

# FIRST WATCH

BROTHERHOOD OF THE COAST  
- UNITED STATES -  
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN EDITION FOR 2025

## *In this issue...*

- *How I learned to sail - National Captain, Rascal, describes how he was bit by the sailing bug at an early age.*
- *Cruising Switzerland and Greece - First Watch Editor, Upwind, describes his recent cruise of European Union countries and the discovery of the Third Degree of the Brotherhood.*
- *Red Light and Black Eye Patches.*
- *The Minutes of the Assembly of Table Captains Meetings - In an "off cycle" the minutes of the last two Table Captains Meetings - one from July and the other from October are presented.*
- *Table Reports*
- *New Brother - "Magellan"*
- *In Memoriam - The last edition of the First Watch for 2025 pays tribute to the Brothers who have "crossed the bar" during the year.*

## BOCUS Channel for YouTube

There I was in the middle of my Aegean Sea cruise, freshly anchored off the coast of the "Little Venice" section of Mykonos Island in Greece. It was mid-afternoon on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. I knew the Captain's Meeting was getting ready to begin back in Annapolis. I had not planned to attend the meeting but, because of the good connectivity, I decided to do so.

One of the predominant topics (see meeting minutes elsewhere) was the decline of BOCUS Tables: We recently decertified the Gold Coast Table. Savannah and Puerto Rico are not far behind. Reviewing the subject found that while some Tables are vibrant others are in decline as the average age in those Tables continued to trend to senior age ranges. We discussed the various ways the Brotherhood is being promoted, including the 2-page brochure that is now on the home page of the BOCUS website. This is when I broke into the conversation, reminding everyone that our webpage is a static one, with low visibility and that a printed "who-are-we" brochure is a very 20<sup>th</sup> Century way of attracting attention. It was then that I "put my foot in it" and offered to produce - essentially - a video version of the brochure. A number of people thought this was a great idea and one even offered to help! So, I put that on my to-do list for the winter.



However, just producing a video for the BOCUS website does not necessarily increase the visibility of the information to the public at-large. That is when it came to me that I should create a YouTube Channel for the BOCUS! Currently, approximately 25% of the US population is watching YouTube during primetime program hours and creating a video channel would certainly elevate exposure. Many of the YouTube channel creators have

# HOW I LEARNED TO SAIL

by *Rascal*

At our last Zaf, Captain of the New York Table, Jungle Jane, asked the Brothers present to share how they learned to sail. She said to keep it short. Well, JJ, I'll try... but a sailor's story is like an anchor line; it has a way of running out longer than expected.

I had a fortunate childhood. My grandfather owned a villa in the south of France on the Mediterranean Sea, in a little town called Sainte-Maxime, right across the bay from St. Tropez. From his terrace we had a perfect view of the bay, and as a kid I'd watch boats coming and going, wondering where they'd been and where they were headed. St. Tropez? Ste Maxime? Or maybe just out for a day sail?

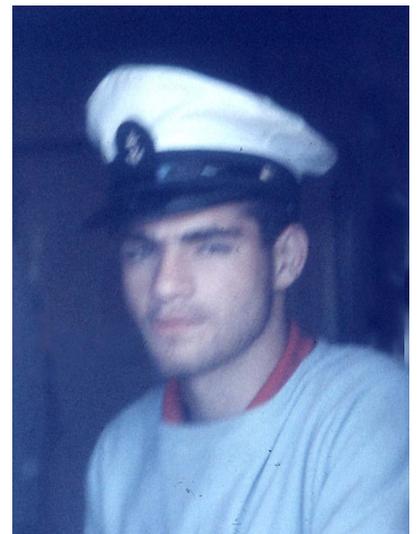
When my brother Patrick and I weren't snorkeling off the villa's little beach, we were in town pestering sailors with endless questions. Most were kind enough to answer us, although I'm sure a few regretted making eye contact with two nosy kids. St. Tropez was too far to bike, but when our parents drove us, we'd wander the docks, looking at the splendid yachts moored there which in those days were mostly sail boats with teak decks and an alarming amount of polished brass.



Our first "sailboat" wasn't exactly elegant. It was a WWII inflatable life raft my grandfather bought at an army surplus store. It was bright yellow with an orange sail. My mother, wisely assuming we had more enthusiasm than common sense, tied a long rope to it so Patrick and I couldn't drift off toward Corsica. Around noon, when the sea breeze filled in at 10–15 knots, Patrick and I would paddle the raft to the end of the tether and try to sail it back, taking turns racing to see who could beach it the farthest. Eventually the sand wore a hole in the bottom and that raft went to Valhalla, probably a trash heap behind the villa.

In my early years my dream was to become a ships Captain. At age 16 my father, who worked for the Louis Dreyfus company at the time, decided to give me some real sea time. He arranged for me to join one of their freighters, the *Pierre LD*, commanded by Captain Jean-Baptiste Dieumeguard, the very same

Dieumeguard renowned for his astronomical navigation tables. I was too young to appreciate that I was in the presence of a literal legend. He was stern, decisive, but very kind towards me.



I boarded the *Pierre LD* and sailed from Montreal to Chicago through the St. Lawrence Seaway with many stops in the Great Lakes along the way. Since she was not equipped to handle passengers, I was listed as a Cadet and reported to the Third Officer. As a consequence, I lived with the Officers and was expected to perform daily duties including a four-hour watch (the dog watch of course). I learned a great deal that summer from creating weather charts to basic navigation and how to steer a 10,000-ton ship. The *Pierre LD* was powered by a huge 4-cylinder diesel engine which fascinated me. It was so big that I could lay down inside the spare piston stored in the engine room.



The next summer, Patrick joined me, and we went transatlantic—Montreal to Genoa with stops in Canada, Portugal, Morocco, Gibraltar, Spain, Algeria, Tunisia and Italy. We were still cadets, still doing watches, and still getting yelled at in French. But we enjoyed it.



The real “how I learned to sail” part came when Patrick and I bought our first Star Class sailboat, a used Lippincott built #3919. We joined the Milford Yacht Club in Connecticut and started racing every weekend. We made mistakes, got reprimanded, learned the rules the hard way, and slowly got better. Eventually we bought a brand-new Star, #4878, and trailered her all over New England, and we had the time of our lives.

After being kicked out of college (twice, what can I say, I was consistent), I took a berth on a Gloucester schooner, the *Leonardis E. Taylor*, out of Hyannis in Cape Cod. She was a 65-foot

McManus design, and had been a converted fishing vessel that had survived at sea in the Great Hurricane of 1938 with 3 men on board. She was now owned and skippered by Ted Frothingham, whom we affectionately called “The Ogre of Foaming Pig.” Ted was gruff but kind, the kind of skipper who could terrify you into reefing faster and then buy you a beer after. I spent two years aboard, running charters around Nantucket Sound and even making it up to Bar Harbor, Maine.



Lastly, I joined the crew of a Ranger 28 named “Banana Boat” as the main sail trimmer on the upwind legs and the downwind helmsman. She was yellow and the crew wore green T-shirts. We became known as “the green bananas.” We raced her with the same crew successfully for many years.

So, JJ, that’s the short version of how I learned to sail. From a leaky life raft to a 10,000-ton freighter, from Stars to schooners to green bananas. Along the way I learned that every boat teaches you something: patience, teamwork, navigation, humility... and most importantly, how to laugh when the bilge pump fails.

