

First Watch

ZIS Brotherhood of the Coast Official News Letter



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Photos: as stated

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From the Helm



Rick "Pescador" Hoekstra
Captain, Brotherhood of the Coast US

Since the last issue of First Watch, much has changed in our lives and in our world. We are seeing progress in the fight of COVID-19 with the promise of a vaccine soon. Hopefully, this will allow us to proceed with the world Zaf in the spring of 2022. We have survived the election of 2020 and are moving toward the holiday season at breakneck speed. I think this year will be a year of private celebration of the season with many brothers still leery of large gatherings. We are yet to see if there will be an upswing in the number of cases this winter.

On October 16th, the Chilean table of Punta Arenas held a virtual Zaf in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Magellan travels to the area. The Zaf was well attended with over 125 participants from many countries. The US and Great Britain brothers were especially present. The event lasted for several hours and eventually I had to exit due to inebriation (both mine and theirs). Many ORZA's were shared, and the Chilean table had some beautiful photos

and videos to share with the participants. We look forward to eventually traveling to the area and seeing the sights in person, but for the time being this is the best we can do. I want to thank all the USA brothers that subscribed and participated in the Chilean Zaf, ORZA. The state of the world reminds me of a quote by John George Hermanson, "A Smooth Sea NEVER made a Skilled Sailor". We must all persevere and be strong in the final months of 2020. This year will go down in history and will have lasting effects on us all, please be safe this holiday season and continue to follow your dreams. Love of the Sea must be the Cult of Your Day.

Orza! Happy Holidays

Richard Hoekstra aka Pescador
National Captain BOC USA

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“Borrowed” Wisdom

A ship is always referred to as
“she” because it costs so much to
keep her in paint and powder.

Admiral Chester Nimitz

No man can swim ashore and
carry his baggage with him.

Latin proverb

Wishing you Holidays



filled with lots of treasure!

Chesapeake Bay



Captain: Eric "Roux Ga Roux" Matherne
eric@mmdva.com

What's Been Going on in
The Southern Bay

Labor Day in The Chesapeake

For the last of the three-day boating weekends of 2020 many Brothers took to the water. We did not all go the same location, but we were all together in spirit.



Saturday was a bit bumpy out on the Bay so Brothers Maine Sheet, Upwind and Tortuga went up the James river and formed a raft just outside of Kingsmill. Up in that bend of the river it was clam and flat. Great conditions for a raft. Little boat traffic. We had cool nights for sleeping and warm (fresh) water for swimming. We did have another couple and two of their kids, join the raft with their new to them Island Packet 35.



As I had mentioned Saturday was a bit windy, the Island Packet had their Genoa blow out on the way up the river to the anchorage. It did stop them as it would not have stopped any of us. There is always something to fix or replace on a boat. Brother Upwind had a small exhaust issue that forced him to get a tow for a few miles on the return trip home from Maine Sheet. Only from the Ghost Fleet to the JRB. He was able to sail before and after those locations. Upwind did make some on site repairs with a many watchful eyes from the rest of us.



Brother Cruz and Michele left out on Friday before the stronger winds arrived and went up a bit farther north. He took his boat up to the Carters Creek. He and Michele spent 3 lovely days on the hook there. They hosted several different groups of friends that stopped by for visits. They also had a pass by from Brother Bui and his mate Susan who passed by them on their way to Jackson Creek.



Brother Bui and Susan spent the extended weekend visiting several anchorages in the Deltaville area. Making stops in the Corrotoman as well as Carters and Jackson Creeks.

Brother Rocket Boy and Sherry also left NYCC on Friday and went up to Onancock where they met up with Engage Scott McKinley and his wife Cathy on their boat m/v Adante and two other non-BOC boats. Prior to that trip, back on August 7 -9, they travelled upto Yorktown's Riverwalk Marina again with Engage Scott and fellow boaters Peter & Anne Squicciarini. On August 15th and 16th they served as a race committee boat for the 2020 running of the Cape Charles cup. Then it was a trip up the Pagan River to Smith Field Station. It looks like Rocket Boy is attempting to wear the ablative bottom paint off m/v Sojourner.



Brother El Viajero, his mate Ruth and the doggy Admiral took their boat, m/v Mar Luv out and visited both HYC and NNYC over the holiday week end.

