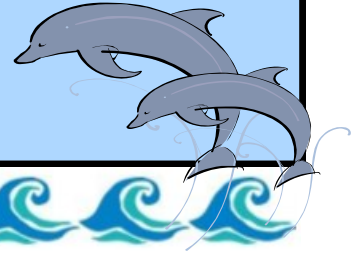


Nautical Notes



Vol. XVII Number 3

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

March 2025



**Carol Barkow,
Commodore**

Hearts and flowers all around for wonderful Valentine's Day lunch cruise to the Isles Yacht Club on February 14. Glen and Cathy Mayer hosted an excellent luncheon, and Mike and Crystal Mankin were the

cruise leaders for a very special day. About 35 people attended and the ladies were given red roses. It was a great day for a cruise and several boats brought multiple people. Let's all look up the next cruises – lunch or longer – and take part. Being able to bring extra people on one boat serves a couple of purposes. We save dock space at the limited marina slips available at most marinas these days, and we can enjoy more social time with other mariners while we cruise. So, if you have room on your boat, invite some guests – perhaps they are future mariners, just waiting for the invitation.

Speaking of future mariners, we are working this year to be extra welcoming to new friends. As you meet new folks in the neighborhood, or as you remind your pals – joining Mariners is a great way to have fun on the water and meet new people. With a mind to promoting new memberships, we will be offering incentives for those of you who encourage others to sign up. Joan Erickson will be filling you in soon on some new ideas and prizes to expand our ranks.

Regatta plans for April 11 to 13 are heating up fast. A poker run will start the festivities on Friday, with winners to be announced at the Poker Tournament celebration at the Deadwood Saloon Friday night. People get a little crazy when the stakes are this big, so be prepared for some excitement in a Saloon full of card sharks, dancing girls, and conniving characters. Detailed info will be provided by the usual purveyors of Mariner information. Look soon, this isn't going to wait for the Pony Express.

Surveying all Mariners during the month of March. Surveys gathering your opinions about events, policies and communication avenues were handed out at the February 24 meeting. If you were not in attendance or for some reason have not received your survey, please contact Carol Barkow 262-902-5052 so we have as many respondents as possible (one per member). The deadline for completed surveys will be April 15.



**Gary Towers,
Cruise Director**

In February we had a return to good cruising weather. The 'Tween Waters Island Resort & Spa Overnight Cruise was a resounding success. For Valentine's Day there was a large

turnout at the Isles Yacht Club as members came by land and sea. Thanks goes out to my wife for taking on the Cruise Leader task for 'Tween Waters and Michael Mankin for being Cruise Leader for the Valentine's Day cruise. See their reports below.

Looking forward to March we will see Mariners cruising to Tarpon Point Marina in Cape Coral, Pink Shell Beach Resort and Marina in Ft Myers, Naples and Marco Island. Many thanks to the Cruise Committee for putting these cruises together.

Tween Waters February Cruise

The 'Tween Waters Island Resort & Spa (with five boats) cruise took place February 11 thru 13 despite concerns of the Red Tide. I think we all coughed once or twice and then didn't give it a second thought.

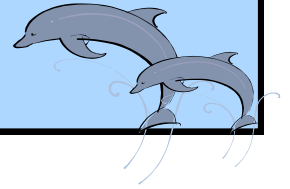
The highlight was the first night we spent together sharing dinner and discussions on the docks and enjoying each other's company. We learned Tom is quite the astronomer. What a vivid display of stars and planets that night.

Wednesday's activities included bike riding—we learned the Mucky Duck is being repaired—and sunbathing on the beach in the 'quintessential Floridian' steamer chair. The umbrellas remained closed because as I like to call it, it was blowing "stink". The strong wind did not deter Peter and Joyce from giving the Towers their first ever lesson in pickleball. Books were read, massage and facial appointments were kept, Mark and Judi's new boat made its virgin voyage, and dinner was enjoyed at The Green Flash with a full moon in view.

There were plenty of recliners at both pools even though the resort was in full swing.

Tween Waters is such a lovely resort and provides lots of free amenities- coffee all day, kayaks, manatee sightings, bag toss, fitness center, bikes and pickleball!

