



**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 27, 2009 to December 3, 2009**

 **AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING (Sunday, November 29, 2009)**

Our speaker this week will be three times past Club Chairman Drew Noyes. Drew will be telling us how to get a Thai Permanent Resident Visa - the benefits, costs, and requirements. Drew say you may be surprised at how easy it can be. Drew is a well known businessman in Pattaya and is the Managing Director of PAPP Legal & Visa Services. He is very knowledgeable on many aspects of living in Thailand that impact on foreigners and has spoken to the Club on numerous occasions on various subjects of interest.

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).*



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NO DVD LENDING OR BOOK EXCHANGE ON SUNDAY - NO FRUGAL FREDDY GET TOGETHER ON MONDAY** - Hawaii Bob informs us that he and Rita will be traveling this Sunday and Monday.

**BANGKOK 2 DAY TRIP WAS IMMENSLEY SUCCESSFUL** – Even for those who had been on Bangkok Tours several times before – the TAT trip took us to interesting and beautiful places we had never been, and might never have seen. The trip was so successful that the same group wants to go to Ayutthaya by boat – so we are working on it. We are also asking TAT if it would be possible to do the same Bangkok trip again – at the same price. When we have more information it will be posted in the newsletter and presented at a Sunday meeting.

**AMARI WINE EXPERIENCE FOR NOVEMBER WILL BE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27** - This month the "Wine Experience" will again be held in the Amari Tower's Ice Bar (entry level on the Pattaya side of the Tower, or one floor up if you are entering from the swimming pool and garden area). It will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm and will feature carefully selected varieties of South African wines and a parade of delicious Tapas – with music from their Combo, and the lovely atmosphere of the Ice Bar. This is an opportunity to indulge in the fine wines of South Africa with other PCEC members and friends – all are welcome!. The price is 750 baht per person, but with our PCEC 15% discount, members pay only 638 Baht plus service charge (please remember to bring your card). If you are bringing a large group please call 038-418-418 to make reservations

for your group. If you have questions about the location or want further information, please call Richard Smith at 038-412-197 or 089-244-9523.

**NEXT MONTH'S MEMBERS' DINNER WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2** - 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 this Sunday so we can give the chef an estimate as to how many will be attending. For more information please contact Richard Smith at 089-244-9523, 038-412197 or by email at rick2mail@gmail.com.

**SAILING CRUISE TO KO CHANG PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 15 - 18** - The Blue Water Sailing Group is planning this four day sailing adventure for those that are interested. Cost is \$50 US per day. Contact Nathan Russo if you are interested at Ncrusso1@gmail.com or telephone him at 085-275-6724.

**PCEC WEBSITE STATUS** - We are now online with the new website content. A few pages have some glitches, which are being worked on and some others are still under construction. Please visit the [website](#) and browse around. Expats living in Thailand will find some useful information in the Living in Thailand page. Select the Vehicles section for information on getting a Thai driving license. Time to renew your retirement visa? Go to the Visa & Immigration page and select the Remaining in the Kingdom section for the latest requirements. The home page shows the next scheduled speaker as well as the latest announcements and upcoming Club events information. Select Newsletter page and read the latest Club Newsletter (older Newsletters will be loaded at later date). If you see any incorrect information, broken links, or want to suggest something to be included on the web page, contact us at info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com.

**NEWSLETTER DELIVERY** - If you are receiving more than one copy of the Newsletter at the same or different email addresses or you are not receiving the Newsletter, please email with an explanation of the circumstances to Newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com . We are now doing the Newsletter in Portable Document Format (PDF) and attaching it to an email for distribution as well as uploading it to the PCEC website. You need Acrobat Reader from Adobe to read this document. If you do not have Adobe Reader, please visit the Adobe website to download a free copy from [here](#) . .

**HOSPITAL PROMOTIONS** - Any current promotions being offered by Bangkok Hospital Pattaya and Phayathai Hospital Sriracha are shown in the *HEALTH ISSUES* Section of the Newsletter. Bangkok Hospital Pattaya is now offering their annual discount prices on their check up packages. You must purchase the package by December 31, 2009; but, you have until March 31, 2010 to visit the Wellness Center and get the check up.

