



# 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 19, 2010 to March 25, 2010**

## AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING

Sunday  
March 21, 2010

Expect crowds and congestion on Beach Road during this, the last day for the Pattaya International Music Festival. As in the past for such events, the Club plans to have someone at the Dolphin Roundabout to coordinate with the Police to allow our members to pass through.

This Sunday, we will have Dr. Chutidet Homcharoen, MD, an Orthopedic Surgeon from Phayathai Hospital Sriracha visiting with us. Dr. Chutidet is a specialist in hand and wrist surgery. He has had many years of experience and will be telling us about the causes and treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome; a painful condition of the hand and wrist. Most people affected include those who use computers, assembly line workers, musicians and mechanics.

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).*

**THIS IS THE LAST SUNDAY MEETING AT HJB - STARTING MARCH 28 THE MEETINGS WILL BE IN RIM SUAN ROOM IN THE AMARI GARDEN WING**

**During the Amari's renovation of HJB, we will be meeting in the Amari's Garden Wing (enter parking area from Pattaya North Road) until further notice. When you come in the main entrance, Reception is to your right and the Rim Suan Room will be on the far wall to your left.**

### DO YOU HAVE A RECOMMENDATION FOR A CLUB SPEAKER?

If you know of someone that you think has an interesting topic for the Club, please contact Lawrie McCloughlin, Chairman of the Speaker Committee- email [lawriemcl@hotmail.com](mailto:lawriemcl@hotmail.com) or telephone 085-063-5875.

### ALSO LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OF INTEREST 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**

**CHANGES TO THE CLUB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS** - At a Special Board meeting on March 13th, the Board accepted the resignation of John Fishback and expressed its thanks to John for the many services rendered to the Club. John had returned to the USA for what was initially thought would be of short duration. However, he informed the Board that circumstances had changed and he did not expect to return soon. In accordance with the Club's By-Laws, the Board appointed Judith Edmonds to assume the vacancy and welcomed her participation in helping to administer the Club's operations.

- **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 [acsbkk@state.gov](mailto:acsbkk@state.gov) or call the American Citizen Services Unit at 02-205-4049.
- **TRAVEL IN BANGKOK** – Embassies continue to warn their citizens about traveling to or around Bangkok as the “red shirts” continue their demonstrations. Most Embassies say their citizens 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.
- **PATTAYA MAIL TV IS LOOKING FOR PCEC MEMBERS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON TV FOR THEIR NEW “ASK THE EXPERTS” TV SERIES** – Paul Strachan, head of Pattaya Mail TV, presented the concept for the new PNTV show at last Sunday's PCEC meeting. He is looking for people who are very knowledgeable in various areas – how do you get a one year visa and how do you renew it; changing a visa on arrival to a one year visa; how to open a bank account and what is required; how to rent a car, what to look for: what insurance is necessary if you rent or buy a car: how long can you drive using your home country's license and so on. You can already be an “Expert” or you can after some review of the subject, become an “expert”, and appear on TV. It sounds like it could be fun. You could follow the process through and find out how it all gets on TV at the TV studio – and watch yourself on TV! It is also good exposure for the Pattaya City Expats Club. Paul is thinking of doing the TV taping during the week if possible, maybe at Henry J. Beans, somewhere else with reasonably good lighting. If you are interested please contact Richard Smith at 038-412197, 089-244-9523 or by email at [rick2mail@gmail.com](mailto:rick2mail@gmail.com).
- **HENRY J. BEANS CLOSING DOWN PARTY WILL BE MONDAY, MARCH 22 – ALL ALCOHOLIC DRINKS HAVE TO BE GONE BY THE END OF THE EVENING** – whatever time that turns out to be – the notice says “late”. The party starts at 6:30 pm. The price is 1,000++ Baht per person (PCEC 15% discount applies). Food is excluded, but will be available at extra charge from the menu. It includes any and all alcoholic drinks (beer, wine, & spirits) in the bar. Order what you want, but when that particular beverage is gone, there will be no more of that item. The party ends when all the alcoholic beverages (except mixers) are gone. This will be your last opportunity to see Henry J. Beans as we have seen it for 7 years. It will re-open with a new interior and a new name on or about April 15, 2010. Tickets to the Closing Down Party will be available at this Sunday's meeting (with a 15% discount).