Captain Roux-Ga-Roux's tale for the Holiday. Labor Day 2020 turned out to be only a two-day weekend for TARDIS and her crew. Due to me underestimating how long it would take to repair, re-install and bleed the air out of the hydraulic lines on the flying bride helm pump I spent most of Saturday putting it all back together and getting TARDIS ready to get underway on Sunday morning. We considered heading up the James river to rendezvous with the other Brothers who were fortunate enough to leave on Saturday. However, we decided that it would be prudent to pick a closer destination to conduct sea trials on my steering system repairs, so we elected to head North to Back River.



The weather on Sunday morning was beautiful, sunny with just a few clouds, cool temps, and low humidity. The strong NE winds from Saturday had diminished down to 8-10 kts, however a persistent ENE swell on the Bay made for a bit of a "rolly" ride up to Back River. However, things calmed down considerably one we tucked into the river. Our plan was to anchor for the evening off Stony Point at the mouth of Harris River. As we made our approach, we noticed a familiar looking vessel in the anchorage, as we got closer, we realized that it was BUMBOO with Country Boy and Frankie Ann aboard. We

made a slow pass by to say hello, then dropped the hook, had lunch and a couple of cold beverages as a reward for successfully completing the sea trial of the flying bridge helm pump.

After lunch both BUMBOO and TARDIS launched their dinghies, and it was off to the beach at Stony Point for an afternoon of swimming and enjoying the cool water and lack of jelly fish. Later Sunday afternoon it was back to the Mother Ships to restock the coolers, then back in the dinghies for a cocktail cruise up the Harris River. The river is well marked with private aids to navigation and maintains a depth of 5 to 6 Ft. for quite a distance up.



Once past the channel markers however it shallows rather quickly and even our dinghies were starting to kick up a little mud. Being prudent mariners, we decided to turn around and start heading back to the anchorage and our boats to prepare the evening's dinner. Mike provided

a sunset conch shell salute, at least a few shots of Rum were enjoyed and then it was time for bed. Marathon Midnight seems to get earlier as I get older.

Monday turned out to be another beautiful day. Mike and Frankie Ann went for another short dingy ride while Jacque and I decided to be lazy and just hang out on TARDIS and enjoy the morning. After lunch TARDIS weighed anchor and started the trip back to Hampton, followed shortly by BUMBOO. The Bay had calmed down considerably making for a fantastic trip down the Bay in the company of numerous pods of dolphins. All in all, it was a great holiday weekend, even if shortened by a day, and had to good fortune of it turning into a Brotherhood event after all.



Corpus Christi

Captain: Bob “Walrus” Weber
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The Corpus Christi Table has pretty much settled into insolation, well sort of. You just have to get out and about. Masks and common sense go a long way. We have had no major get togethers yet, but I think easing up to it. Meanwhile, here is some news:

Some brothers did go to Port Aransas to meet with the small flotilla from Houston. Fun times.

From Brad Stokes:

“At the end of September, brothers and captives from the Houston, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi Tables met in Port Arkansas. Some stayed the weekend, but most stayed for a week. We took up most of the transient dock with an impressive collection of trawlers and cruisers, and every night was a dock party.



Joe and Sandy came for a day, Melissa and I stayed the weekend. Charlie and Marsha, and Monty and Audrey came from San Antonio. Thanks to the Houston table for a great time!”

We had some local nautical excitement when a sailboat being towed under the ICW bridge which goes from Aransas Pass to Port Aransas and caught the power lines before the bridge. Took down the power lines and two power poles. The short caused a blow out at the substation. Knocked out our neighborhood and half of another neighborhood. At the time I was enjoying the pleasant evening on our back patio with an adult beverage and a cigar and heard a small explosion, with about 30 seconds of what sounded like things breaking and sparks. I thought a barge had hit the bridge. The entire place went dark. I mean big time dark, cannot see anything, no moonlight. Now, where are those flashlights. Finally found them. Power back three hours later. Whew!!!! Power lines are still down going toward Post Aransas along with Spectrum and Sparklight fiber (internet and TV).

Paul and Karen Froeschner wrote from Cancun, on their last full day of vacation: "Our original arrival date was scheduled for Tuesday Oct 27th. Monday night, hurricane Zeta hit the Yucatan. Luckily, our party of 6 were able to rebook flights and resort arrival to Thursday. We were assured that there was minimal damage, and our visit would be fine.



