



PATTAYA CITY EXPATS CLUB NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED IN MARCH 2001 - PATTAYA'S FRIENDLIEST EXPAT CLUB
MEETING EVERY SUNDAY FOR NINE YEARS

April 9, 2010 to April 15, 2010

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WHERE DO WE MEET?

Everyone is welcome to attend. Although the Club usually meets at Henry J. Bean's Bar & Grill (part of the Amari Orchid Resort & Tower), this location is being renovated and will be reopened as The Tavern. During the renovations, the Club's Sunday meeting will be in the Rim Suan Room of the Garden Wing of the Amari Orchid Resort & Tower. For directions and a map, please [click here](#).

BREAKFAST BUFFET AVAILABLE

A buffet breakfast is available from 9:30 am to 11:00am with coffee service starting at 9:00am. The program begins at 10:30 am and concludes around noon. Remember to obtain your coffee or tea refills before the pots are removed at 11:00 am. The Club has met at the Amari's Henry J. Bean's Bar & Grill for several years now with its pleasant laid back and informal atmosphere - which the Amari Hotel allows us to use without charge. Please support our continued use of these facilities by purchasing a buffet ticket or, if you do not want a full breakfast, at least the toast and coffee or tea.

For more information about the Club – email info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com or visit www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com
To subscribe to the Newsletter emailed each week – email newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com

Sunday, April 11 -Meeting Program

Songkran, yes that wonderful time of year is upon us. Although the official Pattaya celebration is on 18 19 and 20 April, we all know that the festivities or mayhem, depending on your point of view, will start on Monday, 13 April and continue through the 20th. During Songkran, many Expats find it a good time to visit their home country, nearby countries, or the hinterlands of Thailand where the festivities (mayhem) is not quite so exuberant. Others that remain will wear old clothes, wrap their mobile telephones and wallet in plastic, and join in the festivities or they will stock up on groceries, beverages (alcoholic or otherwise), books, CDs, and DVDs so they can stay hidden indoors for the duration.

Whatever your views, you should remember that the traditional Songkran celebration is much different than the haphazard throwing of water on all and sundry. This traditional Thai New Year's event is intended to show respect to our elders, usually with a traditional hand washing ceremony. For the past three years, the PCEC has held this traditional celebration. This Sunday, we will again celebrate Songkran in the traditional way. As with the last two years, the meeting place will be adorned for the celebration. Khun Noi from the Fountain of Truth will be describing the event. We expect to have one or more government officials, including the Nai Amphur (District Chief) to lead us in the hand washing ceremony at a front table, all

designed to be as representative of the true Songkran celebration as possible. This is a beautiful and significant event for us - unique to our club. Be sure to join us for this wonderful event. For more information about Songkran, [click here](#) to see the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)'s introduction to and comments on the significance of Songkran. For photographs of last year's celebration see the Club's [photo gallery page](#).

We will still have the usual announcements of upcoming events in and around Pattaya, updates on club activities, and last, but not the least, there will be an Open Forum, which is the time for you to ask questions about living in Thailand, or Pattaya. We ask you to offer your own observations and suggestions on how to live better in Pattaya. Your humorous stories (jokes) are welcome, but remember you are in mixed company. Whether you are a new Expat, just visiting on holiday, or consider yourself an "old hand" at being an Expat in Thailand, you will find the Open Forum has humor and helpful information to offer.

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Special Announcements

The following announcements are of general interest to most Expats and Foreign Visitors to Thailand

TRAVEL IN BANGKOK – The Thai Government has declared a State of Emergency for Bangkok, Nonthaburi, Samut Prakan, Ayutthaya, Pathum Thani, Nakhon Pathom because of the ongoing political demonstrations by the UDD (red shirts). The US Embassy warns that while the details of exactly what this will mean are not yet clear, all should be prepared for an increase in security personnel presence on the streets of Bangkok and should obey any and all instructions from such personnel. Meanwhile, foreign embassies continue to warn their citizens about traveling to or around Bangkok as the “red shirts” continue their demonstrations. Most Embassies say their citizens should exercise caution and vigilance (especially during the hours of darkness) when walking through populated urban areas. Immediately report to law enforcement or security personnel any unattended packages or bags in public areas. Foreigners should also avoid any large crowds of demonstrators as there is always the possibility of violence at such gatherings.

JOE LOUIS RESTAURANT IS PROMOTING A SONGKRAN FESTIVAL EVENT – They have invited all to visit them for some traditional Songkran activity from 17 to 19 April. The promotion includes 10% to 20% discount, a free appetizer, souvenir gift, and special cocktail drink for all customers. As a PCEC featured restaurant, the discount for Club members will be the usual 20%. For more information about the restaurant and location, visit their website <http://www.thaipuppet.com>.

