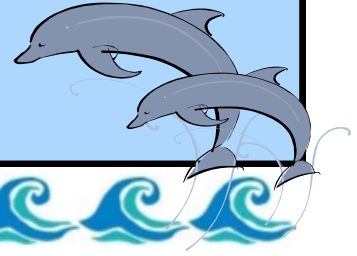


Nautical Notes



Vol. XV Number 12

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

December 2023



**Barry Franzino Jr.,
Commodore**

Welcome Mariners,

This will be my last Nautical Notes as Commodore. We have put in place a dynamite slate of leaders for the Mariners of PGI in 2024.

Bobby Conte will be your new Commodore, Carol Barkow, your Vice Commodore, Ray Truting will continue as Treasurer, Karen Rolland will be your Secretary, Joan Erickson will take over Membership, Tom Martin Cruise Director, Social Director will be Ruth Sines-Dutcher, and Education will be Alan Singleton. I know they are ready for positive results in 2024. All they need is your support.

With the holidays upon us I just wanted to remind everyone to sign up for the Change of Watch. This is our **Premier Event** and an opportunity to thank last year's leaders and welcome your new Board. Our organization is only as good as the membership participation. We will be counting on you to show them you care.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Commodore this last year and look forward to many more years of good friends and good boating. Thank you for the privilege and your confidence.



**Paul Baird,
Cruise Director**

We had some really nice weather in November. It was beautiful for two completed cruises. We had a very well attended lunch cruise to the Isles Yacht Club. There were sixteen mariners in attendance for

some great food and service. We also had a lunch cruise to The Village Brewhouse. There were seven mariners in attendance. I heard that the food was delicious as usual.

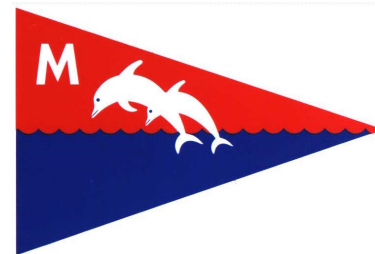
We have some nice cruises planned for December. The Points North Hop on Hop Off Cruise is underway as this is published. In addition to that we have four other overnight cruises and five lunch cruises. The New Year's Eve anchor out to watch the fireworks at Fisherman's Village should be fun. Then on New Year's Day there is a lunch raft up with the boats that spent the night on the hook near Fisherman's Village.

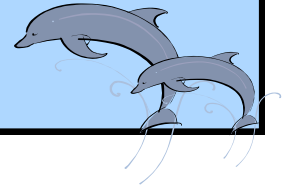
Looking forward to next year, I know that Tom Martin is coordinating a Spring Regatta now that Burnt Store Marina is back up and running. I'm sure that he will be scheduling many fun cruises. As always if you have a cruise idea or want to be a cruise leader you can email cruise@marinersofpgi.org.

Have a great holiday season!



Dinner for Eight





Mariners of PGI Board of Directors

BARRY FRANZINO JR., Commodore
commodore@marinersofpgi.org

BOBBY CONTE, Vice Commodore
vicecommodore@marinersofpgi.org

RAY TRUTING, Treasurer
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Editor's Note: I will confirm, via e-mail, receipt of each NN submission. If you do not receive confirmation, PLEASE contact me.

MIKE GULER, Proofreader

Editor's Note: direct contact information for all Mariners is located on the [website](http://www.marinersofpgi.org) : www.marinersofpgi.org

Click [here](#) to view the Social Calendar and Sign-Up!

LYNNE MATTHEWS, Sunshine Committee
sunshine@marinersofpgi.org

DON LEITCH, Webmaster
webmaster@marinersofpgi.org

TRACIE GOIN, Ship's Store
store@marinersofpgi.org

FACEBOOK Page [Mariners of PGI](#)

Meetings

General Membership

PGICA, 2001 Shreve St.
4th Monday at 7 p.m. (except December)

Board

PGICA, 2001 Shreve Street
4th Monday at 9 a.m. All members are welcome.

