



Pyrate News

The 14th day of October in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Three, Mill Town, Florida

Captain's Log 10.14.23

Well let's get right to it! As announced at the September General Membership Meeting, Captain Lucky will be stepping aside after this year to allow another Crew Member to be voted in by his or her Crew as the 9th Blackwater Pyrate Captain.

No, Captain Lucky was not asked to resign, nor is he planning to stop being a Pyrate. It is just time. It is time for another Pyrate to take the helm of the Blackwater Pearl and lead this fine group further along in our adventure.

As the Captain, Lucky has seen his fair share of "fair winds and following seas." He has also seen his share of turbulent waters. Being voted in for a second term was both an honor and a curse. Only time will tell how the true legacy of Captain Lucky will read.

Looking to the future, Wednesday, October 18th will be the General Membership Meeting. During that meeting we will be accepting nominations for the next Captain. All nominations at that time will be in writing and kept confidential. The Nomination Committee will conduct business in accordance with the process listed in The Code, Addendum III.

To the newer Pyrates, this may seem like a strange process. However, since 2006 when the Blackwater Pyrates were formed, this process has served us well to elect seven (7) Pyrate Captains. For those of you doing some quick math, the original Captain of the Blackwater Pyrates was Captain Blackwater Bones. Capt. Bones did not yet have The Code to follow when he became the Captain, and he served 5 consecutive years as part of his term. Additionally, two (2) Captains served terms of 1 year each, and Captain Lucky served a term of two(2) years and was reelected in 2022 for a cumulative total of three (3) years. Thus totaling eight (8) Captains in the history of the Blackwater Pyrates.

Overall, the process for nominating and electing a new captain takes about a month, followed by a couple months before the Change of Command in January. The Change of Command becomes a celebration for the newly elected Captain as well as a thank you to the outgoing Captain and his or her Officers.

Usually, we conduct our Change of Command on the Milton boardwalk near the Veterans Memorial and Pyrates are requested to come in full Pyrate attire. The date, time, and location is at the discretion of the incoming Captain.

Captain's Log 10.14.23

As stated previously, the Nomination, Election and Voting process is conducted in accordance with The Code, Addendum III (shown below).

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%.

The Keeper of the Code will discuss this process in detail at both the October and November General Membership Meetings. Additionally, the entire process with dates will be sent directly to all Crew Members via email.

This is a very time honored tradition for the Pyrates, and I look forward to continuing with the tradition as we elect the newest Blackwater Pyrate Captain.

Caroling with the Pyrates and Gift Bag Give-Away

Although it is only September, now is the time to start thinking about the Caroling with the Pyrates and Gift Bag Give-Away for the residents of multiple assisted living facilities. The Gift Bag Give-Away portion Event Leader is “B” (Leigh Faulk). She and her committee work diligently to collect needed items. The request for items remain the same, concentrating on dental and personal hygiene as well as stationary items. We are currently planning 38 bags, 20 ladies, 18 men. We will begin collecting items at the October meeting. The committee is very dynamic, members should be enthusiastic about the event, willing to facilitate the pick-up of items, and stuff the bags when the time comes. If anyone is interested joining the committee please call “B”, 513 616-3808.

Caroling with the Pyrates is a legacy event created by Captain Fins Up. As a group, we gather once or twice prior to the event for a “jam session” better known as practice. During those practices, Captain Fins Up presents everyone with a list and lyrics of the songs that we planned to perform. These songs range from the traditional Christmas songs, to the traditional Pyrate Christmas songs. It is always a great time and I look forward to seeing (and hearing) all of you. Let’s have a great turn out. Even if you can’t carry a tune in a bucket, the event is always special for the residents.

What started as a small gesture for a few residents of the assisted living facility, has turned into an event that the residents talk about and look forward to all year. Their smiling faces light up when we enter the room, and although the actual harmony and vocals may never reach the top 20, the fact that we spent our time to entertain and give back never goes unnoticed.

The gift bags are just icing on the cake. These small tokens are always well received, and in many cases, very much needed. Even if you can’t be a part of the committee or join us when we visit the assisted living facility, please consider donating to a very good cause. No amount is too small, and I am sure we all have items at home that can be “regifted.”

I believe that this is the true meaning of Christmas.

Ho! Ho! Ho! And Arrgh!

