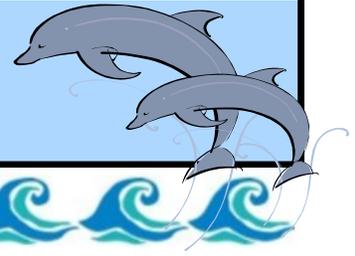




Nautical Notes



Vol. XVIII Number 02

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

February 2026



**Mike Guler,
Commodore**

I'm honored by your trust to lead the Mariners of PGI in 2026. Please keep me or any board member informed of any concerns or suggestions that arise throughout the year. My primary

goal for the year is to focus on fun. Get involved with your favorite committee, volunteer to help with our annual events and suggest new cruises and social activities for all to enjoy. Invite a friend to join the fun, which I believe is the best way to recruit new members.

Please welcome and thank your 2026 board of directors: Joyce McCandless, Vice Commodore; Gary Towers, Cruise Director; Susan Hills, Social Director; Jacqueline Kerr, Secretary; Keith Feather, Treasurer; Paul Baird and Tracie Goin, Co-Membership Directors; Bobby Conte, Education Director; and Carol Barkow, Past Commodore.

Our April Regatta will be upon us before you know it. We need volunteers to keep the workload from falling on a few. Please contact Susan Hills to see how you can help.

Gary and Susan have been working hard to give us multiple cruise and social options every month. Offer to lead a cruise and get an anchor embroidered onto your burgee. Leading a cruise is a simple way to get your annual participation credit. Volunteer to join Susan's social committee and assist in organizing our many social activities.

At the January General Meeting, we had an informative and entertaining presentation on cruising to the Bahamas by our own Mike Weins – Thanks Mike! Expect more helpful boating presentations organized by our incoming Education Director, Bobby Conte. Contact Bobby if you have presentation ideas for our General Meetings.

Sign up for events and cruises and make Mariners of PGI the busiest and most enjoyable club in town. Splice the Main Brace!



**Gary Towers,
Cruise Director**

January brought some excellent boating weather, and Mariners took full advantage.

On January 10, we enjoyed a lunch cruise to Tarpon Lodge to "experience a Taste of Old Florida and life along Pine Island Sound." Arriving by boat were Mark and Judi Whitcher, Richard and Peggy Northrup, and Julie and me. Also attending were Kip and Patti Conner, Eric and Debby Dehmel, and Joyce McCandless.

On January 21, we cruised to the Riviera Bar & Grill for lunch, with the Mankins, Gary DiLillo, and the Towers arriving by boat.

Later in the month, we wrapped up January with an overnight cruise to Tween Waters, led by Suzanne and Tom Martin. Below is their Cruise Leader Report:

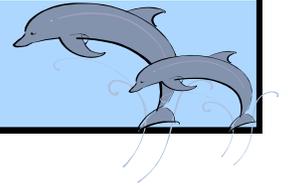
A group of ten Mariners in five boats headed to Tween Waters Resort on January 23 for a two-night stay. Skippers and first mates included Andy Droitcour and his brother-in-law Burt, Eric and Debby Dehmel, Paul Baird and Tracie Goin, Tom and Suzanne Martin, and Gary and Julie Towers.

The weather was near perfect, with calm seas on the trip down and temperatures in the 80s on Friday and Saturday. Friday evening featured the traditional docktails and appetizers—enjoyed in the "shadow" of the largest yacht many of us had ever seen at the marina, a 200+ foot vessel from Fort Lauderdale.

Saturday brought more beautiful weather, with time spent at the beach, biking, and relaxing by the pool. In the afternoon, the ladies headed out shopping and scored some impressive discounts on island-style clothing, while the men cautiously monitored the credit cards.

Saturday evening began with cocktails hosted by Paul and Tracie aboard their boat, followed by dinner at the Shipyard Restaurant at Tween Waters, where everyone enjoyed an excellent meal.

