



# FIRST WATCH

## BROTHERHOOD OF THE COAST ~ UNITED STATES ~ OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

FOR THE 4TH QUARTER OF 2023



### 10th Year Anniversary Celebration

By Dave "Chief" Trawick

The Annapolis Sailing Capital Table gathered in mid-October to mark a significant milestone; the 10th Anniversary of our esteemed Table's Induction. It was a three-day affair comprising a get-together Friday evening, the celebration on Saturday and a farewell on Sunday morning. Many Brothers drove or flew into Annapolis. Three Brothers from the Chesapeake Bay Table seized the opportunity presented by the fine fall weather and sailed in, dropping anchor in the salty embrace of Lake Ogleton, a tidal pond two miles south of Annapolis. Early arrivals, having navigated the seas were provided space along the T-head of the Annapolis Cove

Marina. The Friday arrival, Soujourner, took a nearby mooring ball since they had brought their dinghy.

On Friday, a few of the early arrivals took in the Annapolis Sailboat Show in the morning as more attendees continued to arrive as a strong cold front started moving into the area for the weekend. As the sky grew dark in the late afternoon, everyone headed over to the Dark Horse roadhouse for the get-together. Our maritime merriment commenced with a highly successful "meet-n-greet" at this local watering hole. Here, the Brothers, outnumbering the locals at least 2 to 1, claimed the establishment as their own. A warm welcome was extended to the two new Engagés from the assembled Brothers.

Originally planned as an outdoor affair on the grassy knoll overlooking Lake Ogleton, Saturday's event had to be moved indoors due to the whims of Mother Nature and her autumn cold front. Undeterred, Brothers showcased their marlinspike Seamanship skills, rigging a makeshift canopy out of Mainsails provided by our Brother, Zusedog, of Bacon Sails. The result? A shelter that not only shielded us from the elements but also created an ambiance akin to life on the high seas, complete with wet feet and foul weather gear. However, many attendees, preferred the shelter of Rambo's home.







**DAVE GELETER**

During the celebration, the Sailing Capital Table took advantage of the gathered Brothers to present two new Engagés: Dave Gelenter and Steve Godfrey. Each Engagé had his nautical accomplishments presented to the group in a warm, casual ceremony. Those extensive credentials more than established their “love of the sea.”



**STEVE GODFREY**

Sunday dawned with the sun in the Northwester’s wake. Food, drink, and fellowship continued as the crew emerged from their bunks. The Annapolis Table hosted the National Captains meeting at the Eastport Yacht Club, a space perfectly suited for such a gathering. Post-meeting, everyone returned to Rambo’s haven for a hearty brunch – a much more pleasant affair - with plenty of victuals and grog to fortify us before setting sail.

**MORE PICTURES FROM THE SAILING CAPITAL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY:  
SATURDAY CELEBRATION - THE MAIN EVENT!**



**CAPTAIN RAMBO PRESENTS HIS FEAST!**







### *The case of the hijacked logo*

There I was, fresh from a day at the Annapolis Sailboat Show, going through the various items from the show that I had thrown into my bag. One was the marine paraphernalia catalog from *Ross Marine Ideas*. This is one of those companies that will put your logo on anything: stadium cups shirts, pillows, cutting boards and the like. Their offerings have not changed much over the years; those ubiquitous stadium cups can be found on many boats. I know *Orza* has spread these cups far and wide along the Chesapeake Bay and SE Atlantic coastline for years. They are everywhere!

I had not looked at their offerings for a few years so I decided to browse through. As I reached the end, something caught my eye on the inside back cover. There under the category "Uniform Shirts" was a female model showing ladies version of the shirt sporting an embroidered *Orza* logo. Now I know that Cruz (Scott) and Michele don't have a paid crew and I have never seen Michele wear one but I could not figure out why the merchandising company would show the unique *Orza* logo in their catalog. Were Scott & Michele planning on buying a bigger boat? One that would require a crew?



I finally caught up with Cruz at the reception for the Sailing Capital's 10th Anniversary bash: He was surprised to see the mock-up and - NOW



*"You're all buckle and no swash."*

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# FROM THE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

The Assembly of Table Captains awarded the For Merit medal to five U.S. Brothers: **Jungle Jane** (aka Jane Protzman), **Pescador** (aka Rick Hoekstra), **Cruz** (aka Scott Ripley), **Sparks** (aka Joe Citarella), and **Big Hopper** (aka Robert Coles).

At the New York Table's holiday party, I had the honor of presenting the For Merit Award to four of those Brothers. These awards were well deserved and need to be recognized by all. Jungle Jane for her many contributions to our Fraternity over the years. Pescador for his perseverance in making the World Zaf happen under much personal adversity and the pandemic. Sparks for his contribution to the World Zaf and other events by producing spreadsheets to predict costs and vulnerabilities in the outcome of the events. Big Hopper for his relentless pursuit for a working website both for the World Zaf 2023 and the U.S. Brotherhood. Brother Cruz was awarded the For Merit for his contribution to our fraternity and his generous support for the World Zaf 2023. I will formally present his award at a later date.

During the presentation I also recognized two Mates for their contributions to the U.S. Brotherhood. Mate of Past National Captain Pescador **Traci Hoekstra** for almost single handedly putting the World Zaf 2023 together and her continuous and sometimes difficult negotiations with vendors making the World Zaf 2023 a financial success. And **Theo Olmer**, Mate of National Captain Rascal, for her uncanny ability to cross reference



spreadsheets and find errors. Due to Theo's diligence all errors associated with the World Zaf 2023 had been resolved prior to the event. I will propose to the Assembly of Captains a new award "For Gratitude" to recognize Mates whose dedication to our fraternity has been exemplary.

Now I would like to bring your attention to an editorial being published in the latest Tortuga Post, number 117, by the Past National Captain of France, now International Vigie, Brother Archiquette aka Robert Champagnat entitled "Age, the Worst Enemy of the Brothers of the Coast". It is an indication that our problem in the U.S. is a problem worldwide. I would

like all to know that I totally agree with Brother Archiquette's assessment and it is something for us could consider. I would like to point out that in the US it will be necessary to work together in order to accomplish meaningful growth. For too many years Tables have been detached and working by themselves. This is not a good recipe for meaningful growth. We need to do better if we intend to survive. Ideally the U.S. Brotherhood of the Coast is made up of Tables working together as a team under the direction of the National Captain.

Wishing all our Brothers and Mates fair winds and calm seas for 2024!

Rascal FM  
National Captain

## Editors Old & New

During the Sailing Capital's 10th Anniversary Celebration in October, new editor of The First Watch, Upwind (L) had a chance to compare notes and discuss publication strategies with Monty Python (R).



HOW SAILORS DRIVE



## Brotherhood of the Coast U.S.A.

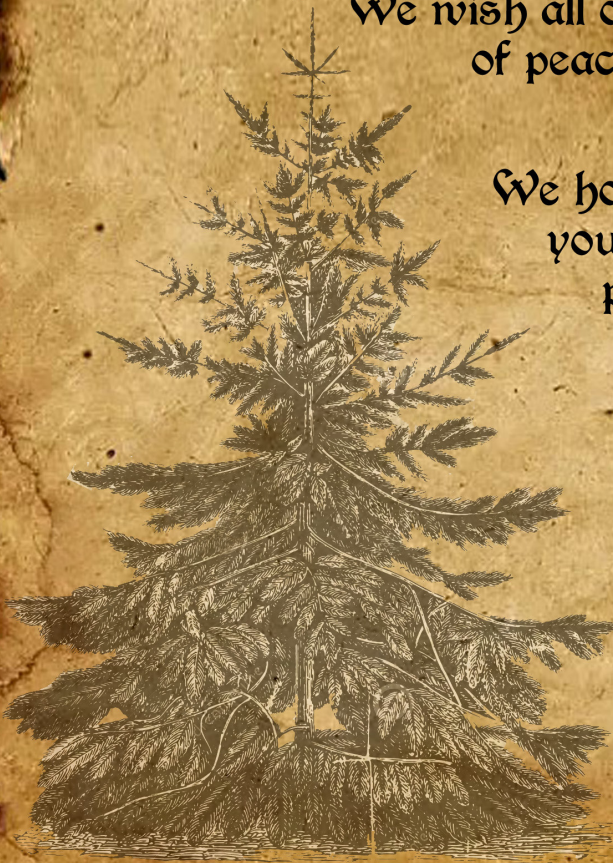
With a fraternal greeting to all,

We wish all our Brothers the gift  
of peace this holiday season.

