

# The Code

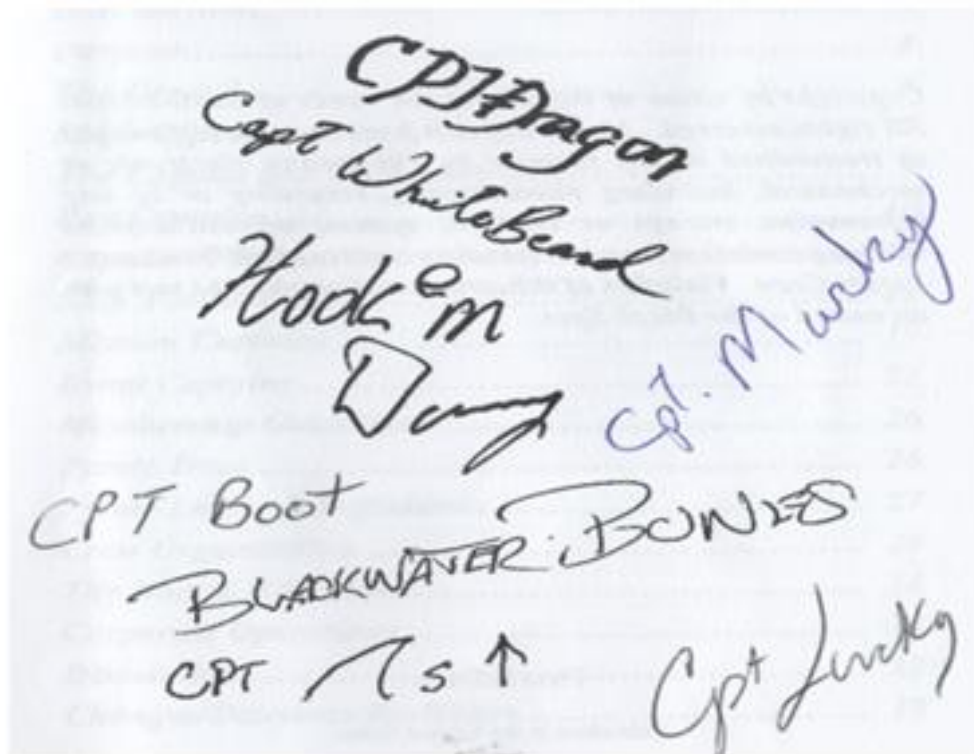
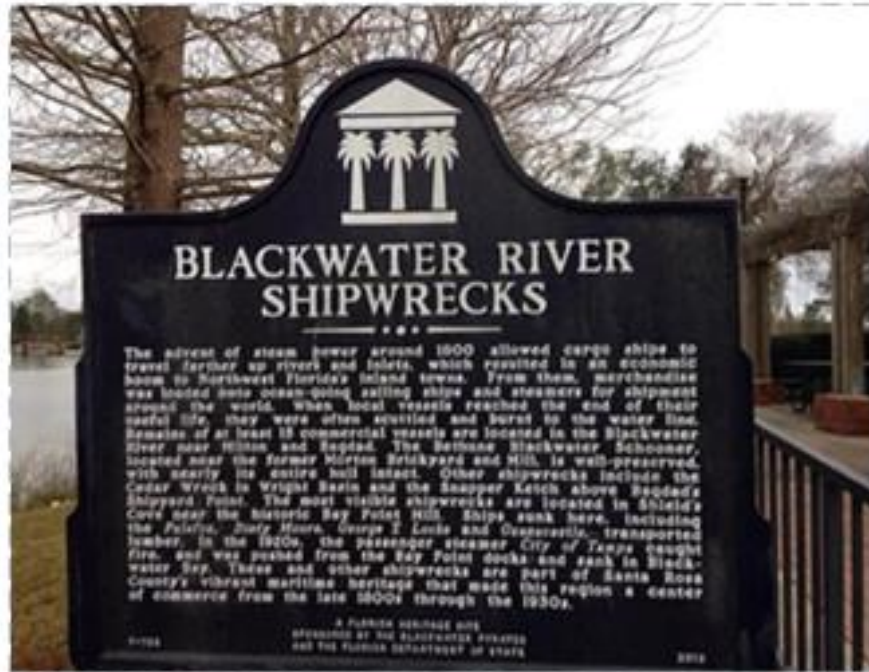
## Pyrates with a Purpose



**GUARDIANS OF THE BLACKWATER RIVER**

"River Clean-Up, Boater Safety & Maritime History Preservation"

# The Code



## A Pyrate Book

"River Clean-Up, Boater Safety & Maritime History Preservation"

# The Code

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# Introduction

This code constitutes the rules adopted by the Blackwater Pyrate Crew, Inc. for the regulation and management of its affairs. Pyrates are instructed to read the code carefully because sooner or later you are going to be held to it and the plank is now in fine working order. The CODE is passed each time a new captain is brought on board. The CODE is changed by Pyrate vote with one exception. A captain who relinquishes command may rewrite any portion of the Code (without vote) based on the knowledge he has obtained during his term as captain. It should be noted that a captain's rewrites can ONLY be accomplished in the last month before the captain passes the flag. All other revisions must be done by vote. Once the Code is passed between captains, it once again is subject to vote and revisions are thus made in the new term. Rewrites can be called for by any Pyrate at any general meeting. Voting Procedures following Addendum III of the Code apply. Changes should be dated, and relevant notes made for the sake of history. Significant changes should also be listed under "Changes/Deletions/Rewrites" as a matter of history.

# Purpose of the Blackwater Pyrate Crew

The purpose of the Blackwater Pyrates is to serve and pillage the community through; *River Clean-Ups, Boater Safety & Maritime History Preservation* while having fun in the process. This adult fraternity supports numerous initiatives in the area of Milton and Bagdad. Founded in 2006, the Blackwater Pyrate Crew has become an integral part of our community, the City of Milton, and the Blackwater River Basin.

# *The Legend of the Blackwater Pyrate Crew*

*It was the year of 1994 that a weary pirate named 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. So, if you be on the river at night and you see a moving flame, or hear rasping voice, it's Blackwater Bones and his men in search of booty.*

# THE BLACKWATER PYRATE CODE

This Blackwater Pyrates' CODE was adopted by the BLACKWATER PYRATES CREW, INC. at their General Meeting held on [*March 17, 2021*].

