

First Watch

US Brotherhood of the Coast Official News Letter



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Photos: as stated

Volume 08 Number 2 April 2011

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Charles "OSO" Hankins

National Captain 2011-2014

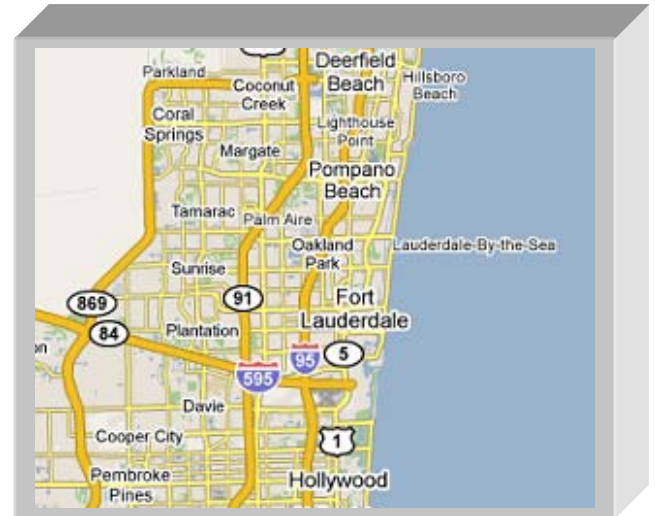


At press time Charles was away to the 60th Anniversary celebration in Chile. He will report in the next edition on the event.

Gold Coast



Captain: John Dotto
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By: John Dotto

Greetings from sunny Fort Lauderdale!! As usual, the month of January was a quiet month for Brotherhood activities due in the main to the excesses of November, December and the New Year celebrations. However, February was a different story! The first Boucan of the year was the Super Bowl Super Boucan hosted by Jules (Lobster Man) Harper and Sandy at their new home in Boynton Beach. A great time was had by all with food and drink galore. We welcomed Scott (Piper) Rogers, a visiting Brother from the Chesapeake Table sailing his way to the magical waters of the Bahamas. We also announced our latest Engage, Jim Upp who was present with his wife Kim. Oh - and yes, we did watch the game and laughed at the silly ads at half time.





Then we had another event in February.....an Instant-Boucan! We celebrated the visit of our Brothers from the Chesapeake Table led by their Table Captain Scott Ripley who were visiting Miami for the International Boat Show. We couldn't let them go by South Florida without tipping-a-few and letting out some loud ORZA's at the Scorpion's Lair. So we did. There were lots of pizza pies and plenty of grog. It was great. It was good to see Henri (Le Navigateur) Rossollini and Babette again after a long absence from South Florida. Also present was Bernard (Brise Galets) LeFavre, a rare privilege from the big ocean sailor. Special ORZAs for Erika and Sam reverberated through the neighborhood that evening.





We are all looking forward to the Special “Boucan”-Wedding in the month of March. One of our Brothers is getting hitched. It’s going to be a blast. Stay tuned for the report on the next First Watch as Boucans, including Raft-ups, are planned in the months ahead.

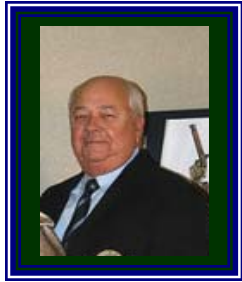
ORZA !!!

