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The Bowsprit

Commodore, Ed Bonner + Vice Commodore, Larry Haas + Rear Commodore, Walter Crawford

Commodore's Comments ... July 2008

The boating season is in high gear everywhere in the Coastal Bend and we're experiencing typical summer weather on Corpus Christi Bay - windy, hot and humid ... unless the unexpected happens. Severe thunderstorms, heavy wind "Northers" and even hail are events that visit the Corpus Christi area every year. In a matter of minutes they can wreak havoc on unsuspecting boaters caught out on the water. I have found it good advice that before leaving your boat slip, spending a moment with a reliable weather source is always worth the effort.

Maintenance is another area that requires regular attention. Keeping your boat in top condition insures that breakdowns at inconvenient times are minimized. Since propulsion and fuel systems cause the largest number of problems for most boaters it is a good place to begin the inspection of your boat. Checking for fuel and water leaks, loose hose clamps and battery connections and water intake lines are good places to start. While you're at it, replacing your water pump impeller and zincs, annually, could save big dollars by helping to prevent engine over-heating and corrosion problems. As the experts always tell us, reliability and peace of mind are the rewards for pursuing regular boat maintenance.

The BYC Top Gun racers enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining sailing event on Saturday June 14th as the 12 – 15 kt. wind presented some tricky shifts that challenged even the old salts. Adding further excitement to our particular part of that race were two shrimp boats, with their drag nets fully extended, which seemed determined to join us as "moving chicanes" on our way up the weather leg. I wish to thank Hal Peterson for offering me the opportunity to helm Warrior for this event. It was like old times for me. Race Chairman, Jim Robertson, has all the race results and further details to share with you on this fine racing event.

June 20th saw several BYC boat owners join with other Marina tenants in attending the first of two Annual Hurricane Preparedness Seminars. Marina Superintendent, Peter Davidson, and U.S. National Weather Service spokesman, John Metz, put on an interesting evening of discussions and videos that focused on suggestions of how all boaters can provide maximum safety for their vessels and those of their marina neighbors in the event that Mother Nature sends one of her nasty temper tantrums our way. A repeat of this program is scheduled for Friday, July 11th at 6:30PM. FYI: Valuable hurricane preparedness literature is available at the Marina Office including suggested boater checklists and suggested storm mooring diagrams for all docks.

The June 21st BYC cruise to Shamrock Cove turned into a cruise to Island Moorings. Was it magic? Check out what Ron "Cruise Dude" Hebert has to say about how it all came to pass.

Speaking of a good time ... the Annual Fourth of July Corpus Christi Bayfront Celebration was a wonderful event whether you partied on Shoreline Blvd or joined your fellow club members and guests for hot dogs on the grill at BYC. Yes, it was another memorable day of good food and fireworks in Corpus Christi and it marked the 232nd birthday of the United States of America. **Lest we forget ...** A special BYC "thank you" is offered to all our service men and women for all they do to preserve and protect our nation, its people and all the noble things we stand for. May God bless each of them and bring them home safely to their families.

Keeping up with changes in BYC activities takes some extra effort on everyone's part at times. Our enthusiastic committee chairpersons are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to raise the level of enjoyment for all of us. The willingness of our sailing, social, dinner planners and chefs to make last minute adjustments is becoming near legendary this year. It seems appropriate to offer our sincere thanks to all of them for their efforts to maximize the "BYC Experience" for all members. Their pride in doing their best has made our club stronger and encourages all of us to support their efforts whenever we can.

Have a fun, safe and worry-free summer of boating with your BYC family.

Ed Bonner - Commodore - S/V Wings

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BYC "SICK CALL" and "PORTS 'O CALL

SICK CALL:

Chris and Cathy rushed Ms. Gracie to the hard, complaining of skeg loss. Facts of how the bottom 10 to 14 inches got broken off were scant, however, my guess is they may have skewed their skeg on a scary skerry. The good news is their insurance is bearing the cost for repairs, including a new bottom. Yes, the old skag lost her skeg, but will be back in the waters in the next 3 weeks.