## The Legend of the Blackwater Pyrates

While legends abound about its origins, the Pyrates came into being under the direction of Captain Blackwater Bones in 2006. He and a crew of like-minded mateys reckoned a group of locals was needed to care for the Blackwater River and its basins, not to mention meet regularly and hoist a bit of grog together. Details of aforementioned legends are in the possession of the Keeper of the CODE for posterity.

## Blackwater Pyrates' Core Missions

Over time, the Pyrates developed three Core Missions:  
Maritime Historical Preservation  
River Cleanup  
Boater Safety

Originally drafted in 2006 and revised over ensuing years, the originals, changes, and official duties are maintained by the Keeper of the CODE. Its highlights are presented in this two-page, abbreviated document.

**PLANK 1. Expectations:** All dues paying Crew are expected to pull their weight by supporting the three Core Missions or face the plank. They will re-up their commitment each summer with the set yearly contribution to the Booty, and are encouraged to join the frequent occasions of revelry.

**PLANK 2. Respect for Leadership:** All Crew are to recognize and respect the authority of Officers past and present: Captains, Quartermasters and Coxswains.

**PLANK 3. Motions/Voting:** Any Crewmember may propose a motion to the BWP Captain at least one week prior to a regularly scheduled General Meeting. The BWP Captain decides which motions will be proposed to the Crew. The ground rules for discussion and voting are outlined in Addendum III, "General Membership Meetings". Passage of motions will be based on a majority of the Pyrates in attendance at a General Meeting.

**PLANK 4. Backstabbing:** Traditionally, while Pyrates are notorious backstabbers, it behooves the Crew to recall that they are all volunteers, and volunteers are more likely to actively participate when the environment is friendly and helpful; criticism should be kept to a dull roar. Grave concerns should be brought to the attention of the BWP Captain.

**PLANK 5. Officers and Crew:** Listed on page two of this CODE is the organizational structure of the Blackwater Pyrates. All Crew are strongly encouraged to know the Events in which the Pyrates are involved and to participate in them with great enthusiasm.

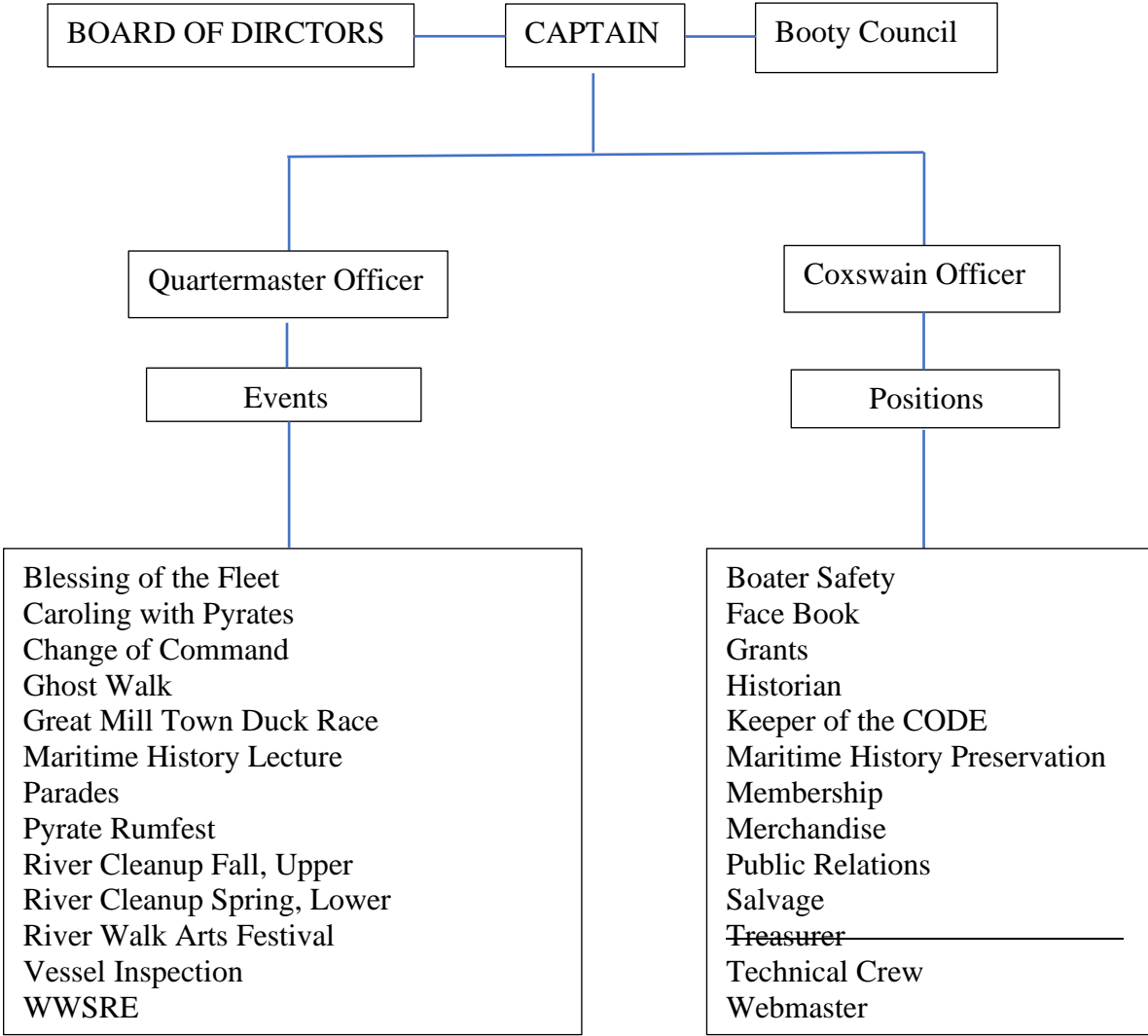
**PLANK 6. Passing the Baton:** Prior to Event or Crew Leaders growing weary of organizing their event, they should seek and train a replacement to preserve the corporate knowledge of that event's success.

**PLANK 7. General Meetings (OBTW's):** Should a Crewmember desire to contribute a comment or information at the end of a meeting that is not on the agenda, s/he must receive permission from the Captain prior to the meeting. The Captain retains the right to allow or deny the request. Approved comments should be brief and to-the-point. "Oh, by the ways" (OBTW's) at the end of each meeting should be kept to a maximum of 1 minute.

"River Clean-Up, Boater Safety & Maritime History Preservation"



# BLACKWATER PYRATES' ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



**Note:** Event Leaders and Crew Position Leaders standard operating procedures (SOP) are available from the Keeper of the CODE or the BWP Captain. These SOPs are suggested guidelines based on past practices but are not intended to limit the creativity of those leading them.

