



THE LIGHT

June, 2014

Laguna Madre Yacht Club

New Members- Welcome

Our membership goal is to obtain approximately ten new members by the end of 2014.

**2014 Flag Officers and Associates
The Laguna Madre Yacht Club**

Commodore Mr. Chris Hughston
Vice Commodore Cmdr. Sid Rouch USN (Ret.)
Rear Commodore Dr. John Pinkerman
Secretary Ms. Caren Craig
Treasurer Mr. Michael Myers
Steward (Ad Hoc)
Fleet Captain Captain Rick Ekstrom
Barrister Hon. Open
Fleet Surgeon Dr. Raul Rivet M.D.

The Laguna Madre Yacht club is a voluntary club focused on local boating activities including sail boat racing and cruising. The 2013 program presented over 40 scheduled events. The events include a Fall and Spring racing series, participation in the Race to the Border and educational workshops on a variety of boating topics. The club emphasizes enjoying the safe boating activities for the entire family. A monthly highlight is the social dinner held on the second Saturday of each month except January.

Quote: "The maniacs are the ones who have accepted their insignificance to the vast expanses of unrelenting ocean and yet still sail on quixotically, because they are in love with the direct, unmediated experience they find out there."

S/V Petulance

Which leads me to think of boat names that might deter intruders:

Pestilence
Quarantine

Snakes!!!
Smith and Wesson
Sinking
Mersa

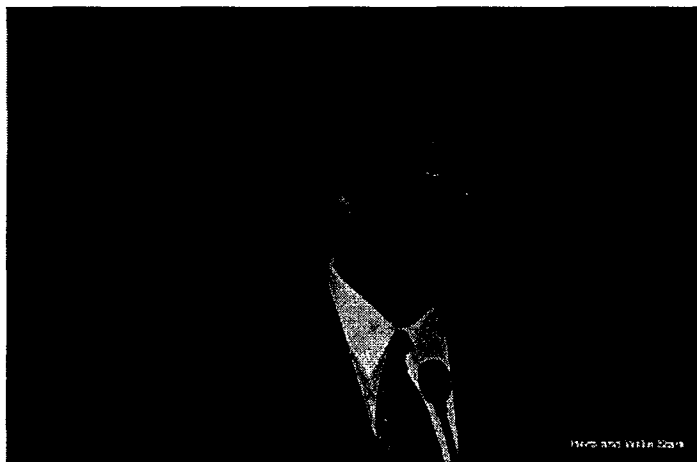
Add to the list for the next issue by emailing brendenke@cs.com (John Pinkerman)

Our May Social:

If you miss the next Social on May 10th, you lose out on the value of your membership. Heck, how can anyone pass up a monthly meal covered in your membership dues with the cuisine offered at our Socials. People would stand in line for these meals. Wait, we do stand in line for them@! Come join us.

Reminder: Left over plates for carry home are \$5.00 with funds used for the Club.

COMMODORES CORNER-CHRIS HUGHTON



Over the last couple of weeks I have been touring the California Coast Hob Knobbing and Conferring with my fellow commodores. I had the opportunity to visit with several members of clubs in the Santa Barbara area and to visit several marinas. Everyone I met was a pleasure to visit with and interested to hear about our club and sailing the Laguna Madre and the Gulf of Mexico. They were also happy to discuss sailing the West Coast and generally pleased to meet someone from a different club and a different region.

One of the best things about "Yacht Club Membership" is the chance to be around people from different backgrounds who share a common passion. That holds true within our own club or among the salts you may encounter across the country and around the world. Being a member of a club, particularly one that participates in the Yacht Clubs of America registry, guarantees you a connection with sailors and boaters all most any where you go.

Needless to say the Marinas were filled with beautiful boats of all sizes and class and of course the California coast is beautiful. I was able to do a little snorkeling from one of the Channel Islands which was magnificent. I've never been able to dive amongst the giant Kelp or along a naturally rocky shoreline. It was incredible.

