

Pirate News



The 6th day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twenty One, Mill Town, Florida

Pirates with a purpose!



Recently, Big Al (Jody Conrad) took time to interview an important member of both organizations. As Blackwater Pyrates, we know him as Rumfront. The following is her story.

Does anyone know where the picture on the left was taken? How about the picture shown below? I'll give you a hint. The Blackwater Pyrates have teamed up with this organization on numerous occasions in order to improve the waterways and shores of the Blackwater River Basin.

What would you say if I told you that many Blackwater Pyrates (Past Captains, Crew, Legacies and Newbies) are actively participating in this organization.





The Bagdad Mill Site Park

Bagdad Waterfronts Florida Partnership

When I sat down with Doug Lasater (Rum Front) to write a story for the Press Gazette on the Waterfronts Partnership, I had only a vague idea of what Waterfronts did or what they existed for. Having found out, I'd like to cheerlead for the organization and share with y'all what's at stake here.

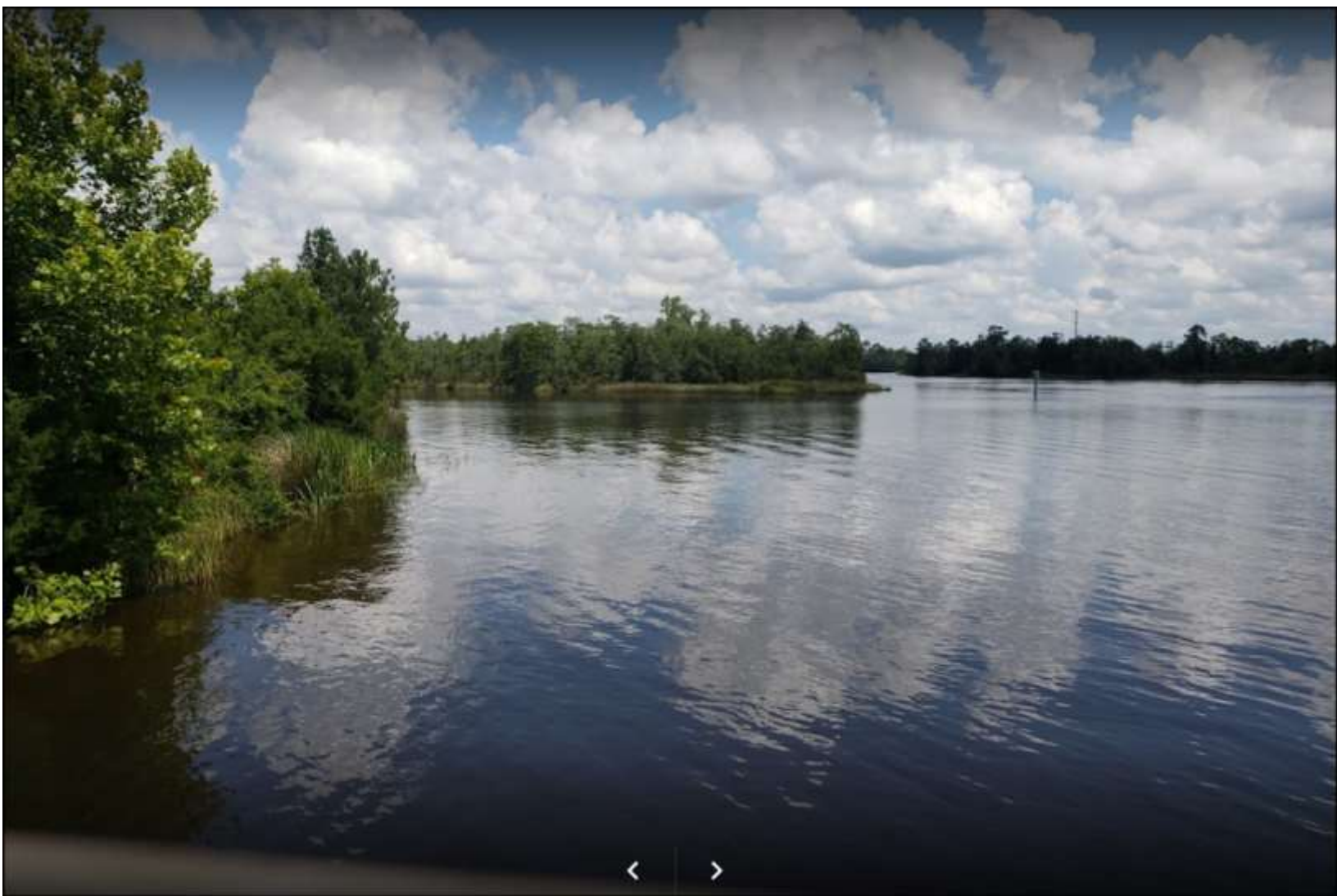
Back in the early 1980's, the state of Florida recognized that many coastal communities were in danger of losing their small town charm and being paved over by big development, which, like Destin, turned small communities into massive concrete parking lots with high rise condo units and tourist traps. Having watched this happen to Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Perdido while we lived in Mobile, I understand what it looks like when locals don't care enough to protect what they've got.

Doug and other like-minded Bagdadians came together and took advantage of grant monies that the state of Florida was offering to communities to help them develop their own long-term economic growth plans. These grant monies allowed communities like Bagdad, Crystal River, Carrabelle, Port St. Joe, and others to chart their own futures, and put a stop sign in front of developers.

What few of us know is that those who originally came together to protect Bagdad have aged or passed on, depleting the pool of those who worked their tails off to protect our local coastal community.

