



# 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 28, 2010 to February 4, 2010

## AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING

Sunday  
January 31, 2010

This week we will have Dr. Maria Abalon, Doctor of Optometry, a co-owner and Managing Director of EuroOptic. Her topic will be *Vision Screening for Aging Eyes*. This will include common age related eye disease, screening, and treatment. An added bonus is that EuroOptic staff will be setting up equipment to give free eye examinations. Since it takes about 15 minutes for each examination, there may not be time to take care of everyone. So, EuroOptic will continue to offer a free examination to Club members at their location on 2<sup>nd</sup> Road opposite Royal Garden.

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).

## URGENT NEED FOR BLOOD TYPE AB NEGATIVE CAN YOU HELP?

We received the following message through Ann at Bangkok Hospital Pattaya: *We need your help . I have been advised by a friend who works in PTTAR Company in Rayong that her husband is in urgent need of a blood transfusion. His blood type is AB negative and this is unusual for Thai people. The Sirikit hospital advises this blood group is more common for people from Europe. Can you help by circulating this e-mail to expats group and if any one who can donate some blood to assist this poor person? If you can please contact Khun Nunthiya at her mobile phone number 081-863 2850 or Khun Nida at Phone no. 081-865-5786.*

## PENDING RENOVATION OF THE CLUB'S MEETING PLACE

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.

## 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**

**FRIENDS OF PDA WILL MEET JANUARY 31 AFTER REGULAR MEETING** – David Garmaise would like to meet with all the Friends of PDA group immediately after the regular Sunday meeting to hear from group members that visited Baan Kok Klang Noi earlier this month and to talk about the next steps the group should take.

- **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. As of last Sunday, we had 18 saying they planned to attend. **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.. If you have any questions or wish to add your name to the list, please call Richard Smith at 089-244-9523, 038-412-197 for more information.
- **COMPUTER GROUP WILL MEET ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 1** - The meeting will be at 2pm in the Haad Sai Room on the 6th floor of the Markland. This meeting will include Howard's help with how to keep your computer running free of problems, the best ways to speed it up, and things you can do to extend its life. The swap program has been postponed until later this year due to our Host's busy schedule. He will have information on the new "tablet PC" from Apple, and an in-depth review of the iPhone. As usual we will have coffee and time for you to discuss your problems with Howard. Our last meeting guest, Jerry has gone back to the USA to help his former employer – so Howard is looking for one or more volunteers to help with the meetings. If you are interested, please email him at magichoward@hotmail.com. . There will be a 100 baht charge to cover the cost of the Markland Haad Sai room, etc. A special notice of the meeting will be sent to those on the Computer Group mailing list with more details.
- **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** – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.goosfishandchips@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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

- **THERE MAY BE RISKS WITH CT SCANS** – Because of presentations at the Club meeting promoting CT scans for routine diagnostics, a member suggested that we apprise members of a recent article suggesting that anyone contemplating such tests be aware that the radiation can be significantly higher than a normal X-Ray and may pose a health risk. If you wish to read the article, [click here](#) . After reading the article, we noted that the same journalist wrote another article published the next day that cast some doubt on the study cited in the first article and suggested the benefits can outweigh the risks if the scan is needed to diagnose a specific condition. [Click here](#) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> article. If you are contemplating having a CT scan, you may wish to read the articles and research the matter further so that you can make an informed decision.
- **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](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, January 29 - Thailand Int'l Jazz Conference in Nakhon Pathom**
- **Friday, January 29 - Amari Monthly Wine Experience**
- **Sunday, January 31 - Friends of PDA Group meets at HJB**
- **Sunday, January 31 - 2nd Annual Charity Bed Race**
- **Monday, February 1 - Computer Group meets at Markland**
- **Wednesday, February 3 - Hans will assist those needed Thai driving licenses**
- **Friday, February 5 – Money Expo 2010 starts at PEACH, Royal Cliff**

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

Master of Ceremonies Richard Silverberg after the usual announcements called on fellow member Roger Fox. Roger, a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, said his presentation would be about *Miracles in the Sky*. He said that flying is imminently safe, but when an accident happens, especially with an airliner, they tend to be catastrophic and attract a lot of publicity. For example, last year when an airliner was struck by a flock of birds after taking off from New York's LaGuardia Airport it was billed in the press as the *Miracle on the Hudson*. The Airbus 320 lost both engines and the pilot ditched the airplane in the Hudson River adjacent to Manhattan without a loss of life.

Roger said that there are basically three reasons flying on an airliner today is very safe. First, there are exacting government requirements for the building and testing of new airplanes that must be met before they will be certified as air worthy. After they are placed in service, there are scheduled inspection and maintenance requirements that must be met. These requirements are designed to ensure parts are repaired or replaced before they can fail. Second, there are also rigorous requirements for airline pilots. They must have a periodic flight physical and they must undergo regular check rides with a check pilot observing their every move to ensure they maintain their proficiency. The third reason is that airliners are under constant positive control from the ground. These ground controllers, through the use of radar and other means, monitor the aircraft on a continuous basis.

