

First Watch

US 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

Since the first issue of the year of First Watch, much has changed in our lives and in our world. We are being tested for the first time in our lives by a simple, yet deadly, virus and the global response to this threat. We have seen all forms of response from denial to panic. This virus is a real threat to our group due to our over-representation of the high-risk factors, but at this time we have no casualties. We will have a normal life again, but until then I would like everyone to consider a quote by William Arthur Ward *"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails."* We are given this test and it does no good to complain or expect a change any time soon, so let us all be realists and do our part to be socially distant and stay safe. Many brothers and tables have been creative in their efforts to communicate and continue to be active. Zoom meetings are popping up and this is a great way to see our friends and make new ones.

There have been suggestions to take this time to learn more about the Brotherhood and the brothers of our tables - writing down points of interest and achievements to forward to our historian or share a great book or article. In any event, I encourage everyone to remain positive and productive in this time of change and challenge.

Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Orza!

Richard Hoekstra aka Pescador
National Captain BOC USA

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"Borrowed" Wisdom

**When from the shore the tempest beat us back,
I stood upon the hatches in the storm.**

William Shakespeare, Henry VI, Part II, Act III, Scene 2

**He who goes to sea for pleasure
Would go to hell for a pastime.**

Samuel Johnson



**And now a word from the
Editor**

In reading the article from the New York Table you will see that they are staying “connected” weekly via a Saturday Night “Zoom Zafs” that was set-up by “Big Hopper” Robert Coles. See the following e-mail of Robert and if interested join them Saturday.

ORZA
Monty

Orza Monty Python!

We have published new blog in our website. Pacific/South America/US East Coast Zoom Zaf. The New York Table has been enjoying Saturday night “Zoom Zafs” for several weeks now. Recently these Zafs were attended by guests from other U.S. tables. On May 3, the New York Table San Antonio Table and Orza from the Chesapeake were thrilled to join New Zealand, Australia, Chile, and New Caledonia ... You may view the latest post [Pacific/South America/US East Coast Zoom Zaf](#). Please use the COMMENT area below the post to show your interest, your critique or total Boucan’s Salva regarding receiving further emails.

Thank you!

Big Hopper- NY # 252

Monty “Python” Rogers
First Watch Wrangler
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Chesapeake Bay



Captain: Eric "Roux Ga Roux" Matherne
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The Chesapeake Bay table was able to hold our March Tip A Few before the COVID-19 lock down. It was a large gathering Hosted by Brother Cruz. Many of the local Brothers and Mates attended as well as Two Brothers and an Engage from the Tall Ship *Statsraad Lehmkuhl* which happened to be in port. We always try and plan TAF's around the time that "Shantyman" and "Davy Bones" are in town. We even had a new Pasajero of our own in attendance.





At that point there was still much discussion of what the Spring and Summer cruising was going to bring. Little did we know that would be the last time we could gather in mass in a single location. Several of our local Brothers have been social distancing on short weekend cruises. Virginia had the common sense to not shutdown the marinas or boat ramps. We are still interacting down on the docks, just in smaller numbers, finishing up our boat projects. It is going to be a little late start to the Southern bay Cruising season but when we finally get going, I think it will be a great summer.

We did take a cue from our New York Brothers and held a Zoom Tip-A-Few. It took a little work for everyone to get logged in but once we got going it was a good alternative to meeting in person. It even allowed Brothers that are out of the area to join in. It was good to see the faces of those living out of the area and those still working their way up from a winter in the Caribbean.

One of our Brothers, Jon "Maine Sheet" Bangs is in the process of moving up to a larger boat. His beloved Catalina 30 has been sold and his new C&C Landfall 38 will be joining our fleet very soon. We are looking forward to welcoming his new boat in our raft ups.

The Chesapeake Bay Table is still planning on the Summer Solstice Cruise. As the name suggests, will take place during the week of Solstice, June 20th. Several of us will be heading out of Norfolk on June 13th, a couple are going to be out for 2 weeks and are hoping to make our way up the Solomons, Maryland before returning home. Anyone in the area that wants to join in are welcome.

