

# First Watch

U.S. Brotherhood of the Coast Official News Letter



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Photos: as stated

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## From the Helm



Rick "Pescador" Hoekstra  
Captain, Brotherhood of the Coast US

A new year is upon us and the pace is full speed ahead. A lot of work and travel are planned for this year, beginning with a trip to the Florida Keys in mid-February. I will be joining a large group of brothers organized by Al Redfield to discuss the status of the Florida tables. We will then be traveling to the Caribbean for a birthday cruise for Mary Hallmark. This trip will begin on March 1<sup>st</sup> if any last-minute additions are out there. We expect to have at least 40 people in our group, and it promises to be a grand time.

The TexZaf has been set for June 19-21<sup>st</sup> and will be held in Houston. Details will follow in the next few months. Fireworks will be involved.

The Annual Captain's meeting will be held in Norfolk, VA this year from June 4-7<sup>th</sup>. I encourage all to attend and enjoy the festival and participate in the meeting. Many of our traditions are being revived as new members take over the helm and it is up to the experienced members to teach the most important aspects of our organization to the new members. A wealth of information is available thru Zafs and on our current website and on the Secoin website as well.

The San Antonio table is still working on a trip to Chile later this year. We expect this trip will be in the October to November time frame.

I will also be going to Amsterdam this year for the Sail Amsterdam festival. This is an event held every five years with all the tall ships entering Amsterdam. Anyone interested should follow up with me at the Captain's meeting. The festival is in August.

The 2022 World Zaf is on everyone's mind and we have a firm date of April 24<sup>th</sup> thru May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. We still have a long way to go to make it happen and the registration forms will not be available for a while. We have an excellent plan and most of the major details are already worked out, but there will be a lot of tacking to the lay line. All tables are charged to appoint a representative to the committee for assistance.

Orza!

Richard Hoekstra aka Pescador  
National Captain BOC USA

# ***The First Watch***

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*The First Watch*  
*Page of*  
**“Borrowed” Wisdom**

To most men  
experience is like  
the stern lights of a ship,  
which illuminate only  
the track it has passed.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge,  
From *Table Talk*, 1820

He who is not lucky, let him not go to sea.

Latin proverb

# Chesapeake Bay



Captain: Eric "Roux Ga Roux" Matherne  
[eric@mmdva.com](mailto:eric@mmdva.com)

## Boxing Day Bonanza

Once again we found ourselves at the home of Brother Cruz and his Mate Michele for the December Tip-A-Few and White elephant gift exchange. We had a couple of visitors join us this year. Brother Maine Sheets two daughters came as well as two Brothers and their mates from the Solomans Table, Goose and Linda & Salty and Andrea. The turn out was tremendous good food and great company.





There were many great gifts exchanged and some maybe not so great. I think Sherry is not so sure just how great the gift she got was, but Linda Baily thought it was just the thing and she stole it from her much to Sherry's relief. Many gifts changed hands during the event. As far as I know no gifts were left behind as per the rules.



## January TAF

It was a cold, windy, rainy evening but that didn't dampen the spirits of the Brothers and Mates of the Chesapeake Bay Table. Twenty-one hardy souls braved the harsh environment and made the voyage to Portsmouth to attend the January Tip-A-Few at The Dock of The Bay Restaurant hosted by Country Boy, Frankie, Roux Ga Rous and Jacque. The evening social started off with a variety of tasty appetizers, adult beverage and lively discussions of winter projects, plans for the upcoming boating season and enjoying the company of good friends. It was especially good to see that "El Piloto", Thom Dozier is getting stronger and that he and Francine were able to attend.

After a bit of coaxing we finally got everyone to find their seats and get their dinner orders in. During dinner someone let it slip that it was Frankie's Birthday. So naturally the group had to serenade young Frankie with a spirited "Happy Birthday" in perfect 3-part harmony, well almost perfect. Followed by a somewhat macabre Birthday Dirge. There is just no accounting for some people's taste. Not to be outdone the wait staff then showed up with a slice of Birthday Cheesecake and their own version of a Happy Birthday song. Hope you enjoyed you Birthday Frankie.

In true Brotherhood fashion before calling it a night a round of RUM was ordered followed by a rousing Andanada. All in all, it was another Brotherhood Day.

## Captains Meeting

Please remember that the 2020 Captains Meeting will be hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Table during the first week of June during the Norfolk Harborfest celebration. Details and sign-up sheets will be coming out very soon.

