

First Watch

US 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, again much has changed in our lives and in our world. We are seeing progress in the fight of COVID-19 with over 50% of Texas adults vaccinated. The face mask rule from the CDC has changed and those vaccinated can begin to interact with others in a more normal manner. We as a group of post sexagenarians still need to be careful and use common sense. That said, we have had a flurry of activity since the spring began. During May we had a group of Chile ambassadors visit several tables in the US. They visited with me in Houston, and we had a wonderful time. The Chileans are extremely excited about the 2022 Zaf and so we will be making some decisions very soon. On that note, I have scheduled a Captains meeting for the weekend of August 20-22 in Grandy, NC. There will not be a Zaf associated with this meeting due to the size of the venue, so only captains and seconds will be attending. Wives are welcome but

space is limited. The official announcement should be out at the time of this publication.

I am excited that soon we will be back to the “new” normal. The Houston and Chesapeake tables recently inducted new members and our brotherhood continues to grow and prosper. I am planning to begin traveling again in the Fall of this year and hope to be able to visit a number of brothers. I am planning a trip to Sweden and Europe in the Fall of 2022. I will be visiting brothers in Switzerland primarily, but we are still planning. I hope everyone can start to move about and enjoy life again. Please be careful and say a prayer for our brothers who are battling illness.

Remember, “Life’s roughest storms prove the strength of our anchors”.

Love of the Sea must be the Cult of Your Day.

Orza! Happy Summer

Richard Hoekstra aka Pescador

National Captain BOC USA

The First Watch

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***The First Watch* Page of “Borrowed” Wisdom**

Half a mile out, where is the reef, the white-headed combers thrust suddenly skyward out of the placid turquoise-blue and come rolling in to shore.

One after another they come, a mile long, with smoking crests, the white battalions of the infinite army of the sea.

Jack London,
From *The Cruise of the Snark*, 1913

A singular disadvantage of the sea lies in the fact that after successfully surmounting one wave, you discover that there is another behind it just as important and just as nervously anxious to do something effective in the way of swamping boats.

Stephan Crane,
from *The Open Boat*, 1898

Chesapeake Bay



Captain: Mark "El Maestro" Eller
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Our Brothers that traveled south for the winter have started their journeys back to the Chesapeake Bay. With each passing day they are getting closer and closer to being back home. Those of us that are not able to travel south for the winter have been living vicariously through the pictures and notes that they have been posting on social media. It

makes us long for the day when we can join them. The COVID issue has kept us from getting together live and in person. Just about all of us have had our vaccines at this stage so as a table we have begun planning on in person Tip-A-Few's once again. Our first was in May.

Other upcoming events for the Chesapeake Bay Table is our Memorial Day raft up in the East River off Mobjack bay. It is a very nice anchorage, a favorite spot for many sailors on the southern Chesapeake Bay, not just for the BOC, so we will have plenty of company. The 2021 Raftarancho is also still planned, this being a joint event with our Solomon Table Brothers. The Raftarancho is set for June 17th -June 19th.

Several of the Chesapeake Bay Brothers also go on a Summer Solstice cruise that will start the weekend before the Raftarancho and will continue through the week after. We will have much more to share with everyone in the third edition of the First Watch.

Corpus Christi

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



Parts of the Corpus Table have been marooned on a sandbar in the Bay. Not much happening. We hope to escape the sandbar and begin Tricorn adventures soon. April slipped by like an eel / as if you've ever tried to hold an eel.

From m/v Rhumb Runner (Bruce & Melissa....aka: Speedy & captive):

Not much going on, except the start of racing season at CCYC. This weekend we were race committee for the 2-day Port Aransas regatta. We had quite the time on the Port A marina docks. I won the wet t shirt contest by falling in while attempting to board another vessel. Sunday ride back was beautiful.

Cheers,
Brad



A boating note: Salty Limey is still working on his Chris Craft Launch (Again). It's time for Annual Spring once-over; with twin Volvo engines and sterndrives, that's twice the maintenance and then there is all that teak, gelcoat and painted hull to get Bristol fashion– It never ends!!

"2 Brothers Brewing" (Salty Limey & Flash) continue to brew and drink beer. They currently have the perennial favorite, "Old Peculier", plus Brotherhood Plunder and a Burton Ale in the serving kegerator. The next brew will be the 2 Brothers Lager, a most excellent quaff. Salty and Flash are hoping for a get together to share the fruits of their labors.

We were happy to hear from our only cruising Brother SoloNoMo:
Update from s/v Griffin (Ken & Carrie....aka: SoloNoMo & captive):
ORZA!!!

