

First



Watch

U.S. Brotherhood of the Coast Official Newsletter

Editor: Peter "Upwind" Dennant, 5338 Deford Road, Virginia Beach, VA23455

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peter.dennant@gmail.com

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New Editor in Town

My name is Peter Dennant (Battle Name: **Upwind**) of the Chesapeake Bay Table. Tony "**Rascal**" Olmer has asked me to take over as editor of the **First Watch**, the quarterly chronical of the US Brotherhood starting with this edition. As Tony noted in the last edition of the **First Watch**, "This newsletter is a vital link for communicating across our Tables. It informs others of our activities but more importantly it reminds Table Captains to assess their Table's activity and performance on a quarterly basis."



I am taking on this project hoping that I can freshen it up with some regular features that – hopefully – will compel greater readership. Here is a short list of things I am thinking about:

- **Upcoming Events** – This will be a forward-looking section outlining upcoming events of the local Tables. I will list events up to a year before they occur.
- **Brotherhood Bio's** – These will be brief biographies of some of older, and sometimes passed, Brothers. Long term, these will build into the US Brotherhood's continuing history.
- **Messages from US Brotherhood Officers** – to keep the Tables apprised of National and International Brotherhood events and issues.

If you have some suggestions on content, please let me know.

The 2nd quarter (2023) edition of the First Watch was dedicated to covering the 10th International Zafarrancho. This edition brings the 2023 activities of the BOCUS Tables up-to-date.

In this Issue

- A Sages reflects on his years with the Brotherhood and looks to the future
- A Swiss Brother visits the United States
- Table updates

Reflections with Recommendations from a US Brother of 25 Years

By Stew "Blue Stache" Kauffman

Having taken a couple months or so to digest my good fortune to have attended my 4th Brotherhood of the Coast International Zaf in our own backyard of Galveston, TX – my others being Portsmouth, England; Sydney, Australia (with a side trip to share time with our New Zealand Brothers); Paris to Normandy, France. Sadly, I have not yet made it to South America but there is Chile in 2025/26? – it will celebrate 75 years of the Brotherhood. I digress, but I have taken a look back on what being a Brother in this International Brotherhood has added to my lifetime of experiences and what has made it such a unique experience in and of itself. If you do not mind, I want to share some of my conclusions with you.

As one of the Founding Brothers of the Chesapeake Bay Table / Norfolk way back in January of 1998, it was not as though I had not had some experiences as a young professional with local sailing clubs of various sorts, waterfront trade school activities / boat building, etc., city development organizations and yacht clubs. I must admit however, that when approached by this friendly French sailor and his dog Buddie about the Brotherhood of the Coast, I was to say the least skeptical - I just did not need another drinking club in my life at the time. My wife and I had just moved aboard our dream liveaboard sailboat and were stern to stern at the dock in Portsmouth, VA with **Brise-Galet**. As we got to know Bernard better over dinner and an occasional rum, we heard many more Brotherhood stories. Finally, after more than 2 years of Brotherhood tales, I agreed to give up an important party weekend in Norfolk and attend a National Captains Meeting in New York City with Bernard (and Buddie) with the consent of the US National Captain, Rene Fiechter, a Swiss engineer with long standing Brotherhood ties. This meeting became a turning point in my thinking about the Brotherhood. After more than 7 hours of listening to Swiss, Belgian, French, Texan and more accents spoken in a meeting of the US Captains and an amazing dinner with the New York Table Brothers and Captives, I knew when I returned to Portsmouth that there was something very different here in an organization with no rules or dues, only 8 principles (Octalogue), and already 47 years old with international reach.

Finally, the differences became clear!

The Brotherhood IS NOT a boat / yacht club in the traditional sense, Brothers are Brothers due to their love of the sea! Yes, most are boaters in one form or another, but marine artists & architects, novelists, etc. would, do and have qualified.

You CAN NOT submit an application for admittance or acceptance into the Brotherhood of the Coast. The Brotherhood finds you and extends an invitation for you to join them.

When a new Brother is introduced / guided / inducted into a Table of the Brotherhood anywhere in the world, he is accepted worldwide by every other Brother you ever meet – no questions or reservations. This means that every Brother in the world trusts every other Brother and Table to only invite and induct Brothers that meet these qualifications. As an example, in 2013 we relocated to south FL from my acknowledged Table which has Brothers I have not yet had the good fortune to meet, but no worries, I am confident in my Brothers.

Finally, each Brother has both a National and an International responsibility in addition to the usual local responsibilities of a club membership. I was fortunate to learn early in my Brotherhood participation when our entire Table and an Engage traveled to England for our first International Zaf!

