



# Pyrate News

The 11th day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Three, Mill Town, Florida

## Captain's Log 2.11.23

Welcome to the Pyrate New Year. Similar to the Chinese New Year, the Pyrate New Year is celebrated more than on a single day.

The 2023 Chinese New Year (or Lunar New Year) celebration began on January 22nd and runs for a meager 16 days (Jan 22– Feb 5), The conclusion of the Chinese New Year Celebration is the Lantern Festival. 2023 is the year of the Rabbit. More specifically, according to a CNN report (Maggie Hiufu Wong, CNN • Updated 23rd January 2023 ), most people know the basics: The 12-year Chinese zodiac calendar cycle is represented by 12 different animals — the Chinese zodiac signs. Your zodiac animal is determined by your year of birth.

But that's only the start. For faithful followers of the system, a year isn't just categorized by its animal. There's also a complex sexagenary cycle made up of 10 heavenly stems and 12 earthly branches.

Heavenly stems and earthly branches.

Every year, a heavenly stem (one of 5 elements, which fall into the yin or yang category) is paired with an earthly branch (one of 12 Chinese zodiac animals). Gui Mao is the 40th element of the Chinese sexagenary cycle. The heavenly stem "Gui" represents water, whereas the earthly branch "Mao" represents Rabbit. That makes 2023 the year of the Water Rabbit.

### 12 Chinese zodiac signs



Although not actually part of the Chinese zodiac signs, the Blackwater Pyrates will celebrate the year of the Water Duck. Unlike the Chinese New Year celebration, the Pyrates tend to celebrate all year with the final event being the Red Solo Cup Drop on New Years Eve. The similarities are amazing!

# A Fallen Hero

## Our History : The Legend

It was the year of 1994 that a weary pirate name of Bones first set foot on the shores of Mill Town, a small village on the shores of the Blackwater River. But as he did so he declared that someday he would revisit this pristine location not only to test its fine population, but also to reclaim the treasure that he buried along the riverbanks. So it came to pass that Bones did return in the year 2006 and could not locate the treasure he had deposited. In anger, he attacked the city of Mill Town with a band of cutthroats as no one had ever seen before. It was a short battle with the locals and before the dust settled Bones had a local Commissioner Bob Cole walk the plank. It was then that he declared he be renamed Blackwater Bones and his band of pirates be known as the feared Blackwater Pyrates! To this day ye can hear the rousing voices of the Blackwater Pyrates as they echo through the trees that line the river as the Pyrates search for their gold. For it's here that the legend lies, in wait, for eternity. So if you be on the river at night and you see a moving flame, or a rasping voice, it's Blackwater Bones and his men, in search of booty.



Above is an excerpt from The Code, The Blackwater Pyrate guide for proper Pyrating.

Our history is well documented and has been passed down from Captain to Captain, beginning with our Legendary Leader, Blackwater Bones. The Title "Our History: The Legend" should be a subtle reminder as to the real Legend of the Blackwater Pyrates, Captain Blackwater Bones.

Captain Bones was among the original "Founding Fathers" of the Blackwater Pyrates. He is the only Pyrate Captain to serve for 5 consecutive years. Some will say that no one wished to step up and take on the challenge of following in the footsteps of the Legend. However, after 5 years of "wrangling cats" Captain Bones chose to step aside and persuade another member of his crew to become the 2nd Captain of the Pyrates. And so Captain Hook 'em Dano became the 1st Pyrate Captain elected into office and the 2nd official leader of the Blackwater Pyrates.

As a former Captain, Captain Bones was a part of our heritage and will always be addressed as Captain as specifically cited in the Code. However, not specifically cited in the Code is why he is considered a Legend by many of us who were fortunate enough to call him a friend and mentor. Captain Bones was always a part of any conversation that may come about when discussing the direction of the Pyrate organization.



# A Fallen Hero



During the years following his time as the Captain, he was no longer directly involved in the decision making processes however, every Captain who followed would religiously utter the phrase “what would Bones do?” His leadership carried over from Captain to Captain.

Even our current Captain, Captain Lucky (that would be me) would frequently utter that exact phrase. Many an issue have arisen during my time as Captain where I was fortunate enough to have a direct line to the Legend himself.

Always the wise sage, Captain Bones never failed to provide the wisdom necessary to make the tough decisions that directly impacted the Crew. When frustrated about a particular decision that needed to be made, I could always count on his advise. Usually, it was a simple phrase. “Do what is in the best interest of the Crew.” ...”and don’t pee into the wind.” Captain Bones you will be missed.





# A Fallen Hero

# The Legend

## THE LEGEND OF THE BLACKWATER BONES LOST TREASURE

*Never has a sailor — pirate or otherwise — voyaged the Seven Seas who has not heard tell of Blackwater Bones and his Lost Treasure.*

Truth be told, nothing is for certain about the infamous Blackwater Bones Treasure. But there is, indeed a great deal of speculation. Among the illiterates of any pirate crew the great stories were told and retold. Long ago Bones sailed into the river seeking a safe haven from the rough stormy weather. It is believed a vast tide ripped the vessel from her moorings and the forest torn in fury, beat to pieces and washed a shore. At the time of its sinking, the treasure laden ship carried tons of gold and jewelry. The captain hoarded his gold, and rumors circulated the treasure is hidden on any number of inlets. Little of this massive treasure hoard was recovered until nearly hundreds of years later. Treasure hunters have discovered only traces of the riches during the annual Riverfest Celebration “Bones Lost Treasure Hunt”. To this day, ye can hear the rousing voices of the Blackwater Pyrates as they echo through the trees that line the river always in search of their gold. For it is here that the legend lies. So if one happens to be on the river on a dark and lonely night and imagines moving flames rasping voices, run like the wind for ye have stumbled upon Bones and his crew in search of their long misplaced booty.





