



Pyrate News

The 20th day of January in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Four, Mill Town, Florida

Captains Log 01.20.2024

As I take the helm of the Blackwater Pearl and her unruly and rowdy crew, I am reminded that we are a unique blend of Pyrates, we are all different and yet we all share the same ideals, that serving an organization that improves our God given natural resources and our community is a worthwhile endeavor. I look forward to setting the course and fulfilling Captain Blackwater Bones vision and missions of the Blackwater Pyrates; Maritime History Preservation, River Clean Up and Boater Safety. My Predecessor, Captain Lucky has faithfully served 3 consecutive terms as our Captain, we prospered and we grew and expanded the ways in which we fulfill our missions and improve our community. Well Done Captain Lucky, Well Done!! Your steady hand and leadership will inspire me and I know you are there to help this new Captain along. Captain Boot made the remark to the crew one evening that has stayed with me over the years, he said, "if you want to have fun being a member of the Blackwater Pyrates then get involved and volunteer". He couldn't have been more right about that. It was 9 years ago that Ladybelle and I joined the Blackwater Pyrates and before I knew it I had ascended to the job of Captain! This organization is special to me and to this community and more importantly to our natural resources. I think it is a worthwhile organization and worth our blood, sweat, tears and laughter. Being selected as the Captain is a job that I take seriously, but I won't lose sight of having a good time and lots of fun while we carry out the missions of the Blackwater Pyrates. We are a team and we stick together through the good times and the rough times. I know that I can count on any member of the Pyrates at any time if I ever need anything. We have some new faces and some familiar ones as well, serving on our committee's and councils. In the next few pages you will meet them. Reach out to them and see what you can do to help us achieve our missions. We are Pyrates with a Purpose and Guardians of the Blackwater River!!

2024 Blackwater Pyrates Organizational Structure

Board of Directors

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairperson | Capt Stewburner (Kevin Simmons) |
| Treasurer | Devil Rae (Tammy Wilson) |
| Secretary | Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell) |
| Board Member | Rumfront (Doug Lasater) |
| Board Member | Capt Whitebeard (Walt Schumann) |
| Board Member | Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell) |
| Board Member | Capt Boot (Carl Whitson) |
| Board Member | Capt Murky (Mark Flores) |
| Board Member | Slimshady (Donna Tucker) |
| Board Member | Swamp Yankee (Paul Kilmartin) |

Booty Council

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairperson | Capt Stewburner (Kevin Simmons) |
| Treasurer | Devil Rae (Tammy Wilson) |
| Council Member | Sea Ray (Cheryl Ray) |
| Council Member | Pepperhead (Ed Spencer) |
| Council Member | Vixen (Vickie Bennett) |
| Council Member | Salty Bacon (Adrian Bacon) |
| Council Member | Fancy Nancy (Nancy Roberts) |
| Council Member | Gunpowder (Brian Stuesse) |
| Council Member | Bearclaw (Jody Trabue) |

Event Leaders

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blessing of the Fleet | Deacon Blues (Phil Czajkowski) |
| Boater Safety | Woody (Chris Conrad) |
| Caroling w/Pirates | Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell) |
| Change of Command | As needed |
| Duck King | Goober (Ryan Miller) |
| 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 | Michele Kiker (Frenchie) |
| Rumfest | Pepperhead (Ed Spencer) |
| Skull Island Retreat | Slim Shady (Donna Tucker) |
| Upper River Clean Up | Capt Murky (Mark Flores) |
| WWSRE | Barnacle Bailey (Roger Bailey) |



Top Left, Pepperhead and Captain Lucky are setting the change of Command in motion. Right: Captain Lucky making his remarks.



Captain Fins Up working the sound system. Looks like he's working the crowd too!



Devil Rae and JHawk watching the fun and games! Another beautiful day on the river.



Captain Stewburner makes his remarks as he assumes command of the Blackwater Pyrates, He is the 9th Captain.



Captain Stewburner presents Pastor Doug Holmes of Christian Life Church an Honorary Pyrate certificate and coin. Pastor Doug Holmes delivered the invocation for the 2024 Change of Command.

Left: Captain Murky presents the outgoing Captain Lucky with his Command Flag Flag!



Above: Captain Dragon, Captain Boot and Captain Whitebeard look on at the CoC ceremony.

Blackwater Pyrates January 2024 General Membership Meeting. As always, good friends and good food and grog, lots of grog!! Much appreciation to Jessica and the staff at The Hangar!



Every third Wednesday of each month we meet at The Hangar, there is always lots to talk about and of course Pyrate business to discuss.



Rumfront opens the Ceremony with remarks from all of the former Captains and words of wisdom from Blackwater Bones, Captain Murky, Captain Hook Em Dano and Captain Dragon looking on.





Preceding page: Captain Hook Em Dano, SasSea, Reno the Land Ho. Salty Cracker, Cannonball. Fancy Nancy and Stormie. Ladybelle, Captain Stewburner and Pastor Doug Holmes. Above: Prickly Pear. Stormie and Blas.



Left: Parrot Tail and Friend!!



Bearclaw and Devil Rae up to no good!!