**Note:** The Blackwater Pirates were created as and will always remain a non-political organization.

# Ship's Officers

The slate of officers shall have a Captain, Quartermaster and Coxswain (Safety Officer).

- **Captain:** The Captain will perform all duties incident to such office and such other duties as may be provided in this code or as may be prescribed by the board. The Captain shall preside at all board meetings and shall exercise parliamentary control in accordance with Black Beard's Rules of Order (nay Roberts Rules of Order), not to be superseded by any provisions of this code. In 2015 it was written that the Captain is responsible for passing items of importance to the Keeper of the Code, the Historian, and the Newsletter captain forthwith to ensure most of our history is recorded.
- **Quartermaster:** The Quartermaster shall be appointed by the Captain and shall act in place of the Captain in the event of the Captain's absence, or inability to lead, and he/she shall exercise and discharge such other duties as may be required by the board. If the Quartermaster refuses to act on an issue there is always that Replacement by Dissention thing.
- **Coxswain (Safety Officer):** This is a unique position. The Safety Officer works directly for the Captain and is appointed by the Captain. In the name of safety and so as to not hamper his effectiveness, this officer has the power to remove any individual from pyrate activities at will. Reporting his actions to the Captain in relation to safety is secondary in these cases.

# **BWP CODE - ADDENDUM I**

## **EVENT LEADERS**

### **Quartermaster Officer Responsibilities**

The Quartermaster is appointed by the Captain, works directly with the Captain, and in the Captain's absence or inability to lead, will exercise and discharge duties as required by the BWP Captain. The Quartermaster will coordinate all Event Leaders.

### **BLESSING OF THE FLEET**

Suggestions for the Event Leader:

1. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
2. Coordinate with a pipe and drum corps (i.e., Piper Pete of the Blackwater Pyrates or another appropriate group).
3. Contact St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church (850-623-3600) for a priest to do the Blessing, and the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard to accompany the priest.
4. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.

#### **Note:**

- A. *Blessing of the Fleet* occurs on the same Saturday as the BWP Boat Safety Inspection. Boat Safety Inspection is from 0900-1200 hr. and *Blessing of the Fleet* is at 1300 hr.
- B. Bagpipers, drum corps, and Knights of Columbus in regalia will accompany the priest on the Milton Riverfront Boardwalk for the *Blessing*.
- C. All watercraft whether motor or man-powered should circle in front of the Milton Memorial Park Boardwalk until the Blackwater Pyrate lead boat begins the slow, single file pass-by for individual *Blessings*.

### **CAROLING WITH PYRATES**

Suggestions for the Event Leader:

1. Contact the facility's activity director to arrange an evening (a weeknight in mid-December) and confirm the number of residents (for a gift bag count).
2. Plan for rehearsal(s) at someone's home, choose the music and print copies of lyrics for everyone.
3. Delegate or plan the gift bag items that are given to residents (usually about 40 folks) and check with the Booty Council for budgeted funds (Great items include warm socks, pens & notepads, puzzles books, lens wipes, toiletries, lotion, snack cracker packs, soft peppermints, chocolate-covered cherries, and of course always a favorite - homemade cookies). Remind the Crew to donate homemade cookies which should be brought to the rehearsal.
5. Make sure gift bags are transported to the facility and distributed on the evening of the performance.
6. Advise the Crew of attire.
7. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
8. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary

**Note:** Traditionally, Caroling with the Pyrates takes place at the Forsyth House Assisted Living Home in Milton. The ability to sing is not a requirement for caroling – even lip-syncing adds to the Christmas spirit. As there are few if any rules, this Leader has free reign to organize the event.

## **CHANGE OF COMMAND (COC)**

The purpose of this ceremony is to recognize the contribution of the out-going Captain and to celebrate the incoming Captain. It is a formal, public maritime tradition acknowledging who is in command. The outgoing BWP Captain will appoint the Change of Command Leader who will work closely with both the outgoing and in-coming BWP Captains in organizing the event.

Traditionally, the formal Change of Command ceremony takes place on the Milton Waterfront Boardwalk and begins at 1500 hr. Once the command is turned over, a reception may follow. This Event is repeated at the end of each new BWP Captain's term.

Suggestions for the Event Leader:

1. Notify the Crew and past BWP Captains of the time and place of the proceedings and publicize it locally.
2. Plan gifts for the Quartermaster and Coxswain.
3. Prepare a binder/SOP containing the Change of Command instructions/procedures/recommendations for the incoming BWP Captain.
4. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
5. Select a sound system coordinator to provide power, lectern, public address system, and tables/chairs if needed for the Boardwalk ceremony.
6. Coordinate with the pipe and drum corps for the ceremony (i.e., Piper Pete of the Blackwater Pyrates or another appropriate group).
7. Ensure the plank is ready.
8. Ensure the flags are ready and coordinate with the flag bearers.
9. Secure a person to deliver the invocation.
10. Secure a guest speaker (past BWP Captain, local dignitary, etc.)
11. Choose and reserve the reception location (Time of the year?).
12. Contact a caterer for the reception and to provide a ceremonial cake.
13. Ensure a photographer to record all proceedings.
14. Do not forget to order the keg.
15. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.

## **GHOST WALK**

Suggestions for the Event Leader:

1. Oversee the Event.
2. Coordinate with the Technical Crew.
3. Identify and work with a Director.
4. Coordinate skit writing, props, assigning parts, holding practice sessions, food committee, ...etc.
5. Attend the Santa Rosa Historical Society Ghost Walk meetings and walk-throughs (as necessary).
6. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.
7. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.

## **GREAT MILL TOWN DUCK RACE**

For details of this Event see the Duck Adoption Leader (Duck King, Duck Diva, ...etc.).

## **MARITIME HISTORY LECTURE**

Suggestions for Event Leader:

1. Organize an annual lecture that centers on maritime history and archaeology within the Blackwater River Basin for the BWP Crew and the public.
2. Plan for the site, speaker, publicity, and refreshments.
3. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.

## **PARADES**

Suggestions for the Event Leader:

1. Announce the location, date, time, and route of the parade to the Crew and the public via public media and/or “stuffing mailboxes” along the route to alert dock owners.
2. Schedule the parade during the summer season, on the Saturdays closest to the full moon.
3. Submit information about other boat parades to the BWP Captain for consideration concerning Crew participation.
4. Conduct a Crew briefing prior to the start of the parade regarding safety and general instructions just before un-rafting and beginning of the parade.
5. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information prior to the season and provide updates before the event(s).