# Captain Bones gets the last laugh!

The Mardi Gras Flotilla in Perdido Key has always been a fun and exciting event. Sponsored by the Pirates of the Lost Treasure, this event has historically been a favorite among the Blackwater Pyrate Captains. Captain Blackwater Bones got his nickname “Crash” from the Pirates of the Lost Treasure through various escapades during this annual event. In fact, Captain Bones and Rumfront had planned on attending again this year. So the Pyrates honored our fallen leader by continuing with the tradition. Hooligan, Capt. Fins Up, Capt. Lucky, and Firedog each had Blackwater Pyrate boats full of Crew members in the annual event.

Most of us who participated in the event believe Capt. Bones was with us in spirit. In fact, as the picture below demonstrates, Capt. Blackwater Bones works in mysterious ways and has a sick sense of humor. Pictured below is Capt. Fins Up’s boat after finishing the boat parade. No one was injured when the boat trailer broke and the boat came crashing onto the pavement. However, we could hear Capt. Bones laughing in the distance as we carried on his tradition of breaking something.



# Captain Bones gets the last laugh!





# Tales from the Duck Pond



The February meeting of the Duck Committee was held at Pyrate Terra's house at 4 pm on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The Committee members bagged the token ducks into zip bags to go with the number pages. The number pages and sponsor pages have been ordered. The committee will be hitting up a few businesses this month. The general membership will receive their bags and number sheets at the March General Meeting.

***Speaking of March, we will be very busy with Duck Adoptions and will need volunteers.***

March 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> we will be adopting out at the Renaissance / Pirate Festival. Frenchie will have signup sheets at the February General Meeting.

March 24<sup>th</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Milton Garden Club Golf tournament. We have been asked to set up a booth and adopt out ducks.

March 25<sup>th</sup> is the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Fest for the Bagdad Volunteer Fire Department. There will be vendor booths, car show, Gumbo Cook Off and Food trucks. 9 am to 3 pm. We are setting up for Duck Adoptions and working on getting a Gumbo team together too. Any & All Volunteers are welcome.

I would also like to announce our change in our committee makeup. We have 2 new members on the Committee that are probably not going to like being called Divas. So, from this point forward we will be known as the Triple D (not like the one on Food Network) which stands for Ducks, Divas and Dudes.



# Blackwater Pyrates 2023

January	February	March	April
8 (Not) Change of Command 11 Scholarship Mtg 12 Booty Council 18 General Mtg	4 Milton Mardis Gras Parade – Krewe of Airship Pirates 4 Mardis Gras Flotilla - POLT 9 Booty Council 15 General Mtg	4-5 Renaissance Fair – Duck Adoptions 8 Safety Mtg 9 Booty Council 15 General Mtg – Crew Duck Adoptions Begin 18 WWSRE	8 Poker Run 12 Safety Mtg 13 Booty Council 19 General Mtg 22 River Clean Up/Earth Day * 29 New Member Party
May	June	July	August
10 Safety Mtg 11 Booty Council 17 General Mtg 20 Boater Safety Week* Blessing of the Fleet USCG Boat Insp ? Boater Safety Class	3 Lighted Boat Parade in Ward Basin 14 Safety Mtg 15 Booty Council 21 General Mtg Duck adoption paperwork and \$\$\$ due	4 Great Mill Town Duck Race*** 8 Blues Cruise 12 Safety Mtg 13 Booty Council 19 General Mtg- Membership Dues	5 Lighted Boat Parade 9 Scholarship Mtg 10 Booty Council 16 General Mtg 19 Destin Crawl
September	October	November	December
13 Safety Mtg 14 Booty Council & Scholarship Mtg 16 Upper River Clean Up * 20 General Mtg 23 History Lecture*	7 Skull Island Retreat 12 Booty Council 14 Oktoberfest 18 General Mtg- Scholarship Award 20/21 Ghost Walk	4 Blues Cruise 8 Safety Mtg 9 Booty Council 15 General Mtg	1 Christmas Lighted Boat Parade 6 Budget Meeting 13 Caroling with the Pyrates 31 Red Solo Cup

\*Core Mission      Revised January 12, 2023      \*\*\*All Crew Participation







*Thank you 2022 Sponsors*

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*The  
Great Mill Town  
Duck Race*

A photograph showing a large number of yellow rubber ducks floating in a body of water. The ducks are scattered across the frame, creating a dense field of yellow. The text "The Great Mill Town Duck Race" is overlaid on the image in a decorative, cursive font.



*Thank you 2022 Sponsors*

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*The  
Great Mill Town  
Duck Race*





*Thank you 2022 Sponsors*

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*The  
Great Mill Town  
Duck Race*



*Thank you 2022 Sponsors*

## **Helmsman Level \$100**

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*The  
Great Mill Town  
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