I do believe it was these differences along with significant travel to Brotherhood events that have enriched my lifetimes experiences and, knock on wood, will continue to do so. It is only the good fortune of the Brotherhood finding me that I have the opportunity to pen this message to all of you – my Brothers!

That all being said, permit me to offer some suggestions that may assist Brothers everywhere gain some additional understanding and enhance their Brotherhood experiences:

- Secure/borrow/go online and read a copy of the “Brotherhood of the Coast GRRREAT DICTIONARY” – from A through Z – skipping nothing – asking yourself if any of the entries relate back to any of your Brotherhood experiences to date. Ask questions of your senior Brothers to learn more.
- Secure/borrow/go online to read any written and documented history of the Brotherhood in your country. In the US that could be “*Tales of the Brotherhood*” by ‘Listo’ & ‘Blue Stache.’ Your history may also need some updating so fill in as many blanks as you can.
- Secure/borrow/go online to read any documented traditions and operational guidelines of the Brotherhood of your country. In the US that could be “The Guide” – a document that attempted to gather decades of the US and International Brotherhood operations and traditions together.

After taking some time to digest this material, ask yourself just how did the Brotherhood find me? How did my Table Brothers feel I could fit nationally and internationally? Am I being the best Brother I can be?

My final suggestion would be to travel (and yes, I agree that it is harder now than ever before) and support our other local and national events as often as you can. If your family travels or work takes you to places where other Brothers exist, give them a call – always pack a current Brotherhood directory in you travel gear and your vehicle. When you have a visiting Brother from outside your area, host him in your home. It will always be these shared experiences in the Brotherhood that make the memories of a lifetime. Please trust me on this, the Brotherhood *is* about the people you meet – some of the best folks in the world!

Swiss Visit

Editor’s note – this article is a compilation from various contributors.

“Best Bunk on Board”

By the Big Hopper

On July 15th, *Rock Hopper* (Regis Menétrey) was invited by Yves Balmas from Switzerland to contact *Sparks* (Joe Citarella) while at anchor in Newfoundland, en route towards New York and Annapolis. Considering my strong family connection to his native region, and to our common language, I called him directly and we made plans to sail in concert from the Hamptons back to New York city. I keep wonderful memories of such a trip alongside the Van Sickler family’s catamaran in 2021.

Kathleen and I were treated like royalty for a breakfast on board Regis’ **Solaris 40** in Sag Harbor before we shared real barbecued hamburgers that evening at Kathleen’s Noyack, NY, cottage. It quickly became obvious that my 38 year-old *Pretorien* would impair *Nausicaâ’s* plans, a very high-performance ocean racer! Regis invited me to crew toward NY with his son Maxence, and great crew Ielena, Nicolas and Vassili. They offered me the best bunk; center cabin!

Nausicaâ’s sports a 9-foot draft keel and a seventy foot mast. This limited the safe anchorages available going west. Most of the trip was at close haul with an uncomfortable chop that the boat cut without any problem. After 20 hours, we anchored in front of the US Merchant Marine Academy in western Long Island Sound at the Throng’s Neck Bridge, awaiting a fair current to pass through Hell’s Gate and the lower East River. Regis was on a tight schedule in order to process crew permutation and welcome his wife, Isabelle. Together, we also had a series of tacks in front of the Statue of Liberty and the *Intrepid* aircraft carrier.

We sailed back up the East River for a Rendezvous “Flash Zaf” in City Island with the New York Brothers. Those present were thrilled to hear Regi’s tales of sailing adventures from the Med to Newfoundland via the Bahamas. *Rock Hopper* then crossed the Sound again to anchor in Port Washington in order to provision and to drop *Big Hopper* off before proceeding south to the Chesapeake Bay.

Regis sails a X38 named “Virus” on Lake Geneva with which he has won the Bol d’Or. I was very lucky to share such high quality brotherly and technical time with Regis and his crew!

“Swedish Brother Visits the Sailing Capital”

By Salty Dog

The Annapolis table recently had the pleasure of hosting our Swiss brother Regis Menertrey and crew.



On the 13th of August, Michael VanSickler, also known as *DaVinci*, and his mate Ava warmly welcomed Regis and Isabell in Baltimore. To set the tone for their time together, rum and snacks were generously shared, creating an atmosphere of welcome.

The following day, on the 14th of August, Brother Merf (*Salty Dog*), reached out to Regis as they passed under the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Merf’s guidance ensured a smooth entry into Back Creek in Eastport. Regis had concerns about the depth of his vessel, a 44-footer with 9-foot keel, but was assured that the bottom consisted of soft mud and silt, minimizing the chances of

encountering abandoned moorings or other objects.

Regis and his crew successfully anchored off Nautilus Point Marina. After their arrival, they embarked on a journey into Annapolis harbor, where they toured the Naval Academy and explored the downtown area. Notably, Regis managed to replace a boathook that had been misplaced during their adventures.