## **PYRATE RUM FEST**

1. Traditionally, this merrymaking takes place in October. The place, time and date are determined by the host.
2. Be sure to publicize to the Crew!

## **RIVER CLEAN-UP FALL, UPPER**

Suggestions for the Event Leader:

1. Meet with Keep Santa Rosa Beautiful a week before the event to secure trash bags and grabbers.
2. Plan meeting site and time and arrange for where the trash will be disposed.
3. Inform volunteers of particulars, e.g., precautions, safety, trash pick-up, etc.
4. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.
5. Organize the number of kayaks and canoes.
6. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
7. When cleanup is completed return grabbers and give KSRB our volunteer hours and the approximate weight of the refuse we have removed from the river.

**Note:** Contact the CSX Railroad representative to arrange for the bridge to be open (matthew\_nelson@csx.com or by phone (850-318-7479).

## **RIVER CLEAN-UP SPRING, LOWER**

Suggestions for the Event Leader:

1. Work with the BWP Captain in January to set a date on the Saturday closest to Earth Day in April.
2. Plan six weeks out with Keep Santa Rosa Beautiful to have a dumpster delivered to Shell Pile Landing for the scheduled day.
3. Meet with Keep Santa Rosa Beautiful a week before the event to secure trash bags and grabbers.
4. Coordinate with the Technical Crew to retrieve and set up tables, chairs, coolers, and two canopy tents from the storage facility. Arrange for a large garbage can to be in place at the kayak launch for lunch garbage. Technical Crew will also be responsible for returning said items to storage.
5. Appoint a Safety Director who must have all participants' cell phone numbers in the event of inclement weather or emergencies.
6. Appoint a photographer to take a lot of pictures, including action shots and group photos of all the participants.
7. Appoint a person to write up the event. The article and photos should be given to the Santa Rosa Press Gazette for publication as well as to the website leader for inclusion on the web page.
8. Assemble a food crew whose responsibilities are:
  - a. Make purchases of side items: paper goods, lots of garbage bags, cutlery, etc.
  - b. Arrange for smoked meat to feed volunteers.
  - c. Arrange for volunteer servers on the day of the event.
  - d. Secure breakfast items and beverages for the volunteers.
9. At the March General Membership meeting, provide a sign-up list and handout information for the Crew indicating the different areas to be covered.
10. Make a courtesy call to Tammi Simmons (Santa Rosa Parks, 983-1858) and let her know about the Pyrates' plans.
11. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
12. When cleanup is completed return grabbers and give KSRB our volunteer hours and the approximate weight of the refuse we have removed from the river.
13. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.

**Note:** Contact the CSX Railroad representative to arrange for the bridge to be open (matthew\_nelson@csx.com or by phone, (850-318-7479).

## **RIVERWALK ARTS FESTIVAL**

Suggestions for Event Leader:

1. Submit the required paperwork and request the entrance fee from the Booty Council.
2. Coordinate with Event Leaders and Crew Position Leaders involved with the Festival - Merchandise, Technical - etc.
3. Attend all Milton City pre-meetings for the Festival.
4. Secure in advance a setup space.
5. Coordinate the availability a cash box and change with the Treasurer and Merchandise Leader.
6. Coordinate sign-up sheets for working the event.
7. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
8. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.

## **Vessel Inspection**

Suggestions for the Event Leader:

1. Events for the Pyrates to promote to the Crew and the public:
  - a. Boater safety, water recreation safety, boating skills, boat safety inspections, and individual boat certifications.
  - b. Encourage completion of a Florida approved Boater Safety course.
2. Establish a Point of Contact (POC) with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC).
3. Organize the annual Check Give-Away to the USCG Auxiliary 01-07 for the Navigator Wall of Honor” sponsorship.
4. Work with the USCG Flotilla 01-07 and the Florida Wildlife Commission for the annual *National Safe Boating Week* events.
5. Publicize where the vessel inspection/s will take place.
6. Coordinate with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary in putting on Boat Safety classes.
7. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
8. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.

**Note:** *National Safe Boating Week* is observed on the seven-day period ending on the Friday before Memorial Day.

## **WWSRE (World’s Worst Sailboat Race Ever)**

This Event is for pure entertainment, fun, bragging rights, and comradery; its Leader is determined by the previous year’s winner. The WWSRE trophy will be displayed in the trophy case at Milton City Hall with the names of the previous winners displayed on the trophy.

Suggestions for the Event Leader:

1. Determine the date, format, racecourse, and of course, the Post Race Party.
2. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary, for:
  - a. Trophies to the winners.
  - b. Race support items such as maps, ropes, anchors, markers, etc.
3. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.

# **BWP CODE - ADDENDUM II**

## **Crew Positions**

### **Coxswain Officer Responsibilities**

The Coxswain is appointed by and works directly with the Captain and has authority over all safety issues. Additionally, the Coxswain will coordinate all Crew Position Leaders.

### **BOATER SAFETY**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

1. Events for the Pyrates to promote to the Crew and the public:
  - a. Boater safety, water recreation safety, boating skills, boat safety inspections, and individual boat certifications.
  - b. Encourage completion of a Florida approved Boater Safety course.
2. Establish a Point of Contact (POC) with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC).
3. Organize the annual Check Give-Away to the USCG Auxiliary 01-07 for the Navigator Wall of Honor” sponsorship.
4. Work with the USCG Flotilla 01-07 and the Florida Wildlife Commission for the annual *National Safe Boating Week* events.
5. Publicize where the vessel inspection/s will take place.
6. Coordinate with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary in putting on Boat Safety classes.
7. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
8. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.

**Note:** *National Safe Boating Week* is observed on the seven-day period ending on the Friday before Memorial Day.

### **FACEBOOK**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

1. Manage the BWP Facebook to include keeping an active Facebook account and login.
2. Respond to friend requests and reply to comments in a timely manner.
3. Post all upcoming BWP activities.



## **GRANTS (Academic)**

This position is to support the BWP core mission of Maritime History Preservation. Chosen by the BWP Captain, this Leader will form a committee of five. When voting, the Leader will have two votes if only an even number of members are present. Recipients of BWP Grants will make a volunteer time commitment to Pirate activities.

