



Pyrate News

The 15th day of July in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Three, Mill Town, Florida

Captain's Log 7.15.23

This month's Newsletter will be a little shorter than usual. Obviously, our major event, The Great Mill Town Duck Race was held on July 4th and that has occupied a great deal of my time and the time of all the volunteers who helped make it a huge success. Consequently, I have been unable to dedicate the necessary time to prepare a more comprehensive newsletter.

With the time restraints placed upon me and the commitments of family, friends and festivities, I decided to try something new. I had a long conversation with some friends and their kids from Nebraska.

If you are like me, you don't experiment enough with some of the newer technology. With the latest, greatest, and some might say most controversial technology being AI (Artificial Intelligence), I decided to give it a spin and ask my computer to write this month's newsletter.

After talking nicely and then more sternly to my monitor with nothing to show for it, I was informed by a 20 something engineer that I must actually run an experimental program and then let it do the work.

A little bit hesitant at first, I was able to locate a program called Bard AI from Google. After reviewing all the legalese and signing away my rights (and first born), my computer monitor displayed a prompt that stated the following; *I'm Bard, your creative and helpful collaborator. I have limitations and won't always get it right, but your feedback will help me improve.* A rather ominous beginning, but a new adventure none the less. It was obvious to me that this Artificial Intelligence stuff was going to be a little different than the Britannica Encyclopedias that I grew up with. But I was ready to give it a try.

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So with me staring at a little block saying “Enter a prompt here”, I carefully thought out my next steps. I prepared for the classic response from my computer “Hello Dummy”, and feared that I would suddenly be engulfed in a bright light and sucked into a digital maze. So I proceeded cautiously and typed the following; “What can I ask you?” I thought that was almost like hitting the help icon, and here was my new buddy Bard’s response;

You can ask me anything, as long as it is not offensive or harmful. I can answer questions about a wide range of topics, including:

- History
- Science
- Math
- Literature
- Current events
- Technology
- Pop culture
- Philosophy
- Personal advice

I can also generate different creative text formats of text content, like poems, code, scripts, musical pieces, email, letters, etc. I will try my best to fulfill all your requirements.

Here are some examples of questions you could ask me:

- What is the capital of France?
- How many planets are in the solar system?
- What is the meaning of life?
- What is the best way to learn a new language?
- How do I write a poem?
- How do I code a website?
- What is the next big thing in technology?
- What is the best way to save the world?

I am still under development, but I am learning new things every day. I am always happy to help people learn and grow, so please do not hesitate to ask me any question that comes to mind.

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With the initial ice breaking out of the way, and armed with some very generic assistance from a machine (that's scary to say), I decided to question my very existence. Not in the literal or religious sense, but in the Pirate sense.

So I asked Bard (by the way I still catch myself calling my buddy Bart instead of Bard) "Who are the Blackwater Pirates?"

The Blackwater Pirates are a community service organization that serves the Bagdad/Milton area of the Blackwater River and basins. They do this through river clean up, boater safety and education, and maritime historical preservation. They are a group of volunteers who are passionate about the Blackwater River and its history.

The Blackwater Pirates were founded in 1994 by a group of friends who were interested in preserving the history and beauty of the Blackwater River. They started out by cleaning up the river and its banks, and they quickly realized that there was a need for more boater safety education in the area. They began offering boater safety classes, and they also started working with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary to promote safe boating practices.

In addition to their work on river clean up and boater safety, the Blackwater Pirates also work to preserve the maritime history of the Blackwater River. They have partnered with the University of West Florida to preserve the location of sunken vessels, and they also offer educational programs about the history of the river.

The Blackwater Pirates are a dedicated group of volunteers who are making a difference in the Bagdad/Milton area. They are committed to protecting the Blackwater River and its history, and they are helping to make the river a safer and more enjoyable place for everyone.

Here are some of the things that the Blackwater Pirates do:

- Organize river clean up events
-
- Offer boater safety classes
-
- Promote safe boating practices
-
- Preserve the maritime history of the Blackwater River
-
- Educate the public about the Blackwater River
-
- Host community events

If you are interested in learning more about the Blackwater Pirates, you can visit their website at www.blackwaterpirates.com. You can also follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

Captain's Log 7.15.23

Wow!! That was a very good description of our organization and now I am more intrigued as to the abilities of my new friend. It was time to really challenge my electronic friend and his digital world.

So I asked one final question, "What is the difference between a Pirate and a Pyrate?" I just knew that I had him and then, about 5 seconds later, here was his response (I think that I even heard him chuckle);

The words "pirate" and "Pyrate" are often used interchangeably, but there is a subtle difference between the two. The word "pirate" is the more common spelling, and it is the one that is generally accepted today. However, the word "Pyrate" was also used in the past, and it is still used by some people today.

The main difference between the two spellings is that the "y" in "Pyrate" is thought to have been a remnant of the Middle English spelling of the word. The "y" was eventually dropped, and the word "pirate" became the standard spelling. However, some people still prefer the old spelling, and they argue that it is more authentic.

There are also some people who believe that the word "Pyrate" has a different meaning than the word "pirate." They argue that "Pyrate" refers to a specific type of pirate, one who was active during the Golden Age of Piracy (roughly 1650-1730). These pirates were often more organized and ruthless than other pirates, and they were known for their flamboyant costumes and their love of treasure.

However, there is no real evidence to support this claim. The word "Pyrate" was used to refer to pirates of all types during the Golden Age of Piracy, and there is no reason to believe that it had a different meaning.

Ultimately, the choice of whether to use the word "pirate" or "Pyrate" is a matter of personal preference. There is no right or wrong answer, and both spellings are technically correct. However, if you are looking for the most accurate and up-to-date spelling, then "pirate" is the way to go.

In addition to the spelling difference, there are also some other minor differences between pirates and Pyrates. For example, Pyrates were often more likely to be based in the Caribbean Sea, while pirates were more likely to be found in other parts of the world. However, these differences are not always clear-cut, and there is a lot of overlap between the two groups.

So, which word should you use? If you are looking for the most accurate and up-to-date spelling, then "pirate" is the way to go. However, if you prefer the old spelling or if you want to refer to a specific type of pirate, then "Pyrate" is also a valid option.

Captain's Log 7.15.23

Okay! Okay! So technology has come a long way since my days in school, researching how far the bases are apart on a baseball field (I actually did look that up once in an encyclopedia). And maybe it's a good thing. Everything in moderation!

But at what cost do we move to the future? When will we be using a hologram of the Blackwater Pearl instead of the real thing?



As I stated at the beginning, I apologize for the abbreviated newsletter this month. It really has been a busy time for all of us, and a very successful time for the Pyrate organization. Next month should allow for more review of our accomplishments and more information in the newsletter.

Oh, for those of you too young to remember what an encyclopedia is, maybe you should Google it.

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
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