

October 2007
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The Bowsprit

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A Few Words from the Commodore



Hello all. September is just about come to and end with no significant weather events. This is a good thing, but it isn't time to drop your guard for home and boat yet.

I'm writing this as we prepare for the dinner and auction. The weather is terrible, but Bill Carrothers is toughing it out in the rain, trying to replicate the great "road kill" success of last year. Those of you that can't make the event, for whatever reason, will surely miss a great evening. September has been fun and club events have been, generally, successful. The only uncooperative element has been the wind, or lack there of. Ed Bonner had a nice group of hopeful contenders for the Commodores Cup, just beautiful weather for water skiing and powerboats. I think everyone had a good time anyway.

October will be a challenge for everyone. Don't forget that we are hosting PIYC on Saturday, the 6th. We are providing dinner and a party for them, and I would hope we could match the hospitality they showed us when we cruised to their club. The 13th is another Saturday dinner. That Saturday is also Jazz Fest here in Corpus, and it should be a great time for live music.

The really big event for Oct. is the General Membership Meeting on the 20th. As everyone probably knows by now, I failed to meet a few deadlines and now the candidates will all be nominated from the floor. The nominating committee has been disbanded, but the candidates that were selected will be nominated from the floor. Because the membership was denied an opportunity to contact the committee with suggestions, anyone that you feel would be a good addition to the slate can be nominated from the floor. Please make sure someone is prepared to second the motion and the prospective candidate has an interest in serving, if elected. This is an important club event to attend. Try not to miss the meeting.

The truly fun thing in October is the Halloween Party on the 27th. Get your costume together and have a great time. Every Halloween Party I've attended has been fun.

Back to the General Membership Meeting. We need a cook for the dinner. Will someone please stand up and volunteer?

Again, I'm sorry for screwing up the election. Come to the PIYC party/dinner. Come to Jazz Fest. Come out and let your voice be heard for our next year at our club.

Jake Jacobsen

S/V Honky Voodoo



From the Foredeck ... October 2007

Happenings ...

September was a blur for many of us who were involved with putting on meals, races, cruises and attending to needed clubhouse projects. October looks like another busy month and begins with a two-day visit from PIYC members on the 6th and 7th. Cruise Chairman Joe Blair has all the information on this event.

Saturday, October 20th begins with the last BYC Top Gun race of the year and is followed, at around noon, with a downtown luncheon for all of the racers and interested club members. Dinner is planned for 7:00pm, and it will be followed by the Annual BYC Fall General Membership Meeting. This semi-annual event is the time that the officers for next year are nominated and voted upon. If you have a concern or a question, this is the time to stand up and have your say. Your participation will help guide BYC into the future.

Should you have a mind to introduce a change or addition to the club by-laws or house rules, these proposals should be made available to the membership two weeks before this meeting, so that each of us has time to mull-over the information.

Welcome new BYC members ...

On September 14th, BYC officially welcomed two new families to active membership. First up were Mark and Brenda Hiler. They are new to sailing, yet have enjoyed over 1000 miles of local cruising, this past year, aboard their 35' O'Day named O'Day-cious. They are Hondo, Texas residents who spend weekends aboard their boat several times per month. Brenda is a teacher in the Hondo ISD and Mark is in the banking field with Capital Farm Credit. The BYC welcomes both of you aboard!

Eddie and Maryellen Bonner, and their 5 year-old daughter Ashley, are the latest BYC members. Eddie is an endodontist. Maryellen is a retired dental hygienist and home maker. At age 10, Eddie learned to sail sunfishes, and not to be outdone, Ashley, at age 4, took the helm during her first sailing lesson aboard "Thunder Chicken." She enjoyed steering grandpa's race boat around inside the marina. A future BYC racer? Time will tell. The BYC welcomes all three of you aboard!

Commodore's Cup Weekend ...

This entire BYC weekend provided a grand time for sailors and non-sailors alike. The initial lack of wind caused cancellation of the race from Corpus Christi to Ingleside. However, we all still made our way to the Bahia Marina party, by land and sea. Late Saturday afternoon, several of us were offered

the opportunity of viewing the local surroundings from Jim and Martha Isbell's nearby Monte Christo lighthouse. The 72' high view, from the top floor was breathtaking. Joining Jim on this visit were Lisa Kelley, Sharon Peterson, Linda Earls, and Ed Bonner.