John (Scorpion) Dotto
Captain, Gold Coast Table

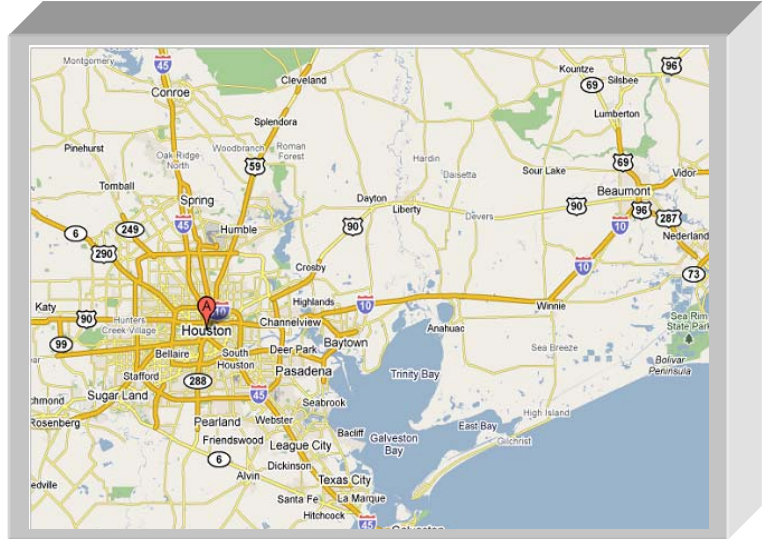
03-17-2011



Houston



Captain: Tom Vick aka “Ernest”
jvick208@sbcglobal.net



By: Don Peterson “Big Dog” #213

The annual Buccaneers Ball was held in late January. As they say, “a good time was had by all.” The weekend kicked off on Friday night with a good old Texas bar-be-que at the home of Mark Sandridge. There was lots of visiting with old friends and meeting some new ones as well. Saturday had a big group on Fred Lowe’s sailboat in Galveston Bay. The skies were clear blue and the wind was brisk. Nearly everyone had their new, black, BOC knit caps from the Goodie bag pulled over their ears. We got back just in time for a quick shower and it was off to the Ball. The food was perfect and the 8 piece band blew everyone away. They played their 4 hours by contract and then kept playing just because they were having so much fun. The facility finally closed us down after another 45 minutes. After a Sunday morning wind down, the Brothers and Captives headed home for a much needed rest. Stay tuned for next year.



Good Friday always kicks off our annual Easter Blow. This year we will also have a crawfish boil on Saturday at Harbor Walk. For you northern Brothers, crawfish look like little lobsters and grow in the mud. That's why we sometimes call them mudbugs. Anyway, boiled in water spiced up with all kinds of goodies, they make for a great afternoon of eating. Come on down and join us!

May 13-15 will find several Brothers in Freeport Texas on their bottoms for the Latitudes and Attitudes festival at the new Municipal Marina. There will be lots of bands, booths and fun for all who attend. Rumor is some San Antonio Brothers may show up as well.

Brother Profile----Jim Vick "Ernest" is our current table Captain and earns this profile. (Actually, it's my way of sucking up to the Captain). Jim is a native Houstonian and Brother since 1997. His love of the sea began in 1957 when he joined the Navy. Part of his Navy hitch included an eight month tour in the Mediterranean. One of the best things he learned in the Navy was that standing in a landing craft breathing that fresh, salt, sea air was a quick cure for a hangover. After his Navy tour he returned to Houston and joined the family business, a custom machine and fabrication business serving the energy sector. It's still going strong after 52 years.

Somewhere along the line he met and married his wife Betty. They have two kids and six grand children.

Over the years Jim has been searching for that perfect boat to cure a hangover. The Navy won't sell him a landing craft so Jim has owned jon boats, bass boats, ski boats, dingys, several sailboats, trawlers and even a shrimp boat still searching for that cure. Look for Jim in Chili in late March as he and Bill Hallmark make the trek for the BOC 60th anniversary party.



New York

Captain: Robert "Big Hopper" Coles
rcoles@optonline.net



By: Robert Coles & Jane Protzman

New York Table Events -

We must admit things have changed quite a bit in the last three years. Some Brothers have taken the road to a more serene sailing retirement. Some have to work a bit harder. Some have just retired from boating to devote more time to the next generation. My life has changed quite a lot too: I sold our Carter 33 and regret it bitterly. (We will not remain hull-less for long!) The deep friendship our Brothers feel for one another has not changed and I would say that it even deepens in light of everyone's new challenge in life. In New York, our agendas and the style of meetings have jibed as less of us now have a hull under their boots. In plain words, we are having fewer on the water Zafs and more marine related meetings ashore. New York region enjoys a lot of maritime history which make wonderful excuses to meet, toast, dine and shoot breeze.

