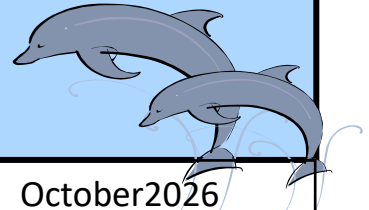


Nautical Notes



Vol. XVIII Number 08

A Publication of the Mariners of PGI

October 2026



Joyce McCandless,
Commodore

Good grief! It's October 3 as I write, and by the time you're reading, we'll be a third of the way through the month. The movie may have been

titled *The Long, Hot Summer*, but this, Peter's and my second summer in PGI, while hot, has passed very quickly. We look forward to the return of all our snowbird friends...the associated uptick in traffic, not so much.

As a club, we're blessed to retain so many Past Commodores as members with a strong interest in maintaining and strengthening our club's health and vitality. To capitalize on their experience and knowledge, we hosted a 90-minute brainstorming session September 29 at PGICA; areas of focused discussion were membership growth and participation, Board recruiting, and alternatives to the current club structure. As testament to their commitment to the club, eight PCs attended and written inputs were provided by a further three. The Past Commodores and the Board will meet together for further discussion prior to mid-October.

In line with the objectives noted above, at the September 28 Board meeting, we voted to "waive the waiver requirement" for 2026 and, likely beyond. What this means is that if you will not be able to meet the "3/2-1" activity requirements for cruises/meetings and participation for 2026, our Membership Directors will not be contacting you to submit a waiver request for Board review/approval. The Mariners are built on cruise and social activities and a strong spirit of volunteerism and participation. We are not walking away from these founding, fundamental principles, but it's likely we will adjust to approach and encourage them in a manner more in tune with today's environment.

The 2027 Board nominations will be posted in the November 2 Monday Blast, published in the November issue of *Nautical Notes*, and presented for potential floor nominations and final vote at the General Membership meeting Monday, November 23. Please mark your calendars with this date so you'll attend and vote.

Thanks for being a member of the Mariner family.



Gary Towers,
Cruise Director

September brought us another new destination with a lunch cruise to the all-new Castaways Dockside Bar & Grill. This long-awaited opening was

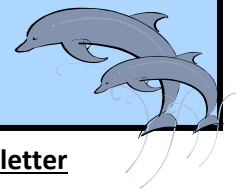
well received by the Mariners and gave us another great waterfront stop right in our own backyard.

Since June, we've now cruised to three new restaurants at Fishermen's Village—The Islands, Latitude 26, and Castaways. Three new destinations, three very different experiences. Which one is your favorite?

The Toothakers will be our Cruise Leaders for another Fishermen's Village lunch cruise on **November 10**, this time to **Latitude 26**. Be sure to sign up on the Mariners website and join the fun.

With cooler weather arriving and our winter boating season just around the corner, watch for more cruises to be published. Better yet, consider leading a cruise of your own! Pick a favorite destination—or somewhere you've been wanting to try—choose a date and bring your idea to the Cruise Committee. We'll help get the details together and get your cruise published.

Here's to a busy winter on the water. See you at the docks!

**Mariners of PGI Board of Directors****Newsletter**

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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.

October Birthdays

10/1 Jeri Julian

10/14 Peggy Northrup

10/15 Debra Kalitan

10/15 Alan Singleton

10/17 Karen Rolland

10/20 Jim Hebeisen

10/24 Patti Conner

10/25 Jeff Crawford

If you or anyone
 you know is ill
 or in need of some
 Sunshine,
 please contact
Lynne Matthews

sunshine@marinersofpgi.org



Happy Birthday!





Social Director

Susan Hills



Fall is in the air. Our snowbirds will be returning soon. Contact me if you would like to organize a social event. The November 15 welcome back picnic needs volunteers. Contact chairpersons Garry and Sheila Wiens if you would like to help.

I would like to thank Peggy Northrup for hosting the first Coffee Break at Punta Gorda coffee and Tea in September. It was attended by six members. If you would like to host a coffee break, pick a date and time, and I will put it on the calendar.

Thanks to Julie Conte for hosting the ladies' luncheon in September at Ginger Dim Sum. Our next ladies' luncheon will be hosted by Carol Barkow on October 29 at Lime Tequila Mexican restaurant.

