

PONTOON YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER



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2026 PYC Officers

Commodore: Joey O’Nishea
Vice Commodore: Cheryl Rhoads
Rear Commodore: Rick Jones
Secretary: Tom Hallowell
Treasurer: Jay Asaibene

Board Members

Gary Rhoads
Cindy Kindinger
MJ Williams
Mike Wells

Support Staff

Cruise Master:
Historian/Facebook Admin:
Sunshine Chair:
Web Master:
Photographer

Tom Williams
Kay Weaver
Karen Sofield
Kay Weaver
All Members



March Holidays
Daylight savings time: March 8th
St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th





Commodore Joey O'Nishea

Greetings to All PYC Members

February Recap

As we head into March, we can hopefully say goodbye to the unpredictable weather that marked February. Despite the wild swings in temperature, the club was able to successfully host two fantastic outings. The first was a scavenger hunt, which took place on one of the coldest days of the month. The second was a chili cookoff, held on what turned out to be the hottest day. It seemed as though the weather had mixed up its schedule! Nevertheless, turnout for both events was exceptional. Thank you to all the members who attended, and we missed those who could not join us. Special appreciation goes out to the Host and Co-Host for organizing these wonderful events, as well as to everyone who came out to show their support.

Looking Forward to March

With March approaching, and daylight savings time, I know everyone is as excited as I am for the upcoming events and the promise of warmer weather. Our first event of the month is scheduled for March 14th at 11:30 AM and will be held at the Waterfront Grill on Lake Eustis. The second event will be an away outing, taking place from March 23rd to March 26th in Crescent City, FL. This location is new for our club, and I hope many of you will be able to attend and support our hosts, Tom and MJ Williams.

Community Events

On the local scene, while not a PYC event, the Tavares 18th Annual Planes, Tunes & BBQ will be happening on March 7th at Wooton Park from 11 AM to 10 PM.

Volunteers Needed

There are still events on the club's calendar that need hosts and co-hosts. Just a friendly reminder: our club's success is only possible with contributions from everyone.

Final Thoughts

Safe boating, and I hope to see you on the water.

Commodore – Joey



Vice Commodore Cheryl Rhoads

Wow, it's hard to believe it's already March and we're ready for Daylight Savings time again! It was a great month at PYC. We had 2 personal conversations with prospective members and 2 from our website who saw our signs at Hurricanes. I'm still waiting for their final decisions about joining and have invited them to be our guests at several different events. Meanwhile, keep your fingers crossed as Gary and I meet with the Crazy Gator managers on the 3rd to see if they will approve our sign to be placed on their building.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our March 14th event at

Eustis Waterfront Grill!

Cheryl



Rear Commodore – Rick Jones

February was a great month of activities which included a Scavenger Hunt and our 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off.

February 7th: The weather for the Scavenger Hunt on Lake Eustis was very cold, which had members and guests aboard 2 boats bundled up, head to toe, while searching for the items needed to complete their mission. 33 people attended this event (2 boats and 10 vehicles) with 31 members and 2 guests braving the cold to have some fun and support PYC activities! Hosts were Gary & Cheryl Rhoads; co-hosts were Rick & Cyndi Jones. A big thank you to Gary for bundling up early and driving your boat to the docks at Crazy Gator to meet the two boats competing in the scavenger hunt!

February 21st: A beautiful day for Chili Cook-Off at Hickory Point Park. There were 30 people in attendance (6 boats and 7 vehicles) which included 25 members and 5 guests. Host was Mark Evangelista; Co-Hosts were Gary & Cheryl Rhoads. We had 11 pots of delicious chili with 8 entries in the cook-off, which gave us Cindy Kindinger as winner for creativity (white chicken chili), and Susan Roeske as winner of two categories, spiciest chili and best overall taste. Thank you to everyone who provided the great chili.

Remember to sign up to host, or co-host an event, as nothing happens without volunteers!!

Hope to see everyone on the water!

Rick Jones



Secretary – Tom Hallowell

Good Day everyone,

Spring is coming.... I guess we had to pay for it by getting this cold snap.....I believe in August or thereabouts, we will be wishing for this weather!!

Please consider using not only our Facebook page for information, but we have our own official website and Kay has done a wonderful job with the design and maintenance.

pontoonyachtclub.com

If anyone has any questions, issues or concerns, please reach out.

Tom



Treasurer- Jay Asaibene

We had income for the month of February of \$251. Expenses were \$126.65. Checkbook balance as of February 28 is \$3063.27.



