



PATTAYA CITY EXPATS CLUB NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED IN MARCH 2001

PATTAYA'S FRIENDLIEST EXPAT CLUB MEETING EVERY SUNDAY FOR SEVEN 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

November 13, 2009 to November 19, 2009



AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING (Sunday, November 15, 2009)

Gavin Waddell will be bringing about 60 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine. The nurse from Phayathai Hospital Sriracha should be set up in the back alcove by 10am to administer the vaccination. The price is 750 Baht - correct change will be appreciated. Our guest speaker, Dr. Phrachan Ussawutmangkul, MD, whose specialty is Family Medicine at Phayathai Hospital Sriracha, will be telling us everything we need to know about this and other vaccinations that one should have if living in Thailand.

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PCEC WEBSITE ONLINE WITH A TEMPORARY HOME PAGE - We have uploaded a temporary home page for the website at www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com. It shows the next scheduled speaker and has a link to the latest Club Newsletter as well as a map showing the meeting location. The buttons on the left side of the home page are not currently functioning, but will give you some idea of the new format and content. Darrel and the webmaster have now completed and tested 4 of the sections. They will continue to work daily on the remaining sections. If there are no further glitches, we anticipate the new format can be uploaded by November 21 or 22.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY - The mailing list previously used has been converted, but we found the conversion did not differentiate between the current and old addresses. The converted list contained duplicate and outdated email addresses. We have pared the list down so far from 3,000 to 2,000 addresses. **If you are receiving multiple copies of the Newsletter** at one or more email addresses and want that to be changed, please email newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com so that we can make the necessary corrections. **Also, we have started sending the Newsletter as an attachment in pdf format**, which allows us to jazz it up a bit with graphics. You will need to have Acrobat Reader loaded on your computer to view the attachment - the latest version of Acrobat Reader can be obtained for free from <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. However, since some do not like to open email attachments, we are including a link in the email to the PCEC website where it is also available. If you have problems with doing either, please email Darrel at Newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com.

METEOR SHOWER WILL BE VISIBLE LATE NIGHT ON TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER - The shower will be visible with the naked eye and will start just past midnight (on 18 November). If the sky is clear, there will be more than 100 meteors streaming across the sky per the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand.

AMERICAN CONSULAR VISIT TO PATTAYA ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 - The Consular Section of the American Embassy in Bangkok has announced there will be a consular outreach visit to Pattaya from 8am to Noon at the Dusit Thani Pattaya located at the Dolphin Roundabout where North Road, Second Road, and Naklua Road intersect. American retirees needing an income verification letter for Thai Immigration can get one during the visit.

WRITERS CORNER GROUP MEETING RESCHEDULED TO FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - David Dallimer reports that the previously scheduled meeting had to be postponed when they found their planned meeting site had been demolished. They have now rescheduled the first meeting to be at The Shagwell Mansions in the Café. It will start with lunchtime chat and book reviews followed at 1pm with the regular Activities - See *CLUB ACTIVITIES* section for more information.

BANGKOK TRIP FOR TWO DAYS AND ONE NIGHT TRIP WILL BE ON NOVEMBER 24 & 25 - The Pattaya TAT is offering the Pattaya City Expats Club a special 50% discount on an action-packed two day - one night trip to Bangkok for 1,825 Baht (1,250 children -- price to public is 3,650 Baht). We are requesting a deposit of 500 Baht per person to reserve your place on the trip. The list of places you will visit includes the Bangkok City Shrine, the Emerald Buddha Temple, the Royal Grand Palace, lunch on a Chao Phraya river Cruise Boat, the Vimarmmek at the Dusit Royal Palace, with the biggest teak throne in the world, The Queen's Exhibition Hall, dinner at Siam Niramitr Theatre with a Thai Traditional Light & Sound Show, followed by a cruise around the Village restaurant, overnight at Manorah Hotel or a hotel of the same class - and too much more the next day to include here. The trip departs from the Markland early on Tuesday, November 24 - please be there by 5:30am to check-in. The return time to Pattaya will be about 5:00pm, Wednesday, November 25. When you sign up we will send you a copy of the complete itinerary by email. There are also copies of the itinerary with the sign-up sheet. There is space for 40 or more people. For more details contact Richard Smith at 038-412-197, 089-244-9523, or by email at rick2mail@gmail.com, or Khun Sermsakdi at 081-307-5614.