Corpus Christi

Captain: Bob "Walrus" Weber
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We had the February 21 get together at the Crab 'N restaurant, City by the Sea. They had only recently opened since being leveled in Hurricane Harvey and completely rebuilt. Still have great food.

The March 13th gathering was moved to the 21st and then canceled as virus concerns grew.

On April 25th we held a table Zoom Social Hour included Brothers and Captives. Items discussed were:

Why is toilet paper so hard to find?

Cannot find flour, everyone is cooking.

Everyone's sleep cycle has changed. Staying up later, getting up later.

What is good on Netflix.

It is amazing how little money we can live on.

Everyone's health was checked on, we are all doing well. Some confided better than others, but cautious or is that paranoid.

Lack of hairdressers and nail techs

With a barrel of oil at a negative price, where can we get a large storage tank and buy/get 1,000 barrels.

The get together was fueled by adult beverages. (No one had to drive anywhere)

On May 9th we held another Zoom Social Hour and invited the San Antonio Table. It was great to visit with the Brothers and Captives. Wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Had a report from Brother Ken & Carrie Sharp:

"We departed St Lucia and sailed straight to St. Thomas a few weeks prior to the world going crazy. We are currently waiting to see what our options are. Looking at Panama, Colombia and Grenada. All, at this point, will require a 14-day quarantine after we arrive if they let us come.

Actually, we are very fortunate and happy to be here but need to be somewhere safer for storm season.

Hope all is good with everyone!

Please raise one for us!"

We all wish them well.

Everyone discussed how they were doing. Jan Streep's knee replacement went very well. She is walking like there is nothing to it.

More titles on Amazon and Netflix were shared.

Thank God no one has been touched by Covid-19 symptoms

Next time I will get a better screen shot:



"The cure for anything is salt water: sweat, tears, or the sea." - Isak Dinesen

ORZAAA!!

Walrus

Bob Weber

Captain Corpus Christi Table

Houston

Captain: Mark "Marco Polo" Sandridge
markasandridge@hotmail.com

From the Houston table we hope everyone is starting to be able to social distance and start to do some activities!

Because of COVID we had cancelled all plans for the rest of the year since we did not know when we could gather.

Houston is starting to open up again, so in the first week of May we finally met and started determining what we could do and still do social distancing.

Some people went to Offatts Bayou for Memorial Day. We had a fish fry on that Sunday courtesy of Troy Leek.

On Saturday, June 13 we will have a Crawfish boil at the South Shore Marina. Again, courtesy of Troy Leek.

At this point in time we have no definite plans for either July 4 or Labor Day. We will meet again in about a week to determine what is allowed and where we all want to go.

We hope that everyone is healthy and being safe.

Marco Polo
ORZA!

New York

Captain: Jane "Jungle Jane" Protzman
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Leap Zaf, February 29, 2020

Four years of fun all in one day.

On February 29, Big Hopper hosted a Zaf, appropriately dubbed the "Leap Zaf" by Jungle Jane. While the weather cooperated, and was cold enough to enjoy a roaring fire, many of our brothers and best mates had to cancel due to travel commitments or illness. Although we missed those who were unable to attend, we were happy to reunite with Rascal and Theo, Cool Wood, Old Gaffer and Maureen, Tick Tock and Marie, and Big Hopper and Kathleen. Robert's guests, Allyn, his new wife Alejandra from Columbia, and her daughter Andrea joined us all for dessert.



Leap Zaf was celebrated with a storm of crêpes. Three dozen of them were precooked and maintained in the oven at 300 degrees, ready to be hoisted after imbibing some of Kathleen's "Big Hopper Punch." Go to www.bocus.org/recipes for crepes and punch recipes.

Theo brought her special “Pepsi Cola” canapés of Belgian endives to enjoy as an appetizer and others brought special fillings for the crepes: mascarpone with garlic, mushrooms à la Provençale, and crab salad. Sugary dessert crepes followed. Some were filled with vanilla ice cream with molten chocolate. Other crepes “flew” right from the range to the table, adorned with flaming Grand Marnier.

