



Pyrate News

The 16th day of December in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Three, Mill Town, Florida

Captains Log 12.16.2023

It's finally here. My final day as the Captain of the Blackwater Pyrates is quickly approaching. There are only a few things remaining and then our newest Captain will take over the helm of the Blackwater Pearl and we will set sail on our next adventure.

Captain (elect) Stew Burner was unanimously elected to be our next Captain and he will accept the Command Flag from Captain Lucky on January 6th. The Change of Command ceremony will be held on the Milton Waterfront Boardwalk at approximately 1500 (3:00 pm) as directed by The Code. All Pyrates are requested to attend and celebrate our incoming Captain as he accepts the difficult role of leading this motley crew into the future.

As with all the Captains before me, my time has been filled with both highs and lows. Although the highs have far outweighed the lows in quantity, the passing of Captain Blackwater Bones was by far one of my lowest moments. The passing of any Pyrate is always a low moment in the career of any Blackwater Pyrate Captain however, the passing of my friend and mentor, Captain Blackwater Bones, was extremely difficult. I give one final salute to our founding father, Captain Blackwater Bones.



Captains Log 12.16.2023

As the Captain, I have had the pleasure of working with a great group of volunteers and together we have had some amazing accomplishments. We have increased our duck adoptions (sales) from 4500 to 6000, which has helped us keep up with our growing overhead costs as well as expand our organizational impact on the community. As the Duck Race is our only fundraiser, the increase in ducks entering the race is a major accomplishment for the Pyrates and allows us to accomplish many great things for and with our community.

Over the last three years we have also increased the number of volunteers who are participating in our mission related events including the Maritime History Presentation, the Ghost Walk, both River Clean Ups (Upper and Lower) as well as Boater Safety Inspections and Training projects. Without the influx of “new blood,” continuing to participate in these events would become overwhelming and almost impossible.

Working with the Duck Committee and Pyrate Captain Elect, plans are currently in place to increase our prize fund for the annual Great Mill Town Duck Race. We are also utilizing these funds to increase our Grants Fund and allow for additional assistance to the students looking to further their education.

With the expansion of the role of our Public Relations Position to include Community Outreach, we are increasing our participation in numerous smaller events including the annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event held by the City of Milton. Our Liaison already has visions of future joint efforts involving the Milton and Bagdad areas.

We have also been involved in several events sponsored by other local organizations such as the Krewe of Airship Pirates Annual Crawfish Cookoff, The Krewe of Vixens Bowling Tournament, and The Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce annual Golf Event. The list goes on and on.

Every year I am receiving more and more phone calls and email requesting the Blackwater Pyrates participate in these events. Although the Blackwater Pyrates do not sponsor these events, we have become well known for bringing numerous teams to these events. The name Blackwater Pyrates may not bring fear to those participating in the events, but we can always be counted on to bring fun and excitement to the venues.

Captains Log 12.16.2023

As my tenure as the Captain comes to a close, I look back on the number of newer Pyrates who have stepped up and taken on the challenges of both participating in, and leading events. We have increased our Booty Council members and have provided the opportunity for a some newer Pyrates to actively help determine the methods by which we spend our funds as they “take a look behind the curtain” and see what it takes to run this organization.

Booty Council

Chairperson	Capt Lucky (Larry McKee)
Treasurer	Devil Rae (Tammy Wilson)
Council Member	Sea Ray (Cheryl Ray)
Council Member	Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell)
Council Member	Vixen (Vickie Bennett)
Council Member	Rambob (Bob Tucker)
Council Member	Fancy Nancy (Nancy Roberts)
Council Member	Hands (David Snellgrove)



And as the new Captain works to place his stamp on the organization, changes will continue and our leadership will evolve. Several of the Booty Council Members will step aside and allow a new group to take on these important roles.

Additionally, a new group of Officers will step into the boots of our existing Quartermaster and



Coxswain as Stew Burner and Slimshady take on new roles of Captain and Winch extraordinaire. You can determine which is which (or Winch).

Captains Log 12.16.2023

Also, our Pyrate Crew Positions are ever changing. Only a few brave souls continue leading for more than a two year term. Generally, those individuals need additional psychological assistance after a short time. Seriously though, it is rare that anyone continues with any leadership role for more than a single 2 year term. Those dedicated Pyrates deserve admiration and appreciation from all other Pyrates. These are all very thankless jobs, involving countless hours of work. The majority of their effort are lost to the average Pyrate, but the Captain cannot do his or her job without them.

