

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

A new year is upon us and the past is hopefully behind us. The pandemic is still ever present, but a light is visible on the horizon. Many of us are now receiving vaccines and soon we should be able to get out of the harbor. This does not mean we do not have to practice social distancing and wear masks, but it reduces the chance of catching someone's foul air. Oh, the days of racing. Sadly, many of us have had people in our group become ill and some have passed. We recently lost Roselyn to COVID and a handful of brothers around the world. Please be careful in your activities.

That said, let us get this party started. I have been in contact with some of the Chesapeake Bay brothers and we are considering having the captain's meeting during June. This may be a little premature, but if possible, it will be only captains and first alternates. Captives are optional and the meeting

place will be small. No formal Zaf this year. I had plans to travel to Canada later this year, but they have closed their borders until 2022. The current United States requirements are causing many to not be able to travel internationally just yet. If we can get there, we may not get home. The world may be flat after all.

The 2022 World Zaf is on everyone's mind and we have been working on some type of resolution. Currently, the April date is probably not going to be feasible. Maybe if things are better by early next year, we can do something in the Fall. I have a zoom meeting with the Brussels BOC this month and will fill them in on the status.

Here at home many tables have been continually active and are finding ways to keep the brotherhood afloat. Here in Houston, the brothers meet monthly for Sundowners and have scheduled a boating event every weekend thru May. I am hopeful that the world will soon be ours for exploring, but with a few new rules.

Orza!

Richard Hoekstra aka Pescador

National Captain BOC USA

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“Borrowed” Wisdom

There are three types of people.
Those who are alive,
those who are dead, and
those who are at sea.

Anacharsis

We sang together on the wide sea,
Like men at peace on a peaceful shore;
Each sail was loosed to the wind so free,
Each helm made sure by the twilight star.

Robert Browning from “*The Wanderers*”



Sam and Roselyn Britton

Taken at Little Pirates Christmas/December 2010

The “*First Watch*” wants to honor the passing of Roselyn Britton and celebrate her as one of our finest. Roselyn crossed the bar on February 5, 2021.

In his notification to the Tables, John D’Alusio wrote “...Roselyn had been in poor health of late after relocating to Texas to be closer to her two sons. She suffered a fall at her son Eric’s home in Garland, Texas, requiring surgery and hospitalization. Roselyn’s recovery was further complicated by the contraction of Covid-19. In combination with underlying pathologies, Roselyn succumbed to a confluence of health issues...the special contribution she made to the BOC as First Lady of the US Brotherhood from 1998-2002, as well as her unwavering devotion to her late husband Sam (aka Great Blue), and the entire worldwide BOC family.”

May fair winds and following seas speed her journey. We all will miss her.

Chesapeake Bay



Captain: Mark "El Maestro" Eller
svmaraj@yahoo.com

Ally and I would like to give out our heartfelt thanks to the members of the San Antonio table for their kind and warm welcome that they gave us when we visited back in December. Ally's father illness was determined to be terminal, so we took a trip amid the COVID restrictions to see him before he passed. On that visit we were the guest for dinner at the home of Brother Monty "Python" and Audrey Rogers. Also, in attendance that evening were Brothers "Joker" Bill Streep and his mate Jan, and "OSO" Charlie Hankins and Marcia. We had a fantastic evening sharing stories of the Brotherhood.



As it turned out Ally's father passed just a day after we returned back to Virginia. So once again we traveled back to Texas for his funeral. On that occasion Brother "OSO" opened his home for Ally and me as well as for my son and his wife. They made us feel very welcome and made the whole experience much easier to deal with. They showed us the true meaning of the Brotherhood.

Peter Briggs "Tortuga"
Flag 709



A Message from the New Chesapeake Bay Table Captain.

