



# FIRST WATCH

BROTHERHOOD OF THE COAST  
- UNITED STATES -  
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

WINTER-SPRING EDITION FOR 2026

## *In this issue...*

- Update on the BOCUS YouTube Channel
- Brother Profile - Gordon Gould
- From the Captain's Desk - a word about the new Gasparilla Table
- Information about the Gasparilla Table
- The legend of Jose Gaspar
- Table Reports
- Information and registration forms for the upcoming National Zaf and Captain's meeting in Norfolk, VA

## UPDATE - BOCUS YouTube Channel

*by Upwind*



In between publishing the last edition of the First Watch and the end-of-the-year holidays, I managed to finish the video I was working on: ***The Odyssey of Nausicaa*** (link = [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z\\_y-Yjwm-NU&t=334s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_y-Yjwm-NU&t=334s)). It is a humble beginning for the site. The name of the YouTube channel is **Brotherhood of the Coast - USA**.

I have started work on the second video which will, essentially, be a video version of the brochure "What is the Brotherhood of the Coast?" found on the BOCUS website. For this endeavor, I have created Captain Bocus - a scurvy dog of a sailor who worked his way up the chain of command with some of the most dangerous crews of the Caribbean. As a long standing Buccaneer and 1<sup>st</sup> generation Brother, Captain Bocus will school anyone interested in the Brotherhood with the seriousness the subject demands. I expect to publish this video in early April.

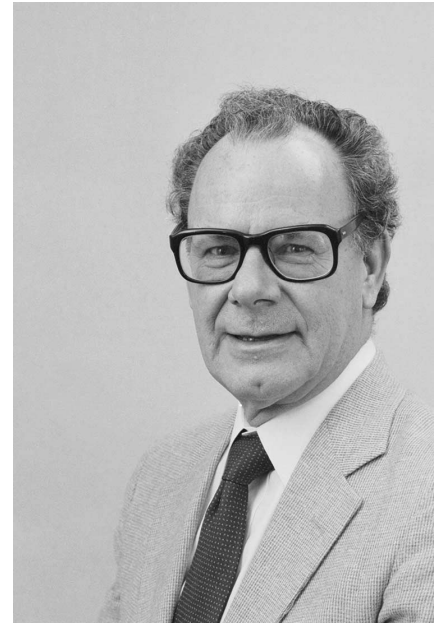
The next video will be about those little black flag we fly on our boats. I hope to feature a short description of each of the active US Tables if I can cajole enough Brothers to contribute.

## BROTHER PROFILE - GORDAN GOULD NEW YORK TABLE - FLAG NO. 53

Gordon Gould was #53 in the New York Table. He contributed to the invention of a Laser that uses visible light and the first use of the acronym LASER, in 1959. He won the patent rights to it after a long legal battle with Bell Laboratories.

He owned "*Wonny La Rue*" a 45' ketch that he sailed in the Caribbean and Long Island Sound. Scott Smith #28 and Axel Pedersen #55 delivered Wonny La Rue to Antigua one fall with Gordon's Captain, Hans Hoff. (A friend of Maureen and Joe Horvath, Savannah Table.)

Native New Yorker and physicist Gordon Gould, born in 1920, garnered fame for his work on the visible light laser and the first use of the acronym, LASER, along with the subsequent battle for its patent. Although it took Gould nearly 30 years to win his patent battles, in the end the significant expansion of lasers meant his later patents became much more valuable than the original.



Physicist, inventor and manufacturer Gordon Gould was born on July 17, 1920, in New York City, New York. He studied at Union College in New York before completing graduate work in physics at Yale. He later left to work on the atomic bomb for the Manhattan Project.

In his post-war years, he worked for various private engineering firms while teaching at different institutions, including City College of New York (1947-'54), Columbia University (1954-'57) and Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute (1967-'74). While working at Columbia with Charles Townes and others, he contributed to the development of the laser. He would claim greater credit for the laser than others have been willing to grant him, but he was named inventor of the year in 1978 by the Patent Office Society for his laser amplifier.

He also held patents on many of the laser devices used for industrial and medical applications. In 1974 he founded Optelecom Inc, which specializes in optical communications, retiring from the firm in 1985. Gould died on September 20, 2005.

"But certainly the laser proved to be what I realized it was going to be. At that moment in my life I was too ignorant in business law to be able to do it right, and if I did it over again probably the same damn thing would happen." —Gordon Gould

# FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the Great Harborfest Zaf 2026, graciously hosted by the Table of the Chesapeake Bay from June 18<sup>th</sup> through June 21<sup>st</sup> of this year. This remarkable gathering will feature the presence of ten magnificent tall ships, making it a truly memorable occasion.



Of particular interest are two vessels whose connection to our Brotherhood is both historic and meaningful: the S/V *Capitán Miranda* of Uruguay and the S/V *Esmeralda* of Chile. Both ships host Brotherhood Tables and share a long and proud association with our organization.

It is especially noteworthy that the Brotherhood Table aboard the *Esmeralda* was established through the New York Table during the First World Zaf in 1986. The ceremony was officiated by Dr. Miguel Romero, one of the seven founders of our Brotherhood, further strengthening the historic ties between our Tables and these distinguished ships.



