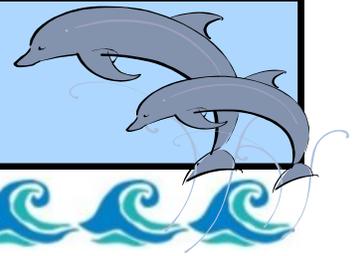


# Nautical Notes



Vol. XVII Number 8

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

August 2025



**Carol Barkow,  
Commodore**

Two things that are current news this week.  
1. A lot of Mariners are off traveling and  
2. Hurricane season is here, whether we like it or not.

For keeping in touch and letting friends know where you are, I suggest that travelers post a simple note on the Mariners Facebook page.

As for hurricane season we have a simple idea that has become a plan. The original mariners from 25 years ago (also fondly known as the 'ancient mariners') have frequently told us tales of the mutual benefit society that Mariners became right after Hurricane Charlie. They kept in touch with each other and conveyed to the club, who was doing well, who was needing help and when the power would be back on. Even if you didn't need the help of a strong back, it helped a lot to have a friend keep track of you.

Some months ago, Ruth Sines Dutcher suggested we build a phone tree using the clusters or neighborhoods we live in to keep each other informed before and after a storm. We have started by putting pins in your addresses on the map of Punta Gorda to see where the clusters form. Or we will use the natural neighborhoods created by dividing PGI along the lines formed by Bal Harbor and Aqui Esta. There should be groupings in the NW, NE, SW, and SE quadrants.

If that turns out to be reasonably evenly divided, we will set up the phone tree. The persons at the top will be responsible for starting a tree in the event of serious warnings or evacuations. We will know who is staying in town or where they are headed. Then the phone tree can continue by calling on each other after the storm to see who needs emergency aid. For example, if you are out of town and need your boat tied down before a storm - that's a call to your neighbors. If you want to ride along with someone to evacuate, call your neighbor. If you come home to find a giant hole in your roof, call your neighbors to help put up a tarp. Don't ever feel like you are alone when you have Mariner friends that are here for you.

*(see page 3 Commodore)*



**Gary Towers,  
Cruise Director**

July was a relatively quiet month for the Cruise Committee, though we did enjoy a delightful lunch cruise to Riviera where six Mariners gathered for good food and great fellowship. In attendance were Wayne & Joan Erikson,

Shawna Flanders & Allen Singleton, and Larry & Diane Lowy. Calm seas and sunny skies made for a pleasant outing.

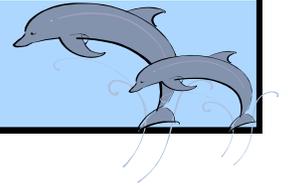


While we did not have any overnight Mariner cruises on the calendar in July, yours truly stayed busy with a family trip — a memorable seven-day sailing adventure in the beautiful British Virgin Islands. Sharing a passion for boating and life on the water with loved ones is always a special experience and a wonderful reminder of why we do what we do.

At the moment, the Cruise Committee is putting the finishing touches on plans for both upcoming lunch cruises and overnight outings. If all goes as expected, we'll soon publish details for a late-summer overnight cruise up north, along with a lunch cruise to a favorite spot near the Gulf. Stay tuned for dates and specifics — they're coming soon!

In other news, Marina Jack in Sarasota has announced that its transient docks are once again open following post-hurricane repairs. They are currently running a promotion: buy one night and receive the next night free.

It's encouraging to see long-awaited recovery and improvements taking shape across Florida's marinas. Burnt Store Marina also continues to make excellent progress with its repairs. Limited transient dockage is available this month, and they plan to be fully operational in time to welcome us for the Mariners Annual Regatta next April.



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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)

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**GARY TOWERS, Ship's Store**  
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**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)