AMARI WINE & SEAFOOD EXPERIENCE WILL BE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 30 – The featured wine will be a selection of Sauvignon Blanc wines from various countries matched by Chef Jens with an ensemble of fresh seafood tapas and other culinary delights. - it will be very interesting and delicious to test the chef's choices this month. Last month's many dishes were very good – Chef Jens is developing a track record of excellent dishes to match the featured wines. This month's gastronomic exploration begins at 6:30 pm and is supposed to end at 8:30 pm. It will take place in the Amari Garden Lounge area (go through the Garden Wing into the Garden area). In the event of rain, it will be in the Amari Tower's Ice Bar. The cost is 750 baht per person (638 baht for those who bring their PCEC card). Please list yourself and any friends who will be with you on the sign-up sheet so we can give the Amari an estimate of how many people to prepare for. Sign up, however, is NOT required. If you have a large group (10 or more) please contact Richard Smith at 038-412197, 089-244-9523 or by email at rick2mail@gmail.com or the Amari at 038-418-418.

INTERESTED IN CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERTS - The Pattaya Music Society is a nonprofit organization that wants to promote classical and light classical music concerts that entertain, educate, inform, and inspire. They are currently in process of developing a mailing list of people who are interested in hearing about these concerts. If interested contact Len Unterberger at lenunt@gmail.com.

Club Announcements

The following announcements are of particular interest to Club members regarding Club activities

NO DVD LENDING OR BOOK EXCHANGE DURING THE 11 AND 18 APRIL

MEETINGS – “Hawaii” Bob Sutterfield is traveling over the Songkran holidays. He and Rita will be back for the April 25 meeting.

VALENTINO RESTAURANT OFFERS 20% DISCOUNT TO PCEC MEMBERS – This Italian and Thai restaurant is located adjacent to Foodland Supermarket on Pattaya Klang (Central Road). They offer a wide variety of Italian and Thai food including freshly made pasta. Several members have eaten there and strongly recommended it to others – also recommended ordering the deserts as they are quite large. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

PATTAYA MAIL TV IS LOOKING FOR PCEC MEMBERS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON TV FOR THEIR NEW “ASK THE EXPERTS” TV SERIES

– Paul Strachan, head of Pattaya Mail TV, presented the concept for the new PNTV show at a recent PCEC meeting. He is looking for people who are very knowledgeable in various areas – how do you get a one year visa, and how do you renew it; changing a visa on arrival to a one year visa; how to open a bank account and what is required; how to rent a car, what to look for: what insurance is necessary: how long can you drive in Thailand using your home country’s license and so on. You can already be an “Expert” or you can, after some review of the subject, become an “expert”, and appear on TV. It sounds like it could be fun. Your taping will include advice from Paul – and be assured it will look good before he puts it on TV. And you can follow the process all the way through and find out how it all gets on TV at the TV studio – and see yourself on TV! It is also good exposure for the Pattaya City Expats Club. Paul is thinking of doing the TV taping during the week if possible at a location with reasonably good lighting and perhaps an interesting background. A demo can be [viewed here](#). If you are interested, please list yourself on the sign-up sheet, or contact Lawrie McLoughlin at 085-063-5875, or by email at lawriemcl@hotmail.com.

PLANNING MEETING FOR BANGLAMUNG DISTRICT CROSS CULTURAL VOLUNTEER GROUP ON TUESDAY, APRIL 20

- We will have a planning and information meeting for all those interested in participating in teaching, assisting or observing the English Conversation for Thais classes. The meeting will be at the Mike Shopping Mall 8th floor Meeting Room #1 at 6pm. For information about the opening ceremony and start of classes, see the *SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP* section of the Newsletter.

MEMBERS DINNER AT RIM TALAY RESTAURANT ON THURSDAY APRIL 22

– The Rim Talay restaurant is a popular Thai seafood place on Jomtien Beach Road – It is an open air restaurant with plenty of space and, hopefully, will have a nice sea breeze coming from Jomtien Beach. It is located on Jomtien Beach Road a few meters past Jomtien Boat House (at Soi 8) going south. After celebrating Songkran (or skipping town to avoid it), come join your PCEC friends for some good food and camaraderie – all are welcome to join us. There is usually plenty of street parking in front of the restaurant. We will be ordering from their reasonably priced menu – although it specializes in seafood, there are other choices including a few European selections.

COMPUTER GROUP WILL MEET ON MONDAY MAY 3 – The meeting will be at 2pm in the Markland's Garage 3rd Floor Meeting Room. Michael Dovesen will be the host, and the discussion will be a more in depth look at Windows 7, particularly understanding what the Libraries are, and what they are used for. The problems with using Loxinfo as an email client with Windows 7 are being investigated. We will also discuss the use of the taskbar. All can see Michael demonstrate these items as they will be projected onto a large screen. A number of electrical connections and Wi-Fi are available so you can bring your laptop computer. You may park on the 3rd floor of the parking garage - the meeting room will be to your left as you walk to the garage elevator, and will have a sign "Meeting Room" on the door. If you are walking, enter the Markland Lobby, turn to the left to go to the elevator to the garage, take it to the 3rd floor, and the meeting room will be to your right as you walk out to the parking area. Please list yourself on the Computer Group sign-up sheet at this Sunday's meeting and we will send you a reminder 3 to 5 days in advance of it. For questions, or for directions to the Markland, please contact Richard Smith at 037-412197, 089-244-9523, or by email at rick2@gmail.com.

