

The Gulf Stream

Official Bulletin of
DISTRICT 8

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

AN ASSOCIATION of PAST COMMODORES

VOL 32, Issue 4

October 2011

Harvey SusselEditor

Southeastern Vice-President's Report by Thomas "JOE" Dowdell



I travelled to Portland Oregon again June 6-10, 2011 for the Spring Regional Meeting of IOBG. (In case you are wondering, your district director is NOT reimbursed for expenses for these regional meetings).

The business meeting was held on Thursday at the Columbia River Yacht Club and the reports presented stressed the importance of communication. Marshall Nemoj talked about the new electronic news bulletin, called "The Lighthouse", which is now being sent via email to all members with valid email addresses. It was conceived as an improvement in communication with members of IOBG, IOBGA and other interested persons, because they could instantly receive brief, to-the-point articles that are informative and quick to read. Since the cost is very low, as many editions as are wanted could be published throughout the year. It was apparent that members would benefit.

After the meeting several of the Columbia River Yacht Club members provided boats for a two hour river cruise and tour of the fabulous floating homes and boat docks constructed along the Columbia River (many of which have upstairs and downstairs living areas). The weather co-operated with clear skies and warm weather all day, and if you looked, Mount Hood could be seen in the distance.

Friday evening, The Portland Yacht Club hosted a casual Western BBQ for about sixty five guests. We cooked our selection of either steak or chicken on a large outdoor grill. It reminded me of the Friday night cookouts at my home club back in Marathon, with the camaraderie, light hearted banter, good food and all very enjoyable.

Provisions to the Policy and procedure manual

The IOBG policy and Procedures Manual was last updated in 2005, and a thorough review and draft proposals for revisions have been ongoing since last December. As District Director, I was charged with the responsibility of making sure all District 8 members received the revised draft of revisions and I was to forward all comments and suggestions that I received. The deadline was July 31, 2011. I received responses from only 5 chapters, and these were 98% favorable with no changes, and only two members from those 5 chapters made suggestions for changes with regard to the definition of a qualifying yacht club. So I could only assume that the remaining Chapters believed that the draft was acceptable as written without further comment. Anyway, I received a Ballot In late August, and I cast all of District 8's, 9 votes for approval of the revision. The results will be counted and announced at the annual meeting in October.

Speaking of the upcoming annual International meeting, it will be held this year at the home city of our incoming President Steve Willing, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada October 8-16 and June and I plan to attend and represent District 8. Many meetings and activities are planned, including election of officers for the upcoming year. On Saturday, October 15, the traditional black tie dinner dance will conclude the convention.

I found out that District 8 has some dormant Blue Gavel Chapter Charters that were issued in the past, that I was completely unaware of. The International Secretary, Mary Eiffort, told me that since I inquired, she was going to bring a list of all the outstanding District 8 Charters that have become dormant to the meeting in Canada, I will then follow-up with some of the past commodores in those clubs with information about the history of Blue Gavel within their club, and inform them that the IOBG has been making changes internally, and is moving into a new era, in spite of a little lingering resistance from a few old fuddie duddies.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS REPORT by Thomas "JOE" DOWDELL

I would like to thank the International Executive Board for their June 9th appointment of me to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Tom Sullivan as Southeastern Vice President. I am very appreciative of their confidence in me, and of the opportunity to serve as an International Officer. Thank you, Tom Sullivan, for your work and effort during your tenure as Southeastern Area Vice President. I also owe Tom my personal debt of gratitude, because Tom is responsible for bringing me from chapter secretary and starting me through the chairs of district office in 2009.

I attended the District 8 Summer Regional Meeting at Gulf Harbors Yacht Club July 15 and 16. Gulf Harbors Yacht Club is located in New Port Richey on the Gulf Coast, just north of Tampa. It is the home club of Past Southeastern Vice President John Button and Past District 8 President Joe King. The Blue Gavel Chapter and the friendly members of Gulf Harbors made all visiting Blue Gavel members, their spouses and guests feel most welcome throughout this great fun weekend. Anyone that didn't come to this regional meeting missed a great time.

After the business meeting and luncheon, our group was transported to Tarpon Springs and a tour of the waterfront "sponge Dock" market.

