



Pirate News

The 12th day of November in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Two, Mill Town, Florida

West Florida Railroad Museum



History

The

Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad

was

chartered

on

March

4,

1881

to

connect

Pensacola

with

the

parts

of

Florida

east

of

the

Apalachicola

River,

straight

across

the

sparsely-populated

Panhandle.

The

railroad

company

completed

its

surveys

and

began

full

construction

on

June

1,

1881.

Official

ground

breaking

ceremonies

in

Pensacola

on

August

22,

1881

brought

into

focus

the

importance

of

the

West

Florida

enterprise

and

its

evident

relationship

with

the

expanding

Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

The

Louisville and Nashville

Railroad

was

operating

the

original

Alabama and Florida Railroad

and

subsequent

Pensacola Railroad

route

into

Pensacola

from

Flomaton

Alabama,

forty-four

miles

to

the

north.

The

Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad

was

constructed

in

less

than

two

years'

time

with

different

sections

of

the

railroad

being

built

simultaneously

by

different

contractors.

The

first

Pensacola and Atlantic

locomotive

arrived

in

Milton

in

May

1882

by

water

and

was

placed

in

work

train

service

constructing

the

railroad

eastward

from

Milton.

The

first

train

over

the

newly

constructed

Escambia

Bay

Bridge

arrived

on

August

15,

1882.

Upon

completion

of

the

Apalachicola

River

bridge

west

of

Chattahoochee

in

February

1883,

the

river

crossing

at

Sampson's

landing

was

abandoned.

Service

from

Pensacola

to

Jacksonville,

Florida

began

the

first

week

in

May

1883

via

connections

with

the

Florida Central and Western Railroad,

later

Seaboard Air Line Railroad,

at

River

Junction,

Florida.

West Florida Railroad Museum

The *Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad* received financial backing from the *Louisville and Nashville Railroad* during construction and ceased operating as an independent line on July 1, 1885 when it was incorporated into the *Louisville and Nashville* system. Ninety seven years later in 1982, the *Louisville and Nashville Railroad* merged with the *Seaboard Coast Line Railroad*, *Atlanta and West Point Railroad*, *Georgia Railroad*, *Western Railway of Alabama*, and *Clinchfield Railroad* to form the *Seaboard System Railroad*. In 1985, the Seaboard system and the Chessie system merged to form *CSXT Rail System*.



When the Pensacola and Atlantic was constructed through Northwest Florida in 1881-1883 the Florida panhandle was sparsely populated. The only two areas that warranted a depot were Milton and Marianna, Florida. Other depots were quickly added as people moved in to settle the wild lands and traffic began to increase. There were sixteen depots built in the first years.

Passenger service peaked in the 1920's with six trains a day calling at Milton. With the coming of the automobile and airplanes that were heavily subsidized by the government, passenger service started going into the red. Four trains survived until 1967 when the *Louisville and Nashville* along with other railroads lost the mail contracts.



The remnant of the streamliner "Gulf Wind", inaugurated in 1949 to replace steam-powered heavy-weight cars, survived until *Amtrak's* formation. Its last run was on April 30, 1971.

The *Gulf Wind's* final years saw just token service consisting of one engine, one baggage car, one coach, and one sleeper with a diner between Jacksonville and Chattahoochee only. The service had been reduced to three times a week in an attempt by the *Louisville and Nashville* and the *Seaboard Coast Line Railroad* to cut costs and to help support the discontinuance petition filed with the ICC.

The Museum also commemorates the service to Northwest Florida of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway, known as the *Frisco*. The Frisco started service to Pensacola in 1927 after buying earlier logging railroads and extending a line from Amory, Mississippi. Through service was provided to Memphis, the Midwest, and the west coast by the "Sunnyland" passenger trains and Frisco's famous "Fast Freight" trains. The last passenger service to Pensacola was in 1955, and the passenger depot on the corner of Garden and Coyle streets was razed in the 1960's.



