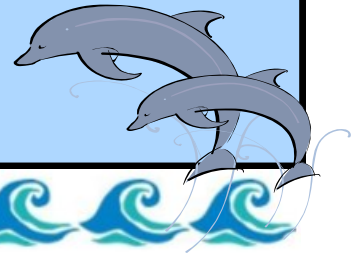


Nautical Notes



Vol. XVI Number 8

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

August 2024



**Bobby Conte,
Commodore**

We managed to get some boating in during the Dog Days of July Summer, now we face boating in the bad weather months of August and September. The Board is

trying to be very flexible with club requirement during these trying times for boating. During the month of August if you cruise anywhere on another member's boat, all members will receive a cruise credit even though some are passengers. The Board wants you to "Just get out on the water". We are also providing a few "Brunch" morning cruises to get out on the water before the heat and winds kick in for the day. We will be heading down to Burnt Store's Cass Cay Restaurant for an early morning meal and invited four members to join us on Ms. Julie II. All members on board will receive a cruise credit. We will also have the second "Captain's Lunch" at Monty's on August 15. Last month four boat Captains attended and shared lots of boating knowledge and tips. Join us if you can and share your boating experiences with the group. There will be no club meeting in the month of August so stay in touch with other members by joining us on a cruise or lunch venue, and of course the Happy Hour every Wednesday night at The Village Brewhouse.



**Tom Martin,
Cruise Director**

The overnight cruises planned for July may have been thwarted by the heat, but the last Sunday lunch cruise to Riviera Grill was lots of fun, with twenty Mariners meeting for the usual good food and

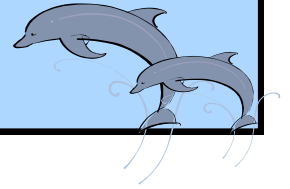
camaraderie - thanks Michael Mankin for leading this one!

August will hopefully be a bit cooler, and we have planned a brunch cruise on Sunday the 11th to Cass Cay at Burnt Store marina which will have us home before the hottest part of the day. Also scheduled is a one-night cruise to Tween Waters on the 22nd, with an opportunity to do a sandbar lunch and overnight in Pelican Bay the next day. Lunch with us at Riviera on the 20th and enjoy the music after lunch.

Looking ahead to early September, plan on a four-night Tween Waters mini vacation led by Michael and Crystal Mankin starting on the 3rd. Enjoy the pools, great restaurants, beautiful beach, and docktails with friends. Tween is even offering four nights for the price of three! Keep in mind that if you can join us for just part of any multi-night cruise, you are more than welcome.

A pool party at someone's home has been suggested and would be great fun...any volunteers with dock space for three or four boats? We would encourage boat pooling to keep the number of boats down or come by land yacht. As always, we want to hear suggestions for places you'd either like to go or are already planning to go - pick a place and date and we'll get the word out. And for those of you needing a cruise credit, check out the summer sale!





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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!

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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.

August Birthdays

8/1 Dennis Barkow

8/1 Greg Julian

8/6 Mike Ross

8/7 Bruce Edgecomb

8/8 Frank Scharpf

8/10 Tom Martin

8/14 Mary Brown

8/16 Richard Northrup

8/18 Barry Franzino

8/21 Bill Rissel

8/26 Michele Sharp

8/28 Crystal Mankin

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



Happy Birthday!



**Education Director****Alan Singleton****Navigating the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Florida**

On the western coast of Florida, you have the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GICW). It begins at San Carlos Bay near Punta Rassa (MM "0.0") and runs in a northerly direction. After an initial 150 miles, the first section of the GICW cuts off near Anclote Key near Tarpon Springs (MM "150.0"). From there, you have to navigate 140 NM of open passage before you can rejoin the GICW near Carrabelle, FL (MM "376.0" EHL). The Intracoastal continues along the Florida panhandle and onwards to its terminus at the Port of Brownsville, TX.

GICW: buoys & markers

Navigational aids along the GICW are the same as they are along the AICW. This means that as you [head](#) northbound and ultimately westbound, you should follow the same navigational rules as before with the yellow stickers: **Always keep the yellow squares to port, and always keep the yellow triangles to starboard.** As long as you follow this rule and pay attention to the other navigation aids mentioned for the AICW, cruisin' should be easy breezy.