Saturday night was a fabulous seafood buffet and dinner dance. It was very obvious that the club's members knew how to party! They all dressed up in their "Tacky Tourist Costumes", and the assembled group was a hilarious sight. Visiting guests quickly got involved acting like tourists and dressing the part. A band of talented musicians kept lively members and guests on the dance floor throughout the evening. The antics from the parade of contestants vying to win the prize for the best tacky tourist costume was entertainment enough, but there was also a floor show by a staffer who was wonderful with his spot-on impressions of Frank Sinatra singing all his old favorites. Just ask Art and Betty Theobald how they enjoyed the show!

Thanks to John Button for arranging the meeting, and to Chapter President Les Jockers, and chapter members Anthony Mijka, Pierce Pratt, Jim Shuman and Joe King for going all out to ensure we all had fun.

The business meeting was chaired by President Elect Frank Hutchinson, due to the severe illness of President De Ramsay.

Executive Meeting Highlights:

1. Action on a proposal that District 8 consider having an electronic newsletter, which would be current and inexpensive, to supplement the publication of the Gulfstream newsletter was deferred to the November meeting.

2. The executive committee also postponed to the fall meeting, any further discussion of the proposed By-law change first raised at the winter meeting at Isles Yacht Club, and tabled at the Spring Membership meeting at Lighthouse Point. What was sought was a District 8 bylaws change to prohibit a qualifying yacht club from requiring membership in, association with, or participation in an unrelated activity, fraternal organization, or condominium development. The change was requested and further study was ordered in February, 2011.

3. President elect Frank Hutchinson questioned if District 8 really needs to schedule four meetings a year. He will bring that subject up again at the November meeting.

The INTERNATIONAL Lighthouse electronic Bulletin The newsletter, The Lighthouse, was conceived as an improvement in communication with members of IOBG, IOBGA and other interested persons. Because the cost is \$360 per year with unlimited editions possible, it was apparent that members could benefit from brief, to the point articles that are quick to read and informative. Many of you are not accessing the Lighthouse through your e-mail, so I have been asked to get the members to access and read the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is an excellent tool for communication, but it has to be accessed to be effective !!

Other Announcements On July 30, District 8 President De Ramsay submitted his resignation from office, due to his continued poor health. In accordance with the District 8 By laws, President-Elect Frank Hutchinson immediately became President of District 8.

The November Meeting at Palm Coast is a very important meeting. Chapter Presidents who cannot attend should make sure their proxy to vote for all the members in their chapter is properly completed and delivered to their authorized representative at the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT by CHARLES S RANSON



This will bring the members of the district up-to-date on our financial status as of October 5, 2011. We are still within the budget, and have left \$682.73 for the remainder of the current year. Membership total is 224 for the current year.

Opening Balance	\$2,183.29
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Receipts

International Dues 2011	\$8,800.00
District 8 Dues 2011	3,360.00
Total	\$12,160.00

Expenditures

International Dues 2011	\$8,800.00
Gulf Stream	1,708.65
Web-Site Maintenance 12 months Jan-Dec	300.00
Web-Site server and host fees	127.35
Bank Charges (Printing Checks)	21.00
Awards	410.35
Recorder for Secretary	39.94
Treasurer Supplies	69.98
Total	\$11,477.27
Net Activity Current Year	\$682.73
Closing Balance	\$ 2,866.02

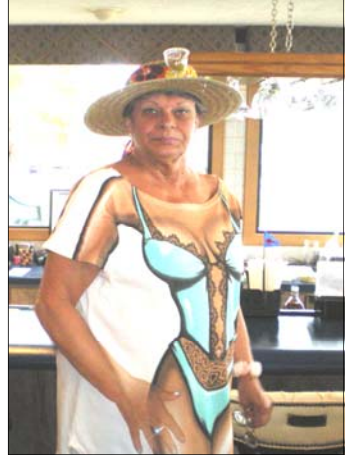
THE DISTRICT 8 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....	...Frank D. Hutchinson (Evelyn) 386-446-1956	11 Cleveland Court Palm Coast, FL 32137	E-mail..... fhutchinson@atlantic.net
PRESIDENT-ELECT.....			
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENTGeorge W. Eichman (Shirley Ann) 941-639-4767	10 Tropicana Drive Punta Gorda, FL 33950	E-mail.... com3dfit@comcast.net
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT...	...BERT R. GARTENHAUS (Joanne) 954-943-7312	2346 N.E. 27th Street Lighthouse Point, FL 33064-8355	E-mail... Jobert2@comcast
SECRETARY.....	A.R. "Art" Theobald (Betty) 239-471-2000	2710 S.W. 47th Terr. Cape Coral, FL 33914	E-Mail.... Art.Theobald@Ymail.com
TREASURER.....	CHARLES T. RANSON (Ruth Ann) 772-388-9474	3500 Marsha Lane Vero Beach, FL 32967	E-mail.. CTR720@aol.com
LEGAL OFFICER.....	John A. Schultz (Edith) 941-497-0839	3799 Cadbury Circle # 329 Venice, FL. 34293	E-mail..... johna191@verizon.net
SUPPLY OFFICER.....	Bob Shogren (Carol) 727-360-3809	12250 5th Street East Treasure Island, FL 33706	E-mail..... shogren@ij.net
GULF STREAM EDITOR...	Harvey Sussel 772-807-8717	7641 Barn Owl Drive Port St. Lucie, FL 34952-3025	E-mail..... Sussel1@aol.com
DISTRICT DIRECTOR.....			
SOUTHEASTERN VICE-PRESIDENT (Int'n'l) ...	Thomas "JOE" Dowdell (June) 305-743-5127	11300 Overseas Highway	E-mail..... frigatep@bellsouth Marathon, FL 33050

