



PONTOON YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

PYC Board of Directors

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

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 Virginia Calven
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Historian & Facebook Administrator:	Kay Weaver	Call Tree Team Chair:	Jay Asaibene
Photographer:	Sharon Vincent	Call Tree Team:	Maggie Crowell, Shelley McGarry, Elaine Mest



Happy April Birthdays!

April 3 Shelley McGarry
April 25 Sharon Vincent

Hope you a have terrific day, week, month & year!

Celebrate enough for all of us!



Commodore's March Comments – Tom Williams

As I begin writing this month's newsletter, I realize that this is the first day of spring. What an exciting and refreshing time of the year. More daylight and nicer weather mean more opportunity to get our pontoons out on the many waterways and lakes that we are so fortunate to live near.

In order to take advantage of these wonders as a club we need to have the activities schedule full and complete so we can all enjoy them. Why do I mention this? Because not all available dates have been chosen. I sent out an email to all who have not signed up to host an event. The PYC Policies and Procedures Manual states: "The club members are responsible for the planning and organization of the various boating activities throughout the year. Each member is expected to participate in planning and organizing at

least one event during the year.” I realize that a few may have health issues or will be absent during the summer months, but you need to let me know. Help make this fun and fair for all members by doing your part in being a team member.

Update: Since writing the above paragraph new information has reached me about several of our members. It seems several members have either moved, not renewed their memberships, or are not physically able to participate. What this means is that we have reached a position where there are not enough active members to cover all the event dates. So, where this puts us is that I am asking other members to step up to the plate and select a second date. Mary Jo and I are presently scheduled for three (3) events and cannot handle anymore.

While mentioning about planning and organizing PYC outings how about the nice jobs done on the George Fest Parade and the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration. Many thanks go out to Gary & Cheryl Rhoads, Bob & Bettie Nebergall and Dan & Sharon Vincent, Ray & Jeri Tallman. Just in, the Old-Fashioned Picnic at Gilbert Park was a great success. Nine boats joined in the raft up on a most beautiful day in showing our COLORS! Thank you to all who participated and especially to John & Elaine Mest and Scott & Lorraine Smith for hosting.

Next up on the event schedule is a pleasant ride up the Ocklawaha River to Moss Bluff for a picnic and a chance to go thru the two locks. Then on April 27th we have a scavenger hunt and a stop at Hurricanes. Starting on May 9th we have one of the away events of the year, a trip to the St. Johns Resort and Marina. This is a four-day event with evenings spent around the fire pit, which Butch and I have already been busy splitting wood here at the ranch.

We will be scheduling a Board of Directors meeting for a specific date to be decided later during the third week of May.

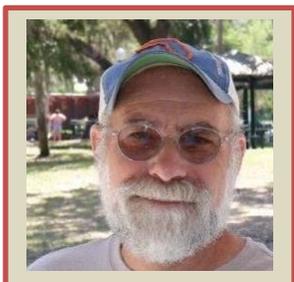
As always, see you on, in, and around our beautiful waterways, Tom.

Vice Commodore Report – Cheryl Rhoads



Let's all welcome our **newest members Wes & Amy Latham!** Wes has 63 years of boating experience and will be a great asset to our club. Make sure you greet them at our Moss Bluff outing as we hope to see them there. Looking forward to a fun PYC cruise April 13th.

Vice Commodore Cheryl Rhoads



Rear Commodore Report – John Mest

On March 9th, we had 35 people in attendance and 5 boats at a St Patrick’s Day outing to Crazy Gators! There were duck races and betting on your favorite! And group pictures and wearing of the green! A king and Queen leprechaun had bragging rights for the day! A good time was

had by all! I would like to thank our hosts Sharon and Dan Vincent and Jerie and Ray Tallman!

On March 23rd we had a picnic outing at Griffin Park in Mt Dora! We had 32 people, 7 guests and 9 boats! We had trivia games and a 50-50! A good time was had by all! It was a great day to be out. On the way home we cruised past the antique boats at Tavares! Thank you to our hosts Scott and Lorraine Smith and John and Elaine Mest!