Crew Positions	
Facebook	Diver Diva (Pam Kottler)
Grants	Fancy Nancy (Nancy Roberts)
Historian	J Hawk (Judy Gray)
Keeper of the Code	Stewey's Dad (Dan Stewart)
Maritime History	Big Al (Jody Conrad)
Membership	Vixen (Vickie Bennett)
Merchandise	Jody Trabue (Bear Claw)
Public Relations	Big Al (Jody Conrad)
Safety Committee	Stew Burner (Kevin Simmons)
Salvage	As needed
Technical Crew	Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell)
Treasurer	Devil Rae (Tammy Wilson)
Webpage	Goober & Squishy (Ryan & Carissa Miller)

Captains Log 12.16.2023

Almost every Year we will have some subtle but important and impacting changes to our Event Leadership Positions. This year will be no exception. I am including our current Event Leaders below and I will be thanking each of them individually for their participation and leadership roles during my time as their Captain. Some will continue and others will watch and help mentor the new group that take on the challenges that only the leaders have truly seen.

A Captain is only as good as the Crew he or she tries to lead. This was a great group and this Captain was "Lucky" to have been a part of it. Thank you to everyone who helped keep me, and our ship, afloat and moving in the right direction.

Event Leaders

Blessing of the Fleet	Deacon Blues (Phil Czajkowski)
Boater Safety	Woody (Chris Conrad)
Caroling w/Pyrates	Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell)
Change of Command	Pepperhead (Ed Spencer)
Duck Diva/King	SasSea (Vicki McKee)
Duck Race Committee	Terra (Teresa McCombs)
Ghost Walk	Big Al (Jody Conrad)
Lighted Boat Parades	Terra (Teresa McCombs)
Lower River Clean Up	Hands (David Snellgrove)
New Member Party	Vixen (Vickie Bennett)
Renaissance Faire	Frenchie (Michele Kiker)
Rumfest	SasSea (Vicki McKee)
Skull Island Retreat	Slim Shady (Donna Tucker)
Upper River Clean Up	Capt Murky (Mark Flores)
WWSRE	Barnacle Bailey (Roger Bailey)

Coxswains Corner

BOATU.S. FOUNDATION

BY RICH ARMSTRONG

Wrong answer? Try again

We look at the top 10 questions students answer incorrectly on a variety of BoatU.S. Foundation online course tests. How does your knowledge stack up?



GETTY IMAGES/SIMON R

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water promotes safe, clean, and responsible boating. The nonprofit arm of BoatU.S. provides educational outreach to boaters and anglers with the purpose of reducing accidents and fatalities, increasing stewardship of America's waterways, and keeping boating safe for all.

To that end, the Foundation offers a range of online and on-water boating safety training courses – including 36 free state courses – that can be found at [BoatUS.org/Courses](https://www.boatus.org/Courses). More than 171,000 people took the free boating certification courses last year.

Beyond the free courses, the Foundation offers 14 specialized courses for a fee ranging from \$8.50 to \$40, including Modern Marine Navigation, How to Use GPS, and Planning Your Cruise.

"Our students often start with the basic course and get excit-

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Safety & Clean Water is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping boating safe and clean. It is independently funded by donations from BoatU.S. members and grants.

Coxswains Corner

BOATU.S. FOUNDATION

ed to learn more," says Amanda Suttles Pérez, the Foundation's Director of Education. "With all the courses we offer, there is something for everyone, whether your interests are offshore cruising, inland boating, sail, or power – we have courses to help you expand your knowledge and grow in confidence."

While the courses are designed to educate, Pérez notes certain questions seem to consistently get the better of test-takers. She hears grumbling from some students, but there's only one correct answer.

Can you get them right? Test your knowledge with these 10 questions most often answered incorrectly. You'll find the correct answers on page 35.

1. Air moves from _____ to _____?

- a. East to west
- b. High to low pressure areas
- c. Low to high-pressure areas
- d. Land to water

(From "Weather for Boaters")

2. True or false: One desirable feature of LPG is that it liquefies at a relatively low pressure, allowing low-cost tanks to contain a large amount of energy because liquid is much denser than gas.

- True
- False

(From "Propane Systems on your Boat")

3. The Q flag used for foreign port entry means:

- a. We need immediate medical attention
- b. Vessel is healthy, request approval to enter
- c. We have no pets aboard
- d. We have nothing to declare

(From "Planning Your Cruise")

4. True or false: AIS uses VHF radio frequencies to broadcast the AIS information.

- True
- False

(From "AIS Electronics for Boaters")

5. The difference between compass variation and deviation is:

- a. Variation is caused by the effects of the magnetic properties of the vessel, where deviation is caused by the misalignment of the magnetic lines of force with the meridians of longitude.
- b. Variation is caused by the misalignment of the magnetic lines of force with the meridians of longitude; Deviation is caused by the effects of the magnetic properties of the vessel.
- c. Variation depends upon the vessel's location; deviation depends upon the vessel's heading.
- d. There is no difference.

(From "Modern Marine Navigation")

6. True or false: It makes little difference whether statute miles or nautical miles are selected during setup of the GPS, because they are very similar.

