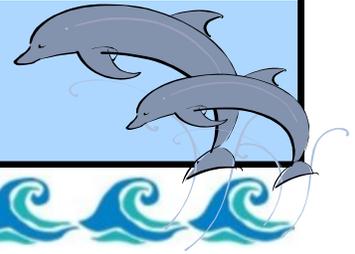


# Nautical Notes



Vol. XVII Number 12

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

December 2025



**Carol Barkow,  
Commodore**

Celebration season is here for the Mariners. We had a great Welcome Back Picnic to greet all our snowbirds and travelers on November 6. The picnic, at Ponce Park was a great success. Thank

you Linda Wiens and friends for planning and executing the afternoon. November also saw a fun brunch occasion at Isles Yacht Club hosted by Robert and June Toothaker and Paul Baird and Tracie Goin.

December will bring us more good times and good cruising. On Dec 12, a group of cruisers will head for Sarasota to view the Sarasota Christmas Boat Parade. The parade will be held Dec. 13 and run right past where we will dock at Marina Jack's for two nights. There should also be some time for dining and shopping – just to stay in the holiday spirit. On December 14 we will cruise to St. Pete where extravagantly decorated parks are right outside the Municipal Marina, and the whole city takes on a holiday air. Then we will return by way of Bradenton Twin Dolphins marina, which is across the street from many great sites including the Museum of Science and Nature and Main Street restaurants. Cruisers, or day boat Mariners who want to drive a car north, may adapt this plan to suit your needs. Anyone who would like to join us for one event in a specific city – keep in touch and we'll be happy to see you there.

Hope you were able to join us for the JINGLE BELL JAM, a very festive Christmas party on December 6 at PGICA. The featured attraction was music and dancing with the

**SUNCOAST SWING BAND**

**with featured singer Lady Z, and the Mariners own Larry Lowy.**

They promised a great show and they really delivered with music from the 40's, 50's 60's – and beyond.

Attire for the evening was whatever holiday outfit you could dream up. Christmas T-shirts, Christmas pajamas, your best Christmas tuxedo..... Its up to you. There were fabulous prizes for the fabulous fashion winners', Judy and Andy Droitcour won the couples contest prize, Beth Guler as a fashionista snow girl won the best individual prize. Jim and Cindy Grifo were the best dancing couple, and Julie Conte won a prize for best 60's costume. A potluck dinner

*(see page 3 Commodore)*



**Gary Towers,  
Cruise Director**

The November 30 Sunday Brunch was well attended and a great success. Many thanks to cruise leaders and hosts June and Robert Toothaker, along with Paul Baird and Tracy Goin.

As June perfectly summed it up:

“A fine time was had by all with lots of good company and conversation. *Tranquila*—the Eggerts—earn the Mariner Award for arriving by boat, while the rest rolled home happy, full, and satisfied in their land cruisers. Until the next time!”

December brought an overnight cruise to Sarasota and St. Petersburg. Cruise Leader Dennis Barkow led the way aboard *Salt Shaker* to Marina Jack, followed by the Towers in *Final Approach*. The Gulers joined the fleet in their new boat, *New Tack*.

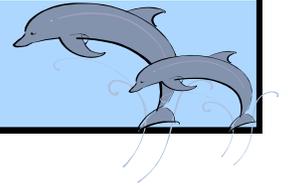
The highlight of the trip was our front-row, dockside view of the downtown Sarasota Holiday Boat Parade. Mike and Linda Wiens even arrived by land yacht to join us for the festivities, making it a truly memorable evening.

December also includes a lunch cruise to the Riviera and a Sunday brunch at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club—both popular favorites.

By request, we will now post the **Last Sunday of the Month Sunset Lake Raft-Up** as a recurring event. Be sure to sign up on the Mariners' website.

Looking ahead to January, expect lunch cruise postings and likely an overnight cruise heading south. Please reach out to me if you have a cruise idea you would like us to pursue.





