Nautical Notes

Vol. XVIII Number 11 A Publication of the Mariners of PGI November2026



Carol Barkow, Past Commodore

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

Most of the positions have been filled for the 2027 Board and two roles remain open. Please consider taking one of the open positions:

Commodore: Joyce McCandless

Vice Commodore: Gary Burgess (also filling the cruise director position for one year)

Treasurer:

This position can be carried out by use of a simple computer program and could be effectively performed by a snowbird or frequent traveler. You can review the duties on the Mariners website under Club Information/Executive duties.

Social Director: Sue Hills

We are hoping to divide this role among several people – so consider volunteering for an event that falls within your preferred time frame. Welcome Back Picnic in November; Christmas party in December; Annual Gala/Change of Watch in January 2028

Secretary: Jacqueline Kerr

Cruise Director: Gary Burgess

Membership Director(s): Paul Baird and Tracy Goin

Education Director:

Past Commodore Carol Barkow



Joyce McCandless, Commodore

Lots going on!

Most of our snowbirds have returned from their northern homesteads. It's so good to see everyone and catch up. Garry and Sheila Wiens are hosting the official Welcome Back party Sunday, November 15. Check Sue Hills' Social article and the Mariner website for more info and sign-up.

The official weekly Wednesday Happy Hour site has moved to Castaways (the old Harpoon Harry's) in Fishermen's Village (still 5-7 pm). Many thanks to Gary Burgess for interacting directly with the COO of Tidewater Hospitality Group, the entity that owns and operates both Castaways and Latitude 26, to make this happen. We have a dedicated spot at the high-top seating area on the right after you enter. We've been able to set up there with our big burgee and some Mariners brochures, which hopefully will encourage potential new member interest. Turnout for the first few gatherings has been terrific. Feel free to bring your friends, neighbors, and houseguests.

Speaking of the Mariner brochure, at a special joint Past Commodores and current Board meeting October 9, the Board voted to discontinue the annual 3/2-1 participation requirements. This requirement made sense when our membership was maxed out at 200, and we had a waiting list; this is no longer the case. Our membership brochure was updated to reflect this change (and to include fresh photos). Membership Director Paul Baird, along with Shirla Cesari, were on hand at the PGICA New Member Open House October 22 to pass out the updated brochures to prospective new Mariners. Our club is built around cruising and social activities and a strong spirit of volunteerism. We are not walking away from these founding, fundamental principles and will continue to operate with them…just in a less rigid way than previously.

We had a great turnout for our first overnight cruise of the fall season. See Cruise Director Gary Towers' and Cruise Leader Michael Mankin's articles for more info and photos.

(see page 3 Commodore)

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Mariners of PGI Board of Directors

JOYCE McCANDLESS, Commodore, Vice Commodore
mccandlessjoycep@gmail.com

KEITH FEATHER, Treasurer
keithfeather@gmail.com

JACQUELINE KERR, Secretary
marinersecretary33950@gmail.com

SUSAN HILLS, Director of Social Activities
route66sr@yahoo.com

PAUL BAIRD & TRACIE GOIN, Director of Membership
sailingflyboy330@gmail.com

GARY TOWERS, Director of Cruises
sailwindycity@live.com

BOBBY CONTE, Director of Education
bobbyconte.718@gmail.com

CAROL BARKOW, Past Commodore
barkowc@gmail.com

LYNNE MATTHEWS, Sunshine Committee
sunshine@marinersofpgi.org

DON LEITCH, Webmaster
donleitch@gmail.com

GARY TOWERS, Ship's Store
sailwindycity@live.com

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.