Eventually it was time to head home and the whole family was ready to get back to Texas. By the time we got home the winds had stopped howling, the rain had come and gone leaving the Valley green and beautiful. In less than a week I/we have been able to go to the boat or the beach three times and the water and weather have been perfect. The water has been a pretty turquoise and pleasantly warm (did I mention the water is always cold in California), perfect for swimming, surfing and sailing.

It's always fun to visit other places and meet new people, but at the end of the day it's always nice to come home. It's pretty hard to beat sailing in South Texas and impossible to find better friends and kindred spirits than in the Laguna Madre Yacht Club.

See you on the water or around the club.

The Commodore

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Here is a head's up reminder that we are all members of the LMYC membership recruitment committee. Take the opportunity to tell people about the Laguna Madre Yacht Club and its activities. Ask people if they have heard about us and don't be surprised about their answer; "Yes, they had the best food. I heard it is closed" or "Do you take room reservations?"

Several years ago our club conducted a focus group (community members willing to meet and discuss LMYC). The overwhelming perceptions they held were our club is exclusive, for sailboats only and Anglo. We were seen as arrogant and too often falsely asserting our "under sail" right of way while on the water. If this makes you uncomfortable, please be active in countering these misperceptions.

Things you might do:

See somebody where a water themed T shirt. Tell them it looks good and ask them about boating and if they ever heard about the LMYC.

Distribute our brochures.

Carry around a membership application. Know that discounts on fees apply for new members joining in the middle of the year. Have one in your car or boat. Keep a copy on your computer. Refer people to our website.

Walk the dock and talk about the club. If you see a boat visiting our area, welcome them.

Invite new friends to a free meal at one of our socials or tell them about our cruising and racing events and invite them along.

Complain about how sore you are from:

Fixing the boat

Being on the water

Swimming off the boat

Falling with a hangover at the dock

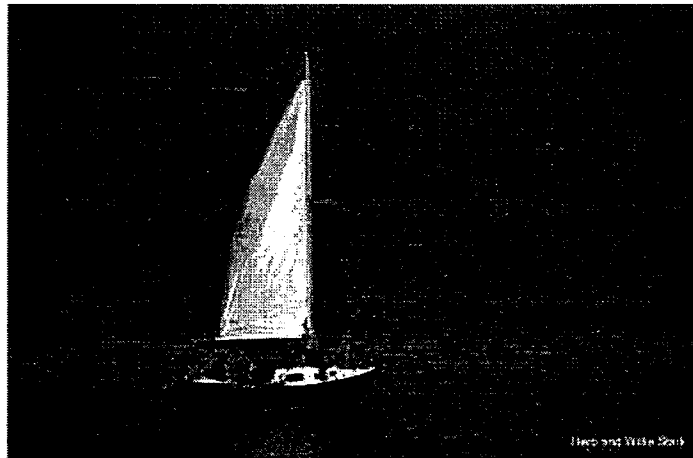
Existing members are the best means to help keep the word out about the LMYC.

RACE TO THE HOOVER DIANE WEEKEND OF JULY 11TH, 2014

The second off shore race to the Hoover Diane platform occurs the weekend of July 11th. A skippers meeting will be called for participating boats. Contact Wes at 778-7628 for details and start times. Sea Gal and Paper Dragon are planning to participate. Pirates Landing and Padreritagrill are donating prizes for top finishers. So far everybody wins. Last minute entries are welcome if they are prepared.



Seamanship Resources



Articles

Your key to happy sailing

BY DAVE BARRY

This Dave Barry column was originally published March 6, 1983 in the Miami Herald

You should go sailing. Nothing is more relaxing than getting out on the open sea, far from the workaday world and decent medical care.

