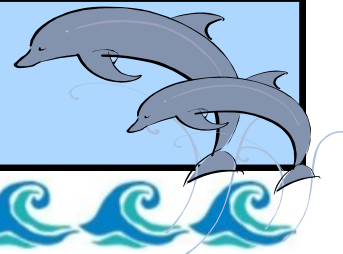


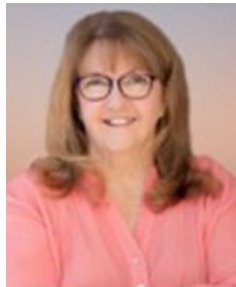
# Nautical Notes



Vol. XVII Number 2

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

February 2025



**Carol Barkow,  
Commodore**

After a short attempt at winter, Florida is finally returning to her beautiful self. Happy Hour at the Village Brewhouse went from seven members indoors last week to over 30, enjoying the outdoor plaza, this

week. So, whether you have been hiding inside, or just returned from the great "Up North", its time to join in the fun with the Mariners.

January saw the Commodores Gala and Change of Watch. We had a lovely dinner with music and dancing at the Isles Yacht Club. Bill Albers, the first Commodore of the Mariners of PGI, gave a very interesting talk about all the things that have been accomplished by past leaders and the club in the first 25 years. A special thanks to the social committee for an outstanding evening. A big thank you also to Laurie and Brad Betting, and Joyce McCandless for their exceptional volunteer leadership as members who are always willing to step up and say 'yes' when asked if they can help.

One of our priorities this year will be to grow and invigorate our membership. Recent years have been hard on clubs and groups of all types. So, we are asking you, current members who enjoy the Mariners, to reach out to friends and neighbors and invite them to come and experience this great way to meet people and enjoy the Charlotte Harbor environs. You are welcome to bring guests to Mariner functions such as Happy Hour or the monthly brunch at Tamiami Tavern. Then they can experience the friendly people and activities that we all so enjoy. Most new members – in any group- come from the personal invitations of existing members. Do you remember who first introduced you to Mariners?

Going forward we are looking forward to a Valentines Day lunch cruise soon and lots of other plans are underway for a fun season. I will let the Directors fill you in on all the details.



**Gary Towers,  
Cruise Director**

January proved to be a challenging month for cruises. The Tarpon Lodge lunch cruise was a bust as cool temperatures and overcast skies were less than ideal for boating. My wife Julie and I

decided to venture out anyway and we were joined by Gary and Sheila Wiens. This 1926 property is a historic landmark with "Old Florida" charm and is sister property to Cabbage Key. We will look into a future visit.

Forecasted cool weather, overcast and rain also impacted the planned Sarasota Overnight Cruise. Julie and I packed some extra blankets and warm clothes and made the journey anyway. Originally planned with a stop at Palm Harbor, we learned the marina was not in operation and dropped it from the cruise. As we navigated the ICW north of Gasparilla Pass, the damage to the docks at marinas was in clear view. Passing Don Pedro we observed sunken boats near the shore. Marina Jack transient docks were in fine shape, but we learned they would be closing. Boats need to be moved there to make way for repairs in other parts of the marina. During our stay we took the free trolley to Lido Key and walked the beach and shops. We also Ubered to the Ringling Museum.

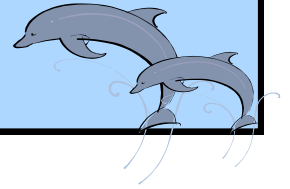
With the "under repair" status of marinas north, expect to see overnight cruises planned to the south.

Looking forward to February, hopefully the weather will be outstanding and the cruises well attended. We are excited about the Tween Waters Overnight Cruise, Feb.11-13. This will be Julie's first time as Cruise Leader. Drinks on the dock, bike riding, dinner out, games and other activities are planned.

Also on the calendar for February is a Valentine's Day Lunch Cruise at Isles Yacht Club on February 14, Riviera Lunch Cruise on February 20 and Last Sunday of the Month Raft up on February 23.

In March we have the Tarpon Point & Pink Shell Overnight Cruise, March 11-15. Thank you to Mike and Crystal Mankin for putting this one together.

*(see page 3 Cruise Director)*



## Mariners of PGI Board of Directors

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**BOBBY CONTE, Past Commodore**  
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## Newsletter

**BETH GULER, Editor**  
[neditor@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:neditor@marinersofpgi.org)

**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](http://www.marinersofpgi.org)

## **February Birthdays**

2/2 William Eggert  
2/4 Hugh Bass  
2/6 Michael Mankin  
2/7 Dawn Hayworth  
2/8 Ann Slattery  
2/10 Jane Leach  
2/11 Julie Black  
2/12 Anne Peltier  
2/13 Edward Walberg  
2/13 Laurie Betting  
2/23 Patty Feather  
2/26 Paul England  
2/27 Bigna Bandle  
2/28 Sandy Franzino

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**LYNNE MATTHEWS, Sunshine Committee**  
[sunshine@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:sunshine@marinersofpgi.org)

**DON LEITCH, Webmaster**  
[webmaster@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:webmaster@marinersofpgi.org)

**GARY TOWERS, Ship's Store**  
[store@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:store@marinersofpgi.org)

**FACEBOOK Page** [Mariners of PGI](https://www.facebook.com/MarinersofPGI)

### 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.

If you or anyone  
you know is ill  
or in need of some  
Sunshine,  
please contact  
**Lynne Matthews**  
[sunshine@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:sunshine@marinersofpgi.org)



*Happy Birthday!*





Cruise Director (continued from page 1)

Gary Towers

We also have the Tarpon Point, Naples City Dock & Marco Island "Hop on Hop Off" Overnight Cruise, Mar. 14-19.

