

First Watch

US Brotherhood of the Coast Official News Letter



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Photos: as stated

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From the Helm



Scott "Cruz" Ripley ~ Captain, Brotherhood of the Coast US

This issue of First Watch marks the 1st Anniversary of the now "revived" US BOC newsletter as published by Monty Python (Monty) & Audrey Rogers. Although I have thanked them privately many times, I would also like to thank both of them publicly here for their time and effort in turning out this quarterly newsletter.

They do a wonderful job of organizing all the articles and pictures and submit the well laid-out publications in a timely manner. I look forward to each issue and read it cover to cover (albeit usually in the bathroom) as soon as it comes out.

This newsletter adds an extra dimension to our Brotherhood by allowing us to see how active most of the Tables are in the US. It also notifies us in advance of upcoming Zafs so we have an opportunity to join in on the fun.

Thanks again, Monty & Audrey, and please keep up the good work!

I look forward to seeing many of you at Trailer Trash in April. Those of you that have not had the opportunity to attend a Trailer Trash Zaf in San Antonio should try to make it. It's a great party and I promise that the worst you will have is a good time.

Orza!
Captain Scott "Cruz"



Shall we switch to Tequila?

Captain "Jungle Jane" Protzman spotted this in her local liquor store. Note the incorrect spelling on the price tag. Anybody else see it?



Chesapeake Bay

Captain: Scott "Piper" Rogers

onepiper@erols.com

Oh the Pressure! It always seems that there is so much going on and so much to say, until someone say's; "Write it up and send it to me". The world becomes a total blank. We here at the Chesapeake Bay Table have so much daily interaction together sometime it's hard to remember what was "Brotherhood related" and what wasn't. So I guess (to steal and paraphrase from the Bible), when two or more Brothers gather together; it is a Brotherhood event.

Since the last writing Cruz and Michele hosted their annual Boxing Day party. The day after Christmas event has become a staple with our table. Gathering for Great food and drinks we then square off for a "Dirty Santa" Gift exchange. In Dirty Santa everyone brings a wrapped gift, often something they were given and would like to bless someone else with, something funny, or something nice. Everyone is given a number, and in that order chooses a gift and opens it. The next person may choose a wrapped gift or steal yours. Years ago folks where just too polite to steal anything, now, well let's just say, gifts fly around the room.

January brought a new event to the Table. "Pilot", our Captain, felt that after 18 years of existence it was time to have an anniversary dinner. So we did! Wonderful idea, wonderful event. We gathered on the 9th in a private Room at the Hampton Yacht Club (thanks go to Francine for setting all this up). 24 Brothers and Captives, our Engage' with his wife, and 2 guests partook in a cocktail hour and then a very delicious sit down dinner. Although most arrived by car, 4 boats were in attendance. After cocktails and before dinner National Captain "Cruz" said a few words and after a few remarks, Captain "Pilot" turned over the Table's helm to me. My speech was cut short to a "thank you and enjoy your dinner", as the salads were arriving. What's up with that? When our time was up, many returned to the boats to continue the evening. A good time was had by all.



On a cold evening in February the Brothers and Engage' met at Tidewater Yacht Marina for Beer, Nachos, and Chicken, and a little bonding time.

So all is well, the weather is warming and we will soon be out on the water again. Piper

Gold Coast

Captain: Brian "McGyver" Schmitz
brianschmitz99@yahoo.com



Winter was a very busy time for the Brothers and Captives of the Gold Coast Table. In addition to our regular Boucans during the quarter, our Table hosted our bi-annual President's Day ZAF which was a blast! This time of year, we also have Brothers on their annual migration south, with snowbirds Henri and Babbette Rossolin in regular attendance during the winter months. Another great addition to our Table is Brother Fabio Bonini and Captive Betty who will be joining the Gold Coast Table from the Milan, Italy Table.



Following our annual Winterfest Boat Parade Boucan in December, our January Boucan was focused on final preparations and planning for the February ZAF - but of course we did manage to drink lots of rum and have a great time in between all the work.



We had a fantastic President's Day ZAF with 44 Brothers and Captives in attendance for an awesome weekend of parties, boating, hula girls, and even a Valentine's Day brunch! On Friday night, we held a Pirate Soiree' at the home of Brian and Suzie Schmitz complete with song, dance, and a cannon assault on the Jungle Queen.



We had a great dinner, and bunch of ORZAs, and of course a little bit of rum!





