



# 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

March 5, 2010 to March 11, 2010

## AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING

Sunday  
March 7, 2010

Our speaker this week will be Zevan Casarjian. His topic will be about Spiritual Health – The Process of Self Healing. He will be describing the different kinds of health - physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. He will then discuss the spiritual energy fields in traditional and alternative

medicine with insights into human energy fields and spiritual energy sources. He will also cover spiritual values and attitudes as well as spiritual skills and abilities.

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).

## **LAST SUNDAY MEETING AT HJB WILL BE MARCH 21 – TEMPORARY LOCATION STARTING WITH MARCH 28 MEETING WILL BE IN THE AMARI GARDEN WING**

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.



## March 17 St Patrick's Day

### **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****AMARI HOTEL IS FEATURING PRUM WINES FROM THE MOSEL VALLEY AT A WINE TASTING ON SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010 – SPACE IS LIMITED** - The event starts at 6:30pm in the Garden Lounge. The

Mosel area of Germany is known for its fine Riesling wines. The Prum winery has been growing Riesling grapes and bottling several varieties of Riesling wines for over 80 years. The wines presented for tasting will all be wine varieties derived from the Riesling grape – so for those who like a very slightly sweet white wine to those who prefer a very sweet white, frequently with a spritz (slightly bubbly taste) this should be one of the best wine tastings of the year. Specially selected foods – Foie Gras crème brulee, crispy pork belly with coffee dust, dry fruit and lamb biryani, bitter chocolate Brownie with a hint of chili and eight more unusual and fantastic sounding foods have been matched by Chef Jens with each variety of Riesling. The price (no discount) is 990 baht net per person, and the tasting is limited to 30 persons. Please call the Amari Hotel at 038-418-418 for reservations.

- **CAUTION ABOUT TELEPHONE SOLICITATIONS SUGGESTING INVESTING OPPORTUNITIES** – The PCEC Board has received reports that a person representing an Investment Company is making calls to PCEC members suggesting he attended a PCEC meeting, saw them there and would like to meet to discuss off-shore investing. It is possible that this individual has taken telephone numbers from the sign-up lists at the front desk at HJB. If any member receives such a call, please jot down the name of the caller, the name of his company, and his telephone number if he will give it to you. These calls are NOT authorized by the PCEC. Our members email addresses, our mailing lists and telephone numbers are the property of the PCEC and not available to any other organization. We are adamantly opposed to the use of our member's contact information by any outside group. You are free to use any words that may come to mind if you receive a call from this person. If you happen to be drawn into conversation with him, we would appreciate receiving any information about the caller by email to [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) or telephone call to Richard Smith at 038-412-197, or comment at our Sunday meeting.
- **AMERICAN CITIZEN SECTION OF US EMBASSY WILL VISIT PATTAYA ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24** – The outreach visit will be at the Dusit Thani Pattaya (located at the Dolphin Roundabout – intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Road and Pattaya Nua (North) Road). It will be from 10am to 2pm (this is a time change from previous outreach visits). Various consular services will be available – passport application, notarial services and certified copies (includes income affidavits for US citizen retirees in Thailand), answers to social security and other Federal benefits questions. Notarial services are \$30 or 1,020 Baht. Passport applications are \$75 or 2,550 Baht for adults and \$85 or 2,890 Baht for a child. Applications for additional pages can be made, but the passport will have to be picked up in Bangkok as the pages cannot be added in Pattaya. If you have any questions, please email [acsykk@state.gov](mailto:acsykk@state.gov) or call the American Citizen Services Unit at 02-205-4049.
- **SEVERAL FOREIGN EMBASSIES ISSUE WARNINGS FOR TRAVEL IN BANGKOK** - There has been some explosive devices detonated or found in Bangkok after the Thai Court's ruling on the former Prime Minister's asset forfeiture. It is possible that more devices may be planted leading up to a planned major political rally in Bangkok on March 14. Foreigners should exercise caution and vigilance (especially during the hours of darkness) when walking through populated urban areas. Immediately report to law enforcement or security personnel any unattended packages or bags in public areas. Foreigners should also avoid any large crowds of demonstrators as there is always the possibility of violence at such gatherings.
- **WINE DINNERS** – Several of our members enjoy partaking of the many wine dinners offered by some of Pattaya's finer restaurants. Such dinners offered by restaurants offering a discount to PCEC members will

be mentioned in this *ANNOUNCEMENTS* section. Others will be listed in the *WHAT'S HAPPENING* section of the Newsletter.