For April we have a return to Tween Waters planned for two nights April 4-6.

The Annual Regatta will be a three-day event conducted close to home the following weekend, April 11-13. The preferred location for this event is Burnt Store Marina, where dock repairs are underway. They do expect some transient docks to be available by April, but not a sufficient number of slips to accommodate our group. Stay tuned as the schedule of events is still being planned.

Please sign up as early as possible for any overnight cruise as dock space is usually limited. I look forward to reporting on completed cruises in the future.

Other cruises are in the works! Please continue to forward your ideas regarding future day or overnight cruises.

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## Education Director

Andy Droitcour



Ponce De Leon Park is open again including the boat launch ramp and main fishing pier.

Any suggestions for educational topics appropriate for the Mariners are welcome. Anyone interested in being a member of this year's education committee please reply to: Andy Droitcour at 401-480-1855.

## Social Director

Ruth Sines-Dutcher



January was cold, wet, and cloudy but somehow, we managed a super great day on January 18 for the Commodore's Gala and 25<sup>th</sup> annual Change of Watch.

All who attended enjoyed a lovely meal at The Isles Yacht Club followed by a fantastic speech by Bill Albers who highlighted The Legacy of The Mariners! It was such a nice tribute to the club and its members over the past 25 years and we were lucky to be joined by a few Past Commodores who are no longer in the club as well! All were honored and enjoyed a nice evening as "club members" again.

The Invocation was led by Wayne Sharp who always does a great job and Brad Betting entertained us with his banter as the night's M.C. The décor was lovingly taken care of by Judy Droitcour and Judi Whitcher and several volunteers and couldn't have been more elegant!

I had the pleasure of honoring TWO Participants of the Year and their spouses- Laurie and Brad Betting and Joyce McCandless and Peter Guille. They stepped up repeatedly to lead club activities throughout the year and have already shown their continued commitment to the club in leading roles this year! Thanks again ladies and gentlemen!

Music was provided by Bobby and Doreen's Jukebox Dreams, and the dance floor was not empty all evening. Everyone especially enjoyed dancing with Tracie Goin's Grandma Rita - 102 years old and shaking it with the best of us!!!

Truly a night to remember!

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## Membership Director

Joan Erickson



Mariners, there are some members who are delinquent in submitting their \$35 annual membership dues. Please do so as soon as possible. This will allow the Board of Directors to plan out the rest of the year.

You may drop it off at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association and ask the Receptionist to place it in the Mariners folder or mail it to Joan Erickson, 623 Santa Margerita Ln.

Due to so many lost or damaged boats last year, cruise credits have been suspended through the end of 2025. We look forward to seeing you at meetings and we encourage you to earn participation credits, as usual.

Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour  
March 1, 2025  
10 am - 4 pm

To benefit the Children's Charities of Charlotte County

Go to [www.PGICA.org/Beyond\\_Ourselves](http://www.PGICA.org/Beyond_Ourselves) for details

Early Ticket Price—\$40  
(Feb 4—Feb 28)

Day of Tour—\$50

Beyond Ourselves  
The Community Service  
Organization of the PGICA

Celebrating 35 Years Raising Over \$700,000

The poster features a palm tree, a house, and children playing.

## Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour

Susan Hills

The Beyond Ourselves club is the community service organization of the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association. The annual "Share the Love for the Kids" home tour is being held on March 1, from 10 to 4. This event has raised over \$700,000 for the benefit of children's charities in Charlotte County, since it held its first home tour in 2012.

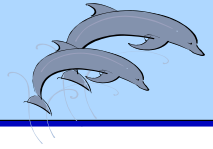
There will be five private homes located in Punta Gorda on the tour, provided by the generosity of the homeowners. Harbor Home Builders is displaying their current model home as a rest and refresh stop, where there will be complimentary snacks and water available.

Several of the PGICA clubs volunteer to cover one of the houses in the tour each year. Mariners have been doing so since 2014, when former member, Cheryl Berlon, volunteered her home to be part of the tour. Over the years, other Mariner members have had their homes as part of the tour, as well.

As home captain of one of the homes, I am looking for volunteers to help out during the tour. There is a pre tour on February 28 for homeowners, sponsors, and volunteers to attend. As a volunteer you would do a two hour shift from 4 to 6. You are provided with notes about the finer points of the house that you will share with the guests coming through on the tour. The public tour is on March 1 from 10 to 4. I am in need of volunteers to work either, 10 to noon, noon to 2, or 2 to 4. Please consider giving just two hours of your time to help children in need. You can contact me directly to volunteer via email: [route66sr@yahoo.com](mailto:route66sr@yahoo.com) or by phone: 941-286-3452.

