

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

Mike Pranschke took his final voyage from this life a few weeks ago. I did not know Mike very well, but Michele and I were fortunate to have a few beers with him this fall at his favorite watering hole, Tubby's Tank House at Thunderbolt. Mike would go for happy hour with his friends at 5:02 PM every day after work. We left Orza at Thunderbolt after the Tybee Island ZAF and went back home and we came back we made a point to catch up with Mike at the bar. We had a nice conversation and came away knowing he was all Brotherhood. His thousands and thousands of miles at sea were very impressive. Mike

really had the love of the sea deep in his heart. We know that Mike will be deeply missed by Karen, the brothers and captives of the Savannah Table, and all who knew him. Sail on, Brother.

Four days after arriving home from Tybee, the tall ship Statsraad Lehmkuhl sailed into Norfolk for another weeklong diplomatic visit. Michele and I were fortunate to quarter in our condo Captain Marc Seidl, Chief Officer David Seidl, proud parents Albert & Alise Seidl, and Gary Johnson (from the Savannah, Chesapeake and/or Solomons Tables). The Chesapeake Table had their November ZAF in the home of John & Susan Williams. Everyone had a grand time as we drank copious amounts of adult beverages and gorged ourselves on Susan's chicken pot pies. After dinner we presented the U.S. BOC's highest award "For Merit" to Marc Seidl. This award was unanimously approved at the Savannah Assembly of Captains Meeting in September. Also in attendance were

brothers from the Solomons and Sailing Capital. We capped off the evening with multiple broadsides.

While we were in Norfolk, Hurricane Matthew decided to visit Orza in Thunderbolt Marina. The marina staff had professionally secured her and she survived with hardly a scratch. We rented a car back to Savannah and were soon on our way down the Intracoastal Waterway to the next ZAF, Little Pirates Christmas at the Sun Coast Table. Many of you are following our journey on Facebook, so I won't go into a lot of details, but we have been alternating cruising on Orza for 3 weeks and flying back to Norfolk so I can work for 3 weeks. This leg of our trip included crossing Lake Okeechobee to the West Coast of Florida and heading north about 95 miles to Twin Dolphin Marina in Bradenton. One cannot get to Okeechobee from Thunderbolt without cruising by cities where permanent snowbird brothers now reside. We spent a lovely evening having dinner and drinks in St. Augustine with Ed & Barb Krumeich from the NY Table. Then we were off to Cocoa Village Marina where Gary Johnson picked us up and drove us all around Cocoa Beach on his famous but liver-lethal Tiki Bar Tour. Stew & Diana Kauffman and Larry Bryant met us at Sunset Bay Marina in Stuart where we enjoyed another wonderful evening of drinks and dinner. We felt like we were getting the "Brotherhood party tag team" which all of us have experienced a time or two. We then cruised to Bradenton and docked at Twin Dolphin Marina which will be Orza's base until January 8th.

Brother John D'Alusio agreed to watch Orza while we flew back to Norfolk. JD does not work cheaply but he agreed to watch her if we stocked the boat with his favorite liquor and beer. We're not sure if we made a good deal or not at this point

Upon flying back to Sarasota, we were ready for some more Brotherhood activities and Little Pirates Christmas never disappoints. It is always a hoot and this one was extra special as the Sun Coast Table inducted two new brothers. Virgil Mellott and Tom Radcliffe became the newest members of our exclusive fraternity, along with their respective wives, Kathie and Jacky. They are a great addition to the Brotherhood. In addition, Gary Mink and David Lyons were raised to the engagé status. After the ZAF, Johnny D & Mariann along with Red & Trish Davis boarded Orza for a cruise to the Crow's Nest Marina in Venice for a few days. A fun time was had by all.

When we return to Orza after the holidays, we look forward to seeing more brothers this winter as we cruise to Key West (where several Solomons brothers winter), Marathon, and Lauderdale. It is so wonderful to be able to truly embrace the Brotherhood throughout our life's journey. We wish everyone a Happy Brotherhood New Year!

ORZA!!!

Captain Cruz

STOP the PRESSES!



And now a word from the Editor

It is not unusual for Brothers, Captives or Tables to host International visitors during their travels to the United States. But this summer most of the entire US Brotherhood played host to a visiting Brother and Captive.

Jerzy and Anna Paleolog, past National Captain of Poland, planned a trip to the US and along the way paid visit to SEVEN Tables. Their journey started in New York and continued on through Solomons Island, Norfolk, Savannah, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and finally Houston before their travels took them further westward.

Their visits to the US Tables was chronicled in Table articles in the last edition of the First Watch. On publication of the October issue of the FW, I e-mailed Jerzy and Anna a copy for their reading pleasure.

I recently received a copy from Jerzy of the Second Watch...their take on their whirlwind tour of the US, complete with a photo record from their standpoint. You will find the Second Watch included in its entirety and the end of the FW. Enjoy.

Monty "Python" Rogers

First Watch Wrangler

E-mail me at bocus148@gmail.com

Jerzy and Anna at "The Barn Door" Restaurant in San Antonio...and with their hosts Charles and Marcia...



Chesapeake Bay

Captain: Peter "Upwind" Dennant
pdennant@verizon.net

United States Brotherhood of the Coast Awards Medal of Merit

The planning started at the 2016 Captain's Meeting in Savannah: one of the U.S. BOC's elders, Dogwaes, nominated his son, Marcus Seidl ("Shantyman") - Captain of the Statsraad Lemkuhl - for the prestigious **Medal of Merit**. The Captains of the U.S. Tables unanimously approved the nomination and plans were made to make the presentation during Shantyman's next stateside visit. Marcus has interfaced with the U.S. Tables perhaps more than any other international Brother. Through his actions and deeds, Marcus' life on the sea epitomizes the ideals of our fraternity.