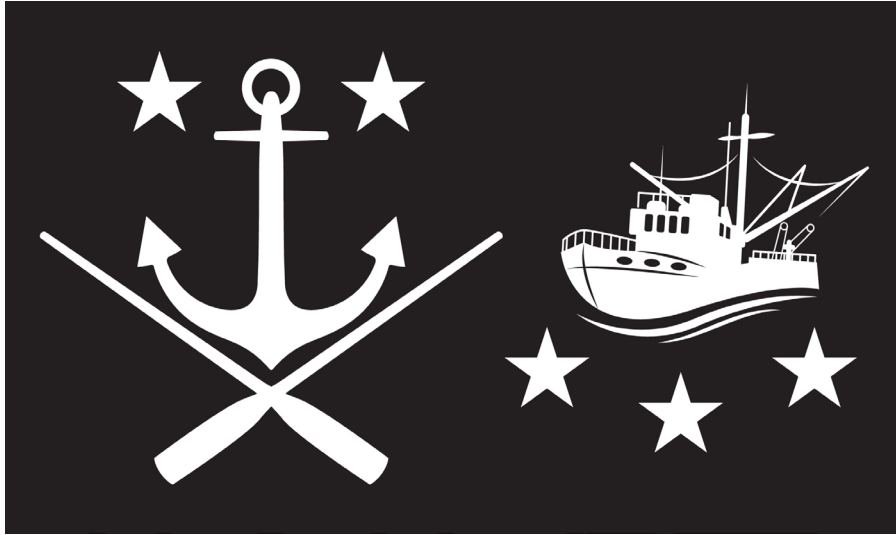
During the Meeting of the Assembly of Table Captains, I am also very pleased to announce the induction of the Gasparilla Table, the newest addition to the United States Brotherhood, located in Southwest Florida. We extend our warmest welcome to our new Brothers and look forward to their fellowship and participation in the years ahead.

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for the United States Brotherhood of the Coast

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# The Gasparilla Table



*Editor's Note: The new Gasparilla Table was officially sanctioned during the 2025 Captain's Meeting in Annapolis as a provisional Table pending the formal induction ceremony in June during the National Zaf & Captain's meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, this June.*

The creation of the Gasparilla Table within the Brotherhood of the Coast has been a journey - over two years in the making! It began with three relocated Brothers from the Solomons Island Table who, through dedication and camaraderie, brought together five other like-minded and committed souls. From the outset, the group established a strong foundation, holding regular quarterly business meetings, monthly Tip-A-Few gatherings, and a variety of social events — including dinners, cookouts, and boat cruises — that reinforced their bond and mission. The three inducted Brothers took it upon themselves to introduce and educate the new members in the ways of the Brotherhood and the guiding principles of the Octolog. Now united, these eight Brothers stand ready to grow and nurture an active and enduring Gasparilla Table, dedicated to the spirit and tradition of the Brotherhood of the Coast.

Roster		
Name	Flag #	Vessel
Jim Bailey - Captain	322	Octalog - 45 Californian MY
Jim Eisele - Scribe	TBD	Oasis - Hampton 580
Steve Perrie - Bosun	771	All In One II - Trojan 44
John Simpson - Purser	319	4th Quarter - Intrepid 327
John Grinager	TBD	Merloaded - Meridian 391
Dave Hazell	TBD	Querida - Ocean Yachts 40
Kevin Moran	TBD	Sea Farer – Grady White 22
Bob Koehler	TBD	Dawn Under II 290 Chaparral

# The Crew



## **Brother Jim “Goose” Bailey**

- residing in Fort Myers, Florida, brings over four decades of maritime experience and more than a decade of Brotherhood dedication to the formation of the prospective Gasparilla Table.

Inducted into the Brotherhood of the

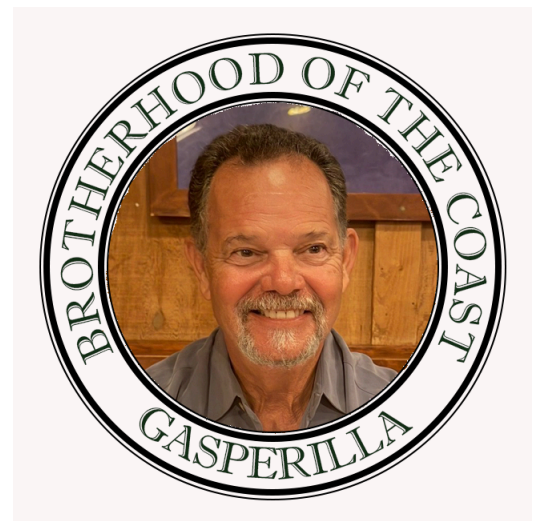
Coast in 2012 under Flag #322, Jim has served with distinction as both Scribe and Table Captain of the Solomons Island Table. A seasoned mariner, he holds a USCG 100-ton Master License and is the proud owner of the M/V Octolog, a 45-foot Californian motor yacht. As the prospective Captain of the Gasparilla Table, Jim’s steadfast seamanship and commitment to Brotherhood tradition chart a promising course for this new crew.



**Jim “Crazy Ivan” Eisele** - has spent the past four years in the Cape Coral/Fort Myers area, where he is an avid boater and passionate about all things related to the water. With over five decades of experience in boating, sailing, diving, and cruising, Jim is a dedicated and loyal seaman. He was born and raised along the Illinois River until the age of 12, after which he spent more than 45 years boating along the Gulf Coast. Jim holds a USCG 100-ton Master License and has cruised extensively across the Gulf Coast and to the Bahamas. Currently, he cruises aboard his Hampton 580, *Oasis*, out of Fort Myers and also runs the Caloosahatchee River in his Boston Whaler 250 Outrage, OFF-RODE. Jim is a good friend of the BOC Houston Table, where he began as an Engagé before heading back to the sea. He is now deeply committed to the formation of the new Gasparilla Table and has been enlisted to serve as its Scribe.



