

# 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

<b>Cruise Master:</b>	Tom Williams
<b>Historian/Facebook Admin:</b>	Kay Weaver
<b>Sunshine Chair:</b>	Karen Sofield
<b>Web Master:</b>	Kay Weaver
<b>Photographer</b>	<b>All Members</b>



**Commodore – Joey O’Nishea**

Dear Members,

As we move into February, we are looking forward to warmer weather and continuing the momentum from our first event of the year. Thank you to Vik, John, Elizabeth, and co-hosts Bill and Joanne Marsella for hosting a successful gathering at Fish Camp restaurant in Eustis. We had an excellent turnout and have two more events scheduled for February.

I would like to recognize all members who have renewed for 2026. A special thanks goes to our Vice Commodore, Cheryl Rhoads, for her hard work managing the renewal process. Your continued commitment allows our club to grow and remain an active part of the community. We are still seeking hosts and co-hosts for several events this year.

## February Holidays

**Valentines Day Feb 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Washingtons birthday Feb 16**

## Cont'd

While the full schedule is available on the event calendar, we currently have openings in April, June, July, and October.

As a reminder, if you are hosting an event that requires prepayment, please submit an outing form to the Commodore and Treasurer. This form is available on our website

at [www.pontoonyachtclub.com](http://www.pontoonyachtclub.com) (<https://www.pontoonyachtclub.com>) under the "Forms/Documents" section.

With the sudden and unexpected loss of our member Dave Asibene our thoughts and prayers go out to Jay. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Best safe regards and safe boating,

Joey O'Nishea  
Commodore



### **Vice Commodore Cheryl Rhoads**

WOW, what a January this has been! Can't wait for a warm up so we can go boating again.

So here we are already in FEBRUARY. Let's gather our PYC friends and reach out to others who will enjoy outings with us. Remember the best way for us to grow is by word of mouth to share the fun times we spend on the lakes.

Let's welcome back previous members, Arthur and Linda Stowell as they have returned to Lake County. He is in a play at Hideaway Theatre in Eustis from February 14 to March 1 called Gilligans Island, and has invited us all to attend, (IT'S A MUSICAL COMEDY)

A thought for this NEW Year: How many ladies (or men) would be interested in participating in an event to learn boating safety, as well as driving skills on our pontoons? If we had to become "CAPTAIN" of your boat for a day, instead of "First Mate" it would be valuable information. I know I can drive our pontoon, but I'm not sure about docking alone and getting into my boathouse. How 'bout it, anyone? Let me know by text or email if you are interested so I can reach out to someone to lead us in a mini course.

See you on the 7th for the Scavenger Hunt & the February 21st Chili Cook-Off

Cheryl



## **Rear Commodore – Rick Jones**

We held our first 2026 event at Fish Camp Restaurant on Lake Eustis on January 10th. Weather conditions were excellent, which was obvious by the number of boats on the water that day. There were 47 people that attended this gathering, which included 7 boats and 9 vehicles. There was no raft-up at this event, but all the boat captains & first mates did a great job in securing their boats to the docks provided by the restaurant.

Thank you to our hosts Vik & Elizabeth Kapoor and Bill & Joanne Marsella! Vik & Elizabeth drew names from a list of members who notified the host that they would be attending, and those drawing winners received very nice door prizes. This is a great reminder that we need to let our hosts know if we plan to attend an event! Don't forget to volunteer to host, or co-host, an event.

Hoping to see everyone on the water!

Rick Jones



**Secretary – Tom Hallowell**

As usual, please reach out directly, with any omissions or errors. I can be reached at: [Thomas.ace.Hallowell@gmail.com](mailto:Thomas.ace.Hallowell@gmail.com) or via Cell at 561 797 5369.

Please note, the officers are looking for an individual to serve as a back up to learn the various aspects of IT support, Facebook support or all around IT advisor to help with the various aspects of our media. If interested, please contact Kay Weaver Directly.

Reminder, all pictures of recent events are posted on the Facebook page or our web site. We all have cameras on our phone, feel free to snap pictures of an event and submit them for posting

Tom



**Treasurer- Jay Asaibene**

First, thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. They have helped me get through this tough time.

The checking account balance at the end of January is \$2,938.92. If anyone wants a copy of the December 2025 Treasurer's Report, let me know.



We still have approximately six (6) open dates on our club events schedule. The second event of April is the most pressing, so if you have not signed up for one yet please help out by doing so. If you are new to this process there are many of us who can help you.

I have learned that there is some interest in putting together a training session to teach the female co-pilots safe operating methods in case of an on-water emergency with the captain. I have been told that the wives in particular do not wish to have this done by their husbands (hum, wonder why!). So if we receive enough interest perhaps we can put together a program with an experienced captain from outside our club. If you would be interested in learning please send me a text 352-516-6178.