DISTRICT MEETING at GULF HARBORS YACHT CLUB



District Meeting at Gulf Harbors Yacht Club & "TACKY TOURIST NIGHT"



THANK YOU.....
Gulf Harbors Officers
and Members and the
Blue Gavel Chapter
who helped to make
this a very memorable
weekend for us all!!
IOBG District 8



**International Order of the Blue Gavel – District 8
2011 Fall Regional Meeting
November 18 & 19, 2011**

Hosted by:**Palm Coast Yacht Club**

1 Yacht Club Drive
Palm Coast, FL 32137
Keith Claybrook, General Manager
(386) 445-9300

Hotel Accommodations:**Best Western Palm Coast**

5 Kingswood Drive
Palm Coast, FL 32137
(386) 446-4457

Mention "IOBG Conference" for hotel rate of \$59.00 per night plus tax.
Reservation deadline: no later than November 1, 2011

Schedule of Events

Friday, November 18, 2011

Registration at PCYC	5:00 – 7:00 P.M.	
Cocktail Reception (Cash Bar)	6:00 – 7:00 P.M.	
Dinner – Order from Menu	7:00 –P.M.	Casual Dress

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Coffee & Pastries	9:00 A.M.	
Business Meeting	9:30 A.M.	Dress.... Navy Jacket, tie, White Slacks & Shoes
IOBG Auxiliary Meeting	9:30 A.M..	Same as above

Lunch from Select Menu	12:00 Noon
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Waterway Tour with PCYC Captains	1:30 – 4:30 P.M.
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Cocktail Reception (Cash Bar)	6:00 -7:00 P.M.	(Cash, check or Credit card)
Dinner Dance	7:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.	Casual Dress....No Shorts

Cabaret Night Dinner Dance features Saxophonist Pat D'Aguanno and Keyboardist Stevie Fingers playing smooth jazz, adult contemporary, and show tunes for dancing and listening.

**IOBG District 8 Fall Regional Meeting
November 18 & 19, 2011**

Questions & Information: P/C Bill Sulser, Chapter President (386) 447-8594
 e-mail..... bjdreamcatcher@gmail.com
 P/C Frank Hutchinson, District 8, President (386) 446-1956

NAME: _____ SPOUSE/GUESTS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

YACHT CLUB: _____ OFFICE HELD: _____

Please fill in the number of persons attending and total cost:

	<u>No. Persons</u>	<u>Event Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Friday Dinner, November 18</u>	_____	Varies	Order from Menu
<u>Saturday, November 19</u>			
Coffee & Pastries*	_____	\$3.00	\$ _____
Lunch - Selection from Menu *	_____	\$12.00	\$ _____
Complimentary Waterway Tour	_____	No Charge	\$ <u>- 00 -</u>
Cabaret Dinner Dance - * Price includes tax and gratuity for your choice of:			
Prime Rib	_____	\$30.00	\$ _____
Chicken w Cranberry Sage Stuffing	_____	\$30.00	\$ _____
Crab Stuffed Flounder	_____	\$30.00	\$ _____
Includes salad, potato, vegetable and dessert			
		TOTAL	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to the **Palm Coast Yacht Club Chapter IOBG**
 and return this completed form no later than November 10, 2011 to:
Keith Claybrook, General Manager
Palm Coast Yacht Club