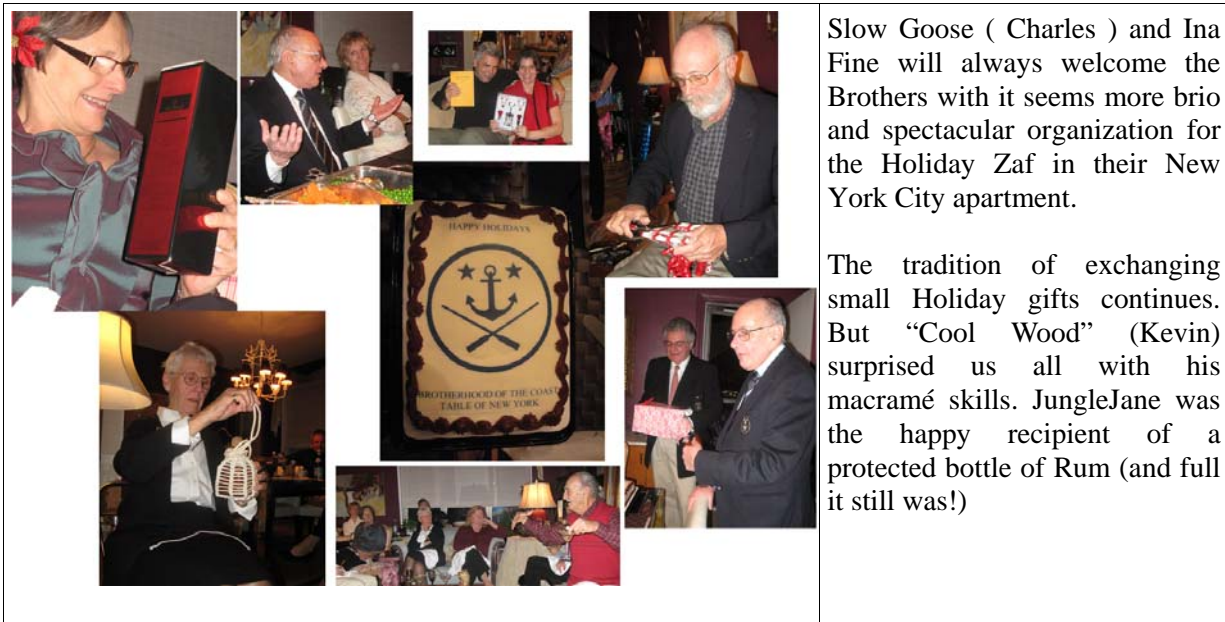
Mid fall, many Brothers met in Kingston on the Hudson River. We visited the Maritime Museum and boarded a ferry to climb and visit the lighthouse. 'Slow Goose' and Ina Fine opened the doors of their mountain retreat in Shandaken, NY. What a Barbecue it was!



Late fall, NY Brothers were lavishly invited to a Polish Gourmet Tasting Zaf by Andrej and Irene Bienkowski who proudly explained his arrival in the “free world”, his sailing adventures with other Polish sailors on Long Island Sound. He proudly displayed his collection of antique arms, blazons and Polish historical paraphernalia.



This event was especially planned to introduce “Sparks” Citarella to the Polish heritage as he prepared to fly to the Goose Fair in Berlin for a memorable Zaf at the Postdam Yacht club. “Sparks” was hosted by Polish Brothers during a whirlwind trip to Lublin, Gdansk and Szczecin. (Click here to [see BOC Facebook](#)) The cold was made bearable by liberal applications of antifreeze called vodka. America and Poland have much in common (going back the American Revolutionary War) and I hope Brothers will plan trips to Poland to meet these outstanding sailors. Rumors run that a joint NY/Polish Zaf will be organized next year in Gdansk.