**Brother Steve “Perrie Dog” Perrie** - Flag #771, hails from the Solomons Island Table, where his passion for the sea and the Brotherhood was first formally recognized. A lifelong boater raised on the Chesapeake Bay, Steve now divides his time between Solomons Island, Maryland, and Cape Coral, Florida — ever close to the water that has shaped his life. As captain of *All In One II*, his Trojan 44, Steve has hosted Brothers from around the world aboard his vessel and in his home, embodying the fellowship and hospitality that define the Brotherhood. With unwavering commitment to the Octolog and Brotherhood traditions, Steve brings both spirit and seamanship to his role as Bosun of the prospective Gasparilla Table.



**Brother John “Quartermaster” Simpson** - was inducted into the Solomon’s Brotherhood Table in 2010 under Flag #319. He has proudly served his Table with distinction, holding the post of Scribe for three years and later Table Captain for another three. A devoted Brother of the Coast, John has represented his Table at the World Zaf in France and has generously hosted visiting Brothers from around the globe, strengthening the bonds of our international fraternity. A mariner to his core, John held a USCG Master's License for 25 years and has captained vessels from Canada to the Virgin Islands. His lifelong passion for the sea is evident—he’s owned over 35 boats, managed a 70-slip marina, and comes from a seafaring lineage, with his father having served as a Merchant Marine purser. A certified diver since 1973, former ocean lifeguard in Cocoa Beach, and competitive water skier, John was also an active surfer until the age of 65. He now splits his time between homes in Cape Coral, Florida, and Solomon’s, Maryland, always staying close to the water he loves. John is proud of his place within the Brotherhood and stands ready to change his flag only in the spirit of strengthening our fraternity and stands ready to serve the Gasparilla Table as Purser. The sea is his cult, and he brings both deep experience and deeper brotherhood to every port.



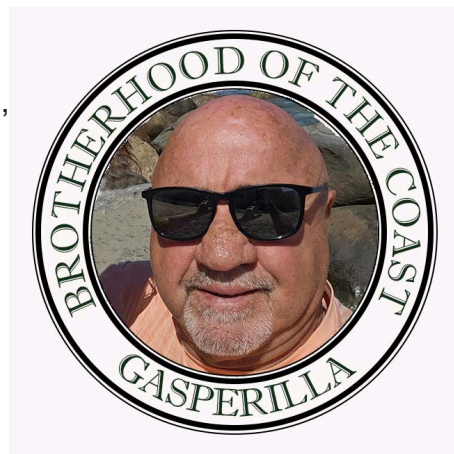
**John “Ninja” Grinager** - With over four decades of boating experience across the diverse waterways of the United States, Brother John Grinager brings a deep-rooted passion for life on the water to the prospective Gasparilla Table. Residing in Cape Coral, Florida, John has served in leadership and advisory roles with five yacht clubs, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to the boating community and love of the sea that continues to this day. A dedicated mariner and enthusiastic curator of vessels both great and small, John currently captains *MerLoaded*, his 41-foot Meridian motor yacht. His love for the sea and its traditions has naturally drawn him to the Brotherhood of the Coast, where he is eager to embrace its storied customs, the spirit of fellowship, and the enduring values of the Octolog.



**Dave “Snook” Hazell** - Though new to the Brotherhood of the Coast, Dave Hazell is no stranger to its spirit. A longtime friend and trusted shipmate of the three inducted Brothers forming the prospective Gasparilla Table, Dave has played an active and enthusiastic role in supporting its creation. A true adherent to the principles of the Brotherhood and a devoted follower of the Octolog, he brings both conviction and camaraderie to the Table. Born and raised on the waters of the Chesapeake, Dave is a lifelong mariner — an experienced boater, seasoned cruiser, and avid fisherman. He currently captains *Querida*, his Ocean Yachts 40, navigating between Solomons Island during the summer months and the warm shores of Southwest Florida in the winter. With salt in his blood and the Brotherhood in his heart, Brother Dave stands ready to help chart the course of the Gasparilla Table.



**Bob “Aussie” Koehler** - Bob Koehler’s lifelong passion for boating began at the age of four on the waters of Australia. After moving to the United States with his family in 1967, he continued exploring Michigan’s small inland lakes and occasionally ventured onto the Great Lakes. At 18, Bob purchased his first boat—a 1984 MasterCraft competition ski boat—marking the start of a lifelong love affair with the water. As an avid slalom and barefoot water skier, he later upgraded to his second MasterCraft in 1997, followed by a 24-foot Premier pontoon in 2002 to expand his boating adventures. In 2022, Bob and his wife, Dawn, relocated to Florida to embrace a new coastal lifestyle centered around their shared love of the water. Together, they enjoy cruising, fishing, and exploring with their latest addition—a 2024 Key West 21-foot dual console boat, affectionately known as their fishing, beach, and “sandbar-hopping” vessel.



**Kevin “Red” Moran** - Kevin Moran is a Floridian with saltwater in his veins. Growing up in West Palm Beach, he spent his formative years exploring the local lakes and navigating the Intra-coastal Waterway (ICW) with his family. These early experiences fostered a lifelong passion for the water that defines his lifestyle today. Following high school, Kevin served his country for five years in the US Air Force, where he honed his technical skills as a Jet Engine Mechanic. After his service, life took him to Texas, where he spent 23 years living and working in Houston. However, the pull of the Florida coast eventually brought him back.



Kevin recently relocated to Cape Coral, where he is eager to reconnect with his Florida roots. An avid boater and fisherman, he has spent the last six years captaining his 22ft Grady White, taking every opportunity to get out on the water. Now settled in Cape Coral, Kevin looks forward to the formation of the Gasparilla Table and is dedicated to contributing to the continued brotherhood and camaraderie of the group.

