



Pyrate News

The 17th day of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Three, Mill Town, Florida

Captain's Log 6.17.23

Blackwater Pyrates, it is that time of year again when everything seems to be going in fast motion. With May in the rearview mirror and July quickly approaching, we prepare for our signature event. The Great Mill Town Duck Race.

It seems that Memorial Day celebrations were just last week end. But do you realize that in the last 30 days we have held Booty Council and General Membership meetings for May. Additionally, we held our Blessing of the Fleet and Boater Safety Inspection, and followed that up with a Boater Safety Classes. All of that happened before Memorial Day Weekend. Then came June and the 1st Lighted Boat Parade for 2023. We also adopted out Ducks at 3 of the Bands on the Blackwater Events. Whew!

Well, during the month of June we will focus on adopting ducks for the 4th of July, Great Mill Town Duck Race. This is our one and only fund raiser which allows us the opportunity to accomplish our 3 Missions. Boater Safety, River Clean-Up, and Maritime History Preservation.

Without the Duck Race, the Pyrates would not be able to afford scholarships for our future Maritime Historians and Archeologists. We would be unable to provide life jackets and necessary boater safety equipment for our community. We would also be limited in our ability to clean our waterways as regularly as we currently do. These are the reasons we became Blackwater Pyrates.

So as the month of June sails past us and we approach our 4th of July Duck Race, please remember that each Pyrate is asked to adopt a page of ducks to help support our cause. If you choose to adopt ducks to your family members, or just decide to write a check for \$100 and give yourself 20 chances to win \$1500, either way, keep in mind that this is how we are able to complete our missions as Blackwater Pyrates.

Captain's Log 6.17.23

Our current membership has about 214 “active” members, including Full-Time and Off-Shore, and we continue to grow. We continue growing because of what we do for our community (our missions) and the incredibly fun time we have completing our work. But we can't continue providing for our community without the assistance from our volunteers.

As a member of the Blackwater Pyrates we are asked only to pay the annual dues (\$50 per Pyrate), Adopt a page of ducks for the Annual Duck Race (20 ducks = \$100 per Pyrate), and participate (help) with an event. Far less than most organizations, but necessary for the survival of the Pyrates.

Approximately 30% (or less) of our members volunteer to help at our events, and seldom do we have 50% of our members adopting out a page of ducks. These percentages leave the majority of the workload to a very small portion of our organization.

Recently, we have had a tremendous turnout for our General Membership Meetings and I thank you for that. In fact, one recent meeting we had an unprecedented number. We had approximately 95 members at a single meeting. That is almost one half of our total membership, and we regularly are achieving 65-75 members at those meetings.

Outstanding!

A wise Captain once told me, “if you wish to enjoy the Blackwater Pyrates, you must get involved.” No wiser words were ever spoken. Annually, we lose approximately 10% of our members. Of those losses, the majority never got involved. Joining a committee is only the first step. Participation is next.

Now, as the current Captain, I want to challenge everyone. I would like every member to commit to volunteering to help at one (1) event a year. I won't stop anyone from helping at multiple events, however, I would like everyone to help at a minimum of one event. I am including a list of the event leaders and I will gladly put you in touch with the necessary people. Reach out to me and we can make this happen.

Additionally, I am also challenging each member to help with our only fundraiser. Please adopt (at least) one page of ducks (20 ducks = \$100) for the Great Mill Town Duck Race. Our current Duck Diva (Queen/King) is SasSea and Terra is the Duck Committee Chairperson. With a legion of followers (committee members) who are willing to help each of you get your ducks in the race, there are no excuses for hesitation.

Captain's Log 6.17.23

Many of our members are new. In fact, in the first five months of 2023 we have had at least 24 Pyrates join us. About 20% of those have become very active and helped with our events. I believe the remaining new members only need to understand how and why we volunteer.

I think the why part is basically because we enjoy and believe in what we are doing. The how part becomes more of the obstacle. As the Captain, I love how the committees have come together and made things happen. However, new members can sometimes feel left out and may view the committees as “clicks.” There is nothing further from the truth.

These committees are always open to members who wish to participate. However, as our organization continues to grow we must explore new ideas for creating opportunities for our newest Pyrates. I am open to any and all suggestions. Feel free to reach out to me with ideas for expanding our reach to the membership. You can also reach out to me if you are unsure of how to volunteer or exactly where you might be the best fit. I believe that there is a place in this organization for everyone. It is up to us to figure out what works best.

My initial plan will be to make contact with people and ask them to help. I hope to identify areas that each Pyrate will be comfortable helping and might make a significant contribution. I will not ask anyone to just jump in and take the lead on an event, unless you really want too. However, I will get with the event leaders and position chairpersons and ask them to also reach out and work to get more people truly “active” in the Pyrates.

This is a great organization and I look forward to everyone jumping in and helping in anyway they can. Remember, “if you wish to enjoy the Blackwater Pyrates, you must get involved.”

Also, in case you are unfamiliar with the timing of the Duck Race and adopting ducks, at the June General Membership Meeting we will be trying to wrap up all of our personal duck adoption sheets in an attempt to get organized and ready for the final push toward adopting out 5,500 ducks. By the way, 5,500 ducks will become the all time greatest number of ducks ever adopted for the annual race. That is another achievement worth bragging about and patting yourselves on the back.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us get where we are today.

