Sue was in their other kayak. Connie and Helene canoed together, but David took Jeanine and Betty in his canoe, while Gene O'Connor took Linda in his canoe. We went upstream first so that we could drift back with the current.

We had originally planned to launch at 9:00 AM, canoe upstream for about 2 hours then turn around, canoe back to the landing and arrive about 12:30 for a picnic lunch in the pavilion located at the landing. Well, we got off to a slightly late start. We canoed up to the bridge at SR 305 in less than the allotted 2 hours, where we turned around and headed back to the landing. The scenery along the creek was great. The water was up in the creek, with all of the rain, and there were lots of interesting reflections in the water. It ended up that although we got off to a late start and ended up canoeing about 3 hours, we still arrived back at the landing at 12:35 PM.

Once again, everyone pitched in to lift canoes, kayaks, and the jon boat up onto and into vehicles and trailers. Once the work was finished, we gathered up under the pavilion for our picnic lunch. We laughed and told stories while we ate. Soon everyone was full and happy. We talked a little longer, then loaded up for the trip back to Palatka. A good time was had by all.

On a side note, back in 1997, one of the club's outings was a canoe trip on Haw Creek. The Girardins and O'Connors had been on that trip, as had the Foltises (who did not remember having been there before). The creek was in much the same shape, except for the higher water levels on the current trip and the new pavilion and rest rooms at the landing. Eleven years ago Bob Waldow and the McAfees had participated as well.

(Ed. Note - Thanks to Linda Girardin, this trip was written up in the Palatka Daily News and the Crescent City Courier Journal.)

Past Events - continued

September 24th (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - We were surprised and pleased, as we drove into the clubhouse parking area, to find that the bumpy and pot-holed areas of the entrance road have been covered over and graded smooth with crushed asphalt road gravel. Now we will have a smooth ride all the way in to the clubhouse. There was a low turnout for this meeting, as had been expected for the last of the hot months this year, 24 people total, including 6 guests. Karen and Dorothy as usual outdid themselves again with a dinner starting with social-hour appetizers, then two kinds of meat loaf, green beans, mashed potatoes and (always my undoing - Ed.) three kinds of dessert. Sue Trail had the winning ticket of the 50-50 drawing, winning \$20 of the \$39 pot.

Boating rendezvous chairman David Girardin announced that the Outback Crab Shack rendezvous, originally scheduled for the weekend of November 7-8, will instead be held on the weekend of October 3-4, as announced by a September 25 e-mail to the membership. David and trip leader Gene O'Connor may plan a different boating event for the November 7-8 weekend. (Not done)

Dorothy McAfee made an announcement suggesting we bring canned goods to our dinner meetings and other events, for donation to one or more charities. See Board of Directors meeting below for more on this.

Clark Hoyle gave some details about the upcoming Oyster and Shrimp Roast, now scheduled for Sunday, November 15th. See the accompanying flyer and "Coming Events" above.

For the evening's program, Bob Trail gave a very interesting presentation on photography. He explained, and illustrated with slides of his own pictures, how the average amateur photographer with a simple camera can go a long way toward producing professional-looking photographs. He gave some rules of thumb and illustrated them with "do's and don'ts" examples in pictures, some quite old and dating back to his days in the darkroom with black and white photography. He also wrote an instructive tutorial on the subject, covering all his suggestions, and e-mailed it to the membership. A printed copy of these guidelines will be provided on request, for those without e-mail.

October 1st (Thursday) - Board of Directors Meeting - The Board discussed the following items at this meeting:

1. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved without comment.
2. Steve Huntley summarized the monthly treasurer's report, with some ensuing discussion. A copy of the full report is posted on the clubhouse bulletin board.
3. David Girardin attended the meeting and initiated some discussion about candidate nominations for next year's club officers.
4. The clubhouse is still not insured. All quotations so far, which were for complete coverage, are unaffordable. Steve will now solicit quotations for liability insurance only, which should be within affordable range. The clubhouse itself would not be covered by this, but the Board feels that not much can happen to this steel hull built for navigation which is instead sitting quietly in shallow water inshore.
5. There is no action to date in changing banks to get a better interest rate on our club savings account.
6. There was a discussion about reinstating the "Member of the Year" idea. No action taken. Bob trail is going to get its upgrades engraved for presentation at a future date.
7. Steve has a lifering to which he plans to attach a line and donate to the club, to be mounted on the dock and remain there at all times, for anyone's use in an emergency. Now that Gene Roberds has refurbished the present liferings on the clubhouse exterior, they are valuable and are to be taken inside when the clubhouse is unoccupied. See "Checklist" below.
8. Our "calling committees" for dinner meetings and some other events need to be reinstated. Gail Hart will make the arrangements for this. Even though we have not been using caterers lately and are not required to have an exact head count for meals, our dinner committee, Karen Blankenship and Dorothy McAfee needs to have an idea of the attendance at each event so they do not overbuy. The only time recently that they did not overbuy was at the Low Country Boil in July. We required reservations for this dinner, and the amount of food they prepared was just right. Another reason for calling the membership each time is to remind everyone of the upcoming events. Some of the low attendance lately has probably been due to some people forgetting about them.