## *The Legend of José Gaspar*

José Gaspar, also known by his alias “Gasparilla” (c. 1756 – 1821), is a legendary Spanish pirate who is believed to have terrorized the Gulf of Mexico from his base in southwest Florida during the second Spanish period of Florida (1783–1821). While accounts of his early life, motivations, and piratical deeds vary, most agree that Gaspar, often dubbed the “Last of the Buccaneers,” was an extraordinarily active figure in the Golden Age of Piracy.



Over the course of his nearly four-decade career, he amassed a vast fortune by capturing ships and ransoming hostages. Operating across the Gulf of Mexico and the Spanish Main, he preyed on shipping, plundering vessels and selling their cargo in sympathetic ports. Male prisoners were either executed or coerced into joining his pirate crew, while female captives were taken to Captiva Island, where they were held for ransom or forced into servitude as wives or concubines. Legend holds that Gaspar met his end by leaping from his ship to avoid capture by the United States Navy, leaving behind his elusive treasure.

According to local folklore, Gasparilla Island—located just west of Fort Myers Beach—was named after the infamous pirate, who is said to have used the island as his base and hidden his legendary treasure there.

The Gasparilla Pirate Festival, held annually in Tampa, Florida, celebrates this mythical pirate figure. Known as the world’s largest pirate festival, it attracts thousands of participants and spectators, many of whom dress in pirate attire to partake in the lively festivities. The event features a dramatic pirate invasion, where a flotilla of ships, led by the José Gasparilla, sails into Tampa Bay and “invades” downtown Tampa, culminating in the mayor ceremoniously surrendering the key to the city. This marks the beginning of a grand parade, showcasing over 140 floats, marching bands, and performers, all making their way down Bayshore Boulevard to downtown Tampa, ensuring an unforgettable spectacle for attendees.





## CLOSING OUT THE YEAR WITH BOXING DAY *by Upwind*

The Boxing Day Tip-a-Few of the year is always one of the favorite for our Table: The weather has deteriorated enough so there is not much boating to miss, everyone is full of Christmas Cheer and most everybody has the day off. This year we met for the event at the condominium of John "Viajero" and Ruth Martin overlooking the Elizabeth River and on the port side of the Battleship Wisconsin in downtown Norfolk.

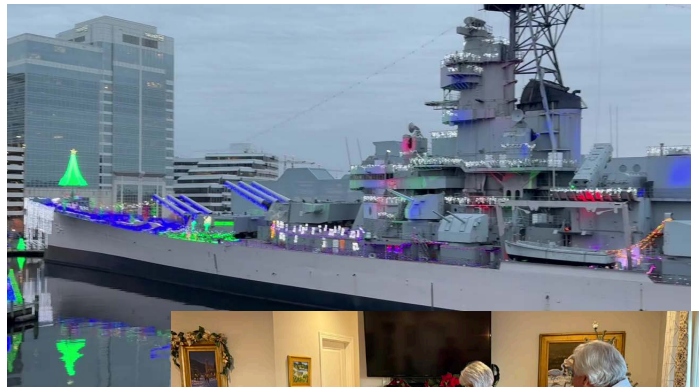
The day was mild with some high clouds preventing it from getting warmer. We gathered in mid-afternoon so there would be a little daylight before the early darkness of December arrived. After some visiting time, it was time to dine!



Our gracious hosts provided a splendid baked salmon special and the side dishes - provided by the guests - were also delectable. As usual, no one was going to die of starvation at a CBT Table event!

Then it was onto the main event - the Dirty Santa (a.k.a. White Elephant) gift swap! The cheese wheel that was shaped like a ships wheel was a favorite. ended up with another 30 AMP conversion cord to add to my collection. Maybe I can get away with re-gifting it next year!

As we made our way through the Dirty Santa swap, it grew darker outside. At about this time, the Christmas decorations on the USS Wisconsin. The ship's light display was part of the 50,000+ light display put on by the w Museum in Norfolk. This display was just an added bonus to the warm proceedings of our December Tip-A-Few.



So far 2026 has been uneventful for the Chesapeake Bay Table. Many of the local Brothers have traveled south for the winter, so there are only a few of us left around. We did hold one TAF so far this year, at Captain Bui's home, so that we could get the ball rolling on the 2026 Captain's meeting ZAF.



We had reserved 40 rooms at the Marriott Waterside. There are still 10 rooms available in the Hotel. We are up to 80 registered attendee's. There is still room for more. Plans are coming along. The Parade of sail is being estimated to be miles long with the first ships due to reach Waterside around noon on Friday. There will also be a Blue Angles fly over during the parade. We will position the Brotherhood boat raft(s) so that we can watch all the ships pass by. There will fireworks both Friday and Saturday nights with concerts in the park both nights as well. We will be holding a few more planning meetings in the next few month to finish up all the details.

*The schedule of events and registration form is attached at the end of the First Watch - Editor*

## MARCH TIP-A-FEW

It was a cold and dreary winter here on the mid-Atlantic Coast. With many members of our Table gone south for the colder months, activity in the Table was minimal. With the coming of the Vernal Equinox, that all changed.

