

Palatka Yacht Club

WHISPERS OVER THE WATER

September 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:

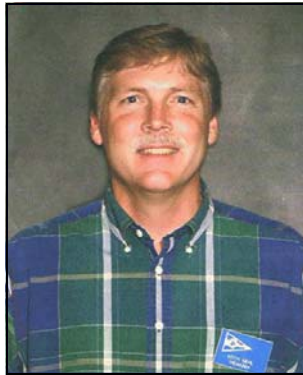
Jerry Hafner

Editor & Publisher:

Constantine Foltis

Hospitality:

Sherry Mehl



Commodore's Corner

Someone once said, "If you build it, they will come". Well, it sure seems to be true. The attendance at the dinner parties these last few months has been outstanding. If this keeps up, we will investigate different serving arrangements to accommodate everyone. We've also had a steady stream of new applicants since opening our new clubhouse. Thanks to all the members who are getting the word out.

We've checked a lot of items off our "to-do" list. Look around the next time you visit the clubhouse and grounds - it's amazing what's been accomplished in a short time (much of what has been accomplished is not easily seen unless you know what was done). We would not have been able to do it without the many volunteers that have put in time, sweat, tools, equipment, materials and money. I am not going to list everyone here, the list would be long and I probably would leave someone off the list and get in trouble, but from all the members we wish to give you a big THANK YOU. There are still many items on the list, so if you would like to get involved, please contact Bob Collins and we will put you to work. If you have ideas/skills/resources for the interior of the clubhouse, from table decorations to storage systems, please contact Sherry Mehl.

Thanks again for everyone's enthusiasm. We've got a great opportunity here, let's keep working together to take full advantage. - Keith Mehl

Coming Events

September 15th (Friday) - Cards and Games Night - Nancy Larrison and Bob Collins will be your hosts for our first "Cards and Games Night" aboard our clubhouse. Bring your favorite board game and/or deck of cards, or just your favorite beverage, and join your fellow PYC members for a game or two or three. Whether it's Scrabble or Monopoly, Poker or Bridge, we're sure you'll find others who share your enthusiasm for the game. Plan to arrive at 6:00 p.m. to get a seat at your preferred table. A light dinner of sub sandwiches, chips and dessert will also be available to purchase for a reasonable price. Paper goods, plasticware, ice and drinking water will be provided.

September 27th (Wednesday) - Dinner Meeting - Onboard our floating clubhouse. Note the new schedule that began last month. Social hour will start at 6:00 PM, and dinner will be served at 7:00. The door committee for this evening will be Larry and Dorothy McAfee.

September 27th Dinner meeting (continued)

The evening's program will be "Control Burn/Land Management" by Steve Miller of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

For dinner planning purposes, your calling committee caller must have your confirmed reservation(s), including the number and names of your guests, by Friday, September 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 September 22nd, 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 there is still food available, you may pay for the meal at that time and eat

October 5th (Thursday) – Board of Directors meeting - 5:30 PM aboard our floating clubhouse at Browns Landing. Please check with the Commodore if you plan to attend. Board meetings are open to all PYC members.

October 8th (Sunday) – Oktoberfest at the Gilleans' – This is a one-day mid-afternoon luncheon and get together at Harry and Andrea Gillean's house for a time-honored Oktoberfest and maybe a sailboat race. This gathering should be a great time, as always. Harry and Andrea live at 347 West River Road, Palatka, and there is plenty of parking space. For those coming by boat, the Gilleans' home and recently-rebuilt pier are on the north shore of the river about ¼ mile from channel marker 41. Look for the club burgee on the end of the pier. Plan to arrive around 11:00 o'clock. Food will be served at 3:30 PM. The Gilleans will supply the meats Oktoberfest style and some drinks. Bring hors d'oeuvres, side dishes or desserts to share, also your own chairs and if you wish, your own drinks, and have the usual great time.

October 31st (Tuesday) - Halloween party - Details will follow in the October newsletter. This notice is given so far in advance so that everyone can get their costumes ready!

Newsletter Update

This is the first issue of the PYC monthly newsletter to be e-mailed as a pdf attachment to members who agreed to receive it that way. On August 25th all members with current e-mail addresses on file with the club were notified by e-mail that they would henceforth receive their newsletters by e-mail, unless they replied saying they did not want to receive them that way. No reply was assumed to be affirmative, and there were no negative replies. Some who were sent this message did not receive it because their e-mails are obsolete. Anyone who did not receive it and who wishes to participate in this cost-saving arrangement, please notify Commodore Keith Mehl at mehl@gbso.net or newsletter editor Connie Foltis at cfoltis@bellsouth.net with your current e-mail address. Conversely, anyone may discontinue at any time and receive your newsletters by postal mail. Anyone with a current e-mail address that is not listed with the club is urged to do so in order to be included in this convenient communication loop, whether or not you wish to receive your newsletters by e-mail.