Greeting and Happy New Year,

I hope that this message finds you well and healthy! Along with many I am happy to see 2020 in the rear view. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly taken its toll on us all. We have missed our monthly Tip O' Few gatherings as well as the National Zaf that the Chesapeake table was planning for June last year. Hopefully, we will emerge from this soon as the vaccine becomes available to all. Our table Captain in waiting is elected two years in advance for a two-year term as the baton is handed over to the incoming Captain during a ceremony in January. I relieved our outgoing Captain Brother Eric "Roux Ga Roux" Matherne and we elected Brother Peter "Tortuga" Biggs to succeed me at the end of my term.

We are looking forward to returning to something closer to normal this year and have already started planning for our annual Raftarancho with our Brethren from the northern Chesapeake Bay this summer. Please stay safe, we look forward to seeing many of you in the coming year.

ORZA,
Mark Eller
"El Maestro"
Captain – Chesapeake Bay Table

Corpus Christi

Captain: Bob "Walrus" Weber
rsddw4858@gmail.com



Unfortunately, not much has changed. The Corpus Christi Table is still pretty much settled into insolation, well sort of.

Some bubbles are larger than others, depending on work requirements or the number of grandchildren. We have had no major get togethers but hope that in a few months people will be more willing to have face to face get togethers (masks and social distance?).

Some Brothers get out more than others, but no one is running amok. We were blessed to get both vaccine shots along with several Brothers, but we have not changed our routine.

From the Walrus dinghy:

We began planning an escape early summer and went to Cabo San Lucas in November. We had friends who had been there and came back with good reports. Flew Southwest, blocked middle seats, no problems. Stayed at the Hard Rock Resort. They are on top of this since they depend on tourists having a good experience.

Every employee we saw, from the managers to the lifeguards and gardeners were always wearing masks. Any employee involved in food service - restaurants, snack bars, or pool service, always had masks and plastic gloves on. When you entered a restaurant, they had a bottle of sanitizer and you got a shot on your hands. They had masks available to be sure you had one on or if you wanted a new one.

We cannot say enough about how seriously they are taking this and what a great job they did. I wish all restaurants here followed the procedures closer.

But the Holidays were uneventful and rather dull. We did not have out of town company, did not go anywhere, no big parties just small groups. But was glad to see 2020 end. Although it looks like we are going to watching Covid into 2021.

A boating note: Mike Kneale "Salty Limey" is overhauling raw water pumps and heat exchanges on his boat – Anything to stay busy!!

"2 Brothers Brewing" (Salty Limey & Paul Froeschner "Flash") continue to brew and drink beer. Currently on tap they have: 'Old Peculier' (*sic*), 'Kilt Lifter', and 'Brotherhood Plunder'. All are available for consumption on-premises (social distancing enforced) or for take away. Cannot ship!!

We were happy to hear from our only cruising Brother SoloNoMo:

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

Well, again we are still sitting in a slip at Shelter Bay Marina. This is by far the longest that we have stayed in one place since leaving Port Aransas, Texas in early 2017. We have seen a light, and hopefully it is the end of this tunnel. We hope to be leaving here and heading to Bocas del Toro soon. It will be nice to get on the hook again. Bocas is currently one of the new hot spots for the CCP virus but hopefully it will calm down soon.

We did have an adventure about a week ago. We helped friends take their 42' Leopard (catamaran) thru the Panama Canal to the Pacific side. Carrie and I, along with another couple, were line handlers /crew/ monkey fist dodgers on the passage. It is an interesting trip and we feel fortunate for having had the opportunity to do it with friends. Maybe we will make the trip across with Griffin someday but there are still places we want to see on this side.



Heading under the Colon bridge to the Gatun Locks



A bit weird to have a ship coming up behind you in a lock



One of the last locks on the Pacific side



ORZA!!!

Anyway, that is about all the update that we have for now. It has been a weird six months, but we are still having fun. Hope all is well with all the brothers and their families. Take care and stay well.

ORZA!!!

Ken & Carrie....aka: SoloNoMo & captive)
s/v Griffin

We wish them both fair winds and following seas.

“He who would keep himself busy, let him equip himself with these two, a ship and a woman. For no two things involve more business once you start to fit them out, nor are these two ever sufficiently adorned, nor is any excess of adornment enough for them.”