We hope that 2024 rewards  
you with fair winds and  
plenty of water under  
your keel.

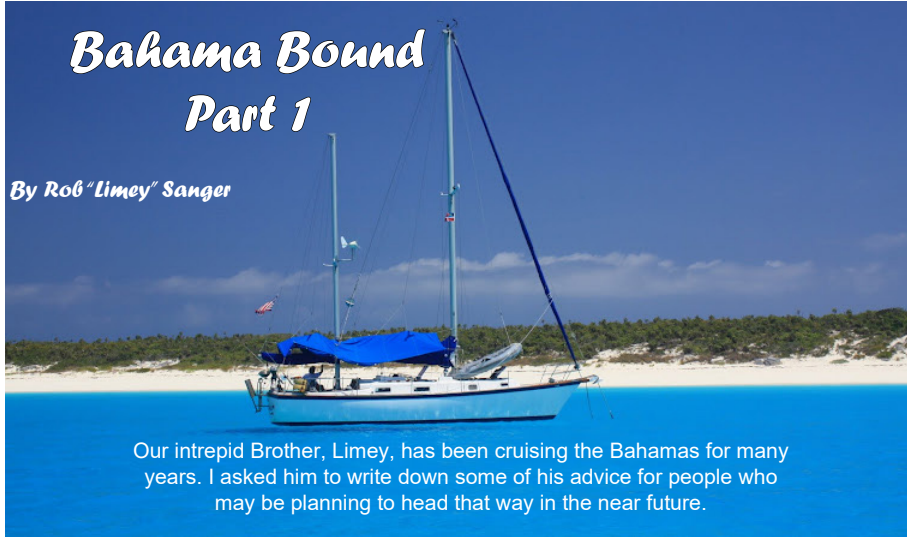
**ORZA!**

*Rascal FM*  
National Captain



# Bahama Bound Part 1

By Rob "Limey" Sanger



Our intrepid Brother, Limey, has been cruising the Bahamas for many years. I asked him to write down some of his advice for people who may be planning to head that way in the near future.

It is not hard to figure the allure of the Bahamas. From white sand beaches with crystal clear waters, a friendly, hospitable population, fishing, snorkeling, and diving and trade winds for sailing. The Family Islands are a great place to spend the winter.

There is one major obstacle to going to the Bahamas by boat, you must cross the Gulf Stream. This 'stream' runs around the Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Keys, then up the East Coast of the USA before turning towards northern Europe near Cape Hatteras NC. So, no matter where you originate your travel, you must cross this stream. Some people elect to leave out of the Chesapeake, cross the gulf stream near Cape Hatteras and then turn south for the Bahamas. However, most boaters choose to cross the stream from Florida, where any port south of Canaveral provides a shorter passage. The distance from West Palm Beach to West End, Grand Bahamas is roughly 57 nautical miles. Other arrival points are Freeport, Nassau, Bimini and the Berry Islands, but most islands will have a customs or immigration officer.



The current in the stream is not constant but varies from very slight to 4 to 5 knots. Nor is its exact location constant since it tends to meander a little. From Port Canaveral the west wall is around 35 miles, from Ponce Inlet it is around 44 miles. But from West Palm Beach the

west wall is usually from 1-10 miles offshore. You will feel the effects of the current on boat direction and speed, but the stream is also warmer water. If you have a transducer with temperature reading capability then you can see when you are in the stream. In winter the temps run in the mid-70s, in summer they are mid-80s. The current starts slowly and increases until it reaches its apex, usually only a few miles further offshore from the edge. From there it slowly decays until, after 40 to 50 miles, there is little noticeable effect. Weather, boat size and speed obviously play a large part in determining what a good weather window is. Since the gulf stream runs basically south to north along Florida, any northerly component winds can create adverse conditions. Very light northerlies, 5 - 10 knots may not be too uncomfortable for a larger vessel, but anything more in a smaller boat is not fun.

Obviously, trip time is determined by the individual boat size and speed. So, you need to keep up with the weather window, to make sure you do not get caught in adverse weather conditions. I usually leave from West Palm Beach through the Lake Worth Inlet. This is a personal choice; I

have left out of Ft Lauderdale, Fort Pierce, Miami and Lake Worth. I just prefer Lake Worth because there seems to be less adverse conditions in the inlet. The stream is close to the shore at Palm Beach and will provide a big kick to the northwards. I usually will head SE from Lake Worth and will enter the Little Bahama Bank at Matanilla Shoal. No matter what the boat heading the travel over ground is generally NE. Mattanilla Shoal is north of West End, but it provides a wide opening onto the Little Bahama Bank, with consistent deep water and no coral reef hazards, so it makes for good, easy night time navigation. I usually depart Lake Worth around sunset with a SE-S wind and allow myself to be carried northeasterly by the stream to Matanilla Shoal. I will then travel to Green Turtle Key to clear in, but there are small cays on the route where you can stop for sleep.

A word of caution, there is a lot of ship traffic in the stream. It is a major route to and from the US and Europe. A good watch is always essential. And AIS, at least a receiver, is good for identifying any potential problems. It will provide you with the ship's name, course, speed and CPA, so you can call them directly if you need to. Cruise ships also frequent these waters, but they are not at cruising speed. They are usually running slowly to coordinate arrival or departure times.

Not all islands have a customs or Immigration officer, or they may not be full time on island, but could be available only one day a week. An Immigration officer is able to authorize a stay of up to 180 days, while the Customs officer is only allowed to approve up to 90 day stays. But just because they can approve these maximums doesn't mean they will. But I have never had an issue with the length of time I was given on clearing in. If you want to get an extension you just go to the nearest Customs/Immigration office before your existing visa expires. There is a new, to me, software application developed by the Bahamian government called Click2Clear. See [www.BahamasMarinas.com](http://www.BahamasMarinas.com) for information about checking into the Bahamas. Also, the official government web site, [www.bahamas.gov.bs](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs) has detailed information.

The Bahamian archipelago stretches more than 500 miles and consist of over 700 islands/cays, a lot of which uninhabited. Note the Bahamians pronounce cay "KEY" and not "K". The cays are surrounded by crystal clear turquoise waters, that quickly change to deep ocean blue as the depth increases. One side of the island is usually shallow waters, usually the western or lee side, around 20 feet deep, but on the eastern side depths of 4000 feet are not far from the shore. Most of the islands have an off lying reef on the deep side, which makes navigation perilous, but fishing first rate. The largest of the islands is Andros, 100 miles long and 40 miles wide. But while the largest in size the population is less than 8000 people. Nassau, the capital, on the other hand, is located on New Providence Island and is 21 miles long and 7 miles wide with



a population of around 300,000. Navigation in the Bahamas is straight-forward, but I highly recommend The Explorer Charts. These charts, developed and updated by Sara and Monty Lewis are spot on and I trust them implicitly.