# THE THIRD DEGREE OF THE BROTHERHOOD *by Upwind*

Twenty years ago, I became a Brother in the United States. Along my path from pasajero to Brother, I had received the nominal orientation about the many national and international Tables that comprised the global fraternity. Never having been the member of a fraternal organization, I really did not understand why people I had never met before would open their arms, welcome me to their homes and support me whether I arrived via land or sea. The following year, in 2006, my wife and I ventured from the Chesapeake Bay to the Massachusetts Maritimes – a short trip on a tight schedule. Delays on the return trip forced an unplanned stop in New York City with no place to stay. I made a call to my Table Captain and ended up talking to Tony “Rascal” Olmer who lived just outside the city and had knowledge of the its waterways. He arranged a stay at Liberty Island Marina for me on the July 4th weekend. This event was my introduction to the First Degree of the Brotherhood: Brothers supporting traveling Brothers from different Tables.

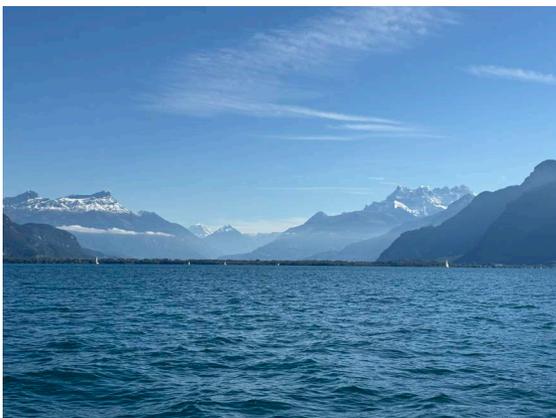
I had been told by other Brothers that, the real power of the Brotherhood came from traveling to Tables outside the United States. But, in those days, between work, raising children, paying down the mortgage and other debt left little time or money to pursue international travel. Still, owing to its location, a fair number of international Brothers would come through the lower Chesapeake Bay frequently. Our Table always supported them and their boats.

One of those recent visits was from Brother Regis “Rock Hopper” Menétrey in 2023. During his brief visit that August, he asked us if he could leave his newly commissioned Solaris 44, Nausicaa, with us for two months and perhaps find some contractors to address some small repairs. I have written extensively about this encounter as well as one in 2024 so I will not recount them again. Following our trip to the US Northeast in 2024, Regis mentioned that he would like me to come to Europe and sail with him. While I appreciated the invitation, I did not take it seriously as I had done little internationally travel in my life and was nervous about it. However, I found my Brother to be deadly serious and determined to compel me to travel.



**ROCK HOPPER AND UPWIND  
DURING 2022 VISIT TO USA**

Regis sent me details of the trips he had planned for 2025. He would be spending two months – a month at a time – sailing in the eastern Mediterranean. Certain I would be coming, he asked if I desired the Italian/Ionian Sea leg of the trip in July or the Greek/Aegean Sea leg of the trip in October. The latter hit a nerve! I had always heard how beautiful the Greek Islands were and sailing in Greece was on my “Bucket List.” I signed up for the first two weeks.



**THE SWISS ALPS WITH FRESH SNOW**

Rather than meet in Athens, Regis asked if I would meet him at his home in Pully, Switzerland, for a day before flying to Athens. The only catch was that he would not return from a short weekend trip until well after my flight arrived in Geneva. But there would be no long wait for me at the airport. He asked his friend and Engagé to the Lausanne Table, Nicola Mutschler, to meet me at the airport. I easily found Nicola in the waiting area. He whisked me up the Swiss side of Lake Geneva to his home overlooking the lake where his wife Valérie served a wonderful salad for lunch.

Afterwards, I was informed we would be doing some sailing!

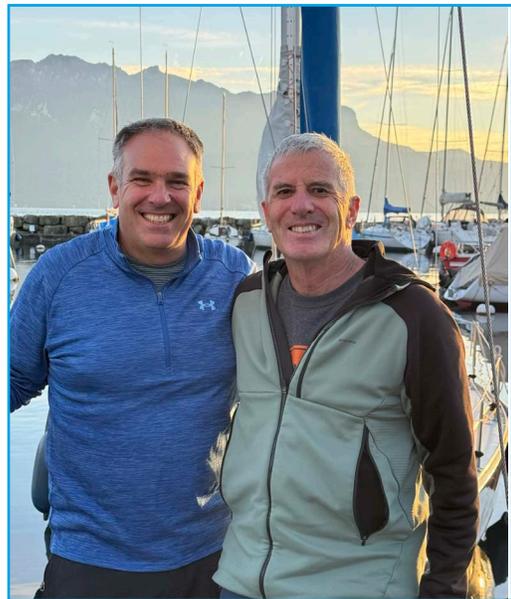
Nicola drove us down to the Port du Basset in Montreux where we met Brother Olivier "Bat la Houle" Murset. It was a bright and very blue day on Lake Geneva. Just to the west, the Swiss Alps were showing off the first snow of autumn. We boarded Olivier's small boat that had as much character as age and spent the rest of the afternoon sailing in a light to moderate breeze. During the afternoon, I believe we crossed the border from Switzerland to France so I now can claim that



**UPWIND & OLIVIER "BAT LA HOULE" MURSET**

I have sailed in France! As day turned to night, Nicola and I arrived at a small restaurant in Pully. We were soon joined by Valérie, Regis and his lady friend Christelle. After a wonderful traditional Swiss fondue dinner, we drove to Regis' home. We had to leave early in the morning so, shortly after arriving, I was shown my bunk for the night and prepared for another day of travel. With the many activities of that day, I realized I had just experienced the Second Degree of the Brotherhood: Being welcome into a Brothers home, far from my own, where the comforts of his home were offered graciously.

The next day we were up and out of the house early in the morning. Regis had a few early morning errands to do before we met crew member Guido Albertelli at the train station. The three of us traveled to the Geneva Airport and checked into our flight to



**Nicola Mutschuler & Olivier Murset**

Athens. But there was one more flight before we met the boat at a marina on Skiathos Island. Our layover in Athens was eight hours so Regis commandeered a cab and we headed southeast to the Cape of Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon where we prayed to the God of the Sea for a safe voyage.



**ROCK HOPPER & UPWIND AT THE TEMPLE OF POSEIDON**

After a stunning sunset at the Temple, we made our way back to the airport and boarded the small turboprop that took us to Skiathos. After a quick bus ride from the small airport, we were on Nausicaa, where we met with our fourth crew member, Michele Currant, who had been preparing the boat for the upcoming cruise.



**The crew of Nausicaa - Week One**

We quickly stashed our gear and supplies before bed for it would be another early morning the next day.

We departed Skiathos, the western-most island of the Sporade Islands and headed along the northern coast of Skopelos to the village of Steni Vela on Alonnisos Island. This was to be my first Mediterranean Mooring. We were moored in front of a small restaurant: The price of dockage was a glass of ouzo with the owner. In the morning, we departed and headed southeast toward Skyros Island.

And so it went: We continued southeast and visited the islands

Mykonos Sunset



of Erinia, Tinos, Mykonos, Delos, Rineia, Thimena, Fournoi, Arkoi, Patmos, Archangelos Lerou and then finally to Kos, where I would complete my voyage on Nausicaa. The details and pictures of the voyage are extensive and will be available on a video to be released soon.



RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF ISIS ON DELOS

Throughout the cruise, my Brother and host was generous and always concerned about my comfort (I had developed problems with my right knee). There were some communications problems as I was the English-only member of the French speaking crew. Their English was good but it was clearly easier for them to communicate in their native language. We settled into an interesting pattern of communication whereby after a few minutes of discussion, someone would summarize it for me in English and allow me to contribute. However, translating the chart plotter screens and responding to navigation instructions was a little more difficult! Fortunately, I knew what estribor (starboard) and babor (port) were as, for some reason, they use these Spanish words aboard a Swiss vessel. I knew them well

from the (Brotherhood) Andananda. I also reprimanded my younger self for not paying more attention in Mrs. Offredi's French class in high school.

After the plane departed from Kos, I had the chance to look out the window for an aerial view of some of the Greek islands we had recently visited. I reflected on my 12-day sailing adventure and how fortunate I was to have an unique opportunity to take a cruise like this.



THE WINDMILLS ON PATMOS ISLAND

It was then that I realized that I had just experienced the Third Degree of the Brotherhood. It is the essence of our fraternity from which everything else is derived: *Sailing with another Brother, aboard his fine sailing vessel, in foreign waters while sharing our love of the of the sea!*



S/V NAUSICAA ANCHORED OFF OF DELOS ISLAND

# RED LIGHT AND BLACK EYE PATCHES *by Rascal*

In a recent issue of *Loose Cannon*, an article questioned the effectiveness of the long-standing naval order “Rig for Red” — the practice of using red lighting at night to prevent night blindness.

The topic is not just theoretical. Some years ago, a dredge worker drowned in the Houston Ship Channel after the tugboat he was aboard collided with an inbound barge. The tug’s captain reported that he saw nothing until moments before the impact. Investigators later suspected that his night vision had been severely compromised after departing from the brightly lit dredge. This tragic event prompted the Galveston District to study how to reduce the loss of night vision among vessel operators.

The truth is, we’ve known for over twenty years that red lighting doesn’t actually protect night vision as once believed. Dr. Anita Rothblum, a U.S. Coast Guard expert on maritime safety, and her co-author Dan Wyatt explored this in their 2002 study “Night Vision and Nighttime Lighting for Boaters.” They called the Navy’s World War II “Rig for Red” practice “a scientific blunder.”

Their research explains the difference between the rods and cones in our eyes, the two visual systems responsible for day and night vision, and how light affects each. Contrary to popular belief, red lighting does not preserve night vision. In fact, it can make things worse, especially with modern electronic equipment that relies on multicolored displays. Under red light, red markings on both paper and electronic charts virtually disappear, creating the potential for dangerous navigation errors.



The study also noted that powerboat operators are more likely to use searchlights at night, partly because of the glare from their illuminated instruments. Sailors, whose helm stations are often shielded, are less prone to this habit. However, even a brief exposure to a bright light, like a searchlight, can destroy night vision, which then takes about 30 minutes to recover.

Rothblum and Wyatt concluded that rather than using red light, it’s better to dim normal white light to a low level. This approach allows mariners to see colored charts clearly while still maintaining good night vision.

And here’s a fascinating historical twist: we’ve long assumed that sailors and pirates wore eye patches to cover injuries sustained in battle. In some cases that may be true, but there’s evidence suggesting a more practical reason. The eye patch may have been used to preserve night vision in one eye. On old ships oil lamps could be kept low but by wearing an eye patch at night the sailors could achieve the best of both worlds particularly when going into battle at night when vision was essential to survival.

Who knew? Maybe one day we’ll see modern mariners walking around with eye patches again, though hopefully for safety, not style.

[Link to original article is: [www.plaisance-pratique.com/IMG/pdf/6\\_-\\_Rothblum\\_-\\_Night\\_Vision\\_and\\_Nighttime\\_Lighting\\_for\\_Mariners\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.plaisance-pratique.com/IMG/pdf/6_-_Rothblum_-_Night_Vision_and_Nighttime_Lighting_for_Mariners_2_.pdf)]

Editors Note: Now that the First Watch is published every four months against the Captain's Meetings occurring every three months, it will be necessary to publish the notes from two meetings in one edition.

## MINUTES OF THE ASSEMBLY OF TABLE CAPTAINS [JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2025, ZOOM MEETING]

### Officers

Nat'l Captain  
Nat'l Scribe  
Nat'l Bosun  
Nat'l Treasurer

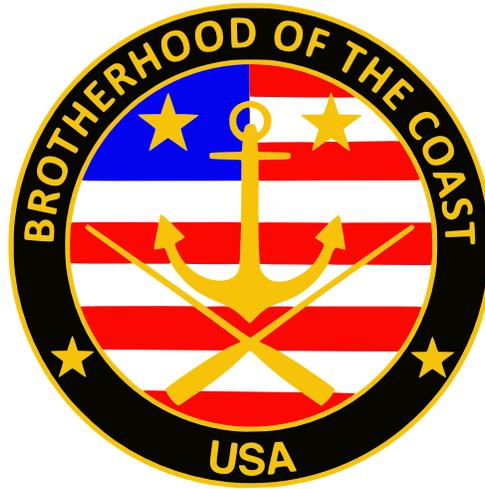
### Attendees

Tony Olmer  
Joe Citarella  
Tom Connery (Savannah Scribe)

### Table Captains

Chesapeake Bay  
Corpus Christi  
Houston  
New York  
Sailing Capital  
San Antonio  
Puerto Rico  
Savannah  
Solomons Island  
Sun Coast

John Williams, Peter Briggs (Scribe)  
Brad Stokes  
Mike Stevens  
Jane Protzman  
Ramzi Bannura  
Rick Fink  
(none)  
(none)  
Scott Redfield  
Steve Herb



### Contributors

International Vigie  
Webmaster  
First Watch Editor  
Nat'l Historian

Scott Ripley (Sage, NC Emeritus)  
Robert Coles  
Peter Dennant  
John Byrne

### Sages

Charlie Hankins  
Stew Kaufman  
John D' Alusio

The Octalog was read by Brother Joe "Sparks" Citarella.

The Meeting Minutes of 04/01/25 unanimously approved.

### Vigie Report

Scott Ripley reported that the World Zaf program is available and has been sent to everyone. He expects "A week of liver punishment" and the program will be "grueling" as the days start early and end late, but it is a fabulous place. There is no cost information available yet.

### Treasurer's Report

Troy reported to Tony that the Account Balance is \$1887.

### Norfolk 2026 – Peter Briggs

We need to have a firm handle on expected attendance as booking rooms in advance will require it. We need to ask Table Captains how many Brothers will attend ASAP to book rooms. It was agreed that we need an agenda to circulate to Brothers to stimulate interest and get a preliminary headcount, which Peter will write up. It was suggested that rafting up would be best to see the parade of boats.

### The Roster

Secoin is having an issue using our Roster to update their Table. Tony is not sure what the problem is and will work with Ramzi to address this problem. The Roster is on BOCUS in PDF format and is



a static snapshot. The Roster is only as current as Table Captains update it and notices will be sent to them to encourage updates. Every Table should have someone designated to keep the Roster current. There is a URL which links to the Roster and it can be sent by email to everyone.

### **Committee to Address Technical Efforts**

This is a continuing effort to ensure that no one person is in the critical path and that sufficient depth is developed to ensure that data and websites are protected. Sharing credentials so that there is no single point of failure has been done. Ramzi now has the capability to fully backstop Robert.

### **Brotherhood Store**

Dave T working on this and will update this when he is available next time. Fearless also working on sourcing items. Robert can send emails to all Brothers. The Roster can be used to copy email addresses for emailing and setting up email lists.