Captain Marcus and his brother (small "b" denoting they are kin) First Officer David ("Davy Bones") have worked aboard the Statsraad Lemkuhl for thirty years, plying international waters on charters, Tall Ship races and, of course, the annual training run to the Chesapeake Bay in service to the cadets of the Royal Norwegian Navy. This year, their only port of call was Norfolk where the Brothers of the Chesapeake Bay Table ("CBT") welcomed their arrival for the twelfth year in a row.

The ship arrived in Norfolk on Monday, November 7th. The brothers Seidl arrived from Savannah on Wednesday accompanied by their mother and father. The CBT Brothers were invited to board the Statsraad for a formal reception sponsored by the Norwegian Embassy and the Royal Norwegian Navy on Thursday evening. But, while the public event was being held on the main deck, U.S. Brothers were made welcome at a private reception in the Captain's Quarters before joining the other guests for a meal of Norwegian delicacies.



But, the main event for the Table and visiting guests was the November Tip-a-Few at the home of Brother Bui (John Williams) on Friday, November 11th. Bui and his Captive, Susan, had graciously consented to move their Tip-a-Few back a week to welcome the visiting Brothers from the Bergan Table and provide for the Award Ceremony. While National Captain Cruz had done his best to keep word of the award a

secret from Marcus, many of the United States Brothers knew about it and adjacent Tables sent representatives to the Event: Swedish Navigator and Dogwaes came from the Savannah Table; Goose came from the Solomon Island Table and; Salty Dog, Chessie and Toad came down from the Annapolis Table.

It was a full house for Bui and Susan but, everyone squeezed into the available room without destroying their home. After a fine dinner, Brothers donned their tricorns, gathered in the living room where the Metal of Merit – forged by Dogwaes – was awarded to Shantyman by the National Captain.

While the presentation of the Medal of Merit was certainly the highlight of the evening, there were other events to celebrate. Both Bui and Junebug (Upwind's Captive) celebrated milestone birthdays. Additionally, Piper announced his engagement to Maria after a long courtship.

2017 ZAFFERRANCHO

The Chesapeake Bay Table would like to remind everyone about the 2017 Zaffarrancho that will be held in Norfolk, Virginia, in conjunction with the annual *Harborfest* celebration at the Norfolk waterfront. Save the date for June 8th – 11th. The Annual Captain's meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 10th. Formal invitations and instructions will be issued in January.

New Brother Travels to Lisbon



In his first international visit as a Brother, John "El Viajero" Martin and his wife Ruth visited Portugal in October of this year and had the pleasure of meeting several Brothers of the Lisbon Table.

Brother Pedro Mendes organized a Brotherhood outing to attend a festival of Portuguese "fado" singing which was held in an ancient neighborhood of Lisbon, the Alfama. The group enjoyed a lovely evening hearing this traditional form of Portuguese

song while enjoying a classic Portuguese meal called "seafood rice." Brother Pedro Mendes also arranged for John and Ruth to spend the next day sailing on the Caravel "Vera Cruz," a replica of one of the exploration era sailing ships from the days of Vasco de Gama. This ship is primarily used as a sail training ship but also as a goodwill ambassador travelling to other countries and has visited the US in the past. The Brothers of the Lisbon Table are the mainstay of the leadership, management, stewardship and fundraising for this ship. The "Vera Cruz" is a handsome ship and her young crew-in-training were very professional. A special treat was to see Portugal's beautiful tall ship "Sagres" sailing by under Lisbon's iconic statue of Christ, with Brother Pedro Mendes (who has skippered the "Sagres" around the world) on board. Brother John warmly thanks the Lisbon Table for a very special welcome to Portugal.



Corpus Christi

Captain: Louis "Lost Louis" Adams
rladams@cableone.net



The Corpus Christi Table hosted the **Margaritas and Señoritas Zaf** in early October. It was a Full Battle Dress incredible event (included adult beverages). Shrimp, potatoes, corn, sausage, and anything else that would fit in the pots were boiled and consumed on Friday.



A Mariachi band, DJ, Tex-Mex food, and drink in abundance were provided Saturday. We celebrated Captive Audrey Rogers Birthday with cake and Mariachis.



Saturday also including the ceremonial “Standing in the last bucket of Margaritas” performed by captive Sandy Seaburn.



It appeared that Neptune demanded a sacrifice in return for a successful Margaritas and Señoritas event. So, he caused an out of control citronella candle to burn through its holder and set fire to a card table below. Neptune chose a table on a second floor balcony which had been abandoned after the enchiladas and other delicacies were devoured. With a fire professional inside only feet away watching football, the arid smell wafted to the downstairs. Alert Brothers on the ground floor, after smelling themselves, decided it wasn't them so it must be a fire. Racing upstairs they were able to extinguish the blazing flames and really surprise someone standing underneath who wasn't expecting a quick shower.

Although there was much worry that the Captive who was the owner of the table would be somewhat upset (run for the hills!). She said she always hated that table and wanted a new one anyway. And despite Neptune's attempt to destroy the table it has been resurrected like a Phoenix as a garage work table.

In November, we held a Boucan at Brother Walrus's house, hamburgers were almost burnt, many sea stories and a few “Dark and Stormys”.

SAVE THE DATE: The world-famous Margaritas and Señoritas Zaf will once again be launched in September – October 2017 (probably early October). Dates and details will be settled in January. (After the rum, cigar infused planning meeting, with captives deciding most of the details).

ORZZZZAA!!!! The Lowly Scribe from the bilge, Bob “Walrus” Weber

Gold Coast



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

The Gold Coast Table had a very active fall season with 3 Boucans and our big Winterfest Boat Parade coming up on December 10. Brother David Sowers and the Fair Maiden Miriam hosted a Boucan in September with almost all of the Brothers in attendance for a feast of BBQ ribs and plenty of rum as well! We were joined by Dianne and Stew Kaufman who are now Florida residents and permanently located in Port St Lucie, so we look forward to having them as part of our Table functions more frequently!



