



# PATTAYA CITY EXPATS CLUB NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED IN MARCH 2001

PATTAYA'S FRIENDLIEST EXPAT CLUB MEETING EVERY SUNDAY FOR EIGHT 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 25, 2009 to December 31, 2009



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

**AT THIS WEEK'S  
MEETING  
Sunday  
December 27, 2009**

Our speaker will be fellow member Nathan Russo. He will be describing how he and his friends completed the funding and building of a 3 room school house for a Hmong tribal village at the top of a mountain in Thoeng District, Chang Rai. Nathan, who divides his time between Thailand and his home country retired two years ago from a property search and appraisal company, will describe how the project started out as a false promise and some wishful thinking and ended with the construction of the school for over 100 grammar school children, complete with desks, benches, and new school books.

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).*

**CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD - IF IT IS EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, SEE AL SERRATO AT SUNDAY'S MEETING TO RENEW IT.**

## **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****➤ 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).

- **THAI PERMANENT RESIDENCY APPLICATION PERIOD ENDS DECEMBER 31** - If you are interested, former Chairman Andre Machielsen has provided some specific information about the process and documents required. If you would like a copy of this information, email [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com). The Club website also has [information](#) on the requirements - click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information on Thai Visa website.
- **DRIVING LICENSE ASSISTANCE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6** - Hans provides assistance for those seeking a Thai driving license on the first Wednesday of the month. Those wishing assistance should meet Hans in front of Henry J. Bean's at 9am. It is advisable to let Hans know in advance that you will be joining him - contact him at: 085-218-1773, or email him at [khun.hans@gmail.com](mailto:khun.hans@gmail.com). For Club website has [information](#) on what you will need and the process you go through to obtain a Thai driving license.
- **BLUE WATER SAILING GROUP WILL HAVE A DINNER MEETING ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 15** - This first dinner meeting of the new year will be at 6pm at Cherry's Restaurant located opposite X-Zyte Disco on 3<sup>rd</sup> Road. Parking for cars and motorbikes is available behind the restaurant. The restaurant is offering all those who attend a 10% discount. Future sailing plans for the year will be discussed. For further details, contact Nathan Russo at 085-275-6724 or [ncrusso1@gmail.com](mailto:ncrusso1@gmail.com).
- **APPLICATION FEE INCREASE FOR THAI WORK PERMIT** - We have received a report that effective December 21, 2009, the application fee increased from 100 to 600 Baht, but no change in the approval fee.
- **COMPUTER GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY** - Due to the Holidays, the next meeting will be on Monday, February 1. The meeting will be at 2pm in the Haad Sai Room on the 6th floor of the Markland on Feb. 1, 2010. At the December meeting a suggestion was made that we have a swap meet of computer parts, cable, computer, printers, etc. sometime before, during or after the meeting. Items could be swapped or sold – with the Computer Group hosts and the PCEC taking no responsibility for any transaction that may take place. If you like the idea please let Howard know at [magichoward@hotmail.com](mailto:magichoward@hotmail.com). Check the Announcements and Upcoming Events section of the Club's website [website](#) to see what's coming up at the February meeting.
- **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 [stuart21@mac.com](mailto:stuart21@mac.com).
- **REPLACING A LOST BANGKOK BANK ATM CARD** - A Club member reports that he was able to replace his lost Bangkok Bank ATM card at a different branch than the one that issued it - the fee was 200 Baht.

- **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 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- Charity Concert for Pattaya Orphanage at Discovery Beach Hotel
- Friday, December 25 - Invitation to join the Pattaya Orphanage for Christmas
- Friday, December 25 - Pattaya City's Week Long Countdown to New Years begins

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

Master of Ceremonies "Hawaii" Bob Sutterfield opened the program with the usual announcements. He told everyone that they were in for special treat this Sunday morning. After the presentation by Mike Lancaster, Director of Development with the Father Ray Foundation, he said we would all be entertained by the Foundation's children's choir.

Mike expressed Father Patin's regrets in not being able to speak to the Club, but noted that he was recuperating from a shoulder problem that was still giving him some pain. Mike said that his background was in fundraising and marketing in the United Kingdom. He has been living in Bangkok for about 3 years after he retired. He was contacted by someone asking if he could help the Father Ray Foundation. He said he came out of retirement and started working about 9 months ago for the Foundation. He said he still lives in Bangkok and was going home on weekends, but lately it seems he sees less and a less of his house there.