# Corpus Christi

**Captain: Bob "Walrus" Weber**  
rsddw4858@gmail.com



The Table gathered at the home of Brother "Speedy", a.k.a. Brad Stokes and his Captive Melissa in November. Speedy was "lost in the fog" for some time but has since found his way. We're all pleased to see Speedy and Melissa active in the Corpus Table once again. Speedy was Commodore of the Corpus Christi Yacht Club and invited a couple of other yacht club members to our get-together. We will be looking at the yacht club as a possible source of new Brothers.

The Holiday Season came and went without incident. In January we held the Table's annual "planning meeting" when the major events for 2020 were discussed. Barbara May (Captive of our Brother David May who passed the bar) graciously hosted the evening which included a very healthy spread of ham, fried chicken with ample fixin's provided by the other Captives.



January also saw the brewing, by Two Brothers Brewing", of our favorite grog Brotherhood Plunder. This strong stout does not travel well so if you want to partake you will have to visit us in Corpus Christi. For anyone making the trip, in the "pub" (Flash's garage), we currently have an American Red Ale and "Old Peculiar", a strong English ale. But don't wait, it won't last too long!!



Two Brothers Brewing  
Mike "Salty Limey" Kneale and Paul "Flash" Froeschner

A get-together is planned for February when one of the topics for discussion will be the expansion of our Table and the interview/interrogation of our Pasajeros. Some 2 Brothers Beer might be consumed.

ORZA!!  
Bob Weber  
Walrus  
Captain Corpus Christi Table



# Houston

**Captain: Mark "Marco Polo" Sandridge**  
[markasandridge@hotmail.com](mailto:markasandridge@hotmail.com)

Happy New Year from the Houston Table!

In December, we had our annual Christmas party and gift exchange at the beautiful lakefront home of John (Hagar) and Wendy Ellor. A big thank you to both of them for all the hard work they did to make it a wonderful party. We had over 40 people in pirate Christmas wear!

As of the New Year, we have a new Captain, Mark Sandridge, Marco Polo #129. On behalf of all the Houston Brothers, I would like to thank John Baker for his service as our Captain. He has done a wonderful job bringing in new members, planning fun boat activities and happy hours.

In January, during our "transfer of the power" party we inducted two new brothers, John Cinnater (Mudbug) and Al Waghorne (Tin Man). Please welcome them when you see them. Tin Man jumped right into service as our Scribe.

We will continue to have our monthly "Sundowners" party so that we can meet and get to know new people that might be right for our organization. However, we are moving the date from the first Friday of the month to the second Friday of the Month. If you are in the Houston Table's neighborhood, please contact one of us to find out the location of the party for that month and join us!



**SAVE THE DATE:** The Houston table is hosting the "Boats, Boom and BBQ" TexZaf 2020 June 19 – 21 this year. More information and an official invite will be coming soon.

As the weather gets warmer, we have planned a number of boating events, so if you are going to be in our area and want to participate, please contact us ahead of time so we can make proper arrangements. We look forward to a fun and active year!

Marco Polo  
ORZA!

# New York

Captain: Jane "Jungle Jane" Protzman  
[janeprotzman@gmail.com](mailto:janeprotzman@gmail.com)



Recognition Zaf, November 17, 2019  
At the NY Table's Southern Branch



*Orzas, left to right: Rob Sanger, Holly Sanger, Stew Kaufman, Diana Kaufman, Katherine McMichael, Lee McMichael. Hosts Paul Gudelis in back and photographer Dawn Gudelis reflected in the mirror.*

Paul and Dawn Gudelis hosted some roaming Florida Brothers at their home in St. Augustine in November. Rob and Holly Sanger, of the Chesapeake Table, were recognized for their work, over the last five years, for collecting and delivering school supplies to Long Island in the Bahamas, by the Seven Seas Cruising Association ([www.ssca.org](http://www.ssca.org)). Rob and Holly won their Clean Wake Award for Humanitarian or Environmental Efforts, recognizing voyaging cruisers, whether members or not. It honors those who exemplify, by their behavior, one of the main principles of SSCA, to leave a clean wake...to show respect for others and for our environment so that those who follow in our wake will be warmly welcomed.

## Holiday Zaf, December 15



*Host "Tick Tock's" collection*



*New York Table's adult beverage collection*

This year, for the first time in many years, our Holiday Zaf was not held at a Fine Home, that is, first Charles' and Ina's and later Ina's. Marie Genteale and Ina cooked up a deal to co-host the event at the Chris and Marie's home in Greenwich, CT. The menu was planned as a formal dinner from appetizers to dessert. Here's the menu: Appetizers - Gravlax, Antipasto, Shrimp. Entrées - Tenderloins of Beef, Roasted Potatoes, Asparagus, Beets, Mushrooms. Desserts - Lemon Mousse, Italian Pastry, Apricot Ring. And of course, some adult beverages: Prosecco, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Scotch, Rum and **Coffee**. The menu was planned as a holiday celebration and Ina added to the festivities with her gifts for everyone and special culinary presentations.