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader and Committee:

1. Appoint a vice-chairman to carry out these duties in the event the Leader is not available.
2. Be composed of members chosen for their expertise in finance, knowledge of the area, ability to evaluate historical substance and structure of the studies, as well as a good knowledge of English syntax.
3. Maintain record keeping of committee matters and meetings.
4. Meet periodically with the Coxswain to review applications, discuss prospective candidates, and discuss ways to improve grant policies and procedures.
5. Interview prospective candidates for Academic Grants (including Books and Supplies) by visiting local universities/academic groups on matters of archeology and/or maritime interest in the Blackwater Basin.
6. Seek candidates during the fall, winter and spring months of the current academic year and be chosen by the fall of the next academic year. The grant/s will be awarded during the September or October BWP General Meeting.
7. Award a grant(s) each year. Within the guidelines of the approved budget and any additionally approved funding, the number and amount of the grant(s) is not limited.
8. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
9. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.

## **HISTORIAN**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

1. Collect and archive all things that relate to the Pirates - newspaper articles, trophies, memorabilia.
2. Maintain written logs of Pirate attacks and community activities.
3. Present a short PowerPoint presentation at each General Meeting of events that took place one year previously.
4. Maintain Blackwater Pirate display cases by regularly updating the displayed items.

## **KEEPER OF THE CODE (KOC)**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

1. Maintain the current BWP CODE and Addenda electronically, and copy the Captain, Quartermaster, and Coxswain of all correspondence and changes to the CODE.
2. Maintain past editions/editing of the BWP CODE including dates and text.
3. Serve to interpret the meaning and intent of the CODE at General Meetings. The KOC's interpretation can only be challenged in writing.
4. When the CODE is challenged, the KOC will review the passage in question with an assigned CODE committee and report their findings and recommendations to the BWP Captain. Rewrites will be voted on by the Crew at a regularly scheduled General Meeting.
5. Be appointed and dismissed by the Captain.

**Note:** The KOC is tasked with the assembly, currency, validity, but not with writing or composing changes to it.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

1. Create the Membership Application Form which will include the name, address, phone number, email address, and Pyrate name of each applicant.
2. Maintain an up-to-date membership list and make it available at any general membership meeting.
3. Provide an electronic copy of the membership list to the BWP Captain at regular intervals, or as requested by the BWP Captain.
4. Encourage all Pyrate Event Leaders to have Crew participating within their events.
5. Coordinate the distribution of Membership Brochures/Rack Cards generated by the Public Relations Leader.
6. The minimum age for Crew Membership is 21.
7. Membership Dues and Levels:
  - a. Pyrate: \$50.00/year. Full member of the Crew.
  - b. Pyrate Offshore: \$35.00/year. Offshore Pyrates are limited by distance, dis-interest, funds, or their jobs. They will receive notification of events and may join in any Pyrate function.
  - c. Pyrate Honorary: From time to time the Crew will recognize an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to either the Pyrates or our community. These members are not extended any special privilege other than to be associated with our Crew during Pyrate events.
  - d. Life Membership: Past Captains who have honorably served their terms shall retain their full Pyrate status but will be exempted from paying the annual dues. A Captain, past or present removed by mutiny will not be considered a Life Member.
8. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.
9. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.

## **MERCHANDISE**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

1. Maintain an acceptable inventory and control pricing.
2. Work within existing Budget or request additional funding if necessary.
3. Decide which items are to be sold at an upcoming event.
4. Determine the profitability of the inventory after an event.
5. Recommend new products to the Coxswain and Booty Council before presenting them at a General Meeting.
6. Have two members balance funds and inventory.
7. Encourage the Crew to contribute artwork and recommendations for new products.
8. Provide the BWP Webmaster, Facebook, and Public Relations leaders with appropriate information.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

1. Create content and written material for the media.
2. Inform the media of BWP events and accomplishments.

**Note:** The BWP Captain must approve all printed material before publication.

**Note:** The Blackwater Pyrates were created as and will always remain a non-political organization.

## **SALVAGE**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

1. Be responsible for scouting the river basin for trash and salvageable boats.
2. Obtain written permission from the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) to remove vacant vessels and follow county procedures to destroy/remove the vessel.
3. Secure a Point of Contact (POC) for the FWC and a POC for Santa Rosa County (SRC).

**Note:** Boat removal is at the direction of the BWP Captain and in coordination with the FWC. Such large objects are usually discovered during regular River Cleanup days but are too large to be carted away. By agreement, the Pyrates have the right to haul and salvage for profit any vessel for which they receive permission. Historically, the FWC and SRC have agreed to pick up and dispose of salvaged vessels at the Shell Pile Landings. Due to the legal sensitivity of this pillaging, it is advised to stay within these guidelines.

## **TREASURER: Financial Chair, “Coin Counter”:**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

- ~~1. Handle all the finances that pertain to the Blackwater Pyrates.~~
- ~~2. Approve event budgets.~~
- ~~3. Deal with the bank that maintains the treasure including bank card and check book.~~
- ~~4. Employ an accountant and pass necessary tax information to the accountant.~~
- ~~5. Maintain receipts and pay quarterly taxes.~~
- ~~6. File tangible tax and process paperwork involving insurance or finances.~~
- ~~7. Report the current balance and monthly expenses at each monthly meeting.~~
- ~~8. Monitor the fiscal affairs of the crew, render reports to the Officers, and perform all duties which may be assigned by the Captain.~~

## **TECHNICAL CREW**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader and Crew:

1. Maintain trailers and their necessary repairs, including the Pearl.
2. Assist Event Leaders in setting up their tables, chairs, tents, and related items.
3. Coordinate the movement of the Pearl for events.
4. Assist in building sets and related props for community events,
5. Assist in Salvage operations (See SALVAGE, Addendum II).

## **WEBMASTER**

Suggestions for the Crew Position Leader:

1. Act as creator and/or gatekeeper for articles, event submissions, and photos from the Crew for publication to the official website. The Webmaster may also oversee publication and content of pages maintained by others authorized to contribute to the website e.g., Merchandise Leader.
2. Articles may be accepted for website publication if appropriate in length and written in acceptable grammatic standards; they may be edited for brevity, spelling or sensitive material at the discretion or request of the Webmaster.
3. Photos may be accepted/published based on appropriate content and/or formatting; they may also be subject to editing, cropping, or resizing as done or requested by the Webmaster.
4. Any article or photo deemed unacceptable by the BWP Captain, Booty Council, or the Board will be removed.

**Note:** The Webmaster is not necessarily in charge of ensuring an active website. The purchase of web space and domain is the responsibility of whoever has check-writing authority.