Zoom Zafs, April and May 2020



Staying 6' apart

New York Brothers usually meet at each other’s homes on a monthly, plus or minus, basis. Recently, this has not been safe or feasible. We turned to technology to continue our tradition virtually and even increase the frequency of our Zafs.

The first ZoomZaf started with some hiccups – and not from too many Orzas ... some of us had no mic or video... but could still participate. It ended up being such a successful break from our isolation that we decided to make it a weekly event. Every Saturday evening at 6 p.m.



April 11

“Baggywrinkle” had been waiting for three weeks for Amazon to deliver a camera. He was so eager to virtually embrace the Brothers that Elaine and he drove 40 miles to fetch a legacy piece of equipment Robert had used in Windows 7. We spent an hour on the phone trying to install the correct video driver. No luck... they had to participate in the ZoomZaf with audio only. We’re hoping for next time.

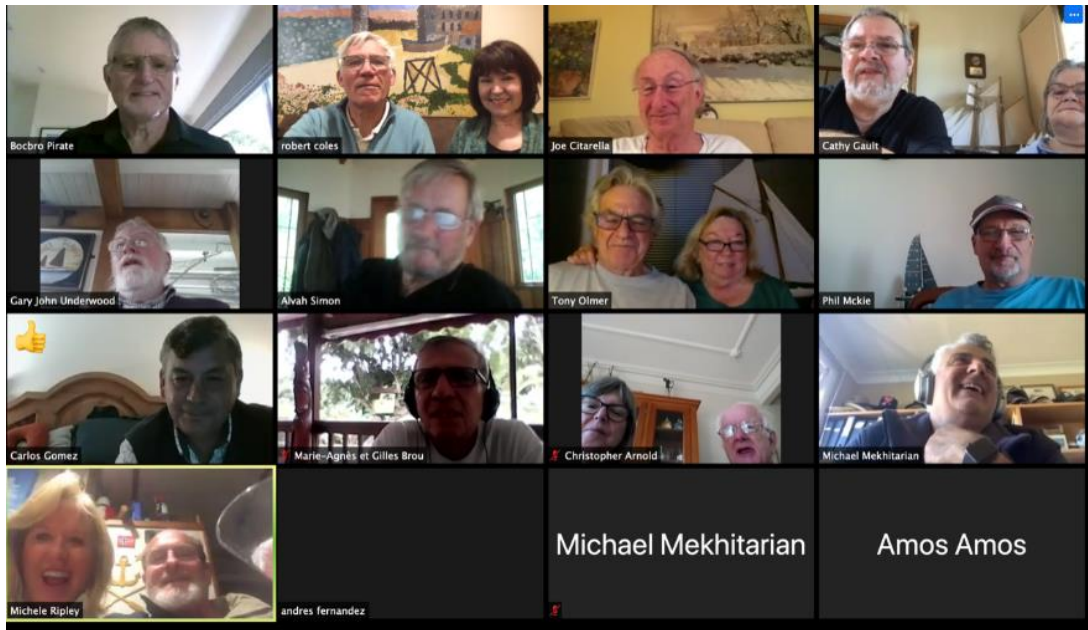


Our Zaf on April 18 included Show and Tell stories about our confined activities: repair of polyethylene water tanks, construction of a bottle wall, major mask production for charities and friends, musings about the effects of isolation on introvert and extrovert personality types, work on jazzy piano techniques, increasing working hours in hospital administration, studying Spanish, sorting family archive pictures, sailboat re-powering, electronic rice-cooker repair and prepping for a hilarious skit for us. We were happy to have our St. Augustine-Florida branch join in also. For our April 25 Zoom Zaf we were joined by David and Sissi Overpeck from San Antonio.

On May 3, the New York Table was joined by Scott and Michele Ripley from the Chesapeake Table, sheltered on Orza at anchor.



Later that evening we were thrilled to join New Zealand, Australia, Chile, and New Caledonia at 12:00 Sunday Canberra time – 22:00 Saturday EST. Our Chilean Engagé Andres proudly recited the Octalog in Spanish. ORZA! Robert has published new blog in our website www.bocus.org - Pacific/South America/US East Coast Zoom Zaf



There were more participants than could be shown here.

