



Pirate News

The 25th day of September in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Five, Mill Town, Florida

Captains Log 09.25.2025

Good afternoon Blackwater Pyrates. September is here and football is in the air, some of our Pyrates are happy and some, not so much, especially if you are a Dolphins Fan like me! The weather is absolutely great with lower temps and cooler evenings but there is still gas in our boats and several more weeks to spend on the water.

September is generally a quiet month for us Pyrates, we conduct the Upper River Cleanup and then take the rest of the month to relax and recuperate, Winter will soon be upon Northwest Florida or maybe it skips us this year! That's the beauty of living in NW Florida, no one saw 10" of snow on the ground last year. If I have a vote, it's for no snow ever! I would like to see sunny and 80* for the rest of my lifetime!

We did conduct our Upper River Cleanup on September 13th and it was an amazing success, at least 45 Pyrates were involved and thanks to Captain Murky's foresight, the area we cleaned was badly in need of some Pirate attention. 43 bags of trash, 4 tires, 5 multi-person rafts and 22 pair of shoes were recovered along the route. Some reports have said that we could have picked up more trash but ran out room on the canoes and kayaks.

It is absolutely infuriating that some of the people enjoying our rivers and beaches treat them like a garbage can. That is why I'm proud to belong to the Blackwater Pyrates, we care and we show our community that we care by way of action, Bob's Canoe is now offering 6 free canoe rentals to any other group that would also like to cleanup the river.

That is a direct result of Pyrates with a Purpose showing the community how to protect our precious resources. We have a number of Pyrates that were born and raised here in Milton or NW Florida and we remember when it was pristine and almost untouched.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the cleanup, Captain Lucky took the time to grill burgers and hot dogs at the Blackwater River State Park after the cleanup and I hope everyone had a chance to go out and visit and grab some food! Special thanks to the Crew who disposed of all the trash collected. Once again Pyrates, you are an amazing group of people! Take care of each other and be safe! Captain Stewburner



Left: Offload of the garbage!

Right: aerial view of the crew getting set.

Pirates in action!!



Devil Rae and Sandy Bottom enjoying the after Cleanup activities!





Here are some various pictures of our very successful Upper River Cleanup, since I wasn't here to show everyone how to tip a canoe, someone else stepped in to do the job!

Hands is showing off his 36# Redfish, it has nothing to do with the river cleanup but he was so damn proud of the fish I had to include the picture, at that size, they aren't keepers Hands tossed him back. Barnacle continues his work on the Blackwater Pearl, LT Dan's got legs!!! She is fully towable by a 1 ton truck which saves us dollars! BZ Barnacle.





Top Left: Woody and Big Al navigating the river.

Above: Break time for the Pyrates!!

Top Right: Red Baron and Snoopy relaxing after the clean-up.

Left: Resting on the beach!

Right: Capt. Hook Em Dano has boat tours for sale!!!



Slim Shady and Water Baby goofing for the camera.

New members, L-R, Beachcomber, Davy Jones, Coral with Frenchie and Captain Stewburner.



COXSWAINS CORNER

Keep those trailer tires turning with a good dose of the proper lubrication.

When you're hauling an average boat trailer with 28-inch tires down the highway at 60 mph, those wheels are spinning around about a dozen times per second. If they're not properly lubricated, there's a very good chance your boat trailer will one day be sitting on the side of the road instead of cruising along atop it. If that happens, we sure hope you have BoatUS TRAILER ASSIST® so you can get *Mom's Mink* towed to the nearest service station ASAP. Even if you do, however, canceling a day of boating due to a blown-out wheel bearing is no fun at all.

Retaining Rotation

The best way you can make sure your trailer wheel bearings remain in good shape is preventive maintenance, and a big part of that is making sure they're properly lubed. But that doesn't mean grabbing any old grease gun and pumping any old grease into the bearings.

Choose Your Weapon

Grease and grease guns are old tech, and Hoover mentions that there haven't been any Earth-shattering changes in their makeup, nor any modern developments that have shuffled this slippery deck in recent years. There are numerous greases specifically manufactured for use in trailer bearings. But the gun you choose can make a difference. For the average trailer boater, the newer pneumatic and battery-powered grease guns are overkill. They're intended to allow you to pump grease rapidly and in large quantities. If you're not experienced in using them, they can lead to overfilling and seal damage. It's also unnecessary to buy a flexible hose grease gun, which is best for tough-to-reach fittings, because trailer wheel bearings are easily accessible and fixed tube guns can be operated one-handed once the barrel is seated on the fitting. So, even though it's dated, that ancient, inexpensive pump-gun with a 90-degree fixed tube is still the best tool for the job. Also note that having protectors is always a good move. The spring-loaded variety is generally considered best because they minimally pressurize the bearing to help keep water and dirt intrusion to a minimum. They also make it easier to visually inspect for grease level.

Slippery Slope

Just how important is it to make sure those bearings are ready to roll? Bearing failure is perpetually among the top-ranked reasons a trailer-related claim gets filed with GEICO, and in 2021, accounted for 11% of all mechanical trailer failure claims (excluding collisions). The word "critical" would certainly seem to apply.

2025 Great Milltown Duck Race

Title Sponsor



Team Bruce Baker, MBA – RE/MAX Infinity

*****2025 Title Sponsor !*****

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Billy Clark Bail Bonds / Milton Animal Hospital - Dr. Loper

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Daren Spicer We Insure Spicer Agcy	Meronjo 2
Matt McKeehan Bail Bonds	Emerald Bay Boat Works
Cindy Cotton	Hewes and Company
J Hawk Group	Mason's Restaurant
The Oval Office	Return to Health Chiropractic

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 * Pirate Event 22 Earth Day
May	June	July	August
08 Booty Council 10 New Member Party Pirate 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
09 Booty Council 13 Upper River Clean Up * Pirate Event 17 General Membership Mtg	04 Pyrate Festival 09 Booty Council 15 General Membership Mtg/ Nominations for Captain 25 Trunk or Treat Haunted House	15 Blues Cruise 13 Booty Council 19 General Mtg/vote for new Captain 22 Second Annual Bowling event 27 Thanksgiving at Community Center	06 Christmas Lighted Boat Parade 10 Caroling with the Pyrates 17 Annual Budget Meeting 31 Red Solo Cup

*Core Mission / Pirate Event Revised September 2025 ***All Crew Participation

