



## PONTOON YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

Published in Lake County Florida **November 1, 2023**

### PYC Board of Directors

#### PYC Officers

**Commodore:** Tom Williams  
**Vice Commodore:** Cheryl Rhoads  
**Rear Commodore:** John Mest  
**Secretary:** Cathy Banta  
**Treasurer:** Carol Clarke

#### Board Members

Richard Brown  
 Virginia Calven  
 Jim Clarke  
 Scott Smith

<b>Cruise Master:</b>	Butch Karrels	<b>Photographer:</b>	Sharon Vincent
<b>Sunshine Chair:</b>	Virginia Calven	<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Cathy Banta
<b>Historian &amp; Facebook Administrator:</b>	Kay Weaver	<b>Marketing Chair:</b>	Mary Jo Williams
		<b>Web Master:</b>	Scott Smith

# Happy Birthday

# November 11/3 Gary Rhoads

\* \* \* \* \*

See page 6 for Photo Geocache Search & Sunset Cruise deadline & page 7 for Christmas Banquet deadline.

Also please see important message at the bottom of page 10 ... past Commodore passed away.

**Commodore – Tom Williams** (see special note at bottom of page 2-action required.)

For those of you who have not heard of our PYC event at Crystal River Plantation, it would be a disservice to say there wasn't any excitement. John Mest will fill you in on the fun aspects of the trip. **What I want to tell you about is the tornado that hit near us.**



We knew that bad weather was expected during Wednesday night. We took all the precautions that we could. We made certain our pontoons were tied down securely while allowing for the average three-foot tide change. I even put on my full boat cover to keep the insides dry. Around 2am our cell phones were ablaze with weather warnings and alarms. Shortly thereafter, the hotel lost all power. Looking out the window, we could barely see that our pontoons were still tied but were floating above the seawall. (continued on page 2 ...)

**Commodore Continued – Tom Williams -**



So at 4am we were wondering around in total darkness, the hotel had “NO” backup power and “NO” emergency lighting in the hallways. At daylight we learned from an employee that a tornado touched down just outside the hotel. We walked out front and saw firsthand the damage. The golf pro shop and adjoining buildings across the street were severely damaged, trees on the golf course were laying down, some on top of the buildings. There were telephone poles across the road, homes destroyed, a strip mall totaled just up the street.

We were told the roads were blocked with no way for us to get out. Route 19, which is the main artery in the area was closed. After a few hours, we were informed that the police would allow us to leave but we had to negotiate debris and one way road travel.

Good news was that the water level at the boat ramp was so high that floating the pontoons on our trailers was very easy. The best news was that we sustained no injuries and no damage to our rigs. To say the least, it was good to get home!

**With all this said, are you sure you want me to remain your Commodore?**

Hope to see everyone attend the annual Thanksgiving gathering at the Fox Run Club-house on November 4th. Besides great food and camaraderie, **we will announce the 2024 Important Info nominations for officers and board of directors. We will also be asking you to vote on a few by-law changes/additions.**

Finally, we will be **passing around the 2024 events list** which the newly formed “Events Committee” finalized. It is expected that each member participates by choosing an event to host, it only works when EVERYONE pitches in to help. For newer members and those in doubt, just ask any board member for guidance, we are happy to assist you.

See you in, on, and around the water, Tom

**A special note From Commodore Tom**

**During Veterans Day, November 11th, celebration on Lake Eustis** a few of us will be assisting with the **paratrooper drop into the lake by Ferran Park**. I have observed this last year on Lake Dora. Typically there are 5 drops of 20 paratroopers each. It truly is a spectacle worth your time to come and see. If this works out for us on this trial run, we hope to get more support boats from PYC on future drops. Presently the Williams and Karrels are participating. This will be great exposure for our club. Press and photographers will be there to publicize and record the event.



**Action required ... Action required ... Action required ... Action required ...**

**The paratrooper group is now requesting more boats if we can get them. Any PYC members interested should contact: Commodore Tom ASAP.**



## Vice Commodore – Cheryl Rhoads



Just came out yesterday ... I got the Marketing Director at Triangle News Leader to add this in to their magazine all year for Lake County. AND we're at the top! It's on 1st inside page of the flyer in restaurants, and Triangle News Leader. YAY!!!!