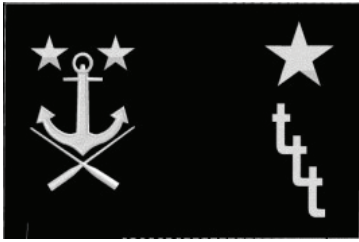


Just after the Equinox we met at Rebel Marina's Breezeway Cafe; a complete kitchen and meeting facility at this marina that hosts a majority of the Table's boats. Scott "Piper" and Maria Rogers sponsored the event with the main course of spaghetti and sauce from a family recipe. The appetizers and deserts brought by the rest of the Table made for a grand meal. No one starved.



We briefly discussed the upcoming Zaf and shared our excitement to share the Sail250 event with our national and international Brothers!





# Corpus Christi

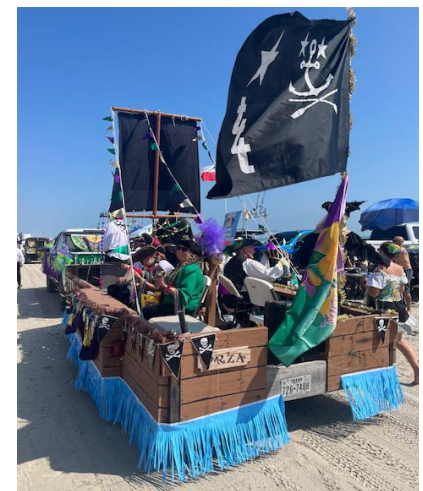
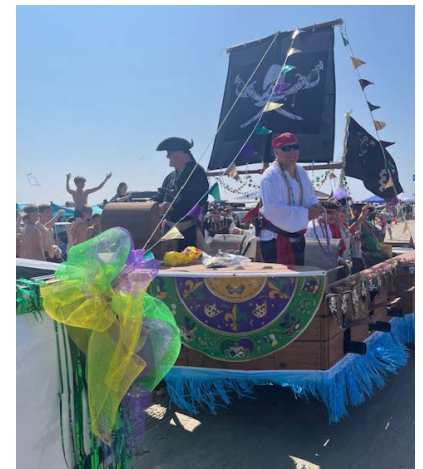


The Corpus Christi Table had a great month in February. We entered the “**SS Orza**”, our pirate ship parade float, in the 2026 Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The *Barefoot Mardi Gras* is an annual parade event held on the beach on North Padre Island, Texas. More than 20,000 spectators lined the 2-mile parade route, and all were in full Mardi Gras spirit...wild costumes, beads galore, drinks flowing...it is a very crazy event that you must see to believe!

We began the weekend with a Welcome party at the home of Walter “Barefoot” and Judy Crawford. We were joined by Brothers and Captives from the San Antonio and Houston Tables, including the Finks, McNeil’s, Hutchinson’s, and the Trevino’s. We won the 2nd Place Float trophy!

After the parade, we relaxed and shared stories at the waterfront home of Steve “Gecko” and Paula Blivin.

Last year we had won 1st Place, so we’ll need to raise the bar next year....I’m thinking making our cannons smoke and go boom... we’ll see.





The Gasparilla Table has enjoyed a vibrant and memorable winter season, helped along by the spectacular weather here in Southwest Florida. Our quarterly business meeting in January focused heavily on preparations for the upcoming ZAF and National Captains' Meeting in Norfolk this June — an event that will see full attendance from all Gasparilla Table Brothers.

### SUNCOAST TABLE TAF - NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Several Brothers traveled to Bradenton to join the Suncoast Table for their TAF at the Loaded Cannon Distillery. The day began with cocktails, followed by an excellent private tour led by the owner. More cocktails were enjoyed afterward, which paired perfectly with a superb Italian lunch... followed by, naturally, a few more cocktails. The hospitality shown by the Suncoast Brothers and Mates was exceptional and a perfect reminder of the worldwide spirit of the Brotherhood.



## CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 13, 2025

Our Christmas gathering was held in the Grand Room at the condo complex of Jim "Goose" and Linda Bailey and featured enough food to feed all of Lee County. The evening was filled with great fellowship, a lively gift exchange, and the company of Bob "Aussie" and Dawn Koehler, Kevin "Red" and Cristy, Jim "Crazy Ivan" and Cat, John "Quartermaster" and Shannon Simpson, Jim "Goose" and Linda Bailey, Dave "Snook" and Nancy Hazell, and Steve "Perrie Dog" and Michelle Perrie.

### VISITING BROTHERS REFLOAT

Also in December, Goose and Linda connected with Mark and Denise Turner of the Houston Table, who were cruising through Southwest Florida and moored on an anchor ball off Fort Myers Beach. Their voyage has since taken them to the Keys, the Dry Tortugas, and onward toward the Bahamas and Grenada.



### JANUARY TAF AT ST. CHARLES YACHT CLUB



John "Ninja" and Jean Grinager hosted our January TAF at the St. Charles Yacht Club, where the club once again delivered a superb meal, a private bartender, and even pirate themed music to elevate the festivities. We were joined by Lee "Chessie" and Catherine McMichael from the Annapolis Table. The night was outstanding, and the club staff looked on in awe as we delivered a rousing broadside.



### FEBRUARY IN KEY WEST

February brought many of us together in Key West, joined by Brothers and Mates from Chesapeake, Annapolis, Suncoast, and Solomons. John "Quartermaster" and Shannon Simpson organized a gathering at the patio bar at Alonzo's, where we enjoyed excellent food and grog. Later, many of us migrated to



the legendary Chart Room, where we once again rocked the island with a spirited broadside.