GICW: Charts, channels, & communications

The Gulf Coast portion of the Intracoastal is well mapped along its entire length. For the Florida portion of the GICW, you will need to know these NOAA charts:

- #11427
- #11425
- #11416
- #11411
- #11404
- #11402
- #11393
- #11390
- #11385
- #11378
- #11374

This chart range covers the entire Gulf Coast of Florida and can be used to navigate the 140 NM stretch between the two sections of the GICW. One important difference from the AICW occurs when you reach the second section of the GICW. The section is still measured in statute miles, but it is done relative to Harvey Lock near [New Orleans](#), LA (MM "0.0"). This section of the GICW is measured east (EHL) and west (WHL) of Harvey Lock.

The channel's federal project depth throughout this second section of the GICW is set at 12 feet, while the first section is set at 9 feet. Actual depths can be very different, though, so keep an eye out for drop aids and other indicators. Communications along the GICW still rely on VHF channel 09 for bridges when you are in Florida. As you pass [Tampa](#), things can be a little hectic, so the USCG Vessel Traffic Service there is 156.600 MHz (Ch. 12).

GICW: Bridges, locks, & power lines

Along the entirety of the GICW, there are around 80 bridges. Several fixed bridges offer a clearance of 65 feet or greater, but Florida offers some exceptions. There are three bridges with fixed clearances of 50 feet. These are the DuPont Bridge near [Panama City, FL](#) (MM "295.4 EHL"), the Brooks Bridge near Ft. Walton Beach, FL (MM "223.0 EHL"), and the Navarre Causeway Bridge near Navarre, FL (MM "206.7 EHL").

Most private vessels won't have to worry about crossing under these bridges.

(see page 4 Education Director)



Education Director (continued from page 3)

Alan Singleton

The Gulf Coast section of the Intracoastal also has seven locks, but they are all located outside of Florida. There are five in Louisiana and two in Texas. Power Lines are also not a problem along the Florida waterways. All the overhead power lines along the GICW have an overhead clearance of at least 80 feet. For the most part, cruising along the Gulf Coast is pretty straightforward.

GICW: A Note on the Tides

Tides along the [Gulf Coast](#) are deceptively annoying. The tidal range only varies from around 1 to 3 feet along the length of Florida and doesn't exceed 2 feet past there. The annoyance comes with the variability of the tides themselves. There are large sections of mixed tides along the Florida Gulf Coast with two unequal high tides and two unequal low tides each day.

As you approach the panhandle, these mixed tides become more semidiurnal with two highs and two lows. Further, along the panhandle, those semidiurnal [tides](#) then transition into diurnal tides.

Scoping Out the Intracoastal

If you are considering a long journey along the Intracoastal waterway, you might want to explore the route by land first. The ICW tracks the shoreline pretty closely, so some people have driven and even walked along the length of it. Because of the commercial significance of the route, it is usually well maintained, and there is plenty of information online about bridge schedules or other navigational issues.

As is usually the case, it is best if you can talk to an experienced captain who has recently navigated the ICW. The bigger your boat is, the more important this becomes. Minimum clearance heights, bridge names, and channel depths can seemingly change overnight. This is especially true around Florida, where urban development never ceases.

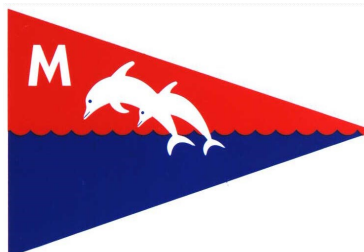
The Intracoastal offers the kind of adventure that every boater dreams of. There are convenient refueling points, long stretches of uninterrupted nature, waterfront properties, fine cruising speeds, and well-maintained routes. With a decent boat and some prior experience on the water, you can take to the Intracoastal and see for yourself just what it has to offer.

Explore water-travel destinations! Find your next trip at [Destination guides](#) and other boating resources [here](#).

About us

Boatsetter is a unique boat-sharing platform that gives everyone—whether you own a boat or you're just renting—the chance to experience life on the water. You can [list a boat](#), [book a boat](#), or [make money as a captain](#).

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Social Director

Ruth Sines-Dutcher



Another hot summer month has passed and many Mariners continue to travel out of Florida to the far reaches of the world. Facebook continues to delight with lots of photos and adventurous stories.

Some of the summer cruises in the Punta Gorda area look like fun as well! (Thanks Nancy Jo and John for taking friends along to Riviera!)

July Captain's lunch at Monty's saw four Mariner Captains enjoy a nice, relaxing meal together. So glad to see the gentlemen enjoy some "man time" together. Sign up now for August - always the third Thursday at noon.

