



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

January 22, 2010 to January 28, 2010

AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING

Sunday
January 24, 2010

Are you comfortable flying? Sometimes a bit worried about the airplane – or the pilots? This week our own Roger Fox will either reinforce or alleviate your concerns with his talk about four of the most fascinating airplane in flight incidents in history. He will talk about why they happened, and the very special skill or just the good luck of the pilots that enabled the passengers to survive. He will accompany his talk with pictures showing the details of each incident. We think you will find these incidents, and Roger's ability to bring the actual situations alive, very revealing.

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 PENDING

The Amari has not as yet set a date for the renovation to start. When it does, it is expected to take about 4 weeks to complete. During renovation, we will be meeting in the Amari's Garden Wing. We will announce the date and temporary meeting location in the Newsletter and on the Website when we receive the information from the Amari.



Chinese New Year
14 February 2010



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**FRIDAY JANUARY 29 WILL BE THE NEXT AMARI WINE EXPERIENCE**

– This monthly event by Amari Orchid Resort is usually attended by many of your fellow Club members and their guests – not only because Club members receive a 15% discount, but because it offers plentiful wine accompanied by numerous tapas (appetizers) that can be enjoyed while listening to some great music and conversing with your fellow Expats. **The location has changed for this month's Wine Experience.** It will be in the Amari's Garden Lounge located in the large open garden area in the center between the hotel buildings. It is a lovely venue and easily reached by going through the Lobby of the Garden Wing. The featured wines will be Cabernet Sauvignon from several wineries. The regular price to the public is 750 Baht net. If you present your Club membership card, you and your guests will pay only 638 Baht per person. Please list yourself and the number people with you on the sign-up sheet so we can give the Amari an estimate of how many members and friends will be attending. If you have any questions, please call Richard Smith at 089-244-9523, 038-412-197 for more information.

- **COMPUTER GROUP WILL ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 1** - The meeting will be at 2pm in the Haad Sai Room on the 6th floor of the Markland. Check the Announcements and Upcoming Events section of the Home Page of the Club's [website](#) to see what's coming up at the February meeting.
- **THE NEXT DRIVER LICENSE ASSISTANCE TRIP WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3** – Hans (or Jon) Stroosnyder volunteers to escort and assist those interested in getting a Thai driving license on the first Wednesday of the month. Hans usually departs at 9am from the Henry J. Bean restaurant. But, it is best to contact him and let him know if you wish to join him. You can contact him at 085-218-1773, or email him at khun.hans@gmail.com. For more information see Driving License Assistance in the *CLUB SERVICES* section where there are links to the Club's website section on how you get a Thai driving license and the documents you will need.
- **GOOSE'S FISH & CHIPS OFFERS 20% DISCOUNT TO PCEC MEMBERS** – At last Sunday's meeting, Brian Hanks, proprietor, announced that PCEC members will receive a 20% discount on showing their membership card. Reports are that it is excellent and very good and reasonably priced; there are currently five fish choices to go with your chips ranging from 195 to 470 Baht. There are also burgers and meat pies on offer. Free delivery is available for orders of at least 165 Baht. They are located on the west side of 2nd Road between Soi 7 and 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.
- **TRADITIONAL JOE LOUIS THAI PUPPET THEATER & RESTAURANT OFFERS A 20% DISCOUNT TO PCEC MEMBERS** – Several members say this restaurant is worth it just for the traditional Thai puppet show (requires 3 people to handle each puppet). It is located at Pattaya City Walk, just south of Royal Garden shopping mall near the entrance from 2nd Road. They are open from 5:30pm to 1:00am with the first of four shows starting around 7pm and the last one ending about 11pm. They offer Thai and international cuisine. Contact number is 038-488-073/5.
- **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, January 22 - The 4 day Cowboy Music Carnival continues at Bali Hai Pier**
- **Saturday, January 23 - Pinocchio Wine Dinner at Dusit2D**
- **Saturday, January 23 - Pinocchio Wine Diner at Dusit2D**
- **Thursday, January 28 - Presentation by Dr. Mario on Human Rights**
- **Friday, January 29 - Thailand Int'l Jazz Conference in Nakhon Pathom**
- **Friday, January 29 - Amari Monthly Wine Experience**

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Master of Ceremonies Les Edmonds after the usual announcements including the availability of free blood pressure checks in the back alcove, called on Gavin Waddell, International Marketing Executive with Phayathai Hospital Sriracha, to tell us a bit about himself, the hospital, and recent renovations there. Gavin is no stranger to the Club as he is a fellow member and has arranged for health professionals with the Hospital to periodically address the Club. Previously, he also gave a great presentation about his current hometown, Sriracha – about a 40 minute drive up Sukhumvit (Highway 3) toward Chonburi.

