



# Merry Mariners Boating Club

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2006

## Commodore's Comments !

**Merry Mariners Meeting: Tuesday February 7 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Note Our New Location!**

**Sportsman Yacht & Sailing Club; 1401 SE 47th Street**

Hurricane repairs are complete, so we're returning to the Sportsman Club for our bi-monthly Pot Luck Planning Meetings!

Wow, where did the year go? It's 2006 & we're now looking forward to a fun & safe year of boating! I want to give a special thanks to [Rusty Ost](#) and his board for their leadership of the Merry Mariners during 2005. It takes time and effort to volunteer to lead any organization, & if you look at the boards for both 2005 & 2006, you'll find the majority of board members are involved in leadership in more than one organization!

We just concluded a joint meeting of the past & current boards to "pass the baton" for each position & discuss plans for 2006. We have a number of exciting ideas for trips this year, but I will wait to mention them until our cruise chairs have had a chance to investigate them and set up the schedules. Our theme was to keep the cruises fun, and to try to add some unusual events that have not been done in the past. So, stay tuned to our future News Letters for more information! (over)

## Holiday Pig Roast Starts Off New Year!

[Harry Crossland](#) and his good buddy from Massachusetts, were the dynamic duo grilling away dozens of chicken halves and a huge Whole Pig on the outdoor grill at the Cape Coral Shrine club. All this on Harry's 29th birthday too! Thanks Fellas!

Sincere thanks also to [Tee & John Fischer](#), [Betty & John Rogers](#), [Delores & Phil Buhner](#), [Wes & Sally Sims](#), [Maggie Lann & Stan Maliszewski](#), [June & Rusty Ost](#), and [El Crossland](#) for all your contributions to Merry Mariners enjoyment.

### Remember:

Merry Mariners  
Annual Dues for  
2006

\$20 Per Person

Payable to our  
Treasurer:

Elaine Dowd  
159 SW 47th  
Terrace 33914

540-8360

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### Up-Coming Events: Boat... Laugh... Eat... Repeat!

<b>January 23:</b>	(Monday)	<b>Gramma Dot's Restaurant;</b>	Sanibel
<b>February 1:</b>	(Wednesday)	<b>The Bridge Restaurant;</b>	FM Beach
<b>February 21:</b>	(Tuesday)	<b>Morgan House;</b>	Fort Myers City Marina
<b>March 1:</b>	(Wednesday)	<b>Parrot Key Caribbean Grill;</b>	FM Beach
<b>March 22:</b>	(Wednesday)	<b>The Green Flash;</b>	Captiva Island
<b>The Next Merry Mariner Planning Meeting: April 4 at 5:30 p.m.</b>			

### Commodore's Comments (continued)

As part of preparing myself to be Commodore for 2006, I was re-reading the Merry Mariners' "Purpose and Guidelines" document. The last sentence of the first paragraph caught my attention, it reads: "It is mandated that Safety First is the Club's Top Priority." To help promote this mandate, I asked the board to introduce two amendments to our Purpose and Guidelines statement. These were unanimously passed by the board, but they must also be passed by at least 25% of the members. The proposed amendments are:

#### Proposal #1:

It was moved that we create another board position named *Safety Training Chairperson*, whose responsibilities will be as follows: "To develop a Safety Training Program for each Planning Meeting addressing safety issues of interest to club members. This session need not be longer than 15 minutes. The Chairperson will provide a written synopsis of this session to the Historian to be included in the bi-monthly newsletter."

#### Proposal #2:

It was moved that we add the following criteria to part D: BOATING ACTIVITIES:

"All boats used in any Merry Mariner boating activity must have a current Coast Guard *Vessel Safety Check* sticker. To remain current, a *Vessel Safety Check* sticker is required within 90 days of each new year, or upon joining the Club."

We, as a board, hope you will give these matters due consideration and be prepared to voice your comments and vote at our February 7th meeting.

*Bill Shallbetter, Commodore*

## Merry Mariners 2006

<b>Commodore:</b> Bill Shallbetter 542-6426	<b>Telephone Committee:</b> Lori Angelucci 542-4114 Marilyn Mahoney TBA
<b>Vice Commodore:</b> Dee Seltzer 549-6531	<b>Hospitality Chair:</b> Harry Crossland 549-9591
<b>Secretary:</b> Betty Rogers 549-6152	<b>50/50 Drawings:</b> Bonnie & Chuck Marthaler
<b>Treasurer:</b> Elaine Dowd 540-8360	<b>Membership:</b> June Ost 945-6570
<b>Destination Committee:</b> <i>Merry Mariners I:</i> Bob Purrone 549-8993 <i>Merry Mariners II:</i> Al Seltzer 549-6531	<b>Compassionate Care:</b> Ali Short 567-1190
<b>Merry Mariners Webmaster:</b> Bill Shallbetter 542-6426	

## Flotilla Outing to The Waterfront Restaurant !

Despite the exceptionally low tides typical of our January boating season, about 20 intrepid Merry Mariners journeyed (very cautiously) to the Waterfront Restaurant on Pine Island for lunch. Delores Buhner was the acting "dock master", and since the water was too low to back our boats into the docks we all appreciated her help with the lines & her helping hand ashore as we disembarked from the bow. Thanks Delores! We trolled for dolphins on the way home to no avail! (\*Remember to ask our Commodore how you can clean your prop in the Tarpon Bay Channel and even re-attach electric plugs at your dock!)

01/08/06

WHAT A  
TERRIFIC PIG  
ROAST  
WELCOMING  
IN THE NEW  
YEAR!

## \* \* \* Of Special Interest \* \* \*

**Give a Warm Merry Mariners Welcome to New Members:  
Steve Warner & Sue Harvey; 2934 SE 10th Place; 541-2191;  
Carol & Jack Bacon; 2523 SW 52nd Terrace; 540-4224.**

It was great to have Bonnie & Chuck Marthaler with us at the Pig Roast. Bonnie is recovering from a broken pelvis. Nobody, but nobody runs a 50/50 raffle like the Marthalers! Heal On, Girl!

We send our condolences to the family of one of the established members of Merry Mariners, Ellen Kraus, who passed away Friday, January 13th. Her cremated remains were scattered in the Gulf of Mexico.