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What's happening in and around Pattaya

This is a listing of upcoming events in Pattaya, Bangkok, and elsewhere. Inclusion of commercially sponsored events does not mean that the PCEC endorses the companies or their products. The events listed come from various sources. We usually list a telephone number, email address, or website to obtain additional information about the event. Since the events are subject to cancellation or change, you may wish to confirm the information before attending the event.

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANY UPCOMING EVENT NOT LISTED, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO THAT WE MAY PUBLISH IT
EMAIL THE INFORMATION TO NEWSLETTER@PATTAYACITYEXPATSClub.COM**

THIS WEEK (full listing follows)

- **Friday & Saturday, April 9 & 10 - Pattaya Int'l Cricket Sixes continues at Horseshoe Point**
- **Friday, April 9 to Sunday, April 11 - Pattaya Fashion Festival continues on Beach Road**
- **Tuesday, April 13 - Charity Quiz night at Oscars Bar**
- **Tuesday, April 13 to Thursday, April 15 - Songkran Celebration throughout Thailand - Happy New Year!**
- **Sunday, April 18 to Tuesday, April 20 - Songkran "Wan Lai" festival in Pattaya & Naklua – New Year's celebration continues.**

EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, & FRIDAY - THE PATTAYA BRIDGE CLUB meets at The Bowling Green, Soi Fuengfa (Soi Xyte), between Soi Boukhao and 3rd Road. They meet at 1pm. For more information and a map visit their [website](#).

LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH - QUIZ NIGHT TO BENEFIT TAKE CARE CHARITY at Bondi Beach Bar & Guest House, Dongtan Beach. The quizzing starts at 9pm. For more information visit their [website](#). Bondi also has a *Thais4Life Book Stall* which is open daily, with books for 80 Baht, all proceeds go to the *Thais4Life* charities. You can also drop off any unwanted book donations.

APRIL 9 & 10, FRIDAY & SATURDAY - 1st PATTAYA INTERNATIONAL CRICKET SIXES 2010 CONTINUES – This event takes place at Horseshoe Point Resort in Pattaya. There will be 16 teams from around the world competing. The Sixes is supported by the newly formed Pattaya Cricket Club. Funds will be raised during the tournament and it's social functions to support junior cricket development in the area. For more information visit www.pattayasixes.com.

APRIL 9 TO 11, FRIDAY TO SUNDAY – FASHION FESTIVAL CONTINUES ON BEACH ROAD – The Thai Ministry of Commerce and TAT will be promoting fashion along Beach Road from Central Festival Shopping Center down to Walking Street. Various design contests, hairstylist competitions, leather and ornament design contests, fashion shows and concerts are planned for the festival, with all of the major Thai designers and superstars set to attend the event. The City again hopes to get into the Guinness Book of Records by staging the longest fashion showcase.

APRIL 13, TUESDAY - CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT AT OSCARS – The entry fee is 100 Baht, which is donated to Thais4Life charity. Quiz starts at 9:30pm with complimentary snacks after the quiz. Oscars is located on Pattayaland Soi 3 (Boyztown).

APRIL 18, SUNDAY – SONGKRAN “WAN LAI” EVENTS AT LAN PHO COURTYARD, NAKLUA – Events begin at 7am with giving alms to 99 Buddhist monks followed by the water pouring ceremony and the noon Buddha image parade going from Lan Pho to the Naklua Market.

APRIL 19, MONDAY – SONGKRAN “WAN LAI” EVENTS AT CHAI-MONGKON TEMPLE, SOUTH PATTAYA – Events begin at 8:30am with the bathing of the Buddha, water pouring, and Buddhist Monk ceremony followed by the Flower and Buddha parade up Beach Road to the Loma Curve, returning to the Temple.

APRIL 20, TUESDAY – SONGKRAN CELEBRATION AT LAN PHO COURTYARD, NAKLUA – Starting at 12 noon will be traditional Thai games – catapult shooting, Takrow competition, poetry quiz, Muay Thai competition, oil pole climbing, and martial arts competitions. At 6:30pm will be the Rice Throwing Ceremony and Parade of Angels followed by the Parade of Ghosts. Later in the evening a Country Music concert will take place including famous Thai acts such as Pee-Saderd and Ern the Star. **Pattaya Beach road will be closed to vehicles from 8am until 8pm.** In addition, festival goers travelling by car are asked to use the allocated car parking areas only, those being: Bali Hai Pier, Muang Pattaya School 8 and the Chai-Mongkon Temple. Most importantly, festival goers have been asked to refrain from using any high power water equipment or home-made PVC water cannons in the water splashing activities. Alcohol will also be restricted in and around the festival areas at this year's event.