I would like to remind everyone that we still 4 or 5 dates needing to be covered for outings!
Until next time, safe travels and boating! Rear Commodore, John Mest



Treasurer – Carol Clarke



Sunshine Chair - Virginia Calven Sent out one get well card to Wally Moon and Shirley. **If anyone would like the PYC to send a get-well card to an ill member, please contact: Virginia Calven at 906-484-3478**



First April Outing ...
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

JOE COMASTRA'S

MOSS BLUFF CRUISE AND PICNIC

HOSTED BY: JIM AND CAROL CLARKE AND TOM AND MARY JO WILLIAMS

RAFT UP AT 9:30 TO 9:45 AM ON LAKE EUSTIS SIDE OF HAYNES CREEK

We will be traveling north on Haynes Creek to Lake Griffin and to Ocklawaha River, north to the Moss Bluff Park. We have reserved the pavilion for our exclusive use.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch of fried chicken and dessert. **Please bring a dish to pass and your own beverage** (no alcohol allowed in park) **and table service.**

After our picnic lunch, for those that want to go, we will be going through the **MOSS BLUFF LOCKS IF THEY ARE OPEN**, and a short cruise north. This is very exciting as it is a 23-to-24-foot drop of water level from one side to the other.

RSVP by sending your check to Carol Clarke, Treasurer, 3542 Manatee Road, Tavares, FL 32778 by Monday, April 10, 2023.

COST IS \$ 4.50 PER PERSON

This is a great and wonderful one day cruise. DON'T MISS IT.

Second April Outing **Thursday, April 27th**
SCAVENGER HUNT & LUNCH AT HURRICANE'S

Gary & Cheryl Rhoads and Mike & Bonnie Wells

The Scavenger Hunt will be on Lake Eustis ONLY. You should **meet Gary PYC 9 from 9:45-10:00 to pick up your map and instructions on the Lake Eustis side of the Dead River.**

At a safe cruising speed, "The Hunt" should take 1 1/2 hours to complete at a safe cruising speed. This will encompass the whole lake.

Meet when you are finished by 11:30 AM at Hurricane Grill for a social hour. We'll order off the menu on your own. Prizes will be awarded to the winner and 50/50 will also be available.

RSVP to: TEXT Cheryl 954-802-0250 or TEXT Gary 954-778-0721
cherylrhoads1@gmail.com grhoads1@bellsouth.net

GAMES AVAILABLE TO BORROW

If you are stumped for something to play at your outing, check out the games that are available below. Thanks to Jerie Tallman and others, we have several games available. Just call Jerie and she will get them to you. Carol has the boat race game for loan also.

Any questions about how the game works just call Jerie and she can explain and let you know how to get the game before your outing. Call Carol Clarke for explanation of the Boat Race Game.

Jerie Tallman 352-617-5880 or

golake2lake@yahoo.com

Carol Clarke 352-250-0952 or

carolclarke4@gmail.com

The games we have are:
The "Unnamed" Money Game
Reality Bingo
The Memory Game
Boat Race Game
Hollywood Squares
***And Now the Duck Game**
* (title to be determined)
* Quack, Quack, Quack
(There was a lot of quacking going on.)

St. John's PYC River Event - May 9 to May 12, 2023 Tropical Resort & Marina, Lake Beresford, FL

1485 Lakeview Dr. Deland, FL. 32720

Hosts: Butch & Merrilyn Karrels Co-Host: Tom & Mary Jo Williams

Check-in: May 9, 2023 - 3:00PM - Check-out: May 12, 2023 - 11:00AM

Each day you are on your own for breakfast; eat in or dine out. Itinerary is on the next page so you know what we will be doing and will help you in making your plans/reservations.

Itinerary - St. John's PYC River Event – May 9 to 12, 2023

Tuesday: May 9, 2023 12:30 PM: Form boat convoy at CVS on SR19 and CR44 for all boats wanting to trailer their boats together to Tropical Resort & Marina. We will have people available to assist everyone unloading their boats. There is a single dock to unload all boats so if you join the convoy, it will take time to get all boats in the water and checked in.

