



# Pirate News

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

## Captains Log 06.25.2025

Good afternoon Pyrates, in a few short weeks we be fulfilling our primary fund raising goal by dropping 6000 ducks in the Blackwater River, it's An event known as The Great Milltown Duck Race.

This tradition was started by Capt Blackwater Bones, Rumfront, Capt Hook Em Dano and Greybeard, and a few more Pyrates looking for fun in 2007, they came up with the wild idea of having a duck race, the original idea came from Rumfront who brought it from Colorado. According to Capt Hook Em Dano, 500 ducks were dropped off of the bridge, the front end loader dropped the ducks too early and the Capt Bones was a little pissed to say the least!! The rich history of the Blackwater Pyrates makes for many tales to be told at Skull Island!!

After 18 years, the duck race has become our only fund raiser and has grown to 6000 ducks racing down the river. It still seems at times that we are still semi organized but the reality is that the race is very tightly controlled until the ducks jump the track. Then, its all chaos but, Pyrates manage to corral the ducks and put them away for inventory and cleaning in preparation of next years race.

As any Pirate that has worked the race will tell you, it's hot and it's a lot of work but, it is well worth the end result. So if I'm writing about the duck race it can mean only one thing, it's June and the pressure is on to get our duck sheets turned in and get ready for the big race. We'll take care of the planning details and set up times at our next general meeting and put the finishing touches on the race at the end of June. For now Pyrates, enjoy the sun and the water, try and run some of that winter gas out of your boat while your at it!

We conducted our Ward Basin Lighted Boat Parade on June 7th and even though we only had a few boats we still had a blast!! There was an abundance of snacks, appetizers and drinks to share. Captain Murky visited us from Wrights Basin on his jet ski and offered rides to any brave soul willing to take him up on it! Captain Fins Up lead the parade around the basin.

As we enter in to the heart of summer, take care to remember that the kids are out of school and are probably enjoying our waterways here, keep safe on the water and if you get stranded, call a fellow Pyrate. I know that I have in the past and was so grateful for the help.

The Blues Cruise will be coming up after the Duck Race on 12 July, if you haven't participated make plans to do so!! We anchor in Blackwater Bones Cove, formerly named Pirates Cove, which is due west of the Garcon Point Bridge. It is an absolute thrill to sit under the Blue Angels when they fly over us setting up their next formation. Be safe Pyrates!

Captain Stewburner



Last year's Blues Cruise anchorage, from the angle of the photo there's a dozen boats anchored behind the photographer!







Emergency news announcement: the sailboat in Escambia Bay has moved 😊 maybe people will quit calling police about it now



A few pictures of our Little town's beauty. Do you recognize the Sailboat above???







Top left: Golf or cocktails??? Top right: Captain Lucky, Coop, Lovie

The rest: 2025 Ward Basin Lighted Boat Parade pre-festivities!





Our Flag being displayed by Pepperhead in West Virginia and by Captain Fins Up in Trinidad California! She is a well traveled flag Pyrates!

Far left: Our new Skull Island transportation vessel??





Left: Red Wire, Scribbler and Captain Fins Up in Puget Sound, WA.



Left: Mason's Restaurant, Helmsman Level

Left: Ms. Deb, Oval Office, Helmsman Level.



Left: Fusion Fine Wine and Spirits, Inc. Helmsman Level.

Just a few of our local sponsors, Pyrates support local business'.



Left: June's meeting at the Hangar, new Pyrates, Buckshot, Ricochet and Blade. More fun at the meeting with Pyrates.

# If you're participating in water sports this summer, how's your knowledge of the waterway regs for where you're playing?

Years ago, on a hot, humid summer day in Maryland, Ted Sensenbrenner and his wife took the PWC out for a spin, towing their young twin girls on a tube behind it. The family was having a blast ... until they received an unexpected contact from a Department of Natural Resources officer. While towing from the PWC was fine, the problem was that it couldn't accommodate all four passengers. Even though the girls were on the tube and Sensenbrenner's wife was correctly spotting, Maryland law requires that everyone must be able to ride on the tow vessel, if necessary.

Thankfully Sensenbrenner, who's now our Boat U.S. Foundation director of boating safety, got off with only a warning – and a story to recount. It's likely that you aren't up on all the rules for the waterways you play in, either. That's not surprising: With so many different (and sometimes conflicting) federal, state, park authority, and even private waterway policies, it's hard to keep track, especially if you enjoy a variety of waterways in different states.

Unfortunately, there isn't really one central location for all the rules for boating and water sports, so you may need to do some digging. NASBLA, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, has useful interactive maps for state laws on its website (go to [nasbla.org](http://nasbla.org) and select Advocacy>State Boating Laws). But you might need to cross-reference several different maps depending on whether you're driving a boat or a PWC. However, the website also contains a caveat that laws and regulations are subject to change without notice and may not be up to date. So while it's a good starting point, be sure to check all federal, state, and local codes at least at the beginning of every season. Here are some of the main areas to review.

## Life Jackets and Spotters

While the U.S. Coast Guard recommends that anyone taking part in water skiing or other towed activities or operating a personal watercraft wear an approved and well-fitted life jacket, many states and national wildlife refuges require life-jacket wear for these activities. Check the label to ensure that life jacket is specified for water sports use (or riding PWCs). Inflatables generally don't comply. "Competition vests" shouldn't be worn for recreational water activities and don't meet Coast Guard requirements. Make sure you have enough right-size life jackets aboard for every passenger, and that may extend to PWCs as well. If you're not sure about life jacket rules, wear one and you'll always be on the right side of the law.



Some states require someone whose sole job it is to watch the person (s) at the end of the tow rope (or wake). Other states allow the boat operator to use a rear view mirror in lieu of a spotter. And sometimes a mirror is allowed on a powerboat but not on a PWC. If a mirror is allowed, check if there's a specified size or angle of view. For example, Michigan specifies the angle of view, while Pennsylvania specifies the minimum size of the mirror. Many states also specify the minimum age of the spotter, which could be 12 in one state but 16 in another. Whether the law requires one or not, we're Team Spotter all the way. This leaves the boat operator free to focus on driving, and it also means you have another person who can help with lines or to get someone back on board in case of emergency.

Some watersports can be quite divisive among boaters, so, before you pen a "get-off-my-lawn!" letter to the editor, let's review Boat U.S.' position: We promote access for all boaters and believe that no legal types of boats or activities should be discriminated against. That said, we also believe boaters should enjoy their activities in a safe manner and have respect for others' property and the environment.

Many waterways now have laws about how far you need to stay from shore and/or structures like docks, bulkheads, buoys; minimum water depth; no-wake zones; and areas that are off limits to tow sports. If there's no legal mandate and space allows, aim to stay at least 200 feet from the shoreline, docks, or other structures, with 500 feet being ideal for wake surf boats (according to a University of Minnesota study published in 2022). While it may not be a law, it's good etiquette to minimize the number of passes you make, especially while wake surfing. While you might love playing in the big waves, the guy whose boat is tied to his dock isn't going to be able to enjoy the water if it's swamped. Not to mention you're always responsible for your own wake. Where there aren't rules, "do unto others" is a solid guideline.

## Coxswains Corner June 2025





# 2025 Great Milltown Duck Race

## Title Sponsor



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

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Santa Rosa Mow Pro LLC	2 Guage Marine and Trailer

June 13th, 2025



## Blackwater Pyrates 2025

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

\*Core Mission / Pirate Event    Revised June 2025    \*\*\*All Crew Participation