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

Newsletter

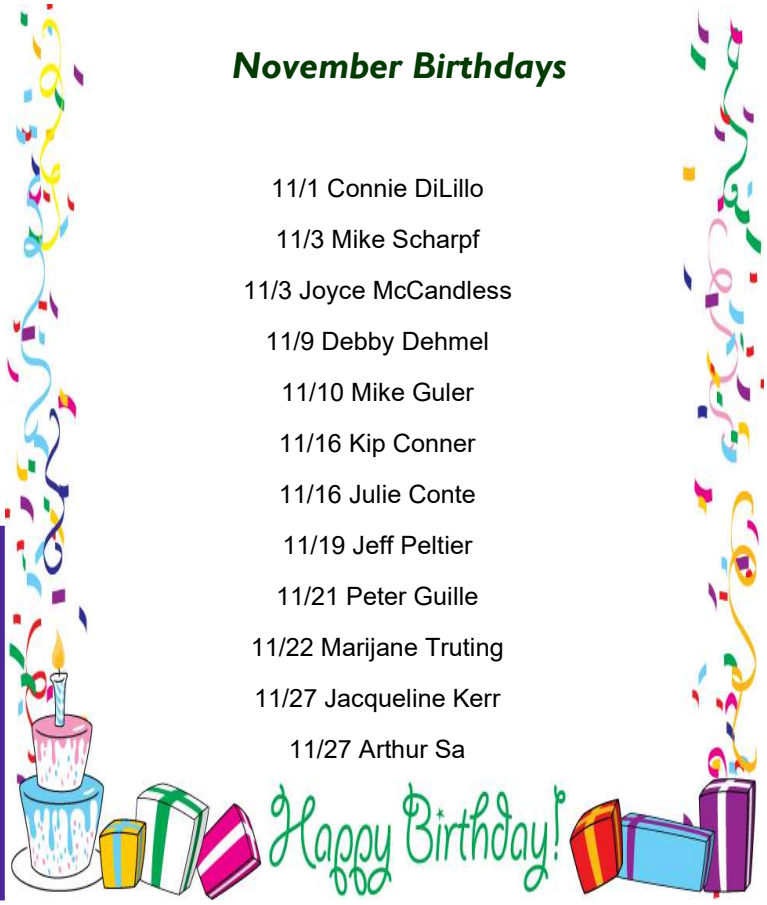
BETH GULER, Editor
blguler1@gmail.com

Editor's Note: *I will confirm, via e-mail, receipt of each NN submission. If you do not receive confirmation, PLEASE contact me.*

Editor's Note: direct contact information for all Mariners is located on the website : www.marinersofpgi.org

November Birthdays

11/1 Connie DiLillo
11/3 Mike Scharpf
11/3 Joyce McCandless
11/9 Debby Dehmel
11/10 Mike Guler
11/16 Kip Conner
11/16 Julie Conte
11/19 Jeff Peltier
11/21 Peter Guille
11/22 Marijane Truting
11/27 Jacqueline Kerr
11/27 Arthur Sa



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Commodore (continued from page 1) — Joyce McCandless

Past Commodore Carol Barkow has been working diligently to assemble nomination for the 2027 Board. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Cruise Director, Gary Towers; outgoing Treasurer, Keith Feather; and outgoing Education Director, Bobby Conte for their service to the Board and the Club as a whole…very much appreciated. Voting and any needed floor nominations will take place at the November 23 General Membership meeting. In addition, Bobby Conte has arranged for representatives of Peace River Wildlife Center to present their organization at the start of the meeting, just after the Pledge of Allegiance. Please mark your calendars; we want robust attendance to support the presentation and to ensure full membership representation in the Board vote.

Mariner Bob Toothaker passed away October 19. Quoting wife, June's announcement, he "passed from Parkinson's and Multiple System Atrophy after a brave, joyful attempt to tack and outmaneuver these dreadful diseases." June is planning a tribute and service downrange; information with be forthcoming.

My thanks to you all for being members of this wonderful and supportive Mariner family.

Gary Towers — Cruise Director



Today is my last day aboard a liveaboard dive boat in the Philippines. It is time to travel home to Punta Gorda, put our boat in the water and prepare for the Florida cruising season. I am leaving the Philippines with new knowledge and appreciation of the life that lives beneath the waves that we boat on.