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



## THIS WEEK'S UPCOMING EVENTS

*The following events coming up this week are highlighted here, but are more fully described in the Announcements, What's Happening, or Dining out sections of the Newsletter.*

Friday, November 27 - Amari Wine Experience in the Ice Bar

Friday & Saturday, November 27 & 28 - Pattaya Players Present an Evening of Christmas One-Acts

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, November 27 - 29 -Bang Saen Thailand Speed Festival

Sunday, November 29 - Charity Quiz Night at Bondi Beach Bar

Sunday, November 29 - PGF Mr. Pattaya Pride Competition

Wednesday, December 2 - Driving License Trip with Assistance From Hans

Wednesday, December 2 - Members' Dinner at Markland's New Restaurant with a View

Saturday, December 5 - Pattaya Fun Run



## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Master of Ceremonies (Emcee) Roger Fox welcomed everyone to the meeting. After the usual announcements, he introduced our guest speaker, Ron Weaver, better known by his nickname Q'on. He is the Managing Director of Alexia Solutions, LLC. He has recently opened a radio controlled model car business in Pattaya.

Q'on started by giving his background. He is 34 years old and has lived in Thailand for almost 7 years. He said like many of us, it was the beauty of Thailand that attracted him here, but after being here a while he needed something more to do with his life. So, he began looking for something that not only interested him but that could one day be a profitable alternative to his current profession of internet design and development. He said when he was 15 years old, he worked as a dishwasher and saved over \$400 US to buy his first radio controlled model, a Kyosho Ultima. Although radio controlled cars were his love, he couldn't afford such a hobby at the time, so he took a long break until he was 31 and living in Thailand. He noted that in January 2009 he was introduced to the Kyosho dNaNo radio controlled car and when he saw it, he tried it and couldn't resist buying 3 of them - one for himself, one for his wife Joom, and the third for his son. It was at that moment, he said, that the seed was planted for his new endeavor.

He took the cars home and ran it on the floor and was severely disappointed. When run on the floor it collected dust like a Hoover vacuum and spun around like a bumper car at high speed. He said he found that Pattaya R.C Powerboat had an RCP/Kyosho track for mini radio controlled cars. He said they took note of the surface and set out to find a similar material so they could build their own home circuit. After some effort with several versions, they came up with a workable and fun surface to run their cars. After enjoying the home track so much, their initial thoughts were to build and sell their home circuit tracks; but a discussion with the distributor resulted in their selling the model. Q'on said he then developed the concept of NanoTrax with green as its color and a logo to set them apart from other brands. He opened a website in late January and then started looking for a location for their new business. He found a property on Thepprasit Road with 4 floors of empty space that were as he said, perfect for building the playroom of his dreams.

They began construction in late February and the eventual design and concept would require an investment of over 4 million Baht to construct and supply his shop. He said he brought in a close friend as a co-investor. By the end of May 2009, construction was finished and they had acquired enough inventory to open the shop and held the grand opening celebration on May 30. He said that it is the first indoor mini-radio controlled racing shop in Thailand and quite likely, the only one in the world outside of Japan, the birthplace of dNaNo.

He then said that he drew on his previous experience and developed a website geared toward communicating with people rather than trying to sell them something. Q'on pointed out that NanoTrax is primarily a place for adults but children often come to the shop interested in playing with their toys. He said that fathers and sons have visited his shop and discovered a new activity that they can share. He believes that this kind of hobby should be a family activity and he developed the shop with that in mind by providing alternative entertainment for all their visitors. They have been open now for 6 months and so far the feedback he has received has been one hundred percent positive.

