



# Pyrate News

The 15th day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Four, Mill Town, Florida

## Captains Log 03.15.2024

Captains and Crew of the Blackwater Pyrates, here we are smack in the middle of March. The Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire (GCRF) was a resounding success and to all the Volunteers, I say Thank You!

Goober reported that we adopted out 29 sheets of ducks over the weekend and once again made our mark on the GCRF. The sights and sounds were interesting and the vendors and displays delivered again but once more the live jousting stole the show along with the belly dancers next to us at our location.

Saturday started off foggy but it didn't slow down our volunteers, I want to thank 2 Noodles, Captain Fins Up and Goober, along with and in no particular order, the Saturday crew, Hands, Frenchie, Big Al, Woody, Lady Mary, Flossie, Coop, Lovie, B, Stormie, Blas (our crowd salesman on Saturday), Fancy Nancy, Dollar Bill, Orion, Zatarra and Firecracker.

Our Sunday weather was much better and our crew consisted of Devil Rae, Bearclaw, Lady Red, Benito Del Soto, Salty Bacon, Half Pint, Captain Fins Up, Goober, Coral Reef, Big Al, Woody and Hands who pitched in for breaking down and Ladybelle who introduced me to the vendor selling Pyrate attire.....thank you Devil Rae for looking out for me!!!

I sent out some news about The Hangar being sold and that nothing will be different for our meetings every month. Slim Shady also shared news that the Avalon Bowling Alley had been purchased as well!! Lots of good news for our local economy.

I had the privilege of awarding SasSea the Blackwater Bones Achievement Award for her outstanding work during her tenure as the Duck Diva.

Big Al set up a kids events station at the GCRF in front of The Pearl and the reception from kids and parents was overwhelming!! Teaching youngsters proper boater safety and keeping our rivers clean fits right in to our core missions. Good job Big Al!

Moving forward, we set our sights on our next general membership meeting. Our Duck Committee will be out in force handing out duck adoption sheets to every Pyrate. I ask that every Pyrate adopt out one or two sheets of Ducks. Every Pyrate that attends the meetings and adopts out two sheets will help us meet our goal of adopting 6000 ducks again this year.

Remember, this is our only fundraiser and the more involved we get the better the end result.

Duck King and Committee will design a shirt and Merchandise will offer for sale as soon as we get the design finalized. I ask that if you want one please sign up and be ready to pay when they arrive. My goal is to keep costs down and inventories low, so if you want one please pre-order from Bearclaw.

We will also hold a fire sale for the 2023 Duck Race shirts and some other gear at our March 20th General Meeting. Bearclaw will sell them at \$5 each.

A final word about getting involved in our Pyrate events, I deeply appreciate the turnout at the GCRF and without our volunteers we would not have enjoyed the success we had. That being said Crew, more is better, much more is way better. Get involved and have fun!! We have more than enough members to cover every need that we have.

I will start attaching the calendar to the newsletter starting with this one but circle 20 April 2024 for our next big core mission event, The Lower River Cleanup. Hands is our Event Leader and I understand that we will have some College Students joining us to help out. Reach out to Hands at our next meeting and sign up. We will need help in every aspect of the clean up.

Thank you all, for your involvement in the Pyrates and remember that we are Pyrates with a Purpose and the Guardians of the Blackwater River!!

Captain Stewburner



Left: Captain Stewburner presents the Blackwater Bones Achievement Award to SasSea, for serving as our Duck Diva for 5 years. SasSea, along with her Duck Committee was responsible for raising the total number of ducks adopted to 6000! Along with Captain Murky's name, Sasea's will be added to the plaque on display at City Hall.

Below: Our new Duck King, Goober, hard at work during the 2024 Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire.





Hands, 2 Noodles and Goober getting Stewie set up and ready to go for the Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire. This is where we need our volunteers Pyrates, setting up and breaking down!



Woody was teaching the kiddos about Boater Safety and River Cleanup, a project that Big AI started to educate youngsters about our river and some tips on boater safety. These are key elements of our core missions. The event was a resounding success with parents and kids thrilled about the chance to properly put on lifejackets and a chance to walk the plank.



Top Left: Blas working the crowds. Top Right: Captain Boot and Peaches looking on.



Left: Lady Mary and Big Al setting up the Kids events.



The Crew from Saturday, taking time out for a quick picture!!



B and Frenchie getting organized! Fancy Nancy and Woody in the background.

Fancy Nancy and Lovie up to no good I'm sure.



Blas working a tough crowd.....