- **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.
- **COMPUTER GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN MARCH** – The group is still looking for someone to take over as temporary host while Howard Posner is away for a few months. 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 will not be a Computer Group meeting in March.
- **PATTAYA PRIDE SEEKS DONATED ITEMS FOR A CHARITY BAZAAR** – This is a first effort for a bazaar by Pattaya Pride in support of their charities, such as Heart 2000. They are looking for books, clothing, bedding, household items, pictures, ornaments, crockery, cutlery, furniture, plants, original DVDs/CDs (no counterfeit items) or any other good condition items that can be sold to raise money for charity. The Bazaar is scheduled for August 1, 2010 and will include games, street entertainment and other events. For more information contact one of the following: Panorama, Funny Boys, Boyz Boyz Boyz, Ambience, Copa, Amor Restaurant, Oscars or Le Café Royale. Call John on 086-144-9365 to arrange delivery/collection of larger items. More information on Pattaya Pride can be found at: [www.pattayapride.com](http://www.pattayapride.com).
- **HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS** - Any current promotions being offered by Bangkok Hospital Pattaya and Phayathai Hospital Sriracha are shown in the *HEALTH ISSUES* Section of the Newsletter. Bangkok Hospital Pattaya has announced a special promotion on teeth whitening – two persons for 35,000 Baht. You will get a complimentary voucher for 2 nights at Centara Grand Mirage Beach Resort Pattaya (valued at 18,000 plus). Purchase teeth whitening by March 31, 2010 and use by April 30, 2010. Voucher for Resort good from April 1 to October 31, 2010. For more information and conditions, contact Dental Dept. direct at 038-909-292 and ask about their "Buddy" Brite Smile promotion
- **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.*

- **Saturday, March 6 - DusitD2 Rock N' Wine Dinner**
- **Saturday, March 6 - Amari Wine Tasting featuring Prum Riesling Wines (limited space)**
- **Tuesday, March 9 - Charity Quiz at Oscars**
- **Wednesday & Thursday - March 10 & 11 - Auditions in Bangkok for Musical *The Fantasticks***
- **Friday & Saturday - Bangkok Community Theatre presents *Pinocchio* (at the British Club in Bangkok)**

**LAST WEEK'S  
MEETING**

MC, Les Edmunds opened the meeting by welcoming any first time attendees and reminding the audience that the PCEC does not endorse any products or services that may feature within the presentations. This Sunday, member David Garmaise introduced this week's presentation; a report of the visit to Ban Kok Klang Noi, a village in the vicinity of Buriram, by the Pattaya Friends of the Population and Community Development Association (PDA). Stuart Saunders continued with a detailed account of the visit, which took place from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> January.

The PDA was founded in 1974 as a non-governmental organization with the initial aim to complement the efforts of the Royal Thai Government in promoting family planning in Thailand, especially in areas where knowledge and access to services were scarce. Utilizing a participatory, community-based approach, PDA recruited and trained residents of villages and urban neighborhoods to provide information on family planning, including the supervised, non-medical distribution of oral contraceptives.

Following the success of the family planning project, PDA has aggressively approached the problem of rural poverty by empowering the poor through the Village Development Partnership, which establishes a community-owned Village Development Bank for the purpose of micro-credit. Pat Koester, originally a Peace Corp volunteer, detailed how the Village Banks operated. A Village Development Bank is managed by the Village Development Bank Committee that is made up of half-male/half-female members. Before being able to borrow from the Bank, villagers must buy a minimum number of shares, as well as open a savings account at the bank. A savings account pays 6% interest which is much higher than any other major bank.

Pat related that the villagers were involved from the start with clearly stated financial goals, providing small business loans, normally of 10,000 baht. Under normal circumstances a leader emerges who can train others. After a period of two years the PDA is normally able to depart, leaving the villagers to operate the village bank without further assistance. The Village Development Bank projects have proven to be extremely popular as high rates of repayment and investment are available. Pat commented that from a total of 400 such projects none had failed. The key was to ensure that the villages were totally involved, and owned the project.

Philip Morris reported on the success of a local PDA irrigation scheme which allowed water to be pumped from a nearby river into storage tanks. Other activities included the setting up of toy libraries for local children; the children earn 'credits' by picking up trash or other community activities, which allows them to borrow a toy for a period of time. These toy libraries are managed by the children, as the philosophy is to give the children responsibility early, thereby fostering a 'new breed' of citizens and politicians.

The regular Open Forum was conducted by Sig Sigworth. Sig introduced, in his own inimitable style, one of his pet subjects, that of the high level of salt content of various foods. As always the Open Forum provided an opportunity for questions about living in Thailand with an emphasis on Pattaya to be asked and again proved to be the usual lively and entertaining session.

**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.

- ❖ **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) – Joe Lous Puppet Theater & Thai Restaurant - 20%; Goose's Fish & Chips - 20% - 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.
- **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 6, SATURDAY – FUND RAISING EVENT FOR TAKE CARE!! CHARITY AT THE CORNER BAR** – The event will begin at 9pm. The Corner Bar is located in Sunee Plaza. For information about the Take Care!! Charity, visit their website at [www.takecarepattaya.com](http://www.takecarepattaya.com).