PCEC DISCOUNT IS AVAILABLE FOR THE AMOR'S SPECIAL AMERICAN THANKSGIVING DINNER ON NOVEMBER 26 - The Amor Restaurant is one of the PCEC's featured restaurants. We have been advised that the PCEC's 10% discount will be available for the special Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 26. The price of the dinner is 950+ Baht per person before the discount - be sure to bring your membership card. There will be Turkey and all the trimmings served family style. Two sittings, one at 7pm and the other at 9:30pm. Visit www.amorrestaurant.com for the complete menu. For reservations, email richard@amorrestaurant.com or telephone 038-710-680 or 081-945-5396.

NEXT MONTH'S MEMBERS' DINNER WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 - Guests are also welcome to this monthly activity. Members and guests will enjoy the dinner planned for the Markland's very attractive, newly redecorated 27th floor restaurant. The view of Pattaya Bay and Pattaya City from the 27th floor is very special - a sight worth remembering. And the chef is preparing a special International and Thai buffet for us for only 250 Baht, and there will be a discount of 10% on all beverages. There is free parking in the Markland's 10 floor parking garage, and you can ride up to the restaurant in the glass elevator at the front of the lobby. The food is quite good, the view is wonderful, and beverages are reasonably priced - so expect a really good evening. The seating will be at long tables - the buffet will be available from 7pm for those early arrivers. Please list yourself on the sign-up sheet so we can give the chef an estimate as to how many will be attending.

HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS - Any current promotions being offered by Bangkok Hospital Pattaya and Phayathai Hospital Sriracha are shown in the *HEALTH ISSUES* Section of the Newsletter.

REMINDER ABOUT THE BUFFET - Please support our continued stay at Henry J. Beans, our home for almost five years now, with its pleasant laid back and informal atmosphere - which the Amari Hotel allows us to use without charge. To continue our use of HJB's facilities at current prices, we are asking members and guests to purchase a buffet ticket or, if you do not want a full breakfast, at least the toast and coffee or tea. Please let us know, at the meeting, by telephone call, or by email if you find anything unsatisfactory, and we will take it up with the HJB staff. Email us at info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com with comments or complaints.



LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER - If you are aware of an upcoming event or have an announcement about the activities of one of our special interest groups be sure it gets in the Newsletter by sending an email to Darrel Vaught at newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com or to Darrel-pcec@inbox.com.



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.*

Thursday - Sunday, November 12-15 - Eastern Cattle Show and Cowboy & Indian Festival in Banglamung
 Saturday, November 14 - PILC Annual Gala Ball
 Tuesday, November 17 - Meteor Shower just after midnight (on 18th)
 Thursday, November 19 - American Consular Visit to Pattaya
 Friday, November 20 - Writers Corner Group meets at Shagwell Mansions
 Sunday, November 15 - Pattaya Cross Bay Swim
 Tuesday, November 17 - Biggles Big Band of Amsterdam plays in Pattaya
 Tuesday, November 17 - Luncheon Cruise for Breast Cancer Awareness in Bangkok
 Thursday, November 19 - Restaurant Poseidon Monthly Wine Dinner
 Thursday, November 19 - Start of USA Fair 2009 in Bangkok (ends Sunday)
 Friday, November 20 - Pinocchio Wine Dinner at DusitD2
 Saturday, November 21 - Grand Charity Magic Show featuring our own Howard Posener
 Saturday, November 21 - Pattaya Longtail and International Sailing Race



LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Richard Silverberg was the Master of Ceremonies (Emcee) for the meeting. After welcoming everyone to the meeting and the usual morning announcements, he introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Andrew Steel, Managing Director of Equitech (Thailand) Ltd. He is also a Director of Asia Forestry Management Ltd., and the founder of The Plant-A-Tree-Today (PATT) Foundation. Andy described himself as a social entrepreneur; one who recognizes a social problem and uses their entrepreneurial skills to manage a social change. He then presented a 30 second video clip about global warming. The video noted that the world must change within the next 30 years or it will be too late. Andy pointed out that this window is closing as the video was made about two years ago.