On Saturday – with just a few hours to recover from our hangovers, the group headed out on the Gold Coast Brothers boats for a booze cruise of the New River and ICW in Fort Lauderdale with a stop at Lake Sylvia for a raft-up, lunch and... you guessed it! – more rum! This was followed by a trip to The Mai Kai, that Tiki Mecca, for a great dinner and Hula dancers!





Finally, we wrapped up the weekend with a Valentine's Day Brunch at the home of John and Sarah Dotto. Great food, perfect weather, great company, a bunch of ORZAs and of course... a little more rum!



ORZA!
MacGyver (Brian) Schmitz
Captain, BOC Gold Coast Table

Houston

Captain: Ken "Chaser" Hutchinson
kchutchinson@gmail.com

The Houston table has been working hard to put together a Great Zaf on June 10-12 with some very fun events. The invite and some verbiage in the "Coming Attractions" area of *The First Watch*. We hope to see everyone there! It should be fun with a lot of boating, shopping, BBQ, Booze and Brotherhood.

Chaser

New York

Captain: Jane "Jungle Jane" Protzman
jmprotzman@earthlink.net



Annual Holiday Zaf

"Prizes and Surprises" was the compelling invitation to this year's holiday celebration on Sunday, December 20. Brothers looked stunning in their Brotherhood blazers and the captives were especially radiant. Active Captive Ina Fine's new apartment was the venue, with smashing views of 3 bridges and the NYC skyline.



Games were played and as advertised, winners received various treats as prizes. The surprises were small holiday-wrapped gifts handed out to each Brother and Captive.

A highlight of the evening was the journey to the Big Apple by our National Captain Scott Ripley, "Cruz", and his lovely Captive Michelle. Needless to say, everyone was especially touched by their interest in our Table and by their visit just a few days after their return from the Goose Festival in Berlin. Abundant food, super conversation and wonderful holiday cheer combined to make this a truly special event. Ina, barely off the plane also from Berlin, pulled off her usual organizational skills and culinary prowess for her traditional holiday Zaf.



Gary and Helene Buckingham Flash Zaf

Gary and Helene Buckingham from the Guernsey table visited New York at the tail end of their two and a half year, 18,000 mile journey through Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and North America. During this time they bought and sold travel vans and drove all those miles in their host countries. They kept details of their trip in log books and on maps. The map of the USA showed each stop while traversing the miles. Two days after the Zaf they left with a big bang on the Queen Mary towards Southampton. They gave the New York table a New Year's Orza! Thanks to Robert's Captive Kathleen for hosting this short notice Flash Zaf on New Year's Day 2016!



Gary is the sixth person from the left and Helene is fourth from the right.

Flash Zaf for Marco Apablaza Bizama from Chile

Thanks to some fast organizing by our Vigie Joe Citarella we were able to give a Big Apple Welcome to Marco visiting the USA from Concepcion, Chile. With a couple of days' notice we were able gather a few Brothers to meet in a Brazilian Restaurant in Manhattan for a lunch. Marco had just come back from a quick trip to Niagara Falls and visiting his daughter in Atlanta. After lunch Jay Howard lead the group on an Insiders' Tour of Grand Central Station.

NY Brother Andrzej Bienkowski has signed on for a sail in the Cape Horn area. Marco informed us that there is indeed a table in Puerto Williams, on the Beagle Channel, where we hope Andrzej can meet some Chilean Brothers.



Looks like August will be a busy month for us – Jerzy Paleolog from Poland and Konrad Rippmann from Germany (who is now the Vigie) are both planning to be here; we will plan two Zafs for them.

Sailing Capital

Captain: Lee "Chessie" McMichael
LeeNMCM@gmail.com



The year 2015 was progressive for the Annapolis Table! Two new Brothers, Steve Reeves and Peter Dula, were inducted aboard the Norwegian S/V *Statsraad Lehmkuhl* while she was visiting Baltimore Harbor in November. Thanks to Brothers Marcus & David Seidel of the Bergen Table, Kaptain & First Mate of the boat, for allowing our International Induction Ceremony aboard the *Lehmkuhl*. It was an honor to be aboard.



ORZA!!!



New Brothers & our hosts aboard *Lehmkuhl*



Lehmkuhl Induction of Seadog & Zusdog in Baltimore Harbor

The Annapolis Brothers and our Mates are “feet wet” and looking forward to 2016. Please consider a visit to Annapolis anytime; should your interests be in Chesapeake Bay foods, we will be hosting our second annual *Boucan Boil* on August 20-21, 2016. Come visit and dine with us.



