



Pyrate News

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

Captains Log 03.26.2025

Good afternoon Captains and Crew! If your car and your boat are yellow and you are sneezing like crazy, well, then welcome to spring in Northwest Florida. Be sure you prepare for one more freeze (maybe) before officially planting any new fruit and vegetable trees because it has been known to happen. I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and preparing for another beautiful spring / summer season on the water. Our Coxswain, Woody, has added an informative article concerning boating safety and maintenance coming out of a long winter. As Coxswain, Woody is responsible for keeping Pyrates safe on or off the water.

Lots going on in March and we kicked it off with the Renaissance Faire and enjoyed a few good days of weather and one cold and rainy day. None of that mattered as our Pyrates mustered up and took care of business. We were able to adopt 23 sheets of ducks and in the meantime recruited Swamp Fox and Salty Siren. They attended our March meeting and are now official Pyrates.

I want to thank Capt. Fins Up, Barnacle, Pepperhead, 2 Noodles, Gunpowder and Goober for their participation during each of the 4 days the Faire ran. Terra, Devil Rae and the Duck Committee showed up and really carried the weight of the adoptions. The Fun and Games Crew led by Big Al saw a numerous amount of kids who then led Mom and Dad over to duck table!! Thank you all for making this a wonderful event for all of the guests attending the Faire.

Barnacle shocked numerous Faire visitors and I'll post the picture in the following pages. He sat silent and still for 3 hours and literally scared the crap out of kids and adults when they approached him. After the Faire we shipped Pearl over to drydock at Barnacles and he began the work to stabilize our beloved Pyrate ship and make her safe again. Barnacle will be looking for volunteers in the near future.

I want to remind Pyrates to get their duck sheets filled out and get them back to Goober as soon as possible. Right now, I'm in the lead for the most turned in!!!

We were supposed to adopt ducks at the 1st annual Jeep show being held at the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce but we had a major weather delay. The new date is 29 March at 0900 and because it's jeeps, we should adopt many ducks.

Our Pyrates worked the Milton Garden Club Golf Tournament and were able to adopt ducks to our local area golfers. We also sponsored a hole that gave us a lot of exposure. As far as I know there was no sign of Bubba or Tiger but we everyone has a good time anyway.

We held our March general membership meeting where I introduced Stormy as our new Merchandise Chair and Blas as our Historian Report Pyrate. Please welcome them in their new positions as we wait to see what their skills bring to the Pyrates.

During the meeting Frenchie introduced us to 9 new Pyrates!! Old Timer Pyrates, take the time to seek out our new members and make them welcome, let them know about our mission statements and all of the good things that we do. Committee Chairs please reach out to them and see if they would like to be involved in your events. Thank you to Frenchie for her continued work on membership!! I am grateful for all of the hard work that each and every Pyrate puts in.

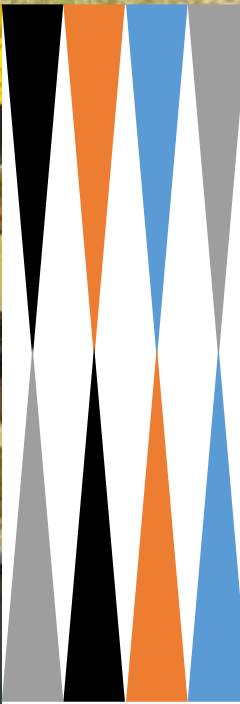
Not to be forgotten, we finally held our first Pyrate Fest planning meeting and I have turned over all coordination and execution of the newly named Bagdad Riverfront Festival, sponsored by the Blackwater Pyrates to Captain Boot. More planning must be done and we will send out group emails to keep everyone informed.

The Blackwater Pyrates sponsored a lane at the DeLuna Lanes bowling center and took place in a charity bowling event for Breast Cancer Awareness and Cure. I counted 23 Pyrates who were bowling or in my case trying to bowl , Captain Lucky and Ringer and their team took third place overall. Very good cause and an absolutely fun time!!

Captain Fins Up and Rumfront took scientists from the Florida Department of Natural Resources on a tour of Blackwater Bay and East Bay to monitor and observe the oyster reefs planted in our waters to assist in keeping our rivers and bays clean and habitable for the local wildlife, it is my understanding that the oysters are growing and the water quality is improving. Guardians of our River also extends to our Bays as well!

On April 12th we will be the primary attraction at the Florida Department of Health sponsored Color Run, they have asked for the Blackwater Pyrates specifically and of course, Pearl and Stewey. Here is another opportunity to shine for the community!! I have received new RAC Cards that we hand out at our events and they now contain our 4th Mission Statement of Community Service. I will pass them out to our Event Leaders for distribution to the community.

