Our 18th year of Expats helping Expats

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OCTOBER 8, 2018

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Special Announcements
Information of special interest to members including Thai Immigration updates

Club Announcements
The latest announcements of interest to members and Expats living in Thailand

Upcoming Club Related & Special Events
A list of upcoming Club related and other events of special interest – for an overall list of upcoming events in and around Pattaya & Bangkok, see the latest Club Newsletter

Excursions Being Organized
Members often organize excursions which can be one day tours, overnights, and sometimes international travel. If any are being planned, they will be listed here.

Upcoming Holidays
Public Holidays during the next month or two are listed. Main Bank branches and Government Offices including Immigration will be closed.

Information of Interest from the Open Forum and Other Sources
Information of interest is often announced by fellow expats at the Open Forum session during the Club’s Sunday Meeting. Items of continuing interest are included here until they are incorporated into the appropriate section of the Club’s website.

Government Holidays -
These are the dates that Government Offices and Bank Branch Offices will be closed – Source is Bank of Thailand

REMINDER: If you are not already a subscriber to the Club’s weekly Newsletter, to subscribe go to www.pcec.club and select NEWSLETTER from the left-hand column. Enter your email address in the box and click “subscribe.” You will receive an email so you can “confirm” you want the newsletter. Once you confirm, you will be in our automated mailing list for receipt of the Newsletter.
FLU SHOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AGAIN THIS YEAR ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

We have arranged for the Phyathai Hospital Sriracha to bring nurses to our upcoming Sunday, October 28 Meeting at the Holiday Inn to give Flu Shots to those who want or need them. They will administer the shots starting at 9:30 am. The shots will be given in the Lobby of where we meet in the Workshop Meeting Rooms on the 4th floor of the Holiday Inn Executive Tower.

The most current vaccine consists of strains from Singapore, Thailand, Australia and USA. The cost of the Flu Shot is the same as last year - 750 baht. Payment for the Flu Shot will be just before the shot is given at the meeting. Click here for information and cautions if you have any questions about taking a flu shot.

The low price is based on administering 55 or more Flu shots, so your family, interested friends, and acquaintances are invited to list or have their names listed on the FLU SHOT sign-up sheet starting this Sunday, October 7. We will accept Sign-ups by email sent to rick2mail@gmail.com.

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FOR USA EXPATS THAT USE BANGKOK BANK'S NEW YORK BRANCH TO TRANSFER FUNDS OR MAKE DIRECT DEPOSITS

We previously announced changes for those transferring funds from their USA bank account to or Direct Depositing pension payments (includes social security) into their Bangkok Bank Thai account using the Automated Clearing House (ACH) system to route it through Bangkok Bank's New York Branch. The ability to do may cease on 1 April 2019. Recent postings on Thaivisa.com indicate that Social Security and perhaps other US Gov't pensions may be able to be delivered in the proper format. We have updated our information to include this information along with a contact person and telephone number at Bangkok Bank's Headquarters that may be able to assist. Click here for more information and link to Bangkok Bank's web site.

*   *   *
THAI IMMIGRATION NEWS

Click Here to read the latest reports we have on what is happening at Thai Immigration in Pattaya (updated October 2, 2018).

We received a report this week that in renewing his retirement extension, he was asked to provide his house book, company registration showing him as Managing Director, and copy of chanote, which he had to go Bang Saray to get and then return. He was told that this now being required by their new boss.

KEEP US INFORMED— If you experience something different at Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration office then what we post here and, in the Visa, & Immigration section of the website, let us know so we can keep our information up to date – we also appreciate notification if you find the information we provide was what your experienced - you can email your information to darrel-pcec@inbox.com.

ROAD TAX SATURDAY SATELLITE LOCATION HAS MOVED TO CENTRAL FESTIVAL

On Saturdays, there has been a table available at Big C south providing a convenient location for paying your vehicle road tax. It has now moved to Central Festival near the information booth and the McDonald's at the Beach Road end of the mall. They are open every Saturday from 11am (time Central Festival opens).

You will need your vehicle ownership book and proof of compulsory insurance. If your vehicle is more than 7 years old, you will also need an Inspection Report – Approved Inspection stations will display this sign.