Titus Maccius Plautus, 254-184 BC

Walrus / Bob Weber

Captain Corpus Christi Table

ORZAAA!!!

Houston

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

Hi and Orza from the Houston Table. Although the virus has prevented us from doing much of what we would have liked to do, there were still opportunities to get together.

We were able to support Port Arthur Yacht Club's efforts to help our boating friends in Lake Charles who were devastated by two hurricanes. Some of us took our boats to Pleasure Island Marina for a weekend party and events to raise money to help them out. We understand that the event raised a lot of money for them.

After some delay because of timing, we were able to induct Gary Cryer as an Engage of the Houston Table.

The holiday highlight was our area Christmas Boat Parade. The weather was perfect, the parade was larger than usual, and Brothers took part by boat and by land-based parties.

Unfortunately, Covid hornswaggled us out of our Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year Eve parties. We look forward to resuming these events in the fall... and hope to have a 2021 Party to get our new year started.

New York

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



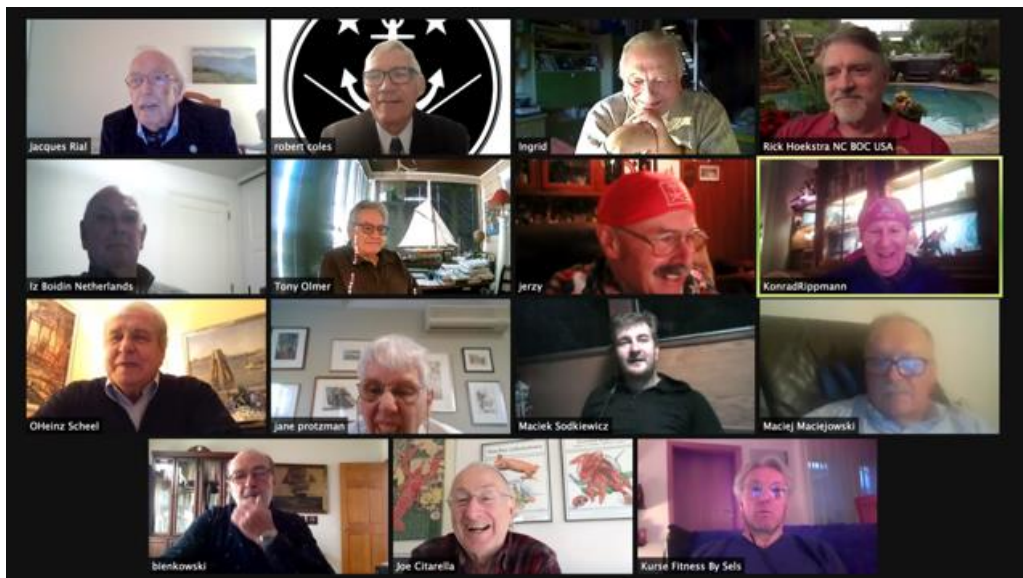
Zoom Zafs:

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. The discussions vary from installing refrigeration on a sailboat, renovating, and painting your kitchen, recipes, international sailing races and our own pandemic challenges.





Introducing IZoom Zafs:



The NY Table, along with Heinz Scheel (Germany) and Jerzy Paleolog (Poland) facilitated our first Zoom Zaf for international Brothers on January 10. That was our first organizing meeting with 20 participants. Recognizing the time differences, the Zaf started at 1100 hrs. EST, allowing our European Brothers to participate at a reasonable time.

Everyone agreed that this was a good start and we are meeting again to further refine details on how to proceed. We all were pleased to see old friends and make new ones during the Zaf. We are now looking forward to our next IZoom Zaf on February 7 with 6 European countries participating.

Zooming has introduced a new communications technology which easily allows Brothers around the world to stay in touch and enhance Brotherly interactions, transcending distances electronically. Zooming may be a key tool to strengthen the bonds which bind Brothers together.

From our southern branch:



Paul Gudelis and Ed Krumreich sent us a fish along with holiday greetings from St. Augustine.

