

Pirate News



The 18th day of September in the year Two Thousand and Twenty One, Mill Town, Florida

2021 Duck Race Supporters

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, it also takes a village to conduct The Great Mill Town Duck Race. In 2021 we had a village of support. Return to Health, Sonny's BBQ ,



David Snellgrove and his staff at Return to Health receive a letter of appreciation and plaque from Capt Lucky

The Santa Rosa chamber of Commerce and The Blackwater Bistro helped by adopting out ducks for the race. Due to their extraordinary efforts, only a bare minimum of ducks remained by the 4th of July.

Additionally, we had a Title Sponsor (\$5,000), Two Admiral Level Sponsors (\$2,500), Sixteen First Mate Sponsors (\$500), and Eighty Helmsman Level Sponsors (\$100). A big thank you to all of the support we received this year.

Without the support of our sponsors and the teams who focused on adopting out ducks, the Blackwater Pyrates would be unable to complete our missions; Boater Safety, River Clean Up and Maritime History Preservation.

5,000 Ducks adopted (the most ever). SasSea (the Duck Diva) says, "that's a good start. I expect to see 5,500 next year." Challenge Accepted!



Coastal Canvas showing off their banner from the 2021 Great Mill Town Duck Race

2021 Crab Island Crawl

Come rain or shine, or lack of hotel space, the annual Crab Island Crawl must go on.



Coffee and Bloody Mary's at Juana's

On August 21st we started our day in typical Pirate fashion, breakfast at Juana's. The menu included the usual breakfast items, Bloody Mary's and coffee. And so it begins...and the legend continues.

Many stories were told of the times of old...you know, back in the day...

Introductions were made involving new Pirates as well as additional family and friends.

No one left hungry, or thirsty.



Leatherneck discusses the finer points of our annual Crab Island Crawl with Iron Leg Mike, Sand Dollar and Scooter

2021 Crab Island Crawl



Woody and Big Al enjoy the day with son Jay and his girlfriend and her parents



Barnacle Bailey, Lady Mary and Hooligan enjoy breakfast before their voyage

Blackwater Pyrates always turn out with family and friends when it comes time to participate in the annual Crab Island Crawl. 2021 was no exception. Big Al and Woody brought son Jay and his girlfriend. Additionally, our annual event became a way to introduce Jay's girlfriend's parents to the Pyrates. If the smiles are any indication, they truly enjoyed themselves in spite of the weather later in the day.

Two Noodles and Vixen brought his brother who was visiting from Leesburg, Florida. Although this wasn't his first encounter with the Pyrates, David also enjoyed the day.

This also become the "virgin" voyage for some of our newest Pyrates. It will not be their last.



Vixen, 2 Noodles, David (2 Noodles brother) and Frenchie enjoy breakfast



Iron Leg Mike, Sand Dollar, Scooter, Capt Lucky, SasSea and Sunny Skies Brenda

2021 Crab Island Crawl



Pirate Ships align in attack formation



The U.S. flag leads the armada of ships toward Crab Island

After breakfast, the United States and Blackwater Pirate flags were raised and the armada headed east. With brief stops to invade Stewey's Dad's abode and neighboring uninhabited islands, we "slow rolled" to Crab Island where the festivities continued.



A couple of Pirate ships beached at Stewey's Dad's

Dan Stewart (Stewey's Dad) and his wife Ava were gracious enough to welcome the Pirates about midway on their voyage. The winches were more than grateful as they received a tour of the house (still being renovated from hurricane Sally) and the restrooms.



2021 Crab Island Crawl



Barnacle Bailey and Lady Mary cruising to Crab Island



Woody, Big Al and family enjoying the breeze

With a little smack talk about engine size, the voyage began with a beautiful blue sky overhead. The Pontoon boats led the way out of the safe harbor near Juana's and into the intercoastal waterway headed east toward Crab Island, although only temporarily. Eventually, the faster boats became a little impatient and decided to "open it up a little." Bear Claw said it best while cruising at about 20 mph onboard the Marinator. "It's all good! Crab Island will be there when we get there."



2 Noodles consoling Snookie before departing for Crab Island



Devil Ray, Bear Claw and Sand Dollar enjoying Crab Island

2021 Crab Island Crawl

What a beautiful day on the water. Surrounded by the calm, clear blue waters of Destin, the Pyrates anchored offshore and proceeded to festivate. Is that a real word? If you're a Pyrate on the annual Crab Island Crawl, festivate is a word.

Does anyone remember Gilligan's Island and their three hour tour? Do remember the song? "...and the weather started getting rough, the tiny ship was tossed..." Well, and so it was at Crab Island on this day.