You can also contribute by purchasing a ticket to see the homes.

Thank you,  
Susan Hills



## Mariners Cruising



### Upcoming Cruises

[Tween Waters Overnight Cruise, Feb. 11-13, 2025](#)

[Isles YC Valentines Day Lunch Cruise, Feb. 14, 2025](#)

[Riviera Grill Lunch Cruise, Feb. 20, 2025](#)

[Last Sunday of the Month Sunset Lake Raft-up, Feb. 23, 2025 \\*\\*\\*](#)

[Tarpon Point & Pink Shell Overnight Cruise, Mar. 11-15, 2025](#)

[Tarpon Point, Naples City Dock, Marco Island "Hop on Hop off" Cruise, Mar. 14-19, 2025 \\*\\*\\*](#)

[Tween Waters Overnight Cruise, Apr. 4-6, 2025](#)



***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 Gary Towers 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](mailto: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 every Sunday and Thursday at South County Park from 1-3 p.m.](#)

[Gilchrist Park Thursday Gathering, 4-6 p.m.](#)

[Lunch with the Ladies at Bean Depot Cafe, Feb. 25, 2025](#)

[Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast, March 2, 2025](#)

[River Ranch RV Resort Rodeo, Mar. 21-23, 2025](#)

[2025 Mariner Regatta \(“We Wanna Regatta”\), April 11-13, 2025](#)

[Regatta Murder Mystery Volunteer / Actor Sign-Up, Apr. 11, 2025](#)



Beautiful centerpiece from the Commodore’s Gala and Change of Watch.



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## Commodore's Gala and Change of Watch, January 18



2024 Board of Directors



2025 Board of Directors







## Mariners Lunch with the Ladies, January 21

January's Lunch with the Ladies was hosted by Patti Conners at JB's Corner Cafe. There were eleven ladies in attendance.

February's lunch will be at Bean Depot Cafe on February 25 hosted by Patti Conners.



## Happy Hour, January 29



Happy Hour at the Village Brewhouse was great the other night. Thirty people and beautiful weather. Too much fun to take a photo but the last people there continued on to Beef O'Bradys for wings and sandwiches.

Remember Happy Hour is every Wednesday 5 to 7 p.m. at the Village Brewhouse. We usually meet outside by the bar, but if the weather is not Florida-like we can gather inside. Hope to see you there!



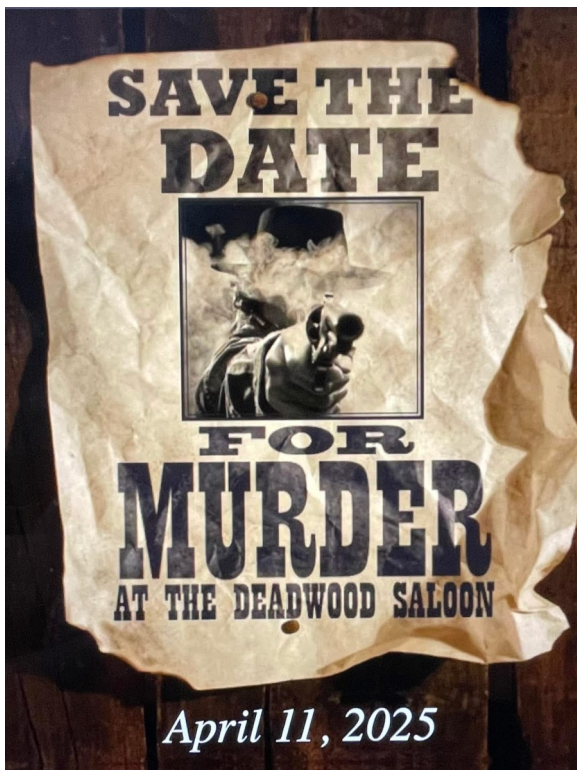


## Mariners On the Water

Bobbin Along is splashed and ready for winter cruising! Two capable Captains at the helm; Robert Toothaker and Paul Baird and a beautiful day.



## Coming Soon, 2025 Mariner Regatta ("We Wanna Regatta"), April 11-13, 2025



*As many of you have heard by now - we are not going to be able to have our usual Regatta festivities at a nearby Marina as those able to accommodate us have sustained damages from the hurricanes that are still needing repairs soooooo...*

*The Social Committee and The Cruise Committee are pleased to announce the "We Wanna Regatta"!!!*

*Events will take place here in our local canals and gathering spots and will include the following:*

*Friday, April 11 - An Isles Poker Run - from 12-3 p.m. (pick up locations TBD) - however - you will be able to pick up your first card at Happy Hour on Wednesday, April 9 at the Village Brewhouse!*

*Murder Mystery Dinner (BarBQ) - at PGICA Pavillion from 5-9 p.m.*

*Signup now for Murder mystery volunteers/actors.*