Andy Ficken stopped by to chat with several of his old friends and asked to be remembered to everyone. He was the 1980 BYC Commodore and a former owner of Hal Peterson's Cal 35, *Warrior*.

It is the members that make BYC events so special, no matter the setting. Weekends, such as these, provide opportunities to share each other's unique personalities and thoughts in meaningful ways. It can even straighten out misunderstandings and begin to build new friendships.

If you can, come join us for one of the upcoming events, and find out just how special it is being an active BYC member.

Warm regards,

Ed Bonner
BYC Vice Commodore



New BYC members, Eddie and Maryellen Bonner and daughter Ashley, are welcomed by Grandpa.



Monte Christo Lighthouse

Cruising With the BYC

Our last function for 2007 is the PIYC's cruise to the BYC's club house on October 6th. The PIYC sets the hospitality bar pretty high, and there is a sign-up board at the club for any special potluck treat you may want to bring to share with the PIYC folks. I believe it has different categories for meat, vegetables, and so on. The PIYC people are a fun group, so please help the club support the exchange cruise we have once a year. We will have more information at the club, such as serving time and the time the food will be needed at the club. The club is planning to rent some extra chairs for this event. We should have plenty of room for everyone.

Warm Regards,
Joe Blair



An Update on the Voyage of the S/V Foxye

by Fernando Cantu

Dateline: Mobile Bay, September 19, 2007, S/V
Foxye Skippered by BYC Member Fernando Cantu

On Thursday at 8:00 am, I sailed to Galveston off shore, arriving at the Galveston Channel 37 hours later.

As predicted by a weather report, a storm hit at 9:00 pm sending Foxye back about an hour and 1/2. We heaved to and got the hail and high winds .

Foxye performed well. After the storm, it calmed down completely and I had to motor in to the Galveston Yacht Basin, which has to be rated as the worst Marina in which I have ever stayed. The slips had no electricity and were in bad condition.

I left on Saturday morning towards New Orleans through the ICW. I will send you another update soon.

Continued on page 4

Racers Edge ... October 2007

The month of September saw two BYC racing events scheduled. The September 1st, "Top Gun" race, was held in light winds over a 7.3nm triangular course. Prior to this event, Lynn Walton was asked to communicate with the local weather gods and request some decent weather for our race. He must have some influence as the rain disappeared for several hours, and light, 7 – 9 kt winds appeared on cue for the start. The light winds failed to build, but they lasted just long enough to complete our race before dying completely as the last boat struggled over the finish line. This was an amazing change from the morning forecast.

A post-race lunch was held at the Chaparral Street Grillhouse, with 22 BYC sailors in attendance. Much of the discussion was centered on everyone agreeing that better racing takes place in the higher wind ranges (12 kts and above). They were reminded that having adequate winds at the start of a race is no guarantee of good racing conditions for the remainder of a race. This TG event certainly proved that point.

The Commodore's Cup Regatta was scheduled for the 22nd, This time the wind gods decided to play tricks on everyone. Reasonable wind strength levels were not available come starting time, and the race had to be cancelled. The light 4kt breeze, noted at the original race starting time, did manage to increase to 10+ kts. However, this was nearly two hours later, and about the time most of the racers were over halfway to Bahia Marina, using their motors. At the appearance of some decent wind, several of the racers and cruisers turned off their motors and hauled up their sails. The crew of Susan II tried out her cruising chute, but In order to get the chute to fly properly they had to sail off towards the CCNAS. No matter, for at least a few minutes, the crew had some fun learning a few things about how to manage that special sail.

The Bahia Marina party was a celebration of cruisers, racers and non-sailing members who drove over to be a part of this annual event. The food, libations, and conversations were all top drawer. Everything about the day was in keeping with the spirit of the occasion ... having fun with our fellow members.

Next up, all BYC members are invited to participate in the final Top Gun race of the year, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2007. We are hoping for a large turnout of skippers, crew, and passengers. Even if you are not able to sail in this event, you are welcome to join us for the post-race luncheon get-together at a downtown restaurant. See you at the starting line ...

Ed Bonner
BYC Race Chairman

Continued from page 3...

The Continuing Saga of S/V Foxey...

On Saturday I left towards New Orleans, through the ICW, because I wanted to go through the famous locks on the way to New Orleans.