Smooth sailing Dave

Tom Williams  
Cruise Master



### **Sunshine Chair – Karen Sofield**

Reporting from the sunshine chair! One get well card was sent out. If you know of anyone who needs a bit of sunshine please reach out.

Karen  
908 4215718

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	Co-host needed
Mar	23 - 26	Crescent Fish Camp, Crescent City	The Williams's	The Weaver's
April	4/11	Cookout at Park	Joey & Lori O'Nishea	Co-host needed
April			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	The Sofield's
June			Host needed	Co-host needed
June	9-12	Riviera Resort West	The Weaver's	The William's
July		Fireworks	Host needed	Co-host needed
Aug	8/6	Picnic 'n Pool Party	The Sofields	The Latham's
Sept	9/12	Griffith Park Picnic	The Kindinger's	The Well's
Sept	9/26	Luau/BBQ	The Hallowell's	Co-host needed
Oct	12 - 16	Away - Homosassa	The Weaver's	The Willams's
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
Dec	12/11	Christmas Dinner	The Klinginger's	The Well's

**Date:** January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Location:** Fish Camp Lake Eustis – 901 Lakeshore Blvd.,  
Tavares.



# **PYC SCAVENGER HUNT / CRAZY GATOR**

• **Saturday, February 7, 2026**

- **Hosts: Gary & Cheryl Rhoads**
- **Co-Hosts: Rick & Cyndi Jones**

## **ATTENTION:CHANGE OF VENUE FOR RAFT UP & LUNCH!**

**RAFT UP: 9:30 A.M. at EUSTIS DOCKS where you will pick up your map & instructions for the event. Safe boating & have fun while completing the Scavenger Hunt! Return to the same docks to have social & lunch at CRAZY GATOR 11:00 – 11:30. If you are coming by car, please plan to arrive at the restaurant 11:00-11:30.**

**You will be on your own to order lunch from the menu.**

**We will have 50/50 tickets for sale at Crazy Gator for anyone wishing to participate in the cash drawing.**

***ALL ATTENDEES MUST RSVP, WITH NAMES & NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> SO THAT WE HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT FOR THE ACTIVITIES AND RESTAURANT. GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!***

**PLEASE RSVP by text or call & DRESS WARM!**

- **Cheryl Rhoads (954)802-0250 or Cyndi Jones (352)362-7227**



# PYC CHILI COOK-OFF

February 21, 2026, between 11AM and 2PM  
Hickory Point Park 27341 State Road 19, Tavares, FL

**Calling All chefs and wanna be chefs!**

The Pontoon Yacht Club is planning a fun event!

**Where:** Hickory Point Park, 27341 State Root 19, Tavares, 32778-4251  
Are you interested in entering or attending a chili cookoff? If so, contact Mark Evangelista at 440-724-6870 or email, [markevangel@comcast.net](mailto:markevangel@comcast.net) or Cheryl Rhoads (954)802-0250 or email [cherylrhoads1@gmail.com](mailto:cherylrhoads1@gmail.com) Our COOK-OFF is intended to be very casual, laid back, and fun. Let us taste your traditional chili!

**Cost is \$5.00** per person to help pay for the Pavilion. Please bring your own garnishes, toppings, or anything that would help in your presentation of your Chili & **BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES (NO ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED IN THE PARK)**

You must prepare your chili from scratch. NO commercial mixes

Provide cheese, onions, sour cream, crackers, etc., & ladle to serve your chili to our attendees.

The club will provide: Chili tasting cups, spoons, napkins, hot sauces and dessert.

Winners:

Each entry will be voted upon by attendees by categories:

Overall best

Most Creative

Spiciest

**PLEASE RSVP BY FEBRUARY 14th** (Valentine's Day) to Mark or Cheryl and send your check for \$5.00 per person to Jay Asaibene 3040 Indian Trail, Eustis, FL. 32726.

We will also have a 50/50 drawing. Looking forward to tasting all your GREAT chili!

Let's make this our 1st ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF!\*

**Waterfront Grill**  
**350 Lakeshore Drive in Eustis**

**Date:** Saturday, March 14 at 11:30

**Location:** Waterfront Grill

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  
518 867 5756

# 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](mailto:Tcwilliams99@hotmail.com)

# •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>



Historian – Kay Weaver

## A Look Back in Time.....

February 9, 2008 Chilli Cook-off was at the Triangle Boat Club and one of our largest turnouts - 67 people and eleven pots of the best chilli! Because of the low water, we only had three boats. We were all praying for rain! Lots of food was provided by our members and our Commodore Terry Weaver couldn't stay out of the chocolate dipped strawberries, yum yum! Lots of fun that day!





## 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](mailto:tcwilliams99@hotmail.com).

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# Wanted !!

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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.

**Happy Birthday!!**

**February**

**2/5 Sam Lynch**

**2/6 Tom Williams**

**2/14 Lorraine Smith**