Clubhouse Update

The window blinds ordered earlier were delivered in early August. A work party was quickly assembled, and its members installed them in time to darken the meeting area sufficiently for the "Day at the Movies" program on August 12th.

Everyone should remember that the rest room commodes do not operate the same as in our homes. They flush into a small holding tank below deck, which macerates the effluent as in many yacht head systems and, when the tank is filled, it automatically pumps the effluent to a conventional septic tank in the ground approximately 225 feet inshore from the river. As with the heads on our boats, nothing but water, toilet paper and that which we have first eaten or drunk should be flushed down these commodes. Reminder notices to that effect

Clubhouse Update (continued)

are posted in the restrooms. Please advise your dinner guests of this restriction. Flushing the wrong things will clog the macerator, and the prospect of cleaning it out is not pleasant.

Ernest and Dolores Grace donated the two concrete light poles in the parking area, and their son Daniel delivered them on his flatbed and helped install them with his crane. Guion and Ella Lindsay donated a pair of large sodium vapor-type floodlights to be mounted on them. A work party of the following club members provided the remaining components and put it all together: David Agniel, Keith Cheshire, Bob Collins, Ernest Grace, Guion Lindsay and Gene O'Connor. The floodlight controls turn on the lights automatically at dark, but they will normally be switched off and only activated on meeting nights.



Gene O'Connor and David Agniel installed an earth-auger anchor in the ground near the bow, and they and Steve Huntley rigged an additional mooring line to it. This type of ground anchor is extremely strong, according to BoatUS tests. Also, David Agniel dug the holes, installed three posts in them and so far has fitted braces to two of them to stiffen our main dock-side pilings. Steve Huntley covered the wearing areas of the pilings with high-density poly sheaths. He also plans to fasten boards of ultra-high-density-molecular-weight polyethylene on the hull gunwale plate. This combination of slippery surfaces should make the mooring system maintenance free for a long time. At some point the club will replace the fourth piling that was broken off when the clubhouse hit it too hard as it was moved to the site. This fourth piling will be braced the same as the other two.

Past Events

A Day at the Movies – August 12th – This meeting at the clubhouse was held in lieu of the boat trip to St. Augustine that was advertised in the handbook. Twenty-seven members and guests showed up for a fun afternoon of old movies, popcorn, Niko's pizza and good conversation, starting in mid-afternoon and running well into the evening. Nancy Larrison Collins chose the three enjoyable and unusual movies described in the last newsletter. The Hospitality Committee hosted the event.



Enjoying Niko's Pizza



Hosts of "A Day at the Movies"

Dinner meeting - August 23rd - Sixty-one paid members, plus two complimentary guest speakers, former members Dick and Linda Schauland, attended this dinner meeting. The buffet was, as usual, delicious, consisting of chicken in wine sauce, stuffed pork loin, green beans, mashed potatoes, Caesar salad, rolls & butter, two types of chocolate cake, two types of cheesecake, and sweetened and unsweetened iced tea. Jerry and Jane Hafner donated the gift basket for the evening's raffle, and Shirley Richardson (Don Straker's fiancée) won it. The raffle brought \$68 into the club treasury. New member Sandie Dickens volunteered to put the next gift basket together.

Commodore Keith Mehl conducted ceremonies to welcome five new members into the club: next-door neighbors Dick and Sandie Dickens; former member Jay Holt, who rejoined after moving back to this area from upstate New York; and Ian and Virginia (Ginny) Abarbanel. David Agniel and Robbie Brackett sponsored the Dickens' and Jay Holt. Bob and Nancy Collins sponsored the Abarbanels. Keith then announced that we had 98 club



m e m b e r s . He talked about the monthly newsletters, mentioning that his August "Commodore's Corner" writeup about e-mailing future



newsletters had brought only about three or four replies of interest in participating in this program. This is discussed in detail in the "Newsletter Update" paragraph above. He also talked about the need for a speaker's podium on the stage and a cabinet nearby to



store items normally used there. Cabinet makers, take note! Treasurer Steve Huntley read highlights of our financial status from his monthly treasurer's report. Anyone wishing further details on this should contact Steve at 904-692-2952 or protopterus@earthlink.net.



