



# Pyrate News

The 15th day of December in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Four, Mill Town, Flori-

## Captains Log 12.15.2024

The Blackwater Pyrates have wrapped up another successful year of serving our community and managing to have a little fun along the way. Since we will not have a meeting in December, I'll combine the newsletters to highlight the best of our time left in 2024.

We had our first ever Pyrate Bowling event in November and everyone that bowled had a blast. We had a tie for first place between Captain Fins Up's team and Ladybelle's team so, we split the title. I think we will schedule this again next year, it's a great way to get together and have a little fun.

Our Duck King and Duck Committee Chair got together and a select few Pyrates were asked to inventory and count our racing ducks in mid November. It is a process that we must conduct every year to ensure that the integrity of our Duck Race remains intact. I was pleased that we were joined by Captain Dragon, Captain Fins Up, Captain Murky and Captain Lucky. As past Captains they know how important and serious it is to ensure we have 6000 Ducks in the water on July 4th.

Many thanks to Terra and Clyda for hosting us and for Goober who made sure that the count went well and left us with confidence for next years race. We were joined by several Pyrates to assist with the counting and we managed to find time to enjoy the heavy appetizers on hand. This evolution takes a few hours to complete and after counting 6000 ducks, you can end up a little cross eyed!!

As I write this, we are waiting for the results of our R.I.S.E. grant request to the Santa Rosa Leadership Alumni. Hopefully we get good news and are approved, if so, Fancy Nancy and Big Al will create a coloring book for our future Pyrates who are still in elementary school. Unfortunately, I received word on December 4th that we were not selected , we will push forward with our plans to create kids educational tools.

The Blackwater Pyrates are capable of serving our community in so many ways and we are starting to branch out and reach a broader, if not younger audience.

On Thanksgiving Day, Captain Lucky and SasSea hosted Pyrates at the community center to serve our Seniors and other folks who were looking for a hot Thanksgiving Meal. The volunteer turnout was fantastic and many meals were served by the Pyrates. It is very rewarding to serve others who otherwise would go without. Great job Pyrates!

We held our December Lighted Boat Parade on December 6th and experienced a good turnout of boats and an unusually large crowd on the shore. Blas, Stormie and Oscar ran away with the title while an unnamed Grinch and his crew took home best theme. Geezer and Jo took the prize for most creative! The fireworks were some of the best that the City of Milton put on, Thanks to Jay Conrad and his team, the entire night was a huge success.

We will sing Christmas Carols at Sodalis Assisted living facility on the 11th of December and I hope to have pictures to post in the Newsletter. Please remember that Pepperhead is now in charge of our two Facebook pages and updating our Web Page. Send him your pictures with descriptions and titles.

On the 12th of December the County Commissioners will issue a proclamation to the Blackwater Pyrates thanking you all for your contributions and volunteer services supporting the Hurricane Relief efforts in cleaning up after Hurricane Helene and Milton. Blackwater Pyrates responded in force and your efforts did not go unnoticed. Thank You Crew.

So, let's look at next year and some of our future endeavors. We will start off the New Year at Big Al and Woody's home for the annual Red Solo Cup drop! If you haven't attended before then please don't miss this event. You will be amazed at the amount of fireworks that Woody will lay waste to!!

The calendar is set for now for 2025 and we will pick up where we left off in November, full speed ahead and accomplishing our missions and having fun along the way. I truly hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and I hope you can surround yourselves with Family and Friends. I am grateful to all of you that have supported me in my first year as Captain of the most dynamic and unique group of like minded people who are serving their community in so many ways. Thank you Blackwater Pyrates!

See you at our General Membership meeting in January 2025. On behalf of Hands and Woody, We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Captain Stewburner









Pirates in action! This has become an annual event for Pyrates so if you missed it this year, please join us next year.





Left: Captain Dragon and Wicked Pam counting ducks.

Right: Our Duck King, Goober.



Duck Inventory 2024, getting ready for the Great Milltown Duck Race in 2025, this is our only fundraiser and it takes an enormous amount of time and energy making sure we get it right!!





Blas, Stormie and Oscar took the honors as best in show during the 2024 Lighted Boat Parade.

Grinch (who is not known at this time) and his Crew took Best Theme for the parade.



Jo and Geezer took most creative!!

Thank you to Partagus Princess for narrating the Parade again!!

Buccee and Lovie !

Fireworks were the best yet! The crowd was ready to go!











Left: Tom Powers, aka, Sea Tiger is sworn in as a Milton City Council member!



Right: Our very own Captain Lucky is sworn in as a Milton City Council member! Congratulations!



The Santa Rosa County Commissioners issued a Proclamation honoring the Blackwater Pyrates for their contributions to the hurricane relief efforts managed by Mr. Larry Ward, the Commissioners thanked you Pyrates and so do I, you all are the absolute best organization in our Community and you prove it every day. So many Pyrates that were directly involved were not able to make it to the presentation but they were recognized none the less. Our Plaque will be displayed at City Hall in the Blackwater Pyrate Display case.



