



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

February 19, 2010 to February 25, 2010

AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING

Sunday

February 21, 2010

For many, it is an age related crippling disease. How much do we know about Arthritis? Come to Sunday's meeting and learn more about it and how it can be treated. Our speaker will be Dr. Sukree Khumrak, Orthopedic Surgeon from Bangkok Hospital Pattaya. Dr. Sukree obtained his medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine, Mahidol University

Rama Hospital, in 1997. In 2006, he became a specialist in Orthopedics followed in 2009 as a specialist in Arthroplasty and minimally invasive surgery. Previously, he was an Orthopedic Surgeon with Bangkok Ratchasima Hospital and Ratchvithi Hospital. Staff from Bangkok Hospital Pattaya will be providing free blood pressure checks in the back alcove. We may also hear about promotions being offered by the Hospital

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.

RENOVATION OF THE CLUB'S MEETING PLACE IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 22

The renovation is expected to take about 4 weeks to complete. During renovation, we will be meeting in the Amari's Garden Wing. We will be providing information in the Newsletter and on the website of the exact location for our meeting for Sunday March 28 and thereafter during the renovation period.

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 or to Darrel-pcec@inbox.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BANGKOK HOSPITAL PATTAYA INCREASES DENTAL DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

– The hospital has advised that they are now offering a 10% discount for dental treatment (it was 5%). Further, they have

added a 5% discount on prosthodontic dentistry (replacement of missing teeth and related mouth or jaw structures by bridges, dentures, or other artificial devices). They continue to offer the 10% discount on the room rate and medications.

- **APPEARS TO BE A NEW PROCEDURE AT IMMIGRATION** – There have been reports on Thaivisa.com that Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration is now asking for a copy of rental agreements or house papers when extending your retirement visa – the reports indicate that for rental agreements, they are satisfied with a copy of the first page (apparently the page showing lessor, lessee, and property address). So you may want to be prepared by having a copy of the document(s) in case you are asked for it. The reports were from individuals extending their retirement visa, but it is possible you may be asked for it if renewing any long term extension.
- **CLARIFICATION - JOE LOUIS PUPPET THEATER & THAI RESTAURANT IS OFFERING A 20% DISCOUNT TO PECEC MEMBERS** - We received an email from the Restaurant apologizing for their mistake in not giving the 20% discount. They have asked that we provide them with an example of our Club membership card so that they can acquaint their staff with the discount and the card that is required to be shown. We are in process of providing them with a sample copy of the Card.
- **SHAKESPEARE – ABRIDGED – DISCOUNT FOR PCEC MEMBERS THROUGH END OF FEBRUARY** – The actors in this funny, outrageous spoof of Shakespeare’s works appeared magically at last Sunday’s meeting and did Hamlet in 45 seconds – then did it backward (really) in about the same time – starting from dead on the floor. These are real professional actors from New York and Los Angeles, performing at the Tuxedo Magic Theatre on North Pattaya Road, next to the Bus station. The full 90 minute show is presented Wednesday through Sunday evenings starting at 9 pm, and they have a Saturday and Sunday matinee at 2 pm. They are starving for people to come see them – the location is a little out of the way – so we were offered a great price. Regularly adults are 350 Baht, but PCEC; members can get in for 200 Baht – but only until the end of February. That’s a deal – and Shakespeare too. Call them at 081-683-9322 for reservations.
- **WINE EXPERIENCE AT THE AMARI ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26** – The Amari’s wine experience is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm – It will feature Italian wines and pasta, plus the famous 2 minute shoulder massage. The Wine Experience will be held at the Amari Garden Lounge - go through the main building to the green grass garden area, and you will see the venue. The regular charge is 750 baht, but with your PCEC card, the cost is 638 Baht net. It was so pleasant last month that there were still people there at 10:15 pm– they were a little late taking the wine away. Please list yourself on the sign-up sheet so we can give the Amari a rough count on the number that plan to attend – you are not required to list yourself in order to attend – just come – and do not forget your PCEC card.
- **WINE DINNERS** – Three restaurants have announced wine dinners: Manhattans, Poseidon, and DusitD2. See the *UPCOMING EVENTS* section for details.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FATHER RAY FOUNDATION** – We have received the following announcement: *Father Ray Foundation Acting President, Fr Apisit Kritsaralam Csr today informed the staff and volunteers of the organization that Fr Larry Patin Csr is currently undergoing treatment, in the United States, to disperse a cerebral tumour. Fr Apisit calls all members of the Father Ray family, and Fr Larry’s many friends in Thailand, to come together in a few moments of meditative healing prayer for the wellness of Fr Larry every morning at day break and every evening at dusk at this critical time. For further info: pr@fr-ray.org. Or Ring Lyndy Moore Eggleton 081 723 5754*
- **THERE WILL BE NO DRIVER LICENSE ASSISTANCE TRIP IN MARCH** – Hans advises that there will be no trip in March. The next trip will be on the first Wednesday of April.