Slow Goose (Charles) and Ina Fine will always welcome the Brothers with it seems more brio and spectacular organization for the Holiday Zaf in their New York City apartment.

The tradition of exchanging small Holiday gifts continues. But “Cool Wood” (Kevin) surprised us all with his macramé skills. JungleJane was the happy recipient of a protected bottle of Rum (and full it still was!)


January found us in a Chilean Restaurant to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of La Hermandad de la Costa de Chile. We discovered special dishes, Chilean wine and Pisco. This is a liquor distilled from Muscat grapes and is considered the national drink of Chile. Multiple “Orza's” somewhat alarmed the other tables at the restaurant. JungleJane presented the restaurant owner with a Chilean Brotherhood flag which now hangs in the charming restaurant.

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Pomaire

[The Bar]

Pomaire cozy bar offers tempting drinks menu as well remarkable Chilean wine, which is considered the most popular imported wine in the United States. Studies performed by Scottish scientists who were interested in the promotion of health through dieting, proved that Chilean wines contain the highest concentration of anti-oxidants. All due to the fact that Chile possesses the three basic conditions of coexistence required for the production of good wine: climate, soil and vine variety.



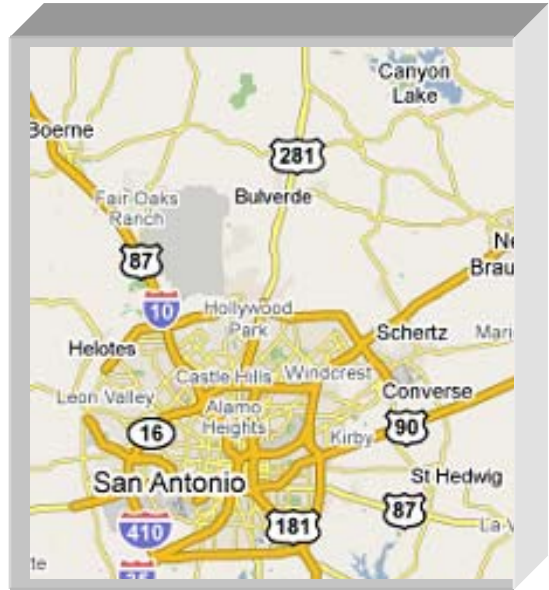
ZAGAT SURVEY
FOOD 22





San Antonio

Captain: Wayne Laxson "Borracho"
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Scribe: David Overpeck "Baby Bump"
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By: Wayne Laxson

The San Antonio Table help the fifth annual "Lawn Hydro" event at the home of Dick (Tricky) and Sara Eckerman. It was a beautiful spring day the track was fast. An added challenge this year was the introduction of gates that had to be negotiated along the track. It seems to have added a higher degree of difficulty and confusion to each heat. Lawn Hydro is basically a small wooden boat that is moved around a course by being pushed with a stick. The food was good, the weather was perfect and of course the company was great.

Photographs by: Audrey Rogers



Captive Helen Cantu Withoff 1st Place

Captive Mary Laxson 2nd Place



Captive Patty McNeil 3rd Place



Monty "Python" Rogers Blade Runner



National Captain Charles Hankins with Bob Wills and Bob's Captive Karen Moore



The Peanut Gallery



Guy Weldon (Guest) 1st Place



Dick "Tricky" Eckerman 2nd Place



Clockwise from front: Monty Roders, David Overpeck and Host Dick Eckerman

The Captive Finals

Our Photographer



Audrey Rogers, wife of Brother Monty “Python” has been involved with the Brotherhood for almost twenty years. Audrey has had a great talent with photography and is always seen at Brotherhood events with her camera. She and Monty have traveled to many of the Tables for various functions and Audrey always documents the people and places and shares them with others. In the last edition of the First Watch Audrey’s work was featured in both the San Antonio Table and the Sun Coast “Little Pirates Christmas Zaf.” We all look forward to future contributions by Audrey.