*Theo, Tony, Norma and Ina*



*Tick Tock", Gene, Kevin and JaneM, all at coffee time*

### Other News and Notes:

I have been in a continuing email correspondence with Jimmie and Michele, our visitors from New Zealand at the August Zaf. He politely requested a New York Table Flag for their Table's collection. Houston Brother Bill Hallmark made our custom flag which is now hanging in a Polynesian Paradise.



*3<sup>rd</sup> from right is our NY Flag*

“Greetings Jane, One shot of your flag flying at our Zaf. Many thanks again and Merry Xmas to all of you.

Our 20th anniversary Zaf will be held here in Whangarei next November. Details to follow.

Orrrrzzzaahhh  
Le Jaunty & Bubblezzz”



This handsome plaque was sent to the New York Table to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the New York Table and that of the Brotherhood in the United States.

Thank you Rick, “Pescador”  
National Captain BOC US

It currently has a place of honor in my home in the company of Murano glass.

Respectfully submitted  
JungleJane



Herm, the worm, as in  
Hermandad....

## **Upcoming Activities:**

Join us if you are in the neighborhood.

Saturday, February 29\*, lunch, Robert Coles' in Port Washington

Early April, Bienkowski's in New Jersey

Saturday, May 16, lunch, Olmers' in Norwalk

June 4-7, Norfolk, the Captains' Assembly and Tall Ships

Late June, Clam Zaf, The Joe's, location TBD

*\*Since 2/29 comes only once in four years we will have to fit four years of fun into one day.*

# Sailing Capital

Captain: Carlos "Toad" Jauregui  
[Carlos.harper53@comcast.net](mailto:Carlos.harper53@comcast.net)



The Sailing Capital Table has had a change of command starting January 1. Merf Moerschel, a/k/a Old Salt has turned over the command to Carlos Jauregui, a/k/a Toad. Also, in December the Table inducted a new member- Dave Trawick, a/k/a Chief.



# San Antonio

**Captain: Monty "Python" Rogers**

bocus148@gmail.com

Purser: David "Pilgrim" Overpeck

## Cowboy Christmas

Craig and Cheryl Wright had their "Big Barn" dressed to perfection for the San Antonio Table's holiday get-together. Weather was comfortable and the views from the Wright's hilltop retreat were spectacular.



A social hour and more were enjoyed by a huge Table turnout. But that was only the beginning. The affair was catered by a local chef who dished out appetizers, entrees and desserts, all of which were remarkable.



Once all the food and drink settled it was time to begin the crazy gift exchange, the Chinese Christmas (no international insults intended) / White Elephant gift brawl. Priceless wonders were exchanged and fought over, bottles of unknown spirits were traded and when it was over, most returned home with a treasure or a candidate for next year's gift exchange.



North Pole has some scary elves!!!



Watch out!!!

What was most important was the great times spent socializing with good friends and Brothers.



# Super Bowl Party at Bandera Bob's

The San Antonio Table (plus a few neighbors) gathered at Bob Will's hilltop home in Bandera Texas (Cowboy Capital of the World) to enjoy the festivities surrounding the Super Bowl...This was NOT about Cowboys...but about 49ers and Indians, mainly Indians, Chiefs to be exact.



Epicenter for the day was the Blue Wildebeest Saloon at Bob's place where he served up a food spread to feed a small army. Things started with a pool table full (well it is a saloon) of appetizers and desserts. The main course was barbeque from a local smokehouse and all the appropriate side dishes. Of course, ample adult beverages were on hand, it is a saloon.





The game was exciting and the commercials even better.