- **MAGIC AT YOUR DINNER TABLE** - Magic at its best is unbelievable and incredible! And Club member Howard Posner is performing his magic tricks at your table at the Dusit D2 Hotel on 2nd Road (across from the Marriott Hotel and next to the Avenues) every Thursday evening for free. The fun at the Dusit D2 S.E.A. Restaurant starts at 7:00 pm and continues through the evening - every Thursday evening in February. Please call the D2 Hotel for Thursday reservations at 038 769 999, or you can check out Howard's magic abilities at his web site www.magichoward.com.
- **COMPUTER GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN MARCH** – Our Host, Howard Posner, will be away for the next few months, so we are looking for an interested person to fill in for him. If you or someone you know is interested in making a presentation on computers or cell phones, please contact Richard Smith at 089-244-9523, or by email at rick2mail@gmail. There is a lot of interest in the new Windows 7 – someone who could help us with a discussion of the good and the not so good in Windows 7 would be appreciated. There will not be a Computer Group meeting in March.
- **NEWS OF THE WORLD - AN INTERESTING WEBSITE** - Member Mike McGovern suggest that you may want to visit this website: <http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/>. It contains maps from all over the world. Click on a particular city and the Newspaper Front Page from that city's newspaper will appear. Double click and the front page gets larger. It also contains links to the newspaper's website. Mike says in some cases, you may be able to read the entire newspaper.
- **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.
- **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 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, February 19 - Honda PTT LPGA Thailand golf tournament continues**
- **Friday, February 19 - Exhibition for art of Bjoern Thoe Andersen starts at Liam Gallery**
- **Saturday, February 20 - Pattaya Players present *Cafe Murder* – 2nd performance on Sunday**
- **Saturday, February 20 – Queen's Cup – Pink Polo Ladies Tournament**
- **Sunday, February 21 - Gala Charity Event at the Venue**
- **Sunday, February 21 - Manhattan's Wine Dinner**
- **Monday, February 22 - Poseidon Wine Dinner**
- **Wednesday, February 24 - Boyztown Carnival Street Party**
- **Friday, February 26 - Fashion Show for Vinegar New Collection for Men**
- **Friday, February 26 - Wine Experience at the Amari**

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

The morning got under way with this week's Master of Ceremonies Richard Silverberg welcoming a large number of first time attendees at the Sunday morning meeting. It was noticeable that they originated from a wide range of countries. Richard continued the meeting by introducing the actors of NY / LA Productions. Their current production is the curiously named 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare'. For those not entirely familiar with the work of the Bard, the group proceeded to perform a breathtaking version of Hamlet in 45 seconds! This feat was then topped by the repetition of the 'play' but this time in reverse! See the Announcements section for more information on their performance and the limited discount being offered to members.

Richard Silverberg then introduced long time member Tony Heron to provide a comprehensive account of his career in the fur trade. Following his early interest in mink farming Tony joined the Hudson's Bay Fur Company. One of their products was the pointed blankets, first made in 1780, and used to trade in exchange for raw furs. The cost of this well crafted blanket has grown immensely over the years. In 1800, a pair of four point blankets sold for two pounds sterling, which was then about 10 US dollars.. In the 1930's, a pair of four point blankets cost \$22 Canadian and by the 1950's the cost was \$25 Canadian for a single blanket. Today one four point blanket will cost about \$400 Canadian and is roughly the size of a double bed. Tony showed an example of a 4 point blanket which he gave to his late parents for Christmas in 1966 and was still in excellent condition.

He went on to describe how his career developed at the centre of the fur trade in Frankfurt in both sales and production which inevitably involved a large amount of travel to fur auctions and exhibitions. Tony provided detailed accounts of the various sources of fur, some of which are farmed, like mink and chinchilla, and others which are to be found in the wild such as beaver, muskrat, raccoon and red fox. He also described the most expensive and exotic fur, that being Russian sable, which can command extremely high prices at auction. The subject of the fur trade can attract a fair amount of controversy and subsequently a lively question and answer session followed.