Savannah



Captain: Albert Seidl "Dogwaes"
albaertseidl@msn.com



By: Patrick Mills

Happy Spring to all! Here in Savannah our leaves are coming out and flowers are a blooming. What a great time of year!

The Savannah Table has remained relatively quiet the last few months but continues to muster the Savannah crew on a monthly basis for our monthly "meeting / pot luck." For those that might be passing through or close to Savannah, please feel free to drop in. The crew usually gets together on the second Friday of every month.

The Table is planning a weekend picnic / outing sometime in late April or first part of May and will post to the National calendar when we get the date finalized.

Engage, Rigel and his Captive, Ariel are newly expectant parents. Many ORZAs and congratulations to them!

Our Captain, Albert Seidl has been in the public eye here in Savannah. Last month he was featured in the local magazine, Coastal Senior. Albert also lead a corps of pipes and drums in the annual Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade. For those of you that do not know, Savannah hosts the "2nd largest" St. Patrick's Day Parade in the country. Fine job, Albert!

Mike Pranschke represented The Savannah Hinckley Yard at the Annual Savannah Boat Show in March.

Brother Gary Johnson continues to stay very active hosting visiting Brothers and traveling to neighboring Tables.

Brother Patrick Mills is joining Charles Hankins, Bill Hallmark and Jim Vick in Atlanta for the trip to Chile the end of March to attend Chile's 60th birthday Zaf.

As the spring and summer months approach, for those of you cruising the souther waters planning on making the journey back north, let us know if your plans include passing through Savannah. We will be sure to welcome you in Brotherhood style.



Table Captain Albert Seidl "Dogwaes" leading the band that lead the Savannah Saint Patrick's Day Parade

El Zafaranchito Viaje

By: Gary Johnson

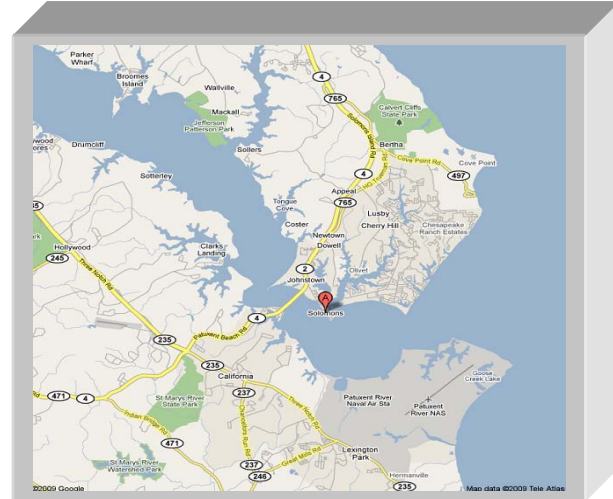
"The traveling mini-zaf". This best describes the great time certain Brothers had getting together informally in South Florida over the Presidents day weekend. When Brothers from Norfolk decided to go to the Miami boat show and meet Bernard, who just returned from his around the world voyage in Ft. Lauderdale and visit Brothers in the area, the word soon got out. Brothers from Solomons and Savannah ("Swedish Navigator"/Gary Johnson) joined the activities and traveled to Marathon to visit Brothers there where "Sparky"/Steve & Lori Donaldson hosted the roving invaders. Then it was back to Ft. Lauderdale to visit Brothers there where "Scorpion"/John & Sara Dotto hosted the gathering. Lunch at Alabama Jack's at Card Sound on the way down was a highlight as was a stop at Wahoo's on Islamorada key on the way back. It was a fine, impromptu display of the Brotherhood spirit.



