

# Pirate News



The 5th day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Two, Mill Town, Florida

## Pirates with a Purpose

The Blackwater Pyrates are definitely Pirates with a Purpose. Together, this organization carries out a three fold mission; Boater Safety, River Clean-Up and Maritime History Preservation. In order to accomplish our mission, our all volunteer group of pirates come together to put on a race like no other (at least not around these parts). The Annual Fourth of July Great Mill Town Duck Race!

Now you may think that I am just preaching to the choir with the above paragraph, but let me assure you that I am not a Preacher and this group is not filled with choir singers. 😊

Our “little” group of rascally pirates has grown larger and stronger than ever. We are now north of 170 members and we continue to grow stronger in our desire to give back to the local community through our actions. Without the dedicated groups of individuals working tirelessly in the background, none of our core missions would ever be accomplished.

The Code identifies what the Event Leaders and Crew Positions consist of however, it never really details who the amazing individuals are who give their time (and often times personal funds) to ensuring the events and necessary operations are completed seamlessly. These dedicated groups of individuals deserve much more credit then they typically receive. Without these amazing volunteers, the Captain would be left to steer a rudderless ship. So let me introduce you to a few of these pirates.

The Annual Fourth of July Great Mill Town Duck Race is the largest of our events, and our only true fundraiser. This event requires the coordination of many smaller groups of Blackwater Pyrates including (but not limited to) the Duck Committee, the Technical Crew, the Safety Officer and Team, the Merchandise Leader and many, many others.

Although the Captain is overall responsible for the entire Blackwater Pyrates operation, the Duck Diva/King is the pirate that drives the process, and the Duck Committee are the individuals who ensure the process is successful. This year we have a group of about 12 volunteers that make up this committee.

Now let me tell you this, gaining access to one of their Duck Committee meetings is more difficult than gaining access to a group of Masons. I truly believe that they have their own secret duck walk (or wattle) and if you don't know it, you ain't getting in.

# Pirates with a Purpose

This year the Duck Committee started meeting in January in preparation for the July 4th event. As the Duck Diva, SasSea works directly with the top dog (or duck) of the Duck Committee, Terra. Together, they coordinate the efforts of Vixen, Sea Ray, Diver Diva, Coral Reef, Kolea, Frenchie, Devil Rae, Snooky, Bottoms Up and Lady Belle. Talk about wrangling cats!

Another important committee needed for ensuring a safe and successful Duck Race is our all encompassing Safety Committee. This committee is spearheaded by our Coxswain, Way Big Tom and includes several dedicated crew members.

The Safety Committee is new to the Pirates, but has quickly grown into a very integral part of the Blackwater Pirates. Originally conceived by Way Big Tom, the committee was created to keep with the safety concepts that have always been among the core foundations of our organization.

Members of the committee include Way Big Tom, Hands, J Hawk, Scooter, Bear Claw, Grape Shot, Maltease, 2- Noodles, Ruby Red, Stew Burner, Leatherneck and Capt Lucky. The committee talks with the event leaders and completes a pre-event walk-thru to ensure all safety concerns are identified and proper precautions are put in place. They also provide an emergency first aid kit the day of the event to help reduce the impact of unexpected accidents during the events.

The Safety Committee, or HSEC, has become a terrific addition to the already safety conscience Blackwater Pirates. Thank you to Way Big Tom for identifying a need and becoming a driving force for organizing and coordinating this dedicated team.

The Technical Team has been a part of the Pirates since the beginning. The Legacy Pirates utilized the skills of a few crafty individuals to help construct the Blackwater Pearl, the Duck Race chute, the original Duck trailer and numerous other creations that remain today in original or improved form.

Today our Technical Team is led by a previous captain, Captain Fins Up. He is aided by 2-Noodles and Scooter, as well as several previous captains and Legacy Pirates. This team ensures that every event has the equipment needed to represent the Blackwater Pirates properly. The team organizes a group of volunteers to “string noodles,” creating the race track for our annual 4th of July event. They ensure Stewey (our great yellow duck mascot) is properly secured and inflated for all to see.

Additionally, the team ensures that adequate equipment is present at each event including (but not limited to) our popup tents, tables, chairs, lighting as necessary and even our duck trailer. But let’s not forget the largest prop, the Blackwater Pearl.

