



# PATTAYA CITY EXPATS CLUB NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED IN MARCH 2001

*PATTAYA'S FRIENDLIEST EXPAT CLUB MEETING EVERY SUNDAY FOR SEVEN YEARS*

Join us at Henry J. Bean Restaurant, Amari Orchid Resort, Beach Road, Pattaya

*A buffet breakfast is available from 9:30 am to 11:00am - the program starts at 10:30 am*

**December 4, 2009 to December 10, 2009**

## AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING

**Sunday  
December 6, 2009)**

This week, fellow member David Garmaise will be entertaining everyone with his *Trip to the Movies*. David has always been interested in movies and has developed a unique video presentation that will be entertaining and offering an opportunity to hark back to the golden age of film.

We will also 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. *Coffee service begins at 9am with breakfast starting at 9:30am. Remember to obtain your coffee or tea refills before the pots are removed at 11am. Map of location is on the website at [www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com](http://www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com).*

## MEMBERSHIPS FOR MANY ARE DUE DECEMBER 31 RENEW EARLY

Al Serrato is asking for members to renew during any meeting in December - Please do not wait until the last meeting as Al can only handle so many at a time. Give Al your expiring card and 400 Baht annual membership contribution and he will make your new membership card. . You can renew for 2, 3, 4, or more years if you wish.

## LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If you are aware of an upcoming event or have an announcement about the activities of one of our special interest groups be sure it gets in the Newsletter by sending an email to Darrel Vaught at [newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) or to [Darrel-pcec@inbox.com](mailto:Darrel-pcec@inbox.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **PHAYATHAI HOSPITAL SRIRACHA NOW OFFERS DISCOUNT TO PCEC MEMBERS** - The Club has entered into an

agreement with the hospital to provide discounts for Club members on certain services. See the CLUB BENEFITS Section for details.

- **MANTRA WINE DINNER WITH FRESCOBALDI WINES ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER. 4** – The menu of five Frescobaldi Italian wines is complemented by the Mantra superchef's companion menu of courses of Venison Carpaccio, Salmon trout, German Reindeer Ragout, and charcoal grilled Australian Lamb

Chops – all topped off with a baked Caramelized Apple Tart with ice cream, plus a sparkling wine. The cost is 2500+ Baht – but PCEC members receive a 15% discount (2,125+ Baht with your PCEC card). We will have a PCEC table at 7:30pm – please call Richard Smith at 038-418-418 or 089-244-9523, or email him at rick2mail@gmail.com, for reservations at the PCEC table.