## Rear Commodore – John Mest

On October 10th we met at the Plantation Resort in Crystal River. After unloading boats and luggage, we went for a nice tour of the area! We then stopped at the Crab Plant for a really good

dinner! We rode around Kings Bay before heading back to the resort for cocktails.

Wednesday morning, we met early and took off with the boats to travel about 11 miles out into the Gulf of Mexico! We headed back and stopped at Crackers Bar and Grill for another excellent meal! Afterwards, some of us explored the many canals and the springs around Kings Bay! Finally, we went back to the resort to rest and sit on the porch under the tin roof and listen to it rain!

After a rough night of trying to sleep and waking up to tornado warnings, we decided to load up! **Mother Nature beat us out on our last day there!**

I would like to thank our Cruise master Butch for all his guidance around this area! And a great big thank you to our hosts for all their hard work and dedication to making this a great trip!

Thank you Butch and Merrilyn Karrels and Terry and Kay Weaver!!!

**We had 5 boats and 24 people attended!** Thanks to all for making this an enjoyable outing! Until next time, safe travels and boating! John Mest \* \* \* \* \*

**Treasurer Carol Clarke** If you are new to PYC and a reminder to our long time friends, please remember this!!!



Checks going to treasurer for this time of year, can be combined in the following manner: **Your payment for the Christmas Party dinner along with your choice of meal CAN be combined with your Commodore Gift in one check. Please don't include your membership dues for 2024.** That must be a separate check sent AFTER January 1, 2024 and it will not be cashed until that time. Dues go from January 1 to December 31 each year.

**Thank you and it has been my pleasure to serve PYC** for the last nine years as an officer. Next year I will just be a member and enjoy just that.

Thanks again for all your cooperation during my tenure, Carol.

**Sunshine Chair - Virginia Calven** I sent cards to Bill

Marcella and Terry Weaver. If anyone would like the PYC to send a get well card to an ill member, please contact: Virginia Calven at 906-484-3478.



# Thanksgiving!



## **PYC Thanksgiving Luncheon**

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Social Hour: 11:00-11:55

Dinner at Noon

**Where: Fox Run Clubhouse**

**440 Fox Run Blvd.**

**Tavares 32778**

come straight back, clubhouse on the right.

**Hosts: John Paul Dargo & Mary Bliss**

**Ernest & Nora Sixbey**

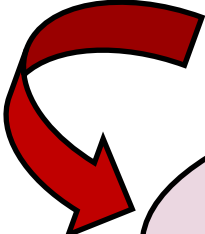
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No Raft Up – See you there.

For all of you who took the time to RSVP to Nora Sixbey regarding the PYC Thanksgiving dinner on November 4th, at Fox Run Clubhouse in Tavares, thank you!

For those who are coming, please bring your own table settings (plates, silverware, glasses ... etc.) along with your own beverages. Also bring serving utensil for your shared dish. Remember to put your name on your shared dish and serving utensil.

If you have questions, you can call or text Nora Sixbey at:  
734-748-6951 or email: [noranernie001@yahoo.com](mailto:noranernie001@yahoo.com)



**Special note: If you did not RSVP there is still room. Just call Nora and let her know you want to come! John Paul said to me on the phone, the more the merrier!**

## News from the Nominating Committee

The Pontoon Yacht Club Officer and Board slate for 2023-2024 has been finalized. We will be voting on the nominations at the November 4th Thanksgiving luncheon/meeting.

Commodore: Tom Williams  
Vice Commodore: Cheryl Rhoads  
Rear Commodore: John Mest  
Treasurer: Jay Asaibene  
Secretary: Debra Stewart

Board Members: Virginia Calven  
Scott Smith  
Richard Brown

Respectfully submitted,  
PYC Nominating Committee: Cindy Kindinger, Chair  
Gary Rhoads & Sharon Vincent