Tuesday: May 9, 4:00 PM take boats to St. John's River Grill for dinner, 2997 FL-44 Deland, FL. Upon returning from the restaurant we will congregate at the fire-pit area to enjoy the evening and each other's company. BYOB

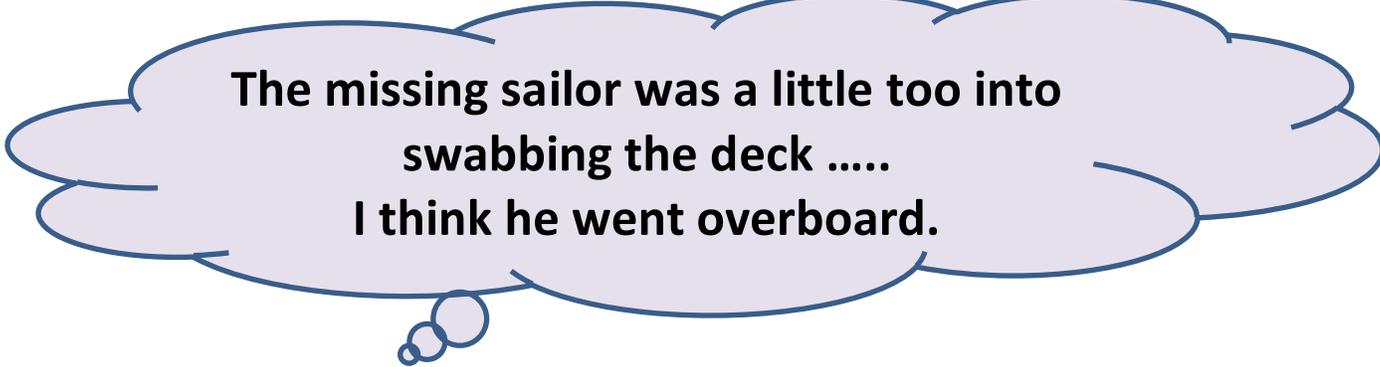
Wednesday: May 10, 10:30AM leave Tropical Resort & Marina with our boats to go north on the St. John's River to the Woodruff cutoff to De Leon Springs and the Sugar Mill restaurant for lunch. Coming back from the Sugar mill restaurant, we will cross Lake Woodruff and Lake Dexter on to the St. John's River and go south back to the Tropical Resort & Marina. Make sure you have a full tank of gas for the day.

Wednesday: May 10, 5:00 PM we will be taking our vehicles to the Stockyard restaurant for dinner. Depending on weather we will be able to eat outside in an area where we can eat as a group. Again after returning from the restaurant we will meet at the fire-pit for libations. We will have marshmallows for roasting along with chocolate and graham-crackers for s'mores.

Thursday: May 11, 10:00 AM we will be leaving Tropical Resort heading south on the St. John's river toward Sanford, again make sure you have a full tank of gas. Right now there is construction on the railroad over pass and we may not be able to go into the Sanford marina but if we can we will go to the Sanford marina. We will turn around at the Sanford marina and head back across Lake Monroe and back up to Swamp House Bar & Grill where we will have lunch.

After lunch, it's back on our boats heading north to Tropical Resort and marina where we will have our final gathering as a club at the fire-pit. We will be using the charcoal grills to make dinner for anyone who wants to eat this evening, bring your own food and Charcoal for this meal.

Friday: May 12, 2023, 11:00 AM you will be on your own for breakfast. Depart for home.



The missing sailor was a little too into
swabbing the deck
I think he went overboard.

Pictures from March Outings – Crazy Gators ... Pics by Sharon

A lot of laughter at this event and so much going on

Outstanding job to our hosts: Jeri & Ray Tallman, Sharon & Dan Vincent!!!

Look at that cake!
Thanks Sharon



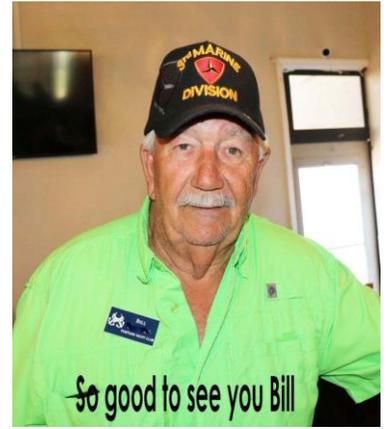
Wow, everyone had a great time at the event. Great Job Hosts!



And the **PYC Members** made it extra fun by participating in all the planned activities!!!!

Proud to be a part of such a great group of people!

St. Patrick's Day Event! Good Food, Great Games & Green GALORE!





Jeri & Ray and Sharon & Dan had a fun-packed outing. We had a terrific time and also enjoyed the beautiful day after lunch on the water!



Jim Steve Bob Carol Virginia Gary Quack, Quack

Old-Fashioned Picnic at Gilbert Park was a great success!!!



Great Job Hosts:
Elaine, John, Scott
and Lorraine!!!!
We enjoyed the
Trivia Games.