- **POTS & PANS FOR THE COOK AND THE CURIOUS AVAILABLE DECEMBER 4 TO 13**– The once-a year seconds sale at the Meyer Industries huge factory at the Laem Chabang Port has just been announced. Meyer makes some of the best cookware available, and has a yearly up to 70% off sale. This year it will be every day from 10am to 6pm. Meyer's brands include Meyer and Silverstone cookware for the mid-market, Prestige, Farberware and KitchenAid for the medium- to high-end and Circulon and Anolon for the high-end. They have a great [web site](#) that describes each product and how best to use it. To get there take the first left after the big Laem Chabang intersection with Sukhumvit and then the first right and you are there. (We think it is the first street after the overpass.) There should be signs directing you to the sales area. Their telephone number is 038-404-200. For those who may need transportation, please list yourself on the sign-up sheet for MEYER POTS & PANS. If we get 6 or more people we will arrange transportation. For more information call Richard Smith at 038-412-197, 089-244-9523 or send an email to [rick2@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:rick2@loxinfo.co.th).
- **LOOK UP TO THE SKY IN THE EARLY MORNING OF DECEMBER 5 AND DECEMBER 7** and you will be able to see the Space Station as it passes over at 5:55am on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> and again at 5:07am on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup>. Stuart says it is a spectacular sight. If interested to see it, for exact details go to this [website](#) and use the map to set your location
- **COMPUTER GROUP WILL MEET ON MONDAY, DECEMBER. 7** - The meeting will be at 2pm in the Haad Sai Room on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Markland. Howard Posener, your host, wishes to stress that these meetings are for anyone with an interest of any kind in computers as well as for the very experienced. Please note that Ilium software has agreed to support the computer club and has donated approximately 5,000 Baht worth of software, which will be used for prizes during the next few meetings of the Group. They are also offering the Club a discount of approximately 15% on any of their best selling software. (Go to their web page and enter the code DC2XMAGIC when purchasing to receive the discount.) Howard recommends and uses two of their software packages - *eWallet* to protect you from identity theft - store your passwords, credit cards, PINs, bank account info and more without having to worry about forgetting them or having them stolen. The second is *ListPro* for shopping lists, CD and DVD libraries, reference info, custom to-do lists: *ListPro* does it all. Check them both out at their [website](#). There will be a coffee and cake break after the first hour or so of the meeting. List yourself on the sign-up sheet and you will receive a special reminder with the latest information for the meeting. If you have any questions for Howard you may email him at magichoward@gmail.com. To get on the Meeting Notice list, email Rick2mail@gmail.com.
- **NEXT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP MEETING WILL BE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11** - For information on the Group and who to contact, see the *CLUB ACTIVITIES* section of the Newsletter.
- **SAILING CRUISE TO KO CHANG PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 15 - 18** - The Blue Water Sailing Group is has organized a 4 night 5 day cruise around the Ko Chang archipelago aboard a 52 ft. sailing yacht. The cost is \$50/night including breakfast. If you are interested contact Nathan Russo at Ncrusso1@gmail.com or telephone him at 085-275-6724.
- **THE NEXT AMARI “WINE EXPERIENCE” WILL BE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18** – Please note the change in date due to the Holidays. December’s “Wine Experience” will feature several varieties of sparkling wines - with a promise from the Amari that your glass will be bottomless. Add a non-stop parade of tapas, a free 5 minute shoulder massage, Christmas songs and quiet melodies from the Ice Bar’s combo and you have a very nice Friday evening. The “Wine Experience” will again be held in the Amari Tower’s attractive Ice Bar from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The price is 750+ Baht per person, but with our PCEC 15% discount, members pay only 638+ Baht (please remember to bring your card). Your friends are also welcome, and if you pay for them the discount applies! We will have a sign-up sheet so we can give the

Amari an idea of how many will attend. And, if you are not full after the Wine Experience you can mosey up to the Mantra for a wonderful dinner at your PCEC 15% discount.