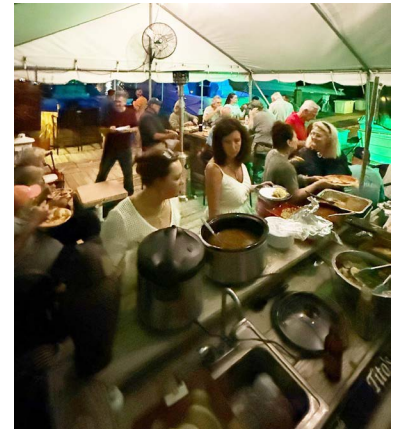


# HOUSTON



## THANKSGIVING AT THE PIRATES PORCH NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> 2025

We had our very first BOC Thanksgiving together: Lots of people came out, more food than you could imagine and lots of great company! I think this will be a tradition that will stick around for years to come! We had over 14 brothers and their captives came out for the event!



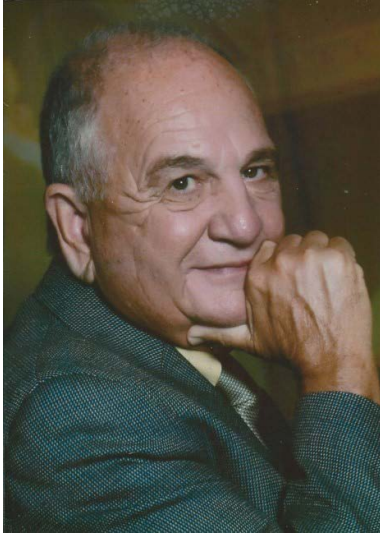
## WINTER IN HOUSTON JANUARY - MARCH

This winter has been fairly quiet with the BOC here in Houston, we have a calendar of events coming up and of course we have our one Friday a month Sundowners get together at the dock. There isn't much to post in the First Watch but stay tuned as summer is right around the corner!

## CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE ELLORS HOME DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> 2025

John and Wendy Ellor put on a wonderful BOC Christmas party for us this year, we had a great turn out and great weather and even better catered food! It was so good there aren't even any photos of the event!

Unfortunately, we lost a brother on February 12th. Al Waghorn (Tin Man) passed away peacefully the night of February 12th. He was loved by all which was proven at his celebration of life held on Friday March 6th. There wasn't a seat left in the church (which isn't small) and the parking lot was overflowing.



The Brotherhood was well represented. Along with several other groups that Al has been active in. We learned a lot about Al, and we felt we were lucky to have him as a Brother.

Al loved spending time with his wife, daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. He loved his family. His commitment to his community was evident through his involvement as a member of the Living Word Church of Bay Area. He was a long-time member of Texas Mariners Cruising Association and the Brotherhood of the Coast. He was a member of Hearthstone Country for 32 years and when he retired and moved to the Bay area he joined Southshore Country Club. He and Kay lived on their boat and cruised along the ICW with friends for several years. Al will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his community, and his work. He embodies the expression, "A life well lived".



*by Jungle Jane*

## INTERNATIONAL ZOOM-ZAFS

The New York Table, under the able direction of Jungle Jane, sponsors an International get-together or "Zoom-Zaf" via Zoom each and every month on the first Sunday of the month at 11 AM, New York time. Email Jane at [janeprotzman@gmail.com](mailto:janeprotzman@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the group.

### DECEMBER 7, 2025 HOLIDAY ZAF

On a beautiful Winter Day, we enjoyed good company and nourishment at the Harlem Yacht Club. It continues to be a favorite venue for our Zafs. It is centrally located (we represent 3 states, NY, NJ, CT). The caterer provides good quality food at reasonable prices. There is a lounge area for early birds, of course a bar with a view of the New York City skyline. On this occasion we ordered from the Sunday Brunch menu.



## JANUARY 31, 2026 SNOWED OUT ZAF



Because of the snowstorm we had to cancel the Zaf at my home. There was no place to park on my street without a battle with neighbors who had staked out their places. Our next Zaf will be after all the snow melts.

Rascal recounts his experience: A full-blown snow bomb slammed the Northeast, and City Island was in the crosshairs. With temperatures stuck in the 15°F range for weeks, the snow came down light and fluffy, then immediately froze into a 12 inch slab of concrete. Snow removal turned into an extreme sport. Cars were buried in icy mounds, some so well hidden they are still there today. Traffic crawled along,



but parking? Fuhgeddaboutit. If you found a spot, you should've bought a lottery ticket.

Sadly, the New York Table was forced to cancel its January Pizzarrancho, which was to be hosted by none other than our fearless leader, Jungle Jane, a tragic loss.

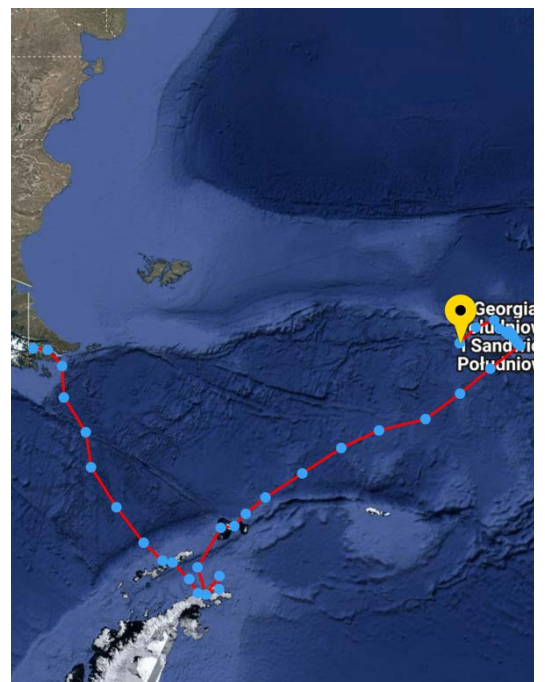
We're hoping to reschedule soon, because let's be honest, when it comes to pizza, the Bronx doesn't just participate, it rules. And no snowstorm gets the last slice.