In October, Deputy Dawg and the lovely Captive Mary hosted their 10th Annual BOC Wine Tasting which is one of our favorite events of the year! This includes a contest of tasting skills as we compete on who can guess the most correct wines. The Big Wine Winner this year went to John Dotto who won valuable prizes for his skills. Coming in a close second was Brother Jim Upp, who you can see was not as impressed with the valuable prize he won! We were all winners however, because of the great time and great Brotherhood we shared – the best prize of all!



Finally, in the month of November, Brother Scorpion (John Dotto) and the captivating Captive Sarah hosted a Boucan at their home on the New River. We had our newest Brother Fabio Bonini join us as he is back in South Florida for the season. We also had Christian and Kristen from the Berlin Table in attendance, as they are part time residents in the Fort Lauderdale areas as well. It was a perfect evening with spectacular food, wine and rum, and even better friends!





Another traditional of the BOC Gold Coast Table is the annual raft-up to watch the Winterfest Boat Parade which is Saturday, December 10 this year and is hosted by Cliff (Fozzy) Stephen and the Fair Maiden Sandy. For the cruising Brothers that may be in town at that time, please join us for an all-day raft-up, feast and Dirty Santa gift exchange which is always a riot.

ORZA!

Brian (MacGyver) Schmitz
Captain, BOC Gold Coast Table

Houston

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

The Houston Brotherhood of the Coast table had an eventful late summer and fall. The Savannah Zaf and Captains meeting was enjoyed by ten people from our table who returned with plenty of tales of fun times and great friends.

We have had well attended Boucans at the Pirates Porch at Southshore Marina where we invited several possible Passajaros to join in the food, dancing and adult beverages.

Five boats from our table made the annual voyage to the Corpus Christi Tables Margaritas and Senoritas Zaf. The Zaf was a blast and the weather was perfect for partying and boating.



Many from the table came in their wildest costumes to the Incredible Halloween party at Engage Mike Slevens and wife Lisa's haunted house. I'll say that I've never seen anything like it. Fog machine, photo booth food and adult beverages and some Very scary costumes.



Several boats traveled to Galveston to go to the Lone Star Rally, billed as the largest 4-day motorcycle rally in North America. Thousands of motorcycles everywhere and lots of good people watching and a lot of fun had by all.

Four Houston Brothers and their Captives attended the Chilean Zaf which started in San Antonio. While in Chile they visited five Tables during their eleven day stay, including the table at the birthplace of the Brotherhood of the Coast in 1951. Most Chilean tables have over 100 members. From all accounts, everyone had a Great time and enjoyed incredible hospitality from our Chilean Brothers.

Our Table Christmas party will be held December 3rd at Rick and Traci Hoekstra's home. Plenty of home cooked food and friendship along with our annual White Christmas gift giving (and taking), which is always fun.



A large group of us will view the annual Christmas boat parade on the 10th of December.

2017 will be an event filled year again with a lot of on the water boating activities along with shore side fun.

We are planning on having our Second Annual Boats, Boom & BBQ ZAF this summer and a notice is soon to show up in your email box with all the details.

A BIG ORZA from Houston

New York

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



FLASH ZAF AND SWASHBUCKLING WANNABEES

Back from Savannah and raring to go. Nine of us rented a house on Tybee Island and took advantage of the sites and fun. Check out the photos on BOCUS.org skillfully placed by our own Big Hopper.

A Flash Zaf was hosted by Gail and Joe Citarella on October 4 to celebrate the opportunity to wish Paul and Dawn Gudelis well on their drive home to St. Augustine, FL, leaving their boat north. The occasion was held also to introduce Paul and Alyssa Citarella to the NY Brothers before they sailed south.

Paul "Mindaugas" and Dawn left their Malo 36, "Bubu", in Stamford, CT. It will be ready to sail to Nova Scotia next season. It was their Send Off dinner.



Serious and sober Brothers read the Octolog:

Robert Coles "Big Hopper" proposed Paul Citarella as a new engage for the New York Table. Paul started sailing with his parents and sister when he was 10 years old and has been an avid sailor since. He recently purchased a Leopard 38 sailing cat after selling his Jeanneau 36. Alyssa, daughters Heather 10 and Katie 6, all keen sailors, plan to live aboard, working their way down the east coast to Florida and then on to the Bahamas for the winter. Their plan is to sail back to Long Island Sound in the summer to be with friends and family, then back to the Caribbean for the winter season.



Alyssa, Katie and Paul Citarella

On October 29, from the 16th century they came swashbuckling in, bearded, tattooed, eye-patched, be-studded with earrings, buckles on their boots flashing, wearing wide-belted, wide-legged, billowing gypsy pants with lacy pirate shirts under silver-studded vests. Their buxom, captive wenches followed demurely behind (as well as they could), red-lipped and red-cheeked, loose-bodied, with tendrils of hair escaping from their kerchiefs (they seemed, however, a cheerful lot, out for fun). The pirates and their wenches included "Tick Tack" (Chris Nitzsche), Marie Genteale, "Rascal" (Tony Olmer) and Theo, "Squeegee" (Jay Howard) and Norma, "Sparks" (Joe Citarella) and Gail, and "Cool Wood" (Kevin Rathbone).



It was the Second Annual New York Brotherhood of the Coast Halloween Celebration, hosted by "Tick-Tack" and Marie Genteale, who set a raucous, fevered, festive tone at their home in Greenwich, CT.

The celebration ran like a well-oiled clock. It began at 4:30 with lavish appetizers, endive crudités, cheeses, smoked tuna, wine, rum and other grog choices. The pirates and their wenches were amiable enough, chatting easily in their comfortable and artistic surroundings, admiring the beautiful paintings, porcelains and numerous antique clocks on the walls. No swords or knives were drawn before dinner, which featured a delicious, pink-centered pork tenderloin surrounded by vegetables and salads.

