



Pirate News

The 28th day of August in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Five, Mill Town, Florida

Captains Log 08.28.2025

As August winds down, a lot of us are thinking maybe the temps can come down too! It's okay when your on the water but when it comes time for our landlubber chores, well, it can be downright miserable. I'm sure that by the time January rolls around we all be longing for summer!

Our Annual Wrights Basin Lighted Boat parade ended up being canceled due to a lack of boats, we had a lot of Pyrates traveling and it's difficult to have a parade with three boats. Maybe next year, the stars will line up. We did however, have our annual Crab Island Crawl. We had 9 boats and 37 Pyrates including some new Pyrates and first time Crab Island visitors. It was a nice day with a slight breeze and no jellyfish. One small problem came up when some of us were met at the boat ramp by the Tsunami from hell!!

We dried out eventually and realized that a sufficient amount of bushwhackers makes our outlook a little more cheerful. Lots of fun hanging with our fellow Pyrates doing what we do best....drinking beer and telling stories.

Captain Boot is working overtime behind the scenes in preparation of our 1st annual Bagdad Millsite Park Festival, brought to you by the Blackwater Pyrates. We will hold the event on October 4th at the Bagdad Mill Site Park, so far, we have several food vendors, Blackwater Pearl complete with Barnacle and Cannons, USCG Active and USCG Auxiliary, FWC, Kids events and games, our local colleges and so much more to offer to the community. Captain Boot and Myself will be reaching out to individual Pyrates asking for their specific help in completing some of the tasking. I have scheduled one more planning meeting on September 10th at the Chamber of Commerce, stay tuned.

It is that time of year when I ask all Pyrates to remit payment for their dues. Frenchie has done an amazing job maintaining an accurate roster and ensuring that all dues are paid and up to date. This helps us keep an accurate head count and assists us in presenting a valid roster. Our next General Membership meeting will be held on September 17th. Plan on attending, lots of info to put out and it's guaranteed a fun evening.

During our August meeting, I had the opportunity to express my gratitude to some of our Pyrates. All four award recipients were well deserved for their contributions to the Blackwater Pyrates. This organization can't be run by one person and certainly not the Captain alone. We have a vast amount of skill amongst our many Pyrates and it was my honor to recognize and present plaques to them.

I presented Goober with the Blackwater Bones Achievement Award for his hard work and success while serving as the 2024 –2025 Duck King, next, I awarded Barnacle a Blackwater Bones Achievement Award for his outstanding work on bringing the Blackwater Pearl back to life, Pearl looks absolutely ready to pillage and plunder.

I had the pleasure of presenting Devil Rae with an achievement award for her many years serving as the Blackwater Pyrates Treasurer, she has worked with all 9 Pyrate Captains and has contributed numerous hours and energy keeping our finances in order. Please trust me when I say it's not easy dealing with Captains who are, at times hell bent on doing things their way and being told that it won't work and its possibly illegal!!

My last award recipient was none other than Captains Fins Up, for his service as our Technical Crew Coordinator, like Devil Rae, he has performed this duty for many years and has tirelessly worked to make sure our events are properly set up and each event Leader has the tools needed to accomplish our missions.

These Pyrates have demonstrated a commitment to our organization and they do it out of devotion to the Blackwater Pyrates, this organization is one of the best Community Groups that you can belong to and once again, to truly enjoy being a Pyrate, you have to get involved.

There are so many more Pyrates that I can award plaques to for their hard work and dedication and in time I or another Captain will do just that, just know Pyrates, your efforts do not go unnoticed and are just as appreciated as those that received awards.

We are quickly approaching September and College Football season, but, the water is nice now and I encourage you to get out there and enjoy it. If you haven't spent a random Saturday or Sunday at Skull Island this time of the year then you're missing out!!

This evening I will present Slim Shady with a check for \$500 for winning the challenge we made earlier this year, if an individual Pyrate adopted out the most Ducks, then the Captain would award them a check for \$500. Tonight, Slim Shady takes home the prize, will it be someone else next year? Lets wait and see!!

Pyrates, lots of pictures to follow and I have even tucked in a quiz at the end, take it and see how you do!!!! Thank you all for what you do for the Blackwater Pyrates and as always, please take care of each other and be safe!!