December Birthdays

12/7 Jim Kelly
12/11 Jon Shattuck
12/15 Kenneth Sulla
12/16 Mitchell Miller
12/17 David Buchanan
12/18 Robert Toothaker
12/22 Suzanne Martin
12/23 Toni Gibbs
12/28 Larry Lowy
12/28 George Cook
12/28 Ruth Sines-Dutcher
12/29 Cathy Mayer
12/30 Bob Huetteman
12/31 Lynne Matthews

If you or anyone
you know is ill
or in need of some
Sunshine,
please contact
Lynne Matthews
sunshine@marinersofpgi.org



Happy Birthday!





Vice Commodore

Bobby Conte



New Endeavors...

Another boating year is in the History Book. I am really looking forward to this coming year. As I move up the chain of Command and assume the Commodore position, I have been approached by numerous members to make some changes, add new activities, and bring in new members. Hopefully, we will do some exploration into uncharted territory.

At last month's meeting I proposed a few ideas to provide some activities for members in each category of boating. Overnight cruising, longer day cruises that include a stop for both fuel and food, and some various types of boat racing. I also received many great ideas to provide new activities both on and off the water. Someone suggested a personal protection gun club for men and woman that would include acquiring a Concealed Carry Permit. Other suggestions include a cruise to member docks for nighttime cocktails, sandbar picnics, bring a non-member lunch cruise, and additional Club BBQ's. One member even mentioned offering club activities to non-boat owners who rent boats from the Freedom Boat Club.

I just love the enthusiasm of our members willingness to expand our activities, add new ones, and think outside the box. Let's give them a try.

This should be an exciting year to be sure.

Looking forward to hearing from you...



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**Education Director****Mike Guler**

Important Letter from President John Walsh of the Boater's Alliance:

The board of The Boaters Alliance voted to dissolve the Punta Gorda/Charlotte Harbor Boater's Alliance because only one person (very reluctantly) stepped forward to serve on the board in 2024 to fill one of the needed positions. Bob Hickey (past president), Paula Hickey (treasurer), Diane Welsh (secretary), and I (President) will not be serving on the board next year. Stephen Kapin (board member) has informed the board that he will be leaving the board and the area sometime in 2024. Gene Pawlowski (vice-president) is willing to continue to serve on the board. Organizations must have solid leadership and responsible individuals to manage its affairs. Without a strong board the Boaters Alliance cannot be effective or continue to operate.

The Boater's Alliance has been an important and vital organization for boating for the past 20 years. It is unfortunate that PG/CHBA may not continue to serve our city and county in the future.

If volunteers step forward to fill the board positions needed the dissolution can be avoided. If you would like to volunteer you can contact me or any of our board members. This must be done quickly due to the requirement to publish a slate of officers 30 days prior to elections.

There will be a vote on the fate of The Boaters Alliance at the January meeting (At the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association – 2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, 9:00 am January 18th, 2024).

John Welsh
President
Punta Gorda/Charlotte Harbor Boater's Alliance



Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your Education Director for the past two years. It's been enjoyable and rewarding. I encourage everyone to get involved and help make the Mariners what you want it to be.

The word of the day is “**sailing**” – the fine art of getting wet and becoming ill while slowly going nowhere at great expense.

Splice the Main Brace!



Social Director

Cindy Verhoven



The Holidays are a time of happiness and rejoicing and Holiday gatherings provide opportunities to come together with family and friends. We gather to acknowledge and give thanks to people who have had important influences in our lives.

Please gather with your Mariner friends on December 11 for Movie Night which will be featuring "Elf". The event is hosted by Laurie and Brad Betting. Please sign up today and bring a treat to share.

The Mariner ladies will also gather on December 15 for a Holiday Lunch With the Gals. Cyndee Grifo has graciously opened up her home for the festive event. It will be a potluck lunch and there will be a gift exchange.

We will celebrate a great year of new adventures, new friendships and camaraderie with longtime friends at our Change of Watch Annual Gala. The event will be held January 6th at Twin Isles Country Club. The event will feature the Caribbean steel drum sounds of John Patti and the upbeat music of John Hughes with Tropical Avenue. Please sign up today and come gather with us as we celebrate our club—which has provided all of us with laughter, memories and more.

