

First Watch

US Brotherhood of the Coast Official News Letter



15518 Elm Park, San Antonio, TX 78247, e-mail: bocus148@gmail.com

Editor: Monty "Python" Rogers ~ Associate Editor: Audrey Rogers
Photos: as stated

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From the Helm



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

June is a great month for boating and Brotherhood on the Chesapeake Bay. And there's no better place than at our Solomons Island / Chesapeake Bay Tables' Raftarrancho on the week of the Summer Solstice (this year on Thursday, June 21, at 0607 EDT).

Folks come by cars and boats and converge on the waters off Fleets Bay just north of the Rappahannock River. We raft up off Cedar Beach on Wednesday and then we spend Thursday and Friday tied up at Indian Creek Yacht Club. After breakfast on Saturday the boats set sail for home which for many is a two day journey.

Since that week is rapidly approaching I thought send in some photos of our 2010 celebration. We were a little younger and leaner then but you'll get the idea. Enjoy and I hope to see you soon at our Raftarrancho.



Captain Cruz

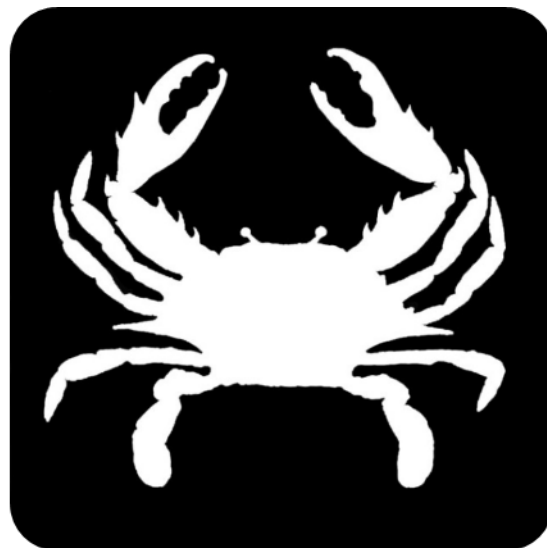
Chesapeake Bay

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

Table Emblem & Flag Redesign

Owing to graphic files that were lost years ago, Table Captain Upwind initiated a graphic redesign of our crab emblem in 2017. After engaging with three different graphics designers he learned Photoshop and did the redesign himself. The result is the retirement of our founding emblem: The Drinking Blue Crab. The new kid-on-the-block is the **Battling Blue Crab**. Armed with plenty of lethal barbs, the Battling Blue Crab can always be depended on in battle!

Of course, this necessitated a redesign of the Table Flag:



By the time the design was done, many of the Brothers in our Table were needing new flags. I entered into a discussion of flag production with Brother Julio (Bill Hallmark) of the Houston Table. Julio has taken on new skills – and an embroidery machine – to produce high quality flags for the BOCUS Tables. His efforts hit the mark! Everyone in our Table who purchased new flags from Julio are very happy with the detail and quality of these flags.

New Brother

The Chesapeake Bay Table is pleased to announce the induction of a new Brother: Brother **Blue Note** (Steve Stelmaszek) was inducted into the Brotherhood on May 19th, 2018. He will fly flag No. 713. Steve has recently launched a new business, *Chesapeake Bay Metalworks*. He specializes in metal work for boats. He is also a professional jazz musician whose primary instrument is the saxophone: hence the name, *Blue Note*.



Corpus Christi

Captain: Bob "Walrus" Weber
rsddw2@cableone.net



In February, Brothers of the Corpus Christi Table gathered at the home of Brother Flash (Paul Froeschner) and his Captive Karen. The evening's main event was the official opening of "2 Brothers Brewery." Brothers Flash and Salty Limey (Mike Kneale) converted one bay of Flash's garage into a mini brewery where they have been cooking up quantities of craft beer since the first of the year. Several brews were sampled, but the hands-down favorite was the "Brotherhood Plunder", an India Dark Ale.

Brother Knothead (Freddie Wilkerson) and his Captive Vicki put on a brisket feast in March. Good food, copious quantities of booze and great camaraderie. There was even a competitive game of Jenga on the patio.