BLUE GAVEL SUPPLY ORDERS

All orders should be mailed in with covering payment to District 8 Supply Officer to:

P/C Robert A. Shogren, 12250 5th Street East,
Treasure Island, Florida 33706
Phone 727-360-3809
E-mail shogren@ij.net

Make Checks payable to
" IOBG District 8 Supplies"

For orders between:
\$ 1.00 and \$25.00, add \$1.00 for shipping and handling
\$25.01 and \$50.00 add \$2/00 for shipping and handling
\$50.01 and \$75.00 add \$3.00 for shipping and handling

Item No.	Description	Price
31218-HD	Burgee 12" X 18" - Heavy	\$22.50
31218-R	Burgee 12" X 18" - Regular	\$10.00
2138-IG	Star, Single Gold 3/8"	\$ 4.00
2138-IS	Star, Single Silver 3/8"	\$ 4.00
2338-3G	Stars, 3 on a Bar, Gold 3/8"	\$11.00
2338-3S	Stars, 3 on a Bar, Silver 3/8"	\$11.00
2158 1-G	Star, Single Gold 5/8"	\$ 4.00
2158 1-S	Star, Single Silver 5/8"	\$ 4.00
3258 3-G	Stars, 3 on Bar, Gold 5/8"	\$11.00
3258 3-S	Stars, 3 on Bar, Silver 5/8"	\$11.00
2334 3-G	Stars, 3 on Bar, Gold 3/4"	\$11.00
2334 3-S	Stars, 3 on Bar, Silver 3/4"	\$11.00

SUPPLIES Continued.....

Item No.	Description	Price
5610-R	Tie, Silk, 4" wide x 56" long	\$28.00
5612-L	Tie, Silk, 4" wide x 66" long	\$30.00
5616	Tie, Men's Bow	\$12.00
5610	Tie Tac Sterling Silver	\$15.00
4200 A-B	Sleeve Emblem 2-1/4 x 2 Black	\$10.00
4202-N	Sleeve Emblem 2-1/4 x 2 White	\$10.00
1051	Window Decal 3" x 3"	\$ 2.00
SB-1	Shoulder Boards for Shirts	\$22.00
1210	Short sleeve Shirt—white	\$31.50
	S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___	
	2XL ___ 3XL ___ 4XL ___	
	2 XL - 4XL add \$4.00	
6626	Lapel Pin	\$12.00
7628	Brass Belt Buckle with IOBG Logo for Web Belt	\$12.50
7710-NN	Belt Webbing, Navy with Navy Ribbon	\$1.25/ft.
	4' ___ 5' ___ 6' ___	
7710—WN	Belt Webbing, White with Blue Ribbon	\$1.25/ft.
	4' ___ 5' ___ 6" ___	
7710-WW	Belt Webbing White with White Ribbon	\$1.25/ft.
	4" ___ 5" ___ 6" ___	
	NAME TAG.....	\$15.00

This is a only a small portion of the Supplies available through the Supply Officer. Please contact the Supply Officer for further information.

District 8, I.O.B.G.
c/o Editor P/C Harvey Sussel
7641 Barn Owl Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952-3025

DISTRICT 8 WEBSITE
Is UP and RUNNING
WWW.D8IOBG.ORG
Check it out !!!

CHANGE OF WATCH by A.R. "ART THEOBALD"

A Yacht Club tradition is the annual year end "Change Of Watch", a social activity at which time the current Commodore is relieved of his duties, retired. A newly elected Commodore takes the helm of the club.

Being retired, the former Commodore becomes and joins those that preceded him as "Past Commodore", a title signifying he or she served the club with dignity and pride.

Past Commodores are invited and/or encouraged to join the International Order of the Blue Gavel, an organization founded in 1953 to recognize Past Commodores of the International Yachting Community and unite them in order to promote the highest ideals of yachting, and preserve its customs and tradition through social, educational and humanitarian programs.

Accepting and submitting the "Application" for membership is the only requirement. Upon approval, the Past Commodore is authorized to fly the burgee wear the insignia of the I.O.B.G.. These items are available from the local District. Some chapters elect to pay the first year dues in appreciation of services rendered.

Information and news about the I.O.B.G. are furnished thru the LOG, the LIGHTHOUSE and District GULF STREAM. Past Commodores are invited and encouraged to attend District Meetings and activities, including their local Chapter social and yachting functions.