There was some small disharmony in the group which is to be expected among those who lead such aggressive and unstable lives. Our table Captain, "Jungle Jane" (Jane Protzman) presented as an African explorer, on the likes of Mr. Livingston. "Big Hopper" (Robert Coles) and Kathleen Civetta were Belgian Naval cadets. "Old Gaffer" (Joe Hliva) believed he was "Brad" a Greenwich Hospital Thrift Shop volunteer and was uncharacteristically timid, and his captive "Plum Blossom" (Maureen Johnson) was also uncharacteristically demure. Our guests, Stuart and Leslie Napoleon, were hospital orderlies and were on call if anyone needed immediate, if not amateur, medical attention.



The celebration ended peacefully. No medical attention was needed and a good time was had by all. Thank you to our host and hostess.



And thanks to "Plum Blossom" and "Brad", my ghost writing assistants.

Next Event is our Annual Sumptuous Holiday Zaf at Ina Fine's home on December 17.

A FABLE FOR OUR TABLE
"Twas the Night of the Rendezvous"

Adapted by: JungleJane

Twas the night of the rendezvous for this merry band,
Not a Captive was stirring, not even Tobey Anne.
The fenders were hung from the lifelines with care
In hopes that sound sleep soon would be there.

The Brothers were nestled all snug in their bunks,
With heads of rum circulating, like drunks;
With Theo in her T-shirt and Tony in his cap,
They had just settled down for a long night's nap,

When out on their deck there arose such a clatter
Tony sprang from the cabin to see what was the matter.
Up the ladder topsides he flew like a bird,
Opened his eyes and said, "Oh my word".

The moonlight fell on the still waters
Giving it lustre on all that matters.
When, what to his wandering eyes should appear,
But a wooden craft with eight NY Brothers, so near.

With a little old driver with eyes all a-twinkle
He knew in a moment it was ole BaggyWrinkle.
More rapid than seagulls those Brothers they came.
As he whistled, and shouted, he called them by name.

Now, SQUEEGEE! now, TICK TOCK! MINDAUGUS! and OLD GAFFER!
On, COOL WOOD! on SPARKS! now BIG HOPPER! THE EXTERMINATOR!
He was dressed all in yellow foul weather gear
Which showed signs of much wear and tear.

Paint, tools and sandpaper were in his pack.
He looked like a wood boat owner with a bag on his back.
He spoke not a work, but went straight to his work
Pulled out his prize concertina with a jerk.

And laying his fingers aside of the keys,
Giving a nod he played a sea chantey with ease.
He sprang back to his yacht, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all sailed with the sped of a missile.
And I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

HAPPY ORZAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT

18 December 2016

Sailing Capital

Captain: Lee "Chessie" McMichaels
leenmcm@gmail.com



***The Annapolis Table wishes the
U.S. Brotherhood a Happy Holiday***

We are all looking forward to New Year's adventures

The most significant event of the last quarter is our second Induction since Founding; we are now nine Annapolis Brothers. Brother Chris Nalley *a.k.a. Wanderer* has joined us.



Bonny Feedeez'



Clear sighted and conscious



King Neptune's nectar



The Octalog is attested



Apunten...**FUEGO!**



Rum was toasted **ORZA!**

The Annapolis Table has visited Trailer Trash and the Savannah Captains Table in 2016 as well as a number of off campus TAFs. Thank you to those Brothers and their Mates for the hard work in putting together great times and rewarding events.

In November Brothers from the Annapolis & Solomons Tables attended the Chesapeake Table's TAF to witness and congratulate *Brother Shantyman* of the Bergen table upon his presentation the *BOCUS Award of Merit*.



San Antonio

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

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

The San Antonio Connection

It all began several months ago when the San Antonio Table of Chile invited the San Antonio Table of the United States to join them for a Zaf to help celebrate San Antonio Chile's 60th Anniversary.

San Antonio (Texas) brothers Charles "Oso" Hankins and captive Marsha and Wayne "Kilo Pata Barrera" McNeil with captive Patty were joined by Houston Tables Don "Big Dog" Peterson and captive Peggy and John "Sneezy 37" Killian and captive Anne. Also making the trip were Corpus Christi Tables Ken "Solo" Sharp with captive Carrie, Bill "Joker" Streep with captive Jan and engage Frank Simoni and Shelby.

The Texas group traveled to Chile for 9 days of celebration. Events included two Navy ship rides, horse racing, several bucanos and 3 Zafaranchos along with many other activities.

They were hosted by Chileans of the San Antonio, Valparaiso and Santiago Tables.

The pisco sour inventory of the entire nation was almost depleted.

The entire trip was a history lesson, including a visit to the Santiago Brotherhood cave where the Octalog was created. We Texas Brothers are looking forward to our Chilean Brothers visit in the near future.

VIVA CHILE!!! ORZA

Pics from Marisol Vidal, Captiva in Chile! Thank you!



Weinfest 2016

In late October the San Antonio Table gathered in David and Sissi's backyard to celebrate Weinfest. This is a reminder of the wonderful Mosel Valley and Traben-Trarbach, Germany.

The tradition continued with Sissi's fare of sauerbraten, bratwurst, red cabbage and (not sour) sauerkraut. The weather was cool and clear which allowed everyone to be outside. The tables were decorated with pumpkins and candles. Of course, German beer and wine were plentiful.

The fireplace and fire pits were lit as it grew dark. Cream puffs, cheesecake and laser lights came out. And to cap off a wonderful evening, schnapps and cognac made an ORZA appearance.

David "Pilgram" Overpeck



First ever Casino Night

held at Grand Casino Eckerman

For a change of pace the captives organized one of our monthly events. They opted for casino night. Dick and Sara converted their house into a casino with blackjack, poker, red dog, and left/right/center. In addition to the games there was a feast of appetizers, chili, and desserts organized by Audrey and Sara and furnished by the ladies.

Prizes of Spec's (liquor store) gift cards were awarded to four gamers with the most chips at the end of the session. To no one's surprise, Charlie Hankins was the big winner as he obviously attended the 'Sledge Hammer' School of Poker. Dick Eckerman, Mary Laxson/Sunset, and Monty Rogers were second, third, and fourth. Patty McNeil dealt blackjack and Mike Sasser dealt five card stud. It was also Little Wayne's birthday and Laurie brought a wonderful ice cream cake.