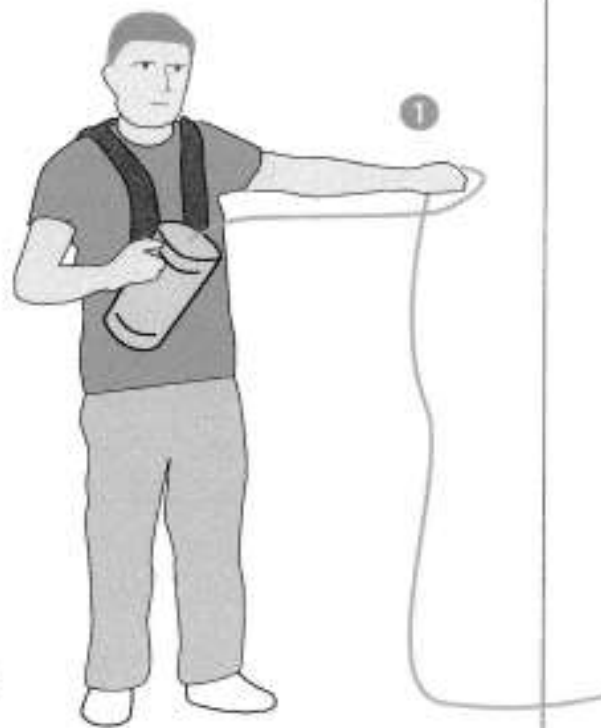
Coxswains Corner

BOATU.S. FOUNDATION

BY FIONA MCGLYNN, BOATU.S. CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

THROW BAGS CAN BE LIFE SAVERS

You may own one of these rescue devices, but do you know how to use it properly?



A throw bag is a floating line designed to be thrown to a person in the water, usually to then pull the person to safety. They're lightweight, compact, inexpensive, and relatively simple to use; the basic instructions are in the name. However, "throwbagging" is not like throwing a ball.

There's a technique and it takes practice to develop accuracy. Start by throwing it on firm ground, in your backyard for instance, and once you're comfortable, try launching it from the dock or boat.

► 1. Prepare

Open up the bag, ensuring the drawstring is completely loose. Find the end of the

line (it should be on top if packed properly) and pay out several feet. Securely hold the line with your nondominant hand. Do not attach the rope to yourself, and never wrap the line around your hand.

► 2. Throw

You can throw underhand, overhand, or sideways, whichever feels most comfort-

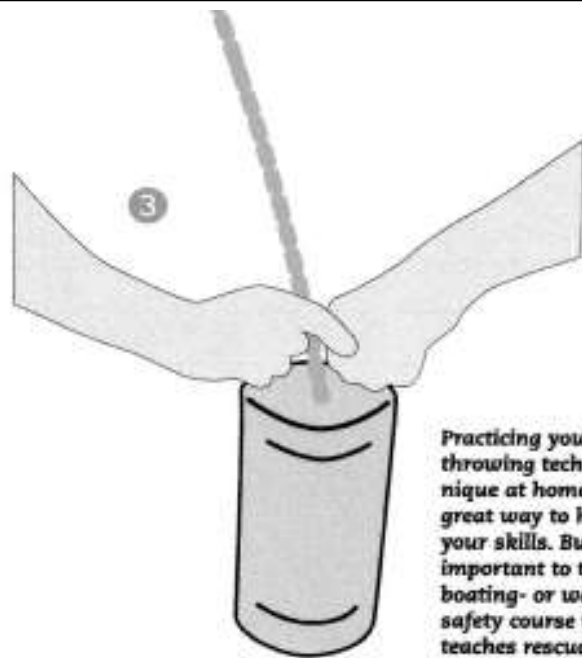
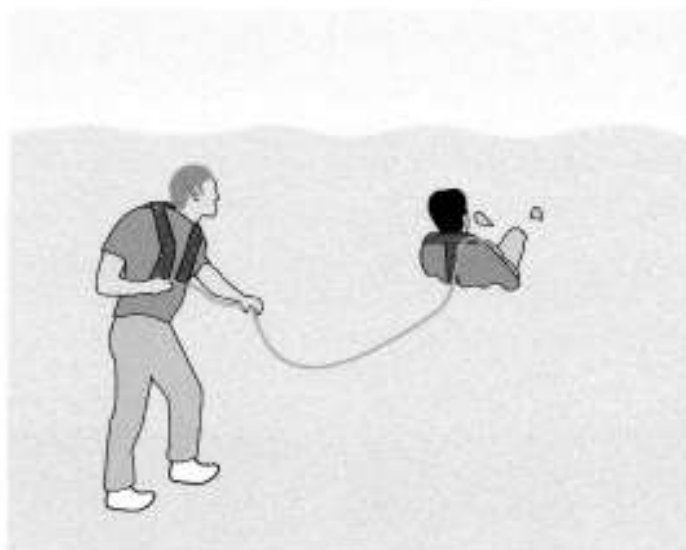
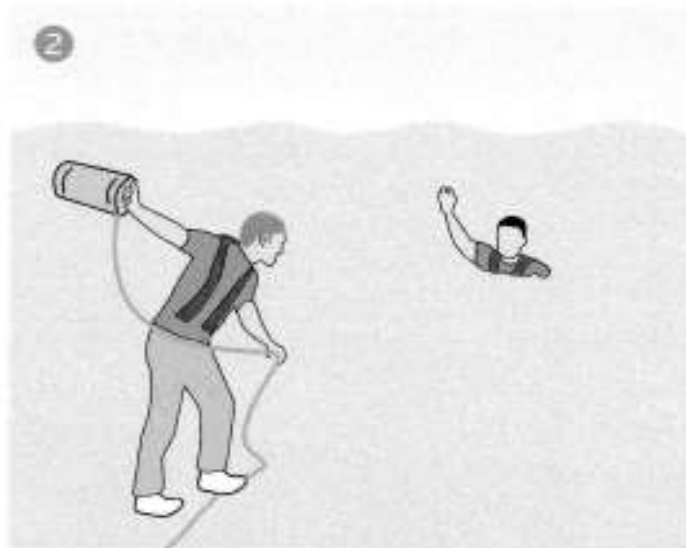
able and works best. Many people find underhand the easiest to start. With one foot back and your hips square to the target, wind your torso back, look at your target, unwind your torso, and release the bag at shoulder height. Your goal is to aim past the subject so that the line falls across their chest; you don't want to hit them in the head with the throw bag!