**Second Outing in November - Details on next page.  
Rescheduled Photo Geocache Search & Sunset Cruise—**

**THURSDAY, November 16th, 2023**

**\*Argo to Navigate using Coordinates**

Open App
Touch <i>"Navigate"</i>
Touch <i>"Search"</i>
Touch <i>"Enter Coordinates"</i>
Touch the blank space by N (North)
Type in north Coordinates
Touch blank space by W (West)
Type in coordinates
Touch the "✓" checkmark at the top right of the screen
Touch <i>"Confirm Location"</i>
Touch the coordinates that you typed (top of the results list)
Touch <i>"Create Route"</i>
Touch <i>"Start Voyage"</i>

**Go, follow the track.**

**Continued on next page ...**

# Rescheduled .... Sunset Cruise Photo Geocache Search

When: November 16th, 2023

Raft Up Between: 3 – 3:15pm

Raft-Up Location:

Lat. 28.78922

Long 81.68688



**PLEASE RSVP by November 14th, 2023**

Tom & Mary Jo ([TCWilliams99@hotmail.com](mailto:TCWilliams99@hotmail.com)) or

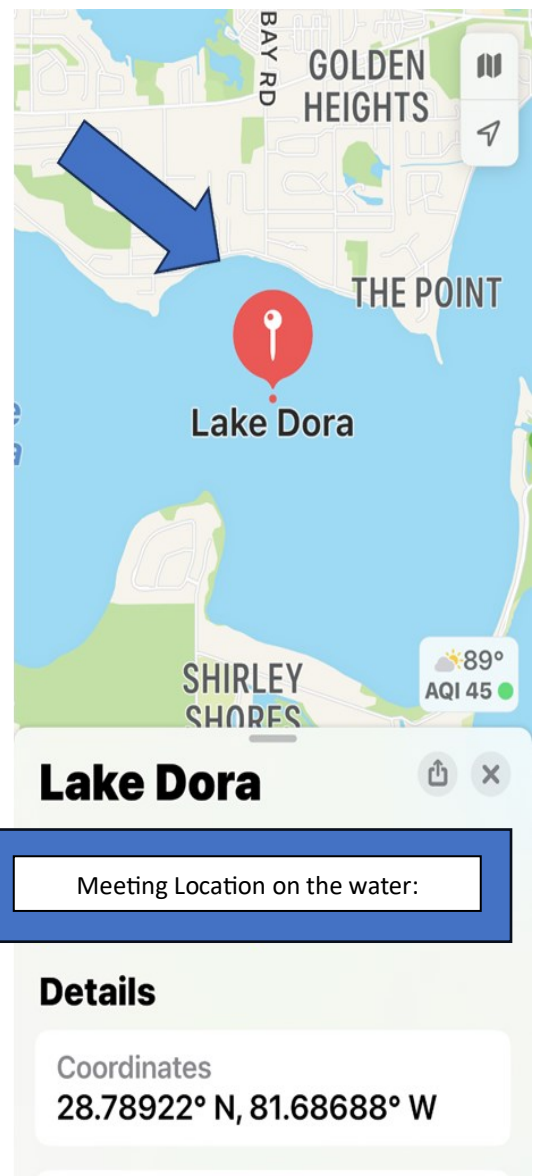
Scott & Lorraine:

[SjS0916@outlook.com](mailto:SjS0916@outlook.com)

or via the Facebook Event

To receive your clues. Then,

- Use your Argo to go to the Photo Geocache locations.
- Take a Picture of the Item you've found at the coordinates.
- Return to long docks by Tavares Pavilion on the Lake, for winner prize awards (by Wooten Park Docks, Tavares).
- BYOP- Bring Your Own Picnic, or BBQ onboard your boat, Watch Sunset, and travel homeward when ready.



**Hosts: John & Cindy Kindinger and Richard & Cookie Brown**



## *PYC Christmas Banquet*

*Holiday Attire is suggested.*

*Saturday, December 9, 2023*

*Country Club of Mt. Dora  
1900 Country Club Boulevard, Mt. Dora*

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*Social Hour 5:30 – 6:00 P.M. Cash Bar*

*A sit-down dinner will be served which includes salad, entrée, vegetable,  
starch, rolls and dessert.*