Happy hour continues at the Village brewhouse on Wednesday evenings- Jim and I will stop in soon and hope to catch up with some of our friends!

Lunch with the Ladies will be at Tamiami Tavern at noon on 14 August. Join us for a nice, cool lunch - maybe even a Beef on Weck! Delicious!!

Swap meet items can be dropped off between August 12 and 14 - please call or text if you have items ready. I will be back late September/ early October for further donations and final preparations for the Swap Meet. Can I get a few volunteers to help the day of the swap meet - October 27. We will need an "Easy Up" type tent if anyone has one also. Volunteers are needed for set up, tear down and sales during the event.

Membership Director

Joan Erickson



Mariners, enjoy the rest of your summer. Then come back in September to participate in cruises, meetings and all the social events that are in the planning for the rest of the year.

Happy Cruising!

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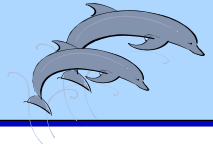
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Mariners Cruising



___Upcoming Cruises

[Burnt Store Cass Cay Sunday Brunch Cruise, Aug. 11, 2024](#) ***

[Riviera Lunch Cruise, Aug. 20, 2024](#) ***

[Tween Waters & Pelican Bay Cruise, Aug. 22-23, 2024](#) ***

[Last Sunday of the Month Sunset Lake Raft-up, Aug. 25, 2024](#) ***

[Tween Waters Overnight Cruise, Sep. 3-6, 2024](#)

[Village Brewhouse Lunch Cruise, Sep. 16, 2024](#) ***

[Tween Waters Weekend Pool Party, Sep. 27-29, 2024](#) ***



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

(More cruises to be determined)....

We want your ideas for lunch or overnight cruises! If you have an idea for a day cruise or overnight to one of your favorite places – or one you’ve wanted to visit – let [Tom Martin](#) know and we’ll get it on the calendar. Also – please consider leading a cruise – either to one already on the calendar that needs a leader, or one you propose to a favorite restaurant or marina.

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!



Upcoming and Recurring Social Events

[Happy Hour every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m., at Village Brewhouse](#)

[Pickleball \(summer hours\) every Tuesday and Thursday at South County Park from 8-10 a.m. Contact Mike or Beth Guler](#)

[Outdoor Social Gathering at Gilchrist Park, Thursday at 5 to 7 p.m. Contact Dennis Barkow](#)

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

[Dinner for Eight](#)

[Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast, August 4, 2024](#)

[Captain's Lunch at Monty's on the 3rd Thursday of the month](#)

[Lunch with the Ladies at the Tavern, Aug. 14, 2024](#)



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Mariners Lunch with the Ladies, July 26

Debbie Dehmel

On July 26, Lunch with the Ladies was hosted by Debbie Dehmel at The Perfect Capers.

August's Lunch with the Ladies will be hosted by Ruth Sines-Dutcher at Tamiami Tavern on August 14 at 11:30.



Fun Thoughts

Karen Roland

Why is a ship called a she?

- A ship is called a she because there is always a great deal of bustle around her; there is usually a gang of men about.
- She has a waist and stays; it takes a lot of paint to keep her looking good.
- It's not the initial expense that breaks you, it is the upkeep. She can be all decked out.
- It takes an experienced man to handle her correctly, and without a man at the helm she is absolutely uncontrollable.
- She shows her topsides, hides her bottom, and when coming into port, always heads for the buoys!





Riviera Lunch Cruise, July 27

Michael Mankin

Crystal and I put this one together. We ordered up a gorgeous warm sunny Sunday. Yes, we have some pull with the weather folks! Five Mariner boats made the trip. We also had eight or so Mariner passengers aboard a few of the boats plus a host of land yacht participants all totaling I think twenty-two Mariners!!! I changed the reservation two or three times for this one. Our Vice Commodore Carol Barkow and captain Dennis were aboard Salt Shaker, Our Membership Director Joan Erickson and captain Wayne were aboard Fins Up, Mike and Ann Slattery were aboard 16 Below, John and Nancy Jo Krusinski were aboard their new Ranger Tug, Tug-A-Lug with a host of riders, and Crystal and I aboard Crystal Blue rounded out the fleet. What a crowd! The Riviera as usual did a fabulous job with the food and drinks. Amazingly enough, our waiter took our table of twelve orders without writing anything down and nailed every order. You do not see that very often! Riviera Rocks! I am certain a good time was had by all!