A Frisco freight locomotive was donated to the city of Pensacola and rests in the median of Garden Street in front of the old depot site. Freight service to Pensacola continues through the Burlington Northern, which purchased the Frisco in 1980. The track south of Flomaton, Alabama is now owned by the Alabama and Gulf Coast Railway.

Beginning on April 4, 1993 *Amtrak's* "Sunset Limited" provided through service across Northwest Florida from Los Angeles, California to Miami, Florida via New Orleans, Louisiana, and Jacksonville, Florida with stops at Pensacola and Crestview. The "Sunset Limited" ended a twenty-two year hiatus in passenger service across the Florida Panhandle.

In August 2005 Hurricane Katrina destroyed the main line along the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast thus ending *Amtrak's* "Sunset Limited" and passenger service in North West Florida.



2022 Ghost Walk



The Cast and Crew of the 2022 Milton Ghost Walk—Blackwater Pyrates Edition

The 2022 Milton Ghost Walk was held Friday and Saturday evenings, October 21 & 22, and it was a big hit. Big Al prepared the script and took on the role of Director (not an easy chore), and several Pyrates volunteered to act out the roles as the Blackwater Pyrates presented “Lost Industries of the Blackwater.”

I’m sure that I will miss someone who was part of the presentation and I wish to apologize in advance. However, here are the volunteers shown above; Terra, SasSea, Fancy Nancy, Zatarra, Sandy Bottom, Capt Murky, Snookie, Holler Legg, Flossie, Dollar Bill, Barracuda, Grape Shot, Greymane, Scooter, Stew Burner, Woody, Barnacle Bailey, Pepperhead and Salty Cracker. I also recall a few camera shy volunteers; Brother Dewars, CC, Capt Lucky, and Coral Reef.

In order to put on such an elaborate presentation, it took the above listed volunteers as well as several individuals working in the background including moving and decorating the ship. Tuesday morning, Two Noodles and Capt Lucky worked with JR Towing to move the Blackwater Pearl down to the Historic West Florida Train Museum where the Pyrates held their award winning performances. And on Friday morning Duck Committee members got together to decorate the ship and prepare goodie bags for the children who attended the event. Once again the Pyrates came together to support our local community.



Duck Committee members Kolea, Terra, Devil Rae and SasSea decorate the ship for the Ghost Walk Presentation

2022 Ghost Walk



Captain's Log

It is now November 2022 and the end of my two year term as Blackwater Pyrate Captain is quickly approaching. I would like to take this time ensure everyone understands the nomination, election and voting process.

Below is an excerpt from Addendum III of The Code;

BWP CAPTAIN NOMINATION/ELECTION/VOTING PROCESS

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).

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.

Nominees will be contacted by a member of the nominating committee to either accept or decline their nomination.

All accepted nominations will be on slate for vote at the General Membership Meeting.

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.

Any Pyrate who falls face-first in their grog during this process will not get another chance to nominate.

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.

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%.

Every Two years (or more frequently if necessary) at the November General Membership Meeting, the Blackwater Pyrates hold an election for a Captain to lead the organization. As stated above, at least one month prior to the election, the BWP Captain will appoint a nominating Committee. At the October General Membership Meeting I announced the Chairperson of the Nomination Committee (Capt Fins Up) and he in turn announced the remaining members of the committee.

Additionally, written nominations were presented to the committee for consideration and follow up. During the time between the October and the November General Membership Meetings, the committee will contact all nominees to allow them to either accept or reject the nomination.

Any Pyrate in good standing within the organization can be nominated for the Captain position, including all previous Captains as long as they finished their term without a mutiny.

All accepted nominations will be presented to the Crew for a vote at the November General Membership Meeting. Additional nominations may be taken from the floor just prior to the election, however, the nominated Pyrate must be present in order to accept or decline the nomination.

The voting process will be conducted per the Code with the Nomination Committee counting the votes and announcing the new Captain Elect before the close of the meeting.