Ladybelle and Bearclaw working hard?????



Lady Red pulls off a mean impersonation of Stewey as Zatarra looks on in awe of her acting skills. Lady Red and Zatarra walked about the crowds and encouraged Faire goers to visit the Duck Table and adopt some Ducks.



Captain Fins Up brought the Duck Mobile out to drum up business during the Renaissance Faire,



# COXSWAINS CORNER

## WEAR IT!

While the Duck Committee and volunteers were busy adopting ducks at the Renaissance Fair, Big Al, Lady Mary and their volunteers were teaching youngsters the importance of Life Jackets, why they need to wear them around the water, and how to properly put them on and adjust them. They also learned about Type IV PFDs (throwable) and were given the challenge to “Walk the Plank and Save a Pyrate” in distress by tossing a buoyant cushion.

In all ~250 kids learned a valuable lesson in how to stay safe around the water, got a Tootsie Pop for their efforts, and were able to sign their name to the Junior Pyrate Hall of Fame (infamy).

Nearly all of the 250 kids understood that when around the water, life jackets are a required thing, and only a few didn't want to don them. If we played the game with adults, what would the percentages be? Most of us have a markedly different attitude, until it is too late!

We could all learn a serious lesson from the kids!

Know how to put one on

Find one that fits and is comfortable.

Wear It – they don't do any good if stowed in a locker or under a seat!

Keep Boatin' and Stay Safe - Woody



## LIFE JACKET FACTS

The best life jacket  
is one you wear!

### REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket on board for every person on the boat
- Boating safety advocates recommend all boaters and passengers wear a life jacket at all times while boating

### READ THE LABEL

- Look for the USCG approval number
- Learn what recreational water activities are appropriate for your life jacket
- Find out how to care for and maintain your life jacket

### PROPER FIT

- All straps, buckles, and zippers should be secure for a snug fit
- Hold your arms straight up over your head and gently pull up – if it goes above your ears, it is too big
- Never buy a life jacket for someone to grow into



### MAINTENANCE

- Use properly
- No rips, waterlogging or mildew
- Dry after each use
- Hand wash in mild detergent
- Store in a dry place when not boating
- Life jackets with a tear, broken pieces, or buoyancy loss should be disposed

# Blackwater Pyrates 2024

January	February	March	April
6 Change of Command *** 11 Booty Council 17 General Membership Mtg 20 Mardi Gras Flotilla POLT	8 Scholarship Grant Mtg 15 Booty Council Mtg 21 General Membership Mtg	2-3 Renaissance Fair / Duck Adoptions Kickoff *** 07 Scholarship Grant Mtg 14 Booty Council Mtg 20 General Membership Mtg / Crew Duck Adoptions	4 Scholarship Grant Mtg 11 Booty Council 17 General Membership Mtg 20 Lower River Clean Up *Pyrate Event 22 Earth Day
May	June	July	August
04 WWSRE "Running of the Bull" 09 Booty Council 11 New Member Party 15 General Membership Mtg 18 8 am-USCG Boat Safety Inspection * <b>Pyrate Event</b> 1 pm -Blessing of the Fleet 2 pm - Skull Island Retreat	06 Scholarship Grant Mtg 08 Lighted Boat Parade in Ward Basin 13 Booty Council 19 General Membership Mtg 19 Duck adoption paperwork and \$\$\$ <b>Due</b> 20 Technical / Safety Crew Meeting	4 Great Mill Town Duck Race* <b>Core Mission</b> 6 Blues Cruise 09 Scholarship Grant Mtg 10 Safety Mtg 11 Booty Council 17 General Membership Mtg 17 Membership Dues Drive \$\$\$\$\$	10 Lighted Boat Parade-Wrights Basin 15 Booty Council 21 General Membership Mtg 24 Destin Crawl/Swim/Float
September	October	November	December
12 Booty Council 14 Upper River Clean Up * Pyrate Event 18 General Membership Mtg 28 History Lecture *Pyrate Event	03 Scholarship Grant Mtg 10 Booty Council 16 General Membership Mtg 16 Scholarship Award Presentation XX Ghost Walk Event	02 Blues Cruise 07 Scholarship Grant Mtg 13 Safety Mtg 14 Booty Council 20 General Membership Mtg	05 Scholarship Grant Mtg TBD Christmas Lighted Boat Parade TBD Budget Meeting TBD Caroling with the Pyrates 31 Red Solo Cup

\*Core Mission / Pyrate Event Revised March 08, 2024 \*\*\*All Crew Participation

