

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

My how time flies. We are already halfway through 2021 and things are starting to work normally for many of us. The first captain's meeting in two years is this month and even though the agenda is slim, we will be glad to see one another again. The meeting as in the last edition is going to be in Grandy NC at brother Mark Eller's home. There is no Zaf associated with this meeting, but we are testing the waters for a few Zaf's later in the year.

The 2022 World Zaf is on everyone's mind, and we have been working on some type of resolution. We will be discussing the Zaf at the captain's meeting, and hopefully we will have some great ideas.

"To reach a port we must set sail. Sail, not tie at anchor. Sail, not drift."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Love of The Sea Must Be the Cult of Our Days.
Orza!

Richard Hoekstra aka Pescador
National Captain BOC USA

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"Borrowed" Wisdom

**Our fathers water'd with their tears
This sea of time whereon we sail.**

Matthew Arnold, from
"Stanzas from the Grand Chartreuse," 1855

**Now when the raging storms no longer reign,
but southern gales invite us to the main,
we launch our vessels,
with a prosp'rous wind,
and leave the cities and the shores behind.**

Virgil, from
"The Aeneid"



National Captain's Meeting Canceled

The Delta variant of Covid-19 has struck down another victim, the National Captain's Meeting planned for August 21, 2021 and scheduled to be held in Granby, N.C.

In an E-Mail in early August to National Officers and Table Captains, National Captain Rick Hoekstra said:

"I have decided to cancel the Captain's meeting. Texas has been upgraded to level Red as of 10 pm last night. In discussion with several captains and those involved, I have learned that they are concerned about the risks as well. Some of our brothers and friends have experienced this strain firsthand, and it is no picnic. The forecast is showing this spike to be worse than last summer. I am more concerned for the safety of my brothers and loved ones than the desire to see everyone in person. Stay safe and at home.

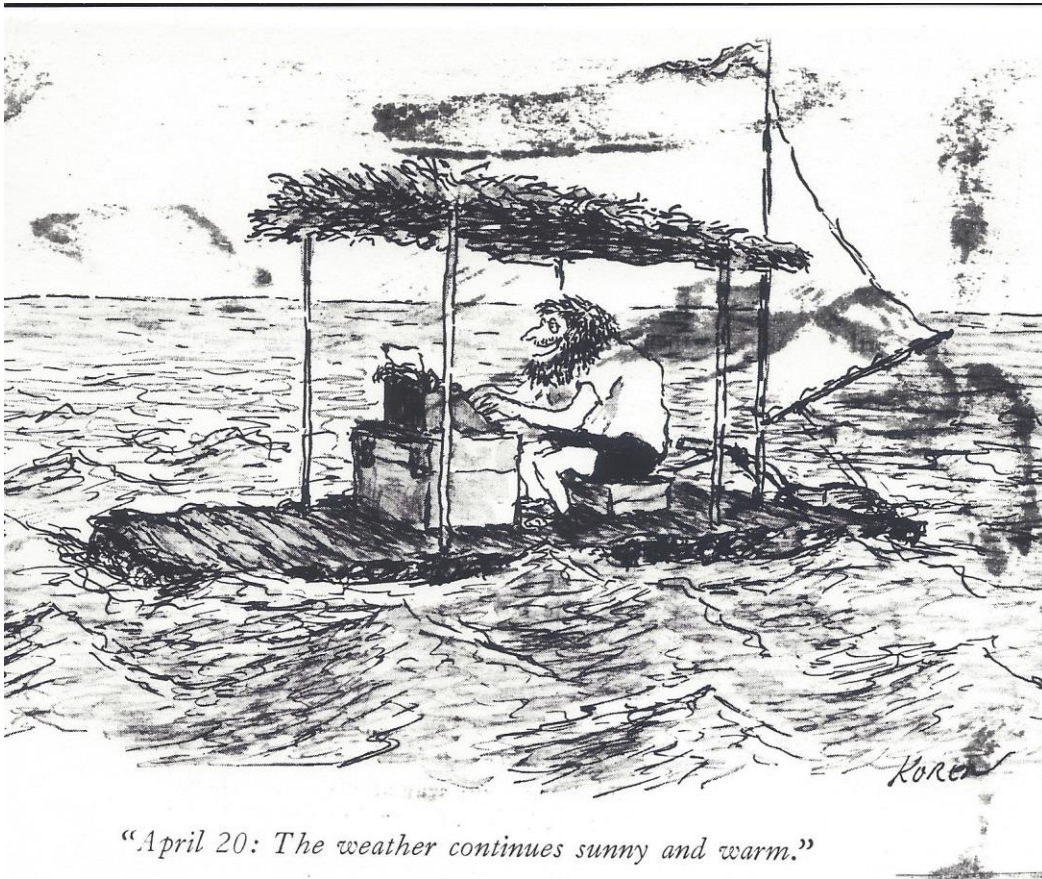
Sincerely,
Rick Hoekstra aka Pescador
National Captain BOC USA"