Our Change of Watch Gala will be held on January 30 at the Twin Isles country club. Volunteers are needed to make this a successful event.

Check the calendar for upcoming social events.

Education Director

Bobby Conte



Future meeting plans include speakers from the Military Heritage Museum and the Peace River Wildlife Center.

If any Mariner has other meeting ideas please let Bobby or someone on board know.

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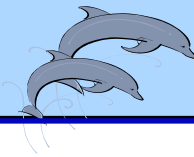
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Mariners Cruising



Upcoming Cruises

[Latitude26 Lunch Cruise, Nov. 10, 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.

Membership Director

Paul Baird & Tracie Goin



Summer is typically quiet for our Florida club as many members head north, and this year was no exception. As we settle back into the season, we wanted to pass along a few updates from the Membership Committee.

Volunteer Opportunity: New Member Reception and Open House

Several members still need a participation credit. An easy way to earn it is by volunteering at our table for the New Member Reception and Open House at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association (PGICA). We need a few friendly faces to greet guests, discuss the club, and help prospective members feel welcome. If you can spare an hour or two, please let Tracie or Paul know.

Event Details

Even if you aren't staffing the table, the event is well worth attending. PGICA features more than 30 groups and clubs—ranging from fishing, boating, and kayaking to music, painting, and social groups. Come meet members, instructors, and neighbors, and discover all the benefits available to PGICA members.

- Date: Thursday, October 22, 2026
- Time: 5:00–7:00 p.m.
- Location: Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
- Phone: 941-637-1655
- Eligibility: Open to all PGICA members and any Punta Gorda Isles resident.

Additional Help Needed

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the upcoming October and November membership meetings. Please reach out if you can lend a hand.

Thank you to everyone who helps keep our club connected, and we hope to see you there!



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 Gilchrist Park from 8-10 a.m.

Bullets & Brunch on second Wednesday of each month

Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast, November 1, 2026

Ladies Lunch at Lime Tequila Mexican Restaurant, Oct. 29, 2026

Coming soon: "Seas and Greetings" Mariner Holiday Party! Shine up those dancing shoes!
December 5 @ PGICA.



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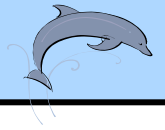
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Announcing New Mariner Happy Hour Location!!



Every Wednesday starting 5 pm (same as always)
Located in Fishermen's Village (former Harpoon Harry's site)
Regular Menu Drink Prices Apply
Wear your Mariner Badge to drum up some outside interest in our Club





Wednesday Night Happy Hours

Happy hours are every Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. We had been meeting outside at the Village Brewhouse bar but with rainy season we often were left scrambling for shelter. Now with the opening of Castaways restaurant we have moved to this open-air indoor location, the best of both worlds!

After drinks and lively conversation, we often adjourn to smaller groups continue the conversation over dinner, either at Castaways or another area restaurant. I look forward to sharing dinner at one of the four new restaurants in Fisherman's Village with our snowbirds as they arrive back for the season.





First Sunday of the Month Brunch, September 6

Peggy Northrup



First Sunday of the Month Brunch, October 4

Peggy Northrup





Mariners Ladies' Coffee, September 8

Peggy Northrup

Calling all Mariner Ladies, if you would like to start the day with a cup of joe and lively conversation, join us for the monthly lady's coffee. September 8 was our inaugural meeting at Punta Gorda Coffee & Tea.

Our next ladies' coffee is scheduled for 9:30 October 13 at Starbucks in Punta Gorda on Tamiami Trail.



Mariners' Lunch with the Ladies, September 18

Julie Conte

Ladies lunch was hosted by Julie Conte at Ginger Dim Sum on September 18. We were a small group and had the restaurant to ourselves but were treated to a wonderful lunch.

October's Lunch with the Ladies is at Lime Tequila Mexican restaurant on October 29 hosted by Carol Barkow.





Castaways Lunch Cruise, September 27

Mike Mankin

Mike Mankin was scheduled to be the cruise leader, but due to an early arrival of a grandchild they went to Savanna instead.

June came prepared with her distress light and oar just in case she became a castaway! But with Robert and Dory on the scene she was in safe hands. We had four boats, eleven people and one dog. The weather was perfect for the cruise.