He state that many companies are only interested in their profits rather than in what is good for the environment and the future of our children. Because of his concern, he founded PATT in 2005 with a mission to react to problems caused by the massive and increasing levels of deforestation worldwide, to raise awareness of environmental issues and the role forests play, to take action against climate change, to educate children on

these issues and to plant more trees. Andy said that it takes three trees to replace the carbon emissions of one aircraft making one flight from Thailand to the USA. It takes four trees to replace the annual carbon emissions of an automobile. He also pointed out that if you travel to the Chaing Mai area, on the Thai side you will see mostly flat land whereas on the Lao side, you will see lush forests. The deforestation of the land is a critical problem. He noted that PATT is working in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and other areas of Southeast and South Asia to plant trees.

He then mentioned Asia Forestry Management as a company that has learned to make profit from investing in the environment. This company is primarily involved in extracting a product from Agarwood. This wood is formed from the *Aquilaria* tree that is native to Southeast Asia. When the tree is infected with a particular fungus, it becomes very dark in color. This Agarwood is very aromatic and the wood can be distilled into an oil that is used in perfumes highly prized in the Mideast and Asia. Andy said that it is a highly valuable oil; one liter sells for about 35,000 US dollars. Byproducts are incense sticks and shampoo. He noted that they have most of their *Aquilaria* plantations in Trat province. They currently have about 10,000 trees under management. In some cases, they have bought the land for the tree plantations, but in others they lease the land from the farmer providing them with an income. The major problem for the small grower is that only a few trees become infected, so only a small amount of oil can be distilled. This is sold through middlemen until it reaches its ultimate market. Asia Forestry has found a way to inoculate the trees so that they develop a much higher yield. Thus, the farmer gets a better return and Asia Forestry can attract investors offering excellent returns; without harming the environment since they replace every tree they harvest.

Currently, he says their 60 stills and one factory produce about 40 liters of oil each month. Further, they have arranged to sell direct to the maker of the perfumes, thus avoiding the middlemen. They plan to expand to nearby countries. Andy explained that the change in soil make up produces different fragrances. Right now, they are primarily involved in Agarwood, but hope to expand into other areas such as biofuels. They haven't done so yet because the Agarwood oil is such a lucrative market. He concluded by noting that Asia Forestry has succeeded in meeting its social responsibility while making a profit. He invited Club members to visit their operations. Andy then answered several questions from the audience about tree growth, inoculation of mature trees, and the time from inoculation to harvesting.

Emcee Richard then updated everyone on coming events and called on Judith Edmonds to conduct the always informative, interesting, and sometime humorous Open Forum where questions are asked and answered about living in Thailand and Pattaya in particular.



DINING OUT IN PATTAYA AND ELSEWHERE - *We have received several requests to publish special promotions being sponsored by restaurants OR recommended by our members. We will include these recommendations in the Newsletter, space permitting. If you have a recommendation, please email info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com. The listing of these establishments in the Newsletter, with the exception of our Featured Restaurants, does not represent the PCEC's endorsement of the business or their products. The PCEC also makes no guarantee of satisfaction.*

Amari Orchard Resort & Tower Restaurants & Lounges - The Amari Orchard Resort has several restaurants and bars available, all offering Club members a 15% discount. They also have various monthly and other promotions (www.Amari.com/specialpromotions/foodbeverage.asp, 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**, during November, will be featuring truffle creations. 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%, Edelweiss Swiss Restaurant - 15%, Amor Restaurant - 10% (www.amorrestaurant.com), Aquarius - 10% (Jomtien Complex; 038-251-895), Pizza Pizza -10% (Avenue Shopping Center - 038-723929), Tequila Reef Cantina - 10% (038-414035; www.tequilareef.com), Big Horn Steakhouse - 10% (Central Shopping Arcade, 2nd Road; 038-720289; www.bighornsteakhouse.com), Green Tree Restaurant - 10% (Beach Road at Soi1; **038-414353), Balcony Restaurant - 10% (Pattaya Nua (North) Road; 038-411429), Aloha Restaurant - 10% (2nd Road; 038-723175), Cafe New Orleans- 10% (038-710805; www.cafeneworleans.net), Aungkam Northern Thai (Issan) Restaurant - 10% (3rd Road; **038-370386**); and Lebanese Restaurant on 4th Floor of Central Festival Pattaya Beach - 10% (Ocean end). If you find any information about our Featured Restaurants is incorrect, please contact us info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com or Darrel-pcec@inbox.com.**