- **AMARI WINE EXPERIENCE, FRIDAY, MARCH 26, WILL FEATURE SHIRAZ WINES AND THEIR COMPANION FOODS FROM FIVE COUNTRIES** – There will be 4 red Shiraz's, 2 rose Shiraz's and a Chardonnay (for white wine lovers). The companion foods will be Empanadas (Argentina), Problano Chile soup (Chile), Petie couq au vin rouge, nouille (France), Rice and Offal Balls (South Africa), and Pavlova (Australia). The Amari chef has picked these foods from the countries which produced the Shiraz wines as the best food from each country to complement the Shiraz being provided. This is a wonderful concept – it will be very interesting and delicious to test the chef's choices. This gustatory extravagance begins at 6:30pm and is supposed to end at 8:30pm at the Amari Garden Lounge (go through the Garden Wing to the Garden Lounge), or at the Amari Tower Ice Bar - if it rains. The cost is 750 baht per person (638 baht for those who bring their PCEC card). Please list yourself and any friends who will be with you on the sign-up sheet so we can give the Amari an estimate of how many people to prepare for. Sign up, however, is NOT required. If you have a large group (10 or more) please contact Richard Smith at 038-412197, 089-244-9523 or by email at rick2mail@gmail.com so we can notify the Amari.
- **APRIL 2, FRIDAY - AMOR RESTUARANT CELEBRATES 16 YEARS WITH A SPECIAL DINNER** - Richard from Amor restaurant will be offering a special dinner at 8pm to celebrate their Sweet Sixteen anniversary. The 3 course dinner will be 160+ Baht per person (Club discount will not apply on this night and there will be a one drink minimum). Reservations are strongly recommended because there will probably be many takers considering Richard's excellent cuisine at this great price. For more information or reservations, telephone 038-710-680 or 081-945-5396; email richard@amorrestaurant.com; or visit [www.amorrestaurant.com](http://www.amorrestaurant.com). Also, don't forget it is mango season again at Amor and they have a wonderful selection of delicious Main Course and Dessert Dishes as well as some wonderful drinks, all with sweet mangos. Go by and give them a try and get your 10% Club discount.
- **NATHAN RUSSO IS AGAIN COLLECTING MEDICINES FOR THE MAE TAO CLINIC** – Details on this worthy endeavor are shown in the *MEMBER SUPPORTED CHARITIES* section.
- **HAWAII BOB'S CLASSIFIED EXPAT ADS ARE NOW ON THE WEBSITE** – Hawaii Bob has undertaken a service to his fellow expats by creating and disseminating a list of want ads – buy, sell, give away. To facilitate his efforts, we are posting the ads on the Club's website – on the Home Page click on "details" in the *Announcements and Upcoming Events* section. Or click [here](#) to go direct.
- **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.
- **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.

- **REMINDER ABOUT THE BUFFET** - Please support our continued stay at Henry J. Beans, our home for several 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, if you find anything unsatisfactory, and we will take it up with the HJB staff. Email us at [info@pattacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattacityexpatsclub.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 to Sunday, March 19 to 21 - Pattaya International Music Festival**
- **Saturday & Sunday, March 20 & 21 - Bangkok Community Theatre presents Pinocchio (in Bangkok)**
- **Sunday, March 21 - Yamaha Young Talent Contest 2010 at Tiffany Theater**
- **Sunday, March 21 - Manhattan's Wine Dinner**
- **Monday thru Sunday, March 22 thru March 28 - King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament (Chiang Rai)**
- **Monday, March 22 - Henry J. Bean "Closing Down Party"**
- **Wednesday, March 24 - American Citizen Service (US Embassy) visit to Pattaya**
- **Friday, March 26 - Amari Wine Experience featuring Shiraz wines**
- **Saturday & Sunday, March 27 & 28 - Planet Football opening party**