Captains Charles & Scott at the first annual *Boucan Boil*



Solomons & Annapolis Table Brothers & Mates attended the *Statsraad Lehmkuhl 2015 Diplomatic Reception*



Fall Table Cruise on the Magothy River merf, Peter & Mates



Chesapeake Brothers aboard *Schooner Shanty*

The Chesapeake Bay is a fantastic sailing venue. Chessie from Annapolis joined Brothers Scott Rogers, Master of the Schooner Shanty, Mike Montieth & Pete Briggs and crew on *The Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race* finishing 3rd in Class!

Other News: Table Captain (2013-2015) merf Moerschel & Annapolis Brothers conferred Lee McMichael as the new TC. We hold our Tip A Few on the first Tuesday of the month, occasionally meeting with our Solomons Brothers at the Rod N' Reel in Chesapeake.

See you all at Trailer Trash in April, *ORZA!*

San Antonio

Captain: Randy "Scrounger" Goodrich
goodrichrj@yahoo.com

Scribe: Wayne "Kilo Pata Barrera" McNeil
Purser: Dick "Tricky Dick" Eckerman

Super Party for Super Bowl

About 30 brothers, captives and friends attended the 50th Super Bowl party at the Blue Wildebeest Saloon at Bob Wills Ranch in Bandera, TX. The weather was Texas perfect so everyone was in short sleeves. Except for some grumbling about not winning the \$1 per square pot, all had a good time. In addition watching the game, the San Antonio crew planned out the details for the 2016 Trailer Trash Party. See more on that in the Coming Attractions area of the First Watch.

Bob treated the group to beef and chicken fajitas with all the sides. Lots of fun for all, and Wills bragged that nothing was even broken!



Final Memorial to Wayne 'Borracho' Laxson Flag #128



On March 20th, a Celebration of Life was held at the home of Wayne & Patty McNeil, hosted by Mary Laxson. There were about fifty longtime friends and family who enjoyed a casual celebration sharing memories, stories and pictures of Wayne over a very long period of time! It was an event that Wayne would have loved, and he could be pictured working the room with an outstretched hand and warm welcome. At a later time in the party, Wayne McNeil brought out his cannon and gave a single shot salute in memory of Wayne.

The evening of March 23rd was our final salute to Wayne as twenty-five of his dearest friends consisting of Brothers and fellow Canyon Lake sailors whose friendships go back 28 years. The plan was to spread the ashes of our Borracho at the point of the sun setting over the horizon. Weather was predicted to be windy, cloudy and a chance of rain, but this, of course, did not deter our experienced seamen. Wayne McNeil anchored his boat as the Flagship at a point on the lake where the sunset and a rising full moon could both be seen. Our two other boats, captained by Craig Wright and Charles Hankins, tied on with no problem. The weather held, and the ceremony consisted of readings by Wayne McNeil, Virg Mellott and Monty Rogers. Wayne's flag, number 128, was raised and then lowered by Charles Hankins.





All was silent during these presentations. At the appropriate point in Monty's burial at sea presentation, he directed Mary to begin spreading the ashes assisted by Wayne's brother, Ricky. After the spreading, each attendee threw a single stemmed flower into the water. The sunset was beautiful and lit up the horizon with pinks, golds and oranges. All boats remained at anchor until a full moon appeared over the opposite horizon, peeking out from dark clouds. At that point we pulled anchor and headed home.

My deep appreciation to our Brothers who planned and executed this final solute to their fellow Brother, and my husband of 48 years. I will never forget this very special moment of the sunset over Canyon Lake where we spent so many years sailing, racing and forming lifelong friendships.

Sincerely,
Mary 'Sunset' Laxson

Upcoming Activities:

April 7 – First Thursday location TBA

April 22-24 - Trailer Trash

May 5 – First Thursday Open Grill with Craig & Cheryl Wright @ HCYC Party Deck

May 21 – Mike's Barndominium @ Mike Sasser and Coleen's

June 2 – First Thursday location TBA

June 25 – Shrimpathon @ Wayne and Patty McNeils Vinyard

July 7 - First Thursday Open Grill @ Dick and Sara Eckerman's

July ? (TBA) – Pool Party @ Patrick & Wren Mills'

August 4 – First Thursday location TBA

August 20 – Pool Splash at Joseph Scherm and Lilia's

September 1 – First Thursday Open Grill @ Monty & Audrey Rogers'

September 22-25 – Captain's meeting in Savannah

October 6 - First Thursday location TBA

October 22 – Winefest @ David Overpeck and Sissi's

November 3 – First Thursday Open Grill @ Randy & Julie Goodrich's

November 12 – Sadie Hawkins Game Night – The Captives

December 1 - First Thursday location TBA

December 17 – Cowboy Christmas at Craig & Cheryl Wright's Big Barn

Throughout the summer, impromptu raft-ups on Canyon Lake

Sun Coast Sun Coast

Captain: Ed "Brillo" Loke
eloke@aol.com

Ever wonder about how things just "connect"?

