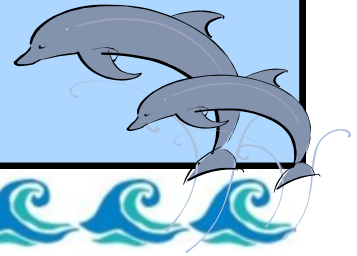


Nautical Notes



Vol. XVIII Number 04

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

April 2026



**Mike Guler,
Commodore**

Ahoy Mariners! The weather is already warming up, and our snowbirds will soon be planning their migration. It's time to get on the water and take advantage of our boating paradise. Give Gary

Towers a call and suggest a cruise before it gets too hot. We had a beautiful sunset/moonrise cruise last month with six boats participating. Twelve Mariners headed over to the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club Sunday Brunch, and all were overfed with delicious breakfast options and perhaps a Bloody Mary or Mimosa. I'm looking forward to another great Mariners Regatta on the weekend of April 10 to 12.

Our social events are well attended, but we need volunteers to step up and help with these events. Please give Susan Hills a call and lend a hand.

Our Education Director, Bobby Conti, also needs volunteers. We all have knowledge and experience that can be shared at our General Membership Meetings. Call Bobby and suggest a topic.

Beth and I have been kicking around the idea of cruising through the Okeechobee Waterway and up to the Space Coast to watch a launch closeup. We'll be starting out in late May and returning by June 14. Others have discussed taking a right after the Okeechobee Waterway and returning through the Keys. This could be a hop-on-hop-off cruise with multiple itineraries. Keep an eye on the website cruise listings if you're interested.

At the last meeting, I presented a refresher on some of the common aids to navigation that we encounter. In case you missed the meeting, here's the definition of a buoy from my "Sailor's Dictionary", Navigational aid: There are several types and colors of buoys of which the most numerous are: the green can (seen as a fuzzy black spot on the horizon); the red nun (seen as a fuzzy black spot on the horizon); and the vertically striped, red-and-white channel marker (seen as a fuzzy black spot on the horizon).

Hope to see you at the Regatta!



**Gary Towers,
Cruise Director**

March started out with an evening cruise put together by Cruise Leaders Rita and Hugh Bass. It was a beautiful evening out on Charlotte Harbor. Below is Hugh's report.

Sunset Full Moon Cruise

Six Mariners boats met near Peace River marker 2 for a beautiful sunset cruise with a full moon rising. The power boats stayed near marker 2 while the sailboats enjoyed an ideal sail in the area. Near sunset the cruise ship that was anchored in the harbor passed near us on its way down the harbor.

Participants were Hugh & Rita Bass, Roger & Julie Black, Wayne & Michele Sharp, Mike & Beth Guler, Gary DiLillo, Richard & Peggy Northrup. Julie and I rode along with Hugh & Rita aboard Life is Good.

Wayne and Michele Sharp planned a last-minute overnight cruise to Pelican Bay, Cayo Costa. With only short notice, one other boat signed up as Tom and Suzanne Martin joined them.

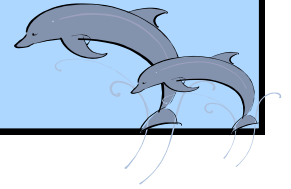
We finished the month with the CHYC Sunday Brunch Cruise. Inclement weather impacted this cruise, but we still had Mariners make the journey to the other side. Below is the report from Cruise Leaders Mike and Beth Guler.

CHYC Sunday Brunch Cruise

Two boats braved the weather and tied up to the floating dock at Charlot Harbor Yacht Club dodging the major rain. The Gulers with the Barkows on board wanted to test how the new boat handled a little weather. *New Tack* did not disappoint!

Participants were Mike & Beth Guler with Dennis & Carol Barkow on *New Tack*, Jeff & Ann Peltier on their power cat, and arriving by car Richard & Peggy Northrup, Kip and Patti Conners, and Wayne & Joan Erickson.

The Annual Regatta is fast approaching. If you are attending by boat, please ensure that you are signed up on the Mariners website and with Dockwa using the discount code. If also attending the Thursday "Day Before the Regatta" cruise, please also ensure you are signed up on the website.



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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

April Birthdays

4/6 Sue Scharpf

4/7 Gary DiLillo

4/12 Richard Franciose

4/13 Tracie Goin

4/14 Carol Barkow

4/18 Cheryl O'Brien

4/23 Julie Scharpf

4/29 Ken Rolland

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GARY TOWERS, Ship's Store

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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





Social Director

Susan Hills



Mariners continue to enjoy the company of fellow members at our social events.

Happy hour at the Village Brewhouse continues to be well attended, as is the first Sunday of the month breakfast at Tamiami Tavern.

Thank you Patti Conner for hosting the ladies' March lunch at Kings Roadhouse bar and grill.

Judy Droitcour will be teaching a class in alcohol ink art on April 16. Come and learn this easy and magical art form. You'll go home with your own one-of-a-kind beautiful piece of art.