Solomons Island

Captain: John Craighill aka "Sea Hawk"

jscraighill@verizon.net



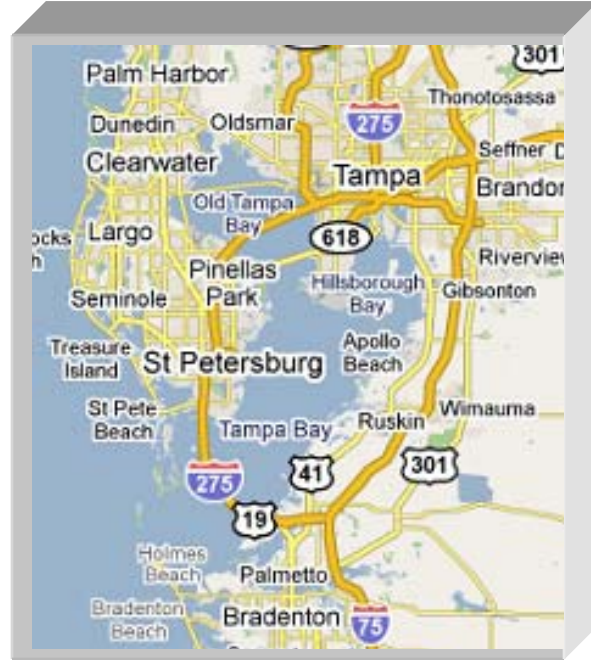
By: Dale Weems

A lot of our Brothers have turned into snow birds and either wintered in Florida or spent as much time there as they could this year. But they did not miss a chance to get together with brothers from the Keys Table and some traveling Brothers from the Chesapeake Table. I'm sure they represented our table in grand style. And we're sure they helped boost the local economy with rum sales to say the least. But spring is on the horizon and it's time for them to be setting a course north to get home just in time for all of the scheduled events. We have been getting together for the Tip a Few Tuesday's and regular business meetings. The first big event will be the 2011 Chesapeake Solomons Raftarrancho; the boats are loaded with the memories of last year's raft up. The menu is being discussed as you read, and of course a barrel or two of rum will be brought along for medicinal purposes. We will be heading south to meet up with our Brothers from the Chesapeake Table. The word has gotten out about this annual event and we hope to outdo last year's party where there were 18 vessels in all and better than 50 people. The brotherhood was represented by attendees from 5 Tables. The bar gets set a little higher each year but I'm sure it will be better than last year's event. August 27 is the date for the 3rd annual St Johns Creek Crab Derby sponsored by Brothers Capt. Go Go and Easy, at brother Easy's House the pool and bar will be open along with the invitation for any brothers wishing to attend. And don't forget you can bring your own thoroughbred crab or catch one the day of the event off of Easy or Capt Go Go's dock. Any brothers from other tables wishing to attend should call Brother Easy @410-808-3832. Other events are in the works for day cruises and football games or almost any excuse to get together. We look forward to visiting with any traveling brothers who visit the Washington-Baltimore area .Check the calendar for scheduled events



Sun Coast

Captain: Jon Frick "Mr. Clean"
jwfrick@tampabay.rr.com



By: Jon Frick aka Mr. Clean
Captain of the Sun Coast Table

The year 2010 ended on a very sad note for the Sun Coast Table, with the passing of our Great Blue, Sam Britton. The year of 2011 was also a depressing time as we all said good-bye at a family and close friend funeral and wake. I am sure more has been said by our new National Captain, Charles Hankins.

The January Happy Hour was held at the Anna Maria Oyster-Bar Landside, where 30 brothers and captives took part in several Orzaas for Sam and Roselyn.

The February Happy Hour Expedition, hosted by Robert Cohen, (aka Sucio) was held at Trader Vic's in Sarasota. Captain Jon Frick handed out the Brotherhood Membership Certificates to all the brothers in attendance.

The March Madness Happy Hour, hosted by Roger Marquis, (aka Maineiac) was well on its way with tall beers and order after order of a variety of tasty trays...just good food. Among the many announcements were the plans for the Captains meeting, followed by the brotherhood memorial service for Sam Britton followed by more Orzaas and food. Once again we appreciate Roger (aka Blind Mouth) and Judy Meyer offering to host a large crowd at their beautiful home on the Manatee River.

