

Palatka Yacht Club

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

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Whispers over the Waters

August 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

COMMODORE'S CORNER - The time has come once again for the membership to be thinking about new officers for 2010. If you have input as to who should be a Board Member, please contact a nominations committee member, who are Dorothy McAfee, Ella Lindsay and David Girardin. The slate will be presented at the October meeting and voted on at the November meeting, which takes place at our oyster roast, November 14th.

We have 2 fun rendezvous coming up. Haw Creek is beautiful and the run to Bull's Creek is too. The Bull Creek restaurant is open; if you can't come by boat use any transport you can because we always have a great time there.



Coming Events

September 12 (Saturday) - Canoe Haw Creek in Flagler County...by David Girardin

Note the change in date. We will meet at 8:00 AM Saturday morning at Cowarts Meat Market on US 17 south, in San Mateo. Cowarts is located directly south of Browning Pierce Elementary School, or about 200 yards north of intersection with SR 100. We will be leaving Cowarts at around 8:15 and traveling approximately 16 miles south on SR 100. We will turn off onto SR 305 and continue south approximately 4 miles to CR 2006. There we will turn right (west) onto CR 2006 and travel 1 mile to the turnoff to Russell Landing. There is a large brown sign with white lettering pointing the way. Travel down that well-maintained dirt road past Haw Creek Preserve. The road makes a left turn then a right turn and meanders into the woods to the landing. We will try to leave the landing in canoes and kayaks just after 9 AM and paddle upstream for approximately 2 hours. We will then turn around and come back with the current to the landing. We should be back at the landing by 12:30 or so, well before the afternoon thunderstorms arrive. There is a large covered pavilion at the landing where we will have our picnic lunches and socialize for about an hour. Bring your bug spray and sense of humor for a 'just in case'.

For those interested in buying a great sandwich for your picnic lunch, Cowarts Meat Market makes great pork and beef sandwiches for \$3 each. Call them by 3 PM on Friday to reserve a sandwich. They also have chicken, potato, or macaroni salad, potato chips, and baked beans. Cowarts' telephone number is 325-5003, and mention the Palatka Yacht Club when you call. Cowarts Meat Market opens at 8:00 AM. Be there or be square.

For additional information regarding the canoe trip, contact me or Linda at 328-1774, or me at my cell phone, 937-1566.

September 12 (Saturday) - Work party at the clubhouse - Cancelled. The next work party will be in October.

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

September 24th (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 club will provide the full dinner, at a charge of \$10 per person to cover the club's costs (meal, supplies & overhead). The door committee will be David and Linda Girardin. The program for this September meeting will be a crash course on the elements of photographic composition, by Bob Trail and Connie Foltis. Just about all of us have cameras these days, and we shoot lots of pictures, some or many of which are memorable. But did you wonder what makes a picture GOOD? It is surprising how just a few considerations can change your success rate forever. This illustrated program will help you break out of the "snapshot" league. Everyone is urged to bring in pictures, good and bad, so we can have examples to share.

September 26 (Saturday) - Las Vegas Night at the clubhouse - This event has been postponed until further notice, because as of this writing the clubhouse is not insured, and under these circumstances it would be unwise to invite the public aboard.

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

October 2-4 (Friday-Sunday) - Bull Creek Marina - This facility is now part of the Flagler County Parks and Recreation Department. It is a public facility and has been expanded and improved since our last club rendezvous there. It is now called "Bull Creek Campground and Marina". Accordingly, it has full overnight facilities for campers and RVs (power, water and sewage disposal) as well as all the previously-existing dock facilities for boats, except that now there is a charge for overnight dockage @ \$7.50 per night. Campsite rental is \$35 per night. There is also a launching ramp, for which there is a charge of \$5.00. Reservations are required for staying overnight and can be made by calling 386-313-4020. It is suggested that you make your reservations as early as you can. The former Bull Creek Marina Restaurant is operated separately under the name of "Linda's Landing". Their telephone number is 386-586-1061.



Sunset at Bull Creek

They are open for breakfast and lunch until 3:00 PM, but we are not aware of their being open for dinner. It is advisable to discuss your plans to attend with trip leader Gene O'Connor at 325-4405, so he will have an idea of the size of the group. There are no plans to motor in convoy from Palatka or from the clubhouse, because boats will be traveling at different speeds. There are speed restrictions on the larger boats going through Dunns Creek, to minimize wake, which may not apply to the smaller boats. The trip starts on Friday and ends Sunday, but the only scheduled rendezvous time is for a late lunch on Saturday at 2:00 PM at "Linda's Landing" restaurant. Bull Creek is off of Dead Lake, which is east of the southern end of Crescent Lake. Driving directions are similar to those to reach Haw Creek, differing only at the end. By road, take SR 100 in San Mateo and travel SE approximately 16 miles to SR 305. Turn right onto 305 and travel slightly over 4 miles to CR 2006; turn right onto CR 2006 and travel to the end, approximately 3.5 miles. Driving time from Palatka is less than an hour.