## Mariners of PGI Board of Directors

**CAROL BARKOW, Commodore**  
[commodore@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:commodore@marinersofpgi.org)

**MIKE GULER, Vice Commodore**  
[vicecommodore@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:vicecommodore@marinersofpgi.org)

**KEITH FEATHER, Treasurer**  
[treasurer@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:treasurer@marinersofpgi.org)

**KAREN ROLLAND, Secretary**  
[secretary@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:secretary@marinersofpgi.org)

**RUTH SINES-DUTCHER, Director of Social Activities**  
[social@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:social@marinersofpgi.org)

**JOAN ERICKSON, Director of Membership**  
[membership@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:membership@marinersofpgi.org)

**GARY TOWERS, Director of Cruises**  
[cruise@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:cruise@marinersofpgi.org)

**ANDY DROITCOUR, Director of Education**  
[education@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:education@marinersofpgi.org)

**BOBBY CONTE, Past Commodore**  
[pastcommodore@marinersofpgi.org](mailto:pastcommodore@marinersofpgi.org)

## 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)

## **December Birthdays**

---

**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](#)

### 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.

12/11 Jon Shattuck  
12/16 Mitchell Miller  
12/18 Robert Toothaker  
12/22 Suzanne Martin  
12/28 Larry Lowy  
12/28 Ruth Sines-Dutcher  
12/29 Cathy Mayer  
12/31 Shelley Crawford  
12/31 Julie Towers  
12/31 Lynne Matthews

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**

was supplanted by turkey and ham. Side dishes, and appetizers and a chocolate fountain were provided by those in attendance.

In January look forward to the **Commodores Gala and Change of Watch on January 17**. It will be held at the Isles Yacht Club with a lovely dinner and music provided by Gary and Kerri, a duo often enjoyed around PGI and among the best in the business. Please watch for details and go to the Mariners Calendar to sign up.

This will be my last Nautical Notes article as 2025 Commodore and I want to thank you all for making it a pleasure. Especially the board members who were so engaged and cooperative. Every meeting was a delight. Club members were very supportive and much appreciated. Every request was met with enthusiasm and a true volunteer spirit. One of my favorite examples was when we needed a committee to pull together a big Christmas party – I made 6 phone calls, and got 6 “anything you need, glad to help” answers.

The survey we took last spring, gave us the data to address issues the club members presented. We changed the by-laws so that now we can include people who belong to a rental/shared boat club as Mariners. This was passed by a large majority and everyone had a chance to contribute their opinions. Also, we spent many, many hours researching and discussing alternate plans for members to send in funds, or dues via internet. This issue continues to be under discussion, but Mike Guler led the effort and he will continue to find resolution in his upcoming year as 2026 Commodore.

**Education Director****Andy Droitcour**

Due to technical difficulties Mike Wiens presentation did not occur in November so we will try again in January.

Are you thinking of going to the Bahamas? I've been twice, sailing down from Rhode Island in the fall and staying over the winter. Crystal clear water, protected places to anchor, good holding bottom, nice coral for snorkeling or scuba diving. Like the T-shirt says, “No work, No snow, Just add Rum”... But that was 20 years ago. Some things are the same, others have changed. You'll probably be going from Punta Gorda in the summer. If you want current advice, get it from someone who's been there recently.

Fortunately, a fellow Mariner made the trip last year! Mike Wiens will be presenting at the November meeting, “Things to know before heading to the Bahamas”.

Recommended routes, GPS charts, insurance restrictions, spare parts to bring, and much more will be covered, and I suspect a lively Q and A should answer many of your questions. There are so many different anchorages, weather conditions, fellow travelers, etc. that your own trip will be unique, but by listening to Mike you should be able to avoid some unpleasant “but I didn't know” surprises.

**Membership Director****Joan Erickson**

Please remit your \$35 annual membership dues by January 31, 2026. If you've joined the club within the last 3 months, this is included in your initiation fee. Thank you, Mariners!



## Game Night, December 1

Laurie Betting

It's official. Game night is a hit. Horses were raced, Jokers and Marbles were advanced and sent back to start, Uno was called a few times and Swoop is now in some Mariner's repertoire. Christmas music played, laughter rang out, snacks were shared and plans were discussed for a B I N G O night in January. Sounds like one you don't want to miss. Thanks to table hostesses and hosts Joyce McCandless, Suzanne and Tom Martin, Brad Betting and Susan Hills.



Next game night January 5.

### Advertiser of the Month

*Please consider supporting our advertisers.*

*This month is:  
Quality Starter & Alternator*

## Quality Starter & Alternator

• FARM • FOREIGN • MARINE • INDUSTRIAL  
ONE DAY SERVICE ON MOST REPAIRS

Whidden Industrial Park  
23380 Janice St., Unit 1  
Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980

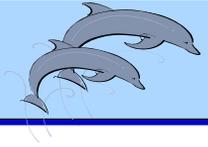


BCC08-1001

**627-AMPS**  
(941) 627-2677



# Nautical Notes



## Mariners Cruising



### Upcoming Cruises

[Charlotte Harbor YC Sunday Brunch, Dec. 21, 2025](#)