Richard Silverberg then updated everyone on current events and called on Les Edmonds to conduct the often humorous Open Forum, which is always informative as 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.

- ❖ **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). **Mantra** offers different cuisines in a fabulous setting. During January, Mantra will be featuring Black Angus Beef. **Celebrate Valentine Day**. Mantra is offering a special shared set menu on 13 and 14 February for 5,999+ per couple. For Mantra reservations, telephone 038-429-591.

- ❖ **Don't forget the other PCEC Featured Restaurants offering discounts to members** (Remember to offer your card before the bill is presented to ensure you receive the discount) - **Goose's Fish & Chips** offers 20% discount to PCEC members – West side of 2nd Road between Soi 7 & Soi 8. Open daily from 12 noon to 10pm. Contact number is: 087-133-4240 (English) or 081-576-3372 (Thai). Email: www.goosesfishandchips@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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND PATTAYA

The following 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.

- **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.
- **FEBRUARY 19, THURSDAY TO FEBRUARY 21, SUNDAY – HONDA PTT LPG THAILAND 2010** – This ladies golf event will feature a 60-player field boasting some of the world's top lady golfers. They will compete in a 72-holes stroke play with no cut for the purse prize of US\$ 1.3 million. Tickets and more information are available from [Thai Ticket Major](#).
- **FEBRUARY 19, FRIDAY TO MARCH 5, FRIDAY - LIAM'S GALLERY PRESENTS BJOERN THOE ANDERSEN - NORWAY** - The opening will start at 6:30pm at the Gallery and continue from 10am to 7pm Tuesday through Sunday. Bjoern captures the essence of Norway in his depiction in oils of the famous Fjords. The Gallery is located on Soi 4 Pratamnak Road. Telephone 038-306-172 or visit their website www.liamsgallery.com.
- **FEBRUARY 20, SATURDAY - QUEEN'S CUP LA MARTINA - PINK POLO LADIES TOURNAMENT** - This charity event will be held at the Thai Polo Club in Pattaya to raise money for

the Queen Sirikit Center for Breast Cancer. It begins at 12:30pm with lunch, pony ride, shopping & games, and auction. At 3pm will be the La Martina Fashion Show on horseback followed at 4pm with a kid's polo tournament. The main event starts at 4:30pm with cup presentation at 5:30pm. Contact former Club Chairman Drew Noyes for details at drewnoyes@gmail.com or 038-301-050.

- **FEBRUARY 20 & 21, SATURDAY & SUNDAY – PATTAYA PLAYERS PRESENT CAFÉ MURDER** at Le Café Royal on Pattayaland Soi 3. **Latest report is that tickets are still available.** Each guest will be responsible for figuring out the mystery of the night and will be encouraged to interact with the cast members. As an added bonus, prizes will be awarded to the table group who can correctly identify the killer and his/her villainous motive! Tickets must be purchased in advance as seating is limited. To purchase tickets, email pattayaplayers@gmail.com or stop by the restaurant. The doors will open at 6:30pm. The cost for an entire evening of an "all you can eat buffet," entertainment and murder is just 1,000 Baht per person. For more information, visit www.pattayaplayers.org.
- **FEBRUARY 21, SUNDAY - GALA CHARITY EVENT AT THE VENUE** - The Venue in Jomtien Complex will be hosting this charity event in aid of the Pattaya Street Kids Support Project. Featuring: Rich Bitch all the way from Benidorm Jordan Rivers, light operatic vocals from Ronald Willemsen, Thailand's very own Khun Taen and the fabulous Magic Company. The show starts at 10pm - no cover charge or entrance fee - normal drink prices.
- **FEBRUARY 21, SUNDAY - MANHATTANS WINE DINNER** - Manhattans will be holding the first of their soon to be monthly wine dinners. There is a four course menu with four wines selected to accompany each course. The price is 1,800+ Baht and begins at 7:30pm. Call 038-259-790 for reservations and information or visit www.manhattans-pattaya.com.
- **FEBRUARY 22, MONDAY - POSEIDON WINE DINNER** - The Poseidon will have a wine and cheese night hosted by Kim Schnyder. The price for this dinner is 1,500 baht net/person. For further details and bookings, call Kim 081-983-4182 or 038-303-300.
- **FEBRUARY 24, WEDNESDAY - BOYZ TOWN CARNIVAL STREET PARTY** - This is a Pattaya Pride charity event held in Pattayaland Soi 3 (Boyz Town). Admission is 300 Baht with 150 Baht donated to charity. Drinks, other than top shelf and cocktails, will be 150 Baht. A percentage of all food and drink sales will also be donated to Pattaya Pride charities such as Heart2000 Foundation. The gates open at 8pm with entertainment starting at 9:30pm and lucky draw at 11:30pm.
- **FEBRUARY 26, FRIDAY - FASHION SHOW VG VINEGAR NEW COLLECTION FOR MEN** - Vinegar will be showcasing their swimwear and underwear for men at L'Arc Restaurant in Jomtien Complex (between the Venue and Poseidon). Entry fee is 250 Baht with cocktail dinner and one drink - other drinks are 70 to 90 Baht. Reservations can be made at Vinegar Shop in Jomtien Complex or at L'Arc Restaurant or at Restaurant le Bordeaux (South Pattaya Soi Day Night 2).
- **FEBRUARY 27, SATURDAY – AN EVENING WITH HEATHER SMALL** at the Centara Grand Mirage Resort in Naklua. The award winning singer from M People will be singing live all her biggest hits including 'Moving On Up', 'One Night In Heaven' and 'Search For The Hero' and of course the Olympic Anthem 'Proud'. The evening is in support of the Melissa Cosgrove Children's Foundation and all the proceeds from the concert will be donated to this charity. Tickets are priced 1,000, 3,500 and 5,000 baht per person with the top priced tickets including a buffet, glass of champagne and a chance to meet Heather in person. For more information call (English) 084 352 0299 or (Thai) 084-352-0309.
- **MARCH 6, SATURDAY - ROCK N' WINE DINNER AT DUSITD2** - The wine dinner will be at the s.e.a. restaurant at DusitD2 on 2nd Road. The chef will be preparing grape inspired dishes