We received the following piece from our Connecticut Correspondent, Tony "Rascal" Olmer, about his following the Vendee-Globe race.

As some of you know I have been glued to the progress of the Vendée Globe single handed race. Sailing IMOCA 60s (*more on that later*) from a fishing village "Les Sables-d'Olonne" on the Atlantic coast of France around the world and back, some 24,000 nautical miles. I find it extraordinary to be sitting at my desk in my warm dry office and be part of what is going on in the Southern Ocean, a rugged and desolate place indeed.

I knew about the three Capes being the gateway to the Oceans. Cape of Good Hope southwest tip of Africa the gateway to the Indian Ocean. Cape Leeuwin southwest corner of Australia the gateway to the Pacific, and of course Cape Horn southernmost tip of South America the gateway to the Atlantic. There are some desolate islands down there, the Kerguelen Islands, Heard, Spitsbergen [JJ's correction. *Spitsbergen is midway between continental Norway and the North Pole*], Pitcairn Island to name a few. What I did not know is that there is a place down in the Southern Ocean called "Point Nemo" named after Jules Verne's Captain Nemo meaning "no man". What is that I thought! So, I Googled it. It is the location in the ocean that is farthest from land. At more than 1,000 miles from civilization in all direction latitude 48°52.6'S, longitude 123°23.6'W, the closest people would be the Astronauts orbiting in the space station! A good place to isolate from Covid-19.

"Not even the man who discovered Point Nemo has ever visited it. In 1992, survey engineer Hrvoje Lukatela located the point in the ocean that was farthest away from any land using a computer program that calculated the coordinates that were the greatest distance from three equidistant land coordinates. It is very possible no human has ever passed through those coordinates at all (*except of course for the Vendée Globe and other circumnavigators*). As for non-human inhabitants, there are not very many of those around Point Nemo either. The coordinates are located within the South Pacific Gyre: an enormous rotating current that prevents nutrient-rich water from flowing into the area. Without any food sources, it is impossible to sustain any life in this part of the ocean other than the bacteria and small crabs that live near the volcanic vents on the seafloor." (*paragraph By Gina Dimuro*)

Wikipedia defines "the IMOCA 60. (Open 60), as a development class monohull sailing yacht administered by the **I**nternational **M**onohull **O**pen **C**lass **A**ssociation (IMOCA). The class pinnacle event is single or two-person ocean races, such as the Route du Rhum and the Vendée Globe and this has been intimately linked to design development within the class.

This class is of open design, which means the boat is measurement controlled and therefore designers have freedom within the rules. Design restrictions include the length, between 59 and 60 feet (18 meters) and maximum draft of 15 feet (4.5 meters). There are no explicit restrictions on beam, mast height or sail area although these are all indirectly controlled by flotation and self-righting capability requirements. The rules also tackle safety and survival design and equipment. This class is recognized by World Sailing."

Made of carbon fiber, they are light and strong and support a modified cutter rig with spreaders down on the deck. They are noisy, have violent motion and are very wet due to speed. The basic boat can reach speeds over 20 knots. Some of the newer IMOCAs with foils can reach speeds over 30 knots. At that speed and flying down a wave they do not go over the next wave they go through it. These boats have canting keels and dagger boards allowing for better stability. Most IMOCAs are tiller steered but they have very sophisticated self-steering systems that can outperform a human. They are totally self-contained and can stay out for 3 months or more, though IMOCAs have gone around the world in less than 80 days. If you have intentions of buying one new, it will set you back \$4.5 million, but what the hell you only live once.

An interesting point: Because of the canting keel if you need to go up the mast you can lay the boat down in the middle of the ocean and walk up the mast. How convenient is that!

Note: this is an older boat with standard spreaders



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

JungleJane #28

**Make sure to see the information about the
[ZOOMARRANCHO](#)
Saturday, March 6, at 5:00 pm EST.
You will find it in the “Coming Attractions” area of the
First Watch.**

San Antonio

Captain: Monty "Python" Rogers

bocus148@gmail.com

Purser: David "Pilgrim" Overpeck

The San Antonio Table has decided that 2020 did not happen and we keep looking for a fresh start in 2021. Fresh, maybe, different, absolutely. Weather was what was on everyone's mind for a week during the middle of February.