The 2018 Annual Shrimp Boil was held at the home of former table captain, Lost Louie (Louis Adams) and his Captive Karen. Master Chef Walrus (Bob Weber) and assistant boiler, Q-Tip (Gordon Gooseney) did a fantastic job, possibly surpassing the incredibly drunken shrimp boil of the previous year put on by Lost Louie and the Salty Limey. The shrimp were awesome and the meal was washed down with another keg of 2 Brothers' craft ale.

NOTE:

The Corpus Christi Table signature, annual event, Margaritas & Senioritas will be held the weekend of October 5-7. SAVE THE DATE!!

Upcoming events are:

May 5 th	Joe Seburn (Cinco de Mayo)
June 9 th	Louis Adams
July 6 th	Bob Weber
August 10 th	Paul Froeschner
August 16-19	National Captains' Meeting
September 15 th	Port A
October 5/6/7 th	Margaritas and Senioritas
November 10 th	Freddie Wilkerson
December	Nothing Planned

Houston

Captain: John "Sky King" Baker
flybaker@comcast.net

The Houston table is alive and well. To be honest, we are still recovering from hurricane Harvey as well as having a longer and colder winter than usual. We did have a wonderful Houston Table Christmas Party where we exchanged White elephant gifts.



Much rum was consumed with many ORZAs as well as great food and great fellowship with our Brothers and Captives. The dawn of the new-year saw a change of command at the Houston Table. The Outgoing Captain, Ken Hutchinson (aka Chaser), led us boldly for two years and did such a great job, we allowed him a 3rd bonus year!!! The new Captain, John Baker (aka Sky King) will have big boots to fill as we move forward.

Due to the ugly winter, it did keep our outdoor activities to a minimum. But as soon as the weather let up, it was obvious that everyone was stir crazy and so we had a large event at the Pirate's Porch on St. Patrick's Day for a big Martini Party. We even got invaded by some Pirates from the San Antonio table. The attendance made it obvious that everyone was ready to get out with their Brothers and Captives and have a great time.

One of our customary spring time cruises is Easter Blow which is the unofficial kickoff to our boating season. We had 6 Brotherhood boats join in the cruise down to Offatts Bayou in Galveston. We tied up at the Pelican Rest Marina where we joined in with more rum and festivities.

Friday night saw one of our rum tasting parties. Tom Collier on m/v Pirate brought a collection of about 20 bottles. Other attendees brought their entries as well. Needless to say, after many ORZAs everyone had a great time!



The following weekend, the city of Galveston hosted their first annual Tall ships festival. While not as big as the festival in Norfolk, it is encouraging to see that they had 6 ships attending and it seemed to be well received by the people of Galveston. A few Brothers brought their boats down to take in the sights of these magnificent ships. It will be interesting to see how this festival grows over the years.



Elissa



Picton Castle

The weekend of April 22nd saw our Crawfish Boil take place at the Pirate Porch. The crawfish boil had been an annual thing awhile back and we are trying to bring it back to its former glory. We had about 30 Brothers and Captives show up to eat those tasty “mud bugs”. A few friends of Brothers showed up as well. It turned out to be great weather and a perfect amount of crawfish (100 lbs.) as none went to waste. I think it is safe to say that everyone enjoyed it thoroughly and that it will very likely return to an annual event. Maybe ya’ll would like to come down and eat some with us next year?



Eating "Mud Bugs"



Captain "Ski King" and Crew



Leah and Wendy

Looking into the future, we have a Cinco de Mayo cruise planned for the weekend of the namesake. There will be 5 Brotherhood boats going the 70 miles down the coast to Surfside, Texas and stay the weekend at Bridge Harbor Marina. Also, toward the end of May there are a few boats going further south down the coast with an open itinerary.

And finally, our "**Boats Boom and BBQ Zaf**" will take place on the weekend of June 15-17. The invitations should be out by now and we would love for you to join us for some good old down-home Texas hospitality! Hope to see you there!

Fraternally,

Capt. John "Sky King" Baker
Steve "Lucky" Lee...Houston Scribe

New York

Captain: Jane "Jungle Jane" Protzman
janeprotzman@gmail.com



Be My (Belated) Valentine Zaf March 4, 2018



After numerous delays trying to schedule this for Valentine's Day it finally happened. Elaine and Lenny Sinowitz had the fireplace going for our Sunday Luncheon well attended by most of our Table. Good Food and Adult Beverages were plentiful. Robert, not wanting to start another fire in Elaine's kitchen created the traditional Raclette at this substitute cheese melting station.