No matter where you are or where you go, I wish all of the Mariners a happy, peaceful and safe Holiday.

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Membership Director

Suzanne Martin



Thank you Mariners for entrusting me as your Membership Director. I've met almost every member and gotten to know quite a few of you and made some great friends along the way.

Joan Erickson will be coming on board and she is looking forward to her new role and working with all of you.

Have a wonderful holiday season. May the New Year bring you health, happiness and prosperity.

Does your "View the Crew" photo need updating?

Let us know, and at the next general meeting we will have a club photographer available before the meeting to take updated photos of our members. Just email neditor@marinersofpgi.org.

If your photo needs to be updated, stop by and have a new one taken!

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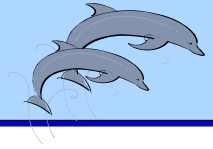
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Mariners Cruising



Upcoming Cruises

[Points North Hop On Hop Off Cruise, Dec. 4, 2023](#) **WAIT LISTED**

[Pelican Bay Anchor-Out, Dec. 9, 2023](#) ***

[Village Brewhouse Lunch Cruise, Dec. 11, 2023](#) ***

[South Seas Resort & Marina Cruise, Dec. 15, 2023](#) ***

[Pink Shell Resort & Marina at Ft. Myers Beach, Dec. 16, 2023](#) ***

[Nav-A-Gator Lunch Cruise, Dec. 22, 2023](#) ***

[Riviera Bar & Grill Lunch Cruise, Dec. 29, 2023](#) ***

[New Year's Eve Fishermen's Village Anchor-Out, Dec. 31, 2023](#)

[New Year's Day Lunch Raft-Up, Jan. 1, 2024](#)

PLEASE NOTE: " *** " after the name of the cruise = Need Cruise Leaders

(More cruises to be determined)....



Upcoming and Reoccurring Social Events

[Happy Hour every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m., at Four Points Sheraton Library](#)

[Pickleball \(summer hours\) every Tuesday & Thursday at South County Park from 8:30-10:30 a.m.](#) Contact Mick Whitney
[Also every Thursday at Gilchrist from 2 to 4 p.m.](#)

[Outdoor Social Gathering at Gilchrist Park, Thursday at 4 p.m.](#) Contact Dennis Barkow

[Boys, Bullseyes, Breakfast, Tuesdays at 9 a.m.](#) Contact Jim Lanza

[Mariner Walkie Talkies every Friday at 9 a.m. at Fishermen's Village to walk the Harborwalk.](#)
Don't forget your bottled water and sunscreen! Call Cindy Verhoven with any questions.

[Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast, January 7](#)

[Dinner for Eight](#)

[Movie Night, Dec. 11, 2023](#)

[Gal's Holiday Potluck Lunch, Dec. 15, 2023](#)

[Mariner Change of Watch, Jan. 6, 2024](#)



Isles YC Lunch Cruise, November 7

Paul Baird



PGICA Sign Clean-Up, November 9

Richard Northrup

Many hands made quick work of clean-up of the south Marion PGICA sign location. A job well done!



The crew

Beautiful



Before



Village Brewhouse Lunch Cruise, November 13

Paul Baird



Lunch with the Ladies, November 16

Joyce McCandless

For November's LwtL, I thought I'd seek out a "new to the group" venue: StingRay's Bar and Grill, located in the old Muscle Car City plaza, fit the bill perfectly!

Sixteen Mariner ladies, some to whom StingRay's was previously unknown, attended. The food was very tasty and the service prompt and cheerful. Although the size of our group required two tables for seating, conversation was lively and a few gals moved between tables to maximize their socializing opportunities. Several commented favorably on the interesting, car-based memorabilia and décor. Click [here](#) to access StingRay's Facebook page and learn more.

Following lunch, a few of us meandered through the many vendor booths located next door, at the Punta Gorda Mercantile Mall. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Thanks to all who attended; these lunches are some of my favorite Mariner get-togethers!

StingRay's Bar and Grill-Muscle Car City