The Captain's Duties/Limitations are listed below along with reasons for expulsion of a BWP Captain and the role of Past Captains. I urge every Pyrate to take the time to read and understand the Code. It is the guidelines we follow as an organization and the standards that each of us are held to.

Captain's Log

Captain's Duties/Limitations:

It is recommended that at the newly elected BWP Captain's 1st General Meeting, he/she should outline two objectives for the benefit of the community. Normal Pirate operations and activities do not apply.

A BWP Captain's term is two years but can serve an unlimited number of terms.

The BWP Captain may request to step down, but this must occur during a regular General Membership meeting and cannot be denied.

The BWP Captain will be limited to spending \$250.00 per month for Crew interests without Booty Council approval.

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.

The BWP Captain makes decisions that affect Crew affairs. The Booty Council makes decisions on spending.

The BWP Captain will perform all duties incident to the CODE.

The BWP Captain is responsible for passing items of historical importance to the Historian where Pirate history is maintained.

The BWC Captain must approve all printed material before budget requests are approved and publication begins.

DISMISSAL OF A BWP CAPTAIN:

BWP Captains' decisions should always favor the Crew. When they do not, the BWP Captain may face a mutiny.

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.

The request must be made at a regularly scheduled Membership Meeting.

The vote for dismissal will follow established voting procedures above and the temporary acting Captain will conduct the proceedings. (See Addendum IV, Voting Procedures)

Past Captains:

The senior past BWP Captain and immediate former BWP Captain are direct advisors to the current BWP Captain.

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.

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)

Past BWP Captains should attend significant BWP events and the current BWP Captain should always recognize them when they are in attendance.

Out of respect for the BWP Pirates' founder, no Crewmember's name may include 'Bones'.

Upcoming Events

It is now the middle of November. It is the time of year that the Blackwater Pyrates prepare to spend time with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. We declare a moratorium on meetings. The Booty Council and General Membership meetings skip the month of December and we have very few events during this time.

However, it is also the time of year when we take time to give back to the community that has served us so well. Every year for the past several years, the Pyrates have stepped to the plate and assisted in “serving the seniors.” We work with the local organizations to provide a much needed service by helping prepare and serve Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to the senior population of Milton.

The Pyrates role during these events is a small but necessary one. We help prepare the food, set up the serving equipment, serve the meals, and then serve smiles and conversation to those who need and appreciate it the most.

The event takes place on Thanksgiving day and Christmas day at the Milton Community Center. All Pyrates are welcome to attend and help. Full Pirate attire is NOT required. Please dress for the season and bring a cheerful attitude and a big smile.

If you wish to help, please reach out to SasSea at 985-607-8860 or at her email address Vmckee3322@aol.com. We always have a great time and I assure you, you will walk away feeling the joy of the season.



Upcoming Events



Upcoming Events



Speaking of giving back to the community, December is also the time of year when the Pyrates hold their annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade. This event is extremely popular with the local families. We have children and parents lining the Boardwalk watching and cheering as the Blackwater Pyrates lead a small armada of well dressed ships in a procession celebrating and spreading the cheer of the season.

Somebody (Tera) "stole" the show. I'm not too sure if she made Santa's naughty or nice list. Hmmm!

We work
with the City

of Milton to provide an event that is almost as popular as the annual Great Mill Town Duck Race. The City of Milton conducts their Christmas Parade during the day, followed by the Christmas Lighted Boat Parade shortly after dark. After the parade all the boats dock for the public to get a closer look at the participants and then everyone enjoys a magnificent fireworks display.

This years event will be held on December 2nd. Anyone wishing to participate is encouraged to reach out to the event leader, Terra (Teresa McCombs) at mccombsathome@att.net. Applications for the event will be available.



Upcoming Events



Capt Fins Up and Crew (with a few extra Elves photo-bombing them) with their winning trophy

The annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade is a time honored tradition for the Blackwater Pyrates and the city of Milton. The Milton Boardwalk is filled with people both young and old cheering on their favorite characters on the wonderfully lighted boats as they make a couple slow passes to entertain the crowds. Together we celebrate the beginning of the Christmas Season.