- True
- False

(From "How To Use GPS")

7. What does a Cunningham do?

- a. Changes the location of draft in the mainsail
- b. Changes the amount of draft in the mainsail
- c. Secures the mainsail tack to the mast
- d. Affects the amount of twist in the mainsail

(From "Learn to Sail")

8. Match the VHF channel on the left to the channel descriptions on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A. _____ Channel 16 | 1. Weather information |
| B. _____ Channel 9 | 2. Ship-to-ship safety |
| C. _____ Channels 68, 69, 71, 78, 72 | 3. Navigation safety; ship-to-ship, locks, bridges |
| D. _____ Channel 6 | 4. Alternate hailing channel |
| E. _____ Channel 13 | 5. Primary hailing channel; emergency, distress |
| F. _____ Channel WX2 | 6. Working channels for recreational boaters |

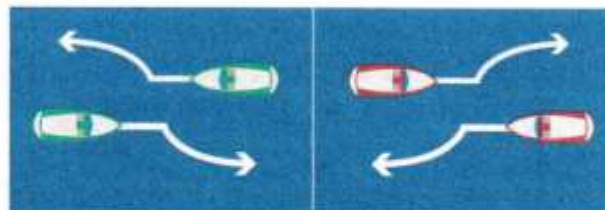
(From "All About Marine Radio")

9. Which of the following will increase the effects of alcohol and drugs when boating?

- a. Vibration
- b. Food
- c. Spray
- d. Temperature

(From "Basic Boating Course")

10. When power-driven vessels are in sight of one another and meeting or crossing at a distance within half a mile of each other, each vessel must use sound signals. What do two short horn blasts from another vessel mean in a meeting situation?



- a. They intend to pass starboard side to starboard side
- b. They intend to pass port side to port side
- c. They intend to maintain course and speed
- d. They intend to immediately stop and reverse engines

(From "Basic Boating Course")

Find out how you did using the answer key at right.




Now is the time to take a class!

It may not feel like boating season yet, but the BoatU.S. Foundation for Safety & Clean Water urges boaters to enroll in a boating education course.

"We recommend that boaters get educated prior to the kickoff of the boating season to make the most of your time on the water," says Amanda Suttles Pérez, Director of Education for the BoatU.S. Foundation.

"Statistics show that taking a boating education course will make you a better – and safer – boater," she explains. "Even seasoned boaters can spend the off season brushing up on their knowledge of safe boat operation."

As an incentive, the Foundation is offering 25% off all its specialized courses purchased through March 31, 2020, using the code **SPRING25** (BoatUS.org/Courses). In addition, the Foundation will also offer \$25 off any BoatU.S. Foundation on-water training courses purchased during the same time period (BoatUS.org/On-Water). – R.A. 

ANSWER KEY

1. B. High- to low-pressure areas. The uneven heating of the earth's surface by the sun creates different pressure areas that cause air to move – the wind to blow.
2. True. Also of value is that the vapor, which forms in the top of the tank, is drawn off as a gas, which is easier to ignite than a liquid like gasoline.
3. B. Vessel is healthy, request approval to enter (also known as "free pratique")



heading. Among students incorrectly answering, it's about evenly split between A and C.

4. True. AIS uses the VHF frequencies 161.975 MHz and 162.025 MHz to broadcast and receive the AIS information.
5. B. Variation is caused by the misalignment of the magnetic lines of force with the meridians of longitude, whereas deviation is caused by the effects of the magnetic properties of the vessel. Variation depends upon the vessel's location; Deviation depends upon the vessel's heading.
6. False. The nautical mile represents a distance that is about 15% greater than the statute mile. This difference is significant, particularly when navigating close to shore in conditions of reduced visibility, such as fog.
7. B. The Cunningham changes the location of draft in the mainsail.
8. A: 5, B: 4, C: 6, D: 2, E: 3, F: 1
9. A. People often choose temperature, thinking it means "heat." They will argue with us endlessly, though the course specifically mentions boater fatigue in relationship to engine noise and vibration.
10. A. Two short horn blasts from another vessel mean they intend to pass starboard side to starboard side.



HarborHoist

BY HYDROHOIST BOAT LIFTS

- ▶ Up to 25,000 lb. lifting capacity
- ▶ User friendly operation
- ▶ Expandable capacity (add capacity at later time)
- ▶ Level lifting
- ▶ Simply tie to dock/piling
- ▶ Anti-skid walkway runs the length of the lift

HP SERIES

HYDROPORT™ PWC Docking Platforms

- ▶ Up to 2,000 lb. lifting capacity
- ▶ Wide anti-skid walkways for access around vessel
- ▶ Easiest load and launch PWC platform on the market
- ▶ Available HP EPIC™, HP Extreme™, and HP Pro™

GET A QUOTE TODAY!