Mark and Brenda Hiler's Sea Flight, is sporting a new bottom and it's reported that Bob and K's Rima has a "fuzzy bottom".



PORTS O' CALL:

Sylvia and Jim sailed Hail Columbia down to South Padre and Joe Blair and his able crewman Ed Klash, sailed Stargazer down too. I'm hearing the trip lasted about 8 days of great sailing, however, there was the matter of dredging services both boats performed while in Port Mansfield. Joe's crew dude didn't quite make it into the dingy on their trip to shore and had sort of a body "knock down" in the water. If that wasn't enough, my good friend Ed the crew dude, fell into the water again when boarding the dingy back to the boat. Joe says Ed "complained" he was "pushed" – apparently, both times.

Chip and Brenda sailed Starfish on a trip to Island Moorings up the ICW and had an engine cooling hose clamp failure, and continued to enjoy their sail while the engine cooled down. Chip went below and changed out the clamp, while his mate complained that he needed to trim up the sails cuz the boat wasn't sailing anymore. It was learned the keel made its way over to where the ICW wasn't – so, what's the problem you may ask? None at all. We've all been there.....Chip explains it something like this: If you're not on the water and not sailing, then don't expect these things to happen.
I agree.

While I take time to find the humor in some of these experiences, and share with you the humor in the sport we love, we need to be reminded of the seriousness and dangerous side that goes along with sailing. In any case, I have learned by these experiences/mistakes and mishaps – my own and others.

Some of our more recent incidents could have ended in serious injury. For these, I do not find folly or flippancy. Let's be safe on the water and keep up the humor.

Live Long, Laugh Hard

John Fowler





BYC CRUISIN' NEWS

"The weather is here, I wish you were beautiful. My thoughts aren't too clear, please don't run away. The beer is too cold. The daiquiri's too fruitful. Hell nobody's perfect; would you like to play? I feel together today."

Well we're half way through 2008 and the weather for our cruising has yet to fail us (I hope that last line didn't put a jinx on us). Again, (due to unfortunate circumstances) Mrs. Cruise Dude and I were unable to sail with the fleet for the BYC Summer Solstice Cruise, so once again I will entertain you with the story as it was relayed to me. However, I must admit that I have seen this person drunk. Let's see....It was just like it was yesterday...Oh yeah there were 5 mighty vessels of the BYC Fleet that made the voyage to welcome the Summer Solstice. They were *Cabaret, Honky Voodoo, Starfish, Vintage, and Windswept*. In the absence of their Fearless leader (AKA Cruise Dude) they wisely opted to changed the destination to a local port that they would be able to plug in to and run their A/C. (Hey, in January while making the schedule, anchoring out at Shamrock Cove in June sounded wonderful.) This wise group decided to make Island Moorings there port of call, and an excellent choice it turned out to be; Swimming pool, Restaurant, Movie Stars.....(more on that later.)

Upon arrival at Piper channel it was noted that there was indeed enough water for even the deepest draft boats of the fleet to make it through. Unfortunately for Chip & Brenda Spence of *Starfish* a hose clamp decided to fail, leading to an engine overheating situation. Chip decided to just park the boat in the channel (run it aground) while sorting out his options. Let's see...work on a hot engine while aground in a channel. Ask one of the other SAIL boats to take me in tow. Wait...What is that red boat with the white strip that says TOW BOAT U.S. doing fishing out here? As much as we pay a year and never use the service, this looks as good as any time to mess up their day. *"Tow boat U.S. this is S/V Starfish..."*

Once all secured at Island Moorings the group discovered that the local restaurant was out of business (so much for Restaurant or Movie Stars for that matter.) but alas there is a pool.

The up side is, without a restaurant you can bring all the food and drinks you want to the pool. With food and drink you're bound to make new friends. The party crashers that they are; the BYC cruisers were invited to join the fine folks of Island Moorings for a grill out dinner followed by a movie by the pool. Now that's hospitality. Sunday morning was greeted by adult beverages and Brenda and Jenny made breakfast tacos for the group. Chip was able to restore the cooling system and all set sail for a fine down wind run for home.