Other News and Notes:

Here is our current Zaf plan for 2020.

- 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
- More Zoom Zafs TBD
- Late June, Clam Zaf, The Joe's, TBD

Respectfully submitted,
JungleJane



And support staff, Kathleen and Robert and Herm, the worm, as in Hermandad.

San Antonio

Captain: Monty “Python” Rogers

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Purser: David “Pilgrim” Overpeck

Activities at the San Antonio Table has been affected by the COVID-19 virus the same as elsewhere in the US Brotherhood, they disappeared. One by one, canceled was the notice that was sent out.

We share the feelings of our Brethren world-wide and hope for all to be able to gather soon in a safe and virus-free Zaffarancho. ORZA, yee-haw.

Road Trip...Destination Shiner Beer Country

In early March just before everything started closing a small group of SA Brothers and Captives gathered for a day long road trip. We caravanned down the back roads ending in the little town of Shiner, Texas...home of 2000 citizens, one stop light and the Spoetzl Brewing Company, maker of Shiner Beer. But how did this Brewery come to find its home in this one stop light town, it all happened long before there was a stop light



This area in Central Texas was settled mainly by German and Czech immigrants. Being a beer drinking folk, they tried what was available in the area, mainly brews sold by large breweries around the state. They didn't like it; they wanted the taste they were accustomed to “back home”. An inspired lot decided to change that and started “The Shiner Brewing Association” and crafted a beer styled in the fashion they preferred. Things evolved and developed into what we know now.

It is interesting to note that during Prohibition, Shiner survived by producing ice and near-beer much like 4 other Texas breweries did. It was said that the brewery seemed to know when Federal Agents were to inspect the brewery. When agents were not expected, their output tasted more like beer...far from anything “near”.

At the time of our visit to Shiner, the brewery folks were not at all worried about anything named Corona, so we toured the facilities and of course, sampled the result of the brewers art. After a leisurely afternoon of music and suds we retired to a local eatery for dinner and our return trip to the Alamo City.

Trailer Trash Lite...NOT

The City of San Antonio elected to reschedule Fiesta 2020 along with all the activities surrounding it. Current plans are to celebrate Fiesta early November. IF all goes as planned (???) Trailer Trash Lite might happen November 13th-15th. Watch your mailboxes for more information, or cancellations. Meanwhile, please enjoy a group photo from the Parade during TexZaf 2019.



Upcoming Activities:

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

Captain: Virg "Phantom" Mellott
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Brotherhood activities for this reporting period virtually don't exist! Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all planned activities were and have been cancelled.

During the month of March, we lost our Captain and close friend, Gary Mink, to an infection of unknown origin while fighting brain cancer since early December 2019. We informed the Brotherhood via a long and detailed email in early March concerning Gary's death. Therefore, I won't go through all the details again in this report. Our hearts and prayers continue to go out for Gary's wife, Jann, during this difficult time.

The March activity was planned for a boat ride on an authentic re-outfitted paddle wheeler out of Anna Maria Island. We attempted do this same little cruise last year but were cancelled by the boat company due to the Red Tide problems here on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

April, Tom and Jackie Radcliffe were planning a Wednesday evening Tip-A-Few and dinner at one of our many Seafood restaurants in the Sarasota/Bradenton area.

May was scheduled by Steve Herb and Dan Sagan, and of course their wives, for a raft-up and dock party at a local marina. We were all looking forward to having something involving the few boats we have remaining in our Table. It would have been a fun day and evening.

Hopefully June will bring us clear sailing as far as the Corona Virus goes and we will be able to finally have a Table get-together. Florida, just this Monday, May 4th, has finally opened some activities including limited seating in restaurants. Hopefully, this will prove to be successful. Some of us have been doing a Friday Happy Hour via Zoom. We are looking forward to when we can begin visiting in person.

ORZA,
Virg Mellott (Phantom)
Captain