(see page 3 Cruise Director)



Mariners of PGI Board of Directors

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commodore@marinersofpgi.org

MIKE GULER, Vice Commodore
vicecommodore@marinersofpgi.org

KEITH FEATHER, Treasurer
treasurer@marinersofpgi.org

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secretary@marinersofpgi.org

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social@marinersofpgi.org

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membership@marinersofpgi.org

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cruise@marinersofpgi.org

ANDY DROITCOUR, Director of Education
education@marinersofpgi.org

BOBBY CONTE, Past Commodore
pastcommodore@marinersofpgi.org

Newsletter

BETH GULER, Editor
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

LYNNE MATTHEWS, Sunshine Committee
sunshine@marinersofpgi.org

DON LEITCH, Webmaster
webmaster@marinersofpgi.org

GARY TOWERS, Ship's Store
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)

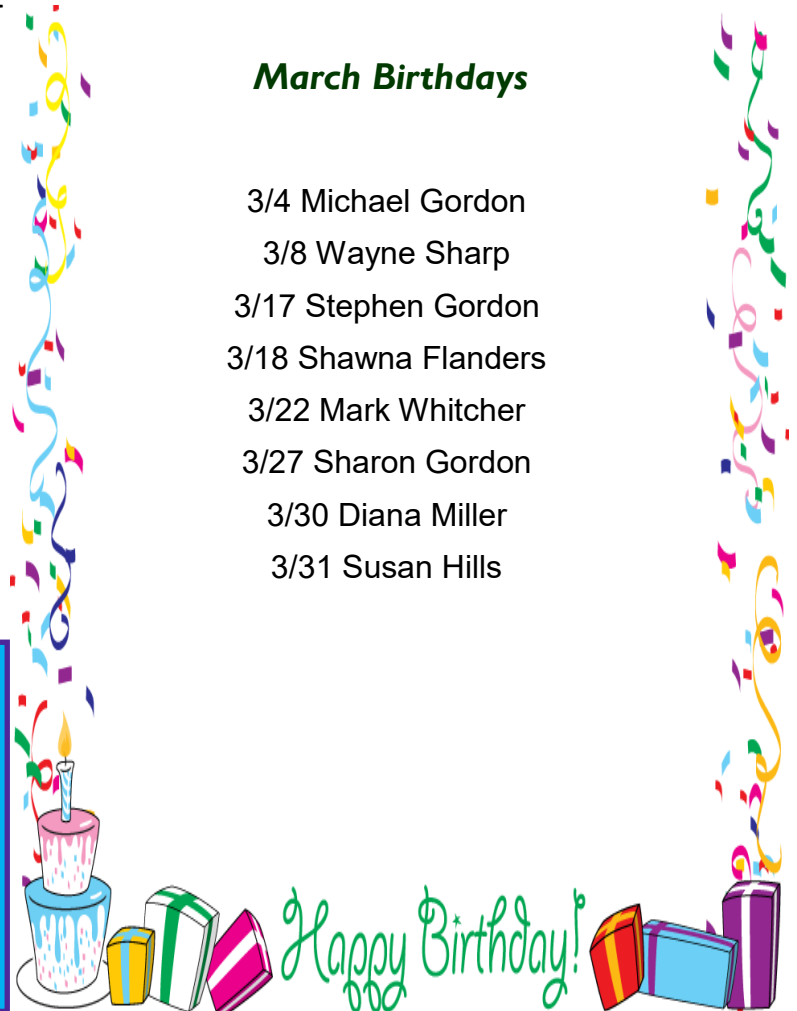
Board

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

March Birthdays

3/4 Michael Gordon
3/8 Wayne Sharp
3/17 Stephen Gordon
3/18 Shawna Flanders
3/22 Mark Witcher
3/27 Sharon Gordon
3/30 Diana Miller
3/31 Susan Hills

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





Cruise Director (continued from page 1)

Gary Towers

Gary and I talked to our fellow boaters on the radio and by cell phone coming and going. Kind of made it feel like a flotilla. It was reported that the harbor was quite choppy midday so we decided to go to Boca Grande and enjoyed an early dinner at the very busy Pink Elephant.

Julie Towers, Cruise Leader

Valentine's Day Cruise Report

First and foremost, I want to personally thank Glen and Kathy Mayer for sponsoring this event at the Isles Yacht Club. Glen did a great job coordinating with the serving team to manage our large group. Nice Job!