Board of Directors Meeting - continued

9. The Board observed that the A/C system is now working perfectly. Harry Gillean put in a new pump in August. The old one had leaked and let a lot of water into the compartment. Took Harry hours to pump out.

10. The Board discussed preparing a checklist for opening and closing the clubhouse for general meetings. Steve agreed to do it. See "Checklist" under "Miscellany" below. It shall be the responsibility of one or more of the Board of Directors or designated official to follow these directions. A copy will be posted on the bulletin board by the door.

11. The Board discussed how to get more outside interest in the club. Two possibilities mentioned were: to invite the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to hold their boating and seamanship classes in the clubhouse; and to give sailing lessons to young people. (Ed. Note - Every other yacht club I was affiliated with had active sail racing and a junior instruction program.) These activities, like other public affairs, must wait for insurance.

12. Spurred by Dorothy McAfee's suggestion for members to donate food for charity, the Board decided to call for members to bring non-perishable foods to the next dinner meeting and to the November oyster roast, for Thanksgiving charity donations. Suggestion: Winn Dixie has been advertising a sale until October 7th, of 20 cans of vegetables for \$10.

13. The Board agreed on the arrangements for the Christmas party, but the date will be decided later. It will be an evening "dressy" occasion at the clubhouse, from 9:00 PM to midnight, with appetizers, and music for listening and dancing. Eat dinner at home first.

14. Steve mentioned that we have been paying interest only on the membership loans taken out to finance construction of the clubhouse. These loans, with a cumulative principal total of \$36,000, are contracted to come due in 2023. He will propose to the Board that the treasurer open an account to start banking money from club funds that will accumulate to the necessary \$36,000 by the year 2023. (Proposal done - by Steve Huntley e-mail to the Board of Oct. 2 - No action taken to date.)



October 3-4 (Saturday-Sunday) - Outback

Crab Shack - Due to lack of interest, the Green Cove Springs part of this rendezvous on Saturday was cancelled. Instead, several club members and guests (including former commodore Wayne McClain and his wife Julie) motored or drove directly to the Outback Crab Shack on Six Mile Creek and dined there on Sunday afternoon. There were fifteen people in four boats (one brought to the area on a trailer) and three cars. The boaters enjoyed a pre-luncheon dock party, where they were joined by those who arrived by car. The group then ate a seafood lunch under a



tent on the Outback Crab Shack patio. The good weather continued, and all returned home in daylight.

Miscellany

Checklist - Opening and Closing the Clubhouse for General Meetings

Open Clubhouse

- (1) If event will last beyond dusk, turn on yard floodlights using switch on power pole in parking area.
- (2) Open clubhouse aft AND forward doors (safety precaution - two means of escape).
- (3) Check fire extinguisher status.
- (4) Turn on interior and exterior lights as required.
- (5a) First one onboard, reset A/C as required, setting temperature to a comfortable level. NOTE: Setting to a lower temperature does NOT result in faster cooling.

Checklist - continued

- (5b) Check for cold air coming from ducts, and water flow through the heat exchanger (discharge pipe on starboard aft side - view from gangway)
- (6) Place forward and aft life rings on exterior bulkhead hangers.
- (7) Raise American flag on gaff yardarm, then raise club burgee to mainmast top. Flags are stored near the refrigerator under the bell.
- (8) TREASURER, distribute to door committee petty cash for meals, bar and 50/50 as required. Set out sign-up sheet for door committee.
- 9) Turn on public address system, as required.