Griffin and crew finally departed Shelter Bay Marina at the Caribbean end of the Panama Canal on March 27th. It was a great passage to Bocas del Toro, Panama. We left the breakwater about 0930 and sailed all day and night on a beam to broad reach with a 15 kt breeze. When the sun went down the full moon came up on our stern. We were traveling to the west, so it stayed with us and set off our bow just before daybreak. The wind quit with the sunrise, so we motored the last 20 nm.

Bocas is beautiful with so many options. Bocas Town has a great feel as a laidback beach town. The Red Frog Marina / Resort area on Isla Bastimentos has a nice anchorage and you can access the resort area and beautiful beaches.

We just spent a week anchored in Dolphin Bay at the south end of Isla San Cristobal all alone with no other boat in sight. It was wonderful, especially after being in a marina for sooooo long. There are countless places to get away if you want or party with others when the mood strikes. When we left Texas, I mentioned that one of my goals was to find a replacement for my favorite anchorage, Ingleside Cove. Well, after four years and many anchorages, this area may be it. Time will tell. There is so much to see!

ORZA!!!

SoloNoMo & Carrie
s/v Griffin

We wish them both fair winds and following seas.



"Not all who wander are lost."
-J.R.R. Tolkien

Walrus / Bob Weber
Captain Corpus Christi Table

ORZAAA!!!

New York

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



Zoom Zafs:

We have continued to have weekly New York Table Zoom Zafs every Saturday. They are at 5 pm EDT. We invite you to join us; just send me an email indicating your interest. That was the first sentence in the previous issue of First Watch. Within days I got an email introducing us to the Portuguese Brothers who expressed interest in joining us Saturday, March 7. Since the following day was our Third International Zoom Zaf they joined us again. We continue to enjoy their company and many Brothers and Mates from across the Atlantic. Each month the participation expands. We have seen photos of ice sailing in Switzerland, sailing on a reproduction of a 15th Century Portuguese Caravel, duty on a Polish rescue patrol boat in the Baltic and the restoration of a trading ship in Germany.

At the April 11 International Zoom Zaf, after hearing from each country, Brothers watched a video. Tony, with the keen eye of Theo, has created a 30-minute video of our Brotherhood experiences over the years. It was created from many images from many of us of not only US events but also at international Zafs and was initially made to be shown for a Zoomarrancho for US Brothers. It has been so successful that it was shown at last Sunday's International Zoom Zaf to over 25 Brothers in other countries. As it was very well received it will be made available through their National Captains.

Here are some comments we have received.

From my point of view, I am interested in inviting different Polish Brothers (Captains, Vigias, Scribes) to show them "the international spirit of Brotherhood). Of course, I am ready to ask Polish Brothers to make a presentation.

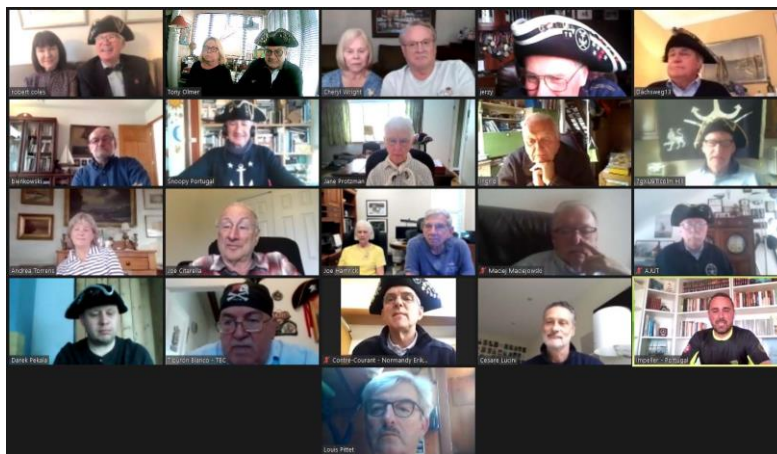
No online meeting can ever substitute a real ZAF, but in these days we simply don't have the choice. And even if Corona will be history there still is a large number of Brothers who for various reasons don't have the possibility to travel long distances but might be interested in the International Brotherhood.

The final discussion about the BOC principles was useful and interested for me. Perhaps it would be necessary to meet in a smaller group and talk about these principles; how do these principles function and how they should function at the contemporary world; tradition, opportunities, threats, challenges.

This has been a wonderful zoom meeting. Brilliant how Robert puts in pictures from discussed boats in a second. Tony's work on historical Brotherhood events was magnificent. Thank you all for living our Brotherhood under different circumstances.

I loved to get closer connected with the Portugal Brothers. We hardly can't wait to meet them personally.

... watched your video tonight. It was emotional! Not to mention how many hours must have gone into its production, it was truly a trip down memory lane. It also whetted my appetite to see so many people again! I am looking forward to May! I had almost forgotten the feelings when we all get together! Again, congrats on a great video, Tony!



