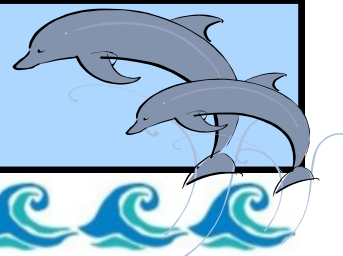


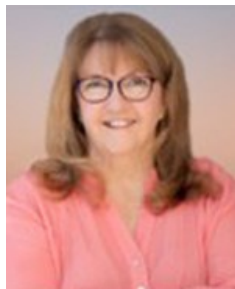
Nautical Notes



Vol. XVII Number 5

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

May 2025



**Carol Barkow,
Commodore**

The Regatta weekend was a huge success. Great example of making excellent lemonade out of a lot of lemons delivered months ago by hurricanes. Attendance was solid and everyone seemed to have a lot

of fun. Kudos to the cruise committee for organizing a poker run through the Isles. And to all the volunteers who decorated their docks and stood at the ready to hand out playing cards to the participants. Poker tournament winners were announced at the Deadwood Saloon Friday evening. What an evening! Costumes were top notch and really inspired actors and non-actors alike to get into the spirit of things. The Saloon patrons had a great Bar BQ dinner and were completely undone by a murder in the middle of the appetizers. Accusations and defenses flew, while people bribed, connived, and employed dirty tricks to try to either find the murderer – or make sure they weren't in the Marshall's list of suspects. Now that it's over I'll let you know... gambler, Keith Feather was murdered by shyster, Wayne Sharp, and Wayne was arrested by Marshall Jim Hebeisen. Everyone else was fully engaged in the fun as well. Lori Betting won the "best actor" and the "best costume" trophies but there many great competitors in every category. Dennis and I somehow had the best poker hand from the earlier poker run – and I categorically deny that we printed our own playing cards!

Many thanks to Ruth Sines Dutcher, Julie Scharpf, Gary Towers and DOZENS of other volunteers for making a very memorable evening and Regatta weekend for all. I'm sure more Regatta news will be in the Directors reports.

On the business side of things, the Executive Board is proceeding with learning more about the Club Express software that would enable us to move our entire website along with payment options into the PGICA platform. Board members and several other volunteers will soon begin learning how to operate the site and if all goes well, we will gradually open it up. Training on the site for all members to get maximum use from it will be offered.

(see page 3 Commodore)



**Gary Towers,
Cruise Director**

April saw a lot of Mariner's cruise participation. A dozen boats went to Tween Waters. Thirteen participated in the Regatta Poker Run. Twelve boats in the Regatta Loop Parade and Sunset Lake

Raft-up.

The Tween Waters cruise was packed with activities. Pickleball, kayaking races, painting and more. See Cruise Leader Laurie Betting's report below.

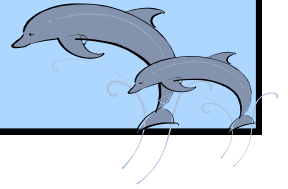
The Regatta Poker Run was a lot of fun. The card pickup spots traversed the NW through the SE corner of PGI with colorful flags, ribbons and large playing cards adorning the docks. The poker theme continued to the Murder Mystery Dinner where the Barkow's were determined to be the winners after showing a full house. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event a success.

The Regatta Loop Parade and Sunset Lake Raft-up took place on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Twelve boats participated in the Loop Parade and there were ten in the raft-up. Thanks again to the Bettings for taking on the cruise leader task.

"The anchor boats Starbucks and Driftwood set and were separated by War Horse, Lightning Rod and Going Coastal. As always, plenty of hands to grab lines and adjust fenders. The food was plentiful. Sun and light breeze proved to be the perfect capstone for a wonderful Regatta weekend. Time to rest up, clean up and start planning our next outing."

Looking forward to May we have an overnight cruise to The Marina at Edison Ford on the Caloosahatchee River in downtown Ft Myers. Don't miss this one, sign up asap! There will be a two-night stay at Edison Ford Marina with a visit to the Edison Ford Winter Estates. There will be optional add-on stops before or after the Marina at Edison Ford overnights. Please call the marina directly to reserve your slip.

(see page 3 Cruise Director)



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Meetings

General Membership

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

Board

PGICA, 2001 Shreve Street
4th Monday at 9:30 a.m. All members are welcome.

May Birthdays

5/2 James Grifo
5/3 Roger Black
5/12 Judy Droitcour
5/19 Gary Burgess
5/23 Beth Guler
5/24 Joan Erickson
5/27 Gary Towers
5/30 Glen Mayer

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



Happy Birthday!



**Commodore (continued from page 1)****Carol Barkow**

The snowbirds seem to have left Punta Gorda for points north for a few months. Keep in touch from wherever you are, and we will look forward to seeing you in the fall. Post pictures on Facebook and let us know where you are and what you are doing. While you are away Happy Hour on Wednesdays will proceed and other activities will continue – albeit in smaller numbers.