## FEBRUARY 1. INTERNATIONAL ZOOM ZAF

Our monthly Sunday Zooms with International and USA Brothers are now in their 7th year. We celebrated our 6th anniversary in January with virtual champagne provided by Michelle and Scott "Cruz" Ripley. Our 5-star accounting firm reported that our February 1 Zoom had the largest number of Brothers joining us. Another milestone was met when Maciej "Larsen" Sokolowski, a Polish Brother, joined us from a sailboat 80 NM from South Georgia and 850 NM from Ushuaia, Argentina.



Here was his reply to our zoom invitation. "I am onboard Selma Expeditions, on our way, in the footsteps of E. Shackleton," to Antarctica and South Georgia... I will try to connect with you for short greetings if I get the link."



Christoph “Octopus” Nelles, a German Brother, who many of you might remember, joined us from his “all electric” catamaran, sailing along the coast of Spain. Axel “Cannon Ball” Braun, German too, was in Tunisia. Erik “Contre-Courant” Aroux is a frequent participant. He often joins us from his yacht in the Mediterranean. He described to me. “An X-43 from 2004. Picture taken from an helicopter during the famous “Voiles de St Tropez” races in 2021.



Francisco “Snoopy” Albino, in Portugal, is always there with wonderful stories of their Table sailing on a replica of a Caravelle, or his travels in his vintage VW camper.

These Zoom calls have evolved since their very beginning with Joe “Sparks” Citarella, Heinz Scheel (Germany) and Jerzey Paleolog (Poland). Three friends who spoke often via Zoom. Thanks for starting the tradition. It is a perfect way to connect with Brothers over the oceans if you have travel plans or want to learn more about Zafs in their countries. Welcome Aboard.

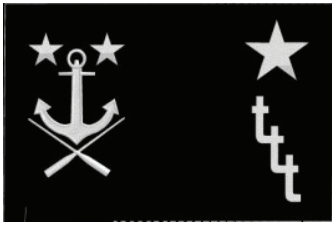
## OTHER NEWS FROM THE QUARTERDECK

We have two good news stories about two of our Brothers to report. Their help to others exceeded the orders of the Octolog. I commend Kevin “Cool Wood” Rathbone on his help to me at home. My sink’s faucet lever fell off. To call a plumber for this is not possible. Kevin came on deck. He not only fixed it in an instant with a tiny Allen wrench but arrived with a bottle of his favorite rum (from Venezuela). Bravo Zulu!



And now a heartier salute from Tony “Rascal” Olmer to Joe “Old Gaffer” Hliva and Mate Maureen. With Joe “Sparks” Citarella away in Portugal, Rascal put out the call for someone to clear the driveway after a formidable snowfall — nearly a foot by the look of it. Rather than delegate the duty, Old Gaffer and Maureen took up shovels themselves and battled the drifts until the way was clear, ensuring a smooth landfall for the Citarella’s upon their return. Above and beyond the charted course, indeed. Such deeds remind us that true Brotherhood is not merely spoken — it is lived, one good turn at a time.





# SAN ANTONIO



The San Antonio Table had a busy Fall and Winter season. Sara Eckerman hosted a Halloween Party on November 1st. Everyone in attendance had a “Spooky” good time.

That was quickly followed on Nov. 9th by our Annual Captive’s Dinner hosted by Captain “Buzz” and wife Diana at their ranch in Bandera, TX. All enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and good food.

Corpus Christi Brother Walt “Barefoot” Crawford and Captive Judy did a surprise visit to Bandera for Thanksgiving so, of course, we had a small party to celebrate that occasion. Wayne “Boatman” McNeil and Laurie Foley hosted Larry and Martha Trevino along with the Fink’s and Crawford’s for a fireside on the patio.



Dec. 11th Mary Laxson invited the Table and friends to celebrate her 80th Birthday with Christmas Cheer. A large crowd assembled to wish Mary many more years to come.



Dec. 18th the Table went to the Gruene River Grill for our Christmas Dinner. Apart from Captain “Buzz”, who was home sick, most of the Table was able to attend and had a wonderful evening of food and fellowship.



Monty “Python” and Audrey Rogers started 2026 by hosting our annual planning meeting where we discussed upcoming events for the year and elections. Captain Rick “Buzz” Fink was re-elected for another term as Table Captain. Patrick “Lookout” Mills is our new Table Scribe.



The Brothers voted to bring Larry Trevino into the Table as our newest Engage. Larry and his wife Martha are lifelong San Antonio residents and moved to Bandera when he retired. Larry spent his 34-year career with the San Antonio Fire Department. While with the Fire Department Larry was a Fireman, EMT, District Chief, Chief of Rescue and finished his career as Director of Emergency Management for the City. Larry has had a love of the sea throughout his life. We look forward to introducing the Trevino's to all our Brothers.



For our last Brotherhood event of this season The Fink's, Trevino's, and McNeil/Foley's joined our Brothers in Corpus Christi for the 2nd Annual Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade on the beach of South Padre Island. The Pirate Ship "ORZA" won second place in the float contest and of course the Corpus Christi Brothers are First Class hosts.





*by Salty*

Things have been a little quiet with the Savannah Table for a minute or two. But the BOC spirit still resonates amongst the group as they rallied for a few local pop-up socials with Brothers and Mates traveling through the Low Country this past winter.

Several of the local Brother and Mates, led by Alise Seidl, hosted JD and Peti from the Houston Table for a nice brunch while they were in Savannah for a little R&R.