October 10 (Saturday) Work Party at the Clubhouseby 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 fibreglassing to the deck; (5) fibreglassing 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 cracks in 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.

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 per person to cover the club's costs.

Coming Events - continued

October 22 (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Keith & LaVerne Cheshire on door committee - nominate new club officer candidates.

November 5 (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting.

November 7-8 (Saturday-Sunday) - Outback Crab Shack rendezvous - contact Gene O'Connor.

November 14 (Saturday) - Oyster and Shrimp Bash - Elect new club officers for 2010 - contact Clark Hoyle.

Christmas Party/Commodores' Ball - No date set.

Past Events



August 27th (Thursday) - Dinner meeting - Twenty members and four guests attended this meeting, who enjoyed a tasty "summer meal" of salad, soup, sandwiches and dessert. There was no special after-dinner program, other than announcements by the commodore and others about upcoming events. Mike McCroskey, one of Bob and Irene Waldow's guests, won the 50-50 drawing. The take was \$35, and Mike took home \$18.



Peggy McCroskey puzzling over how to cleat a line

September 3rd (Thursday) - Board of Directors meeting – The following items were discussed at this meeting:

1. The Board members present read and approved Secretary Karen Blankenship's minutes of last month's Board meeting, with no discussion.
2. Treasurer Steve Huntley summarized the monthly treasurer's report, which he then discussed, and the Board approved it. A copy is displayed on the clubhouse bulletin board for members to read.
3. Steve noted that we need to do a lot more painting on the clubhouse exterior. For instance, there are some areas of the steel deck that are worn down to bare metal.
4. Steve is still contacting insurers, trying to get an affordable policy on the clubhouse, and he is also still contacting various banks trying to get a better interest rate on the club's savings account.
5. Steve is still trying to get our landlord Ron Dore to approve road repairs on the property leading down to the clubhouse. (A 9/4/09 e-mail said Mr. Dore has given the go-ahead to do that work.....Ed.)
6. Harry Gillean offered to repair the water-damaged ceiling in the main salon, and we will take him up on his offer.
7. We want to restore the practice of annually naming a "Member of the Year". There will be more discussion about this later.
8. The question was brought up of whether to hold an Oktoberfest this year and then to decide on a date. If there is one it will be held at the clubhouse sometime in October. The dinner committee will decide on the details, and the membership will be notified. (Since decided: Oct. 18Ed.)

Board of Directors meeting - continued

9. One of the clubhouse air conditioning water pumps requires repair or replacement. Harry Gillean will do whichever is required on that.

10. Steve is requesting quotations for signs advertizing the club, but he has no plans to buy anything like that at present.

11. Vice Commodore Bob Trail noted that, in previous work parties, Gene Roberds did a marvelous job of refurbishing our two expensive emergency liferings that are mounted on the outside of the clubhouse. We want to thank Gene for that.

12. Bob announced he would present a program on photography at the September 24th dinner meeting.

Miscellany

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
- 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

New E-mail Address - Guion and Ella Lindsay's have a new e-mail address: geriverhouse@wildblue.net. The old msn.com connection will be dropped. Please change your files accordingly.

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.

Origins of Some Common Nautical Expressions - "Bulkhead" - This is a self-descriptive term meaning a structural wall built to hold back a "head" (height) of bulk (loose solids or liquids) - ex: seawall. On a ship it separates bulk cargo spaces (coal, oil, loose grain, etc.) from one another or from other-use spaces such as the engine room, personnel quarters, etc. On large ships they are arranged to divide the underdeck volume of the hull into many watertight spaces, so that if the hull is punctured and that space is flooded, the ship will still float. The term "bulkhead" has since grown to describe all solid vertical surfaces on any floating vessel, that would be called "walls" ashore. This includes those in the interior and on the exterior, but excludes the sides of the hull itself. Therefore, in correct marine parlance, there are no walls on ships, boats or barges such as our clubhouse, only bulkheads. (Actually, calling our clubhouse a clubhouse is a misnomer, since it is not a house at all but a barge. However, we have taken artistic license with it for convenience.)

Interesting stuff you may never need to know - The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%. The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.

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.



Club-owned Sunfish

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 labor and cost to the club 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 at the above e-mail address or telephone 328-6783.



Anchoring Information for Florida Cruisers

Courtesy of Boat Owners Association of The United States

For several years, certain local cities and counties in Florida have been restricting the length of time that boats are allowed to anchor. Legislative changes were made recently to Florida statute Chapter 327 which should increase the boater's ability to anchor within Florida. Some changes take effect July 1, 2009, and others on October 1, 2009.

Unfortunately, many local law enforcement personnel appear to be unaware of the changes. Boaters continue to be told by some officials that they are subject to anchoring limits.

Below is a summary of the anchoring portions of the law with citations.

We recommend that boaters carry this sheet with them when cruising in Florida.



What is a live-aboard vessel?