"Big Hopper" at his Raclette Station



Victor telling his story

Guest Victor Samuelsen had us in hysterics with the story of losing and retrieving his catboat's hatch on I-95. While bringing home his new boat on a trailer its hatch blew off. The next day he retraced the route and spotted it in the median of one of our major highways, stopped and salvaged it. Pretty amazing.



Host “Baggy Wrinkle”



Heading home over the George Washington Bridge at sunset



Our next event, too late for FW will be Cinco de Mayo plus One, at the home of Engagé Stewart and Leslie’s home in Greenwich on Sunday, May 6. Leslie has graciously offered to prepare a festive lunch. We will have our Annual Clam Zaf in late June once again hosted by The Joe’s. Zafs on the water are being planned by the hearty boat owners.

San Antonio

Captain: Charles "Oso" Hankins

hankinsinstpections@gmail.com

Scribe: Wayne "Kilo Pata Barrera" McNeil

Purser: Dick "Tricky Dick" Eckerman

Memory Lane revisited

The San Antonio table took a trip down Memory Lane and spent a nostalgic evening of fun, camaraderie, and things a "little" different than most Table activities. A dozen of us, along with Ayla the Wonder Dog were off for an evening of miniature golf at Cool Crest, a landmark course built in 1929 in the Art Deco area of old Fredericksburg Road. It is the oldest continually operated miniature golf course in the world. Competition (?) was testy and no one knows who really won (and who cares).



The evening continued with dinner at the nearby Tip-Top Café, and 1938 eatery that is equally well known to “locals”. The Tip-Top menu lacks much of the selections found in the cities “finer” restaurants, but it serves a wicked chicken-fried steak and onion rings. Oh well, the diet can wait until next week.

Trailer Trash...lite

The end of April brings the city-wide celebration, party that is, called simply Fiesta. If it is Fiesta, then Trailer Trash must be here. This year’s Zaf was crowded behind the World Zaf in Uruguay and the Chilean after party. Attendance was down at this year’s Trailer Trash but not the level of fun.

You gotta’ build the boat, so once again we gathered at Craig “Marquis de Sade” and Cheryl Wrights big barn to assemble ORZA, San Antonio’s Pirate Boat entry in the King William Fair Parade. Once boat building was complete, we were able to get down to the serious matter of an open grill and adult beverages.

The weekend of April 27-29 arrived with a pre-Zaf event organized by Patty McNeil. A group was taken on a private tour of “The Gorge” at Canyon Lake. When flooding hit the area in 2002, it breached the spillway, carving out a gorge/mile long canyon between the spillway and the Guadalupe River that “excavated” 110 million years of limestone, dirt, trees and anything else that got in its way.





The scheduled activities began with Friday night meet and greets, split between the Canyon Lake crowd who gathered at Wayne “Kilo Pata Barrera” and Parry McNeil’s Fawncrest Vineyards for shrimp and the San Antonio group that were hosted by Bill “Joker” and Jan Strep and enjoyed fajitas. The night’s festivities were concluded early in preparation for tomorrow morning and the King William Fair Parade.

Our hardy band of pirates arrived early for the parade. Bloody Marias and tacos greeted all and the parade began, winding through the historic streets of the King William District. Our group, always widely accepted and anticipated, handed out thousands upon thousands of “Mardi Gras beads” that came straight from New Orleans courtesy of Charles “Oso” Hankins and Marcia Mandel.



A pirate crew needs to be fed, so after the parade we were off to Tycoon Flats, a neat little restaurant serving up good food and cold beverages.

Saturday night is the gala bash at Craig and Cheryl Wright’s big barn located north of San Antonio on the edge of the Texas hill country. Brother Bill “Kanza” Massey had been toiling away most of the afternoon cooking chicken and sausage in his trailer mounted wood fired ovens. Live music, good food, cold beverages and Brotherhood camaraderie was the order for the night.