The northern most of the chain are Grand Bahama and the Abacos. West End on Grand Bahama is about 50 miles from West Palm Beach, Florida. Freeport, the second largest city after Nassau, is located on the southern side of Grand Bahama Island. To the north and east of West End stretches a chain of outlying cays, mainly unpopulated, from Walker and Grand Cay to Elbow Cay south of Marsh Harbour, about 100 miles. These off lying cays provide protection from the easterly trade winds for the Little Bahama Bank and the Sea of Abaco. Marsh Harbour, the country's third largest city (population of 6000 and boasting 2 traffic lights that may or may not work), is located on Great Abaco Island. With all around protection the Sea of Abaco is a favorite destination. Although nearly destroyed with Hurricane Dorian in 2019, Marsh Harbour is in the process of coming back. The marinas have been rebuilt and are open for boats, charter companies have begun to return, and restaurants are opening.

The archipelago stretches NW to SE. South of Grand Bahamas is New Providence Island and the capital, Nassau. SE is Eleuthera Island, around 100 miles long, and has numerous small townships, from Spanish Wells and Harbour Island in the north down through Gregory Town (surfing), Governor's Harbour, Rock Sound to Lighthouse Point on the SE corner of the island. This 'chain' continues southeasterly with Little San Salvador, Cat Island, Long Island, Conception Island, Rum Cay, Crooked Acklins and the Inaquas.



South of Nassau lies the Exumas, a chain of small cays, stretching south to Georgetown a distance of 130 miles. The chain is comprised of many small cays, providing a veritable playground of possibilities. This is also home of the Exumas

Land and Sea Park, created in 1958 and comprising 176 square miles. The entire park area is a no take zone. There are moorings available both in Warderick Wells (park HQ) and on the west side of the island at Emerald Rock. For many cruising boats, Georgetown Exuma is a final destination. It is not unusual to have 300+ cruising boats in Elizabeth Harbour. But the harbour is large enough that you can still find tranquil, isolated anchorages.

As a foreign country you must be prepared for entry. You will need passports for all crew members and documentation (or state registration) for the vessel. As you arrive by boat fly your Q flag to show you are newly arrived. And be sure to stop at the nearest Customs or Immigration office. It takes very little to gain entry to the Bahamas, an hour or so filling out some forms, turning over some cash (the cruising permit for 35+ boats is \$300 for 90 days and \$600 for 180 days). They have been working on automating the process via internet, and now you can pre-fill the forms and payment. The Bahamas are very strict as far as firearms are concerned. You will be required to account for every gun and piece of ammunition on entry and again upon departure.

The Bahamas has its own currency, but it is on a one-for-one with the US dollar and both are interchangeable. I usually take a lot of cash with me; it just makes life easier. There are banks and ATMs in the larger settlements, but I have noticed that the banks are closing on



Brother Limey in the Bahamas

the smaller cays and you may not be able to find one where you are anchored. Be aware that the Bahamas is a foreign country, and even though the Bahamian dollar is pegged to the US dollar, banks will still charge a transaction fee, and a foreign exchange fee when you use a ATM. Similarly, credit cards are being used more and more. But there will be charges both from the Bahamian side and the US side. Plus, the Bahamas has a Value Added Tax (VAT). While I have never been able to figure out what Value the tax adds, it can mount up. Current tax rate is 10 per cent.

With your cruising permit comes a fishing permit, which allows you to fish while in the Bahamas, but remember, there are catch limits for a lot of species, including conch and lobster, so be sure to check. Once cleared and in possession of your cruising permit you can begin to enjoy the country.

While it is possible to get anything while in the Bahamas, it must wvbe remembered that it is an island community. Nearly everything must be shipped in via boat, mostly from the USA. Most things are available or can be shipped in for you, but prices are not the same as Walmart! Do not expect to shop at a US style supermarket during your stay. While the larger towns do have smaller versions of the supermarket, most of the outer islands have their grocery stores in someone's house. Selection is not as available as we are used to in the US, but if you are prepared to pay premium prices you will be able to get most things.

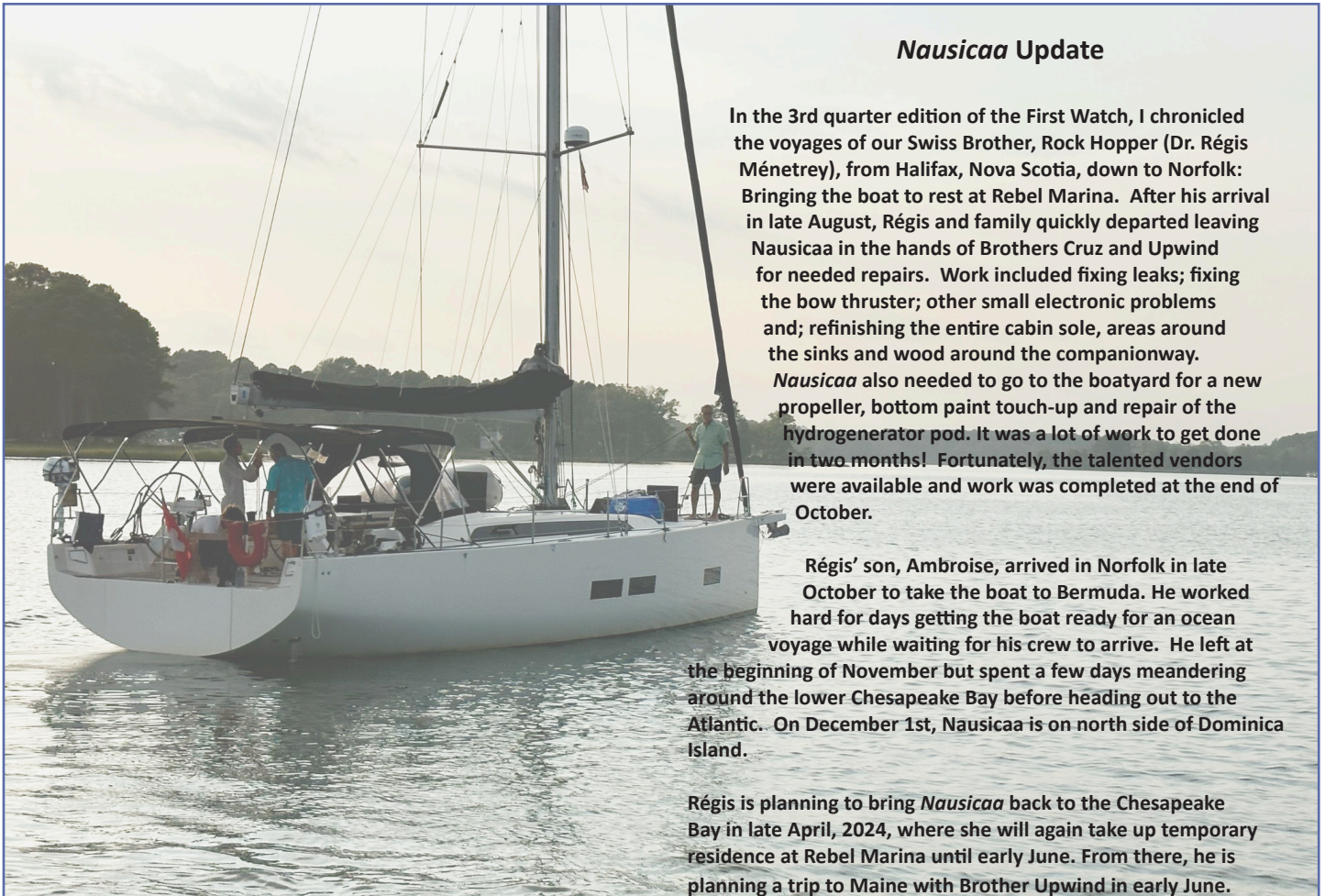
Most of us are getting older and need to take multiple medications. While it is possible to get prescriptions filled in the Bahamas, they do not recognize US insurance. However, the cost for medical and prescription services is usually a lot cheaper than in the US, but be prepared to pay cash for the service. You will also need to have a paper prescription. Even the smaller settlements will have a resident nurse, who you can go to for medical attention. They may or may not have a pharmacy, but they will be able to tell you where and how you can get it filled locally. Even if they have to bring it in special from Nassau you can usually get them in a couple of days. I usually take 180 days supply of all needed medications. Most insurance plans do not allow you to get 180 days filled at one time. But both CVS and Walgreen pharmacy have provided me with 180 of medication, I just had to go back on two separate days. But plan ahead because they will need to contact your insurance company to get approval and it might take a couple of days to get it coordinated. Many people buy Diver Assist Network (DAN) travel insurance. While this was developed to transport Divers in an emergency all are welcome. You have to follow their protocol, but if something serious does happen, you can get medevac'd to the US for treatment.