Items on the agenda will be addressed at a future meeting or in a Zoom Meeting.

STOP the PRESSES!

And now a word from the
Editor

The First Watch Editor at sea.



Thanks to New York's Jungle Jane

Monty "Python" Rogers
First Watch Wrangler
E-mail me at bocus148@gmail.com

Chesapeake Bay



Captain: Mark "El Maestro"
Eller

svmaraj@yahoo.com

Tip A Few

Brother Maine Sheet and his Mate Tracie were the host of our first in person Tip-A-Few in over a year on May 21st. It sure feels good to be together again. It has been a long time coming.



We had over 20 Brothers, Mates, Engage's and Guests in attendance. We had Burgers, Brats and Hotdogs as well as lots of side dishes. Way more food than our group was going to eat. I guess it is better to have too much than not enough. Maine Sheet and Tracie feed a few of us dinner the next night and lunch the day after with the leftovers, as a couple of us went out and made a little raft up. Everything always seems better on the water.

Our Guests in attendance for the evening, Marc & Caryn West and Chad & Leslie White, both of which keep their boats at Rebel Marina. Both couples were a happy addition to our gathering. We even had a visit from Brother Tinker.^s





The Induction of “Slash”

The Chesapeake Table of the BOC made its traditional trip to the East River for Memorial Day. The weather was not predicted to be great on Saturday or Sunday, but many felt that if we got headed out early on Saturday, we could beat the bad weather into the anchorage. Once there we would be well protected and even with a little rain and cold air, we would have a great time. This did prove to be the case as we had a total of 8 Brotherhood boats rafted together. We all got to take a tour of the newest boat in the Brotherhood fleet, currently named Gypsy Blue. It is a fantastic little cruiser owned by Brother Country Boy and his mate Frankie Anne.



We did have an ulterior motive for this particular gathering as well. Keeping with the Chesapeake Bay Table tradition of holding our inductions on the water we felt it was time for our Engage Scott McKinley to lower his “E” flag and remove the Orange. The ceremony was held on Sunday May 30th, with all

the usual pomp and circumstance that always goes with such an auspicious event. The Engage was brought before the host of Brothers. His list of many accomplishments presented. A test of his bravery was made. The Octolog was read, and an oath was taken. In the end Scott



came through now flying his new Black Flag, #714 and taking up his new Battle name "*Slash*" for the red slash that adorns all vessels of the US Coast Guard.

Brother Slash and his Mate Cathy are great additions to the Chesapeake Bay Table and have already shown their willingness to embrace our members, both in our table and of Brothers of other tables that they have visited in their many journeys on their boat M/V Andante.



We finished the night off with a communal dinner and just a wee bit of Rum. Well maybe more than just a wee bit. There is no great group of people that those you will find in the Brotherhood of the Coast.



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.