April 11 International Zoom Zaf

On Sunday May 2 we hosted Brothers from 8 countries in Europe, with Brothers joining us from Belgium. Next step will be to organize a Pacific version, reaching out to Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Tahiti.

The following is an editorial from Tony Olmer:

Sunday, March 6, 2021, the date of the first US Zoomarrancho hosted by the New York Table.

Does anyone remember that date? I'm not surprised since sadly only a handful of Brothers and Mates attended the event. It started with a 30-minute video taking us through a journey down memory lane; US Brothers at Zafs, both here and abroad over many years, followed by an open Zoom event. During the pandemic a chance to see each other would be a welcome opportunity.

Conversely, our international Zoom Zafs have received great interest and enthusiasm from Brothers around the world. It is necessary to keep in mind that we are a group of sailors, lovers of the sea, dedicated to each other and bound by an Octalog. It is understandable that due to other commitments Brothers cannot attend all events. It is, however, discouraging to see the lack of passion that is appearing in our US fraternity.

The pandemic restricted our ability to get together, but the problem appeared to exist prior to it. The confinement offered a unique opportunity for us to maintain contact with each other through Zoom. It is now evident that Zoom will continue after the pandemic allowing us to continue to keep in contact with our international Brothers. I do not want to be the voice of doom and gloom, but the lack of enthusiasm is discouraging.

We have posted the video "A Journey Down Memory Lane" on YouTube. Remember the good times we all shared together and with those Brothers and Mates no longer with us. Take a look; we welcome your comments.

<https://youtu.be/m8ZBEZsIP6I>

The Rascal



The BOscar awarded to Tony Olmer.

We have not had a full in person Zaf since February 29, 2020. We look forward to the next one on Saturday, June 12 in the yard of Chris and Marie. It will a continuation of our tradition of June Clam Zaf's. Come and join us if you are in our neighborhood.

Respectfully submitted, and with help from the NYTable Brothers and Mates.

JungleJane #28



San Antonio

Captain: Monty "Python" Rogers

bocus148@gmail.com

Purser: David "Pilgrim" Overpeck

It's time to come out of the dark and enjoy the light of day...more importantly, the company of some of our best friends, our Brothers and their Captives. As the Covid 19 situation seems to have leveled out the Table decided it was again time to be, well, Brotherly.

Trailer Trash Breakfast, 2021 style

San Antonio canceled Fiesta (postponed maybe), the King William Fair Committee canceled the Saturday morning parade, so we decided to kick off our year with a Trailer Trash Breakfast. The Table enjoyed all the same foods and libations and even the same location, Monty and Audrey Rogers back yard. What's your favorite: Egg casseroles, SOS and biscuits, sausage on the grill, fresh fruit, breakfast breads...they were all there along with mimosas and bloody Marys. Probably best of all was a nearly 100% turn-out and the time spent enjoying the company and catching up.

A calendar was assembled for the year and there is already talk of adding more new activities as the year progresses. *See photos below...*

Open House at Mary's new Digs

Back on last year's calendar we had planned for an Open House at Mary Laxson's new home. She had moved from Canyon Lake to New Braunfels and wanted to share her new home with The Table. Then came Covid and her Open House was canceled, well postponed.

When we were building our 2021 calendar Mary suggested we try again and we did, and it was wonderful.

Not only did we enjoy her beautiful new home with her she put out a catered spread we all enjoyed. Any time Mary wants to do this again, OK by us...I think we have time in November.

Trailer Trash Breakfast 2021!! Ole!



Great time with wonderful friends... Whew! Hostess is out of practice!

Night at the Dooryard

Recently a new restaurant and taproom opened. A new restaurant and taproom is nothing special except it is a little unusual to those who don't drink beer and it is owned by a San Antonio Engage, Jason Meredith. Jason has 30 beers on tap and it is self-service and you buy your selections by the ounce. Perfect for tasting something new...and they all are new or different, mostly new or local or upcoming breweries. No name brand ads here. Other non-beer libations are available.

We selected "steak" night and most of us enjoyed the chargrilled ribeye. Other selections were available. Definitely something off the radar for the Table.



Chilean Brothers Visit the Alamo City

San Antonio was one of the planned stops for a group of Chilean Brothers on a two week tour of the US. Their travels started in Atlanta, with stops at Tables in Savannah, Sun Coast, Houston and after San Antonio on to Corpus Christi. The four were from three tables around the central Chilean coastal city of Concepcion, about 310 miles south of Santiago.