WHAT'S HAPPENING - *A listing of upcoming events in Pattaya, Bangkok, and elsewhere for this and coming months, which are of interest to Pattaya's Expat community. 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. Please help us learn about forthcoming events or activities by emailing the details to us at info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com Inclusion of commercially sponsored events does not mean that the PCEC endorses the companies or their products. Any event that is sponsored by the PCEC will be clearly identified as such.*

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 at <http://www.pattayabridge.com/>

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 www.bondipattaya.com. 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 DECEMBER 8, TUESDAY - LIAM'S GALLERY ANTIQUES & DECORATIVE ART EXHIBITION - The exhibition will be showing authentic antiques, Chinese wood carvings, 18th and 19th Century engravings, woodcuts, and watercolors. For more information and location visit their website at www.LiamsGallery.com.

NOVEMBER 12 TO 15, THURSDAY TO SUNDAY - 6TH EASTERN CATTLE SHOW AND COWBOY INDIAN FESTIVAL - This event will take place at the Football field in front of the Banglamung District Offices from 9am to 5pm. In addition to the cattle show, special events will include a Cowboys and Indians Show, Rodeo, Bull Riding, Horse Racing, and lots of other activities. Further information can be obtained (in Thai) at www.skpattayaranch.com or www.thaicattle.org.

NOVEMBER 14, SATURDAY - PILC ANNUAL GALA BALL - The Pattaya International Ladies Club's Gala Ball theme is *Live and Let's Dine, Bond Style*. It will be held at Amari Orchid's Aranda Ballroom. Tickets are 2,900 Baht and include Martini or sparkling wine reception, a 5 course dinner, free flow beer and wine,

charity auction, and entertainment. For tickets, contact Kavita Lamba at salsakavita@hotmail.com, telephone 087-618-5117 or Chantal Oldaker at coldaker@gmail.com, telephone 087-824-5268.

NOVEMBER 15, SUNDAY - PATTAYA CROSS BAY SWIM sponsored by the Rotary Club Jomtien-Pattaya will start for the short swim is 11 and the long swim is 12 noon. Short swim starts at Hard Rock Hotel Beach road, Long swim at Sea Rescue, Bali Hai. The money raised is used to support the Rotary Club Jomtien-Pattaya's Children Fund. For more information, contact Graham Hunt-Crowley at 081-340-8852 or email -- swim@rotary-jomtien-pattaya.org.

NOVEMBER 17, TUESDAY - BIGGLES BIG BAND OF AMSTERDAM will be performing at the Ravindra Resort and Spa in Pattaya. This 18 piece band will be playing music from the great swing era. The bands' vocalist crooner will be singing many of Frank Sinatra's songs. The show starts from 6pm to 11pm. Tickets are 300 Baht net, which includes one standard drink. For reservation and information call 038-235-777 extension 2006.

NOVEMBER 17, TUESDAY - 2ND ANNUAL LUNCHEON CRUISE in support of the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. Departure time is 12 noon from Taksin Pier, Bangkok. ticket price is 1,000 Baht - proceeds to The Queen Sirikit Centre for Breast Cancer. Wear Pink. The event will begin at a river hotel, the Shangri-la, for a pre-luncheon drink of pink prosecca or [soft drinks] and end for coffee. The guests will then board their boats which will be decorated in pink. For more information, call 086-013-7279.

NOVEMBER 19, THURSDAY - RESTAURANT POSEIDON MONTHLY WINE DINNER - The dinner is hosted by Kim Schnyder (Cafe Pascal). The price is 1,500 Baht net/person all inclusive. The booking deadline is Wednesday, November 18. For further details and bookings, call Kim 081-983-4182 or 038-303-300.

NOVEMBER 19-22, THURSDAY - SUNDAY - USA FAIR 2009 will be at the Royal Paragon Hall, Siam Paragon, in Bangkok. This event is sponsored by the American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand and the US Embassy in Thailand. This is an American consumer fair offering a wide range of American products and services blending four main zones - Lifestyle USA, Travel USA, Education USA, and Taste USA. This is the fourth year for this event.