### **First Watch – Peter Dennant**

Frequency changed to 3 issues/yr. Captains reminded to send time-sensitive information ASAP. On Brothers passing, Peter would like to have background information on the Brother's experience as a Brother to better personalize the notice.

### **The Tortuga Post**

Need to get more articles on internationally related articles. Need more articles about Brothers going overseas to International Tables. Peter will write up details on his upcoming trip to Greece. Rick Fink traveling to Australia and will write it up. Tony would like to know how many Brothers read TTP. Brothers seem to be posting material on Facebook – need to get this to TTP.

### **National Zaf Annapolis – Oct 3-5**

Ramzi indicated work is underway. There will be a Captains Meeting at the Eastport Yacht Club Saturday. Ramzi will write it up and Agenda and Sparks will send it out.

### **New Business**

#### **Gold Coast**

After extended discussion, it was agreed to deactivate the Gold Coast Table and mark it accordingly on the Roster. While the decision was supported by the majority, two Brothers—Scott Ripley and Steve Herb—voted against it.

Despite efforts to revitalize the Table, no sustainable progress was made. As a result, Brothers previously affiliated with the Gold Coast Table who wish to remain active will now be part of the newly established "Table of the Ocean." These Brothers will be listed as "Active" and categorized as "At Sea." They will continue to receive all Brotherhood communications.

The Table of the Ocean will serve as a home for any Brother who has moved away from a Table's geographic area and is no longer able to participate locally, but still wishes to remain engaged and involved in Brotherhood activities.

#### **First Watch**

Peter Dennant is requesting that any information concerning Table activity that Captains wish to communicate to other Tables be sent to Peter for inclusion in First Watch.

Tony strongly emphasized that all Table Captains must work together as a cohesive team to advance the mission and vitality of the U.S. Brotherhood of the Coast. While individual enthusiasm



and online presence—such as activity on Facebook—may foster social interaction, they do not, in and of themselves, strengthen the structure or growth of the U.S. BOC.

The Brotherhood's strength lies in active collaboration, mutual support among Tables, and meaningful participation in Zafs, inductions, and initiatives that reinforce our shared values and traditions. Captains are expected to communicate, coordinate, and contribute beyond their own Tables, ensuring that decisions and actions reflect the collective interest of the U.S. Brotherhood as a whole.

In short, visibility online is no substitute for engagement, leadership, and teamwork. Advancing the U.S. BOC requires unity, initiative, and a shared commitment to the future of the Brotherhood.



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## MINUTES OF THE ASSEMBLY OF TABLE CAPTAINS [OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 MEETING IN ANNAPOLIS MD]

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Nat'l Scribe  
Nat'l Bosun  
Nat'l Treasurer

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Joe Citarella  
Tom Connery (Savannah Scribe)

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Chesapeake Bay  
Corpus Christi  
Houston  
New York  
Sailing Capital  
San Antonio  
Puerto Rico  
Savannah  
Solomons Island  
Sun Coast  
Gasparilla (Provisional)

John Williams, Peter Briggs (Scribe)  
Brad Stokes  
Mike Stevens  
Jane Protzman  
Ramzi Bannura  
Rick Fink  
(none)  
John Byrne  
John Simpson  
Steve Herb  
Jim Bailey



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Peter Dennant  
John Byrne

### Sages

Ed Loke  
Stew Kaufman  
Bill Hallmark

Mtg called to order at 0900 - Roll Called by National Bosun Tom Connery

Octalog was Read by Joe Citarella

### **Introduction by the National Captain**

Tony Olmer stated that the single largest issue facing the USBOC is its aging membership and the sustainability of some existing Tables, as exemplified by the recent loss of the Gold Coast Table.



The NY Table is not far behind as the average age of Brothers is probably over 75. The problem of recruiting younger Brothers is that it's difficult for older Brothers to connect with younger candidates.

Tony is concerned with Savannah - it was stated that it's a real struggle to get Brothers together. Sun Coast has issues as well, as average age is increasing and younger people are difficult to attract.

Puerto Rico is an unknown at this point.

Peter Dennant has done a great job on First Watch. It's very informative and a great way to inform Brothers of activities in other Tables.

Tony reiterated that the National Captain needs to know when Engages are inducted as Brothers so he can properly welcome them. There is a protocol and Tony wants to make sure it's followed.

### **Approval of the July 15, 2025 Zoom Minutes**

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes put forward, seconded, and unanimously approved by all in attendance.

### **Vigie's Report - Scott Ripley**

Brother Cruz reported that he received an unofficial estimate of costs for the World Zaf of about \$1,400 per person for seven days. This does not include hotel or travel costs so the total cost will be in addition to this target. Brothers traveling from the USA will probably have to spend \$7k - \$10k for a couple. Lee McMichael is headed to New Zealand and we look forward to hearing his experience.

Scott also informed us that Steve and Lilli have sold their boat in Tahiti. They were part of the Houston Table. They plan to return to the USA early next year.

Treasurer's Report - Troy Leek sent an email stating that we have a balance of \$1,887.24 with no outstanding bills.

### **Old Business**

**Norfolk 2026 update** (Peter Briggs) - Peter Briggs reported that hotel rooms will be \$225/night. Still to be determined is the cost of the Zaf. A flyer should be available at the end of October delineated costs. The dates are June 18-22, 2026.

The BOC Store has come along nicely.

### **New Business**

Formation of the *Gasparilla Table*. This has been in the works for about two years. A flag and logos have been designed and the Table is ready for authorization to proceed. Motion to move forward with the Gasparilla Table was approved.

There was an extended discussion on the health of the Brotherhood. Joe Citarella asked Dave Trawick to determine the average age of Brothers using data in the Roster. However, with the



exception of Annapolis and Chesapeake, the data has not been populated by other Tables. While there may be some reservations about collecting data on Brothers' ages, Table Captains can estimate the average age in their Tables for the purposes of determining Table health. It was postulated that Tables with an average age well over fifty are in danger of dying.

There are two agendas regarding the issue of recruiting new Brothers. Table Captains are tasked with ensuring the continued health and vitality of their Tables, which entails recruiting new Brothers on a continuing basis. This is their primary task. The National Captain has two primary tasks – supporting Table Captains in rejuvenating their Tables and working on the vitality of the US Brotherhood by facilitating the formation of new Tables.

Ramzi indicated that his focus when he was the Table Captain was to bring Brothers back to the Table and induct new Brothers. It's the Table Captain's responsibility to keep the Table alive and well. The Table needs to have regular meetings and be visible as Brothers in different venues. One metric that could be monitored is the number of meetings held.

Forming new Tables requires the active participation of Brothers who have the time to work with Brothers who may have moved to a new area and could form a new Table, bolstered by support from the National Captain as needed. The *Gasparilla Table* is one example and there is potential for a Table in St Augustine, where there are three Brothers who have moved there. In both instances there are Brothers in these areas who can form the core of a new Table. It is much harder to create new Tables where there are no Brothers to work the problem. Scott brought up the point that creating new Tables requires a leader to spearhead the effort. Leadership is the key to creating a new Table.

Unfortunately some Tables may be beyond rejuvenation. As the average age of Brothers in a Table goes well beyond fifty, it becomes more difficult for the Table to recruit younger Brothers. As Brothers age, their social circles age with them so that contacts with potential new Brothers in their forties and fifties are limited. Perhaps a goal is that the average age of a Table should be fifty.

Houston indicated that their Table has a range of ages such that rejuvenation is not an issue. This is due to being "marina based" so that potential pool of new Brothers of all ages are present. Marketing to new Brothers is easier in a marina environment.