Temperatures dropped to below freezing on Saturday, February 13 and stayed that way for a week (with three days having temps creep above 32 degrees). Sunday temps dropped to 13 and Monday fell to 9 degrees. Folks, that is cold in San Antonio. It has been colder, dropped to zero in 1949, but 9 degrees is NOT a "dry" cold. Speaking of dry, snow started Sunday and Monday, the Alamo City had a little under 4" of the white stuff. Snowed again on Thursday the 18th, another 2.5 inches.

I know, no big deal for folks in the New York Table and others along the eastern seaboard, but our average temperature in February is 44 (low) to 68 (high) degrees, and no snow.

Your Texas Brothers were not prepared for this. Many suffered power outages for long periods of time and broken water pipes were also a byproduct.

Much of the woes were due to the Texas power grid not being able to handle the increased demands added to mechanical failures in the electrical supply system itself. Add to these problems, many water systems were overworked due to the leaking and broken pipes causing large areas to lose water service.

Things were worse in rural areas where many systems simply froze-up.

Things were even harsher for several Brothers who live north and west of San Antonio in New Braunfels, Canyon Lake and Bandera where temperature were even lower.

But there is a silver lining, scoop up a cup of that snow, add rum and enjoy the fireplace.



HELP!!!

Upcoming Activities:

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



HIDDEN TREASURE

TRAILER TRASH

2010



***If you would like to share "Hidden Treasure" from your Table,
please forward a few photos to Monty. Thanks, Audrey***

Sun Coast Sun Coast

Incoming Captain: Joe “Flaco” Vermeren

gypsyjoe123@gmail.com

Outgoing Captain: Virg “Phantom” Mellott

mellottvirg@gmail.com

Amidst the ongoing Covid scare, we finally got the Table together at an outdoor picnic sponsored by John (The Crab) D’Alusio and Captive Mariann Murphy held at Jiggs Landing. It is a small lakeside park on the shore of Ward Lake fed by the Braden River in Bradenton, FL. We had 23 members attend and had a great time getting to know each other again after seven months of hiding from the nasty Covid virus. Lots of good food and lots to talk about after the long separation. We also took the opportunity to hold a brief business meeting and elect a new Table Captain, Joe (Flaco) Vermeren. After a little strong arming, a few threats, and cajoling, Joe volunteered to take the lead of our small Table into the next couple of years.





December brought us into the Christmas season. We planned a Christmas party at the clubhouse in the community where Virg (Phantom) and Kathie Mellott reside. Signup for the holiday party was slow and the closer we got to the planned date several of the members who said they would attend, or were on the maybe list, decided not to attend, again due to Covid. So, the five of us who still had committed to attending cancelled the affair.

Also, in December, Monty (Python) Rogers and his captive Audrey were in town to visit their daughter Lori for the Christmas Holiday. They had a fantastic Mexican food spread and lots of liquid refreshments and invited our Table to come and enjoy the treats at Lori's house in Bradenton, FL. Thank you Monty and Audrey, and of course Lori, for the use of her house and yard for this fun little get together.





No plans for any Tip-A-Few gatherings are in the works right now for January or February. Hopefully, our new Captain Joe (Flaco) Vermeren and his partner Julie can come up with fun activities soon.

ORZA

Virg "Phantom" Mellott
Captain



The New York Table

Invites you to a

ZOOMARRANCHO

Saturday, March 6, at 5:00 pm EST

Fuhgeddaboutit!!!

We will start promptly at 5:00 pm with a 30-minute video presentation about the many journeys we have shared together followed by an open Zoom event.

If you feel creative, prepare a short skit of your own, and share your screen with us.

Please RSVP no later than March 4 to

Theo Olmer at

theoolmer@gmail.com

She will send you the Zoom ID and password

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on the 6th!

Orza!