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Club Announcements

REMEMBER, RAFFLE FOR MEMBER'S FREE BREAKFAST BUFFET ON FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

A reminder for members to bring their current membership card in order to participate in the drawing. There will be drawings on the first Sunday of each month; raffle tickets are given out only to current PCEC members. At the end of the meeting, a ticket is drawn for the full breakfast buffet, which can be obtained at the next or subsequent Sunday meeting – be sure to see Judith to claim your “prize.”

PCEC MEMBER DISCOUNT FOR HI CLUB MEMBERSHIP AT HOLIDAY INN

PCEC members receive a discount when they sign up for the Holiday Inn’s HiClub member program. The program normally costs 500 baht but for PCEC members it will cost only 300 baht. This program will still entitle you to a 25% discount at Holiday Inn venues as well as 25% discount on Food and 15% discount on beverages at the Intercontinental Pattaya Resort (formerly the Sheraton) Elements and Infiniti Restaurants. In addition, they will be hosting 2 more parties free during the year for their HiClub members (member guests will be charged 750 baht).

NOTARY FOR PROOF OF LIFE FOR PENSION APPLICATIONS

Kelvin Bamfield advises that Thai888 Law Co., Ltd, can provide a Notary for proof of life pension applications for 700 baht, which is substantially less than the 2,000 baht that he says some legal offices charge. Since this would be a substantial savings, we are publishing the information for those that may be interested. However, the PCEC recommends due diligence since we are not in a position to determine the quality or costs of such services by legal firms in Pattaya.

INTERESTED IN A SHOPPING TRIP TO IKEA & THE MEGA MALL

There is a sign-up list at the Sunday's PCEC Meeting for those interested in sharing the 2,500 baht Van charge for a trip to IKEA and the Mega Mall. The trip will be scheduled when there are enough participants to share the Van charge. For questions, please email Roger Fox at rogerbfox@hotmail.com or call him at 084-073-1270.
REMINDER FOR SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS

If you wish to provide a suggestion or comment to the Governing Board, please place it in the suggestion box at the back of the meeting room. If you wish a response from the Board, please include your email address.

You can also send suggestions and comments to: suggestionbox@pcec.club.

DO YOU KNOW OF A BUSINESS THAT YOU COULD RECOMMEND TO YOUR FELLOW EXPATs?

Often during the Open Forum portion of the meeting, someone will recommend a particular business such as a handyman, auto mechanic or body shop, air conditioning service, clothing shop (with large sizes to fit our heftier expats), computer service, etc. The listing is based on recommendations from fellow Expats and are provided for information purposes only. The PCEC does not guarantee, approve, or endorse the products or services listed. The latest recommendation:

**Nai**
Telephone No. 086 355 9805
Carpenter
Member Comment: Khun Nai recently built a house for my friend. He did it exactly to her specifications. He will also do smaller jobs. He speaks English.

To see information on businesses that have been recommended, click here to visit our webpage listing. Do you know of a business that you can recommend, please let us know by email to info@pceccclub.org or info@pcec.club.

WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOK OUT FOR INTERESTING SPEAKERS

The Club’s needs your assistance in finding interesting speakers for the Club’s Sunday meetings. If you know of someone with an interesting topic, please let us know along with how to contact them. To make suggestions for speakers or topics, please email speakers@pcec.club.
Upcoming Special & Club Events

 CLUB RELATED EVENTS

DRIVER LICENSE ASSISTANCE TRIP FOR PCEC MEMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Monthly assistance trips are provided to the Land Transport Office for obtaining Thai driving licenses. This assistance is for PCEC Club members only with a current membership card. Member Henk Hauer usually conducts the trip on the last Wednesday of the month, but will not be having a trip in September. The trip departs at 8am from parking area opposite IBIS hotel - on same Soi off 2nd Road that goes to Holiday Inn - click here for map. You should contact Henk beforehand to confirm the trip date, time, meeting location, and let him know you wish to participate in the trip. Email him at henk2223@gmail.com AND include your contact telephone number. Henk will then confirm your participation in the trip. See the Driving License page on the Club’s website for information on the process and the documents needed.

EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

PATTAYA VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL FROM MONDAY, 8 OCTOBER TO THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER

The Vegetarian Festival 2018 will take place at the Sawang Boribun Foundation Pattaya. Pattaya City has joined with the Sawang Boribun Foundation, Tourism Authority of Thailand Pattaya Office, and other parties in conducting the festivities. These activities are held on an annual basis to promote culture for people in the area. It also promotes cultural tourism. The event will be held at the Sawang Boribunam Foundation, located on the street of Soi Bang Lamung 25 where a large number of participants will attend each year. For more information call 038-221-380, 038-222-380, 089-095-7799

CHONBURI BUFFALO RACING FESTIVITIES FROM THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER TO WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER

Chonburi’s annual Buffalo Racing Festival in front of the City Hall is held at the end of Buddhist Lent, with a tradition that dates back more than 140 years. The buffalo racing takes place on Tuesday, 23rd October. The festival celebrates the high status that buffalos enjoy as the unique embodiment of Thai agriculture and rural way of life. It also gives local people the chance to come together and enjoy fun and good food. On the 23rd at 7am, there will be a Parade of 13 buffaloes through Chonburi town. Opening ceremony will be at 10am at the race track in front of the City Hall followed by the races. They race in three classes based on size. Other unusual highlights at the Festival include a 'Ms Buffalo' beauty pageant for the most attractive and 'best dressed', which lends to a carnival-like atmosphere of rides, concerts and food-a-plenty.
EELSWAMP PRESENTS A PIANO CONCERT ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19 AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

The concert on Saturday will begin at 6pm and on Sunday it will begin at 5pm. Yevheniy Hepliuk is a Ukrainian pianist and composer. He was educated at the National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music in Kiev. Yevheniy won First Prize in the Ukrainian New Names Competition and First Prize in the National Competition, 'Con Amore Festum'. He is a member of the Ukraine National Composer's Union and is virtually unknown outside his home country. Yevheny has a remarkable pianistic technique and his compositions are impressive, to say the least. Click here for more information.

Reservations: 1,200 baht for one concert. 2,000 baht for two in the same series. Email asiachart@hotmail.com or call 038 069681 office hours. Due to limited number of places payment must be received before the day.

PATTAYA CLASSICAL MUSIC PRESENT AN EVENING OF POPULAR MUSIC ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

Pro Musica Quarter will be in concert at 6pm at Diana Garden Resort & Hotel.

Tickets 500 baht and 300 baht for students available from Pattaya Orphanage toy@thepattayaorphanage.org and Pattaya City Expats Club email: judithpcec@gmail.com.

PILC MELBOURNE CUP MAD HATTERS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

A breakfast buffet - style party with a mouthwatering food & beverage package from 9am to 12.30pm at Bua Sawai Pullman Pattaya Hotel G, Pattaya-Naklua Road soi 16 - Tel. 038-411-940/8. Includes a glass of bubbly on arrival & Prizes for the maddest hatter.

Price 800 baht net for PILC member, 1,000 baht net for non-member, and 850 baht for Beverage Package. Book your tickets now at specialeventspilc@gmail.com : Jayne Jouai.
EELSWAMP WILL PRESENT AN INDIAN SITAR CONCERT ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The concert, Diwali - Festival of Lights will be presented by Anupama Bhagwa. Anupama is one of the top sitar players in the world. She gets invited to all the top festivals in India, such as Dover Lane and abroad, such as the Darbar Festival, Southbank London. She performed at Eelswamp in 2016 and it was a thrilling concert. She will be accompanied on tabla by Rahul Pophali, who is a veteran of more than 1,000 concerts.

The price is 1,000 baht per person. Email asiachart@hotmail.com or call 038 069681 office hours. Due to limited number of places payment must be received before the day. Click here for more information on the performance, location, and tickets.

PILC 25TH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Bazaar will again be at the Holiday Inn Pattaya from 10am to 4pm. While you shop for Christmas presents your children will have the opportunity to meet Santa. Meet your friends in the cafe and support the PILC Christmas Bazaar Charity Raffle - your chance to win prizes. With over 70 vendors present there will be shopping to be done by ALL.

From small beginnings in 1987, PILC has grown to encompass around 200 members from more than 30 countries. The Club provides expatriate women with the opportunity to network, socialize, make friends and participate in a wide range of monthly and weekly activities including sporting and cultural pursuits. PILC is involved in supporting several welfare projects both through volunteer help and fundraising.

