



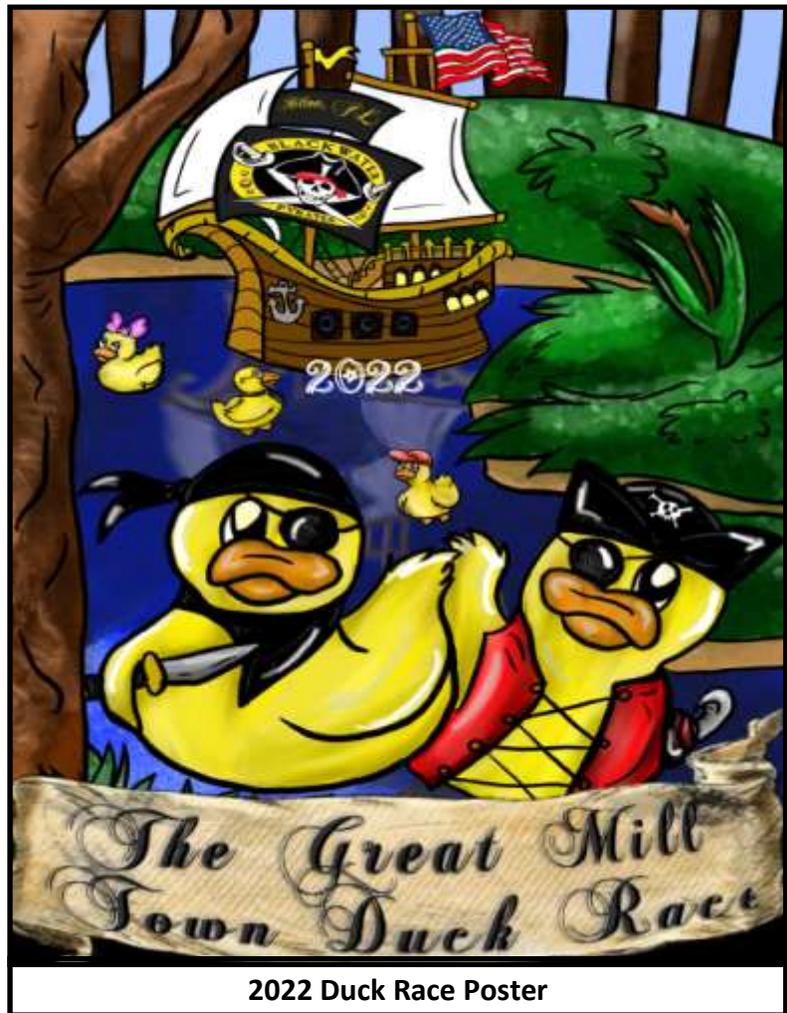
# Pyrate News

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

## Ducks, Ducks & More Ducks!

The 4th of July is quickly approaching and consequently, so is the Great Mill Town Duck Race.

For those of you who may have just moved to the Milton area, since July of 2007 the Great Mill Town Duck Race has been the Blackwater Pyrates one and only fund raiser.



2022 Duck Race Poster

Annually, we turn loose 5,000, highly trained ducks. These specific ducks are the elite of the elite. They have trained all year with our Special Forces in order to prepare for this moment. It is their time to shine and show off their swimming skills. It is what they have worked their whole lives for.



Duck drop off Hwy 90 bridge

# Ducks, Ducks & More Ducks!

Has anyone ever wondered how it all began? What sort of twisted Pyrate minds could conceive such an event? Just how many adult beverages must someone consume in order to consider shutting down the Highway 90 bridge over the Blackwater River on a holiday such as the 4th of July, and then dropping thousands of little ducks into the cold water racing below?

Well, let me tell you. In the beginning, a small group of young Pyrates sat around the infamous beer barn and contemplated how to raise some money to help support the local community. With only a few braincells remaining, the collective of Legacy Pyrates “brainstormed.”

The way the story goes, several ideas were presented to the group including an empty



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

beer can race and a full beer can emptying race. Neither of those ideas were considered viable choices however, one of the wiser Pyrates made the suggestion that we race ducks on the Blackwater River. CHEERS!!! Arrgh!!! And so the legendary duck race was born. Unfortunately, no one could determine how to wrangle up a bunch of ducks and then throw them off the bridge without getting into trouble with the ASPCA. More planning required.



Captain Blackwater Bones planning the 1st Duck Race

# Ducks, Ducks & More Ducks!

With the morning sun rising, the duck race continued to develop. It was determined that rubber ducks would be the best solution, and probably the cleanest also.

The city of Milton was recruited to help with traffic concerns, both on the bridge and on the water. The brilliant Pirate minds once again got together and created the chute for guiding our feathered friends safely down the river, and the elite position of Duck Swimmer was created.

And so in 2007, the now annual

Great Mill Town Duck Race was created. The brilliant (and sometimes twisted) minds of the Blackwater Pirates' founding fathers (and mothers) created a legacy event that is well known throughout the cities of Milton and Pace, and the counties of Santa Rosa, and Escambia. People from all around Florida and Alabama make the trek to Milton in order to get their ducks and a chance to go down in Duck Race lore.



**"Dano Duck" the Duck Swimmer**



**2021 Duck Race in progress**

# Boater Safety

The 3 Missions of the Blackwater Pyrates include River Clean Up, Maritime History Preservation and Boater Safety. Annually, we work on those missions through our Upper and Lower River Clean Ups, the Maritime History Presentation, and the Vessel Inspection.

Every year the Blackwater Pyrates team up with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to conduct free vessel inspections during Boater Safety Week. This year the inspections occurred on May 21st and were held at the Carpenter's Park Boat Launch. Five of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's best were on site to provide guidance.



**Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Inspection Team**



**Capt Murky helps the Coast Guard inspect Stu Burner and Lady Belle's boat**



**Blackwater Pyrates pairing up with the Coast Guard Auxiliary**

Led by our very own Leatherneck, several Blackwater Pyrate volunteers assisted Wayward Teach and the Coast Guard Auxiliary as they provided free vessel inspections to about 14 boats. Boat numbers were provided and installed to a couple of needing vessels. Additionally, a set of flares and a Type IV throwable were also provided compliments of the Blackwater Pyrates.

# Boater Safety



The successful day of boat inspections started with a safety briefing from Leatherneck and Capt Lucky. It continued with numerous boaters welcoming the Blackwater Pyrates and Coast Guard Auxiliary on board their vessels.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary set up a table and provided all boaters and volunteers with free documentation

**Leatherneck and Capt Lucky hold a Safety briefing**

concerning boating safety as well as several pamphlets about preserving the natural environment that surrounds us. A couple of boaters had forgotten their registration and the Coast Guard Auxiliary inspectors promised to stop by their personal houses and complete the process. No boaters left unhappy.

A special thank you goes out to the Coast Guard Auxiliary who volunteered to work with the Pyrates again this year, and to Wayward Teach who was our liaison to that great organization.



**Scooter and Leatherneck assist a boater at vessel inspection**



**Leatherneck assists new Pyrates Goober and Squishy with**

Additionally, I want to thank the following Blackwater Pyrates who stepped up to volunteer their time and energy. Without those crew members engaged in assisting us during this event, the Pyrates would not be successful in their endeavors. So thank you to Leatherneck, the Event Leader and Boater Safety Chairperson. And thank you to Capt Murky, J Hawk, Keelhaul, Scooter, SasSea, Fancy Nancy and Capt Lucky. Another successful and safe event.

# Boater Safety



Captain Murky has his PWC (Personal Water Craft) inspected by the Coast Guard Auxiliary



Captain Blackwater Bones has his boat (Monkey Butt) inspected by the Coast Guard Auxiliary

# Blessing of the Fleet

Although not actually one of our core missions, the Blackwater Pyrates have carried on the tradition of “Blessing of the Fleet” for several years in conjunction with Vessel Inspection and Boater Safety Week. This event is a Maritime tradition that began centuries ago in Mediterranean fishing communities. The process includes the “Fleet” of vessels passing before local priests and pastors as they receive a blessing that is meant to ensure a safe and bountiful season.



Blackwater Pyrates prepare their vessels for the Blessing of the Fleet

# Blessing of the Fleet



**Monsignor provides a blessing to the Blackwater Pyrate vessels**

The Blackwater Pyrates, always in need of a good blessing, “pass in review” in front of the Milton boardwalk area near the Veteran Memorial. The Knights of Columbus Honor Guard accompany the local Monsignor as well as the Blackwater Pyrates very own Deacon Blues and provide the blessing to the vessels and their occupants.

The Santa Rosa Pipes and Drums (a Bagpipe group from the Milton area) led by Capt Whitebeard, carry on the tradition of playing at the Blessing of the fleet to honor the ceremony.

The Blackwater Pyrates continue to conduct the Blessing of the Fleet in conjunction with Vessel Inspection and Boater Safety Week as we promote safe boating on our waterways.



**Santa Rosa Pipes and Drums**

# Blessing of the Fleet



## **The Monsignor prepares to give a blessing for our fallen Pyrate**

After our annual Blessing of the Fleet, the Monsignor graciously agreed to provide an additional blessing for our fallen Pyrate, Barbwire Lou (Bettylou Reid). Barbwire Lou passed on April 8th after battling breast cancer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Mad Professor (Randy Reid) and all of their family.

Once again, a big thank you to the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, the Monsignor, Deacon Blues, the Santa Rosa Pipes and Drums, and everyone who participated in the Blessing of the Fleet.

# 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 10 Booty Council 17 General Mtg 20 Destin Crawl ? Boater Safety Class
September	October	November	December
14 Booty Council 17 Upper River Clean Up * 21 General Mtg 24 History Lecture* (date change)	1 Skull Island Retreat (date chg) 12 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 May 17, 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

A photograph of a large number of yellow rubber ducks floating in a body of water. The text "The Great Mill Town Duck Race" is overlaid in a large, red, cursive font.

*The  
Great Mill Town  
Duck Race*



*Thank you 2022 Sponsors*

## **First Mate Level Sponsors \$500**

Krewe of Airship Pirates (in-kind)

Edward Jones - Financial Advisor: Derek R. Park, AAMS

Vinyl Planks 4 Less - Billy Yates

Sorensen Rentals

## **Helmsman Level \$100**

2 Gauge Marine & Trailer, LLC

Acuff ADR, LLC

All-Pro Tune Up

Angels Care Home Health

Arrow Embroidery

Blackwater Bay Tours (\$200)

Denniels Monogramming

Derrel's Sewing of Pensacola

Eddie English Trailer Repair

Edwards Pipe & Tobacco Shop

El Paso Restaurant

Emerald Coast Automotive

Eric Cabaniss – State Farm

Found It Homes

Fusion Fine Wine & Spirits

General Electric (\$200)



*The  
Great Mill Town  
Duck Race*



*Thank you 2022 Sponsors*

## **Helmsman Level \$100**

Gulf Coast Garage

Hanley's Warehouse

Hewes & Company

HBM – Milton

Howard Young Flooring

Jones Fence

Leek Small Engine

Ollies Neighborhood Grill

Oops Alley - Pace

Oscity Labs – Brewton

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

Robert O. Beasley, P.A.

Team Hughes Real Estate School

Tidy Clean & Restoration LLC

Tops Appliance

Truly Spokin Bicycles

Waterworks Sprinkler Systems



*The  
Great Mill Town  
Duck Race*