

Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast® BUSINESS REPORT

April 2010

Vol 19, Number 4

Monthly Meetings

Meeting Notices

Monthly Business Luncheon
April 7, 2010 noon
Tamara's Café
71 Market Street
Apalachicola

Monthly Business Luncheon
May 5, 2010 noon
The Blue Parrot
68 West Gorrie Drive
St George Island

Business After Hours
May 13, 2010
5:30-7:00 pm
TBA

Visitor Statistics

February 2001	1,414
February 2002	1,150
February 2003	694
February 2004	950
February 2005	1,538
February 2006	1,430
February 2007	2,309
February 2008	3,330
February 2009	1,972
February 2010	2,444

Website stats February

Visits	16,386
Page Views	83,723
Average Page Views	5.11
Time on Site (mins)	4:29
Bounce Rate	24.05%
New Visits	70.67%

Get Results

Want to reach visitors, brides to be, or people seeking to relocate to the area? Advertise on the Apalachicola Bay Chamber website and reach thousands of people each month. We have over 12,000 unique visitors per month and over 88,000 pages views per month. Ads are available from \$10.00 to \$45.00 per month. Email us today for details.

New Members

Certified Security

Welcome Hal Herman with *Certified Security*, a Florida-based alarm company specializing in commercial and home security systems. For commercial customers they offer a full range of business surveillance and monitoring systems. They also offer fire, medical and security systems for residential customers. Hal is based out of Tallahassee. He has lived there for 33 years was involved with the first Crime Stoppers organization in the area. *Certified Security* has 24-hour seven day a week central alarm monitoring centers. They also offer medical alert monitoring. Hal can be reached by calling (850) 524-1527, or email halherman@yahoo.com. Visit their website at www.certifiedsecuritysystems.com.

Current Solutions

Welcome Chris Mock and Charlie Lanford with *Current Solutions of the Gulf Coast LLC*. In business since 2006, Chris and Charlie are licensed, insured, and bonded full service electrical contracting company. They have completed many projects ranging from commercial, residential, design/build, generator installations, electrical maintenance, landscape lighting, and underground utilities.

Directors Column

Find out more about how the new Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport and how it will impact our businesses and our lives by attending a special conference on April 2nd, from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 (cst) at Gulf Coast Community College in the Student Union East Conference Center (second floor of Student Union East). Dr. Jack Kasarda, an expert on Aerotropolis cities will speak. There will also be a panel discussion on economic development at 9:30 a.m. and a session on tourist development at 11:20 am. No RSVP necessary. All times are Panama City time central standard time.

Volunteers

If you have a few hours and would like to know more about what the Chamber does volunteer to help us out. We need volunteers for all sorts of projects from answering visitor's questions to help with events. Call Anita or Cindy at (850) 653-9419 or email us.

Anita Grove, Executive Director


FRIEDMAN FINANCIAL
ADVISORS, INC
INVESTMENTS & FINANCIAL PLANNING
850-670-1253

Chamber Board of Directors

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Richard Langford 899-0030

Paul Marxsen 697-2542

Ted Ruffner 670-8870

Diana Prickett 927-2322

Joe Taylor 653-1411

R. Wayne Thomas 670-4404

They offer 24 hour-7 day a week emergency service to all of their customers. Chris is a second generation master electrician who holds electrical licenses in the state of Florida and Georgia. He has been in the electrical contracting business for 10 years starting out as an apprentice mastering all aspects of the business from initial design to complete installation and maintenance. Charlie holds a Florida master electrical license and has 10 years experience in the electrical field. Charlie and Chris can be reached at (850) 229-5333, by email charlie@currentsolutionsllc.com or chriscurrentsolutionsllc.com or visit their website at www.currentsolutionsllc.com.

Fish'n Xpress

Bill and Cindy Little joined the Chamber with their business Fish'n Xpress, a 49-passenger offshore party boat that departs from the Port St Joe Marina. The 60 foot boat is a smooth riding vessel with an enclosed salon, restrooms and a snack bar. Rods, fishing license and bait are included, plus they have experienced mates that are happy to teach you to bait your hook, remove fish from your line, or know when to leave the "old salt" alone to enjoy a great day catching fish. Bill has been operating the Fish'n Xpress for three years. The boat is wheelchair accessible and available for private charters, weddings, or memorial services. They also do sunset cruises, night fishing trips and shark fishing trips. Bill can be reached by calling (850) 227-8200 or visit their website at www.tightlinesgoodtimes.com.

Happy Ours Kayak and Canoe Outpost

Debbie and Dan VanVleet joined the Chamber with their business Happy Ours Kayak and Canoe Outpost. Happy Ours rents canoes and kayaks plus they offer guided ecotours and fishing trips. Debbie is a Florida Master Naturalist with extensive knowledge of the marine life in St. Joseph Bay. Dan great with children and well-versed in the history and lore of the area. They also have guided snorkeling trips that explore St Joe Bay plus scallop trips during the season. Free paddling instruction is provided with rentals and local delivery available. Debbie and Dan can be reached by calling (850) 229-1991 or visit her website at www.happyourskayak.com. They are located right on St Joe Bay at 775 Cape San Blas Road.