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

MC "Hawaii" Bob Sutterfield introduced Steve Rouse, who has 25 years experience within the motion picture industry. Steve was originally a child actor before progressing to the point where he is now directing films and writing screenplays. Steve was an assistant director on such well known films such as Superman 3 and 4, Empire of the Sun and Alien 2. Steve described the complexities of the film making process. He commented that directing was the most difficult part of the process as the director was required to sign off on all aspects of the production.

Of considerable interest to the audience, he showed a preview trailer of the feature film, *Reclaim Pirates Curse*. Steve was the Executive Producer and it was filmed in Thailand. Steve explained that the Thai film industry meets the escapist demands of Thai cinema goes inasmuch as the films are more likely to portray horror, ghosts and other grisly scenes rather than the relating of an historical story. Steve provided examples of storyboards used for the film, a schedule for production and budgetary statements for both above and below the line costs. A large number of questions were put to Steve as the interest in this subject was high.

Next to speak was the more familiar figure of Pattaya Mail TV's own Paul Strachan. Referring to the previous speaker he said that he was going from 'Tinsel Town to Fun Town', Paul announced that production work had started on a new project portion of the PMTV show which will be called 'Ask the Experts'. This would enable answers to just about any aspect of living in Pattaya and Thailand in general to be put to those people who actually have the knowledge to respond. An example of this might be regarding the availability of education visas. This would be asked by a member of the public then Paul and his team would find an expert to give the correct response.

'Ask the Experts' is intended to give information, in a fun way and with a huge range of topics to be tackled. The show will also strengthen ties within the business community, who will be called on to demonstrate their expertise. Further, members of the PCEC would also hopefully be willing to contribute their time to answer some of the Frequently Asked Questions that need to be addressed such as "How do I get a Thai Drivers License", all of which can help facilitate a better and perhaps safer quality of life here in the Land of Smiles. Paul showed an example and preview of the proposed new program and due to the range of topics and filming, it is hoped that this new show will be coming to our screens within the next few weeks.