APRIL 22, THURSDAY – PUNCHLINE COMEDY CLUB PRESENTS STAND UP COMEDY – The show will be at the Amari Orchid's The Tavern (formerly Henry J. Beans Bar & Grill) starting at 9pm – adults only. Tickets are 1,200 Baht or 1,000 Baht if acquired prior to April 1. The comedians are Carl Donnelly, Mike Gunn, and Mark Billingham. For more information, call 038 075 293/6 or visit their website <http://www.punchlinecomedy.com/pattaya/>.

APRIL 27, TUESDAY – PAGODA PATTAYA PRIDE SONGKRAN DINNER – Pattaya Pride (formerly Pattaya Gay Festival) lists this event on their website www.pattayapride.com. No other details are presently shown. We will add more information when it becomes available.

APRIL 30, FRIDAY – PATTAYA PRIDE PRESENTS REAR OF THE YEAR COMPETITION - This event will be at the Copa Showbar in Boyz Town, Pattayaland Soi 3. The show starts at 10pm and the entry fee is 250 Baht, of which, 100 Baht will be donated to the Pattaya Pride (formerly Pattaya Gay Festival) supported charities. For more information about Pattaya Pride and the charities they support visit <http://www.pattayapride.com/>.

Last Week's Meeting

This week's Mistress of Ceremonies, Judith Edmonds welcomed everyone to the meeting and called on any new visitors to introduce themselves. She then introduced the main speaker, welcoming back Peter Marsh from Black Star Jewelry. Peter's previous presentation dealt with gems and gem quality. Peter also makes fashion jewelry and had brought along several beautiful young ladies to model it for the Club. On this visit, he did not disappoint, as he had brought along a bevy of young ladies to again model jewelry to the delight of all.

Peter started by enlightening the audience on some of the mythical qualities attributed to gemstones. He said that these mythical qualities started in antiquity and continues to this day. For centuries, gemstones have been used as amulets and talismans. Peter distinguished the two by noting amulets are generally worn whereas talismans are placed somewhere, such as being buried beneath the threshold or hanging in one's abode.

Amulets are generally worn for protection or their healing powers. He noted that many Thais wear amulets to protect them; if they are uninjured or not seriously injured in an accident, they will swear it was the amulet that saved them.

When it comes to mythical powers of gemstones, there are many. Peter described several areas that have gemstones attributed to them, such as planet stones (gems attributed to particular planets such as Mars and Venus); Zodiac stones (for each of the signs of the zodiac such as Leo or Virgo); Birth stones (attributed to the month of one's birth); and Day stones (for each day of the week). He said there are many more lists you could find if you wanted to search the Internet.

Peter then asked his beautiful companions to model some very nice and interestingly designed jewelry consisting of necklaces, bracelets, earrings, etc. With some nice background music and the pictures of various gemstones being

projected onto the large screen, the beautiful young ladies began to stroll one by one across the stage and then pass by the tables so that all had the opportunity to admire the jewelry, at least we think that is what they were admiring.

After this great fashion show, Peter then answered several questions from the audience. He said that his fashion jewelry is made from 18 karat gold, which differs from the 22 karat gold found in the Thai gold shops. He said that gold jewelry in Thailand will often be marked as 96.5 for 22 karat and 75 for 18 karat gold (representing the percentage of purity of the gold). He also noted that the term Baht is not only used for Thai currency, but also is used as a weight measure for gold; one Baht weight being 15.2 grams of gold.

After the usual announcements of upcoming events, it was time for the open forum capably handled by Roger Fox. As always it provided an opportunity for questions about living in Thailand with an emphasis on Pattaya to be asked. The Open Forum again proved to be the usual lively and entertaining session.

During the Open Forum, the Club may allow a few minutes for a business to address the audience regarding a product or service they may offer. However, it is made clear the Club does this as a matter of information to Expats and does not in any way endorse the product or service. At today's meeting Khun Surachai Siripat and members of his staff spoke about a low cost health insurance policy that is available only to Thais and foreigners that reside in Thailand. He said the policy is available up to the age of 80; but applicants 60 or over are required to have a physical check up. If interested, their office is located on the 2nd floor of Big C North. You can also call 085-171-3232.

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Club Membership

Membership is open to all. See Al Serrato before and during the meeting for renewal of your card, or for a new membership card. For renewal, just give Al your expired card.

For a new card, get the application form from Al or download from the Club's [website](#). Although the website application form says one photo is needed, Al will need two driver's license size pictures in addition to the application.