Gavin with his usual humorous style began by noting that he has now been in Thailand for 10 years. He started out in Bangkok doing some teaching. About 5 years ago, he was a guest speaker on the topic of marketing health tourism at Burapha University in Bang Saen. He was approached by the Executive Director of Phayathai Hospital Sriracha and asked to join their staff. Gavin said he agreed to the one year contract offered and he has been there ever since. He mentioned that the hospital is a 13 story building built some 15 years ago. The lower floors house the various medical centers and reception. Hospital administrative offices are on the 4th floor and the hospital wards are on floors 5 through 12. Gavin told an interesting story about the 13th floor, which used to house male staff that work at the hospital; but the floor was vacant for several years and was used primarily for storage. But, he said it is generally avoided by the Thai staff. It seems an apparent lovelorn male staff member chose to jump from that floor and since then the Thai believe that his ghost haunts the floor. Gavin said as the only farang working with over 1,000 Thai staff, it can be frustrating at times. So, he discovered that he can guarantee a little solitude for himself by spending a little time on the 13th floor.

Gavin said that in the past 18 months the hospital has undergone a complete renovation and upgrading of equipment for its diagnostic center. He mentioned that with age the Hospital had become a bit seedy and a bit dated, thus losing out to more modern private hospitals. Although the Hospital is associated with the Phayathai group of hospitals, each are financially responsible for their own operations. Consequently, the Sriracha hospital needed to find its own funding to renovate and upgrade. However, this was not easy in the present economic climate. But it seems the hospital was land rich and cash poor. He mentioned that Sriracha is often called little

Tokyo because it has a Japanese population of around 4,000 along with about 100 Japanese run businesses. Thus, the Hospital was able to sell some of its adjoining land to Japanese interest for the 400 million Baht they needed. However, this renovation got off to a bumpy start when they paid their contractor an advance of 25 million only to have the contractor stop working shortly after starting. It seems the contractor had a dishonest accounting employee who absconded with the funds. As a result of this setback, the Hospital staff did not receive any bonuses that year.

Overcoming this bit of adversity, the Hospital went on to complete the renovation and upgrade their equipment so they could offer better health care to their patients as well as compete on a more equal footing with other hospitals in the area. Gavin then proceeded to describe the improvements in their diagnostic center. One improvement was the acquisition of a CT 64 Slice machine. Gavin explained that this X-ray computed tomography can take 64 slices per rotation. With the aid of a computer, the two dimensional X-rays can be made into 3 dimensional pictures. The CT 64 is very good for getting a picture of the soft tissues of the body and is especially suited for cardiac diagnosis. This machine cost the Hospital about 40 million Baht. Another improvement was the acquisition of an MRI scanner. This Magnetic Resonance Imaging device is beneficial because it uses no radiation. Gavin explained how the extremely strong magnet is used to obtain images of organs inside the body and is very good for making diagnosis about the brain as well as other parts of the body. The MRI they acquired is one of the latest and best on the market, costing about 44 million Baht. Gavin concluded by describing their Cath Lab and its operation in some detail. He explained that the term Cath Lab is short for Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. Cath Labs are used to detect and treat blocked heart arteries by using a catheter that is inserted into a main artery and moved up the artery to the heart.

After Gavin answered several questions from the audience, Master of Ceremonies Les Edmonds called on Richard Silverberg to tell everyone of his latest Internet find and then on his lovely wife to conduct the Open Forum. Richard mentioned the website <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/walking-street-pattaya>. This site has a webcam with audio capability and is located on Walking Street. Accessing this site, one can see and hear what is going on at that particular location. Although not very interesting during the day as it is mostly passing vehicle traffic, Richard said it can be a bit of fun at night when the street is closed to vehicles to people watch. Judith then conducted the Open Forum, which is always informative and sometimes humorous 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.

- ❖ **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. For Mantra reservations, telephone 038-429-591.

- ❖ **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 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.
- **NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 7 - THE TRANSIT OF EROS EXHIBITION AT LIAM'S GALLERY** - Features the work of Pol Cruz who is originally from the Philippines, but now resides in Australia. He works in a variety of mediums. Liam's Gallery is located on Soi 4 Pratamnak Road. For more information: Telephone: 038-306-172, Email: contact.liamsgallery@gmail.com.
- **NOW THROUGH JANUARY 24, SUNDAY - COWBOY MUSIC CARNIVAL 2010** - This event will be at Bali Hai Pier and is sponsored by the Singh Corporation and the Tourism Authority of Thailand with the support of Pattaya City Hall. There will be many activities including a Miss Cowgirl Contest and a dance contest. For more information on this fun event please call 085 832 0287 or the Pattaya City Call Center on 1337.
- **JANUARY 23, SATURDAY - PINOCCHIO WINE DINNER AT DUSIT2D** - Five course Italian dinner complimented by Italian wines. Entertainment will be the modern play "Pinocchio" episode II directed by Maurizio Mistretta and played by dusitD2 staff. Price is 1,600++ Baht, which includes pre-dinner cocktails, dinner, wines, and show. The dinner starts at 7pm. Pre-dinner cocktails will be at the deep bar and dinner is pool side.