In response to several questions, Ron noted that the shop is located on Thepprasit Road between Soi 7 and 9. His website is [www.nanotrax.com](http://www.nanotrax.com) or [www.nanotrax.net](http://www.nanotrax.net). His shop is open from 1pm to 10pm and they do serve food and beverages. There are two tracks (circuits) for racing the cars. One is on the main floor and the other is next floor up where you can sit down while controlling your car. They use a radio control system that will accommodate 40 cars at one time. There are over 30 different models available; each a replica of the real car with similar driving characteristics. Further, performance can vary among the same model depending on how it is equipped and set up. Q'on said that the most popular models are the Porsche 911GT and Ferrari. Their hourly track fee is 80 Baht. It is 200 Baht to rent a car. They also sell the models with costs ranging up to 5,000 Baht depending on the model and how it is equipped. During the question and answer period, several members of the audience noted they had already visited the shop and it was a fun place to visit.

Emcee Roger then updated everyone on coming events and called on John Fishback 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](mailto: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.*

**Henry J. Bean's Bar & Grill's 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner on December 12** at 7pm onwards. Tickets are 950 Baht. Call 038-418-418 for more information.

**New little bakery just opened** in Soi Chaiyapoon about 100 meters from 3<sup>rd</sup> Road. David Meador says they bake European type breads and rolls in various shapes and colors and some are very dense. His favorite so far is a sort of flat bread that is great to dip in olive oil with some balsamic vinegar and rosemary. Although they have only a small sign saying "Best Bakery," they have a large "Now Open" banner, which makes them easy to find.

**Amari Orchard Resort & Tower Restaurants & Lounges** - The Amari Orchard Resort has several restaurants and bars available, all offering Club members a 15% discount. Visit [here](#) for various monthly and

other promotion information or call the Amari at 038-418-418). **Orchid Terrace & Garden Lounge** has an Italian Buffet every Friday from 6pm to 10:30pm for 490 Baht net per person - wine buffet & limoncello also available. **The Essence restaurant** offers a regular menu of western, Thai, Japanese, Indian, and Chinese specialties. Every Saturday from 6:30pm to 10:30pm, Amari has seafood BBQ by the pool for 750++ per person. The new Ocean Tower has a 24 hour restaurant with a view of the Resorts beautiful gardens, and with the new Horizon Club on the top floor, offers a new level of personalized service and audio-visual technology. **Henry J. Bean's, our weekly meeting place**, has a ladies night on Mondays; ladies can buy 1 drink and get one free. Tuesdays and Thursdays is for beer lovers - from 5pm to 1am, buy 1 draft beer and get 1 free. Every Sunday, kids eat for free before 7:30pm when ordering from the kids menu (must be under 10 years of age). In December, **Mantra** will be featuring popular gourmet cuisine from their fabulous monthly promotions. For Mantra reservations, telephone 038-429-591.

**Don't forget the PCEC Featured Restaurants offering discounts to members (Remember to offer your card before the bill is presented to ensure you receive the discount) - Mike's Mexican Restaurant -15% - 038-251365; Edelweiss Swiss Restaurant - 15% - 038-251-326 or 081-844-6037; Amor Restaurant - 10%, Aquarius - 10% (Jomtien Complex) 038-251-895; Pizza Pizza -10% (Avenue Shopping Center) - 038-723929, Tequila Reef Cantina - 10% (038-414035; Big Horn Steakhouse - 10% (Central Shopping Arcade, 2nd Road; 038-720289; Green Tree Restaurant - 10%; Balcony Restaurant - 10% (Pattaya Nua (North) Road) 038-411429; Aloha Restaurant - 10% (2nd Road) 038-723175; Cafe New Orleans- 10%; Aungkam Northern Thai (Issan) Restaurant - 10% (3rd Road) 038-370386; and Palace Lebanese Restaurant - 10% (4th Floor of Central Festival Pattaya Beach - Ocean end) 038-043-220. If you find any information about our Featured Restaurants is incorrect, please contact us at [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) or [Darrel-pcec@inbox.com](mailto:Darrel-pcec@inbox.com).**



### **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

*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 let us know if you learn about forthcoming events or activities. 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](#).

**LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH - QUIZ NIGHT TO BENEFIT TAKE CARE CHARITY** at Bondi Beach Bar & Guest House, Dongtan Beach. The quizzing starts at 9pm. For more information visit their [website](#). Bondi also has a *Thais4Life Book Stall* which is open daily, with books for 80 Baht, all proceeds go to the *Thais4Life* charities. You can also drop off any unwanted book donations.

**NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 8, TUESDAY - LIAM'S GALLERY ANTIQUES & DECORATIVE ART EXHIBITION** - The exhibition will be showing authentic antiques, Chinese wood carvings, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century engravings, woodcuts, and watercolors. For more information and location visit their [website](#).

**NOW to DECEMBER 10, THURSDAY - EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS BY SUDRAK UTAYOPHAS** at Liam's Gallery. Visit their [website](#) to see samples from the exhibition.

**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 Implausible 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](mailto:pattayaplayers@gmail.com).

**NOVEMBER 27 to 29, FRIDAY to SUNDAY - BANG SAEN THAILAND SPEED FESTIVAL 2009**- This event will take place at Laem Thaen, Bang Saen Beach. The roads will be closed from 7am to 5pm each day starting November 25 for practices and the races themselves. The 3.7km racing route is located in the Saen Suk area of Bang Saen. There will also be a fair selling motor sport related products, some fun games for children, and displays of cars by different automobile clubs. On the evening of November 27, there will be a firework display at the Laem Thaen Beach.

**NOVEMBER 29, SUNDAY - PGF MR. PATTAYA PRIDE COMPETITION** - This event is to raise money for Pattaya Gay Festival supported charities. Tickets are 250 Baht with 100 Baht being donated to charity (includes one drink). It will take place at Boyz, Boyz, Boyz in Pattayaland Soi 3.

**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 5, SATURDAY - PATTAYA FUN RUN IN HONOR OF HM THE KING'S BIRTHDAY** - Pattaya City Hall is sponsoring a 5 km race to start and finish in front of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Regional Office on Pratamnuak Hill. For more information and for registration details for this fun run, please call the Pattaya City Call Center 1337.

**COMPUTER GROUP WILL MEET ON MONDAY, DECEMBER. 7** - The meeting will be at 2pm in the Haad Sai Room on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Markland. Magical Howard Posner will put on his computer hat and lead us through the programs and perils of computers. We do wish to stress that these meetings are for anyone with an interest of any kind in computers as well as for the very experienced. The next meeting will include a warning for you – to make sure your computer virus programs are working, and that you check frequently that they are updated. He will have recommendations on the best free virus programs, an update on the many new and upcoming browsers as well as comments on the continuing parade of new mobile phones (he just bought a new one). Gerry will be with him as well with updates on last month's meeting, and new programs. Please note that Ilium software has agreed to support the computer club and has donated approximately 5,000 Baht worth of software, which will be used for prizes during the next few meetings of the Group. They are also offering the Club a discount of approximately 15% on any of their best selling software. (Go to their web page and enter the code DC2XMAGIC when purchasing to receive the discount.) Howard recommends and uses two of their software packages - *eWallet* to protect you from identity theft - store your passwords, credit cards, PINs, bank account info and more without having to worry about forgetting them or having them stolen. The second is *ListPro* for shopping lists, CD and DVD libraries, reference info, custom to-do lists: *ListPro* does it all. Check them both out at their [website](#). We will have a coffee and cake break after the first hour or so of the meeting. Please list yourself on the sign-up sheet – we will send you a special reminder with the latest information for the meeting. If you have any questions for Howard you may email him at [magichoward@gmail.com](mailto:magichoward@gmail.com). To get on the Meeting Notice list, email [Rick2mail@gmail.com](mailto:Rick2mail@gmail.com).

**DECEMBER 8, TUESDAY - CHARITY QUIZ AT OSCARS** - Oscars is located on Pattayaland Soi 3 (Boyztown). Entry fee is 100 Baht donated to Thais4Life Charity. Starts at 9:30pm - complimentary snacks after quiz.