The annual membership contribution is 400 baht. This contribution funds the Club's operations so that it continues as a non commercial social organization.

In addition it will entitle you to discounts at the Club's featured restaurants listed in the Dining Out section of the Newsletter, at both Bangkok Hospital Pattaya and Phayathai Sriracha Hospital, and other businesses listed in the Club Benefits section of the Newsletter. Also, as mentioned in the Health Issues section of the Newsletter, members that qualify can obtain lower cost health insurance through the Club's group health policy.

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Club Activities

The PCEC offers an opportunity for everyone to become involved in mid-week informal groups covering many interests. If you have an interest or idea to start a new group, please discuss it with a member of the Governing Board and we will help you publicize it. The groups usually meet as scheduled, but it is always a good idea to contact the host to be sure of the date, time, and location.

SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP - Meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1pm at the Diamond Café located on the corner of South Pattaya Road and Third Road. This is a newly formed group for those that are interested in practicing their Spanish. For more information, email Al Serrato at alsdeman@hotmail.com,

FRUGAL FREDDY DINNER GROUP - Eats out weekly on MONDAYS. Their goal is finding good restaurants at very reasonable prices, primarily a meal for 200 Baht or less. Host Hawaii Bob says they try to keep to total price at or below 150 Baht, but don't want to rule out a good place - so, they will now entertain a good restaurant where you can get a complete meal for 200 Baht or less. Bob says to put your name on the signup sheet so they can email the chosen restaurant and its location to you or contact Bob at hawaiibob4you@yahoo.com for information on next Monday's venue.

DISCUSSION GROUP - Weekly on MONDAY from 10:30am to 1pm. This group meets at the Shagwell Mansions, across from Carrefour, in Soi Arunothai. All subjects are open for debate. For more information, contact Michel de Goumois at 081-525-1296.

GOLFING GROUP - Meets weekly on TUESDAY. Hawaii Bob is your host. No reservations are required. Contact Hawaii Bob for information on cost and how to have fun playing Bingo, Bango, Bongo. Everyone is welcome. Please sign-up for the golf group so Bob has some idea of how many are coming. Bob can be contacted by phone at 087-829-6824 or by emailing him at hawaiibob4you@yahoo.com.

THE BREAKFAST GROUP - Weekly on WEDNESDAY starting at 10am. Your Hostess is Marjorie Blissett. The group meets at the F&B on 2nd Road, opposite the Montien Hotel. A full breakfast is a very reasonable 100 Baht - and there is parking in the back.

TOUCHY TOPICS GROUP - Weekly on THURSDAY 1pm to 3pm - The format includes current topics of the week as well as a discussion on a controversial topic selected by the host, a member, or a guest. The topics are always thought provoking and subject to lively discussion. The group meets at Shagwell Mansions, across from Carrefour in Soi Arunothai. Contact David Dallimer at 080-638-3510 or email daviddallimer@hotmail.com.

FRIDAY BREAKFAST GROUP - Weekly on FRIDAY at 10am at Pure Shore on Pattaya Beach Road at Soi 5. Roger Fox is your host.

WRITERS CORNER GROUP - Usually meets weekly on FRIDAY from noon to 3pm at the Shagwell Mansions, in the Cafe. The hotel is located approximately 300 meters along Soi Arunothai which is located at the Traffic lights on Pattaya Klang (Central Road) opposite the Carrefour shopping Mall. The style of the meeting is very relaxed and informal. The writing group offers you a genuine opportunity to discuss any matters relating to reading and writing in a safe and supportive environment in which all are offered the opportunity to practice or improve their writing skills while sharing books and ideas with like minded members. Contact David Dallimer to confirm meeting time and place at 080-638-3510 or email daviddallimer@hotmail.com.

COMPUTER GROUP – (**updated this issue**) Usually meets MONTHLY on the first MONDAY of the month at 2pm at Markland. The cost of the program will be 100 baht per person. The charge covers the cost of the room, coffee & cake, and some incidental expenses. There is free parking in the attached 10 floor parking garage. Please list your name on the Computer Group sign-up sheet and we will send you a reminder 3 to 5 days before the meeting. Howard may be contacted at magichoward@hotmail.com. For meeting information please contact Richard Smith at 038-412197, 089-244-9523 or by email at rick2@loxinfo.co.th.

MEMBERS' DINNER - MONTHLY, usually the 1st WEDNESDAY of each month. Michel de Goumois and Al Serrato select the location and coordinate the dinner. The location and date of the next Members' Dinner will be posted in the *ANNOUNCEMENTS* Section. To offer suggestions for our next members' dinner or for more information, please contact Michel de Goumois at 081-525-1296, or Al Serrato at 087-036-0625, or email info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com or see Michel or Al at our Sunday meetings.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP - Meets PERIODICALLY usually in the Conference/Common Room at the Markland located on the corner of Pattaya Beach Road and Soi 1. To receive 3 to 5 day advance notification of meetings, put your name on the Photography Group sign-up sheet. For more information, or to get on the list, call Richard Smith at 089-244-9523, or 038-412197.