- **JANUARY 28, THURSDAY – PRESENTATION BY DR. MARIO ON HUMAN RIGHTS** - Dr. Mario is a lecturer from Asian University. His talk will be a reflection on some of the conceptual features of rights. The lecture will be from 3pm to 4:30pm at the North Star Library located on Sukhumvit Road between Central and North Roads. A coffee break will be provided.
- **JANUARY 29, FRIDAY TO JANUARY 31, SUNDAY - THAILAND INTERNATIONAL JAZZ CONFERENCE 2010 IN NAKHON PATHOM** - This event is hosted by the Mahidol University in Nakhon Pathom at Mahidol's Salaya campus. The Conference will feature internationally recognized musicians as well as local Thai jazz artists. In addition to the events (competition and workshops) there will be a wide range of exhibits on showcase. A three day Conference pass providing access to all events is 2,000 Baht. To attend only the concerts, a 500 Baht Concert pass will be available. Student and Music Lover Cardholders will receive a 20% discount. For more information contact - all 02-800-2525/30 ext 153/5 or visit <http://www.music.mahidol.ac.th/tijc/>.
- **JANUARY 31, SUNDAY – 2ND ANNUAL PATTAYA INTERNATIONAL CHARITY BED RACE** – This will be the 2nd year for this charity event and will be followed by a Rotary New Year party. The organizers expect about 100 bed racing teams. The race will start in front of the Avenues Shopping Mall turning left into Soi 12, then left into Pattaya Beach Road, then left into Pattaya South Road, and then left again on 2nd Road ending at the Avenues. Participating groups furnish their own vehicle (bed) and costumes. The object is to not only be first to complete the race, but to not lose their “passenger” in the process. There will a whole day of events including a Bed Parade and a Family Fair starting at 12 noon. After the race, the Rotary party will be in front of the Avenues.
- **FEBRUARY 7, SUNDAY TO FEBRUARY 14, SUNDAY - PTT PATTAYA OPEN AT DUSIT THANI** – This year’s PTT Pattaya Open will feature top female tennis players from Asia and other continents. Matches will begin at 3pm each day. Tickets and more information are available from [Thai Ticket Major](#).
- **FEBRUARY 9, TUESDAY – CHARITY VOICE-PIANO RECITAL** – The concert will feature guest artists Professor Pamela Hinchman, soprano, with Emeritus Professor Laurence Davis at the piano. Both artists are from the faculty of the School of Music, Northwestern University, Illinois, USA and will be on a tour performing recitals in Southeast Asia. The first half of the program will feature two colorful arias of Mozart, followed by some intimate songs in German by the creative Hugo Wolf, ending with three atmospheric French songs by Chausson and Poulenc. After intermission, they will perform songs in English by American composers. The recital starts at 7pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Pattaya Marriott Resort and is priced at 490 Baht, which includes a welcome drink at the Lobby Terrace from 6pm. Students with ID pay only 100 Baht. Ticket holders will receive a 50% discount on the dinner buffet at the Marriott Garden Café after the concert. For ticket reservations and further information, call the Pattaya Marriott Hotel at (038) 412-120, Ext. 1485, or send an e-mail to : Naiyaporn@minornet.com.
- **FEBRUARY 11, THURSDAY – STAND UP COMEDY SHOW AT HJB** – This event will begin at 8pm at Henry J. Beans. Admission is 1,200 Baht. There will be a pre-show and half time drinks. The three featured comedians are Pete Johansson, John Maloney, and Stewart Francis. For tickets call 038-075-293/5 or contact the Amari Orchid Hotel. We suggest that if you purchase tickets, you confirm the location as Henry J. Beans (our regular Sunday meeting place) as it is scheduled for renovation in the near future).
- **FEBRUARY 14, SUNDAY TO FEBRUARY 16, TUESDAY – CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT BALI HAI PIER** – The City will be celebrating Chinese New Year with

traditional Chinese art, performances, singing, and other events. For more information call 1337 and press 9 for English.

- **FEBRUARY 18, THURSDAY TO FEBRUARY 21, SUNDAY – HONDA PTT LPGA 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](#).

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** - 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. 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.

- **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 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.
- **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** - We have not yet received information on January promotions from Bangkok Hospital Pattaya. For information about BHP, visit their [website](#).
- **PHAYATHAI SRIRACHA HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS** – Several January promotions are being offered by Phayathai Hospital. Vaccinations: HPV vaccine for cervical cancer is 6,800 Baht (2 strains) or 7,200 Baht (4 strains); IPD (Pneumococcus) for 4,000 Baht (save 500 Baht); HAV for 1,650 Baht (save 350 Baht); HBV for 650 Baht (save 150 Baht); and influenza 2010 strain for 850 Baht (includes doctor and hospital fee). They are offering a health check up program for 3,500 Baht and CT calcium scoring for 1,900 Baht (save 1,000 Baht). For dental, they have root implant and crown starting from 40,000 Baht. For information about Phayathai, contact Gavin Waddell, International Marketing Executive, at 038-770-200/8 Ext: 2426 or 089-750-0293.
- **PHAYATHAI SRIRACHA HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS** - We have not yet received information on January promotions from Phayathai Sriracha 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 [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.