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

July was the culmination of three years of planning and work as the Chairman of the 2021 J/22 World Championship, hosted by the Corpus Christi Yacht Club. Our volunteers, including my wonderful captive Melissa, worked very hard to make this a special event. We even managed to take our Rhumb Runner out as a spectator boat, and photograph starts and mark rounding.

We'll get to do it all again next year for the 2022 J/24 World Championship.

Cheers, Brad



From Brother Bill Streep “Joker”:

May 2021 – Texas Brothers in Isla Mujeres

The first week of May, 5 Texas Brothers and Captives made our way down from Texas to Isla Mujeres. Isla Mujeres is a small island (about 4 miles long) off the coast of Cancun, north of Cozumel.

The group consisted of Charles “Oso” Hankins and Marcia Mandel (San Antonio), Don “Big Dog” and Peggy Peterson (Houston), John “Sneezy” and Ann Killian (Houston), Al “Tinman” and Kay Waghorne (Houston), and Bill “Joker” and Jan Streep (Corpus Christi). We rented a fabulous 5-bedroom oceanfront house, with a pool and spa and a view to die for!

The first day, Charles, Marcia and Jan provisioned the house with drink, drink, drink, and a little food, while Bill was the “Uber” driver picking the rest up from the ferry terminal and getting them to the house, about 3 miles away. We hung out at the house for a couple of days, with a host-supplied local chef making us fantastic meals, including steak and lobster, and outstanding local appetizers.

For the next 7 days, we rented 3 golf carts (the primary mode of transportation there), and terrorized the locals and tourists alike, with our incessant quests for the coldest beer, best tropical drinks and chocolate martinis, and freshest guacamole. We saw fantastic sunrises from the house, and sunsets from restaurants and bars on the west side of the island. Plenty of beach, water, sun, food, and DRINK for all.

The next-to-last day, it was Mother’s Day. We decorated the house, and the guys all dressed in tuxedo t shirts, and made fresh meals and drinks for our ladies all day long!

For those interested, it’s www.hamacaturquesa.com. Our host arranged EVERYTHING we needed, from the airport pickup to the airport drop off.



“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.

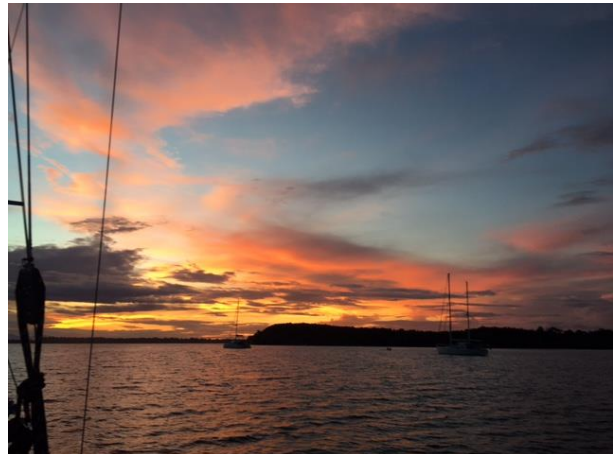
We were happy to hear from our only cruising Brother SoloNoMo:

Wow it’s hard to believe that we’ve been here at Bocas del Toro, Panama for four months. It’s amazing how fast time flies in such a laid-back place. We’ve discovered some nice places here and are still having a great time. The town is steadily getting busier with tourists showing up again. More shops and restaurants are opening back up. All positive signs! The government has removed the emergency status that extended the tourist

visas so now everyone is scrambling to get/stay legal. For most that means leaving Panama for a few days and checking back in. More on that next time.

Rainy season has definitely arrived. No worries about droughts here. It rains a lot. We had one squall come thru with wind up to 56 knots in our anchorage. Thankfully it was during the day and didn't last long. Several boats drug and it got quite exciting but luckily no damaged boats or people. At least we shouldn't have to worry about hurricanes.

Hope all is well with all the brothers, captives, and their families. Life is still great out here!



ORZA!!!
SoloNoMo & Carrie
s/v Griffin

We wish them both fair winds and following seas.