*Beverages include coffee, tea, and water.*

*Christmas Card Raffle will be played.*

*2024 Officers will be installed.*

*Music by Lonnie Shriver for your listening and dancing pleasure.*

*Reservations and Money must be received by Carol Clarke (3542 Manatee Rd., Tavares, FL 32778)  
by Friday, December 1, 2023 along with your choice of entrée –Beef Tips with wild rice OR Velvet Chicken  
(chicken stuffed with cream cheese and spinach).*

*Cost for Members \$20.00 Cost for Guests \$30.00*

- submitted by Cindy Kindinger -

# Plantation Event Pictures

Pics by Mary Jo & Cathy



**Tornado Hit, 200 yards from where we were sleeping or not, Wed./Thurs. 10/11&12/2023.**





Thank you to our hosts and all the work that went into planning this event!



Take down the Bimini and duck!



Out to the Gulf we go ...Wednesday, The day before the tornado.

## Crystal River Cruise ... Our Commodore Tom

and First Mate Mary Jo doing a great job of communicating on the radio with everyone. Pics by Cathy



How enjoyable it was to meet and enjoy the nice friends of Mary Jo and Tom .... Alan and Jean pictured below, nice people. We enjoyed visiting with them as we headed out to the Gulf.



## A Look Back In Time

By Kay Weaver



**A sad note to share... David Masterton,** a past commodore, passed away this past week.

**Memorial Service will be held at  
Tangerine Community Church, 7141 Wright Avenue  
Thursday, November 2nd at 7:00 pm.**

## A Look Back In Time By Kay

**Weaver, Historian**

October 15th, 2005 – Poker Run on Lake Dora was a beautiful day! We started out with 48 members & guests on 15 boats in a raft up reminiscent of



the past. After some camaraderie, drinks, and the purchasing of three poker cards, we headed east towards Mt. Dora. As we cruised by George & Mary Beth's dock we were 'poled' our 4th card, then continued back to Wooten Park in Tavares.

A delicious banquet of food prepared by our legendary chefs (members) was consumed at beautifully decorated autumn/Halloween tables (courtesy of Diane & Bob Pooler). As we left to head back east on the lake to the beautiful lake home of Suzy & Tim Hill for desserts, where we collected our 5th card.

Wonderful desserts prepared by Suzy and other members were served, much to the delight of Roy W., Ron K. and other dessert hounds. After a brief meeting and discussion of future events, we were able to buy up to 3 replacement cards to better our poker hand. After careful review, we came to a settlement of the winning hand.

Four Jacks held by Gene Fehr turned out to be the winning hand and the winnings were donated back to PYC. Members and guests contributed \$273. Thanks to all and especially to our hosts for a long and special day and especially to Tim & Suzy Hill for sharing their beautiful lake home with us.