**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 this [website](#).

**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.

**DECEMBER 12, SATURDAY - A NIGHT WITH THE DIVA CHARITY PARTY** - The Hard Rock Hotel Pattaya is hosting this event starting at 6pm. It will feature the singing sensation "P" Amp Saowaluck and Prim Pitch Band from the Philippines. Tickets are 2,500 Baht per person (pay for 9 people when you book a table for 10). The price includes a cocktail reception and buffet dinner. There will also be a fireworks display and a grand raffle. Proceeds will go to support Baan Amphur School in Sattahip - an old dilapidated primary school in desperate need of repair. For more information and reservations, call 038-428-755/9

**DECEMBER 25, FRIDAY - CHARITY CONCERT FOR PATTAYA ORPHANAGE** - This event is being organized by the Discovery Beach Hotel. It will consist of a classical program with two award winning musicians, pianist Pimpanit Karoonyavanich and her brother the violinist Piyapob Karoonyavanich. Tickets are 1,500 Baht per person. For more information call 087-976-5154 or email at: E-mail: gm\_1@pattayadiscoverybeach.com, gm@d-beach.com, chrisaustria2007@gmail.com, operachrispianopat2009@hotmail.com.



**LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

If you are aware of an upcoming event or have an announcement about the activities of one of our special interest groups be sure it gets in the Newsletter by sending an email to Darrel Vaught at [newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) or to [Darrel-pcec@inbox.com](mailto:Darrel-pcec@inbox.com).



## **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 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 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** - 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](mailto:daviddallimer@hotmail.com).

**COMPUTER GROUP - Meets MONTHLY** on the first MONDAY of the month at 2pm at Markland 6th floor Haad Sai Room - The host is Howard Posner, who was a software reviewer for the California Microsoft User Group. The cost of the program will be 100 baht per person. The charge covers the cost of the room, coffee & cake, and some incidental expenses. The Haad Sai Room at the Markland has good WiFi, a large screen, and is nicely air conditioned. You may bring your laptop computers (with a spare battery if your battery has a short life). There is free parking in the attached 10 floor parking garage. Please list your name on the Computer Group sign-up sheet and we will send you a reminder 3 to 5 days before the meeting. Howard may be contacted at [magichoward@hotmail.com](mailto:magichoward@hotmail.com). For meeting information please contact Richard Smith at 038-412197, 089-244-9523 or by email at [rick2@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:rick2@loxinfo.co.th).

**MEMBERS' DINNER - MONTHLY**, usually the 1st WEDNESDAY of each month. Michel de Goumois and Al Serrato select the location and coordinate the dinner. The location and date of the next Members' Dinner will be posted in the *ANNOUNCEMENTS* Section. To offer suggestions for our next members' dinner or for more information, please contact Michel de Goumois at 081-525-1296, or Al Serrato at 087-036-0625, or email [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) or see Michel or Al at our Sunday meetings.

**PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP - Meets PERIODICALLY** usually in the Conference/Common Room at the Markland located on the corner of Pattaya Beach Road and Soi 1. To receive 3 to 5 day advance notification of meetings, put your name on the Photography Group sign-up sheet. For more information, or to get on the list, call Richard Smith at 089-244-9523, or 038-412197.

**PATTAYA AMATEUR RADIO GROUP - Meets PERIODICALLY.** A new group formed for those interested in ham radio or electronics. For more information, contact Paul at 087-043-1408 or email him [pauldaviesradio@hotmail.com](mailto:pauldaviesradio@hotmail.com).

**BLUE WATER SAILING GROUP - Meets PERIODICALLY.** This group is hosted by member Nathan Russo for those that are interested in blue water sailing. Nathan is now in Thailand after being in USA for a while. They will be scheduling sailing ventures on a periodic basis. Dates and times will be announced in the Newsletter. He would appreciate if those who want to attend would rsvp at [Ncrusso1@gmail.com](mailto:Ncrusso1@gmail.com) or telephone him at 085-275-6724.

**FRIENDS OF PDA GROUP -** Several members have signed up to work in partnership with Khun Mechai's efforts through his Population and Community Development Association (PDA) in improving the lives of Thai villagers. His efforts are described in the Pattaya Mail [article](#) on his address to the Club on October 19, 2008. The members of this group reached their fund raising goal and have entered into a memorandum of understanding with a village in the Buriram area. A trip for the Group to visit the village has been scheduled. If interested in participating, contact Stuart Saunders at this Sunday's meeting or you can email him at [Stuart21@mac.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:khun.hans@gmail.com). The documentation you need and complete application and renewal instructions can be found [here](#). Information on getting International Driving Permits in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK, and USA can be found [here](#) and getting one in Thailand for use in other countries can be found [here](#).