- **INVITATION FROM PATTAYA ORPHANAGE TO JOIN THEM FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER ON DECEMBER 25** - Khun Toy with the Pattaya Orphanage sent us an invitation to join the children for a fun-filled afternoon with presents, lucky draws, inflatable kingdom, food & beverages, stage performances, and reunion of former residents. This will be from 4pm to 10:30 pm . For more information, telephone 038-423-468 or 038-416-426 or email [info@thepattayaorphanage.org](mailto:info@thepattayaorphanage.org).
- **GOAT CHEESE ANYONE?** Greg Barton has told us that the Lulu & Daisy Goat Farm has resumed production of goat cheese. Contact Greg at [gbmillion@hotmail.com](mailto:gbmillion@hotmail.com) or call 0818 205 202 for more information.
- **SAM FANG'S ELEPHANT BOOK AVAILABLE AT HALF PRICE IN DECEMBER** - Sam Fang who previously spoke to the Club about the fate of Thai elephants has announced that they will be offering his Elephant Book for 600 Baht during December (regularly sells for 1,200 Baht). You may want to consider getting one or more as a nice gift during this holiday season. Proceeds go to support Sam's non profit organizations effort to improve the lot and increase the number of Thai elephants. If interested, see Stuart Saunders at the Sunday meeting or contact him by email at [sutart21@mac.com](mailto:sutart21@mac.com).
- **REGISTERING WITH YOUR EMBASSY** - The Phuket Gazette published an article on 1 December regarding the British Ambassador requesting British expats and citizens to register their information so that they can contact you or your next of kin in case of an emergency. The [Club's Website](#) has links to the Registration page with the Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, UK, or USA Embassies. If you wish to register, select the Visiting Thailand page on the website, then select Emergency Services topic. At the bottom, you will find links to register with any of these Embassies.
- **PCEC WEBSITE STATUS** - We are now online with the new website content. We are still working on some glitches, but the majority of the website is functioning correctly. Please visit the [website](#) and browse around, especially the Living in Thailand, Visa & Immigration, and Club Activities and Benefits sections. If you see any incorrect information, broken links, or want to suggest something to be included on the web page, contact us at [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com).
- **NEWSLETTER** - As you can see from last week and this week, we are making some formatting changes, which we hope will make it easier to find what you are looking for in your Newsletter. We are using the Portable Document Format (PDF), which allows for better graphic presentation. You will need a reader for PDF files to read the content. Richard Silverberg recommends using the Sumatra Reader if you want one that is quick to download (especially for dial up connections) and loads PDF files more quickly than Adobe. It is free and available from this [website](#) or you can download a free copy of the Acrobat Reader from Adobe [here](#).
- **HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS** - Any current promotions being offered by Bangkok Hospital Pattaya and Phayathai Hospital Sriracha are shown in the *HEALTH ISSUES* Section of the Newsletter. Bangkok Hospital Pattaya is now offering their annual discount prices on their check up packages. You must purchase the package by December 31, 2009; but, you have until March 31, 2010 to visit the Wellness Center and get the check up.
- **REMINDER ABOUT THE BUFFET** - Please support our continued stay at Henry J. Beans, our home for almost five years now, with its pleasant laid back and informal atmosphere - which the Amari Hotel allows us to use without charge. To continue our use of HJB's facilities at current prices, we are asking members

and guests to purchase a buffet ticket or, if you do not want a full breakfast, at least the toast and coffee or tea. Please let us know, at the meeting, by telephone call, or by email if you find anything unsatisfactory, and we will take it up with the HJB staff. Email us at [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) with comments or complaints.

### **THIS WEEK'S UPCOMING EVENTS**

*The following events coming up this week are highlighted here, but are more fully described in the Announcements, What's Happening, or Dining out sections of the Newsletter.*

- Friday, December 4 - Mantra Wine Dinner
- Saturday, December 5 - His Majesty the King's Birthday
- Saturday, December 5 - Pattaya Fun Run in Honor of His Majesty's Birthday
- Monday, December 7 - Computer Group Meets
- Tuesday, December 8 - Charity Night at Oscars
- Thursday, December 10 - Pattaya International Balloon Fiesta starts
- Friday, December 11 - Amateur Radio Group Meets

### **LAST WEEK'S MEETING**

Master of Ceremonies (Emcee) Les Edmonds welcomed everyone to the regular Sunday meeting of the Club. After the usual announcements, he introduced the guest speaker Drew Noyes. Drew, in addition to being a member and former Chairman of the Club, is also a well known businessman in Pattaya. He is the

Managing Director of PAPP Legal & Visa Services and Pattaya Times Media Group. He is very knowledgeable on many aspects of living in Thailand that impact on foreigners and has spoken to the Club on numerous occasions on various subjects of interest. Today, Drew wanted to discuss becoming a Thai Permanent Resident including the costs, benefits, and requirements. Drew said that most would be surprised at how easy it can be.

As with many things in Thailand, one gets different answers from Government officials. Drew and his staff made several inquiries with the Office in Bangkok that oversees the process as well as with others knowledgeable about the process. Based on the law, published regulations, guidelines, and the results of their inquiries, he believes that the information he will be sharing is as complete and accurate as it can be.