Merf hosted Regis and his crew at the Fleet Reserve Club, where refreshments were shared, and stories were exchanged.

Before setting sail once more, Regis’ mate, Isabell, received assistance with a grocery run, and on the 15th of August, they weighed anchor and departed for the Eastern Shore and then Solomons.

Their visit left an indelible mark on our table, a testament to the bonds of friendship that transcend borders. They are truly great folks!



Merf & Regis

“Down the Bay”

By Upwind

From Annapolis, the crew of *Nausicaâ’s* proceeded south to Solomons Island and the Brotherhood Table there. Unfortunately, many of the Brothers in that Table were out of town because as lack-of-luck would have it, Regis would need some help. Well into the Patuxent River, just outside the entrance to Solomons as the crew were getting ready to take down the sails, they realized they had no power. After some quick diagnostics, they concluded they had lost their propellor. Scott “*Tuna*” Redfield was already on his way to meet *Nausicaâ* and crew. He lent his assistance to get the disabled boat onto one of the mooring balls at Zanahizers Marina for the evening. In the morning *Nausicaâ* was moved to slip and arrangements were made to get the boat into the yard so the spare prop could be affixed to the boat.



Brother *Tuna* reports that, "I picked him up off Beacon Marina and gave him a tour of the area showing him important places like West Marine, around the island and provided him with knowledgeable people to help him get his boat fixed."

On August 25th, *Nausicaâ* left Solomon Island and headed south for a rendezvous with Peter "*Upwind*" *Dennant* who was rafted in the East River (of Mobjack Bay). Regis and crew arrived late in the afternoon, a few hours before the arrival of *Orza* and crew. Being a much larger vessel, once *Orza* arrived, the two sailboats broke their raft and took station on either side of her. That evening, the weather was warm but the new friendships were warmer!



Regis' crew compliment was substantial. In addition to his wife Isabelle, his friend Jon François Obadia, wife Nathalie and son, Benjamin, were part of the crew compliment as was friend Vassili Yarbo Yedoll. Over on *Orza*, the crew included Michele's daughter Jen, her husband and their two young daughters. It was a full raft of people under a full moon in one of the nicest rivers off the Chesapeake Bay!

Rafting with ORZA

Much of Friday evening was spent eating and drinking. There were a few andanadas after dark, after the young children were put to bed!



Isabelle, Benjamin, Jon François & Nathalie

Regis' wife and guests were nearing the end of their journey and had to start thinking about making their way back to NYC for flights back to Europe. The plan was to get the boat down to Norfolk by late Saturday and arrange for transportation back to the Big Apple from there. *Nausicaâ* broke raft late Saturday morning and headed to Norfolk where, unbeknownst to them, there was another party waiting...



Jon François, *Upwind* & Rock Hopper



ORZA from ORZA!

“Emergency Party for “Rock Hopper”

By Tortuga

News of a Swiss Brother Regis “Rock Hopper” Menetrey travelling down the East Coast of the U.S. had reached the ears of the Table of the Chesapeake Bay. We followed his travels as he stopped at the other Tables as he made his way South. After Stops at the New York, Annapolis, and Solomons Tables he made his way to Norfolk and our Table. Two of our Brothers, Cruz and Upwind met him in the East River a few hours North of Norfolk for a raft up on Friday, 8/25, night. Those Brothers gave the rest of the Table notice on Regis’s arrivals time on Saturday, 8/26. His arrival time was critical as the channel into Willoughby can be a bit shallow. So, he had to come in on the high tide. Four Brothers were able to be at the Marina for his arrival. We followed his progress using AIS and were on the Dock to welcome him, and to catch his lines to get him all tied up to the dock. After allowing some time for he and his crew to recover from their sail we invited them to an impromptu welcome party. The Brothers and their wives prepared food and drinks for the Swiss Crew. We shared stories and our boating experiences. We might have had a rum or two during the night with at least one andanada.

Regis and his crew secured transportation to NYC that Sunday and Monday. While he is away, *Nausicaâ* remains at Rebel Marina (home to many of the CBT Brothers) where she is undergoing some repairs and modifications after many months at sea. His son, Maxence, will return in early November to pick up the boat for a planned trip to Bermuda.

For many of the Brothers in our Table, Regis and his crew epitomize true sailors as they sailed across the ocean and up and down the east coast from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Norfolk, Virginia!



Maine Sheet, Rock Hopper, Tortuga & Roux-Ga-Rous



CBT Brothers & Mates at Rebel Marina



The crew of *Nausicaâ*



Maxence and Regis

Sun Coast Table

By John "The Crab" D'Alusio

The brothers and captives of the Sun Coast Table have been gathering regularly this year for boucans. Although the number of boats in the Table is dwindling as age sets in, we still consider ourselves lovers of the sea, and the comradery of our brothers and spouses is always invigorating (even to old buccaneers like us).