We also need consistent messaging on what the Brotherhood is all about. There are many Brothers whose lives have been enriched by meeting and forming close bonds with other Brothers, both within their Table and outside their Table, domestically and internationally. This is a powerful message that should be communicated about the Brotherhood.

Ramzi indicated that we have created some items on messaging, for example the Brochure which does lay out messaging on what the Brotherhood is all about. Peter Dennant commented that unless people want to "do the work", nothing will get done as regards recruiting new Brothers and rejuvenating Tables. Peter volunteered to develop a video about the Brotherhood so that we can better communicate to social media outlets what the Brotherhood is all about. Developing a recruiting video was agreed to with Peter Dennant leading it.

Time for discussion is over - time to act. Stu Kauffman felt that the focus should be on Brothers recruiting new Brothers. Stu feels that Tables are formed by Brothers knowing other people. Brothers bring new Brothers to their Tables. One way to monitor a Table's health is to use First Watch to see which Tables are active. It is also important for Brothers to be more visible to create interest.



On another note, Tony spoke about what gifts we might develop for the World Zaf. It is important for Brothers attending the World Zaf to have gifts, such as pins, to exchange with other Brothers. Hats were also mentioned, as well as developing a burgee as a gift. Headscarves which are used in Chile could be developed as well. Tables are to submit ideas for a US Burgee.

Date set for the next Zoom meeting of Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, 1900 hrs.

End of the Assembly

Meeting adjourned at 1100.



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## BOCUS Channel for YouTube [continued]

a shtick or subject they focus on exclusively. These people are constantly producing new material as this is the way many of them generate income. Comparatively, the BOCUS channel will be relatively static as I know how hard it will be to get video contributions. But, I am willing to give it a try if some of you reading this will agree to try also. Our phones (Portable Communication Devices) have the capability to produce high definition videos so on-shoulder cameras costing thousands of dollars is no longer needed...anyone can be a videographer!

Currently, I am editing a detailed video of my recent cruise to Greece which will contain more details, pictures and videos than the article I created for this edition of First Watch. Interspersed will be promotional information (soft commercials) about the Brotherhood and how it works. While the video will concentrate on the cruise, it will not be focused on the Brotherhood which will hold more people to hear about the Brotherhood. I hope to have the video completed soon at which time I will establish the YouTube Channel. I expect that work to be completed by the end of the year.

The next project will be to create the video version of the brochure. This will involve videos contributed by each of the Tables. It should involve Table activities of celebration showcasing the camaraderie of the Brotherhood. Subject matter should not be about old people sitting around a table drinking beer as these activities usually do not attract younger people - the ones we need to recruit - do not want to party with people their parents age!

I set down some general technical guidelines for videos below. If you have existing videos that I could use for this project or if you would like to contribute in the future, please contact me at [peter.dennant@gmail.com](mailto:peter.dennant@gmail.com) or call at (757) 630-4700.

### VIDEO GUIDELINES:

- All videos should be of a 16:9 (HD) aspect ratio with a minimum resolution of 1920 x 1080.
- Shoot videos in LANDSCAPE (horizontal) mode rather than PORTRAIT (vertical) mode [There is a reason we evolved with our eyes on a horizontal plane!].
- Audio is also important. If you have a separate microphone, please use it.
- If you have any questions, call me. I used to teach this stuff to college kids after I retired from the TV business.

Other Thoughts - Let us suppose that the YouTube Channel - or any of our other efforts - attract the attention of a group of boaters in a coastal region where there is no existing Table for hundreds of miles. What mechanism, if any, do we have to develop and establish a Table where there is no local Brother to provide the necessary orientation? I believe we need to address this as the current method of requiring an established Brother to start a new Table is not yielding spectacular results.

# TABLE REPORTS



We have had a fairly quite late summer/early fall here in the Chesapeake.

We did have one - Brother "Upwind" - join a crew on our Swiss Brother Rock Hopper's boat in and amongst the Greek islands in the Aegean Sea (see "*The Third Degree of the Brotherhood*" elsewhere in this issue).

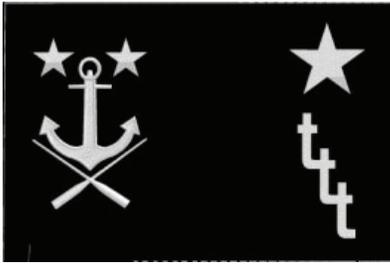
We have held three Tip-A-Fews this fall. As always, the times we gather together to re-affirm our bond to one another is time well spent. We have had some changes to our table since the end of summer. One of our Brothers Jon "Maine Sheet" Bangs, has pulled up his roots and he and his Mate, Tracie, have moved to sunny Florida. They now reside in Vero Beach where several other Brothers from our Table are currently residing. He and his mate will be greatly missed up here on the Bay. They were very active in our table and hopefully they will be able to continue being involved with the Brotherhood from their new home.



We have also inducted a new Brother Carl "Magellan" Smith, USBOC Flag 718. He and his mate, Debbie, are wonderful people and well worth taking the time to get to know. He has many stories to tell from his years spent on the water.



Planning has begun for our hosting the 2026 Captain's Meeting during the **Sail250** event in Norfolk. The event dates are June 18<sup>th</sup> – June 21<sup>st</sup>. More details and a registration form will be available soon.

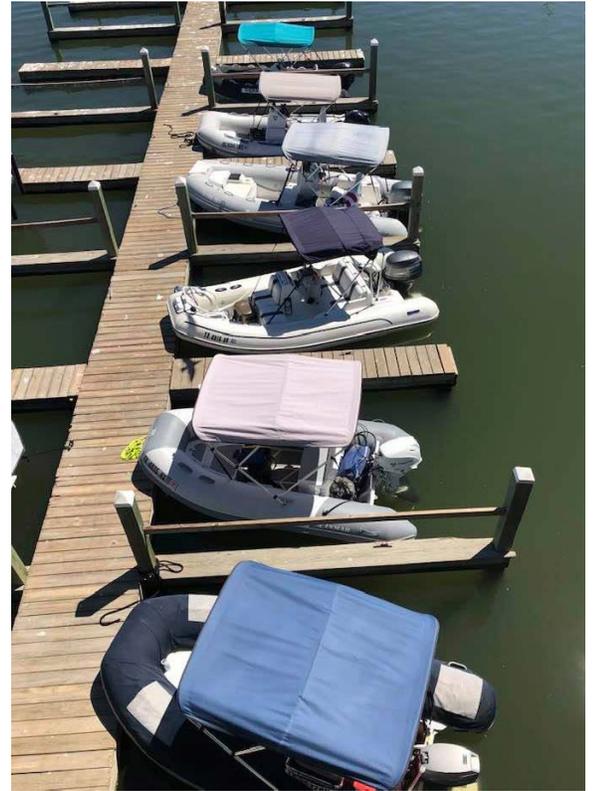


# HOUSTON



## SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - DINGHY CRAWL *by SourMash*

Since 2016, Brother JD "Sour Mash" Thompson has hosted a Dinghy Pool Crawl to celebrate his birthday in early August. The Pool Crawl seeks to relieve the summer heat with a tour of local marina pools for a refreshing plunge. Typically, between 18-30 people on 10-20 dinghies participate in a bar crawl type tour of 5 different pools. Each stop is hosted by a marina tenant who usually provides a themed, refreshing beverage/shot or snack before jumping into the pool. To prevent overheating between pool stops, participants arm themselves with water guns to hose each other down. There have been some epic wars over the years.