As April approaches, we are all looking forward to our tables first raft-up, on April 9th, 10th and 11th. Our Hosts will be Dan (aka Gimble) and Bonnie Sagan. With plenty of conversation, food and maybe something to drink (wink. wink), the weekend is certain to be memorable.

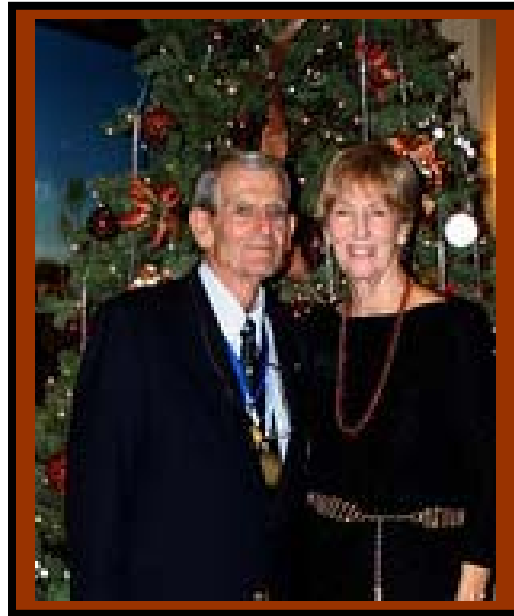
Just a short review, August 13th, 14th and 15th, 2011 will be the Captains Meeting and Sam Britton Memorial Service. Contact Jon Frick for housing assignments.

The first week of December, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th will be the 22nd consecutive "Little Pirates Christmas Zaf" and we hope as many as can, will attend.

Memories of Sam Britton

By: Dan Sagan

Always tanned, usually tidying up on deck or checking lines. That's how I seem to remember Sam most, during raft-ups at anchorages in SW Florida, the Keys and the Bahamas. These times go back to the mid 80's before the days of the Florida Brotherhood when Sam and Roselyn, me and Bonnie and more than a few present brothers were all members of a sailing group (sorry no powerboats) called the Sun Coast Yacht club. When I would stick my head out of the companionway in the early morning, Sam would already be sitting in the cockpit, reading glasses on the tip of his nose with the newspaper crossword puzzle propped up against his knees. I always wondered how he got delivery service in those remote areas. We would share a cup of coffee and wait quietly about an hour for Roselyn and Bonnie to emerge and check for their shadows. When we bought our first real cruising boat in Isle of Capri near Naples, Sam and Roselyn met us in Charlotte harbor aboard "Someday 2" and escorted us home. When they bought "London Lady" on the East coast, we returned the favor and met them in Charlotte harbor and escorted them home.



Sam & Roselyn Britton December 2011

I would always try to reach an anchorage before Sam and Roselyn because I derived a great deal of pleasure watching them prepare to anchor with Sam on the bow and Roselyn at the wheel with each of them trying to interpret each others hand signals and voice messages above the wind and engine noise and quite often late afternoon thunder. They finally solved the problem by getting head set communicators which worked until Roselyn threw hers in the water after I can only assume getting a message she didn't quite agree with (I didn't ask). We shared anchorages in the Bahamas during challenging weather times and idyllic times. During one extreme I watched Sam's Dingy twirling around on its painter about 30' behind the boat like a foxtail on a car radio antenna (remember those?) and finally landing upside down with the motor in the water. He fixed it, no problem. The opposite extreme saw us building a bar on a deserted Bahamas beach out of driftwood and palm fronds and other various pieces of flotsam and serving drinks and appetizers to about 8 or 10 brotherhood cruisers en-route back home after one of the Abacos table's great Zafs.

After London lady was sold and Sam's health began to fail, the frequency of local raft-ups also diminished but Sam and Roselyn would still attend. We would arrange to pick them up at some quiet dock in the vicinity of the anchorage, sometimes after they had to sneak through someone's private yard, so we could share their company. We are all going to miss Sam's company.