



Pyrate News

The 21st day of April in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Four, Mill Town, Florida

Captains Log 04.21.2024

Good Afternoon Captains and Crew of the Blackwater Pyrates! As we close out the Month of April, I look back and realize that we had a busy month!!

We partnered with Saucy's Frozen Treats & Tasty Treats for a Cajun Gumbo and Jambalaya Event and adopted several ducks out to the public. Live music was playing and various local vendors were selling their wares. Lots of good food and fun. Members of the Duck Committee were set up and worked the event all day long.

Thanks to our Volunteers, Devil Rae, Holler Leg, Lovie, Stormie, Terra, Coral Reef, Prickly Pear, Captain Fins Up, Captain Murky, Captain Boot, Goober, and Flossie and Pepperhead for showing up to participate. Hell Raiser and Easy Girl pitched in for the pack up at the end of the day as well. The Duck Committee attended the Milton Garden Club Golf Tournament and adopted several ducks out to the crowd. Many thanks to Terra and Crew.

The main event for April was the Annual Lower River clean-up and what a time we had. Over 1200 pounds of trash and debris were pulled from the banks of the river that consisted of tires, signs, wooden benches, boards and barrels and various other items discarded by careless people of set adrift by storms. Following the clean-up we were treated to Taco's and Fixins by Frenchie and the other volunteers at Captain Boot and Peaches' home in Bagdad.

We had over 56 Pyrates, 6 PSC Students, and 4 Geo Cache volunteers show up to make this years clean-up one of the best. Hands, our Quartermaster and the event leader, estimated about 500 volunteer hours total!! Hands and Woody did an outstanding job along with Pepperhead, Flossie and No Beard on the shore. We even had a visit from a moccasin as he swam by prior to our departure. Gotta be safe at all times on the water!!

Hands is still accepting bribes before he names the boat with the most trash. Regardless, once again the Pyrates were out in force conducting one of their core mission events, proving once again that we are Pyrates with a Purpose and Guardians of the Blackwater River.

Many thanks to Lovie who hosted our Raiding Party at Oops Alley, this is an event held at a local establishment where all you have to do is show up and socialize with other Pyrates. Storytelling and Grog are usually conducted at a Raiding Party as well!! Lots of fun for Pyrates, if you have not attended a Raiding Party I urge you to do so. It is a great way to support our local economy and our small business owners.

In early May, Barnacle will lead the Worlds Worst Sailboat Ever, (WWSRE), held in Blackwater Bay. This is an open race for Pyrates and scalawags to show off their sailing skills. Contrary to popular belief this race is not rigged but. it can be if the price is right. Come out to Big Al and Woody's home on Petersen Point in Ward Basin and cheer on anyone but Barnacle!!!

Wasting no time, we now set our sights on the Annual Boater Safety Inspections and the Blessing of the Fleet followed by the Pyrate Skull Island retreat. Woody, our Coxswain, is busy setting up Boater Certification classes that not only educate you about the rules of navigation and caution signs on our waterways but, teaches boaters how to be safe on the water around and other vessels.

Generally, when seeking to buy insurance for your vessel, a 10% discount is offered when you present your Boater Certification Card that you receive after the course. Boater safety is a core mission for us and maximum involvement is appreciated. We have lots of Pyrates who do not own boats so I ask that Pyrates with boats reach out to those members and offer a ride for one of our events. It's a great way for Pyrates to enjoy the many water-borne activities that we participate in.

In early June we hold a lighted boat parade in Ward Basin, Terra is our event leader and will have more info to follow. We meet up at Petersen Point, at Woody and Big Al's home for drinks and refreshments before we hit the lights!!

The Great Mill Town Duck Race will happen on July 4th at 5pm in downtown Milton. I urge all Pyrates to adopt at least one Duck Sheet worth of token ducks and turn in the sheets and money promptly so that the accounting process can be completed and the status of Duck adoptions can be determined.

If any Pyrate feels that they can adopt out more than one bag of ducks please do so. SasSea set the bar high last year Pyrates and it's a goal we can achieve by working together.

There will be many volunteer opportunities as we get closer to the race. Stay involved and remember to have fun! We are Pyrates with a Purpose and the Guardians of the Blackwater River. Stay safe and healthy Pyrates, I appreciate everyone of you and the important work you do for our community and most importantly our river, creeks and basins.

Captain Stewburner



2 Noodles at the Raiding Party. In the background are Bottoms Up and Fancy Nancy



Oscar, his wife Stacy, Jo and Geezer enjoying the Raiding Party



Lovie and Terra at the Raiding Party that was held at Oops Alley. Lovie is our Event Coordinator.

