

Who was Don Juan Ponce de Leon

Juan was born sometime between 1460 – 1464 in a small village in the Leon Region of northern Spain, near what is now Palencia. In 1493 he accompanied Columbus on his second voyage to America, landing in Hispaniola (present day Dominican Republic and Haiti). After spending 3 years as Governor of Puerto Rico he was commissioned to explore and claim new territories for Spain

In March 1513, Juan landed near present day St. Augustine and named the land La Florida. He sailed south around La Florida and in May 1513 entered Charlotte Harbor and explored the surrounding area until being driven off by Calusa Indians.

In 1521, having been conferred governing authority by the Crown of Spain, Juan collected the men and provisions he needed to establish a colony and sailed in two ships for Charlotte Harbor. The colony was abandoned after several months, following the decimation of the cavalry by the Calusa. Juan was gravely wounded in the battles and died of his wounds after reaching Cuba in July 1521.



Providing a comprehensive program of social activities for the enjoyment of its members and families

The Royal Order of Ponce de Leon Conquistadors is a non-profit organization of local businessmen, professionals, community leaders and relocated retirees founded in 1979. Membership is open to good men sympathetic to the aims and purposes of the organization.

If you are interested in becoming a Conquistador, please contact anyone on the Membership Committee or use the "Contact Us" Link on the Conquistador web site, listed below.

Membership Committee

Main	941 479-9144
Lindsay Harrington	941 380-4277
Mike Comrie	239 247-1914

Royal Order of Ponce De Leon Conquistadors (ROPC)

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<https://conquistadors-florida.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ROPCFL/>

The Royal Order Of Ponce de Leon Conquistadors



Honoring Ponce de Leon's discovery of Florida
and landing in Charlotte Harbor

16th Annual
Conquistador Cup Regatta
March 7 & 8, 2009
The Punta Gorda Sailing Club presents the
Largest Sailable Regatta in Southwest Florida

Two Races Saturday and the Reverse Start Conquistador Cup on Sunday
Racing starts at 1100 hrs both days
Skippers Meeting and refreshments, 1800 hrs, Friday, March 6
Regatta Buffet and refreshments, 1700 hrs, Saturday, March 7
Awards, Door Prizes, and refreshments, 1600 hrs, Sunday, March 8
All Off Water festivities will be at Harpoon Harry's in Fisherman's Village

For information contact Bob Knowles 888-4583, or www.pgscweb.com

Promoting and publicizing the quality aspects of
the Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte
communities

Conquistadors love a parade. Invitations from local groups as well as surrounding communities to participate in their parades are a routine occurrence. Conquistadors are happy to oblige and bring our “ship” the **Palencia** and her crew, costumed in period attire, to the venue.



Along the parade route crew members typically distribute beads to the cheering crowds accompanied by music and canon fire from the flag bedecked ship. Our participation has become a tradition in Charlotte County parades such as the MLK, Veterans Day and Christmas parades in Punta Gorda, as well as the Pioneer Days parade in Englewood and the Edison Parade in Ft Myers.

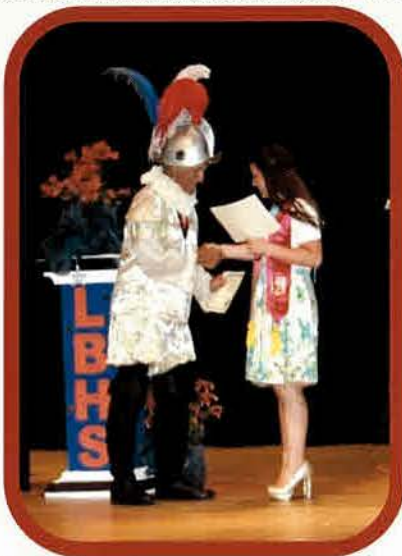


When parade floats are judged, it's not uncommon for the **Palencia** to be awarded “best commercial float”.

Conquistadors respect the history of Spanish exploration and discovery in Florida by Ponce de Leon and those who followed in his footsteps



The history is promoted through classroom lectures, essay contests and donation of books at the local and area schools. In addition



college scholarships are awarded to deserving seniors at each of the three Charlotte County High Schools, financed by fund raising events and bead sales.

Conquistadors support community organizations by participating in their events when requested. When the airport welcomed its first commercial flights, Conquistadors were there to greet the arriving passengers. When the Mural Society dedicates a new mural, Conquistadors are there for the ribbon cutting ceremony.



To support the Punta Gorda Speedway, Conquistadors “sail” the **Palencia** around the track with a full “crew” of children while their parents cheer from the stands.

Conquistadors enjoy social activities with wives, friends and neighbors. The annual landing reenactment is typically followed by a pig roast, proclamations by city officials and music provided by local groups.



A variety of events including concerts, cruises, attendance at dinner theatres and comedy clubs, as well as our spring and fall picnics provide an atmosphere of camaraderie for all to enjoy.