Captain Lucky

Volunteers

2023 Blackwater Pyrates Organizational Structure

Board of Directors

Chairperson		Capt Lucky (Larry McKee)
Treasurer		Devil Rae (Tammy Wilson)
Secretary		Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell)
Board Member		Rumfront (Doug Lasater)
Board Member		Capt Whitebeard (Walt Schumann)
Board Member		Swamp Yankee (Paul Kilmartin)
Board Member		Capt Boot (Carl Whitson)
Board Member		Capt Murky (Mark Flores)
Board Member		Rambob (Bob Tucker)

Booty Council

Chairperson		Capt Lucky (Larry McKee)
Treasurer		Devil Rae (Tammy Wilson)
Council Member		Sea Ray (Cheryl Ray)
Council Member		Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell)
Council Member		Vixen (Vickie Bennett)
Council Member		Rambob (Bob Tucker)
Council Member		Fancy Nancy (Nancy Roberts)
Council Member		Hands (David Snellgrove)

Volunteers

Event Leaders	
Blessing of the Fleet	Deacon Blues (Phil Czajkowski)
Boater Safety	Woody (Chris Conrad)
Caroling w/Pyrates	Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell)
Change of Command	As needed
Duck Diva/King	SasSea (Vicki McKee)
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	Frenchie (Michele Kiker)
Rumfest	SasSea (Vicki McKee)
Skull Island Retreat	Slim Shady (Donna Tucker)
Upper River Clean Up	Capt Murky (Mark Flores)
WWSRE	Barnacle Bailey (Roger Bailey)

Volunteers

Crew Positions

Facebook

Diver Diva (Pam Kottler)

Grants

Fancy Nancy (Nancy Roberts)

Historian

J Hawk (Judy Gray)

Keeper of the Code

Stewey's Dad (Dan Stewart)

Maritime History

Big Al (Jody Conrad)

Membership

Vixen (Vickie Bennett)

Merchandise

Jody Trabue (Bear Claw)

Public Relations

Big Al (Jody Conrad)

Safety Committee

Stew Burner (Kevin Simmons)

Salvage

As needed

Technical Crew

Capt Fins Up (Ken Ponsell)

Treasurer

Devil Rae (Tammy Wilson)

Webpage

Goober & Squishy (Ryan & Carissa Miller)

BWP Stimulus Plan

Wednesday, June 28th we will be having our next BWP Raiding Party. We plan to raid Boomerang Pizza, located at 5227 Willing St., Milton, Fl at 5 pm.

For those new members, our Raiding Party is another way of supporting our local community by gathering as a group for lunch, dinner, or just drinks and socializing.

Our most recent raid was at the Beardless Brewhaus, and we had a terrific turnout. Let's do it again.



Lower River Clean Up

Boater Safety, Maritime History Preservation, and River Clean Up. These are the Missions of the Blackwater Pyrates. On April 22, 2023 the Blackwater Pyrates took to the waters in and around the Blackwater River for our annual Lower River Clean Up. Another success!



Lighted Boat Parade

Terra is our Lighted Boat Parade Princess (Leader). Although she makes it look SOOO easy, there is a bunch of work going on in the background. Preparations take time and energy, and she does an outstanding job of making it happen.



On Saturday, June 3rd we had our first Lighted Boat Parade of the 2023 season.

Ward Basin was very receptive and cheered on the brilliantly lit boats who participated. Woody and Big Al opened their home and dock to all the Pyrates who wanted to participate, either by land or by sea.

A beautiful day was followed by a gorgeous sunset and evening. What better way to close out the day than to celebrate with family and friends.

Travelling Flag

The Blackwater Pyrates have been known to show up in some of the most unique locations. As is the tradition, Pyrates are encouraged to travel with their flag in hand and ready for the photo opportunity as it arises.



Our most recent adventure for the traveling flag is with Trader Rick (Rick Paschall) as he hopped around to the National Parks.

Looks like fun. Thanks Rick.



Coxswain's Korner

Identifying Safety Hazards and Threats for 2022 Great Milltown Duck Race July 4th, 2022.

Life Threatening-

Drowning

- Wear a life vest if you get in the water.
- Wear a life vest if you are in a boat and you don't know how to swim.
- Wear a life vest while performing a task that might cause you to go overboard.
- Do not jump in the water to recover ducks.
- Use extreme caution getting in or getting off a boat.

Being hit by a Vehicle or Boat

- Wear a reflective vest while approaching the bridge on Highway 90.
- Flagman should lead group on and off the bridge when deploying banner.
- Do not swim in open water as there is a lot of boat traffic and congestion on the river during this major holiday.

Hazardous

- Getting caught in a rope, lots are used for duck track.
- Trip and falls: on docks, boat, mounting and dismounting.
- Walking on unlevel ground
- Cuts from using a knife or scissors
- Pinched raising and lowering poles.
- Sunburn-wear sunscreen.
- Dehydration- drink plenty of water, BEER doesn't count.