Before you go you should stock up with necessary spare parts and other items. Engine oil and filters, transmission fluid, fuel filters, hoses and belts are expensive, so take them with you. Likewise, toilet paper, paper towels, cookies and chips, and meats are expensive. If you can, bring enough for you to last your trip. Things like flour, sugar, rice and local produce such as sweet potatoes, pigeon peas, tomatoes, and of course rum are reasonably priced. Current price for a case of Kalik, the local beer, is \$48.00 for a case of 24. This price hasn't changed too much over the years. In 2002-2003 I think it was \$45.00 a case. Local rum runs around \$12.00, with flavored rums a little more. Fuel and water are readily available, but be aware that some cays do not have fuel for sale. The outer islands used to rely on rain water for their drinking water, catching



run from the roofs and storing it in large cistern tanks where the basement usually is. Over the past several years, though the government has been modernizing their water supply and now a lot of cays have Reverse Osmosis (RO) water. I take collapsible water jugs with me. Five of them fold into the size of a case of wine and every settlement has a community faucet. You might have to carry it a way, but often there will be an outlet near the beach. Georgetown, a destination for cruisers, did not have a boatable fuel supply the last time I was there in 2021. But they did have a dock and I was able to fill my jerry cans and fill the big boat. Some cays and islands only have gas and diesel for their own use and do not have a gas station that sells the fuel. So, keep track of your usage and fill when you can.



## ***Nausicaa Update***

In the 3rd quarter edition of the First Watch, I chronicled the voyages of our Swiss Brother, Rock Hopper (Dr. Régis Ménetrey), from Halifax, Nova Scotia, down to Norfolk: Bringing the boat to rest at Rebel Marina. After his arrival in late August, Régis and family quickly departed leaving *Nausicaa* in the hands of Brothers Cruz and Upwind for needed repairs. Work included fixing leaks; fixing the bow thruster; other small electronic problems and; refinishing the entire cabin sole, areas around the sinks and wood around the companionway. *Nausicaa* also needed to go to the boatyard for a new propeller, bottom paint touch-up and repair of the hydrogenerator pod. It was a lot of work to get done in two months! Fortunately, the talented vendors were available and work was completed at the end of October.

Régis' son, Ambroise, arrived in Norfolk in late October to take the boat to Bermuda. He worked hard for days getting the boat ready for an ocean voyage while waiting for his crew to arrive. He left at the beginning of November but spent a few days meandering around the lower Chesapeake Bay before heading out to the Atlantic. On December 1st, *Nausicaa* is on north side of Dominica Island.

Régis is planning to bring *Nausicaa* back to the Chesapeake Bay in late April, 2024, where she will again take up temporary residence at Rebel Marina until early June. From there, he is planning a trip to Maine with Brother Upwind in early June.

# MINUTES OF THE ASSEMBLY OF TABLE CAPTAINS

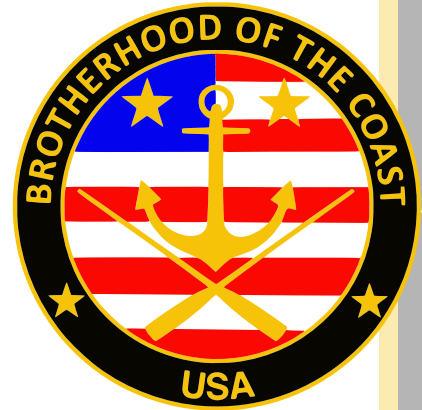
## ANNAPOLIS 10/15/2023

### Present:

Chesapeake Bay: Peter Briggs, Peter Dennant, Scott Ripley  
Corpus Christi: Brad Stokes (by Zoom)  
Houston: J.D. Thompson, Bill Hallmark (both by Zoom)  
New York: Tony Olmer, Jane Protzman (by Zoom), Robert Coles  
Sailing Capital: Ramzi Bannura, Dave Trawick  
San Antonio: Monty Rogers, Charles Hankins  
Savannah: John Byrne  
Solomons: John Dove, Tom Connery  
Sun Coast: John D'Alusio

### Absent:

Gold Coast  
Puerto Rico



The meeting was called to order at 8:45 am on Sunday, October 15, 2023.

After roll call by National Bosun Tom Connery, Host Ramzi Bannura read the Octolog. Tony Olmer reviewed some of the history of the US BOC which will be published in a separate document once transcribed. It is important to note that it was Scotty Smith, Jane Protzman, Art Steiner, and Rene Fiechter who resuscitated the NY Table and the US BOC which was in danger of collapse. The original founders were a stellar group of single-handed sailors, members of the Slocum Society, but without aggressive recruiting the NY Table was dwindling. Over the years the US BOC has successfully countered several challenges from malcontent Brothers, with special thanks to Charles Fine who used his legal talents in this effort.

Tony pointed out that the reason for having a Captain and a second represented at the Assembly is to train another person should the Table Captain become incapacitated.

By unanimous vote the Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2023 were approved.

International Vigie Scott Ripley mentioned that the International Zoom Meeting, held the first Sunday of the month, is an important tool to disseminate information about international events and a great way to foster communications among the participants. The *Berlin Goose Fair* will be offered but, while not as big an affair as before, overseas visitors are still welcome. There is no new information from Chile regarding the upcoming World Zaf but information will be shared as soon as it's available. Jane Protzman also mentioned that the Dusseldorf Boat Show was worth a visit.

The Treasurer reported there is \$3,179.94 on hand.

The US Roster has been updated by Joe Citarella thanks to updates sent in by US Captains. Puerto Rico and Savannah have not been updated yet. There was some discussion about the value of Facebook as one means to keep Brothers updated on Table events. First Watch was mentioned as a good vehicle to spotlight stories and history of the US BOC.

Tony distributed a copy of the US BOC Brochure which he and Joe Citarella updated. It was agreed that the Brochure is a very effective way to introduce the Brotherhood to people potentially interested. It can be printed locally from the PDF which is available.

Tony brought up the recurring problem of rejuvenating the US BOC. The NY Table is aging and in danger of disappearing. For several reasons Fort Lauderdale and Savannah are in danger of collapse. Brothers have passed on and others have moved away making it difficult to find leaders. Tables are only as good as their Captains. Tom Connery recently moved to Savannah and has agreed to try to revitalize the Table but knows it will take time. Perhaps we can find someone to do the same with Fort Lauderdale. John Byrne recommended organizing the roster to better reflect the active Brothers in each Table as well as Brothers that are associated with the Table but have moved away and therefore do not participate in local Table activities.

Dave Trawick felt that you shouldn't necessarily look to your friends to become new Brothers as they might not fit. You need to look to others that you feel would be leaders, get to know them and see if they are interested in the Brotherhood. He agrees the brochure is valuable in introducing the Brotherhood to prospective members. He also felt it is important that when a person becomes an Engagé or a Brother that their bio be read so that everyone can know their background and who they are. Ramzi stated that he was very im-

pressed with the caliber of our group and that it is valuable to let new prospects know who we are so they can better understand what the Brotherhood is all about.