Brother Salty and his Mate (Tom & Andrea) hosted John & Helen Byrne for a quick winter getaway at their new digs in beautiful Dataw Island, SC (just outside of Beaufort)

Tom and Andrea were very happy to spend a warm February with Eric Matherne and Jacque Dessino from the Chesapeake Table while they were in Hilton Head Island for a winter break. We were thrilled that they made drive over from HHI to Dataw where we spent the day touring the island followed with a nice lunch at the club.





The season of cold, snowy, no boating, no crabs continues. Although we got a few days in the 70 degree range, our brothers and mates know that spring isn't quite here yet. That is confirmed by the fact that almost half of our table brethren are still in Florida!



The slow season doesn't mean there aren't

opportunities to get together, though. Our annual Christmas dinner was held December 5th at the home of Scott "Capt Tuna" and his mate, Marie Redfield. Seventeen brothers and mates were able to make the evening a blast. We had food brought in and held our annual gift exchange, which was not as contentious as years past, but still a ton of fun. A great time was had by all!





Of course, sometimes the brothers and mates that are left home up north feel the need to head south to get some of the sun-sourced vitamin D in the Keys. Over the years, that sojourn has centered around the Presidents Day weekend and this year was no different. Five brothers and mates from the table went south to meet up with some Solomons Table alumni (part of the new Gasparilla Table) and a few brothers from the Chesapeake Table, amongst others.



There was a tip-a-fee held at the famous Alonzo's restaurant and bar in Key West, hosted by John Simpson "Quartermaster" and his fabulous mate, Shannon, a Key West native who got us the venue for the party. A rousing Andanada was celebrated, and many stories along with much laughter was shared amongst the brothers. This event has become a "can't miss party" that truly helps many brothers get through the long winters.



While in Key West, there were more opportunities to get together and some of those pictures are shared here.



As the Solomons table heats up for spring we have been planning events for the summer, with the highlight being our annual Crab-Arr-Rancho, which is currently slated for August 8<sup>th</sup>. Put that in your calendar! We all are looking forward to the Harb-Arr-Fest June 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and other Tip-Few events here in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Come visit us!



*by The Crab*

## SUNCOAST TABLE CHRISTMAS ZAF

The Suncoast Table gathered to celebrate the holidays at the beautiful home of Brother Ben "The Don" Berarducci on December 6, 2025. We had very close to full attendance for a great fraternal afternoon Zaf. We enjoyed a delicious Italian dinner, highlighted by Denise Berarducci's homemade meatballs. Vino and other adult beverages were plentiful, and the weather was delightfully warm which allowed us to venture between the inside and outside entertainment areas, all of which were decorated for the season. We had plenty of time and room to visit and exchange our plans for the holidays and the New Year. Tales of boating, sailing, summer travels and plans for future maritime adventures were discussed.

The assignments for the 2026 monthly Tip-a-Few were completed and plans have begun taking shape for another fun year for the Suncoast Table. ORZA!



On February 20, the Suncoast Table held a mid day gathering at the world famous Pier 22 restaurant, where we enjoyed cocktails and lunch in a private room overlooking the slow rolling Manatee River. Pier 22 was the location, and 22 was the number of hearty brothers and captives joining in revelry, including our new seasonal residents Scott and Michele Ripley. Also joining the soiree was a potential "person of interest" to the table, who spent considerable time getting to know the crew and testing the waters of our fellowship.



The weather was Florida perfect, the kind that makes even seasoned mariners pause in appreciation—sun high, breeze steady, and the river shimmering like polished brass. As we raised our glasses, the room filled with the kind of laughter and sea stories that only grow more embellished with each telling. Forks clinked, spirits flowed, and the camaraderie was a spectacle fit for any ship's log.

From our vantage point, we watched pelicans dive with the precision of old naval gunners, and sailboats drift past as though on parade. Conversations meandered as easily as the river beneath us—tales of voyages past, plans for future adventures, and plenty of good natured ribbing. By the time dessert made its round, the gathering had taken on the warm hum of a well trimmed vessel cruising under fair winds.

It was, by all accounts, a fine day to be ashore and in excellent company—another memorable entry in the ongoing journey of the Suncoast Table.



## CLEAR SKIES & COLD PINTS: THE SUNCOAST TABLE GATHERS IN CORTEZ



In the heart of one of Florida's last remaining working seaports, the spirit of the Buccaneers came alive. Under the thatched roof of the *Swordfish Grill & Tiki Bar*, sixteen of us dropped anchor for a sunny afternoon that balanced maritime tradition with Old Florida charm.

The setting couldn't have been more fitting. Overlooking the docks of Cortez, the air was thick with the scent of salt water and the sounds of a village that still makes its living from the sea. As the sun warmed us, the sea breeze offered a refreshing reprieve from the Gulf Coast humidity.

Laughter and sea stories flowed as freely as the beverages. The beer was served ice-cold, providing the perfect counterpoint to the warm, salt-tinged Spring air. Glasses were raised, honoring brothers past, present, and those currently at sea.

While the physical environment was tropical, the true "warmth" of the afternoon came from the unmatched camaraderie. In this fast moving



world, the meeting was a reminder of the power of shared passion. For our brothers, it wasn't just about the location or the menu; it was about the loyalty and friendship that only those who share a deep love and respect for the sea can truly understand.

As the meeting wound down and the pirates prepared to weigh anchor, the consensus was clear: between the working docks of Cortez and the thatched roof of the Swordfish, the Brotherhood had found the perfect harbor this afternoon. ORZA!