Capt Fins Up and his Crew preparing for the parade

Upcoming Events

Keeping with Pyrate Holiday traditions, the annual Caroling with the Pyrates and Red Solo Cup Drop events are the final events of the year.

On December 14th, the Pyrates gather together to provide cheer at the Forsyth House Assisted Living Facility on Berryhill Road in Milton. Captain Fins Up leads the group in singing Christmas carols to a generally packed house of residents. Additionally, the Pyrates prepare gift bags to present to each resident. The gift bag committee is chaired by B (Leigh Faulk).

This celebration of song is always a big hit amongst the residents of the Forsyth House. They start reaching out to the Pyrates early in the year to ensure that we will be returning. And you don't have to have a perfect pitch voice to participate. If you've ever heard the Pyrates in song, you would understand.

As far as the final event of the year, the Red Solo Cup Drop, this is an event that was started a long time ago by Legacy Pyrates. Considering the individuals involved, I doubt if they can remember exactly what year it began. It has changed through the years and as the Pyrates age, the event "evolves."

Every year on December 31st, the Pyrates gather to celebrate successfully completing another year. Also, it gives us a chance to celebrate something...anything.

The event has most recently been held at Woody and Big Al's home on Petersen Point, with the festivities beginning early afternoon and continuing until the last Pyrate drops (generally around 8 pm nowadays). The Red Solo Cup Drop officially occurs at 12 midnight. The only issue is, we are never sure which time zone we choose to be associated with. There is always plenty of food, fun, and fireworks.

Big Al and Woody are the event leaders and more information will come out as the day grows closer.

In addition to these fine events, we do actually conduct a little business in December. On December 7th we will have our Budget meeting to establish the Pyrate budget for 2023. All Event Leaders are encouraged to attend in order to address your needs. More info will follow.



Woody ignites the Red Solo Cup just before the countdown to midnight begins.

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 11 Booty Council 17 General Mtg 20 Destin Crawl ? Boater Safety Class
September	October	November	December
15 Booty Council 17 Upper River Clean Up * 21 General Mtg 24 History Lecture* (date change)	1 Skull Island Retreat (date chg) 13 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 September 12, 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

Billy Clark Bail Bonds

*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2022 Sponsors

First Mate Level Sponsors \$500

Advance Insurance

Blackwater Bistro (in-kind)

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

Krewe of Airship Pirates (in-kind)

Meraki Solar - Larry Klajbor

Sonny's BBQ (in-kind)

Sorensen Rentals

Texas Roadhouse - Milton

Vinyl Planks 4 Less - Billy Yates

A photograph of a large number of yellow rubber ducks floating in a body of water. The ducks are scattered across the frame, some in the foreground and some in the background. The water is a light blue-grey color. Overlaid on the image is the text 'The Great Mill Town Duck Race' in a large, stylized, red font with a white outline. The text is centered and occupies the lower half of the image.

*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2022 Sponsors

Helmsman Level \$100

2 Gauge Marine & Trailer, LLC
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Gulf Coast Florida Beach
Weddings



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2022 Sponsors

Helmsman Level \$100

Gulf Coast Garage
Gulf Coast LED Lighting
Hanley's Warehouse
Hewes & Company
HBM – Milton
Howard Young Flooring
Jones Fence
Lakeside Ladies
Leek Small Engine
Ollies Neighborhood Grill
Oops Alley - Pace
Oscity Labs – Brewton
Mason's Restaurant
McCombs Electric Htg & A/C

Mike Ryan's Truck & Auto
Accessories
Milton Garden Club (\$300)
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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



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2022 Sponsors

Helmsman Level \$100

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Team Hughes Real Estate School

Tidy Clean & Restoration LLC

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Truly Spokin Bicycles

Waterworks Sprinkler Systems



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*