Top left: Goober is presented the Captain Blackwater Bones Achievement Award for service as Duck King. Left center: Barnacle is presented with the Captain Blackwater Bones Achievement Award for his work on the Pearl.

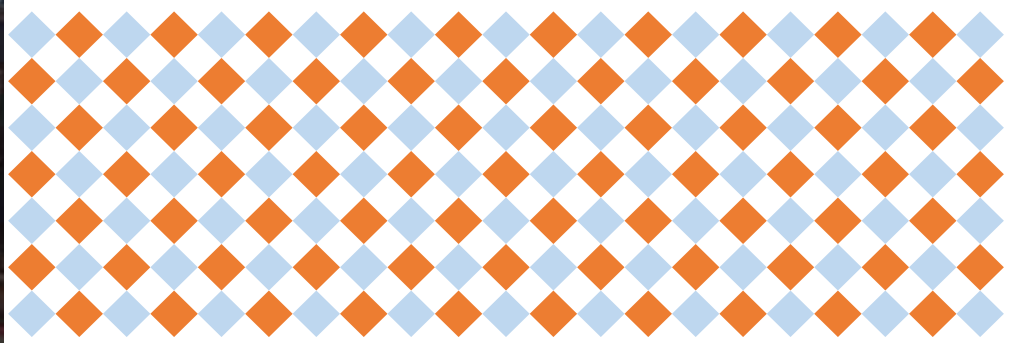
Above: All Captains present, congratulating Devil Rae on receiving the Blackwater Bones Achievement Award for her long service as our Treasurer.

Far left: Captain Fins Up is presented with the Blackwater Bones Achievement Award for his long service as Tech Crew Coordinator.



Left: Devil Rae and Slim Shady having fun with her Award, it's tough being the Captain!

Left: Slim Shady shows off her Appreciation Letter and award of \$500 for most Ducks Adopted. Congratulations to all our well deserving Pyrates.



Captain Fins Up and Scribbler at D'agonstini Vineyards in California.

Bottom left: Mr. James Conner, 2025 winner of the Great Milltown Duck Race, he is now a Pyrate and calls himself Soggy Breeches.

Below: The Conner Family celebrates James winning \$1500 in the Great Milltown Duck Race!!



Look at the picture below, now remember this until the next page, there are some familiar faces in this pic too.





From beginning to perfection, Pearl being hauled out and salvaged and here she is almost 20 years later in all her glory! Captain Bones, Greybeard and Rumfront were the Pyrates that brought her to life.



Left: You know where this is!!!

Bottom: Pond Creek and the River!



Captain Blackwater Bones and Captain Morgan participating in some kind of parade years ago, Rumfront told me that this was our first parades. Below, Peaches and some friends!! Rumfront and Captain Bones.





Iron Leg, Sunny Skies, Barracuda, SasSea, Bearclaw and 2 Noodles with Capt. Lucky

Capt. Fins Up, Scribbler, Siren and Crew.

Geezer, Snow Mouse and Crew getting ready!!

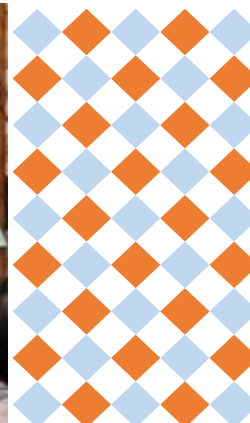


Peaches, Sea Witch, Barbie and Vam-Pyrate getting their bushwhackers on!!



Ladybelle, Flossie, Pepperhead, Water Lubber, Morty and River waiting on breakfast.

Captain Murky discusses our Upper River Cleanup held on the 13th of September.



Left: Our new Duck Pyrate King, Blas. Above: Capt. Boot and Capt. Lucky.

Right: My Quartermaster, Hands, striking a pose, I don't think that's coffee.....hmmmmmm.



Can you name
these legacy
Pyrates posing in
front of Pearl?