Close Clubhouse

- (10) Before end of program, if event will last beyond dusk, turn on stern outside lights with timer near aft door.
- (11) Turn off public address system as required.
- (12) Lower club burgee, then American flag. Check and lock pilot house door.
- (13) Remove and store liferings (except dock lifering).
- (14) After members and guests have departed, reset A/C. If even number date, set top thermostat to 88 and bottom thermostat to 90. Reverse on odd number date.
- (15) TREASURER - collect monies and sign-up sheet, as required.
- (16) Check that doors to refrigerator and freezer are closed, and hold lights are off.
- (17) Check that no water is running in toilets, urinals or vanity faucets.
- (18) Check gates to dock and starboard deck, close if open.
- (19) Lock and check forward door, then turn off salon lights.
- (20) Outside lights will turn off automatically when timer runs out.
- (21) Lock stern door and replace key in holder.
- (22) Replace chain barrier at bottom of ramp.
- (23) Last one to leave parking area, turn off yard floodlights as required.

For Sale - Canon EOS Rebel Digital 5.5 megapixel SLR Camera - \$300

Includes:

- 18 to 55 mm autofocus zoom lens
- Camera strap
- 4 GB memory card
- 1 GB memory card
- 256 MB memory card
- 2 Batteries (rechargeable)
- Battery charger
- Download patch cable
- Scandisk card reader (makes downloading from the camera to the computer about 10 times faster)
- Manual
- Computer software

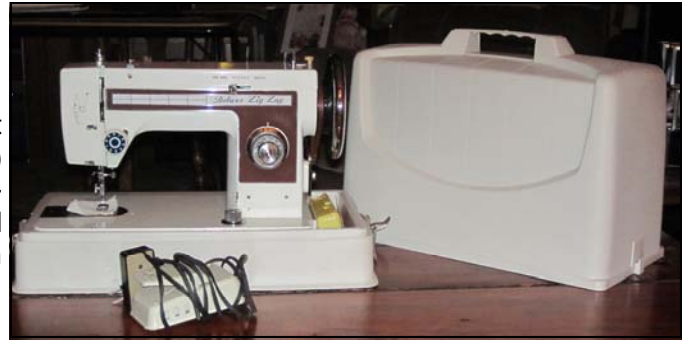


Camera can take delayed pictures and multiple pictures. Camera body and lens are about 4 years old and originally cost \$1,000. Contact David Girardin, 386-937-1566

Miscellany - continued

For Sale - De Luxe Zig Zag Heavy-Duty Sewing Machine - \$100

Used aboard boat occasionally over three years to make boat articles (bimini, instrument covers, cushion covers, curtains) from Sunbrella canvas and other materials. Does both zig-zag and straight stitching. Very good condition. Unused since 1995 and probably now needs servicing. Comes in carrying case. Original price in 1992 - \$400. If interested, contact Helene Foltis at 386 6783 or iemb4u@bellsouth.net.



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 interesting 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. 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 – “Barge In” - Barges on the Erie Canal, towed by mules walking along a towpath on the canal bank, were clumsy and difficult to control. As a result they were often involved in unintentional collisions with other craft, giving rise to the colloquial expression “barge in”, meaning to make an abrupt or unwelcome entrance or interruption.

Interesting stuff you may never need to know - The average cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven is \$ 16,400.

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. 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 should contact Commodore Gail Hart at 386-329-8460. The tent is stored onboard the clubhouse when not in use.

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@bellsouth.net. He will e-mail your newsletter to you each month as a PDF file in color, which you can then print out yourself. This would decrease the cost and labor of printing and mailing paper copies every month.

Contact Connie about writing an article for the newsletter (ex: a boating autobiography or a description of an interesting trip you have taken) or to 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/her newsletter, please notify Connie.

Miscellany—continued

Cleat Tying Made Easy by Linda Girardin

A sign of a good boater is the manner in which the captain and crew secure their craft to a dock.

To properly tie a cleat, bring the line around the cleat one complete circle.

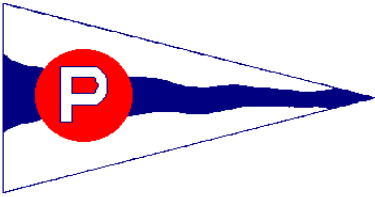


Then, loop the free end up and over the cleat in a diagonal direction. Note that the two ends of the line are on opposite sides of the boat.



Bring the free end of the line up over the cleat creating a loop that has the free end of the line on the bottom. This part of tying a cleat is the most difficult part; check to make sure that the line lies smoothly next to the first wrap. The lines should be parallel.





Palatka Yacht Club

P.O. Box 2004

Palatka, FL 32178-2004

Cleat Tying Made Easy - continued

Good



A properly tied cleat needs only one loop around the base and two loops on top of the cleat - not three or more loops on top of the cleat. **The finished product is smooth. Both ends of the line exit the boat on the same side.**

Bad



This photograph represents a poorly tied cleat. The lines do not lie smoothly. The ends of the line are on opposite sides of the boat. It looks messy.