



Pyrate News

The 26 day of April in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Five, Mill Town, Florida

Captains Log 04.26.2025

Good afternoon Blackwater Pyrates, sailing ahead we find ourselves in the middle of April, weather is improving and we are discovering how much damage the snow did to some of our lawns. It will take some sunshine and fertilizer to bring the yards back and in the meantime, we can just boat and do Pyrate stuff!!

We started April off with a bang, the Great 2025 WWSRE was held on April 5th and the wind was blowing, constant and something fierce and soon we found out just important our Safety Boats would be. We started with 9 entries signed up, but ended up starting 4 sailboats. Due to the generous bribes to our judges we looked the other way when Oscar took off 10 minutes early!!! It really didn't matter because Woody, with his crew of 400 Pyrates started on time and finished first!!

It turned out that Johny Smoke had sail problems and left the race early, Barnacle was intimate with the shore and ran aground twice, requiring Dollar Bill and his crew, accompanied by Geezer and his crew to get him floating again. Captain Fins Up was a victim of wind, sail problems and just general "shit happens" and required a little assistance from the Captain and Quartermaster. Captain Whitebeard had sail and mast issues and never got the chance to start the race. Overall it was a cluster from the start and it was the most excitement we have had on the water in a while. In the end though, Woody and his Crew won the race by a long shot! Stay afloat and off the bottom and you will usually do well in the WWSRE.

So much appreciation to Barnacle, Woody and Big Al for putting on one of the best organized races that we have had in years, thank you Pyrates!

We finally got the opportunity to attend the 1st Annual Jeep Show at the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce. Terra, Devil Rae, Pepperhead, Goober and Captain Stewburner greeted the crowds and adopted out a few sheets of ducks. Captain Fins Up made sure that Stewey was set up and despite the wind and he attracted a lot of attention!

It's important that the Pyrates get in our community and be involved!!

We held our General Membership meeting on the 16th of April where we saw Ten New Pyrates join our ranks. That is fantastic news and shows how hard Frenchie and the Crew are working to bolster our ranks, having a lot of members is important because we need help on our committees constantly. Stormie is #1 recruiter this month so great job Stormie!

Speaking of getting involved, the dynamic duo of Blas and Stormie, they have assumed the vacant roles as Historian and Merchandise Chair respectively. We are already seeing some of their energy and visions come to fruition and I'm personally grateful for them getting involved and making a difference. I've always maintained that if you want to experience the Pyrates, then you need to join a committee like Big Al's Fun and Games Group, Duck Committee or Technical Crew aka the "Cool Kids" so says Captain Fins Up.

The Lowe River Cleanup was held on the 19th of April and was attended by a record number of Pyrates! 14 boats and 53 Pyrates!! We were all over the river from Big Eddies down to the I-10 bridge and collected over 860 pounds of trash!! One Waste Pro garbage can, one tire and a whole lot of trash, it's actually pisses me off that our river guests treat the river as dump, but that's what we do, we clean it up and live to fight again. Thank you to all of the Pyrates involved, from the folks setting up to feed us lunch, to the crew on the boats and the crew unloading at the Shell Pile. Our Quartermaster, Coxswain and Frenchie did an outstanding job organizing and putting this event together!! Thank you Captain Boot and Peaches for opening your home, btw, Swamp Yankee and Stewburner ruled the cornhole game!

We will hold our Raiding Party at The Gym on the 22nd of April, Lovie informed me that the owners are selling, so, let's send them off in Pyrate fashion!!

We have had an eventful month and I am so grateful to our Crew, you all have showed up and showed out and as the Captain, I am so proud to be a Blackwater Pyrate. Keep pushing on the Duck Adoptions, join in at the Bands on the Blackwater and enjoy the sights and sounds of a small town atmosphere! Grab a Bratwurst at the German Booth and support our local small businesses, you won't be disappointed.

We have welcomed 19 new Pyrates at our last 2 General Membership meetings bringing the total number of Pyrates on our roster to 219, please remember that no money changes hands at the Blackwater Bistro or anywhere else, but give a potential new member an application and invite them to our monthly meeting. This way we ensure that folks are really interested and the meeting gives an insight into our organization.

We welcomed Blas as our new Historian and Stormie as our Merchandise Chair and we held our first but not last clearance sale of our on hand inventory. We will take pre-orders for any new gear that we decide to purchase!! Stay tuned for more bargain sales.

The new member party is approaching and will be held at Dollar Bill and Fancy Nancy's home, the event will be on May 10th. Pyrates, in June we will be required to turn in our duck sheets and money, please do your part to get us to 6000 ducks adopted again this year. This success of the Great Milltown Duck Race depends on every Pyrate doing his or her part in getting our Ducks adopted.

May 17th is our Annual Boater Safety inspection and Blessing of the Fleet, the event starts at 0800 and runs until 12pm, afterwards we meet at Skull Island for some grog and grub. I urge everyone that owns a boat to get their boat inspected, get your decal acknowledging you meet all of the USCG requirements. Grab a hot dog, and line up to participate in the Annual Blessing of the Fleet by Deacon Blues!!