We kicked off the years on January 28th at the lovely waterfront home of Brian "McGyver" Schmitz and his fair maiden Suzie in Gulfport. Besides our own buccaneers, we were graced with attendance by Scott "Cruz" Ripley and his captive Michele from the Chesapeake table on his yacht *Orza*, which Scott decided to bring to the west coast of FL for two months. Also participating was Jules "Lobsterman" Harper and his spouse Sandy of the Gold Coast Table. Brian and Suzie put out an estimable BBQ spread, and we all enjoyed comradery, sea stories, and mucho broadsides as day turned into night. Brian gave tours of his new (to

him, but still a late model 2020) beautiful Aquila 44 diesel powered catamaran. Brian formally transferred his flag to the Sun Coast table from the Gold Coast table. He was also highly relieved that he was not immediately elected Table Captain, a position he held for many years in the Gold Coast table.

In February, brother Dick "Vital Signs" Conard and his captive Betty hosted a gathering at Riviera Dunes Marina at the Dockside Restaurant in Palmetto. Scott and Michele Ripley were still in the area and participated in the boucan. We had a private room where we were able to enjoy the evening without significantly disturbing other paying customers. We, the other patrons, and the staff were grateful for that. Nothing like wearing out your welcome with overly "enthusiastic" BOC chatter and andenadas.



The March Tip-A-Few was hosted by Roger "Blindmouth" Meyer and his captive Judy, as well as brother Fred "Waterbug" Smith and his spouse Mary. It was held at Anna Maria Oyster Bar in Sarasota where we enjoyed fresh seafood, cold beers, and icy cocktails to assuage both our appetites and thirsts. Once again, we generally behaved ourselves and were not ejected (until we paid our bills).



Regretfully, March was also the month that we lost past captain Virg “Phantom” Mellott. He unexpectedly slipped his chain and crossed the bar on the 23rd of the month. Though we deeply miss Virg, his beloved captive Kathie is still very much a part of the Brotherhood and we always look forward to her attendance at our table events. The Table participated in the Celebration of Life Kathie had for her husband on April 15th.

Ed “Brillo” Loke (another past captain of both the late Table of the Keys as well as the Sun Coast Table) and his captive Nancy took the reins for the April monthly boucan and convened a buccaneer invasion of Marina Jack located on the downtown Sarasota waterfront. No one slipped and fell in the bay or tried to mount a hostile takeover of the numerous multi-million-dollar berthed yachts, so the evening was deemed an unqualified success.

May found us at the utterly unique Linger Lodge on the Braden River. Jeff “The Chemist” Gaus hosted the lunch time soiree. There are so many taxidermized reptiles, mammals, rodents, etc. all over the walls at The Linger Lodge, one comes away with the distinct impression that you are always being watched as you consume your libations and victuals. We dined on the deck overlooking the alligator infested waterway (swimming is not recommended) in incredibly clement weather for May.

In June, past Sun Coast skipper Steve “Falcon” Herb and his captive Jean held court for our boucan at a private room at The Rusty Bucket Tavern. We filled the room to the point that there was no space if anyone additional to the 20 of us who said they were participating materialized. The Bucket of Rust is locally known for pub fare and a good Happy Hour. They did not disappoint the attendees, and we all enjoyed the evening.

Significantly in June, we also presented an engage letter to Gregg Knighton. Gregg owned a sail loft in Sarasota for 30 years, and already knew many of our brothers from providing them with replacement sails for their yachts over the past few decades. He is currently a broker at SJ Yachts in Palmetto and knows virtually everyone who is anyone in the local pleasure marine industry. We look forward to the induction of Gregg into the Brotherhood at some point soon.

In August, our most “mature” brother, John “Pas Partout” Hampshire celebrated his 96th birthday. He is a WW II Navy veteran and the boucan was proximal to his natal day. His captive Eileen hosted the happy hour soiree at her very upscale carpet shop **Art to Walk On** in downtown Sarasota. She put out an impressive appetizer table and had an open bar with all manner of adult beverages. We all wished John a most happy birthday and indulged our appetites and sated our thirsts courtesy of the Hampshire’s largess. Afterward, we decamped to Caragiulo’s Italian Restaurant across the street from **Art to Walk On**, and during dinner disturbed the peace by serenading John with a pirate version of “Happy Birthday.”

Our next gathering will be a mid-day cook-out in October on the banks of beautiful Ward Lake hosted by Table Captain “The Crab” and his captive Mariann. Jiggs Landing Fish Camp was originally opened in 1944, and the entire park was renovated in the last several years making it an ideal location for our annual grill out. This is always a boucan that is fun and widely anticipated. We hope the weather cooperates.