“It’s scary to have a 30-foot wave chasing you. If you are steering, you don’t look back. The crew looks back at you, and you watch their faces. When they look straight up, then get ready!”

-Magnus Olsson

Walrus / Bob Weber
Captain Corpus Christi Table

ORZAAA!!!

Houston

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

The Houston table has been back to their usual antics for the 2021 year. This was much needed after the COVID outbreak of 2020 that brought us and the world to a standstill. We can luckily say there wasn't a single brother majorly impacted by the virus.



In March, we kicked off the year with brother Fearless' annual Martini party. As usual it did not disappoint and since it was cancelled last year it was quite a huge turnout! It was held at the Pirates Porch and was a complete success with many coming out of their hibernations from the winter to meet and greet many that they had not seen in over a year.

In April, brother Old Man put on his annual crawfish boil and brought everyone out yet again to the Pirates Porch. The more we did together the more normalcy it has brought for us all. We all really appreciated the effort Old Man went through to cook that much crawfish for everyone and again we look forward to it every year.



In May we were super fortunate to have a visit from some of our Chilean brothers. They were passing through so we felt that it was an opportune time to induct a new brother during their visit so they could be part of the ceremony. They welcomed new brother Cantore (Gary Crier).

He was brought in with that name for his unique ability to position his boat along the gulf coast, almost inevitably where a Hurricane is going to hit. Just like Joe Cantore of the Weather channel, he always seems to be 'there'. The Chileans had a great time as we did with them, we partied on the Pirates Porch and shared many stories, rituals and of course some libations.

In June we celebrated a milestone birthday of one of the captives, Wendy Schnell with another HUGE Hawaiian themed bash on the Pirates Porch. This one was over and above just about any other party we have ever had there. Every detail was flawlessly handled from food to decorations, we also had multiple venues of entertainment and over 100 people attend. The hula dancers were a complete hit!



Throughout the first half of 2021 there have also been many “Sundowner” get togethers at the porch and we have had a few group boat trips and have been just trying to restore things back to our normal. The Houston table continues to bring in new brothers and is always searching for our next event we can all share together. ORZA!

Mike Stevens
Fearless

New York

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



Zoom Zafs:

Now that we are willing to meet in person, we are no longer having our weekly Saturday night Zoom Zafs. However, we are continuing to enjoy monthly one with Brothers and Mates from across the Atlantic. At this time many are on vacation and reply with some wonderful news, for example: *Sunday morning we will be sailing, assisting the annual Old Gaffer Race of Hellevoetsluis, the Netherlands. On that day, I will be sailing on the Baltic Sea and won't be able to join you. ...I won't be able to join this time, being sailing with family in the Mediterranean. ...We will be racing at that time. The weather forecast is promising big action!...We will be sailing between Rome and Sicily.*

On the August 1 International Zoom Zaf the discussion ranged from cucumbers overtaking gardens because of the heavy rain, air-cooled VW camper vans and climate change in all our countries. The schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows - September 12, October 3, November 7 and December 5, Sundays at 11 a.m. New York time. Email me if you are interested in joining us.

Old Fashioned Zafs:

We have not had a full in person Zaf since February 29, 2020. All hands were on deck for the BBQ in the yard of Chris and Marie on June 12. It was an onshore rendition of our Annual Clam Zafs. The Joe's provide buckets of fresh clams and oysters from their local providers, all grown in Long Island Sound. We missed only 2 local Brothers due to illness and distance.



It was an atypical June afternoon as you can see with our sweaters, under the canopy set up by our gracious hosts in their back yard in Greenwich, CT. In the forefront are Irena and Andrzej Bienkowski, formerly a Polish Brother who came to NY in the last century and joined our Table.



Joe Citarella provided generous choices of grilled sausages and chicken. Lenny and Miriam provided music.



The source of the clams.



The source of the calories

FIRST ON THE WATER ZAF SINCE 2020
as reported by Tony Olmer...