What a Crew we have, I appreciate everyone's involvement and after seeing all of the garbage we collected off the river I am more convinced than before about the difference We Pyrates Make!!! We are Pyrates with a Purpose and Guardians of the Blackwater River!!!



1st Annual Chamber of Commerce Jeep Show, weather was a little rough with the wind but Goober and Pepperhead kept Stewie from taking flight!!



Terra and Devil Rae helping out at the Chamber Jeep Show, interesting event and looks to be something that the Pyrates should be involved in adopting ducks!! Nice Jeeps too!!

Another event we attended in April was the color run, lots of fun as Moms, Dads and children threw colored chalk over everybody and took off on a walk / run race to support the Florida Health Department. Below are our volunteers!!





Our 2025 1st place winner and some of their crew!! Woody and his team ran a great race despite the chaos of the wind!!

A smiling Captain after a great race!
What a day on the water!! Good job to all of our crews in the WWSRE!



04/05/2025



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Blackwater Pyrates 2025

January	February	March	April
08 Booty Council 15 General Membership Mtg Duck Adoption begins 25 2 nd Annual Great Chili Cookoff	<u>12</u> Booty Council Mtg 15 POLT Flotilla Parade 19 General Membership Mtg 22-23 Renaissance Faire, Fairgrounds Duck Adoptions ***	1-2 Renaissance Faire / Duck Adoptions ** * 13 Booty Council Mtg 19 General Membership Mtg	05 WWSRE 10 Booty Council 16 General Membership Mtg 19 Lower River Clean Up * Pyrate Event 22 Earth Day
May	June	July	August
08 Booty Council 10 New Member Party Pyrate Event 17 USCG Boat ----- -Safety Inspection and Grill Hot Dogs -Blessing of the Fleet -Skull Island Retreat 21 General Meeting	07 Lighted Boat Parade in Ward Basin 12 Booty Council 18 General Membership Mtg 18 Duck adoption paperwork and \$\$\$ Due 26 Technical / Safety Mtg	4 Great Mill Town Duck Race* Core Mission *** 10 Booty Council 12 Blues Cruise 16 General Membership Mtg 16 Membership Dues \$\$\$\$\$ 17 Technical Crew Debrief	14 Booty Council 16 Lighted Boat Parade-Wrights Basin 20 General Membership Mtg 23 Destin Crawl/ Swim/ Float
September	October	November	December
11 Booty Council 13 Upper River Clean Up * Pyrate Event 17 General Membership Mtg	04 Pyrate Festival 09 Booty Council 15 General Membership Mtg 25 Trunk or Treat	TBD Blues Cruise 08 Bowling Event 13 Booty Council 19 General Membership Mtg	TBD Christmas Lighted Boat Parade TBD Caroling with the Pyrates 31 Red Solo Cup

*Core Mission / Pyrate Event Revised April 2025 ***All Crew Participation



Free Coast Guard Vessel Inspection



**Saturday, May 17th
8 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Carpenter's Park Boat
Launch - Ramp #2**

(Broad Street - just south of Munson Hwy)



The Blackwater Pyrates—in conjunction with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary—is sponsoring its annual free Vessel Inspection.

Vessels passing the inspection will receive a decal acknowledging it meets all USCG requirements.

Vessels not passing will be assisted by the Blackwater Pyrates in mitigating deficiencies free of charge (resources permitting).

**A Blackwater Pyrate core mission is
Boater Safety!**

2025 Blessing of the Fleet



Saturday, May 17 1:00PM

Milton Riverwalk



Accompanied by bagpipe, Deacon Phil will conduct the Blessing of the Fleet at the Memorial Park Boardwalk in downtown Milton.

Whether motor, wind, or man powered, all vessels should circle in front of the boardwalk until the Blackwater Pyrate lead boat begins the slow, single file pass-by for the individual blessing.

**May fair winds and following
seas be with you!**

Free Safe Boating Class



**6:00PM - 9:00 PM
Monday May 19 &
Tuesday May 20**

**Magnolia Hall
5256 Alabama St
Milton, FL 32570**

***Must attend both evening classes**

**Space is limited
call 251-583-1812 to register**

- Whether you own a boat or just enjoy riding in one, come learn safe boating fundamentals in this instructor-led class.
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors will teach this two-evening class, equipping you to be safe on the water.
- Successful completion earns you the Florida Boating Safety Card, and usually a real nice discount on your boat insurance.



2025 Great Milltown Duck Race

Title Sponsor



Team Bruce Baker, MBA – RE/MAX Infinity

Admiral Level Sponsors

Cat Country 98.7 (In-Kind)

Captain Level Sponsors

First Mate Level Sponsors

All Pro Tune Up

General Rental Center

Navigator Level Sponsors

82 Magnolia Aesthetics

Blackwater Health
Milton Garden Club

Helmsman Level Sponsors

Aces Hangar Southern Bar and Grill
Gulf Coast Garage Patio Bar
Ritchey's Service Center
Southern Site & Utility Design

American Realty Southeast
Hafner's Lawn and Supply
Scoops Ice Cream
Wicked Dragon Productions