The highlight of this trip was swimming with whale sharks. I was invited on this expedition by marine scientist and conservationist, Dr Arujo. As it turns out, he will be doing some research and tagging of whale sharks off the Sarasota coast in June. He has asked me to ask fellow Mariners if they come across any sightings to get the data back to him. Who knows, this could even become a June cruise as he will need boats for spotting and tagging. The activity is expected within 20 miles of shore.

On the calendar for November is a lunch cruise to Latitude 26 on November 10. Please sign up asap! The cruise committee will be meeting soon to discuss getting more cruises on the books. Please reach out to the committee with your thoughts and ideas.

Last month the Mankins led a cruise down to Tween Waters. Below is the cruise leader report:

Tween Waters Cruise Report October 27 – 30

We woke up Tuesday morning with 15 to 18 knot breezes out of the North. It wasn't a big surprise as it had been blowing in the 20's for the past ten days. The hope was it would be a downwind ride, thankfully it was. It was a very nice ride the whole way to the intercoastal. The rest of the trip was in the lee of the land making for a great trip.

We had six boats for this trip. Mark and Judi aboard Just a Splash, Mike and Linda Wiens aboard Pair of Jacks, Eric and Debbie Dehmel aboard Psyche, Dennis and Shirla Cesari aboard Never Say Never, Andy and Judy Droitcour aboard Blue Cruiser and finally Crystal and I aboard Crystal Blue.

The Tween folks did a great job the entire time we were there. The first evening we did hors d' oeuvres hosted by Mike and Linda Wiens. Great food and lots of it!

The next day most of us went to the pool, soaking up sunshine and swimming. A few of the girls played Mahjong. That evening we had cocktails aboard the Cesari's boat then dined at the Old Captiva House. We hadn't been there in a while, it was great!

We woke up to seaweed all over the dock because of the King tides. That day was more sunning and swimming. The final dinner was at The Green Flash, which is always a good time.

The next morning, we had more seaweed on the dock. We sadly began to pack up and depart. The wind had finally laid down enough, so the trip back was with a medium chop, not a bad ending to a great trip.

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Social Director — Susan Hills



Fall is upon us, and we have some fun events coming up.

I want to thank Peggy Northrup for organizing the ladies' coffee break. The next one is on November 12 at Steph's Bakery on Marion, across from the post office.

Our monthly ladies luncheon continues to be popular. Thank you to Carol Barkow for hosting the October luncheon at Lime Tequila Mexican restaurant. Our next luncheon will be at the new Leroy's Fish Shack in Fisherman's Village, hosted by Judi Whitcher on November 13.

The sign up for the Welcome Back Party is off to a good start. Join your fellow members for delicious food and great company on November 15 at Ponce De Leon Park pavilion. The fun starts at 2.

The sign up is coming soon for our December 5 Seas and Greetings holiday party. Co-chairs Judi Whitcher and Sharon Gordon, along with their committee are planning a fun-filled event. Dinner, dancing & Elf surprises!

A big thank you to Gary Burgess for securing the Castaways restaurant for our Wednesday night happy hour from 5-7. It has been a big hit with our members. The location is light, airy, and undercover, with lots of tables and seating.

I am looking forward to serving as your 2027 social director. It takes a lot of volunteers to put on our social events, and they have fun doing them. Please contact me if you would like to help next year.

Advertiser of the Month

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Education Director — Bobby Conte



For those of you who missed the October Monthly Meeting, you missed a very informative presentation by **Tina Figliuolo, Development Director and Ship's Store Manager**, and **Paul W. Hibner, Director**, of the Military Heritage Museum.

Ms. Figliuolo explained that the Museum's primary goal is for every visitor to become **connected to, discover, and engage with** our military's profound history. Through authentic artifacts and veteran-led tours, the Museum provides a unique and highly personal look at the men and women. Visitors gain insight into their experiences, their contributions, and the ways they continue to serve today and in the future.