This year's Crawl started off with a 2-hour rain delay, requiring the elimination of 1 stop. Nevertheless, the tradition survives another year.

## SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> - MARGARITAVILLE CAMP *by Fearless*



BOC Houston took a break from boats and pirate porches to convene in a different setting, CAMPING! Five brothers and a Pasajero rented cabins, RVs and some even brought their own land boats to the weekend at the park, Margaritaville Crystal Beach Resort. The amenities were amazing and the company and fun was second to none. Good food and great times!



# OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - BOC ANNAPOLIS ZAF *by SourMash*



BOC Houston had great time in Annapolis at the National Captain's Meeting. The weather was perfect, Powerboat Show was good, but spending time with all the Brothers was the best.

Big shout out to the Annapolis table and Ramzi for all their hard work. I know how hard it is to host a Zaf and you guys knocked it out of the park. Houston Brothers in attendance were SourMash, The Dude, Fearless and our Pasajero Jeremy Harbin. Respective Captives were also present.



# OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDOWNERS AT THE PIRATES PORCH

We had a great evening getting together to celebrate a new Engage, Jeremy Harbin, coming aboard our group. Many of you got to meet him and his awesome wife Aubrey at the Annapolis ZAF. Jeremy was unanimously moved up to the next level and we hope for great things in the future. We had 12 brothers and their respective captives come out for good food and great times.





by *Jungle Jane*



**A Summer Luncheon Zaf  
Saturday, August 23, 2025**

Chris "TickTock" and Marie hosted us in their spacious home for an expansive lunch and good conversation. Marie provided the main dish and all else was 'pot luck,' and Leslie's DIY Banana Splits for dessert.



Stealing our FW editor's fine idea of relating his early sailing experiences in the last issue I decided to ask each attendee to tell theirs. As we sat in a circle in a fine space in the living room each Brother and Mate answered this - "How old were you when you first sailed and who or what encouraged your interest?" And there was a prize for the youngest sailor. This was all inspired by grog and appetizers. To summarize, most of the Brothers were introduced to sailing by hanging around mentors, not because their family had a boat. Most of the Mates were introduced by marriage. Kevin "CoolWood" Rathbone got the prize for being the youngest. He told the story of having a toy sailboat and playing with it in the bathtub at a very young age. Marie Genteale and I were introduced in our respective local Girl Scout Mariner programs. To quote my dad when I was 15, "you are too young to work and too old to hang around." I rode my bike down to the

town dock where our Mariners had a 16' Comet. [Note: in this issue of First Watch is Tony "Rascal" Olmer's story inspired no doubt by our discussion.]



Marie, our gracious hostess, organized our potluck contributions close to the table seating all of us, 14. You can see why Chris "Tick Tock" got his pirate name. See the wall behind the table. He is a Master Clock historian and restorer.

**OLD GAFFER, TICK TOCK AND COOLWOOD**

## New York Fall Zaf Sunday, September 2025

The New York Table's Fall Zafarrancho took place on the last weekend of September, graciously hosted by Andrzej and Mate Irena Bienkowski at their home in Livingston, New Jersey, about an hour west of New York City.

The Bienkowski's have a charming home which is full of artifacts of all kinds. The event was attended by some hardened Brothers and mates not afraid to tackle the traffic nightmare plaguing the Northeast. Brother Bieniek, New York #38T, originally from Poland, welcomed us



warmly beginning with a ritual unlike any other. With a sparkle in his eye, he poured out vodka into chilled glasses, pairing each shot with a prune soaked in the spirit and impaled on a wooden skewer. The custom required us to drink the vodka, chase it with the prune, and then break the skewer in half before discarding it. Andrzej warned us that failing to break it would bring bad luck. After a round or two, the room was buzzing with laughter and lively conversation.



Curious about this ritual, I did some digging and discovered it is known in Poland as **Machandel**. It traces its roots to the late 18th century, when a Mennonite distiller, Peter Stobbe, first produced a juniper spirit in Tiegenhof (now Nowy Dwór Gdański, Poland). That makes the tradition more than 200 years old, well established by the 19th

century. The act of breaking the toothpick appears to be a symbolic gesture and/or a ritualized "closing" of the shot. Some accounts tie the symbolism to maritime imagery (broken masts, lost sailors).



Brother Bieniek—his name meaning "blessed"—also shared with us a collection of Brotherhood flags he has received over the years, from his earliest, simple banners to the latest, more elaborate designs. One flag stood out: a Brotherhood flag marked with the Red Star. In the U.S., "this distinction may be awarded by the National Captain, upon proposal of a Table Captain, to a Brother who has either completed an ocean crossing under the Brotherhood flag, or who has won an Olympic or World Championship medal in a nautical sport." In Bieniek's case, the honor came for his rounding of Cape Horn.



While many of us know the story of how Brother Bieniek made his way to the United States, fewer know the equally moving tale of how his Mate, Irena, followed with her 10-year-old daughter years later. She spoke candidly of her journey through Europe — frightened yet determined — wmanaging to secure visas and documents, though never a passport. Upon reaching the U.S., she endured a long detention before finally being admitted.

It was a weekend rich with tradition, stories, and brotherhood—a true Zafarrancho in every sense.



## ANNAPOLIS BOAT SHOW ZAFARRANCHO

The Sailing Capital table seized the opportunity to host a Zafarrancho amid the Annapolis boat shows. The weekend commenced on Friday, October 3rd, with drinks and camaraderie at the Eastport Yacht Club (EYC). Mike "Ron Rico" Lehmkuhl and Chris "Wanderer" Nalley were standing by to welcome any visitors who arrived that afternoon to the EYC. There was an amazing turnout! The brotherhood filled the place to the waterline!



On Saturday morning, the National Table Captains Meeting was held at the EYC, who let us use their conference room. It's well equipped and spacious, which makes these types of things go more smoothly.

Saturday afternoon, however, was the real treat as our Table had set up a



cookout on the grassy hill at Annapolis Cove Marina overlooking beautiful Lake Ogleton on the edge of the Chesapeake Bay. The festivities started around 5PM. Full battle dress was encouraged for the event and several attendees were prepared to take up the opportunity to don their gear. Rambo manned the grill while everyone enjoyed live music performed by Carlos "Toad" Juaregui.



The weather was perfect with a clear sky and comfortable temperatures. The sun went down to give way to a full moon and a starry sky while everyone made their rounds, putting in a good effort into sharing some time with each other. The event started winding down sometime around 10pm but undoubtedly many would've liked to have a little more time to enjoy each other's company.





As you read this, the great migration of Solomons BOC brethren to Florida has begun!

But not before we had some great gatherings to end the summer and transition into the Fall.

The last major social event for the summer was our second annual Crab-ARR-Rancho, held at the home of Pat "Loose Cannon" Whalen and his mate, Barbara, on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Total brothers and mates equaled 36, with Scott "Piper" and Maria Rogers and Jon "Maine Sheet" and Traci Bangs from the Chesapeake Table, as well as Ramzie "Rambo" Bannura and Mattigan "Wookie" McMichael from the Sailing Capital Table.

Once again over 225 crabs were served, all locally caught by the Solomons Brothers with Marie Redfield's corn-on-cob always a big hit, and everyone bringing appetizers and desserts. A veritable feast and a bacchanalian celebration, culminating in a rousing Andanada (Broadside toast). Thanks to all the brothers and mates for helping out and we look forward to hosting this event in the future.



Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>, we had a Tip-A-Few at a local waterfront establishment for lunch; **Hidden Harbour**. It's a small place and they don't take reservations, but luckily a call ahead got us three out of the four outside picnic tables!

Fun outing, again, with great weather, good food, and fantastic conversation.



Thursday, October 9th the Table held a Tip-A-Few at the Ruddy Duck. Thursday night is Oyster night at the Duck (it's oyster season!) and the brothers enjoyed locally brewed beers, raw Patuxent River oysters, great stories and a lot of laughs.



### **Upcoming events and information include:**

- Captain Tuna (Scott) and Marie Redfield hosting our annual Christmas Dinner on Friday, December 5th.
- Quartermaster (John) and his mate, Shannon, are arranging a gathering for all brothers at a soon to be named establishment in Key West on February 15th, 2026.
- We have at least 5 brothers signed up for the World Zafarrancho in Chile, and we expect even more in the coming weeks. We are looking forward to a great trip.

# MID-SUMMER GATHERING

by Gimbal



On August 6th the Suncoast Table held it's mid-summer happy hour gathering, a monthly event that began in 1989 when the table was formed. A group of 20 heat weathered souls gathered at Brother Barnacle, Bob Langenbach's house at a time when many from our area have temporarily evacuated north looking for a cooler clime (good luck with that this year).

Several weeks prior to the party, brother Barnacle, his son Kirk and myself (gimbal) took a cruise on my sailboat Charrette to the Florida Keys, first stopping in Marathon and then on to Key West (of course). We made a slight detour into the Gulf-stream after Marathon where Kirk caught a beautiful Black Finn Tuna. This made an excellent fresh sashimi which we had at our final stop in Boca Grande.

While in a pool bar in Marathon, we remembered It was time to schedule our July and August summer happy hours and we decided to combine them into a single event. While in another pool bar in Key West, or maybe it was at the Green Parrot Bar, Bob, in moment of perhaps alcohol induced decision making, volunteered to have it at his house. We all had a good time, shared old remembrances and made future plans. Our attendees included long time members from one of our first table inductees in 1990, Dick "Vital Signs" Conard to a first time guest, a sailor from Croatia now a local sailor.

As usual with our table parties, the food counter and the drink counter were continuously crowded. We shared favorite old appetizer recipes and snacks, some even healthy. This was a special gathering because it also was a celebration of Barnacle's birthday which was several days previous. I'll leave it up to Bob to reveal his age but here's a hint, it is 9 decades plus a few years.



# GATHERING AT LINGER LODGE BRADENTON, FLORIDA SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

*by The Chemist*

The Suncoast Table had a great turnout of 16 hardy souls to enjoy a beverage and lunch at the Linger Lodge. The Linger Lodge is more than just a restaurant. Tucked along the mossed banks of the Braden River, it is a real piece of "Old Florida." Opened in 1945, and slightly updated through the years, it still maintains the original feel of a hunting cabin, filled with taxidermy trophies of many of Florida native wildlife, including an impressive collection of snakes, alligators, garfish, coyotes, wolf, bear, and much more. The menu offers many of those same proteins, including gator, catfish, and various forms of roadkill (as described on the menu).



It served as the perfect place for an afternoon gathering of our Table. We were fortunate to have tables on the screened porch overlooking the Braden River. We enjoyed the pleasant outdoor temperature, cold beer, good food and great service.



The topics at our table were of course boating and trips to be had, the usual discussions of what each one had done, and planned to do. But I must say the questions on everybody's health, and the interest in learning about current medical procedures was quite fascinating. After all, we are all of similar age and learning the art of aging. Having engaged in open discussions, we departed with knowledge to take home. As always, these Brotherhood get together times are most enjoyable!

## SUN COAST TABLE - LOADED CANNON DISTILLERY BOUCAN

*by The Crab*

The October Tip-A-Few by the Sun Coast Table was a rather staid affair. Only eight people attended for a farewell dinner at Caragulio's Restaurant, a downtown Sarasota landmark that has been in business for four decades. The restaurant is closing their location on South Palm Ave and moving to a brand-new building on Ringling Blvd that will not be opened for several months.

For the next event, a more robust gathering was desired. On 19 November, there was a confluence of four US BOC Tables (Sun Coast, Gasparilla, Chesapeake Bay, and Solomons Island) for an extended lunch gathering at Loaded Cannon, a pirate themed distillery in Lakewood Ranch, FL. Holy-moly, what a party!

Loaded Cannon Distillery opened in July of 2019 to rave reviews. They distill dozens of handcrafted, premier liquors that were all on display for tasting. Additionally, the afternoon gathering included a buffet lunch consisting of trays of rolls, salad, baked ziti, meatballs marinara, sausage & peppers, and desserts.

This Pirate themed locale was a perfect venue for 32 attendees to enjoy BOC camaraderie, lunch, plus a guided tour of the distillery, and unique cocktails.

It was an all-star cast of participants. From the Sun Coast was Bob Langenbach, Bobby Cohen, Gregg Knighton, Fred Smith, Jeff Gaus, Judy Meyer, Bette Frick, Brian and Suzie Schmitz, Ed and Nancy Loke, Joe Vermeren and Julie Smith, John and Mariann D'Alusio, and Steve and Jean Herb and their guests Tom and Barbara Brown. The new Gasparilla Table appeared in force led by the redoubtable Jim Bailey and his captive Linda. In addition to the Baileys, other attendees included John and Shannon Simpson, Jim and Catherine Eisele, Dave Hazell, John and Jean Grinager, Steve and Michelle Perrie, and Scott and Michelle Ripley. What a crew! Fortunately, no one was helming a yacht after imbibing numerous spirits from the Loaded Cannon 500 gallon copper still, named Anney (after female pirate Anne Bonny).

Each attendee selected 5 samples of the commodious number of liquors available from Loaded Cannon to determine what particular concoction was their favorite. Draft beer was also available from 3 Car Garage microbrewery, which shares space with Loaded Cannon.

The tour of the distillery was conducted by owner and distiller Steve Milligan, who possesses far more liquor making expertise than should be legal. The size of the group dictated that the tour be broken up into two parts, each lasting 45 minutes. By the time the tours were over, brothers and captives were selecting bottles of their favorite liquors to take home.

The leisurely lunch and tours finally concluded, topped off by a rousing *Andanada* that was delivered by John D'Alusio. The afternoon was a distinct success with all attendees enjoying the luncheon and distillery tour.

The Sun Coast Table Christmas Party is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to that event to kick off the Christmas season. Happy holidays to all.



# NEW BROTHER



Carl "Magellan" Smith  
Chesapeake Bay Table  
Flag No. 718

Carl Smith's love of the sea is without doubt. When he retired approximately two years ago he was master of the largest self propelled oil rig in the world. He started out as a Coast Guard Officer where he had a twenty-year career of ships and maritime service.

He then went on with another career in the Maritime trades serving as master of ships and oil rigs. Throughout his endeavors he remained active in recreational boating. He had a myriad of boats over the years. He is now master of a Bristol Yacht and a power boat.

During his time with the Brotherhood he has made nearly every event. He has a wonderful new wife, Deb, who also shares his love of the sea.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome him as a Brother to the Chesapeake Bay Table.



*In Memoriam*



Dick Eckerman

August 24, 1944 - February 1, 2025

“Tricky Dick” - BOCUS Flag No. 124  
San Antonio Table

The San Antonio Table is sad to report the passing of long time Brother Dick “Tricky Dick” Eckerman.  
“Tricky” flew flag #124 after his induction in 1990 during the Second World Zaf in Belgium.