Look at the great smiles in these three pics, Tom, Earl and Jeri!



Commodore Tom



Steve Earl



Winners Ray & Jerie



Great to see Bill



Historian Kay



Secretary Cathy

Everyone was having a beautiful, enjoyable day at our picnic.



Commodore Treasurer Cruise Master "OH MY"



John Jim Friendship



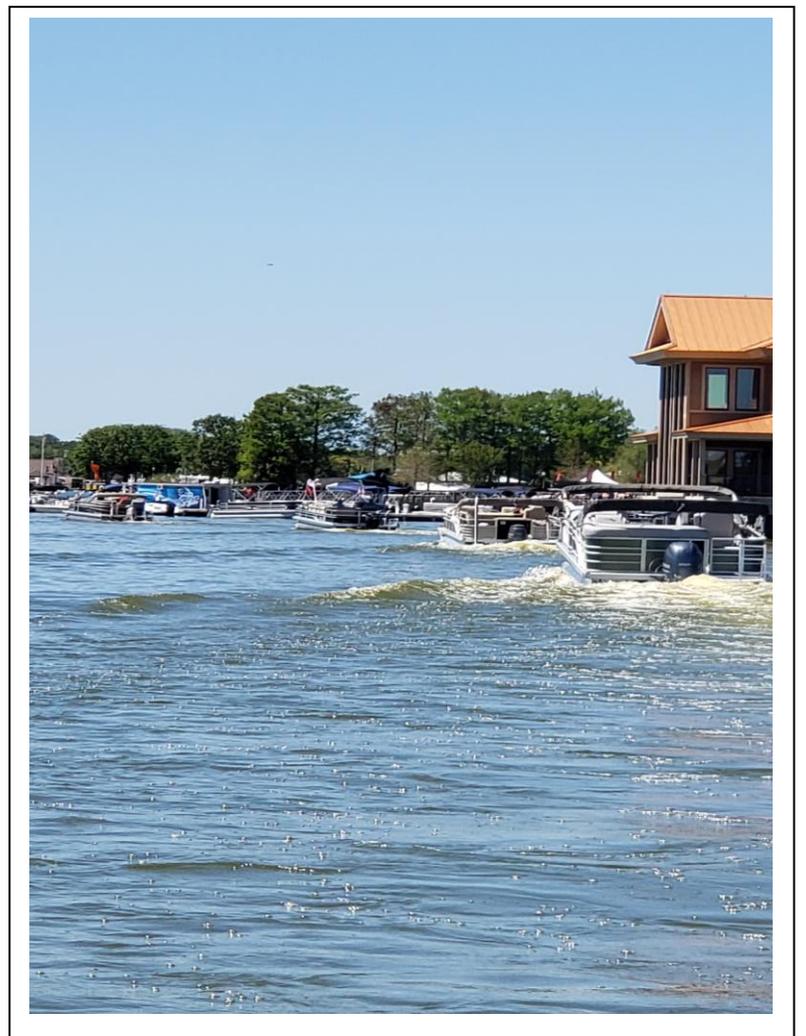
Vice Commodore Cheryl & Gary

On The Way to Gilbert Park Picnic!

Pics by Cathy



On The Way Home!





Kay Weaver, PYC Historian’s article is put on hold until our May issue because Thursday’s PYC outing in Gilbert Park triggered a memory of an article that **Jeri Tallman had written** for the December 2018 issue of the club’s newsletter. Jeri thought that a reprint of the same article would **be of interest to new club members in order to gain a bit more insight into boating on the Harris Chain of Lakes**. Please see the article on the next page.

A to N – Aid to Navigation, Navigational Aid, or Navaid



photo credit, *Mount Dora Buzz*, Ty Williams

The Harris Chain of Lakes Has One Special Lighthouse

An A to N is used as a visual or audio reference to assist in the safe passage and efficient navigation of all marine vessels. Lighthouses, lightships, day & radio beacons, buoys, racons, fog signals, and various other special structures are used around the globe as “street signs” on the vast waterways of the world. Currently, with the use of GPS and other high-tech electronic navigational aids, the importance of sighting an

A to N along a distant shoreline has diminished for some sailors. But while depending on high-tech devices for precise navigation, one must also realize that electronics can fail. When navigating in the dark, sighting a lighthouse signal in the distance brings the assurance of a reliable reference point along the way. Considered by many to be a “faux” lighthouse, that distinctive structure seen in the Mount Dora harbor is an officially registered inland, freshwater aid to navigation, and the only one of its kind in the state of Florida. This picturesque lighthouse at the western end of Grantham Pointe Park, overlooks Mount Dora’s Simpson Cove waterfront at 311 S. Tremain Street. When navigating by boat in Lake Dora, set your coordinates to 28°47.692 N latitude and 81°38.562 W longitude to reach this destination.