But, he said, even with all of these precautions, “stuff” happens. This is usually because of natural disaster, pilot error, or mechanical failure. He opined that probably 80 percent of airline accidents could be attributed to pilot error. Although there were several interesting events to draw on, Roger said he selected three events, one in each category, that he thought were extraordinary.

The first he mentioned was related to a natural disaster. A British Airways Boeing 747 was flying from Heathrow to Auckland. On the leg from Kuala Lumpur to Perth, the crew noted an effect on their windscreen similar to St Elmo’s fire. The cockpit and cabin began to fill with smoke. Then one engine flamed out, followed about a minute later by another engine, and then a minute later the remaining two engines. The crew then started a long glide with the hope they might make Jakarta. The pilot gave the following message to the passengers, considered as a masterpiece of understatement, “*Ladies and Gentlemen, this is your Captain speaking. We have a small problem. All four engines have stopped. We are doing our damndest to get it under control. I trust you are not in too much distress.*” As the plane lost altitude, the crew thought they would have to ditch, but they were able to restart one engine that gained some control over altitude. Afterward, they were able to restart the other engines although one failed again before landing. Later it was discovered that when they were at about 36,000 feet, they had flown through volcanic ash; clogging the engines and scouring the windscreen. Roger noted that a group of the passengers from that flight still meet periodically to celebrate their survival.

The second incident involved mechanical failure. This time the aircraft was a DC-10 flying from Denver, Colorado, to Chicago, Illinois. Roger mentioned that modern airliners use hydraulic pressure to work the flight controls. The DC-10 was equipped with two hydraulic backup systems to the main system. He showed a picture of the aircraft and pointed out the number two engine, which was in the center (tail section) on this three engine aircraft. He said that during flight, this engine blew up and a part severed lines from all three hydraulic systems. Thus, the crew lost all flight controls. But, they discovered they had some control by changing the thrust of the two remaining engines; it was poor control at best as they could only make wide circular turns. Roger said that the crew was fortunate to have a third pilot that was “dead heading” and called on him for assistance. He explained how this helped because of the position of the throttles, they were difficult to use from the two pilots seat. So, the extra pilot knelt down behind the console and from that position was able to adjust the throttles. The crew using this convoluted method as Roger showed in a diagram, were able to get the aircraft to the Sioux City airport, but it was coming in with too high a rate of descent and much too fast. A wing hit the ground and the aircraft crashed. But, because the crew had got it over the threshold of the airport, there was help immediately available and 185 of the 296 aboard survived.

The third incident involved pilot error. Roger referred to it as a prequel to the miracle on the Hudson. This incident involved a Boeing 707 jet and a Lockheed Constellation (piston engine) that had a mid-air collision over New York. Roger explained how the two aircraft were actually at different altitudes about 1,000 feet apart. However, he said the Constellation pilot misjudged the altitude of the 707 and proceeded make the wrong maneuver. With the aid of two model aircraft, Roger demonstrated how the two aircraft were positioned and how the wrong maneuver resulted in the midair collision. The 707 with a portion of its wing missing managed to make it to John F. Kennedy airport. However, the Constellation could not make an airport and the pilot opted

to crash land the aircraft in a pasture on the side of a hill. The pilot managed to maneuver the aircraft so that it pancaked into the hill upon landing. Although the aircraft broke into three pieces, most of the passengers survived. Roger noted that the crew survived the crash and assisted the passengers in getting out of the aircraft. But, he said, the pilot went back inside for the last passenger. That was where his and the passenger's bodies were found. Two other passengers died later of their injuries. In conclusion, Roger pointed out that each of these events contribute to the knowledge and training of other pilots so that flying can continue to be safe. He then opened it up for questions and to everyone's surprise, a member of the audience said that he was a passenger on the British Airways flight and confirmed that several of the passenger do in fact meet every five years to celebrate their survival.

Richard Silverberg then updated everyone on upcoming events and then called on Harry "Sig" Sigworth to conduct 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). **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 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**

*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](mailto:contact.liamsgallery@gmail.com).
- **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/tjtc/>.
- **JANUARY 31, SUNDAY – 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PATTAYA INTERNATIONAL CHARITY BED RACE** – This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5, FRIDAY TO FEBRUARY 7, SUNDAY - 2010 MONEY EXPO** at the Pattaya Exhibition and Convention Hall (PEACH), Royal Cliff Beach Resort. This year's event is using the theme *The Road to Wealth*. This event will have 22 banks and other financial institutions participating and affords everyone an opportunity to deal directly with the institutions for deposits, investments, loans, etc. There will also be entertainment throughout the Expo.
- **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](mailto:Naiyaporn@minornet.com).
- **FEBRUARY 9, TUESDAY - CHARITY QUIZ AT OSCARS** - Quiz starts at 9:30pm at Oscars Bar in Boyztown (Pattayaland Soi 3). Entrance fee is 100 Baht per person, which is donated to Thais4Life Charity. Complimentary snacks are served after the quiz.
- **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](#).
- **FEBRUARY 20 & 21, SATURDAY & SUNDAY – PATTAYA PLAYERS PRESENT CAFÉ MURDER** at Le Café Royal on Pattayaland Soi 3. 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](mailto: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](http://www.pattayaplayers.org).

**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](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. 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.

## 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](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** - 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.
- **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](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) or [newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com).