He said that the Foundation is assisting over 850 children and young adults with disabilities in Pattaya. He then presented an 8 minute video showing how Father Ray Brennan started by taking in one lone child and how that grew in size and became the beginning of the Foundation and its work. Although Farther Ray has passed away, the projects continue. Presently, they have 6 projects underway with a vision for more in the future. But, it costs money to continue the operations and even more if they wish to expand. Mike then briefly described each of their current projects. One is a day care center for children from 2 to 6 years of age whose parents work. The center gives them a safe and healthy environment so they are not left alone on the streets.

Another project is their Drop In Center for street children. The Center operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week. It is a place where the street kids can come and get a bowl of noodles and have someone to talk to. The staff befriend the kids and do their best to persuade them to get off the streets and to come to the Father Ray Children's Home. At the home they try to give the children a sense of self worth and the hope that they may have a future. They also have a Children's Village which offers more of a home to the children. They are in a house where full time staff also lives with them. This provides more of a normal family lifestyle for the children.

In addition to children, they also help the disabled who often are not accepted by society. The Father Ray Vocational School is for young adults with disabilities. It is a place where they can get an education and learn a trade so that they can go out in the world and get a job to "earn their own rice." Similarly, the Father Ray School for Blind Children also works to educate and to teach a vocation.

Mike concluded his talk by noting that they furnish 2,500 nutritious meals a day. To carry out all their projects costs about 120 million Baht annually. The Thai Government offers some assistance for education, but it is not anywhere near enough. So, the Foundation has to raise the bulk of funds through donations. Mike said that this is his main job with the Foundation, to work to get the funds they need to continue and perhaps increase their operations. Through their efforts they can provide what is really needed, which is to give them love, confidence, and a hope for a normal future.

After Mike's talk, the children came in all of them smiling and happy. They then launched into several well known Christmas songs such as Jingle Bells, Joy to the World, and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. After much enthusiastic applause, the Club expressed our thanks by giving the children a "gift sack" with some goodies for them to enjoy. After the children left, the meeting was concluded with Richard Silverberg conducting the always informative Open Forum where everyone has an opportunity to ask and answer questions 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).*

- ❖ **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 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)
- ❖ **Amor restaurant will be having their Christmas and New Years Eve dinner** for 1,350+ Baht per person. The dinner will be at 8pm on December 25 and again at 8pm on December 31. For reservations, call 038-710-680 or you can look at the menu and book online through their [website](#).
- ❖ **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

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

*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 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.*

- **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 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 25, FRIDAY, TO DECEMBER 31, FRIDAY - PATTAYA'S AMAZING COUNTDOWN TO THE NEW YEAR** will take place at Bali Hai Pier. Similar to last year's event leading up to ringing in the New Year, the entertainment will have live performances by a variety of International and Thai pop/rock stars from 7pm to 1am daily culminating in a fantastic fireworks display New Years Eve. For more information contact: Pattaya TAT at 038-428-750, 038-427-667 or Pattaya City at 038-253-100.
- **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.
- **JANUARY 8, FRIDAY - THAIS4LIFE CHARITY FUND RAISING EVENT** will be held at the Piano Bar at Le Café Royale in Boyztown (Pattayaland Soi 3). It will feature appearances by Maisie Trollette, Miss Jason, and vocalist Jo Frances. A Chef's carved buffet will be available from 8:30pm for a cost of 490 Baht. The show is from 9:30pm to 11pm. Advance reservations are recommended. Contact telephone is 038-423-515 or email info@caferoyale-pattaya.com.
- **JANUARY 10, SUNDAY - PGF CHARITY DINNER AT BRUNO'S RESTAURANT** - This Pattaya Gay Festival event is to benefit the PGF supported charities and will feature Creations of Chef Fredi. The cost is 1,500 Baht of which 500 will be donated to Charity. For further information contact Bruno's Restaurant by telephone at 038- 364-600/1.

## 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](mailto: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](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** - December promotions for Phayathai Hospital are Breast cancer screening with mamogram including free breast ultrasound for 1,500 (regularly 2,000), Bone density screening for hip and spine area for 1,900 (regularly 2,800), Cervical Spine or Spine Check with MRI for 7,000 (regularly 9,000), CT Calcium Scoring by 64 slice CT scan for 1,900 (regularly 2,900), Stroke risk screening program 1 for 4,590 Baht (regularly 6,480) includes examination, chest x-ray, EKG, carotid doppler ultrasound, CBC, FBS, lipid profile, and BUN Creatinine OR Magnetic REsonance Angiography for Carotid Constiction Screening for 8,900 Baht (regularly 14,000) OR both (called program 2) for 11,000 Baht (regularly 18,930). In the Dental area, they are offering ZOOM Teeth Whitening program for 8,000 Baht (regularly 9,600) OR root implant starting at 40,000 Baht that includes crown. . 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** - click for *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](#) .

 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).