(see page 3 Cruise Director)



Mariners of PGI Board of Directors

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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

January/February Birthdays

1/2 Helene Gordon

1/7 Carol Goldenberg

1/9 Keith Feather

1/15 Rosie Rissel

1/15 Jennifer Ross

1/21 Nicole Ross

1/23 Chuck Pohle

1/23 Jim Dutcher

1/24 Carlo San Giorgio

1/25 Morgan Beall

1/25 Cyndee Grifo

1/29 Judi Whitcher

2/1 Garry Wiens

2/1 Sheila Wiens

2/2 William Eggert

2/4 Hugh Bass

2/6 Michael Mankin

2/7 Dawn Hayworth

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

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](#)

Meetings

General Membership

PGICA, 2001 Shreve St.

4th Monday at 7 p.m. (except **December**)

Board

PGICA, 2001 Shreve Street

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



Happy Birthday!

Nautical Notes



Cruise Director (continued from page 1)

Gary Towers

On Sunday morning, some boats departed before sunrise, while others lingered to enjoy a few final hours at the resort before heading back to PGI. A great time was had by all—if you missed this one, be sure to sign up for the next cruise.

February

- **February 7** – Lunch cruise to Barnacles on North Captiva (the day before Super Bowl Sunday)
- **February 9–14** – Overnight cruise celebrating Mike Mankin’s birthday at the Crow’s Nest Marina Restaurant in Venice, followed by two nights at Marina Jack in Sarasota
- **February 18** – Lunch cruise to the Riviera Bar & Grill

We will also continue publishing the **Last Sunday Raft-Up** each month. Please consider reaching out to fellow Mariners and encouraging them to join you for this long-standing tradition.

A lunch cruise scheduled for the day before the **April Annual Regatta** has also been published. This is a separate event from the regatta itself. If you bring your boat for both the Thursday lunch cruise and the regatta, you will receive **two cruise credits**. Please sign up for the lunch cruise and the regatta separately on the Mariners website. For dock reservations, make a single Dockwa reservation using the discount code provided on the signup page.

As always, please reach out to the Cruise Committee with suggestions for future cruises you’d like to see on the schedule.

Education Director

Bobby Conte



Any suggestions for educational topics for the Mariners are welcome. Anyone interested in being a member of this year’s education committee please contact Bobby Conte.

Membership Director

Paul Baird & Tracie Goin



The year has started out nicely with two new members and two more in the process of joining. We are trying a little advertising on social media. Hopefully it will steer some new members to the club. You may see ads on Meta platforms (Facebook, etc.).

Most members have paid their 2026 dues. If you haven’t, here is your friendly reminder to send your check for \$35 to the membership co-chairs Paul Baird and Tracie Goin. Our address is in the membership roster.

New members Jeff and Shelley Crawford are from Ohio where they live on a lake in the summer. They have lived in the Isles for about four years. They have a Bennington Pontoon boat and have been boating for eighteen years. Welcome to the club!

We hope to see you all out on the water or at a social event soon.



New members Jeff and Shelley Crawford



Social Director

Susan Hills



The first Sunday of each month brings together club members for a delicious breakfast at Tamiami Tavern. The January gathering was no exception, attracting over 24 members who enjoyed plenty of good food and wonderful company. This monthly breakfast remains a favorite, so mark your calendar for the next one!

Our first Monday of the month game night in January was a blast! A lively crowd gathered for bingo, expertly hosted by Laurie Betting and Julie Towers. Laurie and Julie kept the energy high with their entertaining commentary and kept the games moving smoothly. To add to the fun, Laurie brought popcorn with a variety of flavored toppings. Winners were awarded cash prizes, making the excitement even greater. Don't miss out—join us for the next game night.

The Commodores Ball was attended by 66 members. Great food, beautiful decorations and awesome entertainment provided by Gary and Kerri. Chairperson, Sandy Franzino praised her committee and said it was a privilege to work with them. Carol Barkow handled several challenges, Sharon Gordon composed the Mariners Monday blast, Bobby Conte printed the programs, Joyce McCandless designed and printed the food selection cards, Karen Rolland collected the flags from current board members to pass to the new board, and Julie Towers provided decorating advice. All of this contributed to making the evening a success. Most of all Sandy credits husband Barry for being her rock, helping to set everything up and break it all down, and everything in between.