The definition of "live-aboard vessel" has been changed, effective 7/1/09. Active cruisers who live on their boats with no permanent residence on land are no longer considered live-aboards and, therefore, their anchoring cannot be regulated by local governments. It is no longer relevant that the vessel is a boater's "legal residence"; that term has been removed from the statute.

(from Chapter 2009-86, section 6)

327.02 Definitions of terms used in this chapter and in chapter 328.—As used in this chapter and in chapter 328, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the term:

(17) "Live-aboard vessel" means:

- a) Any vessel used solely as a residence and not for navigation;*
- b) Any vessel represented as a place of business, or a professional or other commercial enterprise; or*
- c) Any vessel for which a declaration of domicile has been filed pursuant to s. 222.17.*

Can my anchoring be restricted by local governments?

Under state law, boaters who use their boats for navigation (even if only occasionally) will not have their anchoring restricted by a local city or county outside of permitted mooring fields. Cities and counties will be expressly forbidden to "enact, continue in effect, or enforce any ordinance or local regulation ... regulating the anchoring of vessels other than live-aboard vessels outside the marked boundaries of mooring fields."

Although local governments are allowed to regulate anchoring within the marked boundaries of properly permitted mooring fields, there are currently a few such locations. These are Key West Mooring Field (149 moorings); Ft. Myers Beach Mooring Field (70 moorings); Fernandina Beach Municipal Mooring Field (20 moorings); Miami — Dinner Key Mooring Field (still under construction).

(Existing FL law) 327.60 Local regulations; limitations —

(2) Nothing contained in the provisions of this section shall be construed to prohibit local governmental authorities from the enactment or enforcement of regulations which prohibit or restrict the mooring or anchoring of floating structures or live-aboard vessels within their jurisdictions or of any vessels within the marked boundaries of mooring fields permitted as provided in s. 327.40. However, local governmental authorities are prohibited from regulating the anchoring outside of such mooring fields of non-live-aboard vessels in navigation.

(Effective 10/1/09) (from Chapter 2009-86, section 14)

(3) However, local governmental authorities are prohibited from regulating the anchoring outside of such mooring fields of vessels other than live-aboard vessels as defined in s. 327.02.

What about the new mooring field pilot studies?

Over the next few years, the state will work in 5 geographic areas (two each on the Atlantic Coast and Gulf Coasts, and one in the Keys) to test new anchoring and mooring concepts with both live-aboard and non-live-aboard boats. They want to promote more mooring fields and public access to Florida waters, and to deter improperly stored boats. Cities or counties in this program may regulate by ordinance the anchoring of all vessels outside of a mooring field. However, this ordinance may only take effect after significant input from stakeholders and approval from the state FWC. Any ordinances passed and the pilot program itself expire on 7/1/14.

The pilot program will be fully implemented over the next two years. No city or county has been accepted into the pilot program – the application period has not even opened yet. It will take several months before the first location for this program is selected and more time after that for an ordinance to be developed and approved. As these locations are chosen, we encourage local boaters and boating groups to join the public stakeholder process and help the cities or counties develop reasonable programs for locals and transient boaters. As of now, there are NO enforceable anchoring ordinances outside the marked boundaries of mooring fields anywhere in Florida.

(from Chapter 2009-86, Laws of Florida)

Section 48. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, is directed to establish a pilot program to explore potential options for regulating the anchoring or mooring of non-live-aboard vessels outside the marked boundaries of public mooring fields....

What about boating restricted areas?

As of 10/1/09, local governments will only be allowed to create "boating restricted areas" (including but not limited to restriction of vessel speeds or restriction of boating traffic) for public safety reasons. They must be approved by FWC and the USCG before they are enacted and can only be put in certain areas. Until a uniform waterway marker is placed in the water, the area may not be enforced.

These areas may include boating restricted areas located:

- Within 500 feet of any boat ramp, hoist, marine railway, or other launching or landing facility;
- Within 500 feet of marine fuel pumps;
- Inside 300 feet of any lock structure;
- Within 300 feet of any bridge fender system or a bridge span;
- Where vessel traffic presents problems of congestion or vessel safety.

(from Chapter 2009-86, section 13) 327.46 Boating-restricted areas.

(1) Boating-restricted areas, including, but not limited to, restrictions of vessel speeds and vessel traffic, may be established on the water of this state for any purpose necessary to protect the safety of the public if such restrictions are necessary based on boating accidents, visibility, hazardous currents or water levels, vessel traffic congestion, or other navigation hazards.....

The 2008 version of Florida law may be read online at:

http://www.flsenate.gov/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=Ch0327/titl0327.htm

Please note that the compiled Florida Statutes, which will include these changes will not be available until this fall. For a copy of Chapter 2009-86, law of Florida (house bill 1423) as signed into law and filed with the Florida Department of State on May 27, 2009, go to: http://laws.flrules.org/files/Ch_2009-086.pdf

Reviewed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, July 2009



The Nation's Leading Advocate for Recreational Boaters www.BoatUS.com