Considering Cancun had been hit by Hurricane Delta a few weeks prior, the area has been faced with major cleanup. We were pleasantly surprised that the El Dorado Maroma was in good condition and welcoming. We had a couple of sunny tropical days before the rains set in, but our group has not been swayed from having a great time, getting together for drinks and dinner between deluges of rain.

The food has been excellent and the staff delightful. Not coming home with tans however....

Yesterday, Tuesday, we began watching the weather for our return home...only to be informed that yet another hurricane has formed and since made landfall in Nicaragua. Hurricane Eta still has a somewhat uncertain path, but we are not directly in it at present. At this stage we are comfortable that we will be able to fly home tomorrow. And we pray that Eta does not cause devastation to the U.S. Gulf Coast or to any of our Brothers in Central America.

Delta, Zeta and Eta....October/November 2020. Hopefully the last in this year of record number of hurricanes.

After many months of staying home and making efforts to keep safe . . . and missing the company of our many Brothers, we as junior seniors in our 70s feel we could not wait for the pandemic to end to resume living the years we still have. Please wish us well as we head towards home. And we pray that you all stay safe.”

Orza!! Paul and Karen
Corpus Christi, Texas

Update from the s/v Griffin... (Ken & Carrie....aka: SoloNoMo & captive)

“Well, we are still sitting here in a slip at Shelter Bay Marina across from Colon, Panama at the Caribbean end of the Panama Canal weighing our options between ever changing regulations for possible destinations, local visa regulations and seasonal weather patterns.

Currently Panama is slowly opening, but we are very reluctant to fly back to the States or anywhere due to the possibility of Panama shutting back down and us not

being able to return to the boat. So, we have been staying busy with boat projects and watching the embarrassing political happenings in the States. We have also been catching up on dental and medical checkups. It seems that last year was devoted to a Griffin refit and this year it is Griffin's crew maintenance. But all is good, and the rum and wine are cheap.

Hope all is well with all the brothers and families. Maybe we will have a more interesting update next time. For now, we are just sitting, waiting, wishing, and confused."

ORZA to All,
Ken and Carrie

We wish them both fair winds and following seas.

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

-Mark Twain

Walrus / Bob Weber
Captain Corpus Christi Table

ORZAAA!!!



Contemplating....????

Houston

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

Hi and Orza from the Houston Table. It has been a tough year everywhere. Covid has hampered our activities both on the boats and ashore. But lately we have been able to do a little boating. Some of us made it to Harborwalk (near Galveston), Offatts Bayou, in Galveston, and Lake Charles, Louisiana shortly before the hurricane hit them.



Some made it to Port Arthur and the Rockport/Port Aransas area. Those that made it here met with a few Brothers from Port Aransas and San Antonio. And at each place, a good time was had by all.



We also have been trying to find like-minded people. Weather and Covid permitting we have been having a “Sundowners” once a month at the dock. Through existing Brother’s acquaintances, we have started to get to know several prospective people. We are happy to announce that we have an Engage. His name is Gary Cryer. His wife’s name is Darlene. When you see him, please make him welcome.

New York

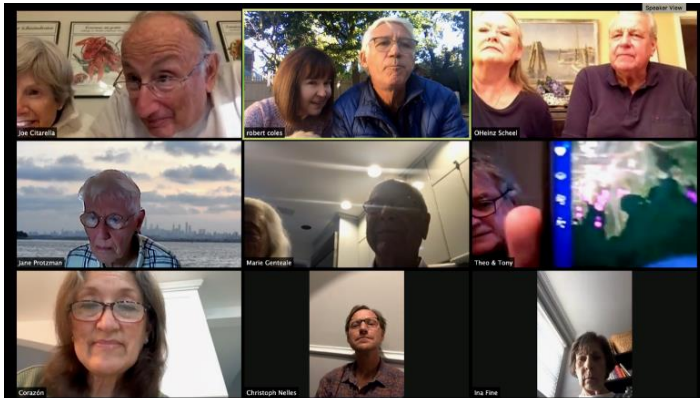
Captain: Jane "Jungle Jane" Protzman
janeprotzman@gmail.com



Zoom Zafs:

We have continued to have weekly Zoom Zafs every Saturday. They are at 5 pm EST. We invite you to join us; just send me an email indicating your interest.