Cruise Master - Tom Williams

Exciting news, the Burrell Lock on Haines Creek is now open. I met with the lockmaster at a separate event and he shared some information about the lock. For some reason the lock takes longer to operate than what it used to, approximately 6 minutes for the doors to open. They changed from electric to hydraulic and there appears to be a problem that they are still trying to fix. So, he asked to please be patient until the issue is resolved.

A few of us met with the Triangle Boat Club on Dead River in February. We wanted to learn more about what they are about, find new opportunities, and ideas for our club. Perhaps in the future we could participate in a joint event and find new friends who enjoy doing what we do.

As always be safe out there on the water,

Tom



Sunshine Chair – Karen Sofield

Happy March!! One get well card was sent out. If you know of anyone who needs a bit of sunshine please reach out.

Karen
908 421 5718

2026	Actual Date	Outing Description & Location	Host 1	Host 2
Jan	1/10`	Fish Camp on Lake Eustis, 901 Lakeshore Blvd.	Vic & Elizabeth Kapoor	Bill & Joanne Marsella
Feb	2/7	Scavenger hunt/crazy gator	Cheryl & Gary Rhoads	Rick & Cyndi Jones
Feb	2/21	Chilli Cook Off/Hickory point	M Evangelista	Cheryl and Gary Rhoads
Mar	3/14	St Patrick's Day Eustis Waterfront Grill	Richard & Cookie Brown	Kurt and Debbie Liebknecht's
Mar	23 - 26	Crescent Fish Camp, Crescent City	Tom and MJ Williams	Terry and Kay Weaver
April	4/11	Cookout at Wooten Park	Joey & Lori O'Nishea	Rick and Cindy Jones
April	25		Host needed	Co-host needed
May	5-8	Camp Mack	Butch & Merrilyn Karrels	Co-host needed
May	5/16	PARATROOPER PICKUP, Lake Dora	Tom & MJ Williams	Bert and Karen Sofield
June	8-12	Riviera Resort	Terry and Kay Weaver	Tom & MJ Williams
June	27th		Host Needed	Co-host needed
July		Fireworks	Host needed	Co-host needed
Aug	8/6	Picnic 'n Pool Party	Bert and Karen Sofield	The Latham's
Sept	9/12	Griffith Park Picnic	The Kindinger's	Mike and Bonnie Wells
Sept	9/26	Luau/BBQ	The Hallowell's	Co-host needed
Oct	12 - 16	Away - Homosassa	Terry and Kay Weaver	Tom and MJ Williams
Oct			Host Needed	Co-host needed
Nov	11/7	PARATROOPER PICKUP, Lake Eustis	Tom and MJ Williams	Steve & Sharon Sensenbach
Nov		Thanksgiving Dinner	John Paul	The Mest's

Waterfront Grill
350 Lakeshore Drive in Eustis

Date: Saturday, March 14 at 11:30

Location: Waterfront Grill

Raft up time: 10:00am at the entrance of Lake Eustis and dead river

You are invited to Emerald Day, a celebration of the start of greener lawns and beautiful flowers. We will be hosting a green-themed party to acknowledge St. Patrick's Day.

Ordering off the menu

Why: To celebrate the "wearing of the green" ahead of the official holiday on Tuesday, March 17.

If you are attending this event PLEASE call, text or email by Monday, March 9

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

Richard and Cookie Brown
Hosts

518 867 5756

Kurt & Debbie Liebmecht as
co-host.

Outing Event

Crescent Fish Camp March 23-26

This is a new location for our club



When: March 23 to March 26, 2026

Where: Crescent Fish Camp, 100 Grove Ave., Crescent City, Fl.
386-698-2444

A NEW location for us - consider it a trial run!

We are looking forward to exploring Crescent Lake, Dunns Creek, and the adjoining section of the St. John's River.

Accommodations are limited but the owners are in the process of adding more cabins and boat slips in the coming year.

Cabins and boat slips are limited and available on a first-come basis. As is standard procedure we will try to accommodate all interested members wishing to attend if at all possible.

Crescent Fish Camp, Crescent City Fl. (386) 698-2444 for reservations and additional information.