PATTAYA AMATEUR RADIO GROUP - Meets PERIODICALLY. A new group formed for those interested in ham radio or electronics. For more information, contact Paul at 087-043-1408 or email him pauldaviesradio@hotmail.com.

BLUE WATER SAILING GROUP - Meets PERIODICALLY. This group is hosted by member Nathan Russo for those that are interested in blue water sailing. Nathan is now in Thailand after being in USA for a while. They will be scheduling sailing ventures on a periodic basis. Dates and times will be announced in the Newsletter. He would appreciate if those who want to attend would rsvp at Ncrusso1@gmail.com or telephone him at 085-275-6724.

FRIENDS OF PDA GROUP - Several members have signed up to work in partnership with Khun Mechai's efforts through his Population and Community Development Association (PDA) in improving the lives of Thai villagers. His efforts are described in the Pattaya Mail [article](#) on his address to the Club on October 19, 2008. The members of this group reached their fund raising goal and have entered into a memorandum of understanding with a village in the Buriram area. If interested in participating, contact Stuart Saunders at this Sunday's meeting or you can email him at Stuart21@mac.com.

BANGLAMUNG DISTRICT CROSS CULTURAL VOLUNTEER GROUP -- (updated this issue) This group provides Volunteers to help Thais improve their English conversation ability through our "English Conversation for Thais" program. Our Opening session will be at 6pm on Monday, April 26, with the Banglamung Nai Amphur introducing our 11th session along with comments by our friend & sponsor Khun Surat and several important guests. Following the guests remarks we will have a discussion session with the new students to assess their English ability for class assignments. Classes will start the next evening, Tuesday April 27, 2010 at 6pm. The opening Ceremony and the Conversation classes will be held at the Mike Shopping Mall 8th floor Meeting Room #1 with classes held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 12 weeks from 6pm to 8pm. We have been invited to teach at the Sathip Naval base in May. If you, or a friend, are interested in participating in this program as a student or a Volunteer, please list your name on the sign-up sheet at this Sunday's meeting. For our volunteers, please fill out a volunteer form so we can make the special BDEL Volunteer Group ID cards for you. They need to be signed by the Nai Amphur – will be good this time for two years. If you have any questions, please call Richard Smith at 038-412197, or 089-244-95323, or email rick2@loxinfo.co.th for more information.

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Club Services

This section lists various services offered by the Club or by members of the Club.

DRIVING LICENSE ASSISTANCE - Hans (or Jon) Stroosnyder will escort and assist those interested in getting a Thai driving license. Hans usually departs at 9am from the Henry J. Bean restaurant on the 1st Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Hans at 085-218-1773, or email him at khun.hans@gmail.com. See the [Vehicles page](#) on the Club's website for information on documents needed.

VISA ASSISTANCE - If you need or want some information on requirements to enter or remain in Thailand on a long stay basis, visit the Club's [website](#) and select the Visa & Immigration Page. If you still have questions or need assistance regarding remaining in Thailand on your present visa or visa exemption, please email info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com.

A DVD LENDING LIBRARY - Hawaii's BOB4YOU usually has some of his collection of over 2,000 DVD movies at the Sunday meeting to share with members. A current membership card will allow you to borrow 4 DVDs for up to 4 weeks at no charge. If you have videos that you no longer need, you are encouraged to donate them to the library.

BOOK EXCHANGE - Weekly during the SUNDAY meetings. A popular service started by Roger Fox and now administered by Hawaii Bob. - so please remember to bring those you have read (or don't want to read), and exchange them for the one you have been looking for.

LAMINATED PASSPORT CARDS - Kuhn Sermsakdi is usually available for making the laminated cards for passports for a nominal fee. Please see Sermsakdi to collect yours. The cards are laminated wallet size (an all-in-one copy - of the main page, TM (now HX) card, Visa page, and front of passport). These cards have received good acceptance with businesses and hotels.

HAWAII BOB'S CLASSIFIED EXPAT ADS - Hawaii Bob has undertaken a service to his fellow expats by creating and disseminating a list of want ads – buy, sell, give away. To facilitate his efforts, we are posting the ads on the Club's website – on the Home Page click on “details” in the *Announcements and Upcoming Events* section. Or [click here](#) to go direct.

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Club Benefits

Certain businesses offer discounts to Pattaya City Expats Club Members. Show your membership card to get the discount.

BANGKOK PATTAYA HOSPITAL (BHP) OFFERS DISCOUNTS TO PCEC MEMBERS -

When you obtain your BHP ID or if you haven't done so already, show them your membership card on your next visit.. As a PCEC member you will get a 10% discount on room rates, medication and prescribed drugs, and 10% off on dental treatment and 5% on prosthodontic dentistry. You may still be asked on occasion to show a currently valid PCEC card to verify you are still entitled to the discounts.