Drew said that the law that governs Permanent Residency in Thailand is the Immigration Act of 2522. The Thai Immigration Act of 2522 empowers the Immigration Commission to set the requirements for application and approval of Residency. Drew listed the members of this Commission noting that they were all high ranking Government officials, including the Under Secretary of the Minister of the Interior, Under Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director General of the Police Department, Secretary General of the National Security Council, and the Commander of the Immigration Division. He further explained that the number is limited to 100 persons per year from each foreign country. The application period is open during a period in December and that the initial application fee is 7,600 Baht. The current application period ends December 31. Before you can apply, you must have been permitted to stay in Thailand for three consecutive years. Drew said that so long as your permission to stay is consecutive, it does not matter that you may have left Thailand to visit your home country or other countries during the three year period.

However, although applications have been received since the 2006 coup, the Government has not awarded Permanent Residency to anyone during that period. When they do, he said it will not be a first in first out approval basis. Instead, all applicants will be reviewed together and those aliens considered most desirable, will be approved. He went on to say that although none have been approved for the past two years, those that have

applied do have a benefit. This is because the law allows a person under consideration a stay in Thailand of 180 days. If the application has not been approved at the end of that period, they will be granted another 180 days and so on until action is taken on their application. So, no filling out the paperwork for extensions of stay each year or paying the 1,900 Baht each year for the extension so long as the application is pending.

One requirement is that applicants must speak Thai. Drew said that this should not scare people off. The test for this ability is quite easy. Based on his discussions with people who have gone through the process, they were not required to be fluent. In most cases it was the ability to understand some basic Thai such as "What is your name?" "Where are you from?" "Where do you live?" In other words, Drew said the officials wanted to know that the applicant had made some effort to understand the language and culture of Thailand. Drew then described the qualifications to become a Permanent Resident. These qualifications relate to certain categories such as an investment in Thailand of 10 million Baht, being related to or supporting a Thai national, or being an expert in an internationally recognized field. Drew said that although one might be a professional in their own country, to qualify as an expert they must have practiced their profession in Thailand. Drew listed the various forms that are required to accompany the application including information and documents to show income and assets. They also require criminal background checks in Thailand and the applicant's home country. The applicant must also provide their fingerprints, which are checked against Thai criminal records.

Once the application is approved, the fee is about 200,000 Baht to obtain the Permanent Residency unless you fall into particular areas, such as being the spouse of someone already granted Permanent Residency. Drew then cited some of the benefits of being a Thai Permanent Resident. There is no annual application for extension of stay in the Kingdom. There is no requirement for 90 day reporting of residence. The Land Office does not require proof of money coming from outside Thailand when purchasing a condominium. A Permanent Resident has the right to be listed in a Thai House Book, which can be beneficial if applying for credit from Thai banks. Although the Permanent Residency is limited to five years, most people apply for Thai citizenship. Drew said that once you have been a Permanent Resident for three years; you are eligible to apply for Thai citizenship. After Drew answered many questions from the audience, Emcee Les updated everyone on upcoming events and then called on his lovely wife, Judith, to conduct the always informative, interesting, and sometime humorous Open Forum where questions are asked and answered about living in Thailand and Pattaya in particular.

### DINING OUT IN PATTAYA AND ELSEWHERE

*We have received several requests to publish special promotions being sponsored by restaurants OR recommended by our members. We will include these recommendations in the Newsletter, space permitting. If you have a recommendation, please email [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com).*

- ❖ **Henry J. Bean's Bar & Grill's 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner on December 12** at 7pm onwards. Tickets are 950 Baht. Call 038-418-418 for more information.
- ❖ **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, our weekly meeting place**, has a ladies night on Mondays; ladies can buy 1 drink and get one free. Tuesdays and Thursdays is for beer lovers - from 5pm to 1am, buy 1 draft beer and get 1 free. Every Sunday, kids eat for free before 7:30pm when ordering from the kids menu (must be under

10 years of age). In December, **Mantra** will be featuring popular gourmet cuisine from their fabulous monthly promotions. For Mantra reservations, telephone 038-429-591.