Please let HOSTS know if you are coming, via phone, text or email

(comments on Facebook help others know who is coming too)

Tom & Mary Jo Williams (Hosts)

352-516-6178

Tcwilliams99@hotmail.com



PYC Spring Cookout

April 11, 2026 11am-2pm
Wooten Park Picnic Pavilion
100 E Ruby St, Tavares, FL

*Join us for a great time! Guests are welcome!
Raft up at 10:00am Lake Eustis side of Dora Canal*

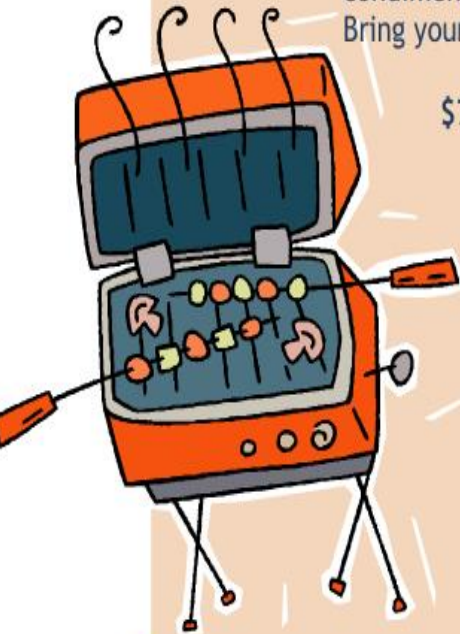
Pulled Pork and Pulled Chicken Sandwiches will be provided.
Your RSVP no later than April 6 should identify Pork or Chicken
to assist with planning.
(BBQ Sauce, mustard, ketchup, relish, plates, forks, spoons and dessert
will be provided.)

Please bring a side dish to share with serving utensil and any other
condiments you wish.
Bring your own beverage - no alcohol allowed in the park.

\$7.00 per person to be sent to Jay Asaibene, Treasurer
Payment due by 4/6/26

There will be a 50/50 drawing!

Please RSVP to either Joey and Lori O'Nishea
407-948-3347
Or Rick and Cyndi Jones
352-362-7227



•Camp Mack

- 14900 Camp Mack Road Lake Wales, FL. 33898 863-696-1108 May 5-8, 2026, Camp Mack
- Camp Mack, Florida is an old fish camp located on the Kissimmee chain of lakes. South of Camp Mack is Lake Kissimmee which is a 17 mile lake that is part of the Kissimmee River. At the bottom end of lake Kissimmee is a lock leading down the Kissimmee river to lake Okeechobee which is approximately 60 miles of river front. North from Camp Mack are a series of lakes; Hatchineha, Cypress and Tohopekaliga. These lakes are part of the Kissimmee river chain that include approximately 2 dozen lakes and marshes. 1st Day: Depending on the weather we will travel either South or North. Lake Kissimmee can get rough if the winds are high so we will choose the nicest day to travel Lake Kissimmee. There are no restaurants on Lake Kissimmee, so you need to pack lunch or grill on board your boat. It took me 1.5 hrs to travel from Camp Mack to the lock at the bottom end of Lake Kissimmee, we will leave Camp Mack at 10AM. I believe we will have enough time to travel down through the lock on the Kissimmee River to experience the upper Kissimmee. We will raft up and eat lunch either at the bottom of Lake Kissimmee or after the lock. As a point of reference, Westgate River Ranch is 25 miles below the lock at the South end of Lake Kissimmee. 2nd Day: We will travel North on the Kissimmee River up through Lake Hatchineha, then North through the Hatchineha canal to Lake Cypress. We will encompass lake Cypress prior to traveling up the South Port canal (C-35) to lake Toho. which has another lock to pass through to access Lake Toho. I did not have enough time to travel beyond Lake Hatchineha so this leg of the trip will be new to all of us. Again, we will start our cruise at 10AM. Bring snacks while cruising since we will mostly complete our cruise before we stop at the Port restaurant on the North end of Lake Hatchineha for a late lunch or early dinner.
- There is a culdesac of cabins at Camp Mack, Cabins 55 - 61 which I suggest we stay at so we will all be in the same vicinity: 55: Terry & Kay Weaver 56: Gary Capucci & Virginia Calven 59: Butch & Merrilyn Karrels 60: Gary & Cheryl Rhoads and Jay Asaibene 61: Tom & Mary Jo Williams All other attendees will have to stay at the lodge or river homes.
- Please contact Camp Mack at 863-696-1108 to make your reservations, lodge rates are \$140.85 Sunday – Thursday. There is a restaurant just off Camp Mack grounds, the Freshwater Grill & Tavern, which serves food from a food truck which is a limited menu. The restaurant is open Tuesday – Saturday at 2PM to 10PM. Please be prepared to bring your own breakfast for each day at Camp Mack since there is limited restaurants in the area and you may have to travel 15 or more miles to find and open restaurant

<https://share.google/uUbODyMH3JyfZjeXf>

6/8/26 PYC Trip - Riviera Resort in DeLand An Exciting Getaway Experience

Riviera Resort in DeLand offers a unique escape for those seeking relaxation and adventure. Situated in the heart of Florida, the resort has beautiful waterfront views and guests can enjoy boating, swimming, and a variety of recreational activities that make every visit memorable.