He and his (then) girlfriend Sara Bruner sailed his Catalina 30 “*De Ja Vu*” on Canyon Lake, Texas, home waters of the San Antonio Brotherhood Table. Dick served the Table over the years and led it as Captain for a period. Dick and Sara lived at Canyon Lake, so holiday fireworks were enjoyed at their property and later Lawn Hydro Races were staged in their yards. Game Nights were held as an evening activity for The Table.

Dick and Sara married and that was informally announced to our group.  
We will all greatly miss Dick’s smile and pleasant attitude.

Adios good friend, may your final sail be on smooth waters with fair winds and following seas.





Roger Meyer

“Blindmouth” - BOCUS Flag No. 271  
Sun Coast Table

Roger Meyer crossed the bar on 1 May, 2025 at the age of 92. He was a Brother of the US BOC for twenty years, having been inducted into the Sun Coast Table in 2005.

Roger’s Brotherhood name was “Blindmouth.” The way he came by that name was quite a story: Roger suffered from guillain–barré syndrome. This is a rare auto-immune disorder that can be fatal. Not only did Roger survive his bout with this syndrome, but he was a highly successful ophthalmological surgeon while afflicted. Regrettably, guillain–barré syndrome left Roger without a sense of balance due to severe neuropathy in his lower extremities. During his induction ceremony, a blindfold was about to be applied to his eyes. Roger cautioned that if he was blindfolded, he would immediately lose his sense of balance and fall to the ground. Ignoring his warning, the blindfold was placed on his eyes resulting in Roger collapsing. After being picked up by several brothers, the blindfold was removed from his eyes and placed on his mouth. Thus, his Brotherhood name of “Blindmouth” was born.

After completing his residency in ophthalmology, Dr. Blindmouth traveled south until the signs on the highway no longer said, “Bridge freezes before roadway.” In 1965 he moved to Bradenton, Florida, where he joined Dr. Robert E. King to establish the Manatee Eye Clinic, now known as Coastal Eye Institute. He and 29 other physicians founded Blake Memorial Hospital in 1973. He was President of the Manatee County Medical Society in 1979, on the Board of the United Way 1988-1991, an organizing member of the Manatee County Young Republicans and a member of Christ Episcopal Church.

Dr. Meyer treasured the times he was able to spend fishing and boating, including his many trips to the Florida Keys with his fishing friends. After his retirement in 1994, he and his wife enjoyed visiting family from Maine to California, tourists traveling all over the world and resting at their beloved log cabin on Lake Chatuge in North Carolina, where family and friends often visited them. He was also a member of the American Legion.

Roger owned a custom-built twin helm 32-foot twin diesel fly-bridge sportfish named “**Sundown Rally.**” Roger enjoyed fishing and cruising on his yacht. He always laughed while telling a story about how he went down to Key West on his vessel one time out of many. But on this trip, everything bad weather wise happened on his journey south and back north. Roger smiled and said, “I’ve never been as wet and bounced around as that trip, but boy was it great.” When Roger lost the ability to climb the ladder up to the fly-bridge, he had the fly-bridge taken off and piloted the yacht from the lower station.



Roger and his captive Judy owned a beautiful waterfront home on the Manatee River. It was the scene of many a party that the Meyers were gracious enough to host for the Table. Roger loved the BOC and was always happy to accommodate visiting Brothers at his home. He had a dry, sharp sense of humor that had to be experienced to fully appreciated.

Roger was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was a kind, caring individual. He was deeply respected by all who knew him in and out of the BOC. His integrity was legendary. Roger was an integral part of the Sun Coast Table even in his later years. He lived a long, full life and he is deeply missed.

## COMING EVENTS



### BROTHERHOOD OF THE COAST TABLE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

2026 HARBORFEST  
CAPTAINS MEETING & ZAF

JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> THRU 21<sup>ST</sup> 2026

The Table of the Chesapeake Bay invites all Brothers and Mates – National and International - to attend the 2026 Norfolk Virginia Zafarrancho and annual U.S. Captains Meeting.

This Zaf will be held in conjunction with the annual Harborfest celebration and Sail 250 which will celebrate the 250th anniversary of The United States. This is a milestone occasion where a fleet of the worlds most magnificent tall ships was well as many Military vessels will come together in an epic peacetime gathering. This event will include more than 60 ships from 20 nations.

#### Events to Include:

- Friday Morning Raft-up to watch the Parade of Sail aboard the Boats of the Brotherhood.
- A Friday evening drone show.
- A series of live concerts that will take place in Town Point Park.
- Annual Captains meeting Saturday Morning.
- Saturday Night dinner in full Battle Dress followed by Fireworks over the river.
- A Sunday morning sendoff Breakfast.
- Hospitality suite with open bar Thursday evening through Saturday evening.



Just to name a few of the tall ships that are scheduled to be part of this celebration.

- ***SV ESMERALDA*** from Chile, she is a 379', four masted Barquentine commissioned in 1953 and is used as a training vessel for the Chilean Navy.
- ***SV GLORIA*** from Colombia, she is a 249' three masted Barque commissioned in 1968 and is used as a training vessel for Colombian Naval Cadets.
- ***SV PICTON CASTEL*** from Cook Island, she is a 179' Barque built as a welsh fishing trawler then and served as a British minesweeper during WWII.
- ***SV GUAYAS*** from Ecuador, she is a 257' three masted Barque commissioned in 1977 and is used as a training vessel for Ecuadorian Naval Cadets.

- ***S/V EAGLE*** from the United States, she is a 295' three masted Barque, part of the USCG. She was commissioned in 1936 in Germany. She is now used as a training vessel for the United States Coast Guard.
- ***S/V MIRCEA*** from Romania, she is a 269' three masted Barque commissioned in 1938 and is a sister ship of the ***USCG EAGLE***.
- ***S/V BAP UNION*** from Peru, she is a 378' four masted Barque commissioned in 2012 and is used as a training vessel for cadets from the Peruvian navy.
- ***S/V GORCH FOCK*** from Germany, she is a 293' three masted Barque commissioned in 1968 and is part of the Germany Navy used for training naval cadets.
- ***S/V CAPTIÁN MIRANDA*** from Uruguay, she is a 198' three masted Schooner commissioned in 1930 used as a geographical survey ship until being converted into a naval cadet training vessel.

Accommodation will be made available at the Waterside Marriott Hotel which is located in downtown Norfolk close to the Harborfest and Zaf events. The Table of the Chesapeake Bay has reserved a block of rooms for the Zafarrancho and it will serve as the center for all activities. Some additional lodging could be available in the homes of the local Brothers or on their boats.



The Hotel rates are \$225.00/night and must be made separately from the Zaf registration!

**Marriot Norfolk Waterside**  
**235 E Main Street**  
**Norfolk VA 23510**  
**757-627-4200**

*Be sure to tell them that you are with the Brotherhood.*

### Other Preliminary Information

- There will be a mandatory meeting for Table Captains on Saturday morning at 8am. All Brothers are welcome to attend.
- Norfolk's Harborfest is the largest and longest running, free maritime festival in the nation.
- Brotherhood of the Coast Badges will be made available as an optional item.
- Commemorative "Harb-Arrrr-Fest" shirts will be made available as an optional item.
- If you would like to attend on your own bottom, please contact Brother Tortuga for help with those arrangements.

The official registration form will follow this announcement with all the event and optional item pricing. Along with that contact information will be provided for those seeking to make arrangements for lodging with Brothers or on Brothers boats.