NOVEMBER 20, FRIDAY - PINOCCHIO WINE DINNER AT DUSITD2 - The evening will include a five course Italian Wine Dinner featuring an interactive art theater play of the tale "Pinocchio" directed by Maurizio Mistretta. The wines will be from the Piedmont region of Italy. The dinner commences at 7pm and the price is 1,500++ Baht per person. For more information and booking call 038-769-900 or visit www.dusit.com/d2pa.

NOVEMBER 21, SATURDAY - GRAND CHARITY MAGIC SHOW WITH WINE BUFFET will be at the Amari Resort and Tower (Garden Wing). This event is being presented by the Bangkok Cosmopolitan Lions Club Jomtien Beach. It starts with a reception at 7pm (sparkling wine & canapes) followed by a sumptuous Amari buffet with wine. The Magic Show will be by world famous Magician Howard Posener (www.magichoward.com) doing his first performance in Thailand. All proceeds will go to Croston House Children's Home in Lamphun (www.crostonhousechildrenshomethailand.org). Ticket prices are Single - 2,750 Baht, Double 5,000 Baht, Table of 8 - 20,000 Baht. Tickets are available at AA Insurance Brokers next to Big C South. Dress code is Smart Casual. There are only 100 tickets available.

NOVEMBER 21, SATURDAY TO NOVEMBER 23, MONDAY - 9TH PATTAYA LONGTAIL AND INTERNATIONAL SAILING RACE at Mabprachan Reservoir. This event is sponsored by Chonburi Province and the Thailand Rowing and Canoeing Association.

NOVEMBER 27 & 28, FRIDAY & SATURDAY - PATTAYA PLAYERS PRESENT AND EVENING OF CHRISTMAS ONE-ACTS - The three one act plays will be at Lake Mabprachan Resort in an outdoor amphitheater. The plays are *Rollin in Dough in Mistletoe*, *An Implausaible Claus*, and *A World Without Men*. There will be a performance each evening starting at 6pm. Tickets are priced at 700 Baht for adults and 600 Baht for children (under the age of 12) that includes an "all you can eat buffet" dinner and the shows. All seating is general admission. In case of severe weather, Sunday, November 29th will be used as a rain date. Tickets may be purchased by contacting any board member directly or by emailing pattayaplayers@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 2, WEDNESDAY - PGF STREET PARTY in Boyztown to support the Pattaya Gay Festival charities. Gates open at 8pm and entertainment starts at 9:30pm and shows at 10pm. Tickets are 300 Baht (includes one drink and 150 Baht donated to PGF for charity). Most drinks will be 150 Baht with a portion of the proceeds for food and beverages also being donated to charity.

DECEMBER 10 to 13, TUESDAY to FRIDAY - PATTAYA INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA 2009 - The event features over 40 balloons (all shapes and sizes and usually attracts an audience of 200,000) will be held at Thammasat University, Pattaya. The Fiesta is one of only a few '21Shaped' balloon events in Asia, offering a colorful showcase of hot air balloons from all over the world. The Fiesta comprises an overabundance of events providing spectators with a fun packed long weekend of entertainment. At the Balloon Fiesta there are no viewing stands - people walk the field and are part of the action. For more information and a schedule of events, visit <http://www.pibf.info/>.

DECEMBER 12, SATURDAY - BANGKOK HOSPITAL PATAYA XMAS BAZAAR - The bazaar will be held in the lobby of the new building (Building E) from 9am till 3pm. Various organizations will have tables set up with the proceeds from sales going to charity.



CLUB ACTIVITIES - *The online version has information on what is going on in your PCEC Interest Groups. 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 Wednesday 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 - 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 for more information 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 new 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 October 24, 2008 Newsletter: www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com/News-file-article-sid-1247.html. The members of this group reached their fund raising goal and have entered into a memorandum of understanding with a village in the Buriram area. A trip for the Group to visit the village is in the final planning stages. If interested in participating, contact Stuart Saunders at this Sunday's meeting or you can email him at Stuart21@mac.com.

