As we move forward into another exciting year, I want to reflect a bit on what I choose to characterize as the “Spirit of the Mariners”.

The Mariners is an organization that fosters boating, social, and educational activities. Did you ever stop to think how all those activities happen to occur? They occur because members contribute the time and effort necessary to make them happen. Cruises don’t take place without cruise leaders, social events don’t take place without someone to chair them, and educational opportunities don’t take place without someone to arrange them. Many of our members serve on committees; they do the work that helps to make the club what it is. And, of course, you would not even be reading this if it were not for the work of our newsletter editor and her staff.

So, if you aren’t involved in the work of the club, you are missing out. There are numerous cruises posted on our website that are just waiting for you to put your name next to them as the cruise leader. Take it from me—it is not that hard. And you get a really cool anchor affixed to your Mariners burgee to demonstrate your cruising prowess.

There are also many planned social events that could use another pair of hands. It is great fun to help out with such activities. The camaraderie between the worker bees is truly amazing. One of the more enjoyable experiences I had last year was serving as a grill master for the welcome back picnic. The grillers had a great time cooking together. And, we got to know each other better while we did so.

I thank all of our many members who are contributing so much of their time and effort to support the club. But, if you are not actively involved in the workings of the club, you are missing out. I encourage those of you who may not be actively involved to seek out opportunities to become more involved. Step forward, volunteer, and participate. Lead a cruise, help with a social event, assist with a membership meeting, or suggest educational opportunities. I think you will find it to be a rewarding experience. It’s our club and it will only be as good as we make it. So, let’s continue to make it the best.

Continued in next column
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Meetings
General Membership
PGICA, 2001 Shreve St.
4th Monday at 7 p.m. (except December)

Board
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4th Monday at 9 a.m. All members are welcome.

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Editor’s Note: direct contact information for all Mariners is located on the website.

Cruise Calendar and Sign-Up

** = Cruise leaders needed

February
19: Bert’s Bar Lunch Cruise
21: Punta Gorda Wine and Jazz Festival Anchor-Out**
22: Last Sunday of the Month Raft-Up at Sunset Lake**
27: Nav-a-Gator Lunch Cruise

March
2-11: Glow Worm/Islamorada Cruise
7: Lazy Flamingo Lunch Cruise**
16-18: Boca Grande Marina Cruise
18: Fishermen’s Village Lunch Cruise
21-23: Useppa Island/Cabbage Key Anchor-Out**
29: Last Sunday of the Month Raft-Up at Sunset Lake**

Social Calendar and Sign-Up

February
25: Breakfast with the Gals

March
11: Hockey Night in PGI
13: Joshua Citrus Farm Tour

April
9: Mariner Stone Crab Baseball
Mariners began the New Year in style. Jeanne Hall and her committee orchestrated a beautiful Change of Watch dinner and dance at the Isles Yacht Club. We said our adieus and gave our thanks to the retiring Board and welcomed our newly elected Board. “Out with the old...in with the new” has never been so glamorous.

February 10, seven lucky Mariners learned the ancient craft of basket weaving from expert weaver, Patty Feather. **Editor’s Note:** see p. 6 for photos.

Penny Shattuck is organizing our monthly Breakfast with the Gals. For January, the gals met at the Isles Cafe. **February 25** will find the gals at Julie Jackson’s for a scrumptious breakfast. The March breakfast, hosted by Val O’Keefe, will be at the Isles Cafe Thursday, March 19 at 9 am. Wear some green and bring your smilin' Irish eyes.

Want a chance to hoot, holler, shop, eat, and see our name in lights? Go to the hockey game at Germain Arena. Woody Woodward is planning our annual hockey night March 11. The Florida Everblades verses Greenville is always an exciting rivalry. Pre-game festivities include dinner at the Islamorada Seafood Company (in the Bass Pro Shop building). Tickets for the hockey game are just $11.00. Check the web for details and to sign up. **Editor’s Note:** see Woody’s article on p. 5 for more information.

Barbara Kinney has planned a day trip to Joshua Citrus March 13. The citrus growers we see at the Saturday Farmers’ Market have huge orchards near Arcadia and that is where the tours are conducted. Besides the orchard tour, we’ll learn about our state’s premier crop. Go to the Mariner website for more details and to sign up for this events. **Editor’s Note:** see Barbara’s article on p. 4 for more information.

Information and sign up for the Regatta, 10-12 April, are under the cruising portion of the website. **Editor’s Note:** thanks to Ginny Caldwell for submitting this month’s “Tidbits from Social”.

### Tidbits from Social

**Sunset Lake Raft-Up: December 28, 2014**

It was another beautiful sunny day in Punta Gorda, as eight Mariner boats rafted up for the last Sunday of the month raft-up on Sunset Lake December 28. It was a nice, relaxing afternoon, as we all wound down from the Christmas holiday.