What are you doing in June? Why not join us at Riviera Resort on the St. Johns River in DeLand? Hosts Kay & Terry Weaver are going over on Monday, June 8, 2026, and staying for one week. You could stay for two, three or more nights, it's up to you. The resort has a nice boat ramp, docks are okay and pool is great! Also, there is a long-covered pavilion with a BBQ grill and an air-conditioned community room. Bring your boat and join the fun! Call (386) 822-5662 to reserve your room. The more nights you stay, the better the room deals.

RSVP to Terry Weaver (352) 978-0439 or reply via e-mail.

If you have any questions, call or text us.

Current rates are posted on the members only section of the pontoonyachtclub.com website

Scavenger Hunt

February 7th



EVENT PICS: CHILI COOK OFF

February 26th

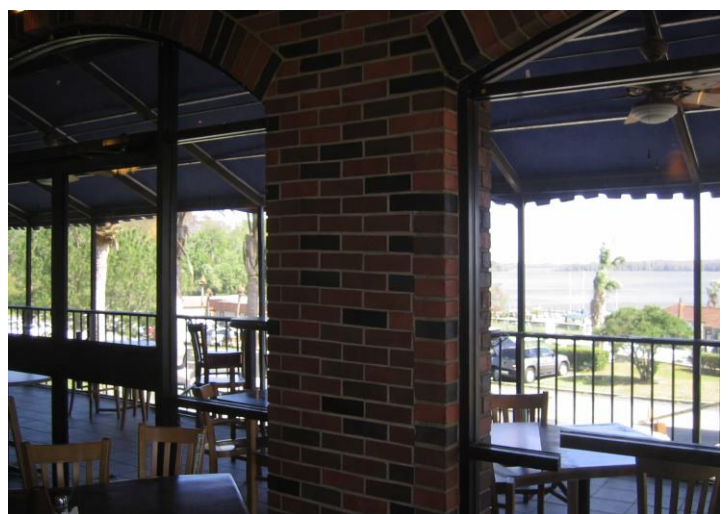




Historian – Kay Weaver

A Look Back in Time.....

On March 8, 2008, we had an IRISH BLAST at Sarabande in Howey-in-the-Hills. Our hosts Tom & Marge Rhodes and Roger & Linda Lambert did a bang-up job on this event. There was green as far as the eye could see. We guessed at Irish questions and Gary Hubbert was our most knowledgeable Irish expert!!! We celebrated several birthdays and a good time was had by all. The wind was blowing pretty hard, so everyone came by car. We were hoping for better weather and more boating at our next meeting! As you can see from the background of a couple of the pictures, Sarabande was on the water and the building we were in was a very nice venue.



Happy Birthday!!

March Birthdays

Kurt Liebknecht, March 5th

Karl Weickhardt, March 7th

Cookie Brown, March 10th

Elaine Mest, March 12th

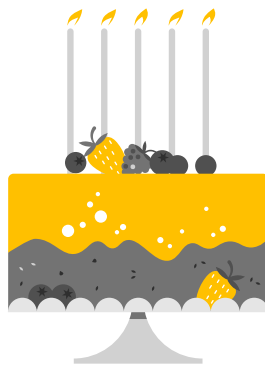
Steve Roeske, March 14th

Mike Wells, March 21st

Ted Banasiak, March 22nd

Diane Allen, March 26th

Richard Brown, March 27th





Dockside Deals: Ads that Float Your Boat

If you are looking to **SELL** a particular item, simply send a brief description, a picture and include contact information and any particulars. It will be posted for all to see.



Support our club and show your PYC colors. Purchase a 30" X 60" PYC towel for \$25.00 and \$5.00 will be donated back to the PYC treasury. Text Tom at (352) 516-6178 or email at tcwilliams99@hotmail.com.

Wanted !!

Nothing at this time

If you are looking **FOR** something specific..... Why not ask your boat club friends if they can help. Simply send a brief description, a picture and include contact info and any particulars. It will be posted for all to see.