Thursday, July 22, 2021

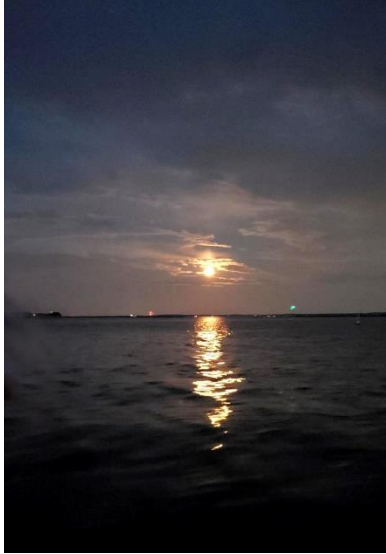


THE RASCAL & THEO
STAMFORD HARBOR RAFT-UP
Join us at 4:00 pm on our mooring-
cocktails at 5:00/
Bring something to share and your
own beverage.

The first on the water rendezvous since the start of the pandemic was a huge success for our New York Brothers. 5 boats of all types and 16 Brothers and Mates joined Tony and Theo's Sorcery in Stamford Harbor. As usual the cocktails and dinner were varied and plentiful as was the white and black power.

The test of the evening was the display of signal flags hoisted on Sorcery's flag halyard. Brothers were not allowed to partake in the powder without solving the message. I am sad to say that no one was able to decipher it even with the use of Eldridge. This is a sad indication that communicating with flags is becoming a lost art. It was all in good fun and no one died of thirst. Go ahead you old salts and test yourselves! IF YOU KNOW THE MESSAGE, SEND AN EMAIL TO TONY AT tonyolmer@sbcglobal.net. There may be a prize.

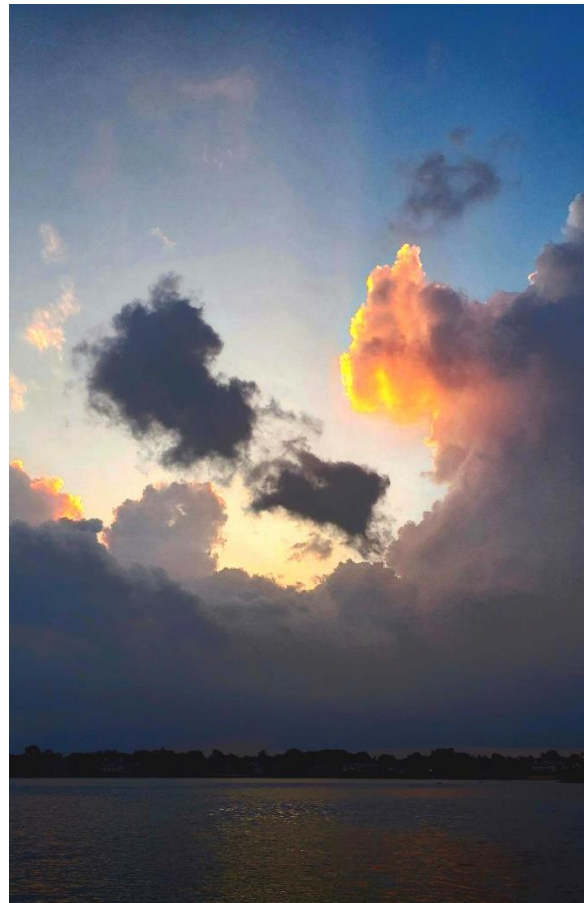




Moon rising over the break wall
Entrance to Stamford Harbor.



The next morning, we were serenaded by
the Stamford Yacht girls racing in their 420.
They had just won their race and were very
excited.



As it is typical this time of the year the
afternoon brings out the thunderheads.

ORZA!

And our Brothers are sailing:



Robert Coles, aka “Big Hopper” and our trusted Zoom Meister has been sailing at two ends of a sailing spectrum, from the ridiculous to the sublime, one could say. He is racing on a Super Duper “Moth” Sunfishes this summer and last month he signed up to be aboard a 12 meter for races in New York Harbor.