**VISA ASSISTANCE** - If you need or want some information on requirements to enter or remain in Thailand on a long stay basis, visit the Club's [website](#) and select the Visa & Immigration Page. If you still have questions or need assistance regarding remaining in Thailand on your present visa or visa exemption, please call upon John Fishback, Richard Smith, or Darrel Vaught. You can email your question to [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com). You can also contact Darrel at 086-069-0112 or email - [darrel-pcec@inbox.com](mailto:darrel-pcec@inbox.com) or John at 089-933-7227 or email - [jbfemail-pcec@yahoo.com](mailto:jbfemail-pcec@yahoo.com) or Richard at 038-412-197 or email - [rick2@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:rick2@loxinfo.co.th).

**A DVD LENDING LIBRARY** - Hawaii's BOB4YOU usually has some of his collection of over 1,500 DVD movies at the Sunday meeting to share with members. A current membership card will allow you to borrow 4 DVDs for up to 4 weeks at no charge. If you have videos that you no longer need, you are encouraged to donate them to the library. You can also borrow DVDs by stopping by Peter's Aromatic Studio in Naklua's Windmill Plaza opposite Naklua Soi 18/1.

**BOOK EXCHANGE** - Weekly during the SUNDAY meetings. A popular service started by Roger Fox and now administered by Hawaii Bob. - so please remember to bring those you have read (or don't want to read), and exchange them for the one you have been looking for.

**LAMINATED PASSPORT CARDS** - Kuhn Sermsakdi is usually available for making the laminated cards for passports for a nominal fee. Please see Sermsakdi to collect yours. The cards are laminated wallet size (an all-

in-one copy - of the main page, TM (now HX) card, Visa page, and front of passport). These cards have received good acceptance with businesses and hotels.



## CLUB BENEFITS

**PCEC MEMBERS GET 15% DISCOUNT ON GPS TRACKING DEVICE** - The TRAMIGO GPS devices can be used to track and/or locate a person or a vehicle. No GPS fees as they operate with a local SIM card. For more information, brochures are on the back table or stop by their booth at Carrefour in front of the Food Court. More about the devices can be seen at their [website](#).

**PCEC MEMBERS GET A 10% DISCOUNT FROM YOU STINKY DOG!** - You Stinky Dog! is a pet grooming service with a difference. They come to you with their fully equipped vans. They will also offer special deals on food deliveries and accessories. Future plans are to also have a doggie camp, hotel, exercise pool, etc. For more information visit their [website](#) or call 089 - 832 - 4181 (Jiab) or 089 - 207 - 6582 (Tom) or Email : [Jiab@youstinkydog.com](mailto:Jiab@youstinkydog.com).

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

**UNDERWATER WORLD OFFERS MEMBERS A DISCOUNT** -- A representative of Underwater World told the Club that members will be charged the Thai admission price, not the Farang price. Further, upon producing your membership card, the cardholder will receive a 20% discount - off the Thai admission price. At a recent meeting, a member said he went to Underwater World and did receive the discount - albeit a bit of a delay while the staff went to the back office to confirm the discount.

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



## MEMBER SUPPORTED CHARITIES

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

**SAVE THAT DRINK 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 (Chonburi) Immigration Office procedures by email to [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com) or*

**Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration** - We have received several reports that they are no long requiring documentation showing your address when you do your 90 day reporting. However, you may want to have a copy with you the next time in case they ask for it.



## 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** - Check up promotion for half price on their checkup up programs is available till December 31, 2009 (to purchase) and March 31, 2010 (to use voucher). For more information on the check up packages, click [here](#). 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 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. .

**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 on the Photo Galleries page of the Club's website. Many more have been uploaded by Richard Smith and can be seen [here](#). 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 Richard's Webshots website by clicking [here](#).

### **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).