

**Merry Mariners' Newsletter**  
**November 2008**

Fellow Merry Mariners:

We may not know where our economy is headed, but we do know that our great boat club continues to grow. With the addition of George McFarland this month, our membership now tops off at 115. And, the participation in our land and boat outings continues to reflect both our growth and our member satisfaction. Examples of that were our well-attended land trip to **Babcock Ranch** and our boat outing to the **Fish House Restaurant** on Ft. Myers Beach. Unfortunately, our last boat outing of the year to **Cabbage Key** had to be cancelled because of the weather. Thanks to our Activity Chairs Joan Church and Sandy Thompson and our Destination Chairs Bob Purrone and Tom Satala for planning these and other great outings for us throughout the year.

Speaking of outings, we just held our first “Merry Mariners Shopping Weekend” at West Marine on November 21-23. Many of our members participated in this activity and saved 10 %-20 % on their purchases.

And, we still have our final outing/activity to enjoy as a group this year—our annual Holiday/Christmas Dinner/Meeting. Currently we have over 90 of our members planning to attend. Unfortunately, some of our members are experiencing illness or still recovering from surgeries and may not be able to help us celebrate the season. Presently, Lorrie Angelucci is recovering at Manor Care in Ft. Myers while Dennis Bastyr and Dave Lawrence are doing so at their homes. A card, a call or a visit may help speed up their recoveries so that they may be well enough to join us.

Here are some final details related to our last outing/activity of 2008:

**Date/Time** – Thursday, December 11, 5:30-9:00

**Location** -- Porto Bello Restaurant at Burnt Store Marina

**Directions** -- North on Burnt Store Road (8.5 miles from Pine Island Road). Turn left and stop at the gatehouse for a pass.  
(Also, ask for further directions there, if needed.)

**Agenda:**

- **5:30-6:00**—arrival, socializing, special 50/50 ticket sale.  
(*Note:* you will be issued a color-coded candy cane when you arrive which indicates your meal choice. Please don't eat it! Keep it by your place setting until you are served.)
- **6:00**—Introductions, announcements, business meeting with installation of new officers, Santa's arrival.
- **6:30**—Dinner is served.
  - Remember, there is a half-price Happy Hour until 7:30.
  - Tables will seat 8-10 (no reservations).
  - Dress is holiday attire (casual/semi-formal—no shorts and t-shirts)
  - Musical entertainment will be provided and requests may be honored.
  - If you have not paid your 2009 dues, you may wish to do so upon arrival.

Finally, Ginny and I wish you all an enjoyable, healthy and safe Holiday Season.

Al Phelps, Commodore