## **Upcoming Activities:**

March 12 – First Thursday at Bill and Jan Streep’s  
March 14 – Road Trip to Spoetzl Brewery, home to Shiner Beer  
March 21 – Lawn Hydro Races the Eckerman’s  
April 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> – Trailer Trash Lite  
May 2 – Crawfish boil at Jim and Dee Benjamin’s  
May 7 – Italian Night at Frank and Shelby Simonini’s  
June 4-7 – Nation Captain’s Meeting in Norfolk  
June 19-21 – TexZaf 2020 in Houston “Boats, Boom and BBQ”  
July Date TBD – Pool Party at Monty and Audrey Rogers’ Neighborhood Pool  
August 6 – First Thursday at Mary Laxson’s new home  
August 22 – House Party at Randy and Julie Goodrich’s  
September Date TBD – Shrimp Boil at Wayne McNeal and Laurie Foley’s in Bandera  
October 1 – First Thursday at Dave Overpeck and Sissi Lewis’  
October 9-18+ (approx.) – Party in Chile  
November 14 – Chili Cook-Off at Patty McNeal’s  
December 3 – Planning Meeting at Monty and Audrey Rogers  
December Date TDB – Table Christmas Party on the Riverwalk  
February 7 (2021) – Super Bowl at Bandera Bob Wills’

Throughout the summer, impromptu raft-ups on Canyon Lake  
And of course, First Thursday EVERY first Thursday of the month

# Sun Coast Sun Coast

**Outgoing Captain: Virg "Phantom" Mellott**

[mellottvirg@gmail.com](mailto:mellottvirg@gmail.com)

**Incoming Captain: Gary "Lobo" Mink**

[gmink@gmail.com](mailto:gmink@gmail.com)

On November 18<sup>th</sup> we received word that a German Brother and his Captive were on the East Coast of Florida and were arriving that day via rental car in the Sarasota and Bradenton area. Captain Virg (Phantom) organized an "emergency" Tip-A-Few and dinner arrangements to meet and greet our new guests. They are Christoph and Ellen Nelles from the Dusselburg, Germany Table who are sailing their 58 ft with 30 ft beam sailboat (JOYA) around the world. This adventure began about 1.5 years ago. We had a total of 15 Brothers and Captives for a very pleasant evening. Joe and Claudia Hamrick graciously provided berth in their beautiful house for Christoph and Ellen.

Our Table usually does not have get togethers during the Month of November due to Thanksgiving and then of course in December is our 30<sup>th</sup> annual Little Christmas Zaf which was held December 6 thru 9.

The Sun Coast Table 30<sup>th</sup> annual Little Christmas Zaf went off without a hitch after the first evening, Thursday, December 5, where most of the early attendees met at The Bunker, Marine Corp League, Detachment 588 Headquarters, where we gathered for refreshments and drinks and a pre-Zaf get-together. Our newly elected Captain, Gary "Lobo" Mink had a seizure, of sorts, and began shaking uncontrollably, on the right side of his body. His wife, Jann, took him home and then to the hospital where he was tested to determine the reason for the shaking. The following morning, he was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer with 14 masses identified in his head! Two were the size of a quarter and the others varying sizes smaller. Lobo has since been fighting hard to overcome this and is on chemo by pill every day and radiation 5 days a week. He appears to be doing well, with little to no seizures and is awaiting a CT Scan/ MRI in late February to see if the medication and radiation therapy are having any effect on the tumors. Our hearts go out to Gary and his Captive, Jann. In the interim Virg "Phantom" Mellott will continue with the Captain's duties for our Table.

Friday evening, December 6<sup>th</sup> we met in lite pirate dress at the Sarasota Surf and Racquet Club for a beautiful sunset and party, thanks to Steve "Falcon" Herb and his Captive Jean who own property on the club property. Live music was played by Alec and Marylu Kinlaw. They have performed for our Little Christmas Zaf for nine (9) years. Liquid refreshments and a catered Bar-b-Que dinner were served. We danced and visited with the 42 attendees until 10:00pm and called it a day.



Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we all took a mid-day nautical soiree on the beautiful Marina Jack II for a two-hour scenic lunch cruise around Sarasota Bay. The buffet included your choice of Chicken Marsala or Salmon with all the fixings.



That evening we enjoyed an Italian al fresco Italian cuisine, outdoors on a beautiful moon and star lit evening at our favorite Italian restaurant, Arte Caffè. Owners and chef Remo Mambelli and his wife Meredith, closed the doors to the public and prepared a delicious 4 course Italian meal, served in the backyard. The food was outstanding and really enjoyed by all. Much wine and some beer were made available by the Sun Coast Table.



Sunday morning, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we held our Farewell Brunch at Peridia Country Club in Bradenton. The all you can eat buffet is always a hit prior to everyone departing for home.



Our Photographer ~ Audrey

It was decided at our November business meeting to make the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Little Christmas Zaf the last one we will hold for a while. At the present time no Zaf is planned for 2020. It is time for a little break.