**PYC Event Signup Sheet 2023—see Page 12 for 2024 ....**

**2024 Calendar is on the last page. Check it out and see where you would like to signup.**

Date	Day	Form	Outing Description & Location	Host 1	Host 2
January 9-14 <b>2nd week</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Sat.		Crazy Gator, Eustis	Vik & Elizabeth Kapoor	Leo & Harriet Reuter
January 23-28 <b>4th week</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.		Puddle Jumpers, Tavares	Joe Comastra & Lorraine Wiersma	Scott & Lorraine Smith
February 6-11 <b>2nd week</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.		Waterfront Grille-Valentines, Eustis	Richard & Cookie Brown	James & Carolyn Smith
February 20-25 <b>4th week</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Sat.		George fest Parade - Eustis	Gary & Cheryl Rhoads	Bob & Bettie Nebergall
March 6-11 <b>2nd week</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.		Crazy Gator – St. Patrick’s Day Celebration "Irish Duckstakes Race"	Dan & Sharon Vincent	Ray & Jerie Tallman
March 20-25 <b>Thursday</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.		Old Fashioned Picnic – Gilbert Park	John & Elaine Mest	Scott & Lorraine Smith
April 10-15 <b>2nd week</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.		<del>Moss Bluff Picnic</del> Posted to June 8th Change due to rain.	Jim & Carol Clarke	Tom & Mary Jo Williams
April 24-29 <b>4th week</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.		Scavenger Hunt - Hurricanes	Gary & Cheryl Rhoads	Mike & Bonnie Wells
May 8-13 <b>2nd week(T-R)</b>	9-12 <sup>th</sup> Tue-Fri		St. John’s Tropical Resort & Marina Lake Beresford, FL – Road Trip to Deland	Butch & Merrilyn Karrels	Tom & Mary Jo Williams
May 22-27 <b>4th week</b>	-	-	No event	-	-
June 5-10 <b>2nd week</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.		Moss Bluff Picnic	Jim & Carol Clarke	Tom & Mary Jo Williams
June 19-24 <b>4th week</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Thur.		Ski Beach	Virginia Calven	Carol Clarke
July 17-22 <b>3rd week</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Tues.		Pontoon Saloon (Note: ON TUESDAY)	Terry & Kay Weaver	
July 24-29 <b>4th week</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.		Beach Party TBD	Dave & Jay Asibene	Cindy & John Kindinger
August 7-12 <b>2nd week</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Sun.		Sunday, Informal Gathering off of Deer Island	Tom & Mary Jo Williams	
August 21-26 <b>4th week</b>	31 <sup>st</sup>		Geocache/Sunset Cruise Lake Dora <b>(Is rescheduled for 11/16/23)</b>	Tom & Mary Jo Williams	Scott & Lorraine Smith
September 4-9 <b>2nd week</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.		Sunset Cruise (rain day Sept. 9)	Bob & Cathy Banta	John & Elaine Mest
September 18-23 <b>4th Saturday</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat.		Poker Run	Jim & Carol Clarke	Bob /Cathy Banta Virginia Calven/ Gary Papucci
<b>October 9-14</b> <b>2nd week(T-R)</b>	10-13 <sup>th</sup> Tue-Fri		River Cruise Crystal River	Butch & Merrilyn Karrels	Terry & Kay Weaver
November 4 <sup>th</sup> <b>1st Saturday</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sat.		Thanksgiving	John Paul Dargo Mary Bliss	Ernest & Nora Sixby
November 16 <sup>h</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.		Geocache/Sunset Cruise Lake Dora <b>(This is the rescheduled date.)</b>	Tom & Mary Jo Williams	Scott & Lorraine Smith
December 9 <sup>th</sup> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Sat.		Christmas	John & Cindy Kindinger	Richard & Cookie Brown

Any corrections to newsletter, please email: [mcathygreen@gmail.com](mailto:mcathygreen@gmail.com) Sent: 10/31/23



## PYC Event Signup Sheet 2024

Every member needs to signup to host an event. Use the attached calendar to choose the exact date.

	2024 Event Dates	Start & End Actual Dates		Outing Location & Descrip- tion	Host 1	Host 2	Full Moon
1	1st Jan.			Puddle Jumpers			
2	2nd Jan.			Scavenger Hunt			
3	1st Feb.			Valentine Cruise			25-Jan
4	2nd Feb.	2/17	2/24	George Fest Boat Parade			
5	1st March			Multi-lake Cruise/picnic			24-Feb
6	2nd March	3/19	3/22	Parramore's Campground	Weaver, Terry & Kay		
7	1st April			Nautical Flee market/ Trimble Park			25-Mar
8	2nd April	4/23	4/23	Hide Away/Sunset/ Full Moon			
9	1st May			Moss Bluff/picnic Cruise			23-Apr
10	2nd May		5/18	Mt. Dora Movie Night	Williams, Tom & MJ		
11	1st June			Rainbow Springs away event	Karrels, Butch & Merrilyn		23-May
12	2nd June	6/20	6/20	Ski Beach/sunset/ Full Moon			
13	1st July	?	?	Deer Island/ Fire works			21-Jun
14	2nd July			?			
15	1st Aug.			?			21-Jul
16	2nd Aug			Deer Island/ Grilling lunch			
17	1st Sept.			Host Choice ?			19-Aug
18	2nd Sept.			Poker Run			
19	1st Oct.			Riviera resort, away cruise			17-Sep
20	2nd Oct.			Lake Griffin SP, picnic			
21	1st Nov.			Thanksgiving Dinner			17-Oct
22	2nd Nov.			Paratroopers Water Jump			
23	1st Dec.			Christmas Dinner			15-Nov
							15-Dec

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