Ms. Figliuolo highlighted the Museum's many offerings, including:

- More than **20,000 authentic, one-of-a-kind artifacts** that played a role in history, along with more than **1,000 original historical documents**.
- Four engaging, interactive, technology-enhanced galleries showcasing military history from the War for Independence through the Global War on Terror.
- A **Hall of Heroes** honoring all who have served, including Florida's Medal of Honor recipients and the Museum's own **Wall of Warriors**.
- Technology-enabled oral history exhibits and kiosks featuring veteran stories, Witness to War accounts, and "Letters from Home."
- Flight simulators and virtual reality experiences.
- Hands-on military history and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs for students.
- Remembrance ceremonies honoring veterans and significant dates in military history.
- Traveling and on-loan exhibits that highlight unique aspects of military service.
- A Ship's Store offering snacks, beverages, souvenirs, books, and military-themed merchandise. Visitors are welcome to relax in the P-51 Club or on the outdoor veranda.

If you missed the meeting, you missed an engaging and informative discussion.

Now, don't even think about missing next month's meeting. We will hear from **Tammy Gerringer, Operations Manager of the Peace River Wildlife Center**, who will share exciting updates about the organization's new facility on Henry Street, which is scheduled to open soon.

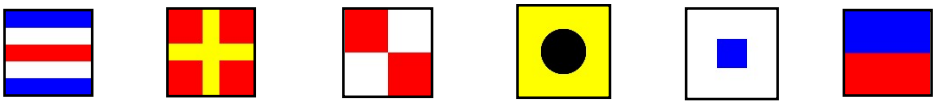
See you there! Until then, get out on the water and enjoy.



Tina Figliuolo

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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



Boating season is here, and we are looking forward to another great year on the water. With the weather turning favorable and more of us getting the boats ready, this is also the ideal time to grow our ranks.

We currently stand at 115 members. That's a solid group, but we all know the club is stronger—and more fun—when we have more hands, more boats, and more shared experiences.

We've also dropped the annual requirements. That change removes one of the main barriers that kept some good people from joining in the past. If you know someone who expressed interest before but held off because of the requirements, now is the time to give them a call or send a quick message. A personal invitation from someone they already know goes a long way.

Please reach out to those friends, neighbors, and dock mates who belong with us. Let's make this the season we bring more people into the club.

Thank you for helping us grow.

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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 Gilchrist Park from 8-10 a.m.

Tamiami Tavern Monthly Breakfast, December 6, 2026

Ladies Coffee Break, Nov. 12, 2026

Ladies Lunch at Leroy's Fish Shack, Nov. 13, 2026

Welcome Back Party, Nov. 15, 2026

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









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It's Official!
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

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Wednesday Night Happy Hours



Mariners Ladies' Coffee, October 13 — 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. October 13 was our second ladies' coffee meeting at Starbucks on Tamiami Trail in Punta Gorda.

Our next ladies' coffee is scheduled for 10:00 November 12 at Steph's Bakery and More on W. Marion Ave.

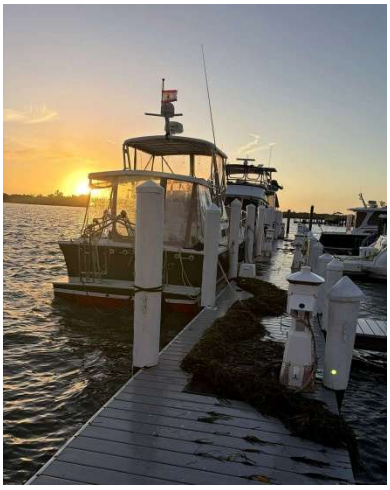
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Tween Waters Cruise, October 27-30

Mike Mankin





















Nautical Notes

Tween Waters Cruise, October 27-30 (Continued)

Mike Mankin













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Mariners' Lunch with the Ladies, October 29 — Carol Barkow

October 28 saw a great group of Mariners ladies gather at Lime Tequila for lunch. The restaurant is a favorite for many with its contemporary decor and beautiful artwork. Enjoying the day were Diane Lowy, Joyce McCandless, Sheila Wiens, Sue Hills, Michele Scharp, Carol Barkow, Peggy Northrup, Julie Jones Conte and Beth Guler. The next lunch will be on Nov. 13 at Leroy's Fish Shack in Fisherman's Village.