...view from Paul and Dawn Gudelis who are cruising the New England Coast. It is a view in Menemsha Harbor on Martha’s Vineyard. When last heard from they were in Camden, Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

JungleJane #28



Sailing Capital

Captain: Carlos "Toad" Jauregui
carlos.harper53@comcast.net



The Sailing Capital has started to emerge as the COVID pandemic waned for a brief time... alas with the Delta Variant that continues to wreak havoc in the world, we hope all are well.

We are all well here, we are holding Table Meetings in person together since April and as more brothers feel comfortable our table is getting together more often; "Wanderer" hosted the annual Pool party July 22.



Left to Right, back row, "Chief", "Toad", "Wanderer", "Zesdog". "Lazyjack", front row "Saltydog" and "Ron Rico"

“Seadog” sold his Nordic Tug 26 two years ago and decided to build a boat and finished last August in the mist of the Isolation and this summer has been boating on local lakes in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Having owned several Sailboats to a Trawler, he’s downsized, and OMEGA is his last boat he claims, we will see!

Retro Paint Job on a 2020 Yamaha!



Our Gathering hosted by our Captain at his home on June 22 couldn't have happened without his lovely mate Danielle!



Our Captain always entertains us!



From Left to Right Front Row Our Table Captain” Toad”, “Bob” our Tabernacle holding the
 Finest Rum, named in honor of Bob Howel one of our Table Founders who Now sails with his
 bow bearing to eternity and Engage Mike VanSickler.
 From Left to Right Back Row,” Rambo”, “Wanderer” ,”Saltydog”, “Wookie”, “Chief” and”
 Lazyjacks”, and “Ron Rico”

Brother “Chessie” and Mate Catherine are doing well holding up our Sailing
 Capital embassy in Saint Augustine



Our Engage Mike VanSickler on Long Island Sound. Running Spinnakers
 with Brother Robert Coles of the New York Table. Mike and his Mate Ava
 are sailing the East Coast and will be heading to the Islands! And then to
 Infinity and Beyond!

Beautiful Day!



The New York table hosted a ZAF to entertain or traveling engage and his family in August.

Submitted by Peter Dula a/k/a Seadog

San Antonio

Captain: Monty "Python" Rogers

bocus148@gmail.com

Purser: David "Pilgrim" Overpeck

Road Trip

Sometimes you just gotta' take a road trip, especially when it has some old and interesting nautical ties to the area. In this case it involves the Texas Gulf Coast, an explorer named Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle and the shipwreck of *La Belle* in 1686.

A small but hardy group set sail in our land yachts to Austin and the Bullock Texas State History Museum. The Museum has outstanding exhibits that chronicle Texas events from the earliest inhabitants to date. But the real item of interest was the *La Belle*. La Salle set sail from France with four ships however only one came ashore in Texas. Three were lost to shipwrecks and pirates (arggg).

The rest of the La Salle tale shall be left to the historians. But *La Belle*...a storm wrecked her in the shallow waters of Matagorda Bay in 1686. It was not until 1995 that archaeologists found the shipwreck and developed a plan to raise the ship and conserve their findings. A cofferdam was constructed around *La Belle*, the sea was pumped out and the ships remains, and contents were excavated over a two-year period. Over two million artifacts were found, and most were brought to the Bullock Museum where the real conservation efforts began.

What were seen 335 years after she sank were the parts of the hull and its components and thousands of artifacts, all presented in a very nice display.



After touring the Bullock, these modern day “pirates” were thirsty so off to the Hula Hut on the banks of Lake Austin for adult beverages and the Huts special kind of food.



Most agree that a return trip to the Bullock would be in order.

Sunday Brunch and Pool Party

Sunday, July 25, a good showing of Brothers and Captives gathered at the home of Patrick and Wren Mills for the Table's monthly get-together. All shared a traditionally large spread of a breakfast taco – themed potluck along with a well-stocked Bloody Mary and Mimosa bar. All gathered around the pool and of course the kitchen for a very warm and amazing Brotherhood-style fellowship.