The morning started off pretty warm for February. It was a bit on the overcast side with light breezes but all and all ended up being a great day.

We had five boats and thirty-two Mariners in attendance. We also had a guest appearance by Gary and Julie Towers' son Preston, who is a Captain in the US Marine Corps. We can all thank him for his service! Once all boats arrived, we had a nice size crowd on the dock. Given the number of large yachts on our dock, the IYC Dock Master and crew did a great job finding space and assisting in securing all of us docking. A big thank you goes out to them!

At the appointed time we made our way up to the club house to find a second group of land yacht participants already there. The entire dining area was colorfully decorated for the Valentines occasion. As part of our Valentines tradition my lovely bride was passing out red roses to all the ladies in attendance.

As usual, the food was great, the IYC staff did a fabulous job for us with smiles the entire time. It is not often we get this large of a number of Mariners in one place at one time, so a lot of time was spent chatting and getting reacquainted.

Michael Mankin, Cruise Leader

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Education Director

Andy Droitcour



The annual Canal Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday March 8th from 9 to 12:30. Signup info is detailed in the PGIslanders article in the February issue of the PGICA Commentator, page 12.

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



February flew by like a blur! The Mariners standard social events continued with many gathering for Wednesday evening Happy Hours at the Village Brewhouse and Thursday evening outdoor gathering at Gilchrist Park. The Valentine's Day Lunch Cruise was organized by Gary Towers, Cruise Director and Ruth Sines-Dutcher, Social Director and graciously hosted by Glen and Cathy Mayer. Gary and I are working hard together to put together all the fun activities planned for the We Wanna Regatta - April 11through13. Sign-up pages are posted now so please let us know who will be joining us for each of these events ASAP. Lunch with the Ladies was hosted by me at the Bean Depot. A lovely time was had by all as we enjoyed good food, a unique setting and learning all about Meta technology from Julie Conte! (Ask her!)

Membership Director

Joan Erickson



Change in the cruise credits

In light of the recent storms several members have lost their boats, or experienced severe boat and/or home damage. In addition, the waters are a bit more dangerous to navigate due to debris in the harbor and canals. This has caused a hardship for many in being able to fulfill the cruise credit requirements. The board has decided it would be in the best interests of the membership to temporarily suspend the cruise credits for the remainder of 2024 and 2025.

Other credit requirements, for volunteer participation and meeting attendance will remain in place. Please plan to attend at least three meetings each year and earn one additional credit for volunteering in some club activity.

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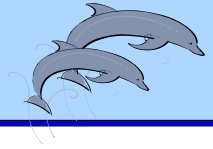
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Mariners Cruising



Upcoming Cruises

[Laishley Crab House Lunch Cruise, Mar. 6, 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 ***](#)

[Last Sunday of the Month Sunset Lake Raft-up, Mar. 30, 2025 ***](#)

[Pelican Bay Sandbar Lunch & Optional Overnight Cruise, Apr. 3, 2025](#)

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

[Mariner Regatta \("We Wanna Regatta"\), Apr. 11-13, 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.

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.](#)

[Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast](#)

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

[Lunch with the Ladies at Blossom & Brie, Mar. 19, 2025](#)

[Tampa Bay Rays vs Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball, Mar. 19, 2025](#)

[Treat Before We Meet, Mar. 24, 2025](#)

[Mariner Regatta \("We Wanna Regatta"\), Apr. 11-13, 2025](#)