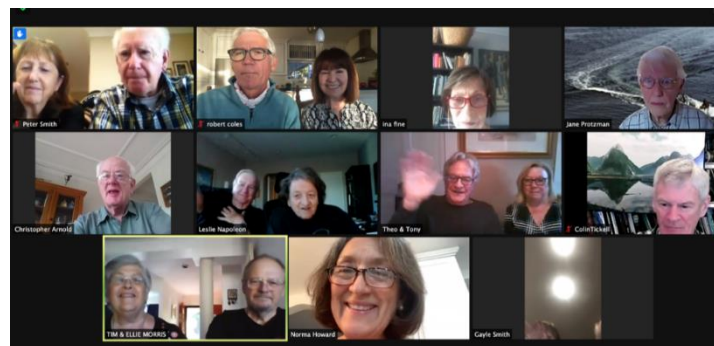
We have enjoyed the company of Brothers and Mates from across the oceans in the last few months - Jerzy Paleolog Lublin Table, Heinz and Brigitte Scheel Lubeck, Germany, Christof and Ellen Nelles, back in Germany on JOYA, Stew and Diane Kauffman in Florida and Peter and Gayle Smith and 2 more Australian Brothers. Each time we learn more about how our Brothers are managing in Pandemic Time. We are still not ready to meet in person given the NY, CT, and NJ COVID-19 Guidelines.



With Germany



Halloween



With Australia

From Tony Olmer:

I attended the 68th Anniversary of the Iquique Table some 4,218 miles from New York City as the crow flies. Luckily, it was through Zoom, so I only had to travel a few feet to my computer. The event was all in Spanish and it took me a while to get into it. Brothers were logging on continuously. 95 Brothers signed in on 4 separate pages. The moderator, Hector Ortega, Captain of the Iquique Table, kept on selecting individuals who would congratulate the Table with a short speech or a song. Finally, after two plus hours I raised my hand and was recognized by Captain Ortega and congratulated his Table on behalf of the New York Table and the US Brotherhood of the Coast.

I must tell you that despite the pandemic that grounds us all, the Brotherhood of the Coast is alive and well. A big Orza! to Captain Ortega for the invitation and the opportunity to participate in a great and fun event.

Though I miss seeing my Brothers, the hugs, the jokes, the friendship, the Pandemic has opened new opportunities. The New York Table through Zoom has been able to reach Brothers all over the world, something we would not have thought of doing under normal circumstances.

The Rascal



Our Pandemic Projects and Challenges:

From Robert Coles:

I was invited to race with a group of industrious former “Moth” sailors at the Breakwater Yacht Club in Sag Harbor, NY. The original multicolored lateen sail of the Sunfish is picturesque but finicky and inefficient. The sailors at the Breakwater decided to use the very popular, easy to acquire hull of the Sunfish and rig it with a modern efficient sail. While not class-legal, this sail has two battens, a broad top roach and shorter foot. It balances the tiller and increases forward thrusts while hindering heel – great for minimizing capsizes. The newest design even plays with a sleeve over the upper spar, laser style. I got lucky to snatch an old [Sunfish](#). I sailed four races with a loaner sail. It has two battens, a broad top roach and shorter foot. This balanced the tiller.



Big Hopper



From Andrea Torrens:



Andrea has been reporting the progress of her and Lory's building a "Cirrhosis Shack" in Cold Spring, NY. They are both clever artisans and have salvaged and cleaned 17 years of discarded liquor bottles, "tossed down the hill on our property". It is a 7x20' cabin with 'bottle walls' made from mostly recycled materials. It will have kerosene lamps and a woodburning stove. Perhaps we will have a Zaf in it someday.

Other challenges include Joe Citarella's kitchen renovation, Norma Howard is helping with home schooling for her grandson and Len Sinowitz is still out sailing. Andrzej and Irena Bienkowski went to Poland for two months and were able to attend several Brotherhood events there. My challenge has been to fill these pages.

Respectfully submitted, and with a lot of help from the NYTable Brothers.



JungleJane #28

Addendum:

I am on the Board of the City Island Nautical Museum. We have an extensive collection of photos of our renowned nautical history - America's Cup winners and classic yachts. If you have spare hours got to www.cityislandmuseum.org and take a tour. There are more photos on our Facebook page.

Did you know?

...that a yacht built on City Island in 1930 won a major race in December 2017 as the oldest boat in a fleet of 87?

That yacht is *Dorade*, built and launched in 1930 at the Minneford Yacht Yard, designed by Olin Stephens. The 2017 race was Australia's 628-mile Rolex-sponsored Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, considered by authorities to be one of the most challenging ocean races.