Patty McNeil



San Antonio Table – Cowboy Christmas

‘Twas the night before Christmas – well actually more like a week and a day – when a bunch of ol’ pirates swapped out their “Blackbeard” like attire for country cowboy wear, as they prepared to celebrate the holiday!

White elephant gifts sat nestled under the tree, ready to be opened and exchanged, but first multiple visits were had at the sumptuous buffet.

Then what to our amazement should appear, but a mighty green tractor hitched to a “sleigh,” totally filled with hay.

With a big ol’ driver, lively and . . . quick??? We knew in a moment it had to be St. Nick (aka Craig Wright,) standing there before us in the Wright’s driveway.

In a flash the sleigh was loaded, by cowboys and cowgirls alike, all cozy and snug, while arrangements began to set out onto the nearby pathway.

Then with a twinkle in his eye, his nose like a cherry, the jolly, old elf steered his magnificent John Deere, always faithful and true, slowly towards the roadway.

From far away, the crowd could hear the chubby, old fellow exclaim: *“Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!”*





2017 Calendar will be finalized in our January planning meeting.

Savannah

Captain: John "Pirogue" Byrne
jhbinga@bellsouth.net

National Captain's Meeting Tybee Island, Georgia

The Savannah Table enjoyed offering a combination **Zafarrancho and National Captains Meeting** in late September at Tybee Island, Georgia, with a laid back theme for all activities around the Tybee Beaches. Over 120 Brothers and Captives attended.

The Annual Assembly of Table Captains kicked off the weekend with a Friday breakfast meeting and reports from all Tables on status and activities since the last meeting

After a relaxing afternoon on the beach and enjoying the beautiful historic sites of Savannah, all attended a Tropical Island Bar-B-Q Dinner and Dance at the Tybee Lite Shrine Club. There were prizes for the most outlandish tropical dress and the joint was really jumping to the music of Brother Joa Kelly's Band "Soap".



From left Mike Pranschke, Albert Seidl & John Byrne

For more pictures of this fabulous weekend....see... <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-wnCJ42>

Audrey Rogers

Saturday morning found the group back on the beach for a Bloody Mary beach walk and discussions of interesting Tybee Island and Savannah history. In the afternoon it was time to “go fly a kite” with a kite flying contest on the beach. All were instructed to BYOK. Liquid refreshments were served and there were no reports of dehydration among the crew.

Saturday night was the “Buccaneer’s Bash” at the Tybee American Legion Hall with a Low Country Boil and Oyster roast. Full Battle Dress was the order of the day and music provided by DJ “Doc Ock”. The Bash ended with a mystery floorshow with fire twirling exotic dancers that sure knew how to entertain pirates! A farewell breakfast was held Sunday morning.

Hurricane Matthew gave Savannah quite a blow with the loss of many of our beautiful trees and damage to some of our historic homes, but we are happy to report no injury to the Savannah Brotherhood Family.

Recent visitors to the Savannah Table included Mark and David Seidl who are Captain and First Mate of Norway’s naval training tall ship “Statsraad Lehmkuhl” and sons of Savannah Brother Albert Seidl. Mark is Norway’s National Captain. A great evening of food, drink, and song was held aboard the “Always Leslie” in Thunderbolt Harbor.

Then came Rob and Holly Sanger aboard “Hampshire Rose” on their annual pilgrimage to the Bahamas. A typical Brotherhood welcome was provided, with plenty of food and drink for all. Apparently during their visit, a Savannah mouse “may” have been shanghaied. There was clear evidence of the mouse’s arrival aboard, but so far no ransom request.

Bob “Steed” Sandlin - Scribe, Savannah Table

Passing of Michael “Broomlip” Pranschke

It is with great sadness that I inform you that our Brother Michael Pranschke has slipped his mooring and begun his final passage upon the eternal sea.

Mike left us unexpectedly this week after years of learning to live with serious medical conditions. In addition to is other challenges, but unknown to Mike, he also had an advanced heart problem. Through it all, Mike maintained his sense of humor and positive outlook. He worked on his many projects, and to Karen's frustration, frequently acquired new ones. He supported his local sailing club, went schooner racing every summer in Nova Scotia until he couldn't, and set about restoring a vintage VW Beetle for Karen. The Savannah Table depended on "Broomlip" to manage our funds as Purser, and for a time he also took on the job of Scribe. In recent years he applied his considerable expertise to boiling lobsters, making our fall Lobster Dinner the success it was. Mike and Karen constantly opened their home to the Table. He will be greatly missed.



Sun Coast

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

As this is being written a very merry band of buccaneers is gathering to wrap up our 27th annual Suncoast Little Pirate Christmas Zaf. We were blessed with a fantastically beautiful Florida weekend with brilliant sunshine and mid-seventies weather.

Friday evening found the group cruising Sarasota Bay aboard Le Barge... a local tourist attraction converted to a Pirate schooner for our private charter with plenty of food, drink and entertainment. As always, the most important part of the event was having lots of hugs from old friends and meeting new ones as we get the three-day zaf off to a great start.

Saturday was free for roaming the Bradenton / Sarasota area during the day. There were reports of excursions, and several sightings at the myriad of local lunch spots. The 6 of us at my house toured the amazing John & Mable Ringling Museum and Art gallery largely dedicated to the circus (which wintered in this area for years).

As nightfall arrived we met at the Anna Maria Island Power & Sailing Squadron hall in NW Bradenton. Tons of appetizers were followed by an excellent BBQ dinner and a bit of liquid refreshment. Our favorite band SUNDOWN performed for their 11th year for the event, playing lots of Jimmy Buffet tunes. The highlight was "Mother Ocean" with the "all-hands" line dance.