Former PYC member Dick Schauland presented the evening's program, a talk and slide show of his and Linda's adventures on a seven-week sea odyssey to Haiti. They were part of the crew on the retired U. S. Coast Guard Cutter "MERSEA". They helped to operate the ship, which brought much-needed medical relief to Haiti's capital, Port-Au-Prince, and they spent a week of construction on a children's hospital in the Port-Au-Prince suburb of Carrefour. Two ships made this trip, and all of the crew members were volunteers.



Labor Day at Salt Springs - Sept. 2nd, 3rd & 4th.

There were four boats with a total of fourteen people that joined up at Salt Springs on this Labor Day holiday



weekend. They arrived there on Saturday and went home on Monday.

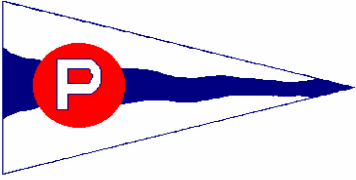
Board of Directors Meeting - September 7th – Secretary Lenore Cowan read the minutes of the last Board meeting, and Treasurer Steve Huntley read highlights of the monthly treasurer’s report. Both were approved after some discussion. Steve will repeat the treasurer’s report highlights at the upcoming dinner meeting. Marcy Vangunten produced two new applications for membership: Michael Heeb & Karen Sagett (husband & wife) and George James. The Board approved both applications, with George James as a single member. This brings the club membership up over 100, and there was some discussion of various possible ways to increase future dinner meeting seating if and when the necessity arises. The present seating capacity is 80. We had that many reservations for the first meeting onboard earlier this season, although it has dropped off into the 60s since then. By comparison, the average dinner meeting attendance at the Woman’s Club, and Price Martin before that, was around 50; sometimes less in the summer.

It was noted that the outside floodlights need to be adjusted, or additional lighting installed, to properly illuminate the wood boarding platform at the end of the gangway. Steve mentioned that the fire extinguishers will be purchased and installed ASAP. Except for the above two items and the need to identify new financing requirements, all the high-priority “to do” items on the clubhouse are done. There remains, however, a long list of medium and low-priority items yet to be done. Some have been started, but most have not. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Facilities Chairman Bob Collins. These projects are: (1) check grounds for parking and safety problems; (2) design/rebuild finger pier for boat tie up; (3) evaluate acoustical needs; (4) design/build trophy case/album storage; (5) install easy gangway removal system; (6) define walkway from parking area (started); (7) storage space in both bathrooms; (8) clean outside of barge; (9) strengthen upper deck railing; (10) replace broken piling; (11) repaint outside fore and aft stairs; (12) obtain and install solid ballast in stern; (13) repaint upper deck; (14) repair storm damage starboard aft corner upper deck; (15) additional landscaping; (16) evaluate lower deck air conditioning; (17) galley redesign/buildout (incl. stairs & dumbwaiter to lower hold); (18) hang wall art; (19) reverse exterior door swings; (20) repaint/touch up blue hull; (21) install registration numbers/decal; (22) provide easy method to fill buckets for cleaning.

The Board of Directors has approved two non-club functions in the clubhouse: (1) a meeting of the St. Johns River Waterways Committee, chaired by Putnam County Commission Chairperson Nancy Harris, on Sept. 14th; and (2) Gene O’Connor’s 60th year reunion of his Palatka High School Class, on Sept. 29th.

Past Commodore Wayne McClain is heading the nominating committee to choose the slate of officer candidates for 2007. The list of candidates is now complete, except for the position of Secretary, and will be discussed at the next dinner meeting. As some of you may already know, our long-standing club Secretary, Lenore Cowan, is planning to leave the area and will not be able to continue in that position. She plans to remain a member, however. Anyone who would like to serve as Secretary to the club, please contact Past Commodore Wayne McClain at 325-5910 (home), 328-5600 (work) or wmclain@putnamstatebank.net.

Nautical Origins of Common Expressions – “Gone by the Boards” – When anything or anyone was accidentally lost overboard from a wooden sailing ship, they were said to have **gone by the boards**. This meant that they literally passed by the wooden boards of the deck and hull planking as they fell into the ocean. Figuratively, the expression means anything that has passed by or been lost, particularly a missed opportunity.



Palatka Yacht Club

P.O. Box 2004

Palatka, FL 32178-2004

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boat U.S. Membership - Our club members are entitled to BoatUS membership while paying half-price dues. Our cost: \$12.50. Contact Lenore Cowan at 904-692-2799 or cowan@gbso.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