Pyrates, keep up the outstanding work, take of each other and be safe! We are Pyrates with a Purpose!! Captain Stewburner





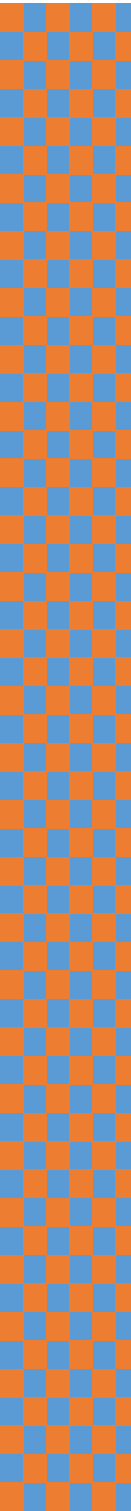
Top: At our March meeting we recognized 9 new Pyrates and 2 from a couple of months ago, get to know our new Pyrates and show them the ropes. Bottom: The Blackwater Pyrates support the Milton garden Club and they in turn are supporters of the annual golf tourney sponsored by the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, the Pyrates sponsored a hole and were able to adopt ducks to the golfers, looks like some of the Pyrates were goofing off but that is to be expected!!

2025
RADFORD H
LOCKLIN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ROOKIE
TEACHER OF
THE YEAR



Hambone was named Locklin Technical Center's Rookie Teacher of the Year for 2025. Congratulations Hambone, thank you for shaping our kids future!!

Bottom: The Blackwater Pyrates sponsored a lane at the Sisters of the Ya Ya's Cancer awareness charity event and 25 Pyrates showed up to bowl! Half Pint shows off one of many moon pies that were earned by rolling strikes!!



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 March 2025 ***All Crew Participation



2024 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

Billy Clark Bail Bonds

Milton Animal Hospital – Dr. Loper

First Mate Level Sponsors

Advance Insurance of NW Florida

Audio Video Installations

Beardless Brewhaus (In-Kind)

Blackwater Bistro (In-Kind)

Community Bank

The Country Gym (In-Kind)

Edward Jones – Derek Park

General Rental Center

Katona Wood Worx

RM Integrations

Navigator Level Sponsors

Denniels Monogramming	Angels Care Home Health
The Oval Office	Howard Young Flooring
Armor Service Group	Blackwater Bay Tours
Milton Garden Club	Baily Testing
Wagner- Kent Real Estate Team	Sorensen Rentals
Vaughn's Pools	Tops Appliance
Ears 2 Hear	The Viper Room
The Prost Office	82 Magnolia Aesthetics
Boomerang Pizza	Smoothie King (In-Kind)
Aces Fillin Station	Texas Roadhouse
Lunsford Air Conditioning & Heating	PG Hat Company
General Electric	El Paso

Helmsmen Level Sponsors

T & A Car Care	All Pro Tune Up
Ritchey's Service Center	Scoops Ice Cream and Sweets
Gulf Coast Garage	Pensacola Bay Brewery
Unlimited Lawn and Tree Care	Whip It Inventions
Wicked Dragon Productions	2 Guage Marine & Trailer
Lakeside Ladies	Robert O Beasley, Esq
Matt McKeegan Bail Bonds	Return to Health Chiropractic
Hafner's Lawn and Supply	Derrel's
Fusion Wine & Spirits	Paradise Screen Printing
Comprehensive Dental Center	Arista Builders
Southern Site & Utility Design	Gulf Coast Led Lighting
Rollo's Seafood	Eddie English
Primerica – Margarita Vazquez	Eddie Hobbs Automotive
Three Tokes Over the Line	Reeder Financial Group
Redneck Riviera Smokers	Fish the Bite
Three Rivers RC&D	Taco Town
Hewes and Company	JHawk Group

COXSWAINS CORNER

Spring is Sprung – Don't get Stung!

For many of us, our boats have sat mostly idle for the last several months. With the weather turning warmer, it's time to get out and cruise the Blackwater! Here are a few tips to be sure your boat has weathered the winter and is ready for safe operation this spring.

Check Life Jackets: Life jackets are the most important piece of safety equipment on your boat. Ensure that they are still serviceable, with no rips, tears or other defects. Also make sure the kids' jackets still fit properly.

Check Fire Extinguisher: Fire extinguishers have a habit of discharging over the winter. Make sure you have a fire extinguisher in your boat and that it is still charged.

Charge Batteries: This is an important and often overlooked issue. Check Water in batteries if not the Maintenance-Free variety. No power, no boating. Charge batteries and make sure they hold that charge.

Electronics and Lights: Electronics can fail over the winter even without use. You should also make sure your navigation lights still work and examine exposed wiring for cracks and wear. Make sure that your boat's bilge pump still works.

Gas up: It's always a good idea to replace the gas from last year. Make sure your fuel lines are connected properly and have no cracks or damage. It's also smart to consider a fuel additive and checking/changing the fuel/water separator.

The Hull: Just walk around the hull to make sure it's not cracked or damaged. A lot can happen in a year. Also, make sure you have the plug for your boat and it is in good condition.

Registration: Boat registrations expire every 1 or 2 years. Make sure you get a current decal on your boat before heading out, and that the new registration slip is on your vessel!

Tune-up the Trailer: Check the trailer tires, lights, rollers, and brakes. Check and lubricate the wheel bearings and winch. Also, inspect the winch cable, hooks and safety chains or straps to be sure they are in good condition.

Plan to have your boat inspected at Carpenter's Park on Saturday May 17th!

Keep Boatin' and Stay Safe - Woody

