



Pyrate News

The 10th day of December in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Two, Mill Town, Florida

1 Duck, 2 Duck, 3 Duck, 4...

Have you ever wondered how our racing ducks are handled and cared for during the “off-season”?



SasSea, 2-Noodles, Scooter, Snookie,
Terra and Vermillion Jack “count” ducks



Pepperhead and Flossie “count” ducks



Terra and Vermillion Jack “count” ducks



Frenchie, Hands, Coop and Lovie “count” ducks

Well let me tell you, those impressive ducks are treated with the utmost care. In fact, just prior to Thanksgiving while their distant cousins (turkeys) are concerned about where the next meal is coming from, these mighty ducks are having their feathers massaged by volunteers. The Duck Committee and their spouses get together to inspect and “count” the ducks. I guess the Pyrates will do anything for a party.



Sandy Bottom and Capt Murky
“count” ducks

1 Duck, 2 Duck, 3 Duck, 4...



WIN \$500.00

On the 4th of July at Riverfest 2007 your Adopted Duck will be an entrant in the Great Mill Town Duck Race and be dropped at 5:00 P.M. from the Highway 90 Bridge to begin the 1st Annual Adopted Duck Race.

Once in the water, these brave little ducks will bob and sway their way to the next bridge. The first adopted duck to reach the bridge will win \$500.00. Second place \$100.00 and third place, \$50.00.

It's the most exciting event of the year.

Do not have to be present to win.

For more information contact
Ann Scott 393-0121

The original Duck Race Poster

Actually, every year around this time, the Pyrates have had a tradition of “counting” the racing ducks. The process includes inspecting each duck to ensure the integrity (ability to float) of the ducks. Additionally, each racing duck number is verified to ensure that we have exactly the correct number of ducks and that each number is properly accounted for.



2022 Duck Race Poster—16th Annual Duck Race

The overall process has traditionally been called “counting” the ducks. Although we don’t actually count the ducks, a more accurate expression would be “accounting” for the ducks. However, as Pyrates we choose to stick with tradition. We have been doing this process in varying formats for the past 16 years and hope to continue for many years to come.

The Duck Committee is a group of about 12 Pyrates whose sole mission is to handle all aspects of the only fundraiser of the Blackwater Pyrates, The Great Mill Town Duck Race. Working with the Technical Committee, the Duck Committee manages the care and handling of the ducks to include verifying each duck is ready to race on July 4th. This entire process is generally held with minimal fanfare in order to not outshine the event itself. A big thank you to the Duck committee and all the volunteers.

December 7, 1941 a day that will go down in infamy!

On December 7 1941 the United States finally entered World War II. As President Roosevelt said, "...the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." Around 7:55 on a peaceful Sunday morning , 360 Japanese war planes descended from the clouds for a surprise attack against the American naval war fleet at Pearl Harbor, Oahu.



The Japanese destroyed 5 battle ships, 3 destroyers, 7 regular ships, and 200 American aircraft. There were around 2400 Americans killed and 1200 wounded from Japanese aircraft fire, torpedoes, bombs and kamikazes. The Americans took out 5 Japanese midget submarines, 30 aircraft and just about 100 men .

The next day President Franklin d. Roosevelt gave his famous "infamy" speech to congress. This speech was said to acknowledge that the United States of America was attacked and is now in a state of war with Japan . The US Senate ended up voting 82 to 0 and the House of Representatives 388 to 1 to join the war and fight. Soon after this two other world powers, Germany and Italy, declared war with the United States.

2022 Christmas Lighted Boat Parade

Another great Christmas Lighted Boat Parade.

Approximately 3,000 people gathered on the shore line of the Blackwater River for the annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade. People lined the riverbanks from the Pyrate docks at Jernigan's Landing to the gazebo at the far north side of the boardwalk.