At one-half acre in size, Grantham Pointe Park (sometimes referred to as “Lighthouse Park”) was built in the harbor from road rubble and fill materials. Civic clubs and private citizens raised the \$3,000 needed to build the now iconic lighthouse that stands sentry at the Port of Mount Dora. Built of bricks with a stucco covered exterior, the lighthouse is 35' in height and painted with strikingly bold red & white horizontal stripes. Dedicated on March 25, 1988, there is no public

access to the inside of this structure. With its 750-watt photocell powering a blue pulsator guiding light, at night, this A to N is visible across much of 6 mile long and ¾ mile wide Lake Dora.

This colorful lighthouse and boater-friendly harbor are also a photographer's delight in creating a beautiful lakefront setting. Along with the ever-present variety of Florida's native wildlife, this park is said to be one of the most photographed scenes in all of Lake County, FL. Enjoying a daytime stroll, viewing the setting sun over Lake Dora, or experiencing an after dark adventure, this nautical location is sure to be captured forever in your memory. Memories are made on the water. I remain, the Periodic Reporter.

Photo courtesy of the author



PYC Event Signup Sheet 2023

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

Date	Day	Form	Outing Description & Location	Host 1	Host 2
January 9-14 2nd week	14 th Sat.		Crazy Gator, Eustis	Vik & Elizabeth Kapoor	Leo & Harriet Reuter
January 23-28 4th week	26 th Thurs.		Puddle Jumpers, Tavares	Joe Comastra & Lorraine Weirsma	Scott & Lorraine Smith
February 6-11 2nd week	9 th Thurs.		Waterfront Grille-Valentines, Eustis	Richard & Cookie Brown	James & Carolyn Smith
February 20-25 4th week	25 th Sat.		George fest Parade - Eustis	Gary & Cheryl Rhoads	Bob & Bettie Nebergall
March 6-11 2nd week	9 th Thurs.		Crazy Gator – St. Patrick’s Day Celebration Luckier Than a 5 th Grader.	Dan & Sharon Vincent	Ray & Jerie Tallman
March 20-25 Thursday	23 rd Thurs.		Old Fashioned Picnic – Gilbert Park	John & Elaine Mest	Scott & Lorraine Smith
April 10-15 2nd week	13 th Thurs.		Moss Bluff Picnic	Jim & Carol Clarke	Tom & Mary Jo Williams
April 24-29 4th week	27 th Thurs.		Scavenger Hunt - Hurricanes	Gary & Cheryl Rhoads	Mike & Bonnie Wells
May 8-13 2nd week(T-R)	9-12 th 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 4th week					
June 5-10 2nd week					
June 19-24 4th week	24 th Sat.		Ski Beach or Hideaways, TBD	Virginia Calven	Carol Clarke
July 10-15 2nd week					
July 24-29 4th week			TBD	Dave & Jay Asibene	
August 7-12 2nd week	12 th Sat.		Scavenger Hunt TBD	Bob & Cathy Banta	
August 21-26 4th week	21-23		Geocache/Sunset Cruise Lake Dora	Tom & Mary Jo Williams	Richard Lowell & Debra Stewart
September 4-9 2nd week					
September 18-23 4th Saturday	23 Sat.		Poker Run	Jim & Carol Clarke	Bob & Cathy Banta Virginia Calven
October 9-14 2nd week(T-R)	10-13 Tue-Fri		River Cruise Crystal River	Butch & Merrilyn Karrels	Terry & Kay Weaver
October 23-28 4th week			TBD	Al & Diane Allen	Carl & Joan Scott
November 4 th 1st Saturday	4 th Sat.		Thanksgiving	John Paul	Ernest & Nora Sixby
December 9 th 2nd Saturday	9 th Sat.		Christmas	John & Cindy Kindinger	Richard & Cookie Brown

Any corrections to newsletter, please email: mcathygreen@gmail.com Sent: 4/1/23