## Blackwater Pyrates 2025

January	February	March	April
<b>11</b> Booty Council <b>15</b> General Membership Mtg Duck Adoption begins <b>20</b> Mardi Gras Flo-tilla POLT <b>25</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Great Chili Cookoff	<b>13</b> Booty Council Mtg  <b>19</b> General Membership Mtg <b>22-23</b> Renaissance Faire, Santa Rosa Fairgrounds	<b>1-2</b> Renaissance Faire / Duck Adoptions Kickoff ** * <b>13</b> Booty Council Mtg <b>19</b> General Membership Mtg	<b>05</b> WWSRE <b>10</b> Booty Council <b>16</b> General Membership Mtg <b>19</b> Lower River Clean Up * <b>Pyrate Event</b> <b>22</b> Earth Day
May	June	July	August
<b>08</b> Booty Council <b>10</b> New Member Party <b>Pyrate Event</b> <b>17</b> USCG Boat ----- -Safety Inspection and Grill Hot Dogs -Blessing of the Fleet -Skull Island Retreat <b>21</b> General Membership Meeting	<b>07</b> Lighted Boat Parade in Ward Basin <b>12</b> Booty Council <b>18</b> General Membership Mtg <b>18</b> Duck adoption paperwork and \$\$\$ Due <b>26</b> Technical / Safety Crew Meeting	<b>4</b> Great Mill Town Duck Race* <b>Core Mission</b> *** <b>10</b> Booty Council <b>13</b> Blues Cruise <b>16</b> General Membership Mtg <b>16</b> Membership Dues \$\$\$\$\$ <b>17</b> Technical Crew Debrief	<b>08</b> Booty Council <b>16</b> Lighted Boat Parade-Wrights Basin <b>20</b> General Membership Mtg <b>23</b> Destin Crawl/ Swim/ Float
September	October	November	December
<b>11</b> Booty Council <b>13</b> Upper River Clean Up * <b>Pyrate Event</b> <b>17</b> General Membership Mtg <b>17</b> Grant award	<b>04</b> Pyrate Festival <b>09</b> Booty Council <b>15</b> General Membership Mtg <b>25</b> Trunk or Treat	<b>TBD</b> Blues Cruise <b>08</b> Bowling Event <b>13</b> Booty Council <b>19</b> General Membership Mtg	<b>06</b> Christmas Lighted Boat Parade <b>10</b> Caroling with the Pyrates <b>31</b> Red Solo Cup

\*Core Mission / Pyrate Event    Revised January 2025    \*\*\*All Crew Participation





# 2024 Great Milltown Duck Race

## Title Sponsor



Team Bruce Baker, MBA – RE/MAX Infinity

### **Admiral Level Sponsors**

Cat Country 98.7 (In-Kind)

### **Captain Level Sponsors**

Billy Clark Bail Bonds

Milton Animal Hospital – Dr. Loper

### **First Mate Level Sponsors**

Advance Insurance of NW Florida

Audio Video Installations

Beardless Brewhaus (In-Kind)

Blackwater Bistro (In-Kind)

Community Bank

The Country Gym (In-Kind)

Edward Jones – Derek Park

General Rental Center

Katona Wood Worx

RM Integrations



## Navigator Level Sponsors

Denniels Monogramming	Angels Care Home Health
The Oval Office	Howard Young Flooring
Armor Service Group	Blackwater Bay Tours
Milton Garden Club	Baily Testing
Wagner- Kent Real Estate Team	Sorensen Rentals
Vaughn's Pools	Tops Appliance
Ears 2 Hear	The Viper Room
The Prost Office	82 Magnolia Aesthetics
Boomerang Pizza	Smoothie King (In-Kind)
Aces Fillin Station	Texas Roadhouse
Lunsford Air Conditioning & Heating	PG Hat Company
General Electric	El Paso

## Helmsmen Level Sponsors

T & A Car Care	All Pro Tune Up
Ritchey's Service Center	Scoops Ice Cream and Sweets
Gulf Coast Garage	Pensacola Bay Brewery
Unlimited Lawn and Tree Care	Whip It Inventions
Wicked Dragon Productions	2 Guage Marine & Trailer
Lakeside Ladies	Robert O Beasley, Esq
Matt McKeegan Bail Bonds	Return to Health Chiropractic
Hafner's Lawn and Supply	Derrel's
Fusion Wine & Spirits	Paradise Screen Printing
Comprehensive Dental Center	Arista Builders
Southern Site & Utility Design	Gulf Coast Led Lighting
Rollo's Seafood	Eddie English
Primerica – Margarita Vazquez	Eddie Hobbs Automotive
Three Tokes Over the Line	Reeder Financial Group
Redneck Riviera Smokers	Fish the Bite
Three Rivers RC&D	Taco Town
Hewes and Company	JHawk Group