# **BWP CODE - ADDENDUM III**

## **General Membership Meetings**

### **MEETINGS**

1. General Meetings are held once a month which are called, postponed, or canceled by the BWP Captain (No meetings in December).
2. Any Crewmember may request a Special Meeting, but the BWP Captain decides if it is necessary and when.
3. Notice of special meetings will be by electronic means: landline, cell phone, or internet.

### **VOTING PROCEDURES**

1. Any Crewmember may propose a motion (The Presenter) in writing to the BWP Captain at least one week prior to a regular General Meeting.
2. The BWP Captain decides which motions will be proposed to the Crew.
3. Voting on motions will be based on Pyrates in attendance at a General Meeting. A majority vote (more than 50%) is required for passage. BWP Rules of Order will prevail.

### **CONDUCTING THE VOTE**

1. Once the BWP Captain reads a motion, no amendments may be added to it.
2. All motions must be proposed and seconded prior to advancing to any voting process.
3. Following the reading of the motion there will be a discussion on it; the motion's Presenter will speak first. Each Pyrate thereafter is permitted 3 minutes to make their point/s relative to the motion.
4. If during discussion additions/deletions to the motion are required, the original motion must first be voided by a majority vote. If it is voted down, a second follow-up motion must be presented following steps 1, 2, and 3 above. A BWP Officer will act as recorder in writing a follow-up motion for clarity.
5. After discussion of the motion, the BWP Captain will announce, "*The discussion is closed, and we will now vote.*" The BWP Captain will restate the motion, and the vote taken thereafter. Voting may be by a Show-of-Hands, Voicing Yea or Nay, or Paper Ballot at the discretion of the BWP Captain. Vote counting will be by the Quartermaster and/or the Coxswain.

**Note:** If any of the above steps are conducted out of sequence, the vote becomes null and void and the process begins again.

## **BWP CAPTAIN NOMINATION/ELECTION/VOTING PROCESS**

1. At least one month prior to an election, the BWP Captain will appoint a Nominating Committee, which will consist of three members and a Chair who will be given a copy of this Nomination/Election/Voting process (Addendum III).
2. Nominations will take place during one General Membership Meeting and be presented at the next General Membership meeting for the vote. A Pyrate may nominate him/herself or another Crew member for the position of BWP Captain. Nominations will be in writing.
3. Nominees will be contacted by a member of the nominating committee to either accept or decline their nomination.
4. All accepted nominations will be on slate for vote at the General Membership Meeting.
5. Additional nominations may be taken from the floor just prior to the election. The nominated Pyrate must be present and accept the nomination prior to being included as a candidate for Captain.
6. Any Pyrate who falls face-first in their grog during this process will not get another chance to nominate.
7. The voting process may be conducted via Open or Closed Ballot at the discretion of the current Captain. Additionally, the current Captain may decide to allow for Proxy and/or Absentee Ballots which must be available for counting at the General Membership Meeting (Election Night). No late ballots will be accepted.
8. All voting will be completed in one General Membership Meeting and a new Captain Elect will be announced by the Nominating Committee Chairperson (or their designee) before the close of the meeting. A quorum of 25% of the Crew is required for the vote. Proxy and/or Absentee Ballots (if approved, see item #7 above) will be included in the count for attaining the 25%.

## **DISMISSAL OF A BWP CAPTAIN:**

1. BWP Captains' decisions should always favor the Crew. When they do not, the BWP Captain may face a mutiny.
2. A Crewmember can request that the BWP Captain be dismissed; a reason is not required. However, the same Crew member must offer a temporary replacement Captain until a vote for a replacement can be scheduled. The temporary replacement cannot be the Crewmember who has requested the dismissal.
3. The request must be made at a regularly scheduled Membership Meeting.
4. The vote for dismissal will follow established voting procedures above and the temporary acting Captain will conduct the proceedings. (See Addendum IV, Voting Procedures)

## **EXPULSION OF CREWMEMBER**

1. A Crewmember facing expulsion will be so notified and be provided reason/s for the action.
2. If the Pyrate feels the charge is unwarranted, a written response to the BWP Captain is required.
3. Expulsion is handled by the BWP Captain.

## **REASONS FOR CREWMEMBER EXPULSION:**

A Crewmember may be expelled for:

1. Disgracing the Crew through words, actions, or insinuations.
2. Making sexual comments, telling off-color jokes, lewd gestures, insulting remarks, or using foul language at a Pyrate function.
3. Performing dishonest or unacceptable acts that degrade or alienate any of the Crew.
4. Any act, utterance, or insinuation that The Board considers reason for expulsion.

# **BWP CODE - ADDENDUM IV**

## **The Blackwater Pyrate Captain**

**THE CAPTAIN** (The person in charge, Número Uno, always to blame)

Upon assuming command, the Captain will:

1. Register with the Florida Profit Corporation. Go to: [search.sunbiz.org](http://search.sunbiz.org) / at Entity Name type in BLACKWATER PYRATES CREW, INC / at Corporate Name click on BLACKWATER PYRATES CREW, INC.
2. Put the BWP PO Box Number (Bagdad) in his/her name.
3. Take out a Blackwater Pyrate credit card from Regions Bank.

### **Captain's Duties/Limitations:**

1. It is recommended that at the newly elected BWP Captain's 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting, he/she should outline two objectives for the benefit of the community. Normal Pyrate operations and activities do not apply.
2. A BWP Captain's term is two years but can serve an unlimited number of terms.
3. The BWP Captain may request to step down, but this must occur during a regular General Membership meeting and cannot be denied.
4. The BWP Captain will be limited to spending \$250.00 per month for Crew interests without Booty Council approval.
5. Projects that exceed the BWP Captain's financial limits will go before the Booty Council for approval. If the Booty Council approves, the BWP Captain will bring them to a vote at the next General Membership meeting.
6. The BWP Captain makes decisions that affect Crew affairs. The Booty Council makes decisions on spending.
7. The BWP Captain will perform all duties incident to the CODE.
8. The BWP Captain is responsible for passing items of historical importance to the Historian where Pyrate history is maintained.
9. The BWC Captain must approve all printed material before budget requests are approved and publication begins.

**Change of Command:** [See Addendum I]

### **Passing of the CODE:**

1. A Captain may change the CODE during the last month of his/her term without a Crew vote. Such change/s, however, must be announced at his/her final General Meeting before handing over to a new BWP Captain. All other CODE revisions must be done by a Crew vote at a General Meeting (See Voting Procedures, Addendum III).
2. Any Pyrate may submit a written change to the CODE. This change should be dated, have relevant information regarding/justifying the change, and passed on to the Captain.