The really big event was the recognition of David Lyons and Gary Mink as they formally became engage's of the Suncoast table... Followed by the fun of inducting Virgil Mellot and Tom Radcliffe as Brothers. Tom, a retired corporate pilot is now known as "Tailwind", Flag #762. Virgil, an avid gun owner and former Air Force fighter ace, is now known as "Boom Boom" Flag #761. As occasionally happens, the Suncoast brothers overruled Virg's nickname name selection of "Phantom" but you will have to inquire from the attendee's as to why the switch to Boom Boom.



Kathy and Virgil Mellot, Scott, Tom and Jacky Radcliff



David and Toni Lyons with Tom and Jacky Radcliff



Announced at the Suncoast zaf is a new idea being implemented locally to recognize and honor the growing number of Brotherhood widows. Many of the ladies have indicated a sincere interest in continuing their relationship with the organization, having made many friends and memories in their role as Captives.

We are changing the table roster to show the "ACTIVE-CAPTIVE" as the member, and urge their continuing participation. An Active-Captive may choose to retain her past husband's Brotherhood name, or select one for herself. The flag number stays the same.

While the title is honorary, we have been receiving support for the idea locally and beyond. In a lighthearted moment one of the ladies pointed out to all that this is not something to aspire to. You just gotta love it!

We all hope you will join us next December for our 28th Little Pirate Christmas!

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 for the 2017 Trailer Trash Zaf. This year you can make your calendar for April 28-30, 2017.

There may be a few surprises in there but count on doing something Friday night to help jump-start the weekend. 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.

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.

Sunday morning will greet all with our Adios Breakfast to prepare you for your trip home or an extended San Antonio stay.

Mark your calendars for **Trailer Trash**, one of the Brotherhood premier events, April 28-30, 2017. Be there or be...a flamingo.

SECOND NOTICE

The Chesapeake Table of the Brotherhood Of The Coast will be hosting a National Zaffarancho in June of 2017.

As we have done in the past the Zaf will coincide with the Annual Norfolk Harborfest celebration. A firm date has not yet been confirmed, but the second weekend in June is a good target date.

Here is a brief synopsis of the daily events:

Thursday afternoon registration, Welcome Reception Thursday evening

Friday, join the Chesapeake Brothers aboard their boats to participate in the PARADE OF SAIL to escort the visiting Tall Ships and Naval Vessels up the Elizabeth River from Hampton Roads to Downtown Norfolk. Friday evening activities still in the planning stages.

Saturday, enjoy the Harborfest events in Town Point Park, go visit some of the nearby historical sites, or just come out and relax on your brother's boats that will be docked downtown for the weekend. Saturday evening we will have our formal dinner, Battle Attire, followed by what it always a spectacular Fireworks Display over the River.

Sunday morning we will be having a Farewell Brunch to wish everyone safe voyage home.

More information to follow as it becomes available, so mark your calendars, keep the date flexible and plan to come out and have a great time.

ORZA!!!

**Floater
Scribe
Chesapeake Table
Aka Eric Matherne**

SECOND WATCH

Brothers of the Coast (BOC) - how it works

Supplement to the *First Watch*, by Jerzy and Anna Paleolog, BOC of Poland



1. Execute with respect the orders of the Captain as they were those of your spiritual father or your older Brother.
2. Never bear arms or attack with bad words the Brother of the same bay or those of the Littoral.
3. Receive in your boat the Brother who visits you; offer him the food from your table and the best hammock in your cabin.
4. As you treat your Brethren so will you be treated and the Captain will celebrate your fraternity, or will punish you.
5. Do not envy the ship of your Brother, nor his sails, nor his motor.
6. Bring the Brother without harbor to your bay, and should he own no other riches than his hart, take him aboard your yacht and consider him as your Brother.
7. Do not be conceited or violent; if you are, you will cause your Brethren to keep away from you, and you will be quarantined with your plague.
8. Love of the Sea must be the Cult of your days; make sacrifices for her and observe her laws.



I am a university professor, sail boat/vessel skipper, professional swimmer, but first of all, I am a BROTHER OF THE COAST. I used to be the National Captain of Poland for 8 years. My captive/shipmate is very enthusiastic about BOC and seriously involved in its activities, which is not easy in Polish, rather orthodox BOC, where not more than 10% of the Brothers attend Zafarranchos with their captives. She is going to change it. The laws of the OCTOLOG, which I swore to follow, are simple, full of humanism, and timeless. I believe that such a law is what we need in the contemporary commercialized and industrialized world.

Anyway, Brothers and their Captives from the US BOC met us recently. This summer, when we were visiting seven US BOC tables, we met about 90 American couples involved in the BOC and were hosted at 10 American homes. We did not pay for the accommodation, for most of the food we ate, and for many of the travel expenses. It seems incredible and amazing, but it is true. And... that is just how the BOC works. Without your help, dear US Brothers and Captives, our visit in the US would not have been possible. Such is the truth. Great thanks and OORRRZZZAAAA!!! to all of you. Now we know more US Brothers than those from the European countries. It is also amazing. And what is even more important, thank you all that you

have confirmed that the idea of the BOC works, that you ensured us that we, as the Brothers of the Coast, are on the proper track, and that you showed us once again how the BOC should work properly.

It was 2010. As a new NC of Poland I got a message. Its original text was: *“Dear Brother Jerzy, I plan to attend the "Goose Fair" in Berlin DEC 8-13. I thought, perhaps I could pay a visit to my Polish Brothers before the Berlin Zaf - is this feasible? ORZA! Joe Citarella - Int'l Vigie - USA, Scribe NY Table”*. And in this way, the



Fot. 1.

next chapter in the history of our Brotherhood started. I hadn't known any American Brother before and Joe had never been to Poland. We were perfect strangers so to say. But we had the same the OCTOLOG, the flag and the Brotherhood. And that was enough. There was a winter storm, with the temperature of about 5°F when Brother Joe arrived in Warsaw. His train from Berlin was delayed about 3 hours. The drive to Warsaw from Lublin, where I live, took me 3 hours, then, I was waiting for Joe on the railway station platform for 4 hours, and finally the drive back to my home took us about another 3 hours. When we finally started our dinner, it was about one o'clock a.m. And we were talking and talking.... Frosty night was going and whisky was flowing, as if we were not strangers but old friends. But remember one thing.