Cruise leaders Russ and Susan Hills, on Route 66, put down their anchor and welcomed the following boats as they came in to extend the flotilla: Mitch and Diana Miller with their cousins, Mike and Debbie, from Raleigh, N.C. on Thisilldo; Barry and Sandy Franzino on Headhunter 4, providing Bloody Marys for everyone; Wayne and Victoria Pettipas on Allegro, John and Susanne Hoder on their flats boat, Lavern and Lois Modrow on Horizons, and John and Lynne Stockinger on their center console fishing boat. Delicious food and great company, as we shared stories on what we did over the holidays.
Since it’s early in the year and most of our snow bird friends are in town, I thought it would be a good time to go over some housekeeping issues. First is the 3-2-1 or 2-3-1 requirement which was implemented last year. Mariners are required to attend EITHER 3 meetings during the calendar year (meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month with no meeting in December), 2 Mariner cruises on their own boat, and 1 support activity OR 2 meetings during the year, 3 cruises on their own boat and 1 support activity. Support activities are those activities which are sanctioned by and directly support the Mariners. From time to time, we publicize events we believe would be of interest to our members such as boat training, regulatory changes, community interests, as well as upcoming speakers, but these events do not necessarily satisfy the Support Activity requirement. We try to identify those events that qualify, but if you are unsure, just ask. Don’t wait until the last minute to satisfy these important requirements. A sure way to get your support credit is to contact Marlene Jones and run the 50/50 raffle at a monthly meeting. Or you can contact Ann Gordon to help set up and more importantly, take down tables and chairs at any meeting. And finally you can contact Sandy Franzino to help with getting everyone signed in at our meetings. Call them now to schedule a month to help. Waiting until November doesn’t work.

And finally, be sure to spend some time on the Mariner website, www.marinerofpgi.org. A lot of great information is there such as the By-Laws and Operating Procedures, Roster, how to get in to the Forum, etc. Take a minute to check out your own roster information and make sure it’s correct and complete. If it’s not, send any corrections to Don Leitch….his contact information is on the website.

Editor’s Note: Prospective Mariners are invited to join us for Happy Hour each Wednesday night at 5:30 pm at the Village Fish Market located in Fishermen’s Village.

Joshua Citrus Farm Tour

Joshua Citrus Inc. is located in the heart of Florida’s Peace River Valley. Our warm tropical climate and near perfect growing conditions produce some of the best tasting oranges and grapefruit in the world! Come visit Joshua Citrus and see how the fruit is processed from trees to table.

Tour date: Friday, March 13, 2015 Cost: $5.00
Time: 9:30 am in the Bal Harbor Shopping Center. Tour starts at 10:30 am. Click here to sign-up.
Hockey Night in PGI-Florida Everblades vs Greenville: Wednesday March 11th 7:30 pm

Come and join us for a fun night of dining and hockey with fellow Mariners. Plan a fun afternoon of shopping with friends at the **Gulf Coast Town Center** in Fort Myers, then dinner at the “**Islamorada Fish Company**” in the **Bass Pro Shops**, followed by a hockey game at the **Germain Arena**. Arrive at the Gulf Coast Town Center any time in the afternoon (car pool as you wish). Exit off Interstate 75 at exit 128 (Alico Rd.).

We will drink and eat at the Islamorada Fish Company in the Bass Pro Shops. Drinks are at 5:30 pm (or earlier if you wish), dinner at 6:00 pm.

The hockey game starts at 7:30 pm at the Germain Arena, exit 123 (Corkscrew Rd.) off Interstate 75. Woody Woodward (941-457-7378) will be collecting money for the hockey game. Cost is $11.00 per head plus dinner (Do not forget, plus Shopping).

*Editor’s Note:* click [here](#) to sign-up.

Sunset Lake End of the Month Raft-Up Jan 25, 2015

The January End of the Month Mariner raft-up was a group of old friends and new friends who enjoyed a wonderful afternoon in the sun while telling tales and recounting many old stories of cruising adventures.

Eight boats participated in the raft up. Attending were cruise leader Don Kidwell on **Imagine** with guests Allen and Ann Taylor and John and Nancy Dauster. **Route 66** was the anchor boat with Russ and Sue Hills. Lavern and Lois Modrow on **Horizons** were the next to tie up. Chris and Ginny Caldwell brought their new Tiara **Ginny C**, and had Eby Schulze and Bigna Bandle on board. Bill and Kate Albers joined in on **Our Dream**. Chuck and Betsy Pohle, on **Sea for Two** brought Robert Huetteman and Marian Wright. **My Jeanie** (Ray and Carol Hertz) arrived later but joined the group in time for lunch. Cheryl Berlon, in **Angler**, came out to take pictures and then joined the raft-up.