Further information on the Blue Gavel can be found on our WEB Site —"d8IOBG.ORG" . Should you have any further questions, feel free to contact any of the District Officers or A.R. Theobald, District 8 Secretary at (239) 471-2000



NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Nominating Committee announced their nominations for office for the upcoming year at the Summer Regional meeting at Gulf Harbors Yacht Club. On August 14th, the nominee for the office of treasurer, Marv McMahon, Royal Palm Yacht Club, withdrew his nomination for personal reasons.

Then on August 30th, De Ramsay resigned as President of District 8 for health reasons and withdrew his nomination for the office of District Director.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Past District Presidents Joe Dowdell, De Ramsay and Lee Clifford, together with member Tom Ellis, Vero Beach Y.C., and member Joe Watson, Marco Cruise Club, submits the following amended slate of candidates for office for the 2011-2012 administrative year:

PRESIDENT (AUTOMATIC) ——— FRANK HUTCHINSON
 PRESIDENT ELECT ————— GEORGE EICHMAN
 FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – ——— BERT GARTENHAUS
 SECOND VICE PRESIDENT ——— CHARLES RANSON
 TREASURER – ————— BOB PEASE
 SECRETARY – ————— ART THEOBALD
 DISTRICT DIRECTOR – ——— OPEN
 ALTERNATE DIRECTOR _____ OPEN

The election will be held at the annual membership meeting November 19, 2011 at Palm Coast Yacht Club. In accordance with the bylaws, nominations from the floor may be made by notifying the nominating committee 30 days before the annual meeting.

(OBITUARY)

P/C JOHN T. STRINGER, JR.**June 23, 1918 - August 17, 2011**

P/C John Stringer passed away at age 93 on Wednesday, August 17, 2011.

Born in 1918 John served in the US Navy for 32 years, retiring as Director of Medical Photography & Director of Naval School of Medical Photography. He was well known for his 52 Autopsy Photos taken of JFK and had many NAVY ADMIRALS & MARINE CORPS. GENERALS as close friends.

John's military exposure began when his father a Navy Physician, took him along on his many assignments. "Military is in the family" with one of his sons a Naval Academy Graduate becoming a Navy Captain & Destroyer Skipper. John also has a grand daughter serving as an Army Major & Helicopter Pilot in Afghanistan.

On the civilian side of things, John has another son, John III & daughter who is named after her deceased mother Janet Mary. P/C John was also the editor of this IOBG publication, "*The Gulf Stream*" for many, many years. John's present wife is the former Patricia G. Taylor, whom he married in 1994.

A Memorial Service for P/C John Stringer was held at Vero Beach Yacht Club on Saturday August 20th with over 125 attending; including 18 family members. P/C Sumner Lapp & P/C Chuck Ranson, of The Vero Beach Yacht Club, conducted the day's event. An open Bar & Buffet was enjoyed by all.

P/C Stringer was also well known in IOBG circles, becoming a member in 1985 & served as Vero Beach Chapter President 14 times. He also served Vero Beach Yacht Club in many capacities over the years. His other accomplishments (of which there are many) included his being Commissioner of Parks, Planning, & Zoning for the City of Vero Beach.

We all wish John fair winds & flowing seas.

by P/C Tom Sullivan

Notice to Chapters

Don't hide your light under a bushel. Tell the other Chapters what you are doing in your club. Write a note, with pictures and send it to Gulf Stream Editor, P/C Harvey Sussel, to be included in the next issue of Gulf Stream.

Also, don't forget the Lighthouse. (The International bi-monthly "on-line" publication) They are also interested in Chapter happenings. Tell the other Districts what's going on in your own back yard. Be proud of what your Chapter is doing !!

Write an article about a successful event, include the names of those persons responsible and send it to the International Operations Center (I.O.C.) via email to bgtreas@iobg.org.

I discovered recently that the Blue Gavel Chapter at Gulf Harbors holds an annual Dinner/Dance to honor a club member of the year. Things like that should be published in the Gulf Stream. The Palm Coast Chapter used to have a Hammer Ball which raised thousands of dollars for charity. Now they are have a new project supporting the food bank, and raised \$5,000.00. The Palm Coast Auxiliary sends boxes to our troops in Afghanistan.

My point is, no one knows about itunless you put it in an article to be published.

by Joe Dowdell, Southeastern Vice-President