Keep Your Head On A Swivel and in the RACE. BE SAFE!!

Ducks

Tales from the Duck Pond

Ducks, Ducks and more Ducks! It is that time of year when we start gathering volunteers to help with the Great Mill Town Duck Race. If anyone is interested in volunteering for any amount of time on the 4th, please reach out to SasSea or Terra and let them know what hours you can be available to assist.

The Duck Committee plans to meet on the 20th of June to finalize plans and assignments for the 4th of July. Please consider helping. This is our one and only fund raiser and without your help, we will be unable to continue with our missions. River Clean Up. Boater Safety. Maritime History Preservation. Please plan to sign up to work with our Duck Committee. We will not throw anyone to the wolves. We need people to work with our experienced team. For those more adventurous individuals, we would love to have someone wear the duck costume (shown at right).



Also, all Duck Adoption Sheets are due at the next General Membership Meeting, June 21st. Please be prepared to provide the sheets and dollars to cover. We will be trying to balance our books and prepare for the final push on the 4th of July. Thank you to everyone in advance. Duck Diva and the Duck Committee.

Blackwater Pyrates 2023

January	February	March	April
8 (Not) Change of Command 11 Scholarship Mtg 12 Booty Council 18 General Mtg	4 Milton Mardis Gras Parade – Krewe of Airship Pirates 4 Mardis Gras Flotilla - POLT 9 Booty Council 15 General Mtg	4-5 Renaissance Fair – Duck Adoptions 8 Safety Mtg 9 Booty Council 15 General Mtg – Crew Duck Adoptions Begin 18 WWSRE	8 Poker Run 12 Safety Mtg 13 Booty Council 19 General Mtg 22 River Clean Up/Earth Day *
May	June	July	August
6 New Member Party 10 Safety Mtg 11 Booty Council 17 General Mtg 20 Blessing of the Fleet USCG Boat Insp 22-23 Boater Safety Class	3 Lighted Boat Parade in Ward Basin 14 Safety Mtg 15 Booty Council 21 General Mtg Duck adoption paperwork and \$\$\$ due	4 Great Mill Town Duck Race*** 8 Blues Cruise 12 Safety Mtg 13 Booty Council 19 General Mtg- Membership Dues	5 Lighted Boat Parade 9 Scholarship Mtg 10 Booty Council 16 General Mtg 19 Destin Crawl
September	October	November	December
13 Safety Mtg 14 Booty Council & Scholarship Mtg 16 Upper River Clean Up * 20 General Mtg 23 History Lecture*	7 Skull Island Retreat 12 Booty Council 14 Oktoberfest 18 General Mtg- Scholarship Award 20/21 Ghost Walk	4 Blues Cruise 8 Safety Mtg 9 Booty Council 15 General Mtg	1 Christmas Lighted Boat Parade 6 Budget Meeting 13 Caroling with the Pyrates 31 Red Solo Cup

*Core Mission

Revised March 11, 2023

***All Crew Participation





Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Title Sponsor



Team Bruce Baker, MBA—RE/MAX Infinity

Admiral Level Sponsor \$2500

Cat Country 98.7 (in-kind)



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Captain Level Sponsor \$1000

Milton Animal Hospital—Dr. Loper
Billy Clark Bailbonds

First Mate Level Sponsor \$500

Edward Jones—Derek Park, AAMS
General Rental Center
Krewe of Airship Pirates (in-kind)
RM Integrations



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Navigator Level Sponsor \$101—\$499

A Rustyc Spoon

All-Pro Tune Up

Arista Builders, LLC

Armor Service Group, LLC

Angels Care Home Health

Beardless Brewhaus

Brew Angels

Dragon Express Catering

Harold Store

Howard Young Flooring

Masons

Matt McKeehan Bail Bonds

Milton Garden Club

Muddy Paws Grooming by Haylee & Co.

Redneck Riviera Smokers

T&A American Care

The Country Gym

Whip-It Inventions, Inc



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Helmsmen Level Sponsor \$100

2 Gauge Marine and Trailer

82 Magnolia Aesthetics

Ace's Restaurant

Acuff ADR, LLC

Audio Video Installations

Avalon Custom Woodworking

Blackmon Lawn Service

Councilman Mike Cusack

DeLuna's Hideout Oyster Bar & Grill

Denniels Monogramming

Eddie English Co., Inc

Eddie Hobbs Automotive

El Paso Mexican Restaurant

Fusion Fine Wine & Spirits

Gulf Coast Garage Patio Bar

Gulf Coast LED Lighting, LLC

Hewes & Company

Howard Steele General Contractor

Jones Fence Company

Karen Bowers

Leek Small Engine Repair

Lunsford Air Conditioning & Heating

Nick Cote's Certified Transmission

Oscity Labs

Palm Creek Plaza

Pensacola Brewery



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2023 Sponsors

Helmsmen Level Sponsor \$100

Primerica—Margarita Vazquez

Ritchey's Service Center, LLC

Robert O. Beasley, P.A.

Smoothie King (in-kind)

The Country Gym

The Oval Office

Waterworks Sprinkler Systems

Wicked Dragon Productions



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*