



April, 2014

**Laguna Madre Yacht Club**

**New Members- Welcome**

**Accepted for membership: Welcome Aboard, Y'all.** Accepted into membership are David Renner and Stephen Gano.

**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:**

"I really don't know why it is that all of us are so committed to the sea, except I think it's because in addition to the fact that the sea changes, and the light changes, and ships change, it's because we all came from the sea. And it is an interesting biological fact that all of us have, in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea – whether it is to sail or to watch it – we are going back from whence we came." -Jack Kennedy

**Our April Social:**

We had a delicious Low Country Buffet at our April 8<sup>th</sup> Social. Tommy Hunter and friends put a special effort into preparing the best crayfish race in the past six years. The crawdads seemed tuckered out but we ate winners and losers alike. Thanks to those helping in clean up and those who brought such interesting desserts and sides. This crew can cook. If you miss the next Social on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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**

AWOL

## Seamanship Resources



### Articles

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*When cruising and living "on the hook" take the time to work out your safety procedures and stick to them. These were our procedures. We sailed the Caribbean for 7 years without a problem. Use these if you like them, modify them if you don't - but don't leave your safety and security to chance.*

- 1. Use a locked companionway grille at night. A mosquito net can be installed inside this if you wish. We don't understand why cruisers refuse to lock themselves into their yachts and yet they would not hesitate to lock themselves into their houses. We had our grille made from stainless steel bar. It's slotted right in as a replacement for washboards.*
- 2. Secure hatches internally with wire stays. These allow sufficient opening for ventilation but prevent an intruder from gaining access to your boat.*
- 3. Use a cruisers night-time security net on VHF. Typically Channel 11 is used so that there is no unwanted VHF "chatter" during the night.*
- 4. Have a compressed air fog horn and a powerful spotlight readily available.*
- 5. Never be the single yacht in an anchorage overnight, particularly one adjacent to a town.*
- 6. Never be the yacht anchored closest to the shore. Night intruders will often attempt to rob the nearest yacht to shore by swimming out or perhaps using a surf board.*
- 7. Use intelligence wisely from SSB security nets and web databases.*
- 8. Choose your weapon and know how to use it. We are wholly opposed to the use of firearms and instead chose a CS gas spray. This will disable an intruder from a distance, and is non lethal.*