Many years ago the Table created the “Flaming O” award, a swanky flamingo statue that is presented annually for service above and beyond to the San Antonio Table. This year’s recipient was Wayne McNeil in thanks for all he has done for our Table over the years.



Sunday morning found everyone at the home of Monty “Python” and Audrey Rogers for the Adios Breakfast. No one left hungry, there were plenty of sweet breads, bagels and lox, egg casseroles, chili con queso, grilled sausages and chipped beef with cream gravy (SOS) on biscuits. All this could be washed down with amply Bloody Marias, mimosas and coffee.



For those with real staying power there was one more activity to enjoy. Back into the Texas hill country again to Bandera, Texas, “Cowboy Capital of the World”, and the hilltop home of Bob “Stogie” Wills. We gathered At Bob’s “Blue Wildebeest” Saloon for mid-afternoon adult beverages and a late afternoon sample of Texas barbequed brisket with all the side dishes.



Mark your calendars now for next year’s Trailer Trash...the last weekend in April. A large contingent of Brothers from Chile are already talking of coming.

Welcome Home “Tricky” Dick

oh yes, and *Lawn Hydro Race*

A small but enthused crowd gathered in the home of “Tricky” Dick and Sara Eckerman for the Table’s annual Wayne Laxson Memorial Lawn Hydro Race and Boucon. Highlight of the afternoon was the host, “Tricky” Dick. Dick had just been released from weeks of surgery, recovery and rehab. It was indeed a Welcome Back Tricky day.



Lawn Hydro was a sport (?) brought to the San Antonio Table by our late Brother Wayne (Borracho) and Captive Mary Laxson. It was a popular pastime in the great Northwest where they lived for many years. When they returned to San Antonio and Canyon Lake Lawn Hydro Racing came with them.

After “spirited” (meaning many spirits were consumed) competition, the Victors were declared. Monty “Python” Rogers won the Brothers division with David “Pilgrim” Overpeck coming in second. On the Powderpuff side, Sara Eckerman won, with Mary Laxson placing second.



All returned to the comfort of the Eckerman home to continue the planned activities including a spread of food stuffs and an open grill for all to enjoy.

Upcoming Activities:

June 15-17 – We're going to Houston's Boats, Boom & BBQ Zaf

June 30 – Shrimpfest at the McNeil's Fawncrest Vineyard

August 16-19 – Nation Captain's meeting at the Solomon Island

September 9 – Pool party at Patrick and Wren Mills

October 5-7 - We're going to Corpus Christi's Margaritas and Senioritas Zaf

October 20 – Winefest @ David Overpeck and Sissi's

November 17 – Miss Kitty's House of Ill Repute and Saloon at Lil' Wayne McNeil and Laurie's in Bandera

December 15 – Cowboy Christmas at Craig & Cheryl Wright's Big Barn

Throughout the summer, impromptu raft-ups on Canyon Lake

And of course, First Thursday EVERY first Thursday of the month

Savannah

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

This month the Savannah Table welcomes Andrew Hartzell and Kevin Rose to their new rank of Engage' of the Savannah Table.

The Savannah Table usually gets together once a month, on the second Saturday, either out in greater Savannah or at a member's home. Table business meetings are held the second Sunday of the month, and we try to rotate between members' homes for the location.

2018 began with the Savannah Table's Annual Winter Dinner. This year it took place on Saturday, January 20th, and we have Joa and Jess Kelly to thank for coordinating the Winter Dinner and making it such a success. The dinner was held at the "17hundred90" Hotel which is a great old place in downtown Savannah. It is a hotel, restaurant, and bar. The "17hundred90" did themselves proud with an excellent menu, well prepared and served. Table members arrived early, occupied, and defended a nice corner of the bar, and proceeded to have a very good time. Following a great dinner, we viewed a DVD of adventures aboard the "Barba Negra" back when Marcus and David were boys, and Alise didn't look much older. Afterward most of the group headed via Pedi-cabs to "Circa 1875" (a French Restaurant in an Irish Bar) for some after dinner drinks and more carousing. Yes, the rumored Pedi-cab races down Broughton Street did happen. Neither the proprietors nor other patrons seemed phased by our tricorns, ORZAs, or Broadships, and "Circa's" fine bar was a very fitting end to a Savannah Pirate Night on the Town

On Saturday afternoon, March 10th the Savannah Table got together for an "Oyster Slurp and Roast" at Bob and Karen Kinderman's house. Bob had made a new oyster roaster, and we felt it was our duty to try it out. As always Karen put out a spread to compliment the food, and the backyard was set up to eat oysters in comfort. We ate oysters roasted, raw, fried, and stewed. They were all good! Many thanks to the Kinderman's and Pasajero Randolph Stewart for the oysters and all the prep that went in to this event.