INVESTMENT GROUP - Meets PERIODICALLY in the Conference/Common Room downstairs at the Markland Hotel from 1:00 to 3:00pm. This group meets to discuss the current state of the stock market. Meetings are scheduled as economic events and the thoughts of the host develop. Harry (Sig) Sigworth is your host, assisted by Cliff Hagerman. You are welcome to join any of the meetings of this group - a vast knowledge of the market is not needed. If you have any interest in investing or making money (or not losing money) in stocks, mutual funds, day trading, etc. these meetings are for you and are excellent. If you have any helpful suggestions for speakers, or feel you have something you would like to share with the group, contact Sig at 086-157-3739, or by email at artnut51@hotmail.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 will soon be shown on the newly redesigned PCEC's website www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com in the information on Vehicles in the Living in Thailand section. An **International Driving Permit (IDP) can be obtained from USA and UK by mail**. Obtaining a Thai driving license is much easier (no written or driving test) if you have an IDP from your home country. For those with USA driving license, visit www.aaa.com/vacation/idpf.html to

obtain an application and instructions on how to obtain the IDP from AAA by mail (the only organization authorized by US Government to issue the IDP). Similar information is available for those with a UK driving license at www.theaa.com/getaway/idp/motidp002.html.

VISA ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE -If you need or want some 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@pattayacityexpatsclub.com. Also, visit the Club's website www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com in the near future. It will have an up to date and comprehensive section about Thai Immigration and Visa requirements.

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

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 http://tramigo.e-costech.com/Tramigo_Thailand/Welcome.html.

PCEC MEMBERS GET A 10% DISCOUNT FROM YOU STINKY DOG! - You Stinky Dog! (www.youstinkydog.com) 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 web site or call 089 - 832 - 4181 (Jiab) or 089 - 207 - 6582 (Tom) or Email : Jiab@youstinkydog.com.

PCEC MEMBERS RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT ON MR. MOO'S PORK PRODUCTS - Mr. Moo! Co., Ltd. sells pork products from their own pig farm - sausages, bacon, and meat pies. Their retail office is located in the side soi to the north of Big C on Sukhumvit (close to AA Insurance). They are open 9am to 6pm Monday thru Friday, 9am to 4pm on Saturday, and 11am to 4pm on Sunday. Show your membership card to get the discount.

UNDERWATER WORLD OFFERS MEMBERS A DISCOUNT -- A representative of Underwater World told the Club that members will be charged the Thai admission price, not the Farang price. Further, upon producing your membership card, the cardholder will receive a 20% discount - off the Thai admission price. At

a recent meeting, a member said he went to Underwater World and did receive the discount - albeit a bit of a delay while the staff went to the back office to confirm the discount.

THE BIGGEST MINI GOLF IN ASIA OFFERS PCEC MEMBERS A 20% DISCOUNT - This new mini golf has three 18 hole courses available for your enjoyment. It is located on Sukhumvit Road - going south toward Sattahip, it is on the left hand side just past the Floating Market and opposite the Elephant Camp. Regular price is adults 150 Baht and Children under twelve 100 Baht; but, show your membership card and get 20% off that price. For more information, telephone 089-882-15/7 (English & French) or 083-602-4655 (Thai).



MEMBER SUPPORTED CHARITIES – *The club encourages its members to be active in supporting charitable organizations. This section assists their efforts by providing information on some of these charitable activities.*

MEDICINES NEEDED - Nathan Russo, a member of PCEC for several years is making preparation for his annual visit to the Mae Tao Clinic, <http://www.maetaoclinic.org/> in Mae Sot, Thailand. Each year Nathan brings a couple of suitcases of medicines to the clinic. Nathan has recently returned to Thailand, but will not be at all the meetings. He collects the medicines in USA and Thailand. He asks that if you have any medicines, please give them to Hawaii Bob. If you provide your email address, he will send you pictures when he delivers the medicines. Certain medicines like Artesunate, for malaria, can only be purchased in Thailand. Here is a link to a TV News clip about the clinic that recently appeared on the Today Show in USA <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/#30577978> . The Mae Tao Clinic website also has a list of medicines that are needed by the hospital or you can contact Nathan at ncrusso1@gmail.com and he will send you the medicine list file. In either case let him know if you have medicines for the clinic and he will pick them up from your home or collect them from you at a Sunday meeting. He is presently out of the country and will return in late September.

SAVE THAT DRINK CAN 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.