[Last Sunday of the Month Sunset Lake Raft-Up, Dec. 28, 2025 \\*\\*\\*](#)

[Tarpon Lodge Cruise, Jan. 10, 2026](#)

[Tween Waters Cruise, Jan. 23-25, 2026](#)

**( 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.

**Pier One**  
YACHT SALES

LET OUR LOCATION MAKE SELLING YOUR BOAT EASY

AT FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE

Helping Members  
Buy & Sell Their Boats of Any Size  
Since 2004

[www.pieroneyachtsales.com](http://www.pieroneyachtsales.com) (941) 639-7777  
1200 W. Retta Esplanade #43 • Punta Gorda, FL 33950

**TAMIAMI TAVERN**  
Est. 2021  
Your Neighborhood Local

Have you had the pleasure of trying our new **Breakfast and Brunch** menus? Featuring **Mix and Match Benedicts and Brunch Combos!**  
Check out our menu at [www.TamiamiTavern.com](http://www.TamiamiTavern.com)

Breakfast 8am to 3pm  
Brunch 11am to 3pm  
Dinner 11am to 9pm

LOBSTER BISQUE AND CRAB CAKE BRUNCH COMBO

**OPEN DAILY**

MIX and MATCH BENEDICTS

10361 Tamiami Trl, Punta Gorda, FL 941 639 6500

**SEA TOW**

Join today. Mariners of PGI receive 13 months for the price of 12! Call local number receive savings.

**Sea Tow Charlotte Harbor**  
941-625-5454 800-4-SEATOW [seatow.com](http://seatow.com)



## 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, January 4, 2026](#)

[Commodore's Annual Gala – Change of Watch, Jan. 17, 2026](#)



KR2@KROLLAND.COM  
WWW.KROLLAND.COM

**KEN & KAREN  
ROLLAND**  
*Teamwork Works*

KEN 941.628.8816  
KAREN 941.628.6477



OUR WEBSITE



OUR MOBILE APP



NAVIGATING OUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE MARKET  
(AND THE SURROUNDING WATERS) SINCE 2003



ACCREDITED BUYER REPRESENTATIVE  
CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL SPECIALIST  
GRADUATE, REALTOR INSTITUTE  
SELLER REPRESENTATIVE SPECIALIST

EACH KELLER WILLIAMS OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

- ✓ Lifting, Surveys & Transports
- ✓ Engine Repair/Maintenance
- ✓ Fiberglass/Imron/Gelcoat
- ✓ Bottom Paint



**PUNTA GORDA MARINA**  
www.PuntaGordaMarina.com

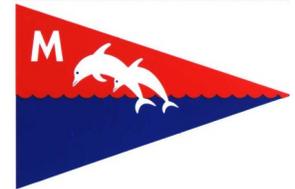
(941) 639-2750  
25096 Marion Ave  
Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 4:00pm



## Friendsgiving with the PGIslanders, Nov. 20

Joyce McCandless

In potential revival of an old tradition, the PGIslanders extended an invitation to the Mariners to share in their annual Friendsgiving celebration held November 20 at St. Andrews South Golf Club. The Islanders have kept the event within their club for the past few years. Seventeen Mariners and 38 Islanders participated. To facilitate “mingling”, seating was arranged to provide a mix of Mariners and Islanders at each table. Serendipitously, across from Peter and me were the Snyders, whom we discovered were neighbors on our street, just a few doors down! Both the Islander Social Director and their Commodore’s wife commented positively on the seating arrangement and the friendly inter-club interaction it promoted. St. Andrews, which was nicely decorated for the holiday, served a very tasty and traditional Thanksgiving buffet. Thanks, again, to the Islanders for including us!





## Mariners Lunch with the Ladies, November 18



On November 18, twelve Mariner Ladies got in four cars to drive to Burnt Store Marina for a very enjoyable lunch at Cass Cay Restaurant & Bar hosted by Julie Towers.

## IYC Brunch Cruise, November 30



## Mariners Lunch with the Ladies, December 3

On December 3, eight Mariner Ladies gathered for a vintage gift exchange and lunch at The Perfect Caper hosted by Sheila Wiens.

Ladies lunch venue is always a good time and a great way to get to know some of your fellow Mariner Ladies. We are always looking for new lunch ideas and more ladies to join in the fun.





## The Jingle Bam Christmas Party, December 6





## The Jingle Bam Christmas Party, December 6 (Continued)





## The Jingle Bam Christmas Party, December 6 (Continued)