The following weekend, March 17th to be specific, it was time to “celebrate St. Patrick’s Day”. This holiday is a big thing in Savannah, and the city does it up right. Bobby Vermillion throws an annual St. Patty’s Day party at his downtown apartment on Abercorn Street. The Table was invited to the party along with his many friends. The parade goes right by the building, and Bobby’s party was the perfect place to watch, reload, or carry on.

The plan for April 14 included two events. First there was a morning “Kayak Trip to Little Tybee Island” from a launching spot on Tybee Island’s southwest end. We made the 40 minute crossing an hour or so from low tide. The weather was beautiful: blue skies, light winds, no bugs, and the tide was with us both directions. Little Tybee was pristine with clean white sand, knurly trees, and great views. There is also a great big sand bar that pops up at low tide. A fun trip we should do more often.



The second event for April 14 was a “Wine Tasting” put together by Bobby Vermillion and Engage’ Andrew Hartzell. Bobby and Andrew did the research and recommended “Vino Veritas” a relatively new wine bar in Savannah. The Table had a good turnout and a really good time. There were interesting wines, generous pours, and tasty snacks. Everyone had plenty of time to visit in really nice environment.

May 12th the Savannah Table goes on an “excursion to Daufuskie Island, South Carolina”. Daufuskie is near Hilton Head Island, but there is no bridge. It is accessible by private or hired boats or a ferry that makes three round trips daily. We will cross from Bull River Marina on Wilmington Island. There is much to see and do on Daufuskie Island including beaches, historical sites, seafood businesses and small restaurants, artisan’s shops and studios, a bar, and a rum distillery. Visitors get around by foot, bicycle, or golf cart. We will make a day of it.

Please visit us in Savannah, we are standing by with an emergency party,

John Byrne
Captain, Savannah Table

Sun Coast Sun Coast

Captain: Virg "Phantom" Mellott
mellottvirg@gmail.com



Greetings from sunny, usually warm, south central Florida. The New Year began on the rather cool side with some temperatures at or near freezing. Below is a picture of one of our brother's boat after the cold spell passed by!

Well, maybe I exaggerated a little, but it was cold for Florida, however any temperature below 60 degrees is cool for us.

Our table met for three Tip-A-Few "happy hours" during the first quarter of the year.

In January about 24 of us met at Gecko's Pub & Grill for drinks and dinner. They have, without a doubt, the best pub food menu in the area. A fun time was had by all.

In February, John D'Alusio, aka "the Crab" set up a gathering at Snook Haven Bar & Grill. This is an "old Florida" restaurant on the banks of the mighty Myakka River complete with indoor dining or outdoor dining on many picnic tables. One old guy provided the outdoor music, where you order at a window and eat with the mosquitos, no-seeums and flies! Indoor was much more comfortable with the stuffed alligators, fish, etc. The highlight of the affair was a 1.4 hour guided pontoon boat up and down the mighty Myakka. As you can see by the attached pictures, we viewed much wildlife, i.e., some birds and many alligators of varying sizes. It was quite interesting and we had

some up close and personal views of the gators. All 29 of us really enjoyed the tour and good company of our Brothers and Captives.



March took us to a rather new establishment on the property of the University Town Center Mall in Sarasota. Past Captain Ed Loke and Captive Nancy arranged a gathering at a relatively new restaurant called Rusty Bucket. Small, cozy with a nice sized bar and an adjacent room for a group our size of about 21 people. This eatery has become the favorite of Ed and Nancy for a cocktail, or two, and a nice dinner close to their house. The menu was fairly diverse and the chow was formidable. We managed to all squeeze into the small room, or maybe "roomette" for a good dinner. The Captives all sat together so they didn't have to listen to the same old lies from the Brothers.