- ❖ **Amari's Events for December and New Years** - Take advantage of your PCEC member discount and enjoy some great food while celebrating the Holidays. Upcoming events are:
  - ✓ **December 24, Thursday** - Christmas Eve - Amari Traditional Christmas program will be from 7pm to 10:30pm in **the Garden**. Full buffet and entertainment for 3,900++ Baht (PCEC discount price 3,315++ Baht). The price includes a half bottle of wine per person and based on past events, a good show with several acts, door prizes, and dancing.
  - ✓ **December 25, Friday** - Christmas Day - Amari Italian Buffet at the **Orchid Terrace** for 950 Baht net per person (PCEC discount price 808 Baht net).
  - ✓ **December 25, Friday** - Christmas Day Luncheon at the **Mantra** for 2,799+ Baht per person (PCEC Discount 2,380+ Baht per person)
  - ✓ **December 27 & January 3, both on Sunday** - Festive Family Brunch at the **Mantra** for 1,650+ Baht per person (PCEC discount 1,403+ Baht)
  - ✓ **December 31, Thursday** - New Years Eve - **Henry J. Bean's** Family Carvery dinner at 950Baht net per person (PCEC discount 808 Baht net)
  - ✓ **December 31, Thursday** - Extravagant Gourmet buffet at the **Mantra** for 3,900+ Baht per person (PCEC discount 3,315+ per person)
  
- ❖ **Don't forget the PCEC Featured Restaurants offering discounts to members** (Remember to offer your card before the bill is presented to ensure you receive the discount) - **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](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) or [Darrel-pcec@inbox.com](mailto:Darrel-pcec@inbox.com).

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND PATTAYA

*A listing of upcoming events in Pattaya, Bangkok, and elsewhere for this and coming months, which are of interest to Pattaya's Expat community. Inclusion of commercially sponsored events does not mean that the PCEC endorses the companies or their products. Any event that is sponsored by the PCEC will be clearly identified as such.*

*The events listed come from various sources. We usually list a telephone number, email address, or website to obtain*

*Please share with any forthcoming events or activities that you may be aware of so we can publish it for everyone's benefit.*

- **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.
- **NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 8, TUESDAY - LIAM'S GALLERY ANTIQUES & DECORATIVE ART EXHIBITION** - The exhibition will be showing authentic antiques, Chinese wood carvings, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century engravings, woodcuts, and watercolors. For more information and location visit their [website](#).
- **NOW to DECEMBER 10, THURSDAY - EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS BY SUDRAK UTAYOPHAS** at Liam's Gallery. Visit their [website](#) to see samples from the exhibition.
- **DECEMBER 5, SATURDAY - PATTAYA FUN RUN IN HONOR OF HM THE KING'S BIRTHDAY** - Pattaya City Hall is sponsoring a 5 km race to start and finish in front of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Regional Office on Pratamnuk Hill. For more information and for registration details for this fun run, please call the Pattaya City Call Center 1337.
- **DECEMBER 8, TUESDAY - CHARITY QUIZ AT OSCARS** - Oscars is located on Pattayaland Soi 3 (Boyztown). Entry fee is 100 Baht donated to Thais4Life Charity. Starts at 9:30pm - complimentary snacks after quiz.
- **DECEMBER 10 to 13, THURSDAY to SUNDAY - PATTAYA INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA 2009** - The event features over 40 balloons (all shapes and sizes and usually attracts an audience of 200,000) will be held at Thammasat University, Pattaya. The Fiesta is one of only a few 'Shaped' balloon events in Asia, offering a colorful showcase of hot air balloons from all over the world. The Fiesta comprises an overabundance of events providing spectators with a fun packed long weekend of entertainment. At the Balloon Fiesta there are no viewing stands - people walk the field and are part of the action. For more information and a schedule of events, visit this [website](#).
- **DECEMBER 11, FRIDAY TO DECEMBER 30, WEDNESDAY - EXHIBITION NAVIGATING THE BANGKOK NOIR** at Liam's Gallery will feature the paintings of Chris Coles. His expressionist paintings of Bangkok's nightlife reveal a raw and primitive layer of the human experience. On December 11 at 6:30pm, Christopher G. Moore will launch and sign his new books, *The Corruptionist* and *The Vincent Calvio Reader's Guide*. Moore's Noir novels are the perfect complement to Coles paintings. Both artists are core members of the Bangkok Noir movement. For Gallery location visit their [website](#).
- **DECEMBER 12, SATURDAY - BANGKOK HOSPITAL PATAYA XMAS BAZAAR** - The bazaar will be held in the lobby of the new building (Building E) from 9am till 3pm. Various organizations will have tables set up with the proceeds from sales going to charity.
- **DECEMBER 12, SATURDAY - A NIGHT WITH THE DIVA CHARITY PARTY** - The Hard Rock Hotel Pattaya is hosting this event starting at 6pm. It will feature the singing sensation "P" Amp Saowaluck and Prim Pitch Band from the Philippines. Tickets are 2,500 Baht per person (pay for 9 people when you book a table for 10). The price includes a cocktail reception and buffet dinner. There will also be a fireworks display and a grand raffle. Proceeds will go to support Baan Amphur School in Sattahip - an old dilapidated primary school in desperate need of repair. For more information and reservations, call 038-428-755/9.
- **DECEMBER 15, TUESDAY - DIANA GROUP CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT** - The 11th annual tournament will take place at the Eastern Star Golf Course in Rayong Province to raise money for local children's charities including underprivileged students from the Banglamung School. If you would like to take part in this year's event please call the Diana Group at 038-415-212/23.