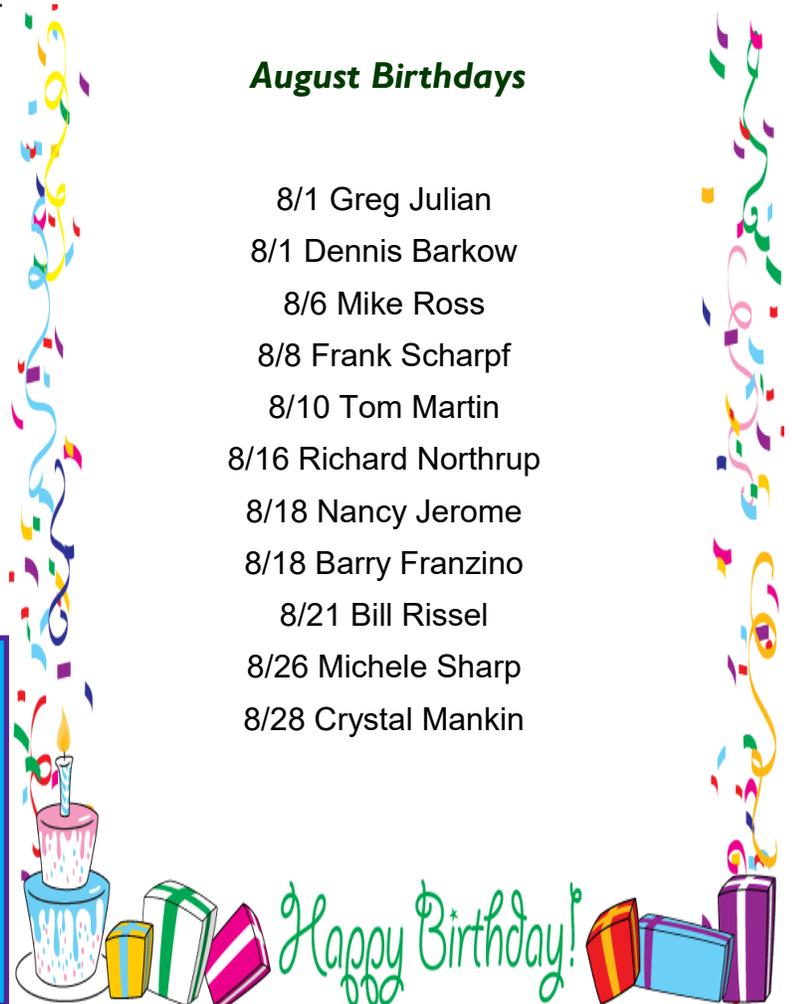
#### **Board**

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

## **August Birthdays**

8/1 Greg Julian  
8/1 Dennis Barkow  
8/6 Mike Ross  
8/8 Frank Scharpf  
8/10 Tom Martin  
8/16 Richard Northrup  
8/18 Nancy Jerome  
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](mailto:sunshine@marinersofpgi.org)



Happy Birthday!



## Commodore (continued from page 1)

Carol Barkow

So, double check that your address and contact numbers are correct in the membership roster. And if you are a reliable neighbor who won't panic at the first warnings, please let me know and we will put you at the top of the phone tree. If no one volunteers – don't worry, we will just assign logical parties in each area. We will print and post the phone tree so you know who you should call. The effort should be small, but the benefits could make a real difference on a hard day.

Finally, there will be no general meeting in August - a lot of people, Barkows included, are out of town. How about a quick post on the Mariners Facebook page to let people know where you are. Stay safe on the water, or wherever you are.

## Vice Commodore

Mike Guler



Two new Florida boating laws became effective last month. SB 1388, known as the Boater Freedom Act, prevents local law enforcement from stopping and boarding boats without probable cause of a primary offense. Of course, this does not apply to the US Coast Guard. In addition, future registrations and registration renewals will require that the owner sign an attestation form stating that the vessel has all the Coast Guard required safety equipment on board. Hopefully, this does not diminish the perceived value of the Coast Guard Auxiliary/US Power Squadrons Vessel Safety Checks, which go beyond the basic safety requirements. I encourage everyone to get an annual Vessel Safety Check. Our own Dennis Barkow is certified to perform these inspections. Here's a link to the complete bill: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1388/BillText/er/PDF>

[BillText/er/PDF](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1388/BillText/er/PDF)

The second new law, HB 289, is known as Lucy's Law. This law strengthens penalties associated with boating violations and seeks to align boating penalties with driving penalties. BUI offenses can result in suspension of your driver's license and BUI accidents can result in criminal charges. In addition, all boaters on Florida waters must complete a Boating Safety Course, and the exemption for folks born after January 1, 1988, has been removed. There is a new exemption if you've been a Florida resident for at least five consecutive years. The complete bill can be viewed here: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/289/BillText/er/PDF>

The Coast Guard has released the 2024 Recreational Boating Statistics. A couple stats of notable interest: 87% of people who died were not wearing a PFD. 69% of deaths involved an operator with no boating education. Here's a link to the report: <https://uscgboating.org/library/accident-statistics/Recreational-Boating-Statistics-2024.pdf> The Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report for 2024 can be found here: <https://myfwc.com/media/imsbmlev/2024-basr.pdf>

## Membership Director

Joan Erickson



Mariners, we will continue to defer our Cruise credit 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 of membership, you will receive your choice of a Mariners hat or a Brewhouse gift card.

Current membership is at 128.



Social Director

Ruth Sines-Dutcher



Hi everyone,

Summer's warmth has inspired many Mariners to explore the globe, and we've loved seeing your travel photos on Facebook! For those of you remaining in Punta Gorda, our Wednesday social gatherings continue to be a highlight. We'll be enjoying happy hour at the Village Brewhouse for the time being, but we welcome suggestions for new venues – please let us know if you'd like to host! July's gatherings at various Mariner homes were a resounding success, filled with laughter and good company.

As the leaves begin to change, we're already looking forward to our autumn events! Linda Wiens is graciously organizing our Welcome Back Picnic on Thursday, November 6, and would love your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to her directly.

Another exciting event on the horizon is our participation in the PGI Car Club's Trunk or Treat. We'll be there to spread some holiday cheer with candy and camaraderie – exact date to be announced soon! Decorate your car, open your trunk, and prepare for some festive fun. Costumes are encouraged but certainly not required!

We're also thrilled to be partnering with the PGIslanders for a Friendsgiving celebration on November 20 at St. Andrews Golf Club. More details will follow shortly, but we need a couple more volunteers to make this event truly special. Joyce McCandless has already kindly offered her assistance – thank you, Joyce! If you'd like to contribute, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Party at the PGICA on December 6. Peggy Northrup has generously volunteered to oversee the festive decorations.

We anticipate a fantastic fall and winter season filled with camaraderie and fun. Stay tuned for further updates on all events, and please continue sharing your travel adventures! Feel free to call or text me with any questions 607-316-0461.

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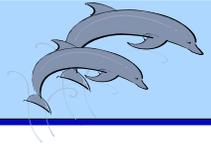
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# Nautical Notes



## Mariners Cruising



### Upcoming Cruises

( 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!

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## 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, September 7, 2025](#)

[Lunch with the Ladies at Salty Tarpon, Aug. 20, 2025](#)



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## Mariners Lunch with the Ladies, July 24

Debbie Dehmel

We had a very enjoyable Ladies Lunch at the Perfect Caper on July 24. There were three Dry Dock Ladies joining in with the current Mariners.

Next Ladies Lunch is August 20 at the Salty Tarpon hosted by Crystal Mankin.



## Mariners Happy Hours