- **MARCH 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.
- **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.theheatregiuld.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 13 & 14, FRIDAY & SATURDAY – BANGKOK COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS PINOCCHIO** – This event will be performed in English at 1:30pm and 4:00pm each day at The British Club on Silom Soi 18 in Bangkok. It is an interactive children's play for the young and the young at heart. Although designed for children 4 to 9 years of age, parents will also enjoy this unique type of live theatre-in-the-round. Come early to make some simple crafts with volunteers from the Bangkok Nursing Hospital, which the children can use in the show (craft is already included in ticket price). Seating is limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are one price at B200 each and will be available to the general public from February 22nd at the Lobby reception desk in the BNH Hospital on 9/1 Convent Road. Tickets may be purchased from 8am to 7pm, Monday to Friday and from 8am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. British Club Members may also sign for tickets at the club. For more information, please visit the BCT website at [www.bct-th.org](http://www.bct-th.org) or email [pinocchio@sala.net](mailto:pinocchio@sala.net) or call 089-887-7945.
- **MARCH 19, FRIDAY TO MARCH 21, SUNDAY – PATTAYA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL** – The festival will have two TAT sponsored main stages – one at Bali Hai Pier featuring international artists and the other at Pattaya Beach Soi 4 showcasing well known domestic and Indi artists. Two other stages organized by the City of Pattaya will be located at the intersection of Beach and Central Roads and in front of Central Festival Pattaya Beach shopping center. Other stages are planned, but locations are yet to be determined.
- **MARCH 20 & 21, FRIDAY & SATURDAY – BANGKOK COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS PINOCCHIO** - Repeat of the March 13 & 14 presentation.
- **MARCH 21, SUNDAY – YAMAHA YOUNG TALENT CONTEST 2010** – The competition will be held at the Tiffany Theatre commencing at 9am and ending at 4pm. The winner will receive the Princess Somsawalee award – a total of 700,000 Baht in cash prizes will also be awarded.
- **MARCH 22, TO MARCH 28, SUNDAY TO SUNDAY - 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](http://www.whatsonwhen.com/sisp/index.htm?fx=event&event_id=72074) and <http://www.anantaraelephantpolo.com/>.
- **MARCH 28, SUNDAY – MISS PATTAYA PRIDE 2010 COMPETITION** – This Pattaya Pride Charity event will be at Boyz, Boyz, Boyz on Pattayaland Soi 3 (Boyztown). The competition starts at 10:30pm.

The entrance fee is 250 Baht, which includes one free drink and a 100 Baht donation to the Pattaya Pride Charities.

## 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 hawaiibob4you@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 hawaiibob4you@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. The Volunteer Group has provided conversation classes at the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Mike Shopping Mall, the Nova Platinum Hotel, the Nova Suites, and the Chevrolet Agency. We will resume classes in April 2010 after Songkran. If you are interested in volunteering to help in the classes, please list your name on the sign-up sheet, or contact Richard Smith at 089-244-9523, 038-412-197, or by email to [rick2@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:rick2@loxinfo.co.th).

## CLUB SERVICES

*This section lists various services offered by the Club or by members of 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 email info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com.
- **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 10% off on dental treatment and 5% on prosthodontic dentistry (replacement of missing teeth and related mouth or jaw structures by bridges, dentures, or other artificial devices). You may still be asked on occasion to show a currently valid PCEC card to verify you are still entitled to the discounts.

- **PHAYATHAI HOSPITAL SRIRACHA 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](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.
- **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** - BHP advises they have the following promotions: Valid now through June 30, 2010, pay 0% interest with 4 monthly installments for cosmetic surgery (inquire as to whether foreigners may receive this promotion). There is a special promotion for Lasik treatment for 39,900 Baht. Until June 30, 2010, Club members and Thais can get a total knee

replacement for 194,000 Baht (Club members must present valid membership card when registering). For more information, visit their [website](#) or call 1719.

- **PHAYATHAI SRIRACHA HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS** – Gavin Waddell advises that Phayathai Hospital Sriracha has the following promotions on offer for the month of March: Mature Male Health Check Up for 3,500 Baht includes Chest x-ray- Physical Check up- Vital signs- Visual test- Optamology test- Electro cardiogram- Ultrasound- Body Mass Index- Urine test- CT Calcium Scoring- Complete Blood Count- Blood Sugar- Cholesterol (triglyceride, HDL, LDL)- Kidney Function Test- Liver Function Test – a good value considering the CT Calcium scoring by itself is a 2,000 Baht item. You also receive a free meal, doctor's consultation & result book. 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).