Although we saw each other for the first time, we had the same the OCTOLOG, the flag, the ceremonial, and the Brotherhood, i.e. we had the same way of thinking. Joe met the Lublin Brothers on the next day and went to Gdansk (Photo 1.) and Szczecin, which are the harbor cities on the Polish Baltic coast, and where other Polish BOC Tables are, too. Finally, another idea sprouted. Since Poles' incomes were generally lower than Americans' and most of the Polish Brothers couldn't afford the trip to US, why shouldn't the Polish Brothers arrange a Great Polish-American Zaf in Gdansk, Poland, so that US Brothers could come to Poland?



Fot. 2.

After two years, in 2012, the idea materialized and *“The First PL-US International Zafarrancho”* was celebrated. We had busy days. People from many countries attended that meeting, which was very profitable for the international BOC and our fraternity (Photo 2.). Remember, everything had started two

years before, when the Int'l Vigie of the USA came to Poland to meet Jerzy and Anna. And to tell the truth, this is exactly how it oftentimes works. And how it should work.

During the Gdansk Zaf the next idea was born. I and my captive/shipmate Anna decided to visit as many US Tables as possible... sometime in the future. When we married we were relatively poor and we decided to postpone our honeymoon vacation for later. It was 23 years ago. The US seemed to be a perfect destination for such a trip but it was only a dream at that time. That idea, however, exactly fitted in with the idea that was born during the Gdansk Zaf. After the PL-US Zaf in Gdansk, the subsequent years were passing and we



tried to solve the common problem. How to combine time and money, and, particularly, how to get 5 weeks of vacation? Maybe that problem was only an excuse. I don't know. In December 2015, we attended "Goose Fair" in Berlin, which was connected with the 10th anniversary of the Berlin-Potsdam Table. Do you remember? Brother Joe had decided to visit Poland just because he attended "Goose Fair" in Berlin in 2010.

Was it a coincidence? The Int'l Vigie of Germany was Christian Berghausen who had a lot of contacts with the US BOC, he had visited the US, and had also attended some Polish Zafs. He lived in Berlin. It is far away from Lublin and from the US, but he also had the same OCTOLOG, the flag and the Brotherhood (Photo 3.). So we went to Berlin. In Berlin, we met the US Brothers again, and, particularly, the US NC Scott Ripley, who took away our excuses. He said, "Why don't you just fly to the US and we will take care of you". So it seems that the meeting with the US Brothers during the Berlin Zaf was crucial for our visit in the US. What would have



happened if we or the US brothers, had not gone to Berlin? I do not even want to think of that. Probably, I wouldn't be writing this text now. But this is just, how it works. You have to meet the Brothers. No matter how far away it is.



In August, 2016, six year after Joe's first visit in Poland, we jumped out of

the plane at the New York airport and met our Brother Andrew Bieńkowski (NY Table), who also happens to belong to the Lublin Table in Poland. You probably know his story. Many years ago, he escaped from the Communists to the US by boat. He escaped to a completely unfamiliar country and was a newcomer from

behind the Iron Curtain. But he was the BROTHER OF THE COAST, and, finally, he joined the American people who had the same the OCTOLOG, the flag, the ceremonial and the Brotherhood. This is just, how it works. I remember. I was proceeding astern within a crowded Greek harbor and looking for a free place for docking. It was already a little dark. Some people, waving their hands and shouting, showed me the proper place. They took our mooring lines. I was docking near a boat flying the same personal flag as we had. The French brothers had noticed my personal flag when we were passing the harbor entrance. Welcome Brothers!!! ORZAAA!! I am at home. Wherever it is. We have the same flags and the OCTOLOG. No matter where we are from. And this is exactly, how it works.

We spend two days with Andrew and his Captive Irena visiting NY. They were our splendid hosts and guides. Next, we took part in the Clam Zaf on the beach at Greenwich point. We met almost all NY Brothers and Captives. We spend beautiful and fruitful time (Photo 4). It was an honor for us to give Polish Medals of Merit for BOC to our US Brothers, Joe Citarella, in recognition of his developing Polish-American fraternity, and to Tony Olmer, for his excellent job as the SECOIN. The calms and vines were excellent. Next morning, after we spent the night at the Joe and Gail's place, they put us into their car and that's how our East-Coast trip started. A few bits of our hearts, however, were left in the NY Table. That is how it works.

The next Table we visited, was the Solomons Island Table. We stayed at the Al and Linda's house. The meeting with the Bothers and Captives was held at the Solomons Island Yacht Club. In fact, the meeting was held twice because we stayed in Solomons Island for two days (Photo 5.). We visited Washington, D.C.,



Calvert Marine Museum, swimming pool (it was opened especially for us before the regular working hours), and the old lighthouse.

When Brothers from the other bays visit us we always try to show them a part of our culture, history, in other words, we show them our local roots and tradition. We simply show them what is

the best in the place we live. Surely, when visiting the US Tables, we also were shown a lot of interesting places. Thus, as members of the BOC, we enable one another to become familiar with different countries



and cities very cheap and accompanied by excellent local guides at that. This is also, how it works. A few bits of our hearts were left at the Solomons Island Table and then Joe and Gail brought us to Norfolk.



In Norfolk we stayed in the Scott and Michele's apartment, and then onboard their boat, the Orza. So, we are proud to

say that we visited the US NC in his home harbor. We had two meetings with the Brothers and Captives. The first was in a restaurant and the other was a raft party held onboard the Orza (Photo 6). We also took part in two tours. The first of them was an evening stroll through Norfolk and the other was a short cruise onboard the ORZA along the Norfolk Naval Base. For us it was really interesting to see the places having such a big naval tradition and significance. Similarly to our stays at the remaining US Tables, we were hosted like VIPs and, at the same time, as the best friends. The most exciting was the raft party. We were at sea again, and it didn't matter that it was only for a short time. We were drinking wine, looking at the moonshine on the water at midnight and swimming in the dark. Yes, we love the sea, sailors and boats. This is also, how it works. We took part in the investiture of a new member. It is one of the most important events, when an Engagee becomes a Brother. The manner in which we find, select, prepare, and finally swear new Brothers in is the same all over the world, and this is also how the BOC works. Another few bits of our hearts were left at the Norfolk Table.