We had exceptionally beautiful weather. Everyone stayed until after 3:30 pm when we felt it was time to go - even though we were still having a great time.

*Editor’s Note:* click [here](#) to view more photos from this event.
Laishley Park Lunch Cruise

Neither wind, nor waves, nor chilly temperatures kept 18 Mariners and friends from enjoying a cruise to Laishley Park and lunch at the Crab House February 6. The intrepid group included Fred and Marilyn Counter, Bob and Pat Bustard, Bill and Kate Albers with guests, Woody and Ann Woodward and two out-of-town guests, Carlo San Giorgio, Eby and Bigna Schulze with guests Robert Huetteman and Marian Wright, Betsey Pohle, and cruise leaders Art and Audrey Bruning. Good food and interesting conversation were enjoyed by all. Fred Counter won the “Most Determined Mariner” award when he arrived in his skiff in a somewhat damp condition. The record low tides prevented him from launching their boat...thus the skiff trip to Laishley Dock.

Basket Weaving Class with Patty Feather

Sailors Hosting Power Boaters and Associates

Five Mariner sailboats hosted power boaters, associate members and friends on their boats Sunday, February 8. The weather was beautiful on the harbor. We had easy sailing with light winds, no wind, then a change of direction and good sail winds before returning to our dock. Cruise leaders Hugh and Rita Bass, on Life is Good, had Tom and Val O’Keefe and Carlo San Giorgio on board. We had a dolphin lead us out of the canal, jumping, splashing, and slapping the water as we left the canal. Cat-attude, sailed by Travis and Debbie Jones, had Keith and Lynn Armbrecht on board. Fred and Ellen Clark on Esprit Libre hosted Jon and Penny Shattuck, who commented on the light winds as well as Russ and Sue Hills on Route 66 with guest from out of town and the Brunings and Caldwells. Sherry and Louis Beer on Valhalla had new PGI homeowners, and hopefully new Mariners, Bonnie and John Demars.

It was such a beautiful day to be on the water. There should have been many more Mariners on the water.
An old problem finally resolved! For years, I have had an overheating problem while running the Yanmar diesel on Lena Bea at high rpms. It could run all day at 2800 rpms, but over 3000, the engine temperature would steadily rise. After going through the common causes, Neil Cameron (our mechanic) removed the Heat Exchanger. We already knew the seawater side was clean, but this photo clearly shows a severe build-up of sludge on the freshwater side. Neil had seen this before, and here is the lesson we can learn. Apparently, two different types of anti-freeze were combined at some point. This combination resulted in the sludge that prevents the fresh water from circulating around the tubes, where the heat would be removed. Neil discovered this issue many years ago, when Yanmar would use one type of anti-freeze for testing and then drain the engines prior to shipping. In the U.S., a different type of anti-freeze was used, thus creating the problem. Of course, we can also create the problem if we do not stay with the same anti-freeze.

South Seas Holiday Cruise—December 12-14, 2014

Three Mariner boats made this trip despite the snow. That's right, there was snow at South Seas! Bob and Karen Wedemeyer (Moon Dancer), Jeff and Mary Ann Letteri (Destiny) with guests Fred Clark and Ellen Klinger, and Carl and Karin Reilly (Irish Rover) had no idea there would be a "storm" at the marina when we arranged the cruise. After the cook out on Friday evening, we decided to check out the Christmas decorations - and get s'mores - we found little snowmen blowing snow. With all the beautiful lights, the snow really added to the festive atmosphere. Most of the boats in the marina were also decorated - a real wonderland.

Saturday night we were invited to ride aboard one of the boats in the lighted boat parade. There were over 20 boats that made the trip from South Seas to Tween Waters, and it was amazing to see the boats from the water. The shore was packed with people watching and cheering. After the cruise, we warmed up aboard Destiny and had a delicious dinner prepared by Mary Ann and Ellen. Alas, we were too late for another round of s'mores - there's always next year!

Sue and Don Krasny, trying to rejoin as "active" Mariners, stopped by to tell us about their new boat. Couldn't get a cruise credit, but they're all set for 2015.

March

1  Barbara Sundholm
6  Marlene Musselman
8  Diane Mabey
    Wayne Sharp
10 Richard Burkin
11 David Martin
14 Jack Burwell

Birthdays

15  Bob Dewire
21  Barbara Kinney
29  Bill Roemer
30  Diana Miller
31  Susan Hills
    Lisa Wienecke
Members can have items personalized at Hamilton's Uniforms
3762H Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte — 629.6868

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

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