Brad Stokes said that recruiting new Brothers should be the goal of every Table and the responsibility of every Brother. He also brought up the idea of Tables committing to adding one new Brother per year in order to replenish their ranks and rejuvenate the Table.

JD Thompson explained that he wanted to get the Brotherhood brand and logo out there more so people can understand what we are all about so he started having monthly gatherings at local bars where they would dress up like pirates and fly their flags. He encouraged Brothers to invite their friends to these gatherings so they can be looked at as possible Pasajeros. He agreed that inducting at least one Brother a year is a good goal even though it may not always happen.

Robert Coles mentioned the issue of female Brothers and Tony stated that this is something that is handled by each Table as they see fit, as is the use of the terms "Captives or Mates".

### **New Business**

The World Zaf 2023 is officially closed. This Zaf paid for itself and generated a profit of \$538, with a special mention of the efforts by Traci Hoekstra to negotiate more favorable hotel terms. Rick Hoekstra and Scott Ripley are commended for providing seed funds to secure venues for the World Zaf.

The For Merit medal was awarded to Scott Ripley, Robert Coles, Joe Citarella and Rick Hoekstra (recognizing the efforts of Traci Hoekstra) for their contributions to the success of the World Zaf as well as their ongoing efforts furthering the US BOC.

The World Zaf of 2026 in Chile will most likely be in Southern Chile in the Fall. As soon as information is received it will be distributed to Brothers.

The Chesapeake Bay Table is organizing a Zaf in conjunction with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States and the arrival of 55 Tall Ships in Norfolk in June 2026. They would also like to host the Captains Meeting at that time but they do not want to take away from the Chilean World Zaf. It was discussed that this could be a potential problem and was felt that they would know more once the details of the World Zaf are announced.

The Greatest Dictionary was discussed. Currently it contains Brothers Bios which is not the Dictionary's purpose. There needs to be some effort to rationalize what the Dictionary was intended to be with its current focus. Tony will work with Secoin on the purpose of the Dictionary and possibly separating the bios into a separate document. In the meantime, he asked Peter Dennant to help collect bios of US Brothers that can be sent to Secoin for inclusion in either the Dictionary or a separate document.

A comprehensive plan is needed to archive US BOC materials. Without something like a digital archive, these materials are in danger of disappearing. This is a continuous item of discussion and needs to be addressed.

John D'Alusio stated that at the 2019 Captains Meeting it was agreed that the Guide needs to be updated and a committee was put together but nothing ever happened. Bill Hallmark said he had worked on this along with Bill Strep, Rick Hoekstra and Charlie Hankins and will forward what he has to Tony. JD mentioned that years ago discussions were had on preserving Brotherhood logos and documents and that that if we could revisit those discussions, it might be helpful. John Delusio will forward whatever minutes he was involved with to Tony. It was agreed that this needs to be revisited and should be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Robert Coles made an emphatic plea for someone to function as a backup for the BOCUS.org website. This also needs to be addressed at the next meeting.

Publication of a calendar of events was brought up. It was suggested that it be put on the website. Both Tony and Robert said this had already been done and nothing ever happened with it. It was then suggested that zaf dates be forwarded to Joe Citarella who can forward them to the Table Captains.

The next Quarterly Zoom Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 1900 Eastern time.

With no further business brought before the Assembly, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Citarella aka Sparks – National Scribe

*Sparks*

# TABLE REPORTS



*by Upwind*

The Chesapeake Bay Table continues to meet on a monthly basis. With an increasing number of the Table's members now in retirement, many have left for warmer, southern climates. In the winter, this translates to a dwindling attendance for our monthly events but, somehow, we make due!

After a brutally hot summer with infrequent wind, three Brothers - Country Boy, Rocket Boy & Upwind - took advantage of the great October weather to travel north for the Sailing Capital's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the 2023 BOCUS Captain's Meeting and the Annapolis Sailboat Show. During the trip, Country Boy and Upwind stopped in to visit their Brothers in Solomon Island.

Tom Smith ("El Calbucono") crossed the bar to his final voyage in September. He is one of the Table's initial members and is the first Brother to pass.





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.

### Fal Zaf by Elaine:

The New York brothers met at the home, in New Jersey, of Andrzej (Bieniek) and Irena Bienkowski on September 21st for a very special luncheon of their favorite "Polish style" appetizers and entrees.

Brother Lenny (Baggywrinkle) got lost a few blocks from the destination and had to wait for an escort from Andrzej who first went to the wrong firehouse to pick him up. Who knew there were two firehouses in Livingston, NJ! Brother Robert (Big Hopper) was also delayed by barely moving traffic at the George Washington Bridge while enroute. In spite of the late arrivals, a great time was had by all who attended. Congratulations were extended to Andrzej and Irena for becoming the happy grandparents of a new baby boy – their first grandchild. Andrzej shared photos of his voyage aboard a three masted schooner and proudly showed the Brothers his fine antique sword and firearm collection. Polish daggers and sabers mainly from WWI and WWII. The oldest one is from the 17th century

The event was attended by Tony (Rascal) Olmer and Theo, Chris (Tick Tock) Nitzsche and Marie, Len (Baggywrinkle) Sinowitz and Elaine, Robert (Big Hopper) Coles, Kevin (Cool Wood) Rathbone and Norma Howard.



## Holiday Zaf:

Once again, it was held, Saturday December 2, at the spacious home, in Connecticut, of Chris "Tick Tock" Nitzche and Marie Genteale. Our guests were Rick "Pescador" and Traci Hoekstra who were visiting the Olmers. All the Table was present except for Andrea "Artista" Torrens and Norma Howard who had family obligations.

Surrounded by Chris's museum quality clock collection ranging from modest cuckoo clocks to antique German Iron Clocks, Skeleton Clocks and regulators. Therefore, his Battle Name, "Tick Tock." Some of his rarest precision clocks are now in museums.

Later in the afternoon we had some surprises. Tony and Rick presented traditional BOC "For Merit" Medals for "outstanding service". Tony presented Rick, Joe, and Robert their medals for their big efforts on the International Zaf in March. Theo and Traci were presented with "Gratitude" Awards as Mates. Rick presented JungleJane with her Medal for service over many years to the USA Brotherhood. Thanks to Big Hopper for the images!



## From the Southern Branch of the New York table

By Paul "Mindaugus" and Dawn Gudelis

Long time friend and Brother Rob Sanger of the Norfolk, VA table (far left in photo) is making his way south towards the Bahamas and in late November stopped in St. Augustine for a visit. The timing coincided with Joe and Gail Citarella being in town visiting with their son and daughter-in-law Paul and Alyssa Citarella and so we had the makings for a mini pop up Zaf! Brother Lee McMichael (far right) joined us as well; however, his wife Catherine was not feeling up to joining and regrettably Barb and Ed Krumeich were unable to attend due to Barb recovering from recent shoulder surgery. We had a fun filled evening reminiscing of by gone adventures and planning for those yet on the horizon.



Ed Krumeich "Exterminator" sent this of another Southern Branch get together with Kathryn and Lee McMichael.



In October we held a dress like a pirate and went on a mini pub crawl on October 6. Kind of fun going to these bars dressed up and having your pictures taken by folks and explaining who we are and what we do, plus it gave us a change to dress up a bit. Might be a way to find new Brothers for your Table.

Long time Brother Jerry Davidson passed away recently. His Captive Maureen asked Mark Sandridge to speak on behalf of the BOC at the service. The Table voted to make a donation in his name to "Sailing Angels".