The Blackwater Pearl was created by those same Legacy Pirates who conceived the duck race chute. She is about 75 ft long and 20 feet tall and mounted atop a double axle trailer like none other. This is truly the 8th wonder of the world and the most requested Blackwater Pirate prop for any event.

# Pyrates with a Purpose

The Blackwater Pearl was originally constructed with parades in mind. In fact, in the early years the Pearl was utilized for parade activities. Unfortunately, as the Pearl aged, the more unstable she became (like many previous captains 😊). Finally, to protect the safety of the crew and parade observers, the Blackwater Pearl was retired from parade activity. Today, the Pearl is only towed by a professional tow truck driver and is utilized as a fixed (not mobile) symbol of the Blackwater Pyrates.

In 2020, the Technical Team took on the project of beautifying the once great ship. Teams of volunteers removed years of worn railing and trim boards. They sanded down some of the rough spots, sealed up some of the leaks, and installed new cannons and trim throughout the exterior of the hull. New lights were added to the trailer and the tires were repaired and/or replaced. Finally a new coat of paint was applied and suddenly our once great ship was back looking young as ever.



The Blackwater Pearl in 2020 prior to restoration



The Blackwater Pearl and Pyrates at the 2021 Ghost Walk

Although looking young as ever, the ship remains to unstable for parades. Care must be taken anytime personnel are on deck to ensure their safety.

Our ship has been the focal point of many events including the Ghost Walk, Milton Arts Festival, the Renaissance Faire and the 4th of July event. With the proper amount of care from the technical team and volunteers, we anticipate many more years of service from this fine vessel.



# Pirates with a Purpose

Although January is generally a slow time for the Blackwater Pyrates, an amazing thing happened in 2022. Captain Murky decided that the Pyrates would challenge a much younger group of pirates to a duel. And on a beautifully sunny Saturday afternoon, the Blackwater Pyrates rose to the challenge.



With swords and muskets drawn, the Blackwater Pyrates attacked the younger more agile pirates. Unfortunately for the Blackwater Pyrates, gloves and bats were the weapons of choice and younger legs and muscles were definitely needed to withstand the attack.



Yes, the duel was a battle to the death on the softball field. Although the mighty Blackwater Pyrates kept it interesting for several innings, the “kid” pirates showed off their youth and gave the once mighty masters of the sea a lesson in humility for land lovers.

As the games concluded, the group of Pyrates and Pirates joined forces to attack the keeper of the grog. With a solid cry of arrgh from the crowd (and a few muffled cries of owww) the group vowed to meet again some day. A good day for Milton.

# 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 16 New Member Party 20 General Mtg 23 River Clean Up/Earth Day *
May	June	July	August
7 Skull Island Retreat 11 Booty Council 14 WWSRE 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	4 Great Mill Town Duck Race*** 9 Blues Cruise 13 Booty Council 20 General Mtg- Membership Dues	6 Lighted Boat Parade 10 Booty Council 17 General Mtg 20 Destin Crawl ? Boater Safety Class
September	October	November	December
10 History Lecture* 14 Booty Council 17 Upper River Clean Up * 21 General Mtg	12 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 January 13, 2022

\*\*\*All Crew Participation

**We are Pyrates with a Purpose! Guardians of the Blackwater**







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Coastal Canvas of Pensacola

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Cosse's Place

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Mason's Restaurant

Milton Animal Hospital – Dr. Loper

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*The  
Great Mill Town  
Duck Race*





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Angels Care Home Health  
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Blackwater Bay Tours  
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Hanley Trailer Sales  
HBM – Home – Business – Merchandise  
Howard Young Flooring  
I ♥ Milton  
Jones Fence  
K&B Café & Vintage Boutique



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## **Helmsman Level \$100**

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Krystal – Milton  
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Leek Small Engine Repair  
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Mike Ryan's Truck & Auto Accessories  
Miley's Garage  
Milton Garden Club  
Mountains & Mermaids  
Muddy Paws Grooming by Haylee & Company  
Nick Cote's Certified Transmissions  
Ollie's Neighborhood Grill  
Oscity Labs – Southern Star Farms  
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Remax – Horizons Property Management  
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