**Note:** While in office, the CODE will be the Captain's compass to 'stay the course' in dealing with BWP Pyrate proceedings. The Captain, therefore, will have first-hand insight in amending the CODE in an expeditious way without the cumbersome procedure of discussion and voting at a General Meeting. Changes of an immediate nature outside the last month of a Captain's term, however, must comply with Voting Procedures in Addendum III.

**Past Captains:**

1. The senior past BWP Captain and immediate former BWP Captain are direct advisors to the current BWP Captain.
2. Past BWP Captains are our heritage and will be addressed as Captain. A past BWP Captain may volunteer for any task but will not be assigned one.
3. A past BWP Captain must serve at least one full term to be considered a Life Member and is no longer required to pay dues. A BWP Captain, past or present removed by mutiny will not be considered a Life Member. (See Addendum II, Membership)
4. Past BWP Captains should attend significant BWP events and the current BWP Captain should always recognize them when they are in attendance.
5. Out of respect for the BWP Pyrates' founder, no Crewmember's name may include 'Bones'.

# **BWP CODE - ADDENDUM V**

## **Booty Council** (Finance Committee)

### **THIS COUNCIL WILL:**

- ~~1. Consist of at least 5 Pyrates and elect a Treasurer.~~
- ~~2. Have a quorum of 3 members. A majority vote is required for motion passage.~~
- ~~3. Meet a minimum of once per quarter and a maximum of once per month. Individual requests during the fiscal year will be brought before the Council's quarterly/monthly meetings.~~
- ~~4. Meet once a year to set the Annual Budget.~~
- ~~5. Handle all finances pertaining to the BWP including banking, relevant taxation, tax accountant event budgets, receipts from events, pay quarterly sales tax, file relevant taxes and insurance, maintain receipts from Events and buyers, monitor the debit card, check book, bank balance, and the fiscal affairs of the Crew.~~
- ~~6. Approve financial requests by the BWP Captain before being submitted to the Crew.~~
- ~~7. Perform duties assigned by the BWP Captain.~~
- ~~8. Restrict vote counting to only Council members during a meeting.~~
- ~~9. Monitor the BWP Captain's spending.~~
- ~~10. Employ an accountant and pass tax information to the accountant.~~
- ~~11. Assign a Pyrate to maintain a computerized accounting program.~~
- ~~12. Although not a regular voting member, the BWP Captain will cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie.~~

The Booty Council's "primary duty" is to:

- A. Set the Blackwater Pyrates' Annual Budget, and
- B. Act as a sounding board/advocate for fund requests beyond the established Budget.

### **THIS COUNCIL WILL:**

1. Consist of at least 7 Pyrates and elect a Treasurer who will liaise with an accountant and be the Chairperson for the Booty Council.
2. Have a quorum of 3 members. A majority vote is required for motion passage.
3. Meet a minimum of once per quarter and a maximum of once per month. Individual requests during the fiscal year will be brought before the Council's quarterly/monthly meetings. The Council may finalize approval of expenditures of \$500 or less. Requests exceeding \$500 require a vote by the Crew at a General Membership Meeting.
4. Meet once a year to set the Annual Budget.
5. Manage all finances pertaining to the BWP, i.e., banking, taxation, insurance, receipts from events and buyers, debit card, checkbook, and the fiscal affairs of the Crew.
6. Approve financial requests by the BWP Captain before being submitted to the Crew.
7. Perform duties assigned by the BWP Captain.
8. Restrict vote counting to only Council Members during a meeting.
9. Monitor the BWP Captain's spending.
10. Employ an accountant and pass tax information to the accountant.
11. Assign a Pyrate to maintain a computerized accounting program.
12. Although not a regular voting member, the BWP Captain will cast a tie-breaking vote.



**THE COUNCIL'S TREASURER WILL:**

1. Present a financial report of income, expenses, and current bank balance at each monthly General Meeting.
2. Render reports to the Crew's officers.

# **BWP CODE – ADDENDUM VI**

## **Board of Directors**

The Board is that group of Pyrates vested with the management of the business and affairs of this Crew. The board is subject to the law, the Articles of Incorporation, and this CODE. It should be remembered that the Articles of Incorporation and the CODE are two separate items as is the Board and the Crew. The Board can appoint persons to serve on the Board.

The Board shall consist of a Chairperson (C), Secretary (S), Treasurer (T), and a limited number of Board Members (BM) as determined by the Board. The Captain shall act as the Chairperson of the Board. Past Captains may serve as Board Members (BM).

### **Removal of Board Members**

Any officer appointed to the Board may be removed by the Board when in their judgement the best interests of this Crew will be served. Such removal, however, will be without prejudice to any contract rights of the Officer so removed. [A Board member may be removed from the Board if other Board members deem it necessary]

### **Board Meetings**

Meetings of the Board may be called by the Captain or any Board Member.

### **Notice of Board Meetings**

At the discretion of the BWP Captain, notice of Board meetings shall be given to each Board member in advance.

### **Quorum**

The attendance of three (3) Board Members constitutes a quorum for conducting business at a Board meeting.

### **Self-Dealing**

No board member shall use confidential information gained by reason of being a member of the Board for personal gain or to the detriment of the Crew. Such offenders shall be removed by a vote of the Board.

# **BWP CODE - ADDENDUM VII**

## **Articles of Incorporation**

1. Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation must conform to Florida Law.
2. Crewmembers are not entitled to any dividend or income of the Corporation, nor a share in the distribution of the Corporate Assets upon dissolution.
3. The BWP fiscal year will from 1 January – 31 December.
4. All books and records may be inspected by the Board of Directors or Booty Council at any reasonable time on written demand to the BWP Captain.
5. No loans will be made from BWP Pyrate funds to the Crew or any of its Officers.
6. Except as otherwise provided by law, checks, drafts, and orders for the payment of money shall be signed by the Treasurer and at least one other elected officer of the Crew.
7. Contracts, promissory notes, leases, or other instruments executed in the name of, and behalf of the Crew shall be signed by an Officer or director who has been authorized in advance to do so by the BWP Captain.
8. No person, except for the BWP Captain or his delegate, is authorized to make any public statements, written or oral, representing the official policy, position, or opinion of the Crew without first having obtained the approval of the BWP Captain.
9. Any person authorized by the BWP Captain to make a public statement, whether written or oral representing the official policy, position, recommendation, or opinion of the Crew, shall first make it clear that he/she is representing the Crew. Thereafter, throughout the entire presentation, he/she shall be confined to only those matters properly approved by the BWP Captain. Such presentation shall not purport to represent his/her own personal views on any other firm, group, or organization.
10. Any person (and the heirs, executors, and administrators of such person) made a party to any action arising against BWP activities by reason that he/she is or was an Officer of the Blackwater Pyrates, shall be indemnified by the Crew against any and all liability and reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees and disbursements incurred by him/her (or by heirs, executors or administrators) in connection with the defense or settlement of such action, except in relation to matters adjudged liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his/her duties. Such right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such Officer (or heirs, executors of administrators) may be entitled apart from this Addendum.