Exposure

Bre Humphries editor at *Points North* magazine in Atlanta was sent information and photographs on Apalachicola for their April issue.

Patricia Letakis with *FLORIDA TRAVEL + LIFE* was sent information on oystering. Her article on Tupelo honey is in their current April issue.

Lori Pierino with *Boca* magazine was sent information and photographs for an article they are doing on the Florida Panhandle.

Member News

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Eddie Teaches has a new location on St George Island. They moved to 37 East Pine Avenue. Stop by and have a pint!

Bayside Gallery and Florists has moved to the Sponge Exchange building in downtown Apalachicola.

April 23rd- 24th Gulf Coast Community College will host a Market to help support the new GCCC Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Be a sponsor, merchant, and/or shopper at this fun-filled day. Contact Loel Davenport at (850) 873-3583 or email her at alumni@gulfcoast.edu.

FairPoint Communications is offering special new deals for small business. Contact them for details at (850) 227-4590.

Camp Gordon Johnston almost doubles its attendance in the first quarter of the year over same period last year, according to CGJ Curator Linda Minichiello.

Re Entry ID

The Franklin County Emergency Management Office is urging residents to stop by the Emergency Management Center at the Apalachicola airport and apply for a re-entry ID. This ID will be used help resident gain re entry after an evacuation. Residents must furnish a photo ID, such as driver's license and proof-of- residence such as your utility bill. Forms can be filled out online at www.franklinemergencymanagement.com and your tag will be waiting for you to pick up at the Emergency Management Office. If you have any questions, contact Pam Brownell, Director or Joyce Durham, Office Manager at (850) 653-8977.

Lauren Parajon, Assistant Editor with *Spirit* magazine, the in flight magazine for Southwest Airlines was here in February. The Chamber arranged for her stay and set up a trip for her to try harvesting oysters. The article will appear in their May issue.

Production Manager Ian Beube with Yap Films in Ontario was assisted in mid February. Their film crew came down and shot two episodes for *Beast Legends*, a series that will run on the Sci-fi Channel in mid June.

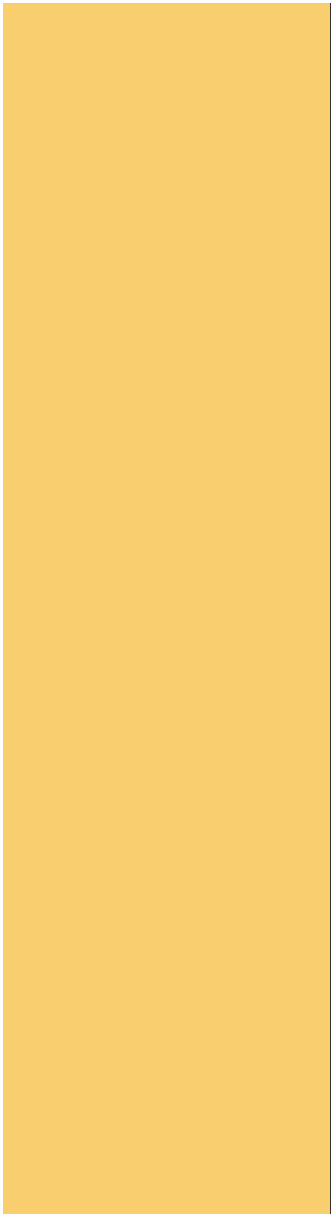
France Putman with the *Birmingham News* was sent information for their annual Spring Gulf Coast Guide.

Gary McKechnie's article about motorcycling along the panhandle was published in *Emerald Coast* magazine. Gary was here last March gathering information for an article for HOG the Harley Davidson Owner's magazine.

12th Apalachicola Antique & Classic Boat Show

Apalachicola will host the 12th Annual Apalachicola Antique & Classic Boat Show Friday and Saturday, April 23-24, 2010. Click [here](#) for a full schedule. On Friday, April 23rd, there will be a boat building demonstration throughout the day by local master boat builders demonstrating techniques and tools used in boat traditional building. The 1877 two masted, gaff-rigged, schooner the Governor Stone will arrive in town Friday and dock at Riverfront Park for the festival.

Saturday, April 24th, the festival begins at 10:00 am. Antique boats, examples of classic and traditional vessels, workboats, and fiberglass and aluminum classics will all be



on display until 4:00 pm. Special highlights include authentic oyster boats, workboats, and home-built boats by skilled craftsmen, antique outboard engines, plus antique automobiles and art booths. The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will have displays about the Apalachicola River and its flora and fauna, plus the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association will demonstrate oyster tonging. The Apalachicola River Keepers will be on hand with their boat to provide informative trips on the river. The boat building demonstration will continue. Archaeologists Kevin Porter be on hand to speak about the Apalachicola Traders' Canoe. For information please call (850) 653-9419 or [email](#) us.

Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge

Take up the challenge and climb four lighthouses on the Forgotten Coast- Cape San Blas Lighthouse, Cape St. George Light, Crooked River Lighthouse, and St. Marks Lighthouse. Commemorate Florida Lighthouse Day and find out all about our great local lighthouses.