In *Dorade's* 88 years, she has won many major racing honors. In 1931 she won the Fastnet Race (from the Isle of Wight to the southwest coast of Ireland and back), after which she was given a ticker-tape parade up Broadway. In 2015 *Dorade* finished second in the same race. In 2013, she won the Transpacific Yacht Race, in 2014 first place in the Newport-Bermuda Race, and in 2015 second place in the 2,800-mile Transatlantic Race.



San Antonio

Captain: Monty “Python” Rogers

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Purser: David “Pilgrim” Overpeck

The San Antonio Table has been hunkered down like the rest of the Brotherhood. The local area has done reasonably well adjusting to the demands of the virus. The Table is starting to enjoy events on a low key and somewhat outdoor in nature. We can only hope our decisions were correct.

Since that opening was written several weeks ago much has happened. We took The Table out of quarantine and enjoyed Boo at the Barn in late October (at Halloween, duh). Plans were already afoot for another installment of our Chili Cook-Off in mid-September. See more on both activities below. That is about the time the “stuff” hit the fan locally and COVID numbers began to spike. Decisions have been made to put The Table once again in quarantine and to cancel further activities until the viral atmosphere improves.

Boo at the Barn

The Table broke out of its six-month quarantine with a get-together at Craig and Cheryl Wright’s barn. The event was held outdoors, and we all enjoyed the 60-70-degree afternoon and evening. Our Hosts prepared a fajita dinner with all the trimmings and plenty of adult beverages.



The event was special, allowing us to visit, face-to-face with dear friends we have missed for the past half-year. All who attended marked this night as one of those “special” evenings.



Kudos to Craig and Cheryl and their johnny-on-the-spot crew of Charles Hankins and Marcia Mandel. Job well done.

Almost Famous Chili Cook-Off

Texas is well known for Chili and the San Antonio Table's somewhat annual Chili Cook-Off ranks right up there with the Terlingua Chili Cook-Off held annually in the West Texas Big Bend area. There are a few differences, Terlingua has hundreds of entries with trailer size cooking "arenas" and is known World-Wide. Ours had nine entries cooking in crock pots and is known among a couple of dozen people, but still...

Selections were varied from very meaty to almost vegan. Everyone attending tasted all (or at least could) and voted for their favorite.



The wine cork vote tally was officiated by our hostess Patty McNeil and when the smoke cleared and Tums or Roloids were handed out, the winners were declared. First place went to Randy and Julie Goodrich, second to Jim and Dee Benjamin and Third to Wayne McNeil and Laurie Foley. Congrats to all the chefs who participated and extra antacids to the winners.



1st – Randy & Julie Goodrich



2nd – Jim & Dee Benjamin



3rd – Wayne McNeil & Laurie Foley

An extra tip of the tricorn to Patty McNeil for putting the shindig together and a special thanks to Mary Laxson, her right-hand helper for the evening.



Great view of Canyon Lake at the Chili Cook-Off,
Next door from the Goodrich's balcony.

Upcoming Activities:

Until further notice, we will all sit at home and listen to "Asleep At The Wheel".

Sun Coast

Captain: Virg "Phantom" Mellott
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Hello Brothers from the very warm Sun Coast of Florida. As most all of you know, we again have had zero activity during this reporting period due to Covid-19 and our usual no activity period for July and August due to several of our Brothers who travel north to their summer homes out of the Florida heat. Florida was one of the first states that has been 100% open in bars and restaurants, however many restaurants have only opened to 75% capacity. None, however, have allowed large groups to occupy private party rooms, and all require masks to even enter a restaurant. We, therefore, have not had any happy hours or tip-a-few get together. A couple of our Brothers have not left their house since this past February!

In November we have planned a picnic at a little water front park called Jiggs Landing to be hosted by John (The Crab) and Mariann D'Alusio, Where we will hold our annual business meeting and elect a new Table Captain. Virg (Phantom) Mellott is retiring after three (3) years of holding this position.

We are planning a Sun Coast Table Christmas party on December 5th. This will be our mini-ZAF since we are not holding our annual Little Pirates Christmas ZAF after 30 straight years of hosting that event.

That is all the news for now from the Gulf Coast of Florida. Hopefully, the next report will be chocked full of events to report. We are all looking forward to having our monthly happy hours and getting to get to know each other again after this long time of separation. Stay healthy and keep your distance from large crowds.

ORZA

Virg (Phantom) Mellott
Captain