The annual Christmas party was held at Rick and Traci's casa on December 8. Fun night with several Pasajeros and Engages in attendance. The food was German themed.

We have a planning meeting set for next January 10 which will include Captives. Our plan will be posted here next quarter for all out of town Brothers to attend any events.



# Sailing Capital Table

by Chief

## Celebrating Veterans' Day and Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Amidst the crisp fall air, our maritime revelry continued as we rolled into a TAF at the Pussers in downtown Annapolis. Why limit the celebration to one occasion when we can honor both our Founding Brother Merf's birthday and Veterans' Day (07 November) together?

The atmosphere was nothing short of magical as an excellent turnout of Brothers and their families gathered to surround Merf with warmth and joy. Picture this – Brothers sharing sea tales, laughter echoing, and even the younger generation joining in the merriment at a table of their own. Pussers became our private haven for the night as the dining room had few other patrons. We filled the air with laughter, and the clinking of glasses.

Dinner, drinks, and cake were savored in the company of those who make our adventures truly special. Chief, in true Brotherhood spirit, unleashed a hearty Broadside.

Looking forward, our compass points to a Holiday TAF at Chief's house on December 16th. Expect even more joy, laughter, and perhaps a touch of mischief as we sail into 2024!

Fair Winds and Festive Tidings!



## Sun Coast Table

by The Crab

The last quarter of 2023 yielded several Sun Coast table boucans that were well attended. When the Florida summer weather begins to recede, the participants of our tip-a-fews magically increases.

On October 18th, a cook-out was held at a beautiful waterfront venue in Bradenton. This was at Jiggs Landing, an old fish camp that was originally opened in 1944 on the northern shore of Ward Lake. Jiggs Landing was renovated by Manatee County about eight years ago, and now the locale features a boat ramp, four rental cabins for those who want to fish for a day or two without leaving, a market that purveys wine, beer, and food, and a large, covered pavilion with seating for four dozen, and two adjacent grills. Live music is also featured from Thursday through Sunday afternoons.

The boucan was hosted by yours truly, The Crab, and my captive Mariann. We rented the covered pavilion, sent out invitations, stoked up the two grills with charcoal, and enjoyed “Chamber of Commerce” weather with azure blue skies, bright sunlight, and temps in the high 70’s with low humidity. It doesn’t get any better than that for southwestern Florida in October.

Twenty-five attendees participated. They were provided with numerous appetizers, grilled Italian sausage links and ¼ pound all beef hot dogs as the main courses, and light desserts. The convivial atmosphere was enhanced by the serene fresh waters of Lake Ward, which is fed by the Braden River.



The next time we convened was for our Christmas Party on December 9th. This was held at a residential subdivision clubhouse in Ellenton, FL courtesy of Kathie Mellott and her late husband Virg “Phantom” Mellott. Virg was able to reserve the clubhouse in their subdivision early in February, so we had a venue to host our holiday get-together. Thirty-one Table members participated. The party food was catered (mighty tasty BBQ), an open bar was offered, and we even had an annual business meeting and the induction of an engage. It was one busy party!

Gregg Knighton was the subject of the investiture, which was the centerpiece of the soiree. His battle name is "Windy," and his Flag # is 795. Several of our Table members already knew Gregg because he owned a sail loft in Sarasota for 30 years and made sails for many of our brothers. He's now a yacht salesman with SJ Yachts. His captive is Jann. We welcome both into the Sun Coast Table family and the US BOC.



## Thanksgiving Dinner (for the Captives)

A few days before the traditional Thanksgiving Celebration, the San Antonio Table gathered at the ranch home of Engage Rick and Diana Fink in Bandera, Texas. The assignment for the Brothers was simple, bring sides to complement smoked meats. The early evening rolled on as the group solved problems ranging from world peace to crab grass.

The smoked meats arrived: Pulled pork by Jim "One Eyed Jim" Benjamin, beef brisket by Wayne "Boatman" McNeil Jr., and bird by Rick Fink. The other Brother prepared side dishes were served and the Table spent the next portion of the evening doing what comes naturally, making empty plates out of the Thanksgiving Dinner.



Our Hosts didn't know what was coming next until Captain Monty "Python" Rogers, Charles "Oso" Hankins, and Bill "Joker" Streep entered in the room in full pirate gear and Monty demanded Rick Fink to present himself, "Front and Center." Rick was inducted into our little band of pirates and given the nom de plume of "Buzz" (since he is a professional beekeeper). "One Eyed Jim" Benjamin presented his Brotherhood flag bearing #356.

The remainder of the evening was spent celebrating Rick and Diana and the social atmosphere that surrounded us.



### Late Breaking News

The San Antonio Table has elected a new Captain to take office January 1, 2024. Our new leader is:  
**Rick "Buzz" Fink**



### Another Passing

The San Antonio Table learned of the passing of one of the Table mainstays less than two weeks before Christmas. Craig "Marquis de Sade" Wright succumbed to a massive coronary on December 13. Craig had served The Table as its Captain and served BOCUS as a Sage. Countless number of events occurred at Craig and Cheryl's hill country "barn." Our deepest sympathies go out to Cheryl, children, and grandchildren.

Craig, may you encounter only fair winds and following seas on your new journey.

(More about Craig in the "In Memoriam" section of this First Watch.)



### Upcoming Activities:

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

**2024**

- January 7th – Planning meeting @ The Rogers'
- February 4th – Super Bowl Party @ Bob Wills'



by *Loose Cannon*

The Solomons Table held their annual Christmas Dinner (two dinners actually – see below) for the second year in a row at the home of Capt Tuna (Scott Redfield) and his mate, Marie. The group had a wonderful evening on a brisk night in southern Maryland, with many laughs and old stories shared. Twenty brothers and mates were in attendance, including our Engagé, Ron Triplett and his mate, Kay.

The food was fabulous, prepared and provided mostly by Kim Jacobs, the mate of Crabman (John Dove), Captain of the Table, and the hosts of the dinner, the Redfields. The beer flowed freely from the taps of Tuna's kegs that are integrated into his boat themed bar in the basement. It's a must see!

Of course, no Christmas Dinner would be the same without the White Elephant Gift Exchange that brings with it steals, creative gifts and some traditional ones (soft crabs from Snapper King and his mate, Margie). But the most valued gift was a Smith Island cake made by Cindy Smith, mate of Fishmonger (Edwin 'Smitty' Smith). If you haven't had one before, it is a southern Maryland classic. Cindy is a native of Smith Island, so who better to make one?



One of the most fantastic facts of this year was that as the dinner was happening in Maryland, there were snowbird brothers celebrating at the home of Quartermaster (John Simpson) in Cape Coral, FL. It is great to know that the brothers gather wherever they can to celebrate the Holiday season!

The Solomons Table wishes everyone in the BOCUS a wonderful Holiday Season and very Happy New Year. We hope to see you in 2024! Orza!



# In Memoriam



Captain Thomas Howard Smith, USN (Ret)  
April 12, 1943 - September 16, 2023

“El Calbucano” - BOCUS Flag No. 706  
Chesapeake Bay Table

Captain Thomas Howard Smith, USN (ret) passed away on Saturday, September 16, 2023 following a short illness.

