



# Pyrate News

The 10th day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Four, Mill Town, Florida

## Captains Log 02.10.2024

Captains and Crew of the Blackwater Pyrates, I want to thank everyone for the tremendous show of support that you have shown and given to our Pyrate family this past month! It's heartwarming to see us come together in the way that we have, during some very tough times. Like all of you, I was truly shocked and deeply saddened by the passing of Vixen, our beloved Friend and fellow Pyrate, it is a stark reminder of our precious time here on earth, as Pyrates, we need to coalesce around 2 Noodles and be there for him. To honor Vixen we held a Charity Chili Cook Off on January 27th, our goal was to collect non-perishable food stuff or cash to donate to a local organization called "Feeding the Gulf Coast", we had 17 entries and Salty Bacon and Half Pint put together and outstanding event that resulted in 389 pounds of food and \$310 in cash resulting in over 1869 meals being provided for those in need!!! I am amazed at the generosity and cooking skills of our Pyrates. Blas took first place and earned the first annual Jalapeno Trophy. My lawyers have stopped me from reporting on an entry that used canned chili so I'll leave it there!!! Thank you so much for a great day Pyrates and a wonderful way to honor Vixen. As Captain, I have decided that this will be a Pyrate event held annually. As we move forward into February, we look ahead to the Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire, this is a Pyrate event and I hope that we have plenty of volunteers to turn out and help Frenchie complete another successful year of working with and serving our community. This will be the last year that Frenchie will be the lead Pyrate for the Faire as Stormie will take the reins in the future. Please remember that without our crew and the support of our volunteers we couldn't accomplish our missions, every little act of volunteerism is deeply appreciated. Most of you volunteered and or visited the Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire (GCRF) last year, I'm sure you remember the live Jousting match and if you have never witnessed one I urge you to come out and volunteer but also take in the sights and the sounds, it's an exciting event and one that the Pyrates can be proud of associating with. We will have "Stewie" there as well "Blackwater Pearl" and Big Al will have fun games for the future little Pyrates!! Remember to sign up so you can get access to the GCRF. Goober and Tara and the rest of the Duck Committee will begin this years Duck adoptions and continue the good work from last year adopting out 6000 ducks.



Dance like nobody's watching; love like you've never been hurt. Sing like nobody's listening; live like it's heaven on earth.

\* William Watson Purkey

Vickie Lynn Bennett, 1952-2024

We love you and we will keep you in our hearts forever sweet Vixen.















Top Left: Blas and Stormie

Top Right: Half Pint

Bottom Left: Harley, Hawkeye Hookah and Blas

Salty Bacon and Half Pint put together a Charity Chili Contest in Honor of Vixen and the Pyrates donated over 389 pounds of non-perishable food and \$310 in cash donations!!









The Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire is held on March 2-3, Saturday and Sunday at the Santa Rosa County Fairgrounds. This is an excellent event to visit and to volunteer for, Goober and his Duck Committee kick off our annual adoptions of our token ducks in preparation for our grand finale on July 4th. Sign up at the next General Membership meeting with Frenchie, our GCRF Event Leader, please remember to sign a waiver which will be available from Frenchie and Stormie. Three guesses who that rascal on the right is??



# Coxswains Corner

## Buoy – Oh – Buoy!

Whether you're running up the Blackwater River, Cruising the bay down to Skull Island, or plying the Intercoastal headed West to The Florabama or East to Crab Island, understanding the Aids to Navigation is essential. It'll keep you in the channel, with plenty of water, away from hazards, and in the proper flow of vessels.

The pamphlet to the right comes courtesy of the National Safe Boating Council. I've got a bunch of these types of infographics and we'll have them available at Pyrate meetings and other events. Here's a few additional tips to remember:

That whole Red – Right – Returning thing doesn't always work if you're in the Intercoastal Waterway (ICW). Keep red on the right only when headed Westbound in the ICW, red is on the left when Eastbound. If you happen to be on the Atlantic ICW – red is on the right only when headed South.

Carry a good spotlight! The day beacons (channel markers) aren't visible at night unless you shine a bright light on them.

Pay attention to the condition of the day markers. If one side of the marker is missing, make a note and report it to the Coast Guard. A day marker missing one side is invisible at night with even the best spotlight.

Keep Boatin' and Stay Safe

Woody



Buoys and channel markers function similar to lanes on a highway—designating the safest navigable channel and marking any hazards on the water.

Remember, what you see depends on where you boat—whether inland or offshore. If you are traveling to an unfamiliar area, always review nautical charts for safe navigation. These will note buoys and markers in the area.

### COMMON TERMS

**BUOY**—Floats on top of the water and moored to the bottom; shape (cylinder or triangular), color, and numbering is important

**BEACON**—Permanently fixed, such as pole, lighthouse, or another structure, often with reflective tape or light

**DAYBOARD/DAYMARKER**—Informational signs

**CHANNEL MARKER**—A buoy or beacon that marks a channel

### WHAT'S THE COLOR MEAN?

#### RED AND GREEN

Mark the best channel; like road lanes, stay between these markers and keep to the right.



Navigation Tips:

- Red are even-numbered, green are odd-numbered
- Number on the buoy will decrease as you head further out in open water, and increase as you head toward shore
- Remember the phrase, "Red, Right, Returning"
  - ◊ If returning to land, keep the red buoy on your right (starboard)
  - ◊ If heading out to open water, keep the green buoy on your right (starboard)
- Markers with both red and green indicate a junction of navigable channels; the top color indicates the direction of the preferred channel