If you miss, quickly recoil the line in your hands (don't repack the bag). Let the empty bag partially fill with water for added weight and throw a second time. Practice until you get it right. Practice in adverse situations such as wind.

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety & Clean Water is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping boating safe and clean. It is independently funded by donations from BoatU.S. members and grants. Visit BoatUS.org to learn more.

COURTESY, NORTH AMERICAN RESCUE

Coxswains Corner




Practicing your throwing technique at home is a great way to hone your skills. But it's important to take a boating- or water-safety course that teaches rescue skills like retrieving a crew overboard.

► 3. Repack

Always flake the line back into the bag; never coil it. You don't want it getting tangled up when you next go to throw. The easiest and fastest way to repack is to hold the bag open with the last three fingers of

each hand and use your index fingers and thumbs to feed the line into the bag. You can run the line over your shoulder to help feed it into the bag. Close and buckle the bag, leaving the end of the line

hanging out so you can find it quickly. Be sure to rinse and dry your line after each use and store it in a place that's easy to access (such as clipped to a railing).

With a bit of practice, a throw bag can be an invaluable tool in your boating safety arsenal. Though keep in mind that a throw bag doesn't provide buoyancy and is NOT a U.S. Coast Guard-approved device, so you'll still need to carry all devices required and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and meet all legal requirements (BoatUS.org/Equipment). 

WITH A BIT OF PRACTICE, A THROW BAG CAN BE AN INVALUABLE TOOL IN YOUR BOATING SAFETY ARSENAL



For every \$250 spent at West Marine (westmarine.com), BoatU.S. members earn a \$10 rewards certificate.

See *Ask the Experts*, page 94, to learn more about handling a crew overboard situation, from retrieval patterns to reboarding.

Upper River Clean Up

September 16th was the date for the Pyrates Annual Upper River Clean Up. 14 of the finest and most enthusiastic Blackwater Pyrates participated in this signature event. 8 vessels, including canoes and Kayaks were used to gather a truckload of trash from the river near the Blackwater River State Park.

The entire trip took about 4 hours to complete and as shown below, they gathered a literal truckload of trash from the waterways.

No Pyrate was “severely” injured during this event, and the State Park thanked the Pyrates for their efforts.

After the canoeing and Kayaking was complete, many



of the participants gathered at the State Park campground area to tell stories of their adventures and enjoy a few “adult beverages’ to help ease the pain of a day in a canoe or Kayak. Other Pyrates scurried off to watch their favorite college football team win another one (Capt. Fins Up and Capt. Boot). All in all it was another great day.

Upper River Clean Up



Preparing the vessels for a day on the water



The Organized Chaos begins



As the Crew begins its' "3 Hour Tour"

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 *
May	June	July	August
6 New Member Party 10 Safety Mtg 11 Booty Council 17 General Mtg 20 Blessing of the Fleet USCG Boat Insp 22-23 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 March 11, 2023

***All Crew Participation





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*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2023 Sponsors

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*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



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*The
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Duck Race*



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*The
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