During our Little Pirate Christmas Zaf in early December there were quite a number of memorable events. Beyond the record-breaking attendance and amazing good times, the Suncoast table recognized two new friends on their path to becoming brothers....

In preparation for a ceremonial approach I had looked around for a document we could print on fancy paper for presentation to Virgil Mellott and Tom Radcliffe as they became Engage's.

In (what I thought was the end) I found on my own computer a letter we had crafted in the Florida Keys for the induction of Nelson Perez in about 2005. Sure it was an original, we changed the names and went forward.

At our Saturday night dinner, we had the ceremony for Virgil and Tom... and read the letter aloud for all to hear. Included in the audience was past National Captain Tom Collier (Ursa Major). Here's the connect – Tom told me he had written part of the document while offshore on his boat in June 1989! It was his effort to capture what he felt is the true nature of the Brotherhood of the Coast.

Now, some 17 years later, Tom's writings follow:

The Brotherhood of the Coast is a unique fraternity whose members share a mutual respect of their abilities, who share common dreams, and who are bound by their concern for the common welfare of their sailing brethren. They are special sailors who understand the sea, who are in awe of her beauty, yet respectful of her power. Who share the sense of freedom that comes from possessing the skill to travel at will on 2/3rds of the earth's surface. They are special sailors who share a spirit.....an ancient spirit – a spirit that draws men's hearts over the horizon. A spirit that's consummate by a full sail in a fresh breeze. They are individuals that find contentment in the solitude of the sunset at sea. And yet, individuals that celebrate the company of the kindred souls that are the special breed of sailors that are the "Brotherhood of the Coast".

– Tom Collier, offshore in June of 1989

Thank You Captain Tom, for sharing!

While the Love Of The Sea is the Cult of our days..... Occasionally a few other interests come into play.

Specifically, golf. Now, I have played the game with, I think, every golfing brother in the Suncoast Table..... And trust me, we have -0- low handicappers in the table. That said, Brother Ben Beraducci "The Don" is pretty hardcore for golf.

That is why he set up our table happy hour at the IMG ACADEMY clubhouse for their prime rib dinner last week. The Academy is a world renown tennis and golf college, producing numerous winning pros. We, only slightly less athletic, consumed a few before supping on some great chow.

After dinner, in the finest tradition of the Brotherhood, the 25 of us entertained the entire clubhouse with a rousing ORZA orchestrated by brother John D'Alusio "The Crab" in his most impressive "inside Voice".

There are growing rumors of future events at Japanese Steakhouses, raft ups with great fried oysters, and a gulf side picnic on Anna Maria Island..... YUM!

Ed Loke

COMING ATTRACTIONS



F is for flamingo or Flaming "O" as our Brit friend Fred Bentley would say...but it is also for Fiesta and Fiesta means **Trailer Trash**...so pack your bags and watch your e-mail for the registration form or print it out from below this article for the 2016 Trailer Trash Zaf. This year you can make your calendar for April 22-24, 2016.

There may be a few surprises in there but count on doing something Friday night to help jump-start the weekend. This will include food and open bar/bars.

Saturday morning you need to don your Pirate finest and gather downtown in the old King William area for the King William Fair Parade. Some local breakfast tacos are expected to once again fortify our group. San Antonio's Pirate ship "Orza" will make one more sail for the parade and we will need to pass our Mardi Gras beads and entertain those along the parade route. Afterwards, we will stop at local "establishment" for food and refreshment for lunch (on your own).

The rest of the day will allow you to tour and travel as you wish or rest-up for the nighttime **Trailer Trash** Party at Craig and Cheryl Wright's big barn. Live entertainment is planned as usual along in ample food and adult beverage. Be prepared for Bar-B-Que chicken cooked on site, Texas style.

Sunday morning will welcome all with our Adios Breakfast complete with fruits, breads, eggs, McNeil's venison sausage, sailors SOS and Bloody Marys and Mimosas to prepare you for your trip home or an extended San Antonio stay.