Our last soiree of the year will be held in December at the clubhouse at North River Estates in Palmetto, courtesy of Kathie Mellott, where we will have our annual business meeting and then indulge in holiday cheer. After that, we look forward to a healthy, safe and prosperous 2024.

Chesapeake Bay Table

By Peter "Upwind" Dennant

The active boating season is heading to a close just as the weather finally cools off enough to enjoy boating! Weather in the lower Chesapeake Bay got off to a late start as the storms rolling off the North Atlantic kept boating activity to a minimum through the end of May. Then, a glorious June arrived and the Table went boating!

The main boating event in June is the meeting of the three Tables located on the Chesapeake Bay - Chesapeake Bay, Solomons and Sailing Capital – on the water in Indian Creek, Virginia. This is the *Raftarancho*; An event started in 2009 to bring the (then) two Tables of the Chesapeake Bay together for an annual celebration of our fraternity on or near the Summer Solstice. Due to a nasty gale that week, the rafting part of the Raftarancho was moved from Wednesday to Monday. Equally disturbing was that the spit of a beach we call *Cedar Beach* had been reduced to a tiny version of its former self; about the width of a picnic table this year! The nine-boats rafted and anchored were bounced awake in the morning by the winds and waves of the coming gale. Everyone was fighting +20 knot winds and 4-foot seas to make it 4 nm into Indian Creek and the *Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club* – site of the gathering.



Chad "Deacon" White & Mate, Leslie

Even at the country club's docks, the rain and the wind kept things interesting: Water was piling up in the creek due to the strong winds. Water was sloshing through the planks of the pier and managed to short out the power. It was reestablished the next day but taken out later by storm related outages on the grid.

Friday is always the main event with a formal (read: battle dress) dinner in the evening. However, the highlight of the day was the induction of a new CBT Brother – Chad White (a.k.a. *Deacon*) – who gladly turned in his florescent Engage shirt and accepted Flag No. 715 as full-fledged Brother. The shirt did not get much rest as immediately following Deacon's induction we awarded it to Marc West as the Table's newest engaged.



Engagé Marc West

With the heat and smoke from Canadian wild fires, many of the CBT Brothers sheltered in their air-conditioned homes during the stifling heat of mid-summer, hopeful for the cooler temperatures of late summer. Many of the CBT Brothers participated in a Labor Day raft-up in the Cobham Bay section of the James River; just south of the Jamestown settlement. The waters were a little browner than usual owing to the heavy rainfall of *TS Idalia's* remnants earlier that week. But that water gave cooling comfort to the hot temperatures of the holiday weekend.



New York Table

By Jungle Jane



International Zoom Zafs:

We are still enjoying our monthly International Zoom Zafs. It is always interesting to hear what Brothers overseas are doing - sailing, traveling, and meeting. The schedule is first Sundays at 11 a.m. New York time. Email me if you are interested in joining us.

Catching Up:

Holiday Zaf on December 4 at the home of Leslie and Stewart "Emperor" Napoleon in Greenwich, CT.

Valentine's Zaf on February 15 hosted by Elaine and Len "Baggywrinkle" Sinowitz at the Orienta Yacht Club in Mamaroneck. They transported a splendid luncheon entrée and all the fixings all the way from their home in New Jersey.



We hosted a luncheon, March 12, at the Harlem Yacht Club for Brothers returning to Europe after the World Zaf in Galveston. Our guests were Francisco Albino, “Snoopy” National Captain of Portugal, and Louis “Loulou de Mer” and Suzanne Pittet of the Lémanique Table in Switzerland. They visited the City Island Nautical Museum prior to lunch.

[P.S. We have enjoyed the food and ambience often at the Harlem Yacht Club but who knew? The Harlem Yacht Club, founded in 1883, is one of the oldest yacht clubs in the United States. It launched on the Manhattan’s East River. <https://www.hyc.org/history>]



Expecting a fine day on May 23 we planned an outdoor zaf at the waterfront where I live. Brothers and Mates offered to bring all the makings of a luncheon as I was still recovering from hip replacement surgery. Well, it was inside, too cool, and windy. Alas no photos of the event. Everything needed was brought to augment my deli provided platter of sandwiches. The garbage was even taken away. Thanks to one and all.

Extending the tradition of the Annual Clam Zafs hosted by The Joe’s one was held on June 28 at the Greenwich Boat and Yacht Club. After appetizers and fresh oysters and clams Joe “Sparks” Citarella served his special Frutti di Mare. Joe “Old Gaffer” Hliva and Mate Maureen kept everything under control.