Fot. 7.

On the following day, Joe and Gail brought us to Savannah. It was a long journey. Savannah was a different place. We felt "the breath of the South". Once I used to love the Arctic sailing but now we prefer warmer seas. I had been sailing along the Savannah coast onboard a tall ship several years before. I was already a Brother but we hadn't got time to dock there at that time. In Savannah we stayed at the Joa and Jessica Kelly's house. Just in this very old, wooden house, we had a meeting with the Savannah Brothers and Captives (Photo 7). The family and friendly atmosphere was there. We were told amazing and inspiring stories about the life of our Brothers and their Captives. To tell the truth, we had really extraordinary people between the Brothers and Captives. Their life stories, particularly their connections with the sea, are truly inspiring. Scott Ripley mentioned that in the "First Watch". As members of the BOC, we are proud of each other and we encourage each other to take the subsequent challenges. This is also, how it works. On the next day, we had the Savannah tour, a nice dinner, we were swimming in the ocean, visiting Fort Pulaski, and finally, a few bits of our hearts were left at the Savannah Table.



Fot. 8.

On the following day, Joe and Gail gave us a lift to the Atlanta airport. After a short flight we reached Austin, where met Charles and Marsha, who took us to their San Antonio house. Thank you Joe and Gail for being our guides, drivers, and sponsors for a one week. Now we were strangers in Texas, we had heard a lot of crazy stories about. "Do not mess with

Texas", we used to be told. There was a heavy rain because a tropical storm was passing New Orleans. But we felt like at our own home because we were hosted by the persons who had the same flag, the OCTOLOG, and ,moreover, the open hearts (Photo 8). That is exactly, how it works. Of course, as at all other US Tables, we had a meeting with the Brothers and Captives and a short, because of the rain, sightseeing tour in San Antonio. We tasted real American steaks, but we also had enough time to talk. It rained, I used to be the NC of Poland and Charles used to be the NC of the US. We are emotionally connected with the BOC and its developing so we talked about the principles and the daily life of the BOC, we discussed how the BOC should work, how to be closest to the OCTOLOG, etc. Such discussions, that we have when we meet Brothers from the whole world, are also a part of the a way the idea of the BOC works.



Fot. 9.

Then we rented a car and our next destination was Paul and Karen's house in Corpus Christi. In fact, it was not in Corpus Christi but in Aransas. We did not know that. So we were riding throughout Corpus Christi back and forth having an unexpected city tour and passing five times the main bridge with the impressive panorama, including the view of the aircraft carrier. Luckily,

it was not sailing between the reefs. The Texas Brothers had traveled to Europe frequently. Therefore we had a lot of friends, whom we had met before, among them. For instance, it was the fourth time we met Paul and Karen, our hosts. The BOC members have Brother friends in many locations and meet them from time to time. This is also how it works. We were attending the ceremony of investiture of a new Brother again (Photo 9). It was a meeting at which everybody wore a full combat pirate dress. Concerning the traditional attire and armament, the Corpus Christi Table is great. All the details and accessories were perfect. And we saw the emotion in the eyes of our new Brother. There was no doubt that the matter was taken seriously and honorably, and this is also how it works. We are proud and we feel honored that we took part in "the birth" of our new US Brothers twice. On the next day we left a few bits of our hearts at the Corpus Christi Table. Being a little bit surprised that our hearts were still working, we went to Houston.

Our Texas visit had to be shortened because we were forced to change our plans due to the tropical storms and a severe flood in the area of New Orleans. But we were able to visit the Houston Table even if it was for a short time. We stayed at the Ken and Kelly's house. The schedule of our visit included two points, i.e. the home Zaf and a short tour at the harbor area by a golf cart with Ken. As usual, Brothers and Captives gave us a very hot welcome. The Zaf was taking place in a calm, cosy atmosphere (Photo 10). People scattered inside the big house and garden and talked about the BOC, about their jobs and families. Joining such groups, we learned a lot about their daily lives. Charles and Marsha attended that meeting because they had just bought a new boat in Houston, and, therefore, many talks were connected with it. Such meetings are also necessary and they strengthen our Fraternity. This is also how it works.



After leaving the next bits of our hearts in Houston, we came back to San Antonio, dropped off the car, and Charles and Marsha gave us a ride to the Austin airport. After 3 hours of flight we reached Denver from where we started our round trip through the American National Parks. We would like to thank

Charles and Marsha for being our guardian angels in Texas. Then we visited 11 US National Parks and we would like to tell you that you have really impressive nature and a beautiful country. You have to protect it and take care of it.

Usually, when we meet Brothers from other coasts we give and receive gifts with BOC symbols . Thank you for the gifts we received from you and we are sorry that because of the airline restrictions we were not able to give souvenirs to all of you. We collect such souvenirs in our houses and boats. We have “walls of fame” made of items with symbols of BOC. They are nice to look at and remind us about our belonging and commitments to BOC. The pins we exchange and our hats are also very important. When waiting for our guests at airports, harbors, or wherever it happens to be, we usually wear our typical hats. This is our hallmark, no matter where we are. This is also, how it works.



Great thanks to all of you for the splendid US trip, particularly those who ***“offered us the food from their tables and the best hammock in their cabin”***.

Without your assistance our US trip would not have been possible.

OOORZZAAAAAAA!!!!!!; and see you somewhere and sometime.

After all, we have the same flag and the OCTOLOG, now we know that you remember, you have proved this. Jerzy & Anna – The flag No. 78

We want to thank our Brother Maciej Maciejowski (The Lublin Table, Poland) who improved the English of this manuscript.