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Excursions are usually open to all, but Club members may receive priority if limited space is available. Excursions are organized by individual members for their and other Expat benefit and are not arranged, operated, or guaranteed in any way by the Pattaya City Expats Club. They are publicized here as a service to our subscribers that may be interested in participating.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GOING ON A SAFARI IN TANZANIA OR A VISIT TO BHUTAN, THE LAND OF THE DRAGONS?

Club members Pasit Foobunma and Allan Riddell both are with the South African Thai Chamber of Commerce and in that capacity visited and toured other countries. If you think you may be interested, then contact Allan Riddell for enquiries and bookings: allanmriddell@hotmail.com.

Allan Riddell is currently arranging the latest No.1 Safari in the World in Tanzania. Click here for the itinerary for a safari created for JABULANI which is the social club for South Africans resident and working in Thailand. Allan has arranged that the same program at the same discounted price for PCEC members.

As he mentioned in Open Forum, Allan is now able to arrange add-ons to Zanzibar and, if requested, a separate visit to Kenya. Safaris are made to suit individuals; Two to six persons per safari; Length of safari..flexible number of days; Dates..any time of the year; Air and land arrangements; Flights on carriers to Mount Kilimanjaro. He offers a one stop shop and Itineraries and prices provided once he is given dates and number of passengers.

PRICES INCLUDE: *Meet & greet upon arrival at Mount Kilimanjaro airport *4 x 4 transportation (Regular Safari L/Cruiser) throughout safari with qualified English speaking driver-guide & unlimited mileage *Mineral water aboard 4 x 4 *Full board throughout safari (3 meals a day) *All park, crater, camping & concession fees as per itinerary *Walking safari & Night Game Drive at Grumeti Hills *Day out with Hadzabes .

Allan notes their tours are small in group size but big on inspiration, exploration & cultural authenticity. For follow up info you may care to drop me a line: allanmriddell@hotmail.com.

Click here for more information on Bhutan with links to specific itineraries.
During Public Holidays, main Bank branches and Government Offices, including Immigration, will be closed. Also, for Buddhist Holidays (which may or may not also be a Government holiday), there may be a prohibition on the sale of alcohol (hotels are usually exempt); consequently, some entertainment venues may be closed.

| Saturday       | 13 October | H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej Memorial Day |
| Monday         | 15 October | Substitution for H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej Memorial Day |
| Tuesday        | 23 October | Chulalongkorn Day |

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WEBSITE FOR US CITIZENS/RESIDENTS RESIDING OUTSIDE USA TO VIEW TV PROGRAMS IN USA – “USTV Now” provides regular TV programming from the USA over the Internet free of charge. They require that you register by confirming you are a US Citizen or Resident currently residing outside of the USA and then providing your email address and a password you want to use. Go to http://www.ustvnow.com/index.php and click on the Sign Up for Free button – the registration process is self-explanatory. After you are registered, you can go to the same URL and Log in with your email address and password. They do offer some cable channels and other services for a fee; but most broadcast programs are available, e.g., ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, and others.

ANNUAL CAR REGISTRATION IN PATTAYA – Many car owners trek to the Land Transport Office off of Highway 36 to pay their annual tax and get a current “sticker” to place on their windshield (windscreen). But, it isn’t necessary. Every Saturday from 10am to 4pm, they have staff available at Big C South (Sukhumvit Road) to do the registration. They are on the 2nd floor near Customer Service counter. But, if your car is 7 or more years old, you will need to have it inspected before you can register it at Big C or the Land Transport Office. This can be done on Sukhumvit Road about 200 meters north of Pattaya Orphanage. This establishment will also handle the annual registration for you – pick up the registration and new sticker a couple of days later. There is another on Sukhumvit near Bangkok Hospital Pattaya entrance – See Below:
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**Note:** When the Holiday occurs during the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) the following Monday (substitution day) is when Banks and Government offices will be closed.

Observance of a Buddhist (religious) holiday – usually the sale of alcohol is prohibited and some entertainment venues may subsequently be closed. Usually, hotel restaurants and bars are exempt from the ban.
The Cabinet may designate additional days for a holiday, we publish this information in the Club Newsletter. Click here for a website that lists the Holidays along with a link to get more information about the Holiday.

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