Norma Howard Active Mate of Jay “Squeegee” Howard #101 hosted the New York Table, in Jay’s memory for a luncheon at the Harlem Yacht Club on Wednesday, July 19. Afterwards we went to a City Island waterfront home for the spreading of Jay’s ashes from the dock. Tony and I read the Last Voyage dialog; he sounded the bell 4 times. Also in attendance were members of the Howard family. His grandson was presented with Jay’s tricorne.

On July 23rd, an Emergency Zaf was held to welcome Peter “Upwind” Dennant and Mate June to Norwalk, CT, at the home of Theo and Tony “Rascal” Olmer. Peter was attending a grade school reunion as he grew up in this area, grade school!!!

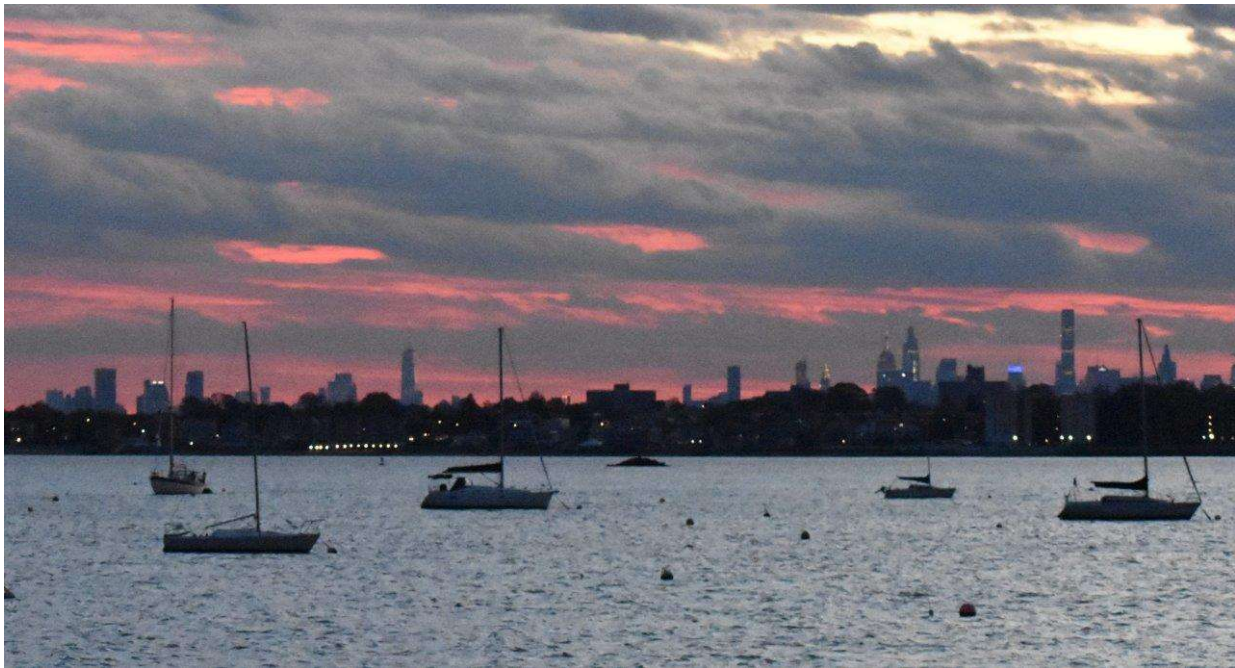


Jay's most memorable saying:
“Let’s not make a baloney sandwich complicated!”



We look forward to a Zaf at the home of Irena and Andrzej “*Bieniek*” Bienkowski for at their traditional East European specialties on September 21st.





Sailing Capital Table

By Salty Dog

Despite the allure of summertime activities, our table has remained incredibly active, coming together for our regular TAFs - usually monthly, or as often as our schedules allow. We continued our traditional opening of the Summer Pool Party at brother Wanderer's home where we do a potluck and grill out around a beautiful pool; but, for some reason, it seems that not many actually go for a dip. The food and friendship, however, flourishes favorably for our fraternal fellows. Discussions about the Sailing Capital's 10th anniversary party kicked off in earnest.

Additionally, we have had the pleasure of participating in the National TAFs via Zoom, allowing us to share information and fellowship with our brothers from around the country.

Raftarancho on the Chesapeake Bay:

In late June, table captain Rambo and brother Wanderer ventured south to Kilmarnock, VA, joining the Chesapeake and Solomons Island tables for their annual Raftarancho. Amazing fellowship and camaraderie among an always welcoming gathering of brothers was as welcoming as ever; a memorable gathering indeed!