Well Pyrates, this is our August 2025 Newsletter and hopefully it keeps you amused and guessing about who those Pyrates are above. Captain Boot has done an outstanding job getting us ready for the Bagdad Millsite Festival, brought to you by the Blackwater Pyrates! We do have a fun, family day planned and I want to reiterate that I'll need help from all hands. We need a few more boat Captains with their boats and we will need several more volunteers. Big Al can always use extra help and would love to have extra Pyrates working with the kids! There are changes ahead as we prepare for a new Duck King and eventually a new Captain. I'll make sure that Stewies Dad discusses the rules of nominating and voting when the time comes. Take care Pyrates, stay safe on the water and our roads!!!

Captain Stewburner

Heading to Crab Island, we actually took our time cruising there this year.



COXSWAINS CORNER

One of the principal missions of our BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is to help boaters become more educated – and thus safer – while on the water. It does this through its many valuable programs, but none more so than its free Online Boating Safety Course (BoatUS.org/free), currently recognized by 36 states. Here are some questions you might see on the BoatUS Foundation boating safety certification exam.

1. What does a boat's capacity plate indicate?

- a. Number of life jackets required
- b. Vessel dimensions
- c. Fuel tank and oil reservoir size
- d. Safe load limit

2. The tongue weight of a boat trailer should be what percent of the Gross Trailer Weight Rating (GTWR)?

- a. 1% to 4%
- b. 5% to 10%
- c. 11% to 15%
- d. 16% to 20%

3. Which of the following is a sign that the weather may change for the worse?

- a. Clouds moving from east to west
- b. A sudden drop in the temperature
- c. Static on the FM band of the radio
- d. A rise in the barometric pressure

4. Which of the following is a requirement for life jackets?

- a. They must be properly sized for the intended wearer
- b. They must be stored safely in a water-tight bag
- c. They must provide miles-per-hour impact
- d. They must be orange or other highly visible color

5. If you see a red, a green, and a white light on another boat, what does this tell you?

- a. A boat is approaching you head-on
- b. A boat is moving directly away from you
- c. You have encountered a vessel at anchor with engine running
- d. You are the stand-on vessel and must maintain course and speed

6. Which of the following is true of pyrotechnic visual distress devices?

- a. Are always orange in color
- b. Have an expiration date
- c. Must be carried aboard every boat
- d. Are ideal for all conditions



BE SAFE ON THE WATER PYRATES

COXSWAINS CORNER

7. What should you always do when a person falls overboard?

- a. Have someone keep the victim in sight
- b. Stop the boat and wait for the person to swim to it
- c. Approach the person in the water from upwind
- d. Keep engines at full throttle to return quickly

8. What is the requirement for fire extinguishers on a boat?

- a. Must be filled with water
- b. Must be red or orange in color
- c. Must be Coast Guard-approved
- d. Must be -permanently mounted

9. If your inboard/outboard boat runs aground, what action should you take in addition to shifting the weight away from the point of impact?

- a. Stop the engine and lift the outdrive
- b. Put the boat in reverse and gun the engine
- c. Put the boat in forward and gun the engine
- d. Keep the engine running and drop the anchor

10. Which one of the following is true about can buoys?

- a. They are painted red
- b. They have even numbers
- c. They are cylindrical in shape
- d. They make good mooring buoys

ANSWERS 1. d, 2. b, 3. b, 4. a, 5. a, 6. b, 7. a, 8. c, 9. a, 10. c



2025 Great Milltown Duck Race

Title Sponsor



Team Bruce Baker, MBA – RE/MAX Infinity

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

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Cat Country 98.7 (In-Kind)

Captain Level Sponsors

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Wedding Walls	Service Matters Property Management
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Howard Steele General Contractor	Mooneyham Heating and Air Conditioning
Aces Hangar Southern Bar and Grill	Ritchey's Service Center
Scoops Ice Cream and Sweets	American Realty Southeast
Gulf Coast Garage Patio Bar	Hafner's Lawn and Supply
Wicked Dragon Productions	Southern Site & Utility Design
Santa Rosa Mow Pro LLC	2 Guage Marine and Trailer
Sorenson Rentals	Comprehensive Dental Center
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	08 Blues Cruise 08 Bowling Event 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 August 2025 ***All Crew Participation