Upon their arrival, they were welcomed roadside and they were shown to the Canyon Lake home of Jim and Dee Benjamin where they were treated to a Cajun Crawfish boil. Many ORZAs were shared along with the appropriate consumption of adult beverages.

Our guests were billeted with Brothers and the following morning we gathered in downtown San Antonio to view some of the “rain soaked” sites. An appropriate lunch was enjoyed at Margaritaville. A small group gathered that night for steaks at the home of Bill and Jan Streep.

Monday morning the group traveled to Corpus Christi to continue their Texas leg of their adventures.



See all photos at
<https://photonotions.smugmug.com/BOC/BOC-Crawfish-Boil-2021/n-VttcN>

Upcoming Activities:

~~June 29 — Shrimpfest at the Vineyard — Patty McNeil's home~~
~~July 20 — Pool Party — Greenspring Valley Pool — Rogers'~~
~~August 16-18 — National Captain's meeting — New York~~
~~September (Date TBA) — Dinner with Charles and Marsha — Hankins' home~~
~~October 12 — Weinfest at David and Sissi's home~~
~~November 9 — Game night — Sasser's Barn~~
~~December 21 — Cowboy Christmas Party — Wright's Barn~~

~~Throughout the summer, impromptu raft-ups on Canyon Lake~~
~~And of course, First Thursday EVERY first Thursday of the month~~

June 19 th	Road Trip – Off to Austin for the Bulloch Texas History Museum to see the preservation of La Bella then lunch at the Hula Hut on Lake Austin.
July 25 th	Brunch/Pool Party at Patrick & Wren Mills'
August (date TBA)	Co-Op event with Corpus Christi Table – Raft-up at Ingleside area
September 25 th	Soup Cook-Off at Patty McNeil's
October 16 th	Lawn Hydro Races at Dick and Sara Eckerman's
October 21 st	Italian Night at Frank & Shelby Simonini's
November 4 th	Sissy's Specials at David Overpeck's and Sissi Lewis'
December 4 th or 5 th	Christmas Dinner on the River
January 8 th , 2022	Open Grill/Planning Meeting at the Rogers'
February 13 th 2022	Super Bowl Party at Bandera Bob Wills'

Solomons Island

Captain: Al "Gunner" Redfield
dauntless2@att.net



The Solomons Table held their first business meeting of 2021 along with a Tip-A-Few on April 18th. This was the first in-person event the table has held in over a year. A good "safe" time was had by all.

Solomons Table May TAF. It was held May 11th at Solomons Pier overlooking the Patuxent River. The Table welcomed special guests Eric and Jacque Matherne from the Chesapeake Table who are on a 5 week cruise of the Bay.



Upcoming Events:

- A great schedule of Tip-A-Fews for the summer and fall is set-up.
- Raftarrancho – Chesapeake Bay (June 17, 18, 19th)

A healthy contingent of Brothers and Mates from the Solomons Table are looking forward to meeting up with their Brothers from the Chesapeake Bay Table in June at the Raftarrancho at Indian Creek.

Currently 18 boats are scheduled to meet up. An induction is planned for a new Brother from the Solomons Table on Friday (June 18) afternoon at 4pm with a few ORZAs and dinner to follow.

Sun Coast Sun Coast

Captain: Joe "Flaco" Vermeren
gypsyjoe123@gmail.com

Reunited

After a very long period of Covid 19 semi-isolation, the Sun Coast Table had its first Happy Hour Soirée of the year on April 21 at The Pier 22 Marina Restaurant. The weather was wonderful, although perhaps a little more breeze than absolutely necessary, after all we were not sailing. We had outside tables overlooking the beautiful Manatee River and downtown Bradenton.

Happy hour prices were in effect, which meant we started earlier and stayed longer. Most of us had a light dinner, although a few went all the way (The Full Monty). The grub was much better than a pirate would expect and was enjoyed almost as much as the company, which included:

Marge Hadley
Joe & Claudia Hamrick
Bonnie Sagan
Jann Mink
Bobby & Elaine Cohen
John D'Alusio
Duck & Betty Conard

Tom & Jacky Radcliffe
Virgil & Kathy Mellot
Roger & Judy Meyer
Bette Frick
Judy Nofs
Steve and Jean Herb
Joe Vermeren & Julie Smith





Captain Joe has scheduled a monthly get together for the rest of the year, and we all are looking forward to being with each other on a more regular basis than the past 14 months.

In mid May we are looking forward to a visit from 4 of our Chilean Brothers and have a full schedule of events planned for their visit. Many of us intend to resume traveling ourselves this summer. It has certainly been an “interesting” past 14 months! Our Table is looking forward to seeing Brothers and Captives of other Tables, whether here or around the country.

Stay Safe and be Well!
ORZA
Steve (Falcon) Herb