What a bargain, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, stay with Brothers...all you need is a plane ticket). All for only \$75 per person.

Mark your calendars for **Trailer Trash**, one of the Brotherhood premier events, April 22-24, 2016. Be there or be...a flamingo.



SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 22, 23, 24, 2016
TRAILER TRASH WEEKEND

FRIDAY EVENING APRIL 22ND: MEET AND GREET
(DINNER & OPEN BAR)

SATURDAY MORNING APRIL 23RD: KING WILLIAM
PARADE, DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO - BOC 'ORZA'
Float – Pirate Attire

SATURDAY AFTERNOON – JOIN THE GROUP FOR
LUNCH AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT (NO HOST) OR
ENJOY FIESTA SAN ANTONIO, TOUR THE TEXAS
HILLCOUNTRY OR SPEND THE AFTERNOON OVER A
REFRESHMENT IN LUCKENBACH OR GRUENE OR
FREDERICKSBURG.

SATURDAY NIGHT – DINNER, RUM, WINE AND LIVE
MUSIC AT THE BARN – Casual Dress – evening can get
chilly.

SUNDAY MORNING APRIL 24TH – GOOD BYE
BRUNCH

Fill out the attached registration form and return as soon as possible to reserve a room in a brother's and captive's home.

ORZA!
Randy "Scrounger" Goodrich
Captain, San Antonio, TX Table



**IT'S FIESTA TIME IN SAN ANTONIO
WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME FOR.....
'TRAILER TRASH'**

The Celebration Begins on Friday Night, April 22ND

See the attached 'Schedule of Events'

Cost: \$150 per couple/ \$75.00 individual

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW TO ENSURE YOUR
BUNK IN A BROTHER AND CAPTIVE HOME.**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of
Attendee(s): _____

BOC
Table: _____

of Bunks Needed (First Come First Served): _____

Will arrive by Car _____
RV (Do not need room) _____

Air(need ride from airport) Yes or No Will rent car _____
Your Contact Phone: _____ and
email _____

Mail your Check & Registration Today to:
Dick Eckerman Phone: 830 899-5566
460 Shayla Ln Email: trickyd@gvte.com
Canyon Lake, TX 78133



2016
Boats-Boom



& BBQ

Presented by the Houston BOC





Houston Table of the Brotherhood of the Coast

Requests your presence on June 10-12 2016
For the First Annual

Boats Boom & Barbeque

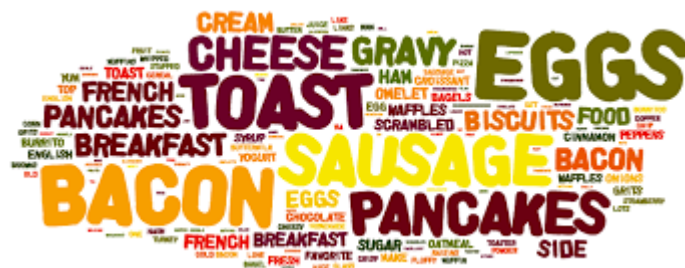
The fun starts on Friday night June 10 at 6pm with a kickoff Zaf at South Shore Marina, Pier One on beautiful Clear Lake. Pizza, snacks and drinks on the Pier then boarding boats for a trip to Galveston Bay for a spectacular firework display on the water. We will be part of a 250+ boat armada to view the show.



Saturday the morning is open. At 11am a variety of activities are available for you. Visit NASA's Johnson Space Center, complete with the 747 shuttle transport and a Space Shuttle. Board boats for a Galveston Bay boat ride with a raft up for lunch. Shop the variety of shops in Kemah and walk the Boardwalk. At 3:30 gather at South Shore Marina for departure for an afternoon and evening of fun at the Hoekstra's with Barbeque, swimming and dancing and plenty of Orza's.



Sunday morning departure breakfast at the home of Wendy and John Ellor.



Registration Form

An \$85 per person admittance is all we ask.

Attendee(s)_____

BOC Table_____

Number of beds_____

(We have a good amount of available rooms however it would be wise to get your reservation in to secure your bunks.

Arriving by Car_____ Boat_____ Air_____Horse_____Walk_____

If flying to Houston, Please go to Hobby airport and we will try to pick up everyone we can.

Your check is your reservation. Send to : JD Thompson @ 2112 Royal Oak Dr.
League City, Tx 77573

Questions? Call Ken Hutchinson at 713-539-5217