Waterfronts is in serious need of "fresh blood" – locals who recognize what a treasure our coastal community is, and will join forces with the few remaining original members to help carry on the preservation efforts.

As the Pyrates' maritime historical preservation goal echoes the Waterfront's mission, I'd like to encourage our membership to join up with this worthwhile endeavor. Doug remains the contact person for the group; his email is lasatde@gmail.com, and his cell is 380-4484. I know he would be grateful for any interest.



The Blackwater River as seen from the Bagdad Mill Site Park



The Bagdad Mill Site Park Entrance

THE CODE



A Pyrate Book

The Code is what we Pyrates follow when determining who, what, where, why and how to pillage and plunder. We first placed quill to parchment in the early days of the Pyrates. Some might even say the Code was written in order to maintain a civil crew. I would say civil and crew are two words that never go together.

The Code constitutes the rules adopted by the Blackwater Pyrate Crew for the regulation and management of its affairs. Pyrates are instructed to read this code carefully because sooner or later you are going to be held to it and the plank is now in fine working order. The Code is passed each time a new captain is brought on board. The Code is changed by Pyrate vote with one exception. A captain who relinquishes command may rewrite any portion of the code (without vote) based on knowledge he has obtained during his term as captain. It should be noted that captain's rewrites can ONLY be accomplished in the last month before he the captain passes the flag. All other revisions must be done by vote.

Once the code is passed between captains it once again is subject to vote and revisions are thus made in the new term. Rewrites can be called for by any Pyrate at any general meeting. Quorum rules apply. Changes should be dated and relevant notes made for the sake of history. Significant changes should also be listed under “Changes/Deletions/Rewrites” as a matter of history.

The Keeper of the Code is that Pyrate designated to receive, review, create and present items to the Captain that would revise, add, or delete any portions of the Code.

Like all good things, eventually one tires of the same old thing and we determine that change is inevitable. After 15 years it is finally time for a complete rewrite of the original Code.

In October of 2019 a small but determined crew led by Captain Murky, set out on a mission to prepare a complete rewrite of The Code. Their mission was daunting to say the least. However, they set their course to the future. Viewing through the nautical telescope, our brave pyrates set sail on an adventure that none could have anticipated. The finished product will be placed before a vote at the general membership meeting on March 17, 2021.



The Code Rewrite Committee convened in Oct of 2019

Capt Blackwater Bones, Capt Murky, Wayward Teach, Suffolk Scalawag, Big Al and Maltease

In keeping with the theme, “Pirates with a Purpose”, the article below was written by Big Al (Jody Conrad).

Big Al and Lady Mary (Mary McAlpin) have identified a local organization that helps kids in need. Please remember that this is not one of our core missions, and thus we as an organization will not be able to provide additional financial aid. However, similar to the assistance that the Pirates personally have provided for hurricane relief on multiple occasions, it always feels good to help those less fortunate than ourselves.



WHY WE EXIST

Orphan Care & A Home of Healing

In a nutshell: My Father's Arrows is an incredible place near Jay – an orphanage for about 30 rejects of the rejects. The couple who opened the place run it entirely on private funding (nothing from govt. or institute churches). They are a giant family, they counsel, love on, and nurture these kids back to health. Because they rely on no outside funding, their needs are great: the same kinds of supplies any household needs to run, volunteers to help tutor or even plan & throw parties for the kids, yard work, construction help, etc. Their contact info for anyone who might be willing able to volunteer or sponsor a child is: myfathersarrows.org or (850)675-4403.

Mary has set up a workshop with them for bicycle repair on March 20th around 3:00. They need folks to teach their kids how to repair their bikes. Of course they also need more bikes and spare parts!

It would be great if a gang of Pirates came together to do this!

Our Missions

River Cleanup

The Blackwater Pyrates hold two river clean-ups a year. The spring clean-up is held on or around earth day and encompasses the area north of Escribano Point to Cooper's Basin. The fall river clean-up is held in September and is a canoe/kayak trip. This clean-up has in the past included the Blackwater River from south of Cotton Bridge on Hwy. 4 to Blackwater River State Park Deaton's Bridge and Coldwater river south of the Munson Hwy. Bridge to Pucker Point. These clean-ups have resulted on tons of garbage being removed from the river.



Boater Safety

The Blackwater Pyrates partner with the United States Coast Guard Auxillary, Flotilla 1-7 Pensacola Florida to promote boat inspections and boater safety classes. The boat inspections are normally held on "National Safe Boating Week" and will be performed by members of Flotilla 1-7. In the event the vessel lacks safety items such as personal flotation devices (PFD), whistle, fire extinguisher or registration numbers/letters, the items are provided free of charge by the Blackwater Pyrates. Boater safety classes are taught by Flotilla 1-7 personnel and the Blackwater Pyrates make the public aware of learning opportunities and provide promotional items for active participants.



Maritime Preservation

The Blackwater Pyrates accomplish the maritime history goal by hosting an annual lecture whereas the lecture theme revolves around the Blackwater River. Some topics have included shipwrecks, lumber mills and brick factories on the river and even the discovery of the ill-fated Luna expedition of 1559. We further promote maritime history through grants to graduate students attending the University of West Florida archaeology program whose research is related to the Blackwater River.



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 13 History Lecture - Postponed 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 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 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 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 <u>Pirates</u> 31 Red Solo Cup

*Core Mission

Revised February 10, 2021

***All Crew Participation

We are Pyrates with a Purpose! Guardians of the Blackwater

TBD Events

Riverwalk Arts Festival (originally March 6-7)

History Lecture (originally March 13)

Boater Safety Class (originally August)





Thank you 2020 Sponsors

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