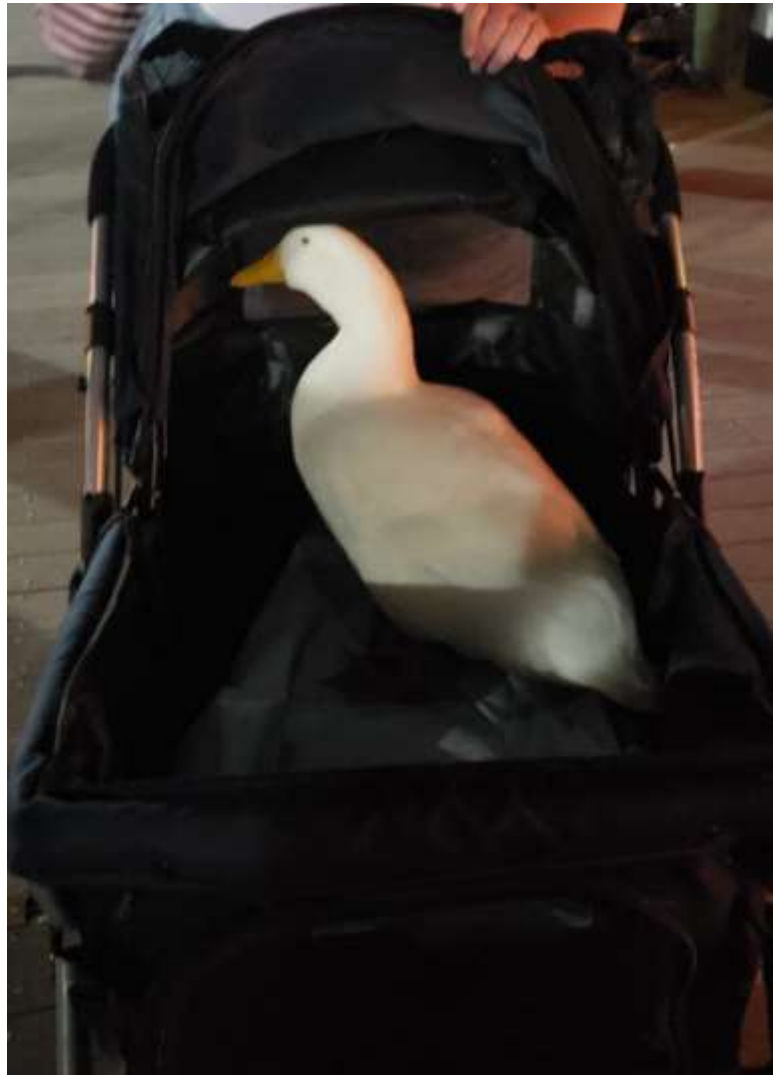


Some brought their kids. Some brought their parents and friends, and some even brought their ducks.



And for the 16th year, the Blackwater Pyrates were the stars of the show. 15 vessels decorated in Christmas cheer, paraded in front of the awaiting audience.

The Boat Parade was immediately followed by a fantastic fireworks show by the city of Milton.



2022 Christmas Lighted Boat Parade



2022 Christmas Lighted Boat Parade



2022 Pyrates Giving Back

It is now official! The Blackwater Pyrates have made it a tradition to serve the community at Thanksgiving.



For those of you who are unfamiliar with how the Pyrates assist at Thanksgiving (and Christmas), let me explain. A few years back, Gin Rummy (Ginny Hinton) suddenly was left in a bind when the group of volunteers who normally assist her and her organization provide a hot meal and conversation to the seniors at the Milton Community Center, were forced to back out. Gin Rummy quickly reached out to the Blackwater Pyrates for help and a tradition was born.

Now, the Pyrates have turned the event into a celebration of service. Every year we have the regulars who show up and prepare and serve the food. Additionally, we always have several newbies. These Pyrates are not always new to the Pyrates, but joining the celebration of service at Thanksgiving is something new to them.

This year we had so many volunteers that we were forced to turn some away at Thanksgiving and ask them to join us at Christmas instead.



2022 Pyrates Giving Back



Talk about stirring the pot (Mad Professor shown above).

Below, Dollar Bill mops the deck with proper adult supervision from Stew Burner. And to the right is Sandy Bottom with her normal big smile.



Serving Thanksgiving dinner has become a family event with Stew Burner and Lady Belle's granddaughter joining in on the fun (above).