On Saturday, December 28th, Monty and Audrey Rogers from the San Antonio Table invited our Brothers and Captives to a Mexican Boucan at Lori Roger's house. Lori lives in Bradenton and works for a large yacht dealer on Anna Maria Island. Monty and Audrey were visiting Lori since our Sun Coast Zaf and prepared a delicious Mexican buffet for all who attended. Many thanks from our table to Monty and Audrey plus, of course, Lori for the use of her house and breezeway.

In January we enjoyed a Tip-A-Few get-together at the Primos Ristaurante on the south Tamiami Trail in Sarasota sponsored by Brothers Ben Berarducci and Jeff Gaus. We met in the bar, obviously, and then dined in their private dining room. You can always count on good food at this local watering hole. About 16 people attended.

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

Chesapeake Bay Zafarrancho  
June 4<sup>th</sup> - June 7, 2020  
Norfolk, Virginia



They are at it again! The Chesapeake Bay Table of the Brotherhood of the Coast is throwing another party Zafarrancho in 2020. This will also be the site of the 2020 Captains meeting for all U.S. Tables.

The Table extends an invitation to Brothers worldwide for this late spring event that will run in conjunction with Norfolk's annual *Harborfest* celebration at the downtown Norfolk waterfront.



**Zafarrancho scheduled events & times:**

- **Thursday June 4:**
  - Afternoon: Registration/Check In – Norfolk Waterside Marriot Hotel
  - Evening: Welcome Reception Town Point Club, Downtown Norfolk (1800 – 2100 hrs.).
- **Friday June 5:**
  - Norfolk Festevents Parade of Sail – board Chesapeake Bay Brothers boats at Freemason Harbor at approximately 0900 hrs. for Parade of Sail, followed by lunch at Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. Then it's back to Freemason Harbor in Downtown Norfolk. Dress for Parade of Sail is “Summer Pirate.”
  - Evening; free time to relax or enjoy the Harborfest activities in Town Point Park.
- **Saturday June 6:**
  - Assembly of Table Captains, Norfolk Waterside Marriot Hotel starting at 0900 hrs. (not to run past 1300 hrs.).
  - Optional events are being planned for those not attending Captain's Meeting (0900 -1300 hrs.)
  - Banquet at Norfolk Waterside Marriot Hotel. Dress “club casual” – slacks and collared shirt (1800 – 2100 hrs.)
  - Fireworks Display over the Elizabeth River at 2130 hrs.
- **Sunday June 7th:**
  - Farewell Brunch, Norfolk Waterside Marriot Hotel.



We have reserved a block of rooms at the Norfolk Marriott Hotel. The Marriott Waterside hotel is located in downtown Norfolk, close to the HarborFest and Zaf events. Lodging is also available in Brothers homes and boats (all boats will be slipped close to the hotel and events). All accommodations are first come, first served.

Other important notes:

- Cost per participant is \$200
- The Norfolk Waterside Marriott will serve as the center for all activities. The Chesapeake Bay Table has secured a block of rooms for the Zafarrancho. You must make reservations separately. The Room Rate at the Marriott is \$169.00. Please reference *Brotherhood of the Coast 2020* event with the reference number of M-IJJ6PK2. Here is the hotel's contact information:

Norfolk Waterside Hotel  
235 E Main Street  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
Telephone: 757.627.4200

- Here is a link to the Marriott for this event: [Brotherhood of the Coast - 2020 Zaf](#)
- The last day to make reservations under the group rate is May11, 2020.
- Brother Tortuga will be the contact should any visiting Brothers wish to join the Rendezvous Fleet at Freemason Harbor. Contact him at 757.438.4663 or via Email at [pbriggs@uapc.com](mailto:pbriggs@uapc.com)
- We will have commemorative apparel and BOC name badges available for sale. Detailed information to follow in a separate announcement.

2020 Chesapeake Bay Zaf  
Official Registration Form

Submit to Michele Ripley electronically at MicheleRenee6@cox.net or via U.S. Mail to 2017 CBT Zaf, c/o 123 College Place – Ste 1407, Norfolk, VA 23510. Make it payable to Michelle Ripley.

Registration Deadline is April 26, 2020

BROTHER

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMBAT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TABLE: \_\_\_\_\_

CAPTIVE/GUEST

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ APT/UNIT No: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE No: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEALS**

For the provided meals, do you have any special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ No

If "yes," please explain so that we may accommodate you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

No. of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ x \$200.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if requesting Brotherhood lodging.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of people

Circle type of lodging preferred: BOAT LAND

**Save the Date!**



**Houston Table of the  
Brotherhood of the Coast**  
Requests your presence on June 19-21, 2020

**Boats, Boom & Barbeque  
TexZaf 2020**