Several Brothers and Captives stayed for the greater part of the day soaking and sunning with old friends and new ones alike. We welcomed Seth and Marisa McConnell, guests of Patrick and Wren. Seth is a TAM Maritime graduate that has served as a merchant marine on oil tankers around the globe and now in San Antonio he manages and coordinates shipping for Valero Energy.

Patrick Mills

Upcoming Activities:

September 2 nd	Brothers Business Meeting/Open Grill @ The Barn
September 25 th	Soup cook-off @ Patty McNeil's
October 16 th	Lawn Hydro Race @ The Eckerman's
October 21 st	Italian Night @ The Simonini's
November 4 th	Germanfest @ David Overpeck & Sissi's
Early December	Christmas Dinner on the River (date TBA)
January 6 th	Planning meeting and open grill @ The Rogers'
February 13 th	Super Bowl Party @ Bandera Bob Wills'

Solomons Island

Captain: John" Crabman" Dove
jtdove24@covad.net



The Solomons Table continues to remain active locally with most Brothers and Mates residing close enough to be able to gather in smaller groups at local watering holes and pubs or venture out cruising locally in the Chesapeake.

Recent Events:

- Raftarrancho – Chesapeake Bay (June 17, 18, 19th)

A healthy contingent of Brothers and Mates from Solomons made the trip down the Chesapeake Bay to meet up with their Brothers from the Chesapeake Bay Table in June at the Raftarrancho at Indian Creek. Approximately 18 boats from the two Tables made the trip.

A good time was had by all with a great dinner and several Orza's over the weekend.





The Solomons Table held an induction during the Raftarrancho, welcoming Pat Whalen as the Solomons Table newest Brother (Congratulations Pat!)

- As I believe most have been aware, Al Redfield (aka: Gunner) has been having some health challenges that have seen him endure a couple of extended hospital stays over the past few months. Al is now home and resting comfortably, however his health remains of concern and will continue to be a challenge for him and his family.

At this point in time, Al made the decision that he needed to step away from his duties as Solomons Table Captain. The Table Brothers convened (with quorum) a Business Mtg on Thursday (8/12) to address this matter. The Table voted to have John Dove take over the Table Captain position, and John accepted. (Congratulations John!). John requested that all current Table officers remain in their current roles, and all agreed.

Sun Coast Sun Coast

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

Sun Coast Table Sunset Cruise

Fifteen brave pirates and lassies boarded The LeBarge party boat June 23, 2021, for our monthly soiree. Pleasant breezes, calm seas, excellent libations, and sufficient sea rations warded off any talk of mutiny. The live entertainment on board was terrific, a talented crooner, playing our favorite songs, including Jimmy Buffett's "A Pirate Looks at Forty".

Our professional Captain guided us throughout Sarasota Bay, including views of Marina Jack's Marina, the Sarasota skyline, Bird Key Yacht Club, the mansions of Bird Key, the world-famous Siesta Key, and Big Sarasota Pass. The palm trees of the upper deck were sufficiently trimmed to allow us to pass under the Siesta Key Bridge without harming either the palm trees or the bridge, good work Captain! The Captain timed the excursion perfectly for a beautiful wide-open view of the Sarasota sunset from the Gulf of Mexico, always a highlight of any day!





The brave souls enjoying the wonderful evening which was perfectly planned by Judi Nofs were Joe & Julie, Joe & Claudia, Virg & Kathie, Dan & Bonnie, Steve & Jean, Jann, Jeff, Bob, John, and Judi.

After disembarking a few of the group retreated to O'Leary's, slightly extending the party. After such a successful cruise one may wonder "how do you top that?" Summer will find several of our group traveling to visit friends, relatives, and others not seen since before the pandemic. It does seem that life is getting closer to "normal", for which we are all grateful.

Best wishes for safe travels, summer fun, and more opportunities to get together, were exchanged by all.

Steve (Falcon) Herb