PHAYATHAI HOSPITAL SRIRACHA OFFERS DISCOUNTS TO PCEC MEMBERS -

Club members now receive a 10% discount on medicines (inpatient and outpatient), main physical check up, CT, and MRI scans. This discount is good till November 14, 2010 for the initial period.

PCEC MEMBERS GET A 10% DISCOUNT FROM YOU STINKY DOG! -

You Stinky Dog! is a pet grooming service with a difference. They come to you with their fully equipped vans. They will also offer special deals on food deliveries and accessories. Future plans are to also have a doggie camp, hotel, exercise pool, etc. For more information visit their [website](#) or call 089 - 832 - 4181 (Jiab) or 089 - 207 - 6582 (Tom) or Email : Jiab@youstinkydog.com.

PCEC MEMBERS RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT ON MR. MOO'S PORK PRODUCTS -

Mr. Moo! Co., Ltd. sells pork products from their own pig farm - sausages, bacon, and meat pies. Their retail office is located in the side soi to the north of Big C on Sukhumvit (close to AA Insurance). They are open 9am to 6pm Monday thru Friday, 9am to 4pm on Saturday, and 11am to 4pm on Sunday. Show your membership card to get the discount.

THE BIGGEST MINI GOLF IN ASIA OFFERS PCEC MEMBERS A 20% DISCOUNT -

This new mini golf has three 18 hole courses available for your enjoyment. It is located on Sukhumvit Road - going south toward Sattahip, it is on the left hand side just past the Floating Market and opposite the Elephant Camp. Regular price is adults 150 Baht and Children under twelve 100 Baht; but, show your membership card and get 20% off that price. For more information, telephone 089-882-15/7 (English & French) or 083-602-4655 (Thai).

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Member Supported Charities

The club encourages its members to be active in supporting charitable organizations. This section assists their efforts by providing information on some of these charitable activities.

NEW UNOPENED MEDICINES FOR THE MAE TAO CLINIC – Mae Tao Clinic Medicine Drive- Nathan Russo, a member of PCEC for several years is preparing once again for his annual medicine drive for the Mae Tao immigrant clinic, Mae Sot, Thailand on the border with Myanmar. This clinic gets no financial support from the government of Thailand and treats over 50,000 people annually. 100% of the medicines used at the hospital are either purchased with donated funds or donated by individuals within Thailand. The medicines donated must be new and never opened and from the list of medicines on the clinic's website. The paramedics at the hospital are trained to work only with medicines specified by the clinic that is why it is so important just to donate medicines listed on the clinic's website www.maetaoclinic.org. Once at the site click "donate" then "click here" under donate medicine. Nathan travels to Sukhothai every year for the Loy Krathong festival and during this time delivers all the medicine to the clinic about 100 kilometers to the west- all medicines should be donated by the Club's November 7th meeting. The clinic provides a signed receipt for all medicines received and a copy of this receipt which lists your medicine contribution is sent to you when Nathan returns after Loy Krathong. While Nathan is away in America, his friend Wayne will collect the medicines. Wayne's phone number is 084-328-3129. Nathan's email is ncrusso1@gmail.com or his mobile # Thailand 085-274-6724 or if you are in USA (404) 826-2556.

SAVE THAT DRINK AN RING PULL FOR A WORTHY CAUSE - Les Edmonds has requested that you save those aluminum can ring pulls rather than discarding them when you open the can. Gather up a few and bring them to Les. It seems they can be recycled for making artificial limbs. Les will see that they get to the right place.

EYE GLASSES FOR THE NEEDY - Member Dave Anderson has been collecting eyeglasses and frames for re-cycling and distributing to needy people in Thailand and Pattaya. He recently brought 2000 frames and lenses for distribution in Thailand through the Pattaya YWCA, City Hall, and his connection with a country wide program. There is always a need - if you have any old glasses or frames around, please bring them to the meeting, give them to Richard Smith. On Dave's latest visit, we gave him the eyeglasses received (about 50 to 60), which he said would be donated to the Eyeglass Bank Project.

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Health Issues

This section provides general information about health insurance, health care, and other medical information that may benefit Expats living in Thailand.

BANGKOK HOSPITAL PATTYA PROMOTIONS - BHP advises they have the following promotions: Valid now through June 30, 2010, pay 0% interest with 4 monthly installments for cosmetic surgery (inquire as to whether foreigners may receive this promotion). There is a special promotion for Lasik treatment for 39,900 Baht. Until June 30, 2010, Club members and Thais can get a total knee replacement for 194,000 Baht (Club members must present valid membership card when registering). During April and May, you can buy one check up package and get one free. For more information, visit their [website](#) or call 1719. Also see <http://www.bangkokpattayahospital.com/ebph/HealthyFamilySummer2010.pdf> for other special offers.