Engagés Enrich Our Ranks:

We are delighted to introduce two exceptional Engagés, Dave Gelenter and Steven Godfrey. Dave, a skipjack captain and educator, brings his deep connection to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Steven, a retired U.S. Coast Guard Commander and master mariner, enriches our brotherhood with his extensive maritime expertise. These gentlemen shall be officially recognized during the 10 year anniversary celebration event in Annapolis on October 14th.

DaVinci & Family Complete Global Tour

In exciting news, brother DaVinci and family on their S/V KOLOHE, after an extraordinary three-year global tour, have returned to Annapolis. Their epic voyage covered 27 thousand nautical miles and spanned 12 countries. Along the way, they visited more than 9 tables and met over 100 brothers and captives in exotic locations such as the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, French Polynesia, Fiji, New Zealand, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong (China), South Korea, & Japan!

DaVinci shared some of their best experiences, which included swimming with Manta Rays, spotting octopuses, island hopping in French Polynesia, embracing the simplicity of island life, witnessing their young boys becoming accomplished cruisers, gazing upon the Southern Cross constellation, experiencing landfall after a 26-day Pacific passage, sharing the love for SCUBA diving, and visiting brothers along their extraordinary journey, even discovering unexpected brothers in French Polynesia.

This global connection truly exemplifies the spirit of our brotherhood.

Sailing Capital Table Turns Ten Years!

As we gear up for our 10th-anniversary celebration October 13-15, the excitement is palpable. We invite and welcome all brothers to join us for this special occasion. If you plan to attend, please take a moment to fill out our [Annapolis Sailing Capital 10th Anniversary RSVP Form](#). If you'd like to more information on the commemorative shirts, simply email brother Chief at k2trawick@gmail.com with the subject line: *SC10 Shirt Inquiry*.



We look forward to celebrating a decade of friendship and maritime adventures with all our brothers. Here is to many more years of camaraderie and shared experiences on the horizon!

San Antonio Table

By Monty Python

It's mainly about the X#@?! Weather

San Antonio has been having some very tough times through the summer months. The area is in severe drought conditions, watering is restricted, and we have endured 74 days this year with temperatures of 100 degrees or more including several days of 105. There was also a "streak" of 23 consecutive 100-degree days. But who's complaining? It is a DRY heat!

Another result of the conditions is the water levels at nearby Canyon Lake are at an all-time low, closing most boat ramps.

These unfortunate situations have forced the cancellation of most activities including outdoor and on the water events, BUT the spirit is still there. Recently we decided to fight fire with fire...it's 100 degrees so let's have an "Open Grill" evening at Craig & Cheryl's (Wright) barn. See more about the event below but suffice to say that everyone was ready, and it was well attended.

Even with the weather issues, the San Antonio Table still managed to enjoy a half dozen or so events during the year. Here is a recap.

Planning Meeting

The Table met in January to map out our year. We gathered at the home of Table Captain Monty "Python" and Audrey Rogers. We enjoyed each other's company and then dove into the breakfast buffet that the attendees provided. Ample amounts of egg casseroles, fruit, SOS and biscuits, Granzin sausage and plenty of mimosas and bloody Marias to wash it down were enjoyed. Time to go to work.

The Table built a schedule that included 1 or 2 events each month plus the World Zaf in Galveston/Houston in March.

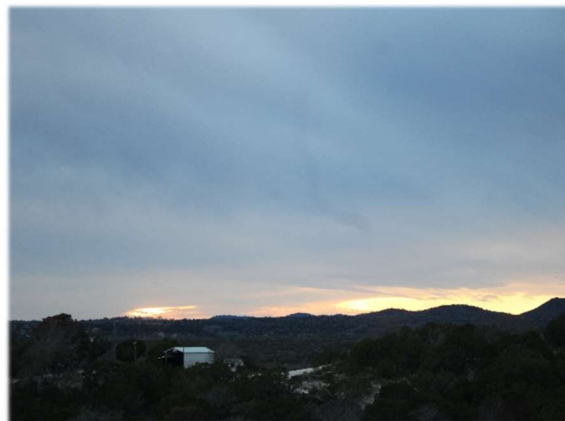




Super Bowl Party

Well, it's Super Bowl Sunday and time for our annual trek to Bandera Bob "Stogie" Wills hilltop ranch for the most beautiful surroundings possible to watch a football game. The Blue Wildebeest Saloon was ready for the group, plenty of ice, bar well stocked, Bar-B-Que ready and the TV and sound system warmed up.

I couldn't tell you who won the game, but who cares, everybody had a wonderful time.



Trailer Trash...Lite

You do what you gotta' do. Normally Fiesta week and Trailer Trash happen at the same time. We have several parties, put our "Pirate Ship" float "ORZA" in the King William Parade, but not this year. With the World Zaf happening about the same time we expected we would have poor attendance from Brothers from around the US (or beyond). So, Trailer Trash...Lite happened.