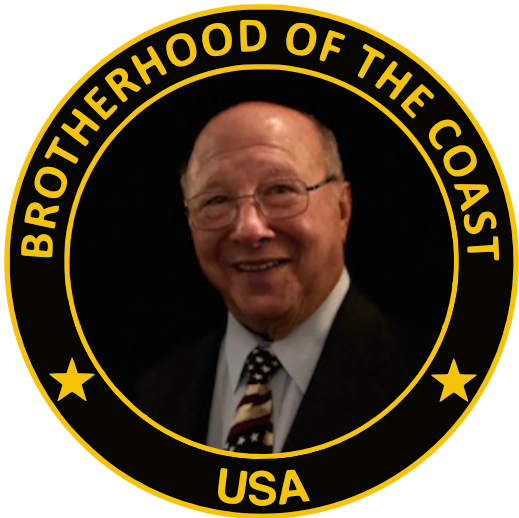
Tom attended Brown University. Following his graduation, Tom reported to OCS in Newport, RI. He was commissioned as a LTJG and assigned to the USS Myles C. Fox. He later served as the Aide and Flag Lieutenant for the Commander of the South Atlantic Force. For 2 years he travelled around South America as part of UNITAS planning group.

Tom held many different positions in the Navy both on land and sea for over 28 years. The assignment that changed his life was being stationed in Norfolk, VA in the early 1980s. He was asked to join the 1983 Harborfest Executive Committee where Tom and Elly met around a conference room table. But there is no doubt that career-wise, his favorites were his first at sea command onboard the sea-going tug, **USS Mataco**, his command of **USS John King**, and his last assignment as Defense and Naval Attaché in Chile. His Chilean counterparts thought so much of his work in Chile, that he was made an honorary member of the Chilean Naval Academy, class of 1963. Following his retirement in 1994, Elly and Tom built a home on a small island in southern Chile. Always wanting to help others, Tom and Elly purchased and had installed a utility pole to bring electricity to that part of the island and paid all the connection fees for the residents. Tom even taught some of the neighbors to drive so they could use his car to transport people to the doctors or hospital in Puerto Montt which was an hour away. Tom and Elly returned to the Norfolk in 1996, but Tom continued to visit Calbuco for several months each year until they sold the house in 2000.

Tom's love of sailing began at an early age in the Berkshires at his family's summer camp; *Chimney Corners*. Over the years, Tom spent many hours on his sailboats **Solaris** and later **Molly Malone**. However, his most favorite times were sailing his catboat, **Torby** which he restored. Accompanied by friends John Callahan on **Chief** and Mark Stanley on **FatCat**, the three annually sailed the Chesapeake Bay for a number of years. Only they can tell the tales of those adventures on their 8-foot boats!

Tom was part of the original eight members of the Chesapeake Bay Table that was established in 1998. He is the Table's first member to cross the bar. He will be missed.

**A remembrance from Upwind:** Back in the early part of the twenty-first century, I was a lowly engagé in the Chesapeake Bay Table. Our Table Captain, Blue Stache, informed me that one of my tasks before being considered for initiation was to learn the *Andanada* (Broadside) in Spanish. Having taken Latin and French in High School, I had nowhere to go to learn the Spanish toast of the Brotherhood. I was directed to Tom, who was teaching Spanish in one of the nearby cities. I made arrangements to meet with him one afternoon. Before I did, I stopped by a local Radio Shack to buy what was then a new digital audio recorder. Tom taught me the pronunciations and inflections necessary to deliver the celebratory toast to a large group of drunk pirates! I studied the recordings for weeks which was fortunate as several months later I was called on to lead the *Andanada* at the 2004 World Zaf in NYC!



Lt. Colonel Virgil J. Mellott – USAF (Ret)  
February 7th, 1943 – March 23, 2023

“Phantom” – BOCUS Flag No. 762  
Sun Coast Table

Brother Virg Mellott unexpectedly slipped his cable on Tuesday, March 23, 2023 at the age of 80.

“Virg” was born in Reading, PA. After graduating from high school in 1961, he joined the Air Force. Virg was initially assigned to a B-52 bomber squadron as a Navigator, but he longed to become a fighter pilot. He was told he should forget that dream as bomber crews were never transferred to fighter squadrons. Virg proved them wrong: He wound up winning first place in a navigation competition. When the Major General presenting the award to Virg asked him what he wanted to do in the Air Force, Virg replied he wanted to become a fighter pilot. The General pulled a few strings and, as if by wizardry, Virg found himself transferred to a fighter training program.

Virg was so good at jockeying fighters, the Air Force assigned him as to be T-38 Flight Instructor. Eventually, he became an F4 Phantom pilot and served his country in the Vietnam War.

After 21 years in the Air Force, Virg retired as a Lt. Colonel.

After separating from the Air Force, Virg worked in the medical industry supplying all types of prosthetics to surgeons. He would often accompany the physicians into the OR to instruct them in the installation of the medical devices, earning the sobriquet “Col. Doctor.”

After retiring from the medical supply profession, Virg and his wife Kathie relocated from AZ to the west coast of FL to be closer to Kathie’s mother and brother.

Virg had become familiar with the BOC through San Antonio Brother Wayne “Boracho” Laxon when the Laxons and the Mellotts were living in Seattle. At the time, Virg owned a 32’ Bayliner with twin diesels and a Sedan Bridge while Wayne had a 28’ sailboat. Virg and his wife Kathie attended several BOC functions in San Antonio with Wayne and his spouse Mary. Eventually, when Virg and Kathie relocated to the west coast of Florida in 2014 in the Bradenton vicinity. The San Antonio Table reached out to brothers in the Sun Coast Table introducing Virg and Kathie and suggested we get together with them.

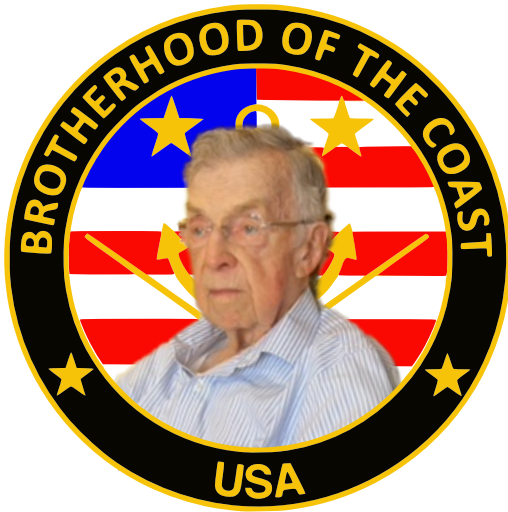
Virg wound up being inducted into the BOC in December, 2016. In 2018 he became Table Captain until January of 2021.

Virg loved the Brotherhood and was a high energy contributor to the Table. He had developed cardiac issues resulting in an aortic valve replacement in December 2018. But he bounced back from that complex surgery and remained active in the Table after stepping down from the Captaincy until his untimely demise.

Besides his beloved wife Kathie, he leaves five children: Steve, Brett, Tammy, Danette, and Sherri, 16 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Virg will be sorely missed by all those who knew him. Keep-’em flying, Virg!





John Hampshire - USN (Ret)  
August 25, 1927 - November 20, 2023

“Pas Partout” - BOCUS Flag No. 226  
Sun Coast Table

John was born on August 25, 1927, and crossed the bar on November 20th, 2023, at home with his captive Eileen and his son John at his side.

John was inducted into the BOC in December, 2002. He owned a 36' Beneteau sailboat, and was a lifelong lover of the sea. Upon being inducted, John chose “Pas Partout” as his battle name. When he said this, most of the brothers looked at one another and then back at John. Brother Hampshire explained that the French phrase meant to “Pass Everywhere.” He was 74 at the time of his induction, so John had already done quite a bit of “passing” all over the globe. John advised he was far from done and was looking forward to continued travels, both on the water and off.