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



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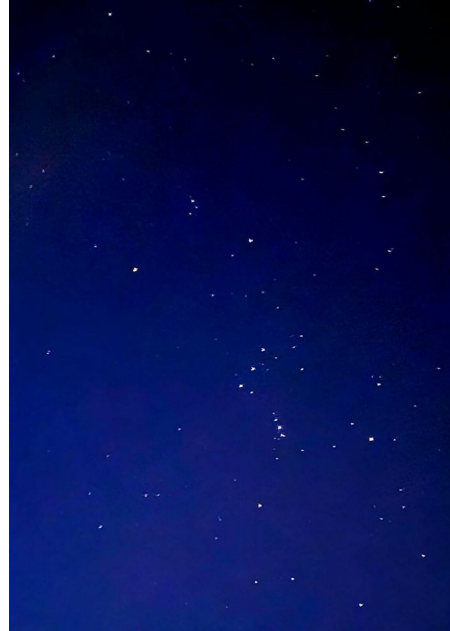
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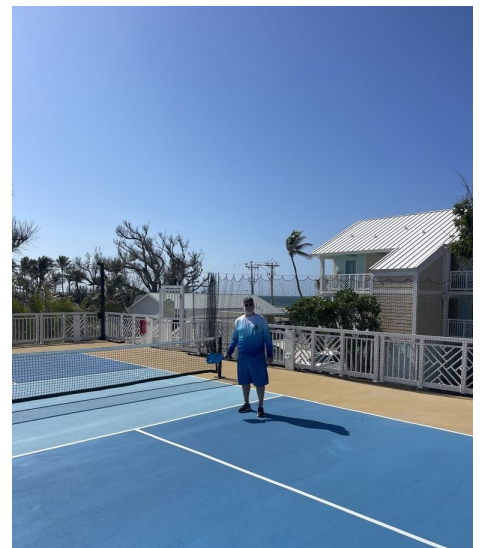
Nautical Notes



'Tween Waters Marina Cruise, Feb. 11-16



The "Tween Waters Cruise had everything you could want in a Mariner's cruise; perfect weather, great food and fellowship, lots of amenities and a night sky full of stars!



Nautical Notes



Isles Yacht Club Valentines Lunch Cruise, February 14





Mariners Lunch with the Ladies, February 25

February's lunch was at the Bean Depot Cafe on February 25 hosted by Patti Conners. The building, constructed in 1927, was a train depot for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

March's lunch will be hosted by Deb Kalitan will be at Blossom & Brie in North Ft. Meyers.





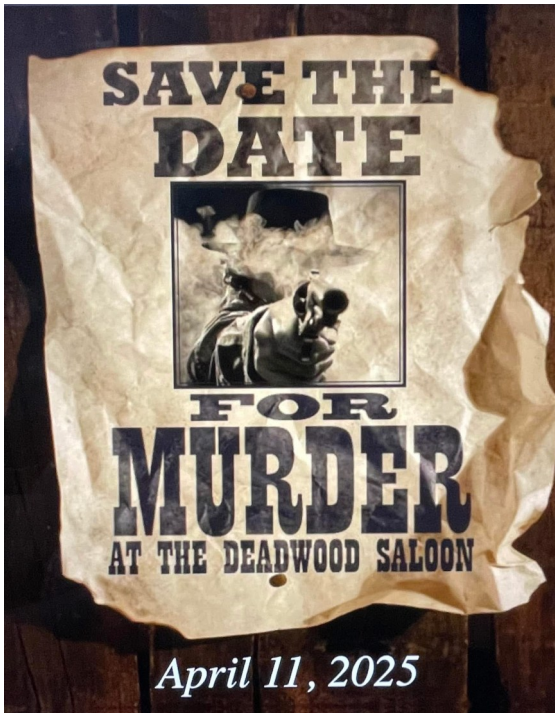
Gilchrist Park Thursday Gathering, February 13

Carol Barkow

Thursday's gathering was entertained by an impromptu concert from Mike Slattery.



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) - Participants will pick up one of five cards at the Village Brewhouse on Wednesday April 9.

Murder Mystery Dinner (BarBQ) - at PGICA Pavillion from 5-9 p.m.
Murder at the Deadwood Saloon !!

Saturday, April 12 -

Brunch and Bloody's with Barry from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cruise out or drive out to Andros Ct. and enjoy a dockside gathering featuring Barry Franzino's famous Bloody Marys.

Linner at The Riviera Grill- we have reservations for 30 or so people at 3 p.m.!!! Not lunch, not dinner- HOW ABOUT LINNER??

Sunday, April 13 -

Loop Parade – line up at Rim Canal near entrance to Ponce at 1 p.m. Burgees will be flying high as we show our club pride and enjoy "Looping" around the Rim Canal, through Buckley's Pass, out Alligator Creek, across the Harbor and back around to Sunset Lake! Tie Up at Sunset Lake for cocktails and appetizers from 3 to 6 p.m.

More details on the Mariner's website!