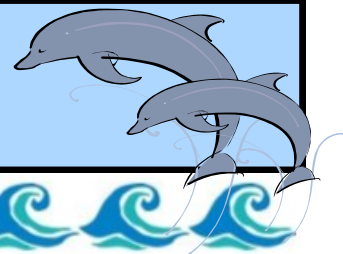


# Nautical Notes



Vol. XVIII Number 05

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

May 2026



**Mike Guler,  
Commodore**

Returning to Burnt Store Marina for our annual regatta was fantastic. We're finally getting all back in order after the past few weather events. Thanks to all who worked hard to make this event special.

The pre-regatta lunch cruise to Cass Cay Restaurant was well attended. We all enjoyed the Bobby Conte breakfast, Barry Franzino's Bloody Marys, game time, docktails, dinner and dancing and more. Some cooled off in the pool and others took a hike to find a shop or two. The event culminated in a delicious potluck breakfast aboard Glen and Cathy Mayer's gorgeous Marlow 58. Thanks again to all who made this event special.

After Beth and I had a fabulous trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands I had some health issues that kept me away from the April Mariner meetings. Thank you so much to Joyce McCandless and the rest of the board for stepping up and keeping all running smoothly. By the way, the wildlife and geology of the Galapagos Islands is incredible, and Beth and I will be glad to present our adventure at an upcoming meeting.



Don't miss the upcoming May General Membership Meeting which will include a presentation by representatives of the Punta Gorda Military Heritage Museum. Thanks, Bobby Conte, for organizing this presentation.

Thanks much to Rita Bass for leading a walking tour at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. Sorry to have missed that one! Keep checking your member website for cruise and social event opportunities. Call Gary Towers with your cruise ideas and Susan Hills with your social event ideas. Your board works hard to provide fun events to enjoy, and they always welcome volunteers to help.

Thanks to our membership directors, Tracy Goin and Paul Baird, for making sure the Mariners were represented at the PGICA open house. We have potential new members from that event.

Splice the Main Brace!



**Gary Towers,  
Cruise Director**

*April brought all the best things about spring — sunshine, blooming flowers, fresh adventures... and of course, the Mariners' Annual Regatta!*

*Mother Nature decided to keep things interesting during Thursday's lunch cruise to Cass Cay, serving up brisk winds and some "sporty" docking conditions. Seven determined boats successfully made their way into the marina, while some Mariners opted for the land-yacht route instead. A huge shoutout goes to the amazing marina staff, who helped guide everyone safely into their slips, and to our fellow Mariners who were standing by on the docks wrangling lines like seasoned deckhands.*

*The Annual Regatta Cruise itself was a fantastic success, with thirteen boats joining the festivities. The Social Committee once again knocked it out of the park with outstanding shoreside activities, keeping everyone entertained long after the dock lines were secured. Evenings were filled with everyone's favorite tradition — docktailing from boat to boat, sharing laughs, stories, snacks, and maybe a few "slightly exaggerated" sea tales.*

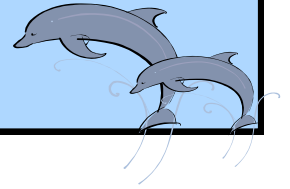
*And because good times deserve an encore, next year's Regatta dates are already on the calendar! Be sure to mark April 9–11, 2027 for another unforgettable weekend.*

*For May we have four cruises planned:*

- *Overnight Cruise to Tween Waters, Pink Shell, and Salty Sam's — April 28 through May 4*
- *Overnight Cruise to Pelican Bay — May 13*
- *Lunch Cruise to Riviera Bar & Grill — May 15*
- *Rocket Launch Cruise — departing May 29*

*Be sure to check the Mariners Cruise Signup page for all the details and sign-up information.*

*As we head into June, cruise activity will begin to slow down a bit for the summer season. Monthly lunch cruises will continue, and we'd love to see more members bring forward ideas for day cruises and overnight adventures. Got a favorite destination? Let's hear from you!*



## Mariners of PGI Board of Directors

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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)

## **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

---

**LYNNE MATTHEWS, Sunshine Committee**

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**DON LEITCH, Webmaster**

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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](mailto:sunshine@marinersofpgi.org)





Education Director

Bobby Conte



Although we didn't have a speaker due to a Eat-Before-We-Meet feast, we did have one of Richard Northrup's infamous Maritime Trivia Quizzes on Navigation "Right of Way." High score was eight out of ten. It was an outright win so there was no need for a "Tie Breaker".

Next month's meeting should prove to be a very interesting presentation. Two representatives from the Military History Museum, Tina Figliuolo, Development Director of the Military Heritage Museum and Paul Hibner Board Member will be in attendance to give us a view of the new attractions at the museum. I understand there are new laser Ranges, both rifle and pistol, and a new simulator that will allow you to land an aircraft on an aircraft carrier. I am really looking forward to hearing about them. Plus, many other added attractions that they will share.

I don't think you will want to miss this one.....

Time permitting, we have another Maritime Trivia Quiz cued up...

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**OPEN DAILY**



Social Director

Susan Hills



Summer is fast approaching. Activities slow down. I would like members to suggest an idea of a social activity they would like to lead in the coming months, and I will post it. The social committee has lots of ideas. Let me know if you would like a suggestion. One of the ideas would be to host the Wednesday happy hour in your home. The two times this was done recently was very popular.

I want to thank Judi Droitcour for hosting the alcohol ink art workshop in her home. She provided materials, instructions and sangria. It was great fun and everyone went home with their own creation of beautiful artwork.

Thanks to Rita Bass for leading us on a nature hike at the Charlotte Harbor environmental center. She is well versed on the local wildlife, flora and fauna.