January's ladies' luncheon was held at Joseph's Deli in Port Charlotte, where seven members enjoyed delicious food and engaging conversation. The next ladies' luncheon will take place on February 25 at Blossom & Brie. Laurie Betting will host it. Be sure to sign up soon to reserve your spot.

A great turn out and a wonderful time was had by all at the Bears Down happy hour on January 28. Hosted by Julie Towers and Tracie Goin. It was held at Tracie and Paul's house. Food and drink in abundance. Thanks to our hosts and everyone who brought food to share.

Share Your Ideas!

As your social director, I welcome suggestions for future club activities. The more member participation, the more enjoyable our club events become. If you have ideas or feedback, please reach out to me and help make every gathering memorable!

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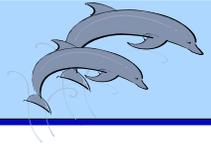


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Nautical Notes



Mariners Cruising



Upcoming Cruises

[Barnacles Lunch Cruise, Feb. 7, 2026](#)

[Mike's Birthday Overnight Cruise, Feb. 9-14, 2026](#)

[Riviera Bar & Grill Lunch Cruise, Feb. 18, 2026](#)

[Last Sunday of the Month Sunset Lake Raft-up, Feb. 22, 2026](#)

[Burnt Store the Day Before the Regatta Lunch Cruise, Apr. 9, 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.

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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, 4-6 p.m.](#)

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

[Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast, March 1, 2026](#)

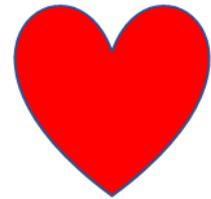
[Monthly Game Night, February 2, 2026](#)

[Souper Social Happy Hour, Feb. 4, 2026](#)

[Sundance Orchids & Bromeliads Ladies Outing, Feb. 5, 2026](#)

[Olympic Female Figure Skating Finals Watch Party, Feb. 19, 2026](#)

[Ladies' Lunch at Blossom & Brie, Feb. 25, 2026](#)



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Sarasota-St. Pete-Bradenton Cruise, Dec. 12-17, 2025



(continued on page 8)



Sarasota-St. Pete-Bradenton Cruise, Dec. 12-17, 2025 (Continued)



Mariners Lunch with the Ladies, January 3

On January 3, seven Mariner Ladies gathered for lunch at Joseph's Deli hosted by Susan Hills.

Next Lunch with the Ladies is at Blossom and Brie Farmside Dining and Events in North Fort Myers on February 25 at 11:45.

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.





Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast, Jan. 4

Joyce McCandless

Twenty-five Mariners gathered on Sunday, January 4, for our Monthly Breakfast at Tamiami Tavern. The weather being glorious, we were able to sit outside under sunny skies. Seated at four tables, our conversation was lively and the “acoustics” conducive to easy communication. Service and food quality were reliably excellent. All agreed it was a very enjoyable way to usher in 2026.



Bingo Night, January 5

Who knew dry dock BINGO could be a) so much fun, b) financially rewarding \$15 to \$20 payout per game, c) and challenging with trivia and yacht rock song/artist identification. Mariners were led through this evening of frolic by our own Captain Julie Towers. The popcorn bar offered flavors for most palates. Game nights will continue the first Monday of the month for February, March and April. We will be back at 6 p.m. start along with having members bring games they enjoy.

Next game night is on February 2.





Lunch Cruise to Tarpen Lodge, January 10



Mariners Gala, January 17



2026 Mariners Board





Mariners Gala, January 17 (Continued)





Mariner's Gala, January 17 (Continued)





Lunch Cruise to Riviera Bar and Grill, January 21



Overnight Cruise to Tween Waters, January 23-25