One of the most rewarding experiences of my life was the time I sailed with a group of friends from Florida to the Bahamas, which is a distance of about 75 miles by airplane and about 325,000 miles by sailboat, due to the large amount of going up and down and sideways. Seconds after we left the dock, all of us started to feel queasy, except for my friend Buzz, who felt hungry. Buzz went downstairs and came back with the largest, greasiest plate of corned-beef hash, enough to feed a rural Peruvian village for a year, which he decided he didn't want to eat right away after all, so he set it down, waiting for his appetite to come back, and we all sat around watching it congeal under the Florida sun, until we realized that we were too sick even to commit suicide, at which point the captain, who had been looking at some nautical maps, announced that we would come within sight of the Bahamas in another eight to 10 hours. It was so nautical and rewarding that to this day I cannot think about it without having to sit down and put my head between my legs.

If you really want to enjoy sailing, you'll need a boat. The major categories of boats are schooners, tankers, galleons, bowsprits, ketches, windjammers, whalers, pirate ships, catamounts and liners. They are all basically the same. The best kind of boat is one that:

- * has a bathroom, and
- * somebody else has paid for.

The second feature is very important. Boats are extremely expensive, and you don't want to spend a lot of your own money on something that is likely to crash and sink. So you want to hang out where wealthy, boat-owners hang out, such as horse shows or the State Department, and persuade one of them to lend you his boat. What you do is you sidle up to a likely prospect and engage him in a conversation wherein you subtly display your knowledge of sailing:

You: Hello there. It certainly is a fine day, isn't it?

Wealthy Person: Yes, it certainly is.

You: Belay those scuppers. Nor'easter off the starboard job. Avast.

Wealthy Person: Say, would you like to borrow my boat?

Once you're on the boat, you should observe safe nautical procedures. This means that, at all costs, you must avoid moving the boat. Moving the boat involves steering and raising the sails and tying knots and so on, all of

which can lead to property damage and death. So the first Sailing Rule of Thumb is: Always keep the boat firmly tied to a large, immovable object or better yet, on dry land.

If you absolutely must move the boat, check to make sure that the wind is blowing in the right direction (horizontally), and then raise the sails. As they start to fill with wind, the boat will gradually start to move majestically in some random direction, and you will experience the thrill of traveling in the same manner as Ferdinand Magellan and Captain Cook, both of whom were killed by savages on wretched little islands.

Once the boat is under way, your job is to issue commands to the crew, in which case you should fire a few marine flares at nearby boats to let them know you need assistance.

If you do have a crew, you must remember they are depending on you for their safety and well-being. You must be ready to issue commands clearly and quickly in the event of nautical emergencies. The most useful commands are:

- * "Here, you steer the boat."
- * "Why don't you steer the boat?"
- * "It's perfectly all right with me if you steer the boat."

While your crew is steering the boat, you should locate the horizon, using a sextant or marine calipers, then set a course that will get you back to land as soon as possible without hitting anything. Bear in mind, though, that under International Sailing Commission Rules, you are not allowed to sail directly toward anything. If you want to go in one particular direction, you are required to sail in some other direction. This is called "tacking," and if you fail to do it, you could be torpedoed by Coast Guard patrol boats.

The best place to sail to is a yacht club where the owner of the boat you are using has a charge account. Sailing into yacht clubs can be tricky, because they usually contain a great many boats. So you, as captain, will have to call on all your reserves of nautical skill and leadership. Look the situation over carefully, gauging the wind and the current, then issue this command to your crew: "Sail into that yacht club over there and stop the boat without hitting any of the other boats." Then go to the downstairs part of the boat (in nautical terms, the "downstairs part of the boat") and rummage around for the wealthy boat-owner's liquor until the boat is safely anchored or has run into the land.

(c) Dave Barry

Read more here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/09/18/2397129/your-key-to-happy-sailing.html#storylink=cpy>

CRUSE NEWS-

Update from another member underway!

Passage Notes of Aristarcus May 24, 2014

Hi All! Return to the Chesapeake!