800.825.3379 boatlift.com
sales1@boatlift.com



HydroHoist
BOAT LIFTS

Blackwater Pyrates 2023

January	February	March	April
8 (Not) Change of Command 11 Scholarship Mtg 12 Booty Council 18 General Mtg	4 Milton Mardis Gras Parade – Krewe of Airship Pirates 4 Mardis Gras Flotilla - POLT 9 Booty Council 15 General Mtg	4-5 Renaissance Fair – Duck Adoptions 8 Safety Mtg 9 Booty Council 15 General Mtg – Crew Duck Adoptions Begin 18 WWSRE	8 Poker Run 12 Safety Mtg 13 Booty Council 19 General Mtg 22 River Clean Up/Earth Day *
May	June	July	August
6 New Member Party 10 Safety Mtg 11 Booty Council 17 General Mtg 20 Blessing of the Fleet USCG Boat Insp 22-23 Boater Safety Class	3 Lighted Boat Parade in Ward Basin 14 Safety Mtg 15 Booty Council 21 General Mtg Duck adoption paperwork and \$\$\$ due	4 Great Mill Town Duck Race*** 8 Blues Cruise 12 Safety Mtg 13 Booty Council 19 General Mtg- Membership Dues	5 Lighted Boat Parade 9 Scholarship Mtg 10 Booty Council 16 General Mtg 19 Destin Crawl
September	October	November	December
13 Safety Mtg 14 Booty Council & Scholarship Mtg 16 Upper River Clean Up * 20 General Mtg 23 History Lecture*	7 Skull Island Retreat to be rescheduled. 12 Booty Council 14 Oktoberfest 18 General Mtg- Scholarship Award 20/21 Ghost Walk	4 Blues Cruise 8 Safety Mtg 9 Booty Council 15 General Mtg & Captain Election	1 Christmas Lighted Boat Parade 4 Budget Meeting 6 Budget Meeting 13 Caroling with the Pyrates 20 Caroling with the Pyrates 31 Red Solo Cup

*Core Mission

Revised November 12, 2023

***All Crew Participation





Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Title Sponsor



Team Bruce Baker, MBA—RE/MAX Infinity

Admiral Level Sponsor \$2500

Cat Country 98.7 (in-kind)



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Captain Level Sponsor \$1000

Milton Animal Hospital—Dr. Loper
Billy Clark Bailbonds

First Mate Level Sponsor \$500

Advance Insurance of NWFL
Blackwater Bistro (in-kind)
Edward Jones—Derek Park, AAMS
General Rental Center
Krewe of Airship Pirates (in-kind)
RM Integrations



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Navigator Level Sponsor \$101—\$499

2 Gauge Marine & Trailer

A Rustyc Spoon

All-Pro Tune Up

Arista Builders, LLC

Armor Service Group, LLC

Angels Care Home Health

Bailey Testing, LLC

Beardless Brewhaus

Blackwater Bay Tours

Boomerang Pizza

Brew Angels

Dragon Express Catering

Harold Store

Howard Young Flooring

Legacy Insurance Brokers

Mason's Restaurant

Matt McKeehan Bail Bonds

McKenzie Motors

Milton Garden Club

Muddy Paws Grooming by Haylee & Co.

Once Was Blind, LLC

Redneck Riviera Smokers

Rollo's Seafood

Return To Health - Dr. David Snellgrove

Service Matters Realty - Team Morgan - Byrd

Sorensen Rentals

T&A American Care

Texas Roadhouse

The Country Gym

Vaughn's Pools

Whip-It Inventions, Inc



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Helmsmen Level Sponsor \$100

82 Magnolia Aesthetics

Ace's Restaurant

Acuff ADR, LLC

Audio Video Installations

Avalon Custom Woodworking

Blackmon Lawn Service

Coastal Canvas of Pensacola

Councilman Mike Cusack

DeLuna's Hideout Oyster Bar & Grill

Denniels Monogramming

Eddie English Co., Inc

Eddie Hobbs Automotive

Edward's Pipe & Tobacco Shop

El Paso Mexican Restaurant

Fish the Bite

Fusion Fine Wine & Spirits

Gulf Coast Garage Patio Bar

Gulf Coast LED Lighting, LLC

Hewes & Company

Howard Steele General Contractor

Jones Fence Company

Karen Bowers

Leek Small Engine Repair

Lunsford Air Conditioning & Heating

Mayor Heather Lindsay

Miley's Garage



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Helmsmen Level Sponsor \$100

Nick Cote's Certified Transmission

Robert O. Beasley, P.A.

Ollie's Neighborhood Bar & Grill

Smoothie King (in-kind)

Oscity Labs

The Country Gym

Palm Creek Plaza

The Oval Office

Pensacola Bay Brewery

Three Rivers RC&D

Primerica—Margarita Vazquez

Waterworks Sprinkler Systems

Ritchey's Service Center, LLC

Wicked Dragon Productions



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*