The regular Open Forum was then underway led by Les Edmunds. Prior to the session Les announced that 6 kilograms of can ring pulls had been collected which can be used to manufacture artificial limbs. He commented that 1 kilogram was required to make one artificial limb. The future intention was to provide a unit which would provide a mobile service, providing help where it is needed. As always the Open Forum provided an opportunity for questions about living in Thailand with an emphasis on Pattaya to be asked. As always it 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** is being renovated starting March 23 and is expected to reopen using the name **The Tavern**. **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](mailto: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](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.
- **MARCH 19, FRIDAY TO MARCH 21, SUNDAY – PATTAYA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL** – The festival will have seven stages – The 7 music stages will be situated along the Pattaya Beach Road, as follows: 1) the empty space in front of Soi 4; 2) in front of Hard Rock Pattaya Hotel; 3) Central Pattaya Road intersection, beside the beach; 4) in front of the Central Festival Department store; 5) in front of Royal Garden Plaza Department Store; 6) on the old pier beside the tourism public relations centre; and 7) Bali Hai Pier. Pattaya City will close the road along the beach from 4pm until 2am for the 3 days of the festival in order to accommodate the many vehicles visiting the festival
- **MARCH 20 & 21, SATURDAY & SUNDAY – 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. There will be a special performance at 11am on March 20 for those that had tickets for shows on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> that could not attend. Also, they may have additional tickets for that performance. 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). Tickets are one price at Baht 200 each and are available to the general public at the Lobby reception desk in the Bangkok Nursing 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 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 21, SUNDAY – MANHATTAN'S WINE DINNER** – The dinner will feature a four course dinner with a different Australian wine to accompany each course. The dinner is scheduled to start at 7:30pm. The price is 1,800+ Baht. Call 038-259-790 for reservations and information or visit [www.manhattans-pattaya.com](http://www.manhattans-pattaya.com).
- **MARCH 22, TO MARCH 28, MONDAY 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 27 & 28, SATURDAY & SUNDAY – PLANET FOOTBALL OPENING PARTY** – Planet Football is a new venue in town, located on Siam Country Club Road about 5km from Sukhumvit Road. The party will be from 3pm each day and will feature 6 team men's football tournament, 4 exhibition kids' matches, a freestyle show, a crossbar challenge, a celebrity penalty shootout, buffet food and lots more. The European management want to showcase their new facility which features an astro-turf football pitch, bar and spectators' gallery fitted with big screen TVs and Playstation consoles. They plan to show all major football events including FIFA World Cup and the upcoming English FA Cup Final. For more details, call 082-219-4101.
- **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.
- **APRIL 1, THURSDAY – OPEN AUDITIONS FOR PATTAYA PLAYER'S PRODUCTION OF LOOT** – *Loot* is a "black" comedy melodrama. There are parts for both male and females. Auditions will take place at 6pm. The performance will be on June 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>; venue to be announced. All interested parties, both actors and back stage, are invited to attend the audition. For details and directions to the audition site, email [pattayaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:pattayaplayers@gmail.com).
- **APRIL 8 TO 11, THURSDAY TO SUNDAY – FASHION FESTIVAL ON BEACH ROAD** – The Thai Ministry of Commerce and TAT will be promoting fashion along Beach Road from Central Festival Shopping Center down to Walking Street. Various design contests, hairstylist competitions, leather and ornament design contests, fashion shows and concerts are planned for the festival, with all of the major Thai designers and superstars set to attend the event. The City again hopes to get into the Guinness Book of Records by staging the longest fashion showcase.
- **APRIL 22, THURSDAY – PUNCHLINE COMEDY CLUB PRESENTS STAND UP COMEDY** – The show will be at the Amari Orchid's The Tavern (formerly Henry J. Beans Bar & Grill) starting at 9pm – adults only. Tickets are 1,200 Baht or 1,000 Baht if acquired prior to April 1. The comedians are Carl Donnelly, Mike Gunn, and Mark Billingham. For more information, call 038 075 293/6 or visit their website <http://www.punchlinecomedy.com/pattaya/>.

## 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. 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.*

- **NEW UNOPENED MEDICINES FOR THE MAE TAO CLINIC** – Member Nathan Russo is again asking for donations of new unopened medicines needed by the Mae Tao immigrant clinic in Mae Sot, Thailand on the boarder with Myanmar. This clinic gets no financial support from the government of Thailand and treats over 50,000 people annually. 100% of the medicines used at the hospital are either purchased with donated funds or donated by individuals within Thailand. The medicines donated must be new and never opened and from the list of medicines on the clinic's website (the paramedics at the hospital are trained to work only with medicines specified by the clinic that is why it is so important just to donate only medicines shown on the clinic's website). Go to [www.maetaoclinic.org](http://www.maetaoclinic.org) then click "donate" then "click here" under donate medicine. Nathan travels to Sukhothai every year for the Loy Krathong festival and at that time delivers all the donated medicine to the clinic located about 100 kilometers to the west. So, all donations should be completed by the November 7, 2010 meeting. A signed receipt from the clinic listing the donated medicine will be provided when Nathan returns to Pattaya after Loy Krathong. You can bring your contribution to any of the Sunday meetings. "Hawaii" Bob Sutterfield will collect the medicines during the time Nathan is away in America.
- **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. BHP has also 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.
- **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. Also, on offer is a Male Heart & Cancer Screening Program or Female Heart & Cancer Screening Program for 3,500 Baht until March 31. The program includes a physical examination, ophthalmological examination, EKG, whole abdomen ultrasound, PSA and other blood work, etc. 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).