Leaving New Bern from our winter-fest, we headed off the beaten path of the ICW (Intra Coastal Waterway) with visits to Lukens, NC, only a cemetery remains of an old town that relocated across the river due to it's isolation. From there we sailed up the Pamlico River to Bath the home the famous pirate Blackbeard and continued up river to "Little" Washington, North Carolina's oldest town also the first town named after our first president. Returning to our journey north, we made a short visit to Belhaven, spent a couple of nights at anchor off the Alligator River, north again past Elizabeth City to an anchorage where during the night a tornado touched down nearby, we were looking out for the winged monkeys! The next spot is a favorite going and returning, the Great Dismal Swamp, where we waited for more bad weather to pass. Ray and I hung out with our friend the Deep Creek lock-master Robert. The atmosphere is laid back and Ray helped with locking through boats during our stay there. The joke was that Ray, was trying to get his "Junior assistant volunteer lock-master merit badge" (he didn't quite make it) better luck next time, Ray.

After our stay in the Swamp we docked in Portsmouth. While there we took in a movie at Commodore theater a historical movie theater that was refurbished to its former glory. The screen and sound system was so good that I even enjoyed watching Captain America! After the movie we met the owner of the theater who has been in the business since he was a young boy. He gave us an in-depth tour of the whole theater including the projection room, and offerings of more popcorn and juju-bees!

Sadly, we received news that our Texas "Mom" Sue MacNelly passed away, so we docked Aristarcus in Portsmouth, hopped on a plane to Texas to pay our respects. We were able to visit her family and a few friends, (not all) as well. Sue will leave a big void in our lives and be greatly missed.

Returning to Portsmouth, our next stop was Hampton, VA, then into the Chesapeake Bay, the "Land of Pleasant Living", where we are anchored in the East River, off Mobjack Bay, visiting Richard and Donna in their beautiful Virginia home.

Ray and I are looking forward to working our way up the Chesapeake Bay to the Baltimore area where we will dock Aristarcus again, to fly to Michigan, pick up my mother Dodie, and drive to Chicago for a cousin's wedding.

Until the next time.....

Beth and Ray
Aboard S/V Aristarcus



This is a photo from Boca Chica, Panama. Boca Chica is a wonderful small port on the Pacific side near David. Great destination for vacation or cruising.

Excerpt from *Sailing Magazine*: The author reports her experience with an organization providing classes and training to women sailors. Their instructors: Sharon and Jane.

No Boys on This Boat

By [Lauren Saalmuller](#) • Posted: Jun 2, 2014



“The class tackles chart navigation and plots *Avatrice*’s course. Over the years, several of Sharon’s students have also gone on to undertake sailing endeavors of their own. First mate Jane, in fact, was once a student: “After taking the course in 2004, I went sailing again and realized I actually could rely on my own knowledge to sail a boat! I called Sharon to say, ‘I’m in Position One, sailing five knots at 220 degrees!’ After that, I helped Sharon out for a weekend, and here I am.”

Among my crew, Terry, who had sailed very little prior to the course, now plans to buy her own boat and sail from Maine to Hilton Head, South Carolina, every season. Suzanna, who came along for the ride with Terry, wants to sail regularly, most likely on Terry’s future boat. Anne Marie swore to get on a larger boat more often, too, and me? I plan to tap into my newfound knowledge to venture—and race—far and wide on both cruising boats and dinghies.

The last night at anchor, my classmates and I agreed how grateful we were to have met Sharon and Jane, two fierce souls who welcome any and all women aboard *Avatrice*. As the sun slowly set, Terry looked around and said, “I feel pretty blessed to be here. Look! These moments are what life’s about: laughing, enjoying each other’s company, and sailing. Who could want it any other way?”

Contact: Women Under Sail, womenundersail.com

TRAINING IDEA

Mr. Kristan Grant a.k.a. The Computer Doctor is willing to conduct a class on boating and computers if we get enough members to throw in a few bucks.

Topics might include; linking devices, securing software, free applications, Blue Tooth issues, music underway, securing your devices from harm.