1. We anchored outside of Port Arthur Saturday night (mile marker 289).
2. On Sunday, we sailed to Pavell Island, Louisiana on mile marker 265 and anchored. Muchos mosquitos! Interesting area.
3. Monday, the next stop was Bayou Lacassine at mile marker 205, another anchorage. Mosquitos were so hungry, they were hard to discourage.
4. We arrived in Intercoastal City on Tuesday at mile marker 161 and stayed at the Shell Morgan Landing. They had fuel, showers, and a place close by to get a big poorboy sandwich. It was not fancy, but it was nice.
5. Morgan City, mile marker 95 was the next stop. It was an interesting dockage in the old downtown area. There was electricity, but no facilities. Fortunately, there was a fine Italian restaurant close by.
6. Houma was next, at mile marker 57. The marina was good, but they also had no showers or bath rooms. I started getting used to taking a small shower in the boat. They have a nice area downtown with restaurants and stores. It was a very pretty and unique place. A person could enjoy staying in a hotel and partying in this area. On Friday morning, there was a report of a possible large storm, so I left late.
7. We spent the night on the Baratterria Waterway by the C & M fuel dock.
8. Saturday, Foxey was on the way to Harvey Lock and the Industrial Lock and a bunch of bridges. I had figured on getting there early and finding a good place to eat, and of course a hot shower. I did not count on some of the bridge operators working at slow motion. I talked to some locals and their response was, "Remember, this is New Orleans. If you go to New Orleans, have patience." I might add that other than slowness, it's a beautiful city to visit.
9. We parked Foxey at the Orleans Marina and enjoyed the city for 2 days. I celebrated my 63rd birthday at Jimmy Buffets Margaritaville cafe in the French Quarter. I had a Cheeseburger in Paradise.

10. We tried to leave New Orleans early, but again, we

had trouble with the bridges, so we ended up staying in a small marina close to the Industrial Lock. It almost felt like it was reverse discrimination, since the incident in Jena was going on: two white guys in a sailboat. I felt like saying "Senoritas, yo soy Fernando Cantu, Hispano no soy Gringo." I was afraid that might be worse, since so many Hispanics have taken a lot of the jobs in New Orleans. After all, they might call the Border Patrol.

11. On Tuesday, we got up at 4 am only to be told that another bridge did not open till 8:30 am, so we took a siesta. When in Rome do as the Romans do. Finally, some hours later we were in the Mississippi Sound. I have always dreamed of sailing the Mississippi Sound. Around midnight, we anchored near Cat Island and had a few hours of shuteye. At about 4 am, the sound had gotten a little calmer and the sail to Mobile Bay became nicer. For a while, I thought I was in Corpus Christi Bay with its rough seas.

12. Wednesday, we sailed into Mobile Bay towards Perdido Bay. Around 9:00 pm, while making sure a fixed bridge was high enough, we noticed a cool place by the name of LULU's. They had nice dockage in front, Jimmy Buffet type music, and the food smelled good. We stopped there and had a great seafood meal. We were now 14 miles from Bear Pt. Marina: my final destination. I told Keith, my only crew member, "If drink a margarita, will you drive the boat?" He said yes, so I had two margaritas.

13. Sometime close to midnight, we arrived at Bearpoint Marina in Alabama. The next day I found that here were two other Texas sailboats from Corpus and Rockport.

13. We rented a car in Pensecola and I turned it in Corpus Christi on Saturday. Mary Helen picked me up, and I am back in Laredo.



Commodore Jake addresses the masses at the Bahia Marina gathering

BYC Calendar of Events



October 2007

10/6 - PIYC Cruise to BYC

**10/13—Board Meeting
5:30 PM followed by
dinner**

**10/20—Dinner / General
Membership Meeting**

**10/27—Dinner—BYC
Halloween Party**

Oct 4—Water Shore Advisory Meeting 5:30 pm at Boaters' Facility
Oct 7—PIYC Cruise Home
Oct 8—Columbus Day (observed)
Oct 14—Top Gun Race 9:00 am
Oct 31—Halloween



November 2007

**11/3—Board Meeting
5:30 pm followed by
dinner**

**11/09—
BYC Dinner**

**11/17—Turkey
Day Regatta fol-
lowed by dinner**

**11/24—Christmas
Decorating at
Club—10:00 am**

Nov 1—Water Shore Advisory Meeting 5:30 pm Boaters' Facility
Nov 11—Veterans Day
Nov 13—Ship One Meeting
Nov 22—Thanksgiving



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