Below: Pepperhead and Flossie!





Top Left: Half Pint, Salty Bacon, Sundance and Hambone. Top Right: JHawk, Big Al and PSC Student. Below: Scribbler, Hawkeye, Fancy Nancy and Moonshiner





Hands and Frenchie taking a break from coordinating the Lower River Cleanup and the awesome food for after the work was done! Thank you to both of you for a great event.



Dollar Bill, Fancy Nancy, Salty Bacon and Half Pint returning to Oyster Pile with their collected trash. There are assisted by Pepperhead!

One of the reasons we clean our river and basins twice a year.





Barnacle, Hands, Dollar Bill and Easy Girl watch over Captain Boot.

Captain Murky and hands collecting trash.

Captain Boot and crew hauling in trash to the Oyster Pile.





Captain Boot putting the beer can bucket in the middle of the circle. The idea was to throw the can in the bucket.....

Barnacle and the crew!! JHawk, Lady Mary, Big Al and Woody and one volunteer.



Saucy's Crew adopting ducks.

The world famous Blackwater Ball Busters Bowling team with Captain Fins Up having lunch at the Country Gym.





Blackwater Pyrates,
 707th OD CO(EOD) wants to take a moment and express
 are gratitude for your kind generosity. We cannot thank you
 enough for the support to our Soldiers of not only
 707th ordnance company, but also to the Soldiers of 3rd
 Ordnance Battalion. The donations that were given helped
 15 Soldiers attend our EOD memorial ball. The Soldiers
 appreciate the support from the American People, and
 the Blackwater Pyrates.

CPT Connor McCarty
 707th Company Commander
Connor McCarty

1SG Adam Ponsell
 707th Company First Sergeant
 A.I. 1/17/11



Thank you
 Corey Glover
 David
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707TH OD CO (EOD)

1ST SGT Adam Ponsell sent a thank you card to the Blackwater Pyrates for support-
 ing 15 Soldiers who attended the Annual EOD Ball. Pyrates chipped in \$550.00 in
 donations, many thanks to the Pyrates for your generosity to our Military Personnel!



COXSWAINS CORNER

Don't Wear It!



Last month I stressed the importance of always wearing a life jacket and titled the article "Wear It". This month's tips are focused on safely trailering a boat, so "Don't Wear It" seemed fitting.

We have all seen cars/trucks pulling a trailer and thought – that doesn't look safe, so we pass as fast as we can to get by the potential hazard. Big Al and I almost wore a trailer and its cargo when the trailer detached from the truck on I-10. The tongue of the trailer struck a storm drain and catapulted the lawn tractor about 20 feet in the air. The picture above is pretty scary! Think the boat was more that the roof rack could handle?

- 🚫 Make sure your vehicle and hitch are rated for both the weight and tongue load required.
- 🚫 Inspect the hitch connection, chains, and lights before proceeding.
- 🚫 Properly tie down the boat
- 🚫 Double (at least) the length necessary to stop!
- 🚫 Take it easy! The guy in the picture didn't get much time on the water that day!
- 🚫 Don't forget the drain plug! (No, I will not mention any names)

Keep Boatin' and Stay Safe - Woody



HOW TO TRAILER A BOAT

PRE-TOWING

- Never trailer a boat that exceeds towing capacity – check vehicle's owner manual for capacity information
- Double-check trailer, hitch connection, safety chains, lights, mirrors, and tire pressure
- Confirm that the winch is secure and locked
- Tighten all tie-down straps
- Secure any loose items

DURING TRANSIT

- Double (or triple) the car length necessary to come to a complete stop
- Leave plenty of distance between you and the vehicle in front of you
- Travel in the right lane when possible
- Change lanes with caution, remember to make wide turns
- Always safety first.

RETRIEVE & LOAD BOAT BACK ON THE TRAILER

- Use both a bow and stern cleat for lashing lines
- Raise the engine or sterndrive!
- All passengers should disembark
- Back the trailer deep enough to float the boat most of the way on
- Use dock lines to guide the boat onto the trailer
- Don't forget to attach the winch safety chain
- Slowly pull the boat and trailer out to an area clear of the ramp
- Reattach all tie-downs
- Check for and remove all Aquatic Nuisance Species
- Remove drain plug
- Secure all loose items

LEARN MORE

SafeBoatingCampaign.com

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 * Pyrate Event 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 \$\$\$ Due 20 Technical / Safety Crew Meeting	4 Great Mill Town Duck Race* Core Mission 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