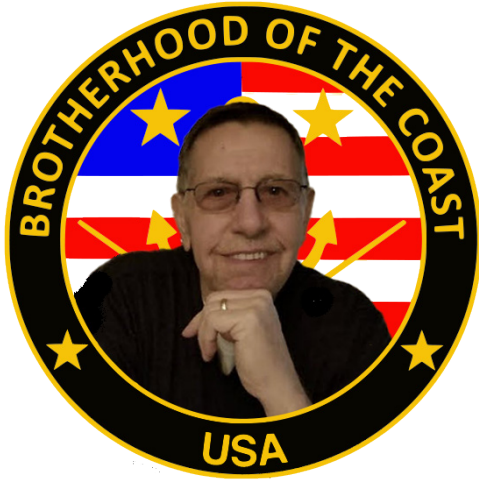
John bought his 36' Beneteau sailboat new in 2001. He kept it docked behind his house on Siesta Key. This part of Florida is known as the lightning capital of the world for good reason. In 2004, during a summer thunderstorm, John's boat took a lightning strike on the mast. The hit burned up all of his shipboard electronics. I remember surveying the damage and offered my condolences on the loss of his all his chart plotter, radar, marine radio, etc. John looked up at me, smiled and said, “Oh, no. It's a good thing. Nothing else on the boat was damaged, and insurance is going to replace all my destroyed electronics with brand new equipment.” John always looked on the bright side of everything.

John and Eileen were married in 1994, and relocated to the west Coast of FL in the later 90's. They purchased a waterfront home on Siesta Key, where they hosted their famous Sunday Brunches for many years for our Table's Little Pirates Christmas Zaf. John and Eileen loved to entertain, and they always had a special place in their heart and home for the BOC. Eileen's parents were cheerful helpers during these brunches. Her father was in the RAF in Britain during the Blitz in the summer of 1940. He and John sometimes traded stories about their respective experiences in the war. John and Eileen were also members of the Sarasota Sail & Power Squadron (a subsidiary of the United States Power Squadron), with John serving for a year as Commander and Eileen as Flag Lt.

Brother Pas Partout was a member of the “greatest generation.” He was a WW II Navy veteran. After one tour he was discharged. John was able to gain entrance to the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and graduated with a degree in commercial architecture. He was a very successful businessman, designing hospitals, power plants, and large commercial buildings. John was a licensed architect in 18 states.

John always deported himself with a quiet confidence, and we all enjoyed his steady, understated presence and keen sense of humor. He will be missed.

Besides his widow Eileen, John leaves two children, Barbara and John, and two stepchildren, Greg and Christopher.



Jerry Lee Davidson  
September 12, 1944 - October 17, 2023

“ROE” - BOCUS Flag No. 146  
Houston Table

Jerry Davidson, flag 146, was a 30+ year Brother of the Houston Table who recently passed away. He and his wife Maureen, lived aboard their Tayana 42 sailboat, Dream Catcher for years.

Jerry had an interesting Brotherhood name, ROE. Many people thought it was his love of fish eggs that gave him that name. No, it stood for "running on empty." Jerry always said he had plenty of diesel on board, but alas that was not the case as he frequently ran out; hence the name ROE. The worst time was when he ran out of fuel and blocked the entrance to our 500-boat marina; Waterford. A fleet of dinghies were launched to pull him into his slip.

He had an interesting career at NASA. Back in the day when a space launch was on all the TV stations, Jerry was one of the guys that sat in mission control during takeoff.

In the early 2000's he led a team of software engineers in writing new software for the Space Shuttle.

I asked him about the project and he shocked me when he said I had more computing power in my new Apple iPhone than the shuttle had on board. The day the shuttle was launched he was a nervous wreck. He and his team had tested it hundreds of times but when they threw the switch from the old stuff to the new technology it had to work. It did and the shuttle kept flying. The Houston Table will miss ROE for his wisdom, smiling face and never empty glass of red wine in his hand.



Captain John S. C. Craighill, USN (Ret.)  
March 22, 1944 - August 20, 2023

“Sea Hawk” - BOCUS Flag No. 283  
Solomons Table

John was born in Washington, DC. He graduated from St. Andrews School, Middletown, DE, in June 1962, and received his Bachelor of Science degree and commission from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1967. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

John proudly served his country for 30 years as a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. He served on eight different ships for 20 years on sea duty. John served at sea on LAWRENCE, GOLDSBOROUGH, ENTERPRISE and NIMITZ. He commanded AYLWIN from 1984 to 1987. He also served as assistant chief of staff for Operations and Plans, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Twelve, and as operations officer for the EISENHOWER battle group in support of Operation Desert Shield. John held major command of SOUTH CAROLINA from 1991 to 1994. Ashore, John served as executive officer of the Nuclear Power Training Unit and executive assistant to the Superintendent at the Naval Academy.

John earned the Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Battle “E” Ribbon, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal and Sea Service Ribbon (7).

John retired from the Navy in September 1996 with the rank of captain. He went on to have a successful civilian career, becoming the president/CEO of CAE USA. He finished his career supporting the Navy as a senior systems engineer until 2019. For many years, he also led the Naval Chapel as the Brigade Away head usher.

John was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandpa and shipmate. He exemplified leadership and fatherhood, equal parts faithful, nurturing and hard working. He attended every game, recital and performance with pride. John enjoyed sailing, travel, music and a good book on the beach.

John was one of the original eight members who stood up the Solomons Island table in 2007. “Sea Hawk” became our second table captain in 2010. He was also our table photographer, not by appointment, just because he loved it. He would hand out CDs to each brother with pictures from each table event. At our 10 year anniversary, he gave each brother a CD with a slide show with over 3000 pictures documenting our first 10 years as a table. Sea Hawk attended many other table Zafs and the World Zaf in Paris. He was also the BOCUS National Treasure for a number of years. He and Pete Chabot (Sea Devil) were instrumental in mentoring and helping to establish the Sailing Capital Table in Annapolis. Although John lived in Annapolis, he rarely missed a table Tip-a-few or table event. He was an exemplary brother He will be missed!

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Kathleen; their three children, Sarah Minukas (Mark), Leigh Rauseo (Mike) and John Craighill Jr. '03 (Dorothy); and six grandchildren, Audra, Sirene, Lulu, Margaret, Kevin and John.



Craig Wright  
August 18, 1949 - December 13, 2023

“Marquis de Sade” - BOCUS Flag No. 205  
San Antonio Table

Craig “Marquis de Sade” Wright was a solid mainstay of the San Antonio Table. He had served as Table Captain and Sage for the BOCUS. Craig suffered from a massive coronary on December 12<sup>th</sup> and efforts to revive him failed. He passed away on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Craig was born in Dallas, Texas. He attended Thomas Jefferson High School there. He graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio and then the University of Texas Health Dental School. He joined the Navy as a dentist and was stationed in the Philippines. He even served a short time aboard the USS Ranger.

Craig set up dental practice in San Antonio until his retirement in 2020.

Craig was inducted into the San Antonio Table in 1996 and was given the nom de plume “Marquis de Sade”, an appropriate name for a dentist. He was assigned Flag #205.

In 1998 Craig married Cheryl Moczygemba.

Any Brother who has attended an activity in San Antonio has likely been to Craig and Cheryl’s “big barn” in the hill country north of San Antonio for an event. Craig spent much of his “spare” time at the barn doing those odds and ends that need to be done on 10 acres including playing with the dogs, working on the MG, or feeding the donkeys. Yup, donkeys.

Craig “adopted” two donkeys. Habanero, a standard donkey and Snowy, a white miniature. Craig needed to ensure (donkeys are stubborn) that they did their jobs, keeping the grass cut.



And did I mention the MG? Every Wednesday evening Craig went to the barn with Charles “Oso” Hankins and Monty “Python” Rogers. They worked doing a frame-off restoration of a 1953 MG-TD. When done it was like new. It only took the three of them 15 years to do it...after all, they needed to take breaks for rest, trips to the head and Jack Daniels.

Craig will be missed by all. He was a good friend, an important member of the Brotherhood and dear family man. Craig, may fair winds and following seas take you on your new journey.