complemented with wines from the Siam winery. Show by Kathrin Puff. The cost is 1,600++ Baht (includes pre dinner cocktails, wines, and show). For more information and reservations, call 038-769-999.

- **MARCH 10 & 11, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY - AUDITIONS IN BANGKOK FOR MUSICAL THE FANTASTICKS** - The International Women's Club of Thailand and Theatre Guild will hold auditions from 6 to 9PM at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre. For complete information on auditions, character descriptions and vocal ranges, please visit <http://www.thetheatreguild.webs.com> or email: TheatreGuild_Bangkok@yahoo.com. All profits from the production will go to the IWC's charities for needy Thai children and women.
- **MARCH 22, TO MARCH 28 - 2010 KING'S CUP ELEPHANT POLO TOURNAMENT IN CHIANG RAI PROVINCE** - This event is renowned for its opening ceremony and displays of Thai culture. Last year the annual tournament saw 12 teams compete with riders from over 15 different countries, with this year's tournament expected to be even bigger. The event takes place on the banks of the Ruak River which separates Thailand from Burma and is located in the Northern Province of Chiang Rai. Swiss luxury watchmaker Audemars Piquet sponsors the famous event, with all proceeds going towards the Thailand National Elephant Institute charity. For more information about the event, visit these websites: http://www.whatsonwhen.com/sisp/index.htm?fx=event&event_id=72074 and <http://www.anantaraelephantpolo.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 hawaii4you@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 hawaii4you@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** - 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** - 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. 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 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.

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. 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. You can also contact Darrel at 086-069-0112 or email - darrel-pcec@inbox.com or John at 089-933-7227 or email - jbfemail-pcec@yahoo.com or Richard at 038-412-197 or email - 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 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).

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** - We have not yet received information on February promotions from Bangkok Hospital Pattaya. For information about BHP, visit their [website](#).
- **PHAYATHAI SRIRACHA HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS** - Several February promotions are being offered by Phayathai Sriracha Hospital. Health Check Up program 3,890 Baht (Regular 8,400) and Special Check Up Program for Couples has 50% discount. Zoom Teeth whitening with light-activated system for 8,500 Baht (regular 9,600). Breast Cancer Check with Mammogram (Mammography) includes free Breast Ultrasound for 1,500 Baht (regular 2,000 Baht). Add bone density check (2 body parts) for 2,900 Baht includes doctor's fee and hospital service charge (regular 4,800). HPV vaccination against cervical cancer - Vaccine package for 2 strains 6,800 Baht; 4 Strains 7,200 Baht - these prices exclude doctor's fee and hospital charge. 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](#).

 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 or newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com.