- **DECEMBER 25, FRIDAY - CHARITY CONCERT FOR PATTAYA ORPHANAGE** - This event is being organized by the Discovery Beach Hotel. It will consist of a classical program with two award winning musicians, pianist Pimpanit Karoonyavanich and her brother the violinist Piyapob Karoonyavanich. Tickets are 1,500 Baht per person. For more information call 087-976-5154 or email at: E-mail: gm\_1@pattayadiscoverybeach.com, gm@d-beach.com, chrisaustria2007@gmail.com, operachrispianopat2009@hotmail.com.

## 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 hawaiiibob4you@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 hawaiiibob4you@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.
- **BOAT GROUP** - Rod has taken his boat out of the water for needed maintenance. Boat Group meetings are currently on hold. For more information, you may contact Rod or his wife at 087-039-9353.
- **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** - 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 for more information at 080-638-3510. or email [daviddallimer@hotmail.com](mailto:daviddallimer@hotmail.com).
- **COMPUTER GROUP** - Meets MONTHLY on the first MONDAY of the month at 2pm at Markland 6th floor Haad Sai Room - The host is Howard Posner, who was a software reviewer for the California Microsoft User Group. 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. The Haad Sai Room at the Markland has good WiFi, a large screen, and is nicely air conditioned. You may bring your laptop computers (with a spare battery if your battery has a short life). 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](mailto:magichoward@hotmail.com). For meeting information please contact Richard Smith at 038-412197, 089-244-9523 or by email at [rick2@loxinfo.co.th](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. A trip for the Group to visit the village has been scheduled. If interested in participating, contact Stuart Saunders at this Sunday's meeting or you can email him at [Stuart21@mac.com](mailto:Stuart21@mac.com).
- **BANGLAMUNG DISTRICT CROSS CULTURE VOLUNTEER GROUP** -- This group provides Volunteers to help Thais improve their English conversation ability through our "English Conversation for Thais" program. We are an outreach program to the Thai community, formed under the auspices of the Banglamung Nai Amphur (District Chief Officer), the Governor of Chonburi Province, and the Pattaya City Expats Club. Our classes for this year have been completed and Certificates awarded. The Volunteer Group

has also provided conversation classes at the Nova Platinum Hotel, Nova Suites, and the Chevrolet Agency. We will resume classes in late January or early February, 2010. If you are interested in volunteering to help in the classes, please list your name on the sign-up sheet, or contact Richard Smith at 089-244-9523, 038-412-197, or by email to [rick2@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:rick2@loxinfo.co.th).