Gumbo Anyone?

Who knows what goes into a delicious pot of gumbo? Actually, how many of you know what gumbo is? Well, when you live in the south near Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, you definitely know what gumbo is and you also know NOT to ask a chef what is in their gumbo.

This year, several of the Pyrate winches got together to brew up a pot of gumbo and participate in the annual Hadji Shrine Gumbo Cookoff.

Although they were unable to take home the winning trophy, the pot was definitely empty by the end of the day. It was an amazing gumbo and the event was a complete success.

Some may say the judging was a bit compromised. Some may say the odds were stacked against them. But no one would say that the gumbo was anything short of the best in show.

When the day started winding down and the gumbo pots were quickly being emptied, there was only one location where everyone came for more. I call them the winners.



Blackwater Pyrates 2022

January	February	March	April
12 Booty Council 19 General Mtg	9 Booty Council 12 Milton Mardis Gras Parade 16 General Mtg 19 Mardis Gras Flotilla - POLT	5-6 Renaissance Fair – Duck Adoptions 9 Booty Council 16 General Mtg – Crew Duck Adoptions Begin	9 Poker Run 13 Booty Council 20 General Mtg 23 River Clean Up/Earth Day * 30 New Member Party
May	June	July	August
7 Skull Island Retreat *to be rescheduled 11 Booty Council 18 General Mtg 21 Boater Safety Week* Blessing of the Fleet USCG Boat Inspection	4 Lighted Boat Parade in Ward Basin 8 Booty Council 15 General Meeting/Duck adoption paperwork and \$\$\$ due 18 WWSRE	4 Great Mill Town Duck Race*** 9 Blues Cruise 13 Booty Council 20 General Mtg- Membership Dues	6 Lighted Boat Parade 11 Booty Council 17 General Mtg 20 Destin Crawl ? Boater Safety Class
September	October	November	December
15 Booty Council 17 Upper River Clean Up * 21 General Mtg 24 History Lecture* (date change)	1 Skull Island Retreat (date chg) 13 Booty Council 15 Oktoberfest 19 General Mtg- New Captain Nominations 21/22 Ghost Walk	9 Booty Council 12 Blues Cruise 16 General Mtg – Vote for new Capt	2 Christmas Lighted Boat Parade 7 Budget Meeting 14 Caroling with the Pyrates 31 Red Solo Cup

*Core Mission

Revised September 12, 2022

***All Crew Participation





Thank you 2022 Sponsors

TITLE SPONSOR \$5000



Admiral Level Sponsors \$2500

Cat Country 98.7 (in-kind)

McKenzie Motors - Milton

Captain Level Sponsors \$1000

Milton Animal Hospital - Dr. Loper

Flow Control Plumbing – Jason & Tina Barnhill

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*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2022 Sponsors

First Mate Level Sponsors \$500

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Krewe of Airship Pirates (in-kind)

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Sonny's BBQ (in-kind)

Sorensen Rentals

Texas Roadhouse - Milton

Vinyl Planks 4 Less - Billy Yates



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Fusion Fine Wine & Spirits
General Electric (\$200)
Gulf Coast Florida Beach
Weddings



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Thank you 2022 Sponsors

Helmsman Level \$100

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Howard Young Flooring
Jones Fence
Lakeside Ladies
Leek Small Engine
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Oops Alley - Pace
Oscity Labs – Brewton
Mason's Restaurant
McCombs Electric Htg & A/C

Mike Ryan's Truck & Auto
Accessories
Milton Garden Club (\$300)
Muddy Paws – Grooming by
Haylee
Nick Cote's Transmission
Paradise Screen Printing
Pawpaw's Small Engine
Pensacola Bay Brewery
Primerica Financial Services
RM Integrations
Return to Health - Milton
Ritchey's Service Center
Riverwalk Hair Exhibit



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Thank you 2022 Sponsors

Helmsman Level \$100

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Robert O. Beasley, P.A.

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Tidy Clean & Restoration LLC

Tops Appliance

Truly Spokin Bicycles

Waterworks Sprinkler Systems



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