You won't want to miss the tour of Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center on April 23. Rita Bass will be your guide of this unique ecosystem and local wildlife area. This is also an opportunity for the men to join the ladies on an outing.

Our ladies' luncheon on April 23 will be at the Tamiami Tavern, hosted by Rita Bass and Julie Black.

Come and join the fun!

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Education Director

Bobby Conte



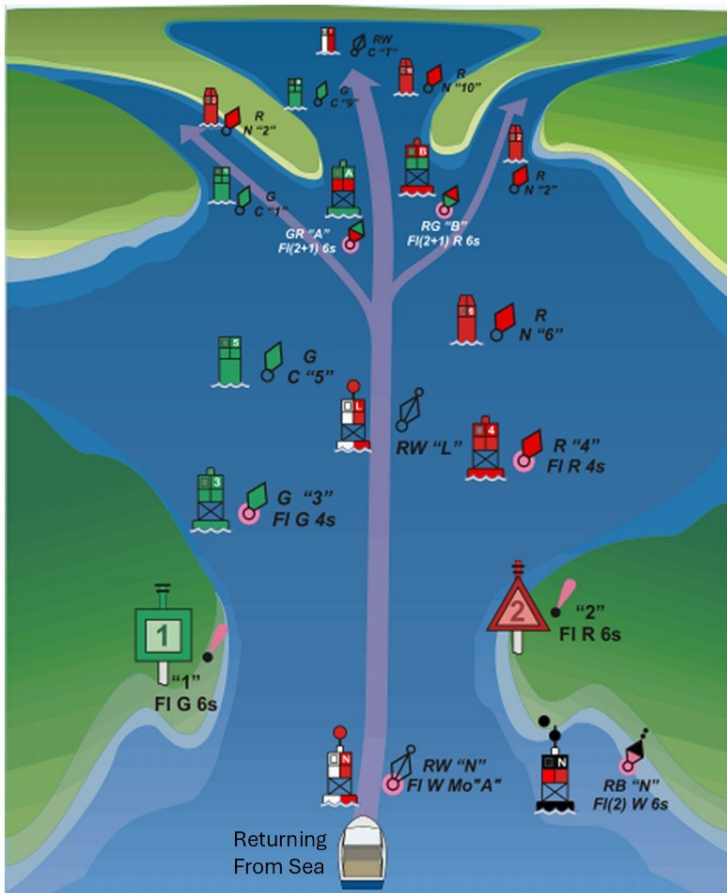
Last month we learned about Navigation Markers.

Important notes:

- Vessel operators should always refer to charts in addition to what they can see on the water.
- Marks may be buoys, piles or beacons and can be shaped as cans, cones, spheres, pillars, or spars.
- Marks can have a light that flashes in a specific rhythm.
- Marks may contain one or more of the identified characteristics.
- When numbered, odd number marks are port and even number marks are starboard in the direction of buoyage.
- Always maintain a safe speed and keep a good lookout.

This month we will learn about Right-Of-Way

- **International Rules** - Apply to all vessels upon the high seas and in all waters connected to them that are navigable by seagoing vessels.
- **Inland Rules** - Apply to all vessels upon the inland waters of the United States, and to vessels of the United States on the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes to the extent that there is no conflict with Canadian law. Certain inland waterways may have specific provisions that apply to certain vessels.



RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES FOR POWERED VESSELS

OPERATORS OF POWERED VESSELS ARE ALWAYS RESPONSIBLE FOR AVOIDING

APPROACHING HEAD-ON
Neither boat has the right-of-way. Both boat operators must act fast by steering to starboard (right).

PORT APPROACH
If a powered vessel approaches you from the port (left) side, you are the stand-on craft. You have right-of-way.

STARBOARD APPROACH
If a powered vessel approaches you from the starboard (right) side, they are the stand-on craft. They have the right-of-way. Take immediate action to avoid a collision by slowing down and altering course.

OVERTAKING
When one powered vessel overtakes another powered vessel from behind (stern), the approaching boat is the give-way craft and does not have the right-of-way. It is allowed to pass on either the port or starboard side of the vessel, but it is better to pass on the starboard side.

ALL SITUATIONS
You are permitted to break these rules if there is a danger of collision and the other boat is not taking action.

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Membership Director

Paul Baird & Tracie Goin



Dear Fellow Members and Boating Friends,

As we head into the later part of April here in Florida, I hope everyone has been enjoying a fantastic boating season so far. The sun, the water, and the shared passion for being out on the boats have made this another memorable time for our club. Whether you've been cruising the waterways, fishing the flats, exploring sandbars, or simply soaking up dockside camaraderie, it's these experiences that remind us why we love being part of this community. Right now, we stand at 97 full members and 13 associate members. While we'd love to see those numbers grow, I'm incredibly optimistic about the future. A strong, close-knit group like ours has so much to offer—and the more people we welcome aboard, the richer our shared experiences become. This is the perfect time of year to think ahead. With the main season wrapping up, many of us will be focusing on boat maintenance, planning summer adventures, or simply enjoying the warmer months on the water in new ways. Imagine having even more friends to join you for those sunset cruises, weekend getaways, wildlife spotting trips, or casual dock gatherings. More members mean more stories to share, more helping hands when needed, and more energy to keep our club vibrant all year long. What makes our boat club special is simple: it's the people. We're a welcoming group of boating enthusiasts who genuinely enjoy each other's company and the freedom that comes with life on the water. New members quickly discover:

- A supportive community of like-minded boaters who share tips, adventures, and good times.
- Opportunities to connect through informal events, member meetups, and seasonal activities.
- The chance to make lasting friendships with people who understand the joy (and occasional challenges) of boat ownership in Florida.