Most of the Table showed up at Craig "Marquis de Sade" and Cheryl Wright's big barn for a Saturday night to remember. All the Trailer Trash feel was there, the good food, plenty of liquid refreshment, John Marquette even showed up to provide the music and the evening was capped off with "A Pirate Looks at Forty" and the passing of the rum. In the Brotherhood we have a tradition...



Italian Night

Italian Night was once again hosted by our resident Goombah Frank “Sun Dance” and Shelby Simonini at their beautiful, wooded home in New Braunfels. As the Table relaxed on the screened deck, we were entertained by feeding time for some of the local wildlife. A herd of white tail deer came out of the woods to feed 30-40 feet away from us. But wait, next was a noisy flock of turkeys who wanted their share of grain that had been strewn on the ground.

As we watched them graze, we decided that we too were hungry, time to eat.

Frank & Shelby served up a superb Italian feast fit for a modern-day Julius Caesar. Good food, good friends.



Patty's Housewarming

Patty McNeil (Widow of Wayne "Kilo Pata Barrera" McNeil) decided that she was ready for different scenery, she opted to turn Fawncrest over to other family members and move from overlooking Canyon Lake to a peaceful and scenic development in nearby San Marcos. Well, that means we need to have a party, housewarming style.

The Table arrived carrying food and gifts. A wonderful afternoon was spent enjoying Patty's beautiful new home, yard and surroundings.



Open Grill at the Barn

As we explained in the opening paragraphs of this article, all sun and no rain make for a lousy summer. The San Antonio Table was ready to get together. What better place than Craig and Cheryl's barn. So, Sunday evening September 10th was spent catching up and remembering why we missed spending time with these people.

When the grill was ready, everyone tended their entrees and shared sides and desserts. Life is good.



Upcoming Activities for the San Antonio Table:

October 8th – Octoberfest @ Dave & Sissi's-1700 hrs

November 19th – Thanksgiving Dinner for the Captives @ The Fink's-1500 hrs

December 17th – Holiday Dinner @ The Barn Door Restaurant-1730 hrs

2024:

January 7th – Planning meeting @ The Rogers'

February 4th – Super Bowl Party @ Bob Wills'

Corpus Christi

By Brad "Speedy" Stokes



This year has seen many changes in our Table. We mourned the passing of our Table Captain Bob "Walrus" Weber, and our brother Tim "Pakrat" Stephenson. The Table asked me to carry on as Captain. I hope to be worthy of the title.

This June, the Table gathered at the Stokes' home for the induction our new brother, Walter "Barefoot" Crawford. Charlie Hankins came down from San Antonio to help with the induction. We enjoyed barbeque, a little live Jimmy Buffett music with our pasajero Dan Herrington, and a dip in the pool to escape the crazy heat!



Solomons Table

By Pat "Loose Canon" Whalen

The Solomons Table has had an active and fun summer, with the many meet-ups amongst smaller groups of brothers, a Tip-A-Few, and an annual traditional pool party at the home of Bernie and Margie Dove.

The first activity after the World Zaf in San Antonio was a Tip-A-Few at a local Brewery and Restaurant, The Ruddy Duck, and included two tables full of brothers and mates, 26 in all. After a long winter and spring, it was nice for the group to get together again and build the excitement for the upcoming summer. A great time was had by all.

In June the brothers of Solomons met up with those of the Chesapeake table for the annual Raft-a-Rancho at the Indian Creek Golf and Yacht Club in Kilmarnock, VA. Unfortunately, the weather was not very cooperative with storms and rough water, which limited the numbers of boats traveling for the weekend. The storms even knocked out power for quite a while, both at the Club and the Marina! It made some of the Thursday events a bit challenging, for sure. Luckily on Friday the group was able to gather for an induction ceremony and raucous dinner at the Club, with the electricity safely restored. Another fun time with lots of imbibing and singing!

The Solomons table had a pool party at Margie and Bernie's home on July 15th, which is becoming an annual event. It was a beautiful day, and the brothers and mates had a wonderful time catching up, swimming, playing games, and enjoying a wonderful spread of food that was brought by everyone. It was a great afternoon and appreciated by all. The highlight was the official presentation of the Engage' shirt to Ron Triplett and the Engage' mate shirt to his wife, Kay.

As the table looks forward to the Fall, the brothers continue to gather in smaller groups at local establishments and the Solomons Yacht Club, and a few of the brothers will be attending a Nationals - Orioles game in September. The brothers also have the National Captains Meeting at the Sailing Capital in October, where we hope to see brothers from a number of national tables, and will also be scheduling Tip-A-Few for October and November. As many of the brothers of the BOCUSA know, the Fall months on the Chesapeake are often some of the most beautiful!



Mr & Mrs Ron & Kay Engagé