INFORMATION FOR EXPATS IN THAILAND (THAI IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS OR EMBASSY ANNOUNCEMENTS) - *This section gives recently reported changes in Thai Immigration rules or procedures that impact on Expats or visitors as well as other visa or Embassy related information that comes to our attention. We would appreciate receiving any information from members or others on their experience with any changes in the Pattaya Immigration Office procedures by email to info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com or rick2@loxinfo.co.th.*

Pattaya Immigration takes on new duties and changes website address - The Immigration Office on Jomtien Soi 5 has now been designated the Chonburi Provincial Immigration Office and will assume oversight of the Immigration Offices in Sriracha and Koh Si Chang. They have also changed their website to:

<http://chonburiimmigration.com/> - This new website is in Thai. Another website location: <http://sites.google.com/a/chonburi-immigration.com/sites/system/app/pages/meta/domainWelcome> may become an English language site, but as of yet it does not have any content.



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 - Promotions until November 15 include screenings for cancer from 3,300 Baht, for heart disease from 3,900 Baht, and from stroke 2,700 Baht. Contact Bangkok Hospital Pattaya for details. BHP is also offering an OPD (Out-Patient Department) card for 500 Baht for one year. The card will get you a 10% discount on medications, medical supplies, lab examination, X-Ray examination, and physical therapy. It excludes any special medications, supplies, lab tests or equipment. It also provides discounts on dental fees for Scaling, Operative dentistry and Tooth extraction, but excludes dental supplies and dental packages. The card should be presented prior to treatment; it cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts/promotions, and is valid only at BHP. You can get it at the Chivawattana counter in Building E.


PHAYATHAI SRIRACHA HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS - Promotions offered in November are: (1) Healthy male special check up program for 4,490 Baht (regularly 9,000 Baht) covering 24 items and you can select 2 of the following tests (a 1,000 Baht value): Audio abnormality screening test, Prostate cancer test, Colon cancer test, Liver cancer test, or Hemoglobin A-1-c; (2) Stroke risk screening program 1 (physical examination, chest X-ray, EKG, CBC, FBS, Lipid profile, BUN Creatinine, and Carotid Doppler Ultrasound) for 4,590 Baht (regularly 6,480 Baht) or program 2 which includes the program 1 items plus a MRA Carotid screening for 11,000 Baht (regularly 18,930); (3) MRA Carotid screening only for 8,900 Baht (regularly 14,000); and (4) Other screening tests: Breast cancer screening with Mammogram and breast ultrasound for 1,500 Baht (regularly 2,000), Bone density screening (hip and spine area) for 1,900 Baht (regularly 2,800), Cervical spine or spine check with MRI for 7,500 Baht (regularly 9,500), Colon cancer screening with 64 slice CT Scan for 7,000 Baht (regularly 9,000), and CT Calcium scoring for 1,900 Baht (regularly 2,900). Items 2, 3 and 4 includes doctor's fee and hospital service charges, but does not include any cost of contrast media if needed or consultation with specialists. 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* provides laboratory tests (no doctor's consultation) The laboratory is on at 247/59 Moo 10, 3rd Road (South Pattaya). Directions are if you are proceeding from South Road (Pattaya Tai) toward Bali Hai, it will be on the right shortly after making the turn toward the overpass. He says their sign is hard to see, so look for *Laundry Express* sign and you will be very close.

LIVING WILL" REQUEST FORM -- More information and blank copies of the form will soon be uploaded to the PCEC website at www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com.

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 will be uploaded soon to the PCEC Website at www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com.

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.

 **PICTURES OF PAST PCEC EVENTS** – - Are available at <http://picasaweb.google.com/rick2mail> and include pictures of 2007, 2008, and 2009 club activities - lots of pictures of the successful setting of a new Guinness World Record for 2,047 people doing water exercises together in Pattaya Bay, a few of the Mass and Funeral for Bill Burbridge, our Songkran Celebration at Henry J. Bean's, lots of our marchers at the Chonburi Songkran parade, pictures from recent Members' Dinners, sightseeing tours, and even some of our meetings. The pictures may be viewed, downloaded, or forwarded to your friends or family. or you may send them the website address so they can view the pictures themselves. You can also view prior year photo albums on the Webshots website at <http://community.Webshots.com/user/rick2d1>.

 **WE ASK FOR YOUR COMMENTS ON THE NEWSLETTER** 

Your thoughts, suggestions, questions and criticisms can help us produce a better Newsletter for you. Please email your comments to us at info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com or newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com.