### **DISSOLUTION:**

1. If due to war, a catastrophe of Biblical proportions, or simply an unhappy Crew, should arise and dictate the dissolution of the Blackwater Pyrates Inc., all assets will be liquidated and donated to a charity(s) (501c3) as specified by the Board of Directors. Any refunds, late receivables, tax returns, outstanding assets or returned property will also be donated to an accredited charity. Compliance with IRS regulations is required to complete the dissolution.
2. No splinter group or group of like causes will be awarded any portion or the whole of The Corporation. After dissolution is accomplished The Corporation will be publicly pronounced Dissolved.
3. The dissolution will take place no sooner than 6 months after the decision to dissolve.

# The Captain's Flag

The Captain's Flag is a pendant-styled flag, red in color, with gold lettering. It is awarded at the end of each Captain's term. The flag depicts year(s) served. The number of years served is also shown by the number of "Blackwater Captain" Insignia that appear on the flag. As each year is added, the flag gets longer (see how to create...). The "Blackwater Captain" Insignia is only worn by the "active" and "past" captains.

## **Awarding the Captain's Flag**

The Captain's Flag is awarded by the previous Captain. (Thus, the captain that is *departing* is responsible for all the flags presented to the captain that *follows* him). The most appropriate setting for the presentation is a general meeting however, the departing Captain can choose a more appropriate setting if it comes available. The ceremony should include some highlights of the new Captain's year and a toast called for. It is recommended that all former Captains be present if possible. Timing for this event is also chosen by the departing Captain, at or after the end of the year but no later than the end of January of the following year. It should be noted that the departing Captain can delegate this duty (up the chain of command) if the need arises. This process is repeated at the end of each one-year term. It should be noted that these one-year terms **DO NOT** have to be in succession. A departed Captain can be re-selected by the crew to serve, and his flag will reflect his full one-year terms.

# The Captain's Flag

## How to Create the Captain's Flag

Height: 12 inches

Grommets: 2

Leading Edge: Red Webbing (1")

Body: Red Nylon (1 year = 14", 2 years = 23.5", 3 years = 34", 4 years = 47", 5 years = 56" etc.)

Construction: The insignia are placed side-by-side; thus, the flag gets longer each year. The length of the flag should allow for approximately 1" of clearance over/under the last insignia. It is recommended that the Captain's years (i.e., 2011, 2012, 2013-14 etc.) be placed on the tail of the flag.

Note: Earlier Captains that did not have this done can request a re-issue.

Sources	
Webbing Material	Hall's Hardware
Nylon Material	JoAnn's Fabrics
Insignia (Holder of Digital Pattern)	Paradise Screen Printing
Head Web Strap Sewing/Grommets	Penton's Upholstery (Milton Location)
Nylon Flag body sewing	Seamstress of choice

# The Captain's Flag

Note: The master design for the flags is a drawn pattern that is used for each assembly point. It should be held by the departing captain (otherwise known as the previous captain, aka mentoring captain, aka presenting captain). When a captain ends his term the pattern is passed by the previous captain to the captain who is stepping down.

## **Flying the Captain's Flag**

The Captain's Flag will be flown directly below the Blackwater Pyrate Flag (small or large BWP Flag). Neither flag will be flown above the American Flag. When these flags are flown in concert it is recommended the American Flag be flown alone and that both flags oppose each other on the stern of the boat (i.e., Pyrate flags on the port and American flag on the starboard). This is recommended so when more than one Pyrate boat approaches harbor it is evident from a distance that they are indeed one-in-the-same (crew). It is also a way for new pyrates to easily identify captains and past captains when on the water.



DATE: 12 August 2022  
PYRATE NAME: Captain Lucky  
CURRENT CODE SECTION: Addendum V  
CURRENT CODE BOOK PAGE: 40  
CURRENT CODE SUBJECT MATTER: Booty Council responsibilities

CODE LANGUAGE CHANGED/OMITTED/ADDED:

*[Proposal]* **BWP CODE - ADDENDUM V** *[Proposal]*  
**Booty Council** (Finance Committee)

The Booty Council's "primary duty" is to:

- A. Set the Blackwater Pyrates' Annual Budget, and
- B. Act as a sounding board/advocate for fund requests beyond the established Budget.

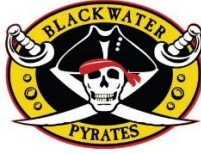
**THIS COUNCIL WILL:**

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**JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CHANGE:**

The current language is not specific to the Council's responsibilities and the role of the Treasurer.

PYRATE SIGNATURE *Capt Lucky*  
DATE TO CAPTAIN *8/12/2022*  
KEEPER OF THE CODE *8/12/2022*



DATE: 12 August 2022

PYRATE NAME: Captain Lucky

CURRENT CODE SECTION: Organizational Structure and Treasurer Position

CURRENT CODE BOOK PAGE: 10 & 29

CURRENT CODE SUBJECT MATTER: Booty Council Organizational Structure and Treasurer Position

CODE LANGUAGE CHANGED/OMITTED/ADDED:  
*[Proposal]* **BWP CODE – Organizational Structure** *[Proposal]*

It is requested that the Treasurer position be removed from the “Positions” section of the Organizational Structure, and subsequently, removed from the direction of the Coxswain. All job descriptions and responsibilities should be included with the Treasurer position identified in the Booty Council section of the Code. The Treasurer should be elected by the Booty Council and then become the Chairperson for the Booty Council.

This change is needed for clarification of the Code and removal of any conflicts created.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CHANGE:**

The current language is not specific to the Council’s responsibilities and the role of the Treasurer.

PYRATE SIGNATURE *Capt Lucky*  
DATE TO CAPTAIN *8/12/2022*  
KEEPER OF THE CODE *8/12/2022*