Next up is the July 12th and 13th cruise to Ingleside cove for the annual Bastille Day celebration at Bahia Marina. You are invited to raft up at the docks or anchor out in the cove. This is always a blast of a party (especially when they "light up" the replica of the Bastille out in the channel.) The electric boat race will start about 5:00ish. The Pot-Luck Dinner will start about 7:00ish. (Remember to bring a covered dish and be generous but NO CAKES. This is Bastille Day.

"Off with their heads") Afterwards the musical entertainment will be provided by **Buck Two 98**.

At around 9:30ish the peasants will storm the Bastille and there will be much celebrating.

"Buy the Beaujolais, on Bastille day. He dances in the tide."

So in the spirit of Jean Lafitte, I say that we sail the BYC Armada into the cove at Ingleside with all flags-a-flying. We'll show them what a rag-tag band of rabble-rousers mean by revolution.

"Viva La BYC!"

"That's why we wander and follow La Vie Dansante."

Ron Hebert
S / V *La Vie Dansante*
BYC Cruise Dude





BAY YACHT CLUB

Family Fun Regatta!!

Mark your calendars for Saturday July 26 and participate in the BYC Family Fun Regatta. This race will start in the early afternoon and be approximately ten nautical miles in length. The course will emphasize reaches and off-the-wind sailing. Entrants will receive a 5% increase in their boat's PHRF handicap for every family member on board. Don't have family in the area? Invite a friend. They will also count for the handicap adjustment. Stay tuned for the Notice of Race which will be distributed by e-mail later this month.

That evening, dinner at the Club will be a Bahamian style meal served by our intrepid Caribbean cruisers. Rumor has it that Goombay Smashes will be served before dinner.

So shipmates, round up your kin and friends and invite them on July 26 for a fun race, great eats and your club's typically AWESOME hospitality.

(Note: These events are OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED substitutions for the "Board Boats and Hot Dogs" events previously scheduled for that weekend.)

Top Gun Series

Warrior, Rima, Pazuzu, Susi Q and Susan II competed in our second "Top Gun" race on Saturday, June 14. Wind was southeast, 12 to 15 knots. Weather warm and sunny. *Warrior* finished in 1st place with a corrected time of 1:11:52 on the 8.6 mile racecourse. 2nd and 3rd place honors went to *Pazuzu* and *Susan II* respectively. Series standings are shown in the table below.

Place	Boat	Skipper	Total Points	Race 1 Points	Race 2 Points
1	Warrior	Hal Peterson	122.6	29.9	92.7
2	Rima	Bob Jack	90.6	29.9	60.7
3	Pazuzu	Crawford-Haas	82.1	0.0	82.1
4	Susi Q	Ed Klash	80.0	29.9	50.1
5	Susan II	Lynn Walton	71.4	0.0	71.4
6=	Brigadoon II	Jim Robertson	29.9	29.9	0.0
6=	Ragtime	Lewis Eisenberg	29.9	29.9	0.0
6=	Valhalla	Al Sondern	29.9	29.9	0.0
6=	WindSwept	Larry Frank	29.9	29.9	0.0

After the race, skippers and crew met at the U & I Restaurant for lunch.

The third race in this series, originally scheduled for October 18, has been moved to October 4. This will eliminate a conflict for our members who want to participate in the Harvest Moon Regatta race from Galveston to Port Aransas, which is also scheduled for the weekend of October 18.

Jim Robertson



BYC PHOTO ALBUM



SV VINTAGE



YES, THIS IS THE LIFE!



SV STARFISH BOUND FOR ISLAND MOORINGS



MAGGIE SPORTING NEW HAIR GROWTH



CHIP, HAVE YOU FALLEN AND CAN'T GET UP?



PARTY TIME AT ISLAND MOORINGS

EDITOR'S NOTE: FEEL FREE TO SEND YOUR PHOTOS FOR USE IN THE "BOWSPRIT"!

BYC Calendar of Events

JULY