PHAYATHAI SRIRACHA HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS – Gavin Waddell advises that Phayathai Hospital Sriracha has the following promotions on offer for the month of April: Cervical Spine Examination with MRI for 8,500 Baht, regularly 9,500 Baht or Ischemic Stroke Risk Screening for 4,590 Baht, regularly 6,480 Baht - add a Carotid Artery with Magnetic Resonance Angiogram, for 11,000 Baht, regularly 18,930 (does not include MRI or MRA contrast media if required, does include doctor's fee and hospital service charge); Healthy Family Check Up Program for 2,590 Baht, regularly 5,300 Baht; CT Calcium Scoring examination for 1,450 Baht, regularly 2,900 Baht; Dental Root Implant plus Tooth Crown Package start at 40,000 Baht per tooth; ZOOM Tooth whitening for 8,500 Baht, regularly 9,600 Baht; and Eye examination by Ophthalmologist for 1,490 Baht, regularly 2,400 Baht. For information about Phayathai, contact Gavin Waddell, International Marketing Executive, at 038-770-200/8 Ext: 2426 or 089-750-0293.

IF YOU WANT MEDICAL LABORATORY BLOOD TESTS WITHOUT GOING TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL - Lifecare Laboratory [information](#).

LIVING WILL" REQUEST FORM -- More information and blank copies of the form can be found on the Club website [here](#).

GROUP MEDICAL COVERAGE - Is available only to those under age 59 and a half. Khun Neng (with the blinking light on his shirt) or another representative of AA Insurance are usually available at each Sunday meeting. They can answer your questions about the Group policy or other insurance coverage. For the Group coverage, you are eligible if you are under 59 1/2 for a new subscriber, and under age 64 1/2 for those currently in the Group plan. All the details, including coverage's and prices are in process of being loaded on the Club [website](#).

Dining Out

We have several featured restaurants that offer discounts for Club Members (show your card at the time you ask for your check). Also, our fellow members often discover a new place for dining out that they wish to share with others. We will list these discoveries here for a short period of time. To see more information about the featured and other recommended restaurants, visit the [dining out information](#) on the Club's website. For more information on the featured restaurants, visit [the featured restaurants](#) page on the Club's website.

Amari Orchard Resort & Tower Restaurants & Lounges - The Amari Orchard Resort has several restaurants and bars available, all offering Club members a 15% discount. Visit [here](#) for various monthly and other promotion information or call the Amari at 038-418-418). **Orchid Terrace & Garden Lounge** has an Italian Buffet every Friday from 6pm to 10:30pm for 490 Baht net per person - wine buffet & limoncello also available. **The Essence restaurant** offers a regular menu of western, Thai, Japanese, Indian, and Chinese specialties. Every Saturday from 6:30pm to 10:30pm, Amari has seafood BBQ by the pool for 750++ per person. The new Ocean Tower has a 24 hour restaurant with a view of the Resorts beautiful gardens, and with the new Horizon Club on the top floor, offers a new level of personalized service and audio-visual technology. **Henry J. Bean's** is being renovated starting March 23 and is expected to reopen using the name **The Tavern** about May 1. **Mantra** offers different cuisines in a fabulous setting. During April, they will be offering Sushi & Sake.

Other PCEC Featured Restaurants – (updated in this issue) [Valentino's](#) – 20%; **Joe Lous Puppet Theater & Thai Restaurant** - 20%; [Goose's Fish & Chips](#) - 20% - 087-133-4240 (English) or 081-576-3372 (Thai). Email: www.goosefishandchips@yahoo.com; **Mike's Mexican Restaurant** -15% - 038-251365; **Edelweiss Swiss Restaurant** - 15% - 038-251-326 or 081-844-6037; [Amor Restaurant](#) - 10%, **Aquarius** - 10% (Jomtien Complex) 038-251-895; **Pizza Pizza** -10% (Avenue Shopping Center) - 038-723929, [Tequila Reef Cantina](#) - 10% (038-414035; [Big Horn Steakhouse](#) - 10% (Central Shopping Arcade, 2nd Road; 038-720289; [Green Tree Restaurant](#) - 10%; **Balcony Restaurant** - 10% (Pattaya Nua (North) Road) 038-411429; **Aloha Restaurant** - 10% (2nd Road) 038-723175; [Cafe New Orleans](#)- 10%; **Aungkam Northern Thai (Issan) Restaurant** - 10% (3rd Road) 038-370386; and **Palace Lebanese Restaurant** - 10% (4th Floor of Central Festival Pattaya Beach - Ocean end) 038-043-220.

If you find any information about our Featured Restaurants is incorrect, please contact us at info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com or Darrel-pcec@inbox.com.

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