We don't need a big production to grow—we just need you. If you know someone who loves boating but hasn't found the right group yet, bring them along to our next gathering or simply tell them about us. Mention the club at the marina, forward this newsletter to a coworker or neighbor who's always talking about getting out on the water, or introduce a friend during a casual day at the dock. Every referral helps, and our committee is here to make joining straightforward and welcoming. . As the season transitions, let's use this time to recharge and spread the word. We have exciting plans in the works to keep the club active and engaging through the coming months, and the more members we have, the better those experiences will be for everyone.

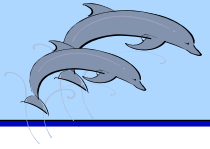
To keep our activities going strong and make them even better, we're also looking for a few enthusiastic volunteers. Whether it's helping organize a casual meet-up, sharing your favorite local cruising spots, assisting with meetings or the Welcome Back Picnic, every bit of help makes a huge difference. Together, we can build an even stronger, more vibrant boat club that continues to thrive year after year. I'm grateful for each of you and can't wait to welcome new members who will help us keep the spirit alive on Florida's beautiful waters.

Fair winds and smooth seas, Paul & Tracie Membership Committee

sailingflyboy330@gmail.com goinflying96@gmail.com

P.S. Have a potential new member in mind, any questions, or interested in volunteering? Feel free to reach out to us directly or catch me at the next dockside get-together. I'm always happy to chat boats and share why this club means so much to so many of us!

Nautical Notes



Mariners Cruising



Upcoming Cruises

[Burnt Store the Day Before the Regatta Lunch Cruise, Apr. 9, 2026](#)

[2026 Spring Regatta Weekend, Apr. 10-12, 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, May 3, 2026](#)

[2026 Spring Regatta Weekend, Apr. 10-12, 2026](#)

[Alcohol Ink Workshop, Apr. 16, 2026](#)

[CHEC Tour, Apr. 23, 2026](#)

[Ladies Lunch at Tamiami Tavern, Apr. 23, 2026](#)

[Eat Before We Meet, Apr. 27, 2026](#)



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HELP WANTED

The Education Director of the Mariners of PGI is looking for a few volunteers to plan and execute its new

"1ST Mate Safety/Information Program".

- A person with Medical Background that will help develop training in CPR, Wound and Cut, Bruises Care, etc.,
- One or Two people with Nautical Radio and Navigation equipment background that will help develop training in Radio Operation, Cruise Chart Planning, and Location Identification.
- One or two people with Artistic Ability to put together slides, Brochures, Laminated Instruction Material, and other printed information material to be utilized for information and instruction.

Please call Bobby Conte at 941-646-9160 to assist in the development of this much needed, and at times Life Saving, information and training.

Charlotte Harbor Yaucht Club Lunch Cruise, March 29

Mike & Beth Guler





Mariners Lunch with the Ladies, March 26

Patti Conner

On March 26, eleven mariner ladies met at Kings Roadhouse Bar & Grill in Port Charlotte for a wonderful lunch hosted by Patti Conners.

April's ladies' lunch will be on April 23 at Tamiami Tavern, hosted by Rita Bass & Julie Black. This lunch will follow the CHEC tour which is described below.

Rita Bass has agreed to take us all on a private tour of Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) at 10941 Burnt Store Rd, at 10:30 a.m. We will meet at the entrance to the boardwalk, and after that, Rita will give us a tour of the environmental center, where the organization strives to deliver educational programming through guided hikes (among other things) to teach the public of the unique Florida ecosystems and the wildlife that lives there. This should be a fun and educational morning, so please plan on attending, and dress according to the weather!

Please note the lunch and the CHEC tour have separate sign-ups.



Mariners Ladies Thrifting Event, March 31

Julie Towers

On March 31, five Mariner ladies spent a day thrifting the shops in downtown Sarasota. Julie Towers was the uber driver for Laurie Betting, Peggy Northrup, Cyndee Grifo and Beth Guler. We were all thankful she was willing to brave the I-75 and Sarasota traffic. Originally, we planned on a couple of drivers, so when we ended up having only one driver, a couple ladies graciously backed out to go another time. Look for another thrifting event to come on the calendar when we have more drivers.

Shopping can make a lady hungry, so while in Sarasota we took a break to grab a late lunch and coffee from Morton's Gourmet Market. Wow, I wish we had that in Punta Gorda!

Everyone found treasures to bring home!