Several of us gathered at the Tamiami tavern for a delicious lunch hosted by Rita Bass and

Julie Black.

Coming up May 20, join Sandy Franzino for the ladies' luncheon at Finn Sushi and Grill in Port Charlotte.

Save the date for future celebrations:

Welcome back picnic November 15  
Christmas party December 5  
Change of Watch Gala January 30

Membership Director

Paul Baird & Tracie Goin



Ahoy there Mariners,

We had a good turnout at the PGICA open house with five new potential couples. We have been in touch and we will see what happens.

One person is looking for someone to help him learn to sail better before he buys his own sailboat. If anyone is interested in helping, let me know.

If you haven't signed up to volunteer for a meeting, there are still months that need filling. Super easy (and fun) way to get your credit done.

Smooth seas and fair winds, Paul and Tracie



**Joseph DeFusco**  
PRESIDENT

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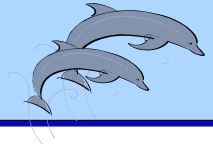
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# Nautical Notes



## Mariners Cruising



### Upcoming Cruises

[Overnight Cruise to Pelican Bay, May 13, 2026](#)

[Riviera Lunch Cruise, May 15, 2026](#)

[Rocket Launch Cruise, May 29 – Jun. 14, 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](#)

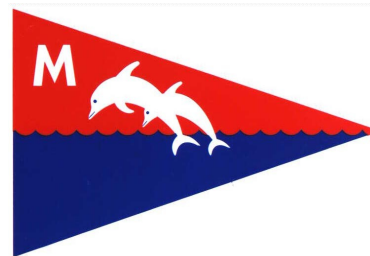
[Pickleball \(Summer Hours\) every Tuesday and Thursday at South County Park from 8-10 a.m.](#)

[Gilchrist Park Thursday Gathering, 4-6 p.m.](#)

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

[Ladies Lunch at Fin Sushi & Grill, May 20, 2026](#)

[Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast, June 7, 2026](#)



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## 2026 Spring Regatta Weekend, Apr. 10-12

Beth Guler

Another wonderful Mariner Regatta in the books!

The theme of the regatta was Margaritaville and Julie Towers outdid herself with streamers with tropical bird designs and flamingo statues adorning the tables.

It started with the Thursday lunch at Cass Cay Restaurant & Bar. We filled three tables with intrepid Mariners telling tales of the windy weather that made the docking a sporting event! The rest of the day was on our own with many sharing more stories after dinner on individual boats.

Friday started with boats arriving all morning. A few ladies walked over to a nearby farmers market and found a few treasures to bring back. Later, dinner was a potluck in the tiki pavilion by the wonderful Mariner cooks.

Saturday started early with Bobby Conte's regatta breakfast and Barry Franzino's Bloody Marys in the tiki pavilion. Some found the pool to cool off after the wonderful breakfast. Later in the day we enjoyed signature Mai Tais, Jimmy Buffett trivia presented by Tracie Goin and a couple of competitive games of Left Right Center. Crystal won the first game, and Dawn won the second game! Then we hurried off to dinner and dancing at Cass Cay Restaurant & Bar.

Sunday morning, we awoke knowing the regatta was coming to a close, but not before a potluck breakfast on board the Mayer's yacht. We had hibiscus mimosas, shrimp and grits, coffee cakes, eggs and probably more that I can't remember. It was a great send off!





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





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



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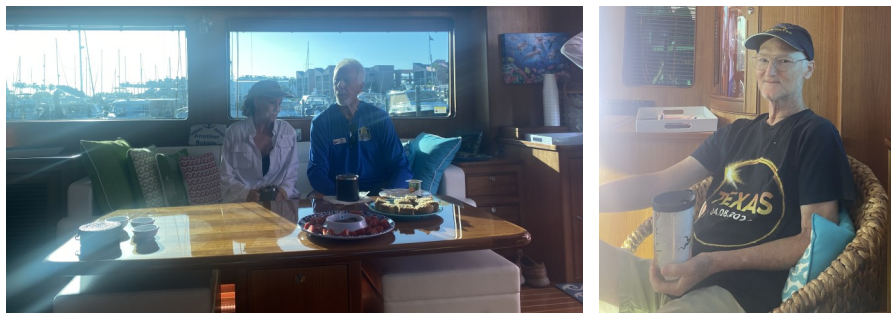


## 2026 Spring Regatta Weekend, Apr. 10-12 (Continued)





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



## Outing to Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, April 23

Joyce McCandless

Mariner Rita Bass is a Florida Master Naturalist, having earned her certification through the University of Florida Master Naturalist Program. When in Punta Gorda for the winter season, Rita volunteers at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC), located at 10941 Burnt Store Road. On Thursday April 23, Rita led a group of six Mariners on an approximately one-hour walk-and-learn tour of the Butterfly Garden and Sanctuary and one of the four trails in the 46,000 acre preserve. As we meandered along the trail, Rita pointed out many interesting plants and creatures. What didn't require pointing out, as they made themselves readily available, were mosquitoes and love bugs...fortunately, we were fortified with bug spray! Following the tour, several of us joined Lunch with the Ladies at Tamiami Tavern, co-hosted by Rita Bass and Julie Black. To learn more about CHEC, click [here](#).

## Mariners Lunch with the Ladies, April 23

Rita Bass & Julie Black

On Thursday, April 23rd the Mariners Lunch with the Ladies was held at the Tamiami Tavern. Eleven lovely ladies enjoyed great lunches and interesting conversations. Rita Bass and Julie Black organized the event. Mike, the Village Fish Market bartender stopped to say hello to our group!