Travel safely all, on the water, in your RV or wherever you may be.

Cruise Director (continued from page 1)**Gary Towers**

There will also be a weekend lunch cruise to Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club on May 18 at 12:30 for an Ala Carte Sunday Brunch. Come by boat or car and enjoy a Sunday afternoon with your fellow Mariners at this beautiful marina facility!

Tween Waters Overnight Cruise
by Cruise Leader Laurie Betting

Twenty-four Mariners, three dogs, great weather and plenty of activities proved to be a perfect mix for a memorable cruise to Tween Waters. When asked what the highlight of the long weekend was some were quick to say Alcohol Ink painting on the beach under the guidance of Judy Droitcour and her able-bodied assistant Dawn Hebeisen. Others thought the blindfolded double kayak races were a fun new twist. While others said pickleball on the roof or pool time were what they enjoyed most. Learning how to play Swoop (or re-learning) and Code Names proved to be challenging for some. And certainly, the pre-Regatta appearance of Sally Starr serving coffee and muffins and Clay Coldwell getting beat at his own poker game were great precursors for the upcoming Regatta. I have to say that all the antics aside, it is still the beach walk and talks or the informal gathering in the pool or on our boats that deepens our friendships and makes Mariners special. Plans are already underway for a late March or early April 2026 Tween repeat. The Dock Master promises us even more slips.

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Social Director

Ruth Sines-Dutcher



April was all about the Old West. Several Wednesday Happy Hours were attended by soon to be 'famous' cowboys and saloon hands. The mood grew amongst many until the night of the Shoot Out at Deadwood Saloon! And what a night it was!! Some of the most impressive costumes were on display with all the personalities to match! The scene was perfectly staged, the chuck wagon was full of delicious vittles, the money was flowing and a GREAT time was had by all! Thanks to Julie Scharpf and her crew for all the hard work and thanks to all who participated. The boating events all weekend of the We wanna Regatta went very well and many stopped by Dutchers and Contes for Bloodies with Barry on Saturday morning followed by a lovely "linner" attended by more than 40 at the Riviera.

It was certainly nice to see so many Mariners embracing our stay at home 'Regatta' – looking forward to better water and Marina conditions next year.

Membership Director

Joan Erickson



Mariners, we will continue to defer our Cruise requirement through the end of 2025. In the meantime, please feel free to refer anyone who shows interest in joining our club to me:

Joan Erickson
Membership Director
512 789-1191

OR

joanpe524@yahoo.com

If your referral results in acceptance for membership, you will receive your choice of a Mariners hat or a Brewhouse gift card.

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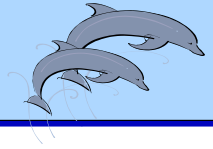
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Nautical Notes



Mariners Cruising



____ Upcoming Cruises

[CHYC Brunch Cruise, May 18, 2025](#)

[Overnight Cruise to Edison/Ford Estates, May 20-22, 2025](#)

[Last Sunday of the Month Sunset Lake Raft-up, May 25, 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 \(Summer Hours\) every Tuesday and Thursday at South County Park from 8-10 a.m.](#)

[Gilchrist Park Thursday Gathering, 5-7 p.m.](#)

[Bullets & Brunch on second Wednesday of each month](#)

[Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast, June 1, 2025](#)

[Lunch with the Ladies at Perch 360, May 13 2025](#)





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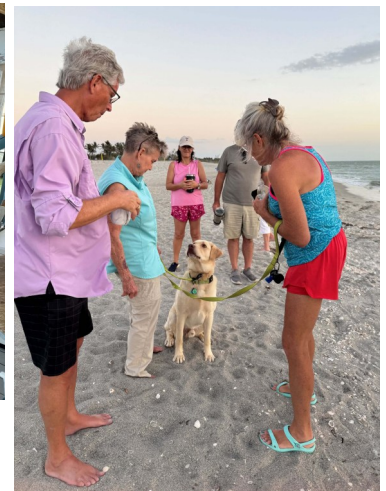


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'Tween Waters Marina Cruise, April 4

Laurie Betting





Annual Peter Guille Pickleball Tournament, Apr. 10

Laurie Betting



We Wanna Regatta Isles Poker Run, Apr. 11

Gary Towers



We Wanna Regatta Brunch & Bloodys with Barry, Apr. 12

Contes, Dutchers, & Franzinos





We Wanna Regatta Murder Mystery, Apr. 11

Julie Scharpf





We Wanna Regatta Murder Mystery, Apr. 11 (Continued)

Julie Scharpf





We Wanna Regatta Murder Mystery, Apr. 11 (Continued)

Julie Scharpf



We Wanna Regatta Loop Parade and Sunset Lake Raft-Up, Apr. 13

Brad & Laurie Betting