## CLUB SERVICES

*This section lists various services offered by the Club.*

- **PCEC 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 - he will also need two driver's license size pictures. The annual membership contribution of 400 baht will entitle you to discounts at the Club's featured restaurants, Underwater World, Bangkok Hospital Pattaya, health insurance, and elsewhere.
- **DRIVING LICENSE ASSISTANCE** - MONTHLY, Hans (or Jon) Stroosnyder will escort and assist those interested in getting a Thai driving license. Hans 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](mailto:khun.hans@gmail.com). The documentation you need and complete application and renewal instructions can be found [here](#). Information on getting International Driving Permits in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK, and USA can be found [here](#) and getting one in Thailand for use in other countries can be found [here](#).
- **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 call upon John Fishback, Richard Smith, or Darrel Vaught. You can email your question to [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com). You can also contact Darrel at 086-069-0112 or email - [darrel-pcec@inbox.com](mailto:darrel-pcec@inbox.com) or John at 089-933-7227 or email - [jbfemail-pcec@yahoo.com](mailto:jbfemail-pcec@yahoo.com) or Richard at 038-412-197 or email - [rick2@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:rick2@loxinfo.co.th).
- **A DVD LENDING LIBRARY** - Hawaii's BOB4YOU usually has some of his collection of over 1,500 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. You can also borrow DVDs by stopping by Peter's Aromatic Studio in Naklua's Windmill Plaza opposite Naklua Soi 18/1.
- **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.

## 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. They will note this information in their computer so that you can receive special discounts offered to PCEC members. As a PCEC member you will get a 10% discount on room rates, medication and prescribed

drugs, and 5% off on dental services. You may still be asked on occasion to show a currently valid PCEC card to verify you are still entitled to the discounts.

- **PHAYATHAI PATTAYA HOSPITAL 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 15% DISCOUNT ON GPS TRACKING DEVICE** - The TRAMIGO GPS devices can be used to track and/or locate a person or a vehicle. No GPS fees as they operate with a local SIM card. For more information, brochures are on the back table or stop by their booth at Carrefour in front of the Food Court. More about the devices can be seen at their [website](#).
- **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](mailto: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.
- **UNDERWATER WORLD OFFERS MEMBERS A DISCOUNT** -- A representative of Underwater World told the Club that members will be charged the Thai admission price, not the Farang price. Further, upon producing your membership card, the cardholder will receive a 20% discount - off the Thai admission price. At a recent meeting, a member said he went to Underwater World and did receive the discount - albeit a bit of a delay while the staff went to the back office to confirm 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).

### 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.*

- **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** - 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.

**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** - Check up promotion for half price on their checkup programs is available till December 31, 2009 (to purchase) and March 31, 2010 (to use voucher). For more information on the check up packages, click [here](#). BHP is also offering an OPD (Out-Patient Department) card for 500 Baht for one year. The card will get you a 10% discount on medications, medical supplies, lab examination, X-Ray examination, and physical therapy. It excludes any special medications, supplies, lab tests or equipment. It also provides discounts on dental fees for Scaling, Operative dentistry and Tooth extraction, but excludes dental supplies and dental packages. The card should be presented prior to treatment; it cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts/promotions, and is valid only at BHP. You can get it at the Chivawattana counter in Building E.
- **PHAYATHAI SRIRACHA HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS** - We have not yet received the December promotions for Phayathai Hospital. 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* provides laboratory tests (no doctor's consultation) The laboratory is on at 247/59 Moo 10, 3rd Road (South Pattaya). Directions are if you are proceeding from South Road (Pattaya Tai) toward Bali Hai, it will be on the right shortly after making the turn toward the overpass. He says their sign is hard to see, so look for *Laundry Express* sign and you will be very close.
- **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. .

 WE ASK FOR YOUR COMMENTS ON THE NEWSLETTER 

Your thoughts, suggestions, questions and criticisms can help us produce a better Newsletter for you. Please email your comments to us at [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) or [newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com).