Pirates "festivating" at the annual Crab Island Crawl

However, much like the shipwrecked passengers of Gilligan's Island, Pyrates adapt and overcome all obstacles thrown at them. And so the festivities moved to under the Marinator (Capt Lucky and SasSea's pontoon).



With the crack of lightning and the boom of thunder helping to drown out the celebration beneath, 26 Pyrates moved the party and decided to do what any respectable Pyrate would do, Jello Shots!!!

No Pyrate was injured during the filming of this party, and the day ended as it began, safely at Juana's.

And the party continues under the pontoon

Teaching Young Pyrates

The Blackwater Pyrates always enjoy giving back to the community, and the youngest members are always the most inviting and fun.

On Thursday, Sept 9th, the Blackwater Pyrates were invited to come speak at Brenda Cooper's (Lovie) grandson's homeschool group. The subject was River Pollution. This was great timing since it coincided with the upcoming Blackwater Pyrate signature event, River Clean Up. Additionally many of the students dressed up as pirates to celebrate the event.

A reminder for those who are participating in the River Pollution presentation tomorrow, 9 am at Pine Terrace Church, 6212 Pine Blossom Road. The kids are going to love it!

A reminder about the upcoming event posted on Facebook



Young Pyrates listening to Captain Finns Up

gave a memorable talk on River Clean Up and what the Blackwater Pyrates are doing every day to combat it.



Captains Lucky and Finns Up speak to the homeschool students

Teaching Young Pyrates

As usual, Captain Finns Up kept them on the edge of their seats. Additionally, several other Pyrates were in attendance and passed out “goody bags” to each of the students after the talk.



Lovie, Coop and Florance helping entertain the kids



Terra, Lovie, and Florance dressed for the presentation

Spreading the word about river clean up and how each of us can help keep our waterways clean and safe, is exactly what the Blackwater Pyrates are about. Teaching our children (and grandchildren), is exactly what makes this part of our mission enjoyable.

A special thank you to Brenda Cooper (Lovie) for organizing this event and inviting the Pyrates to participate. And an additional thank you goes out to the winches for preparing goody bags for the children. It took a lot of preparation and forward thinking to prepare gifts for children ranging in ages 4-12.

Everyone knows that you can only keep the attention of children for so long, eventually you have to bribe them. Thanks again.

2021 Maritime History Presentation

The Blackwater Pyrates have three Missions; River Clean Up, Boater Safety and Maritime History Preservation. Our annual fund raiser, the Great Mill Town Duck Race, allows us the opportunity to provide our community with cleaner waterways, safer boaters and a look into the history of the Blackwater River and it's communities.



Capt Lucky welcomes the audience

Dan Stewart (Stewey's Dad) was F.F. Bingham, Noel Hall (Ruby Red) was Mr. Bingham's wife Fannie, and Suzanne Morgan (Shhh) was daughter Dorothy.

Additionally, Pete Morgan (Sea Rock) and John Kalashian (Wayward Teach) were stage hands. Larry McKee (Capt Lucky), Mary McAlpin (Lady Mary) and Mark Flores (Capt Murky) narrated. (continued)

The 2021 annual history presentation focused on "Lost Communities of the Blackwater."

Fortunately for us, and our community, local history professor Brian Rucker compiled the 1915 logs of a Pensacola family vacation into a book entitled "The Log of the Peep O'Day—Summer Cruises in West Florida Waters 1912-1915." And so the Pyrates performed in character to a crowded Imogene theatre.



Suzanne Morgan, Dan Stewart and Noel Hall perform as the Bingham family as Larry McKee narrates.

2021 Maritime History Presentation

The Technical Team consisted of Roger Bailey (Barnacle Bailey), Chris Conrad (Woody) and his son Jay Conrad. The set was created by Chris and Jay.

The entire production would not have been possible without the tremendous effort of Jodi Conrad (Big Al). Big Al conducted in depth research into the facts and details of the book and then created a script that even a Pirate could follow. The event was a huge success.



Cast and Crew present Writer and Director, Big Al, with flowers as a thank you for her efforts in making the presentation a huge success

Blackwater Pyrates 2021

January	February	March	April
13 Booty Council 16 Change of Command 20 General Meeting 30 Milton Mardi Gras Parade	10 Booty Council 17 General Meeting	6-7 Renaissance Fair – Duck Adoptions 10 Booty Council 17 General Meeting	10 New Member Party 14 Booty Council 17 River Clean Up/Earth Day * 21 General Meeting
May	June	July	August
1 Skull Island Retreat (rescheduled) 12 Booty Council 19 General Meeting 29 Boater Safety Week* Blessing of the Fleet USCG Boat Inspection	5 Lighted Boat Parade in Ward Basin 9 Booty Council 12 Skull Island Retreat 16 General Meeting/Duck adoption paperwork and \$\$\$ due	4 Great Mill Town Duck Race*** 10 Lighted Boat Parade/Blues Cruise/Bones Pen (formerly Butchers Pen) 14 Booty Council 21 General Meeting	7 Lighted Boat Parade 11 Booty Council 18 General Meeting 21 Destin Crawl ? Boater Safety Class
September	October	November	December
8 Booty Council 11 History Lecture* 15 General Meeting 18 Upper River Clean Up *	13 Booty Council 16 CBD Farm Experience 20 General Meeting 22/23 Ghost Walk	6 Blues Cruise 10 Booty Council 13 WWSRE 17 General Meeting	1 Budget Meeting 4 Christmas Lighted Boat Parade 15 Caroling with the Pyrates 31 Red Solo Cup

*Core Mission

Revised March 30, 2021

***All Crew Participation

We are Pyrates with a Purpose! Guardians of the Blackwater





Thank you 2021 Sponsors

TITLE SPONSOR \$5000



Admiral Level \$2500

Cat Country 98.7 (in kind)

Bruce Baker Real Estate

First Mate \$500

Blackwater Bistro (in kind)

Boomerang Pizza Kitchen

C P Rivers Furniture & Décor

Coastal Canvas of Pensacola

Cosse's Corner Shack

Cosse's Place

Dan Stewart (in kind)

Edward Jones - Derek R. Park, AAMS

Emerald Coast Marine – Niceville

Grover T's (in kind)

Majors Home Improvement

Mason's Restaurant

Milton Animal Hospital – Dr. Loper

Sonny's BBQ (in kind)

Stillhorse RV Boat Auto / Used Tire Depot

Vinyl Plank 4 Less

A photograph of a large number of yellow rubber ducks floating in a body of water. The ducks are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others further back. The water is slightly rippled.

*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2021 Sponsors

Helmsman Level \$100

2 Gauge Marine and Trailer
2nd Fold Men's Clothing / Shoes - Milton
All Pro Tune Up
Alyssa's - Pace
Ameriprise – Rick Paschall
Angels Care Home Health
Arrow Embroidery & Screenprinting
B'Dubbs Bar & Grill
Beardless Brewhaus
Blackwater Bay Tours
Blackwater Folkart
BobbieCakes
Brenda Cooper – Realtor
Culpepper Insurance
Culpepper Printing
David's Catfish House
Denniel's Monogramming
Derrel's Sewing of Pensacola
Eddie English Trailers
Eddie Hobbs Automotive, Inc

El Paso Restaurant
Emerald Coast Dental Lab
Eric Cabaniss – State Farm Insurance
Fish the Bite
Florida Farm Bureau – Greg Cowell
Florida Farm Bureau – John Johnson
Found It Realty
Fusion Fine Wine & Spirits
GE – Pensacola - \$200
Genesis Fire Services, LLC
Gorman Company
Graceland Portable Buildings of Milton
Gulf Coast LED Lighting
H. E. Roberts Roofing
Hanley Trailer Sales
HBM – Home – Business – Merchandise
Howard Young Flooring
I ♥ Milton
Jones Fence
K&B Café & Vintage Boutique



*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*



Thank you 2021 Sponsors

Helmsman Level \$100

Krewe of Vixens
Krystal – Milton
L.B. Electric
Lakeside Ladies
Leek Small Engine Repair
Lindsay & Andrews, PA
Little Angel Boutique
McCombs Electric, Heating and A/C
Mike Ryan's Truck & Auto Accessories
Miley's Garage
Milton Garden Club
Mountains & Mermaids
Muddy Paws Grooming by Haylee & Company
Nick Cote's Certified Transmissions
Ollie's Neighborhood Grill
Oscity Labs – Southern Star Farms
Outpost Rental
Oval Office
Pensacola Bay Brewery
Reeder Financial Group

Remax – Horizons Property Management
Remax – Horizons Realty
Return to Health
Riverwalk Hair Exhibit
Robert O. Beasley, PA
Rollo's Seafood – Milton
Schwan's Home Delivery
Scoops Ice Cream & Sweets
Smith's Building & Renovations
Southeast Association of Healthcare Providers
Texas Roadhouse
The Hangar American Grill
Timothy Koller
Tops Appliance - Milton
Truly Spokin
Vaughn's Pools – Pensacola
Wacked Out Weiner of Milton
Water Works Sprinkler Systems – Milton
Waitr
Wicked Dragon Productions

The background of the bottom section is a photograph of a large number of yellow rubber ducks floating in a body of water. The text "The Great Mill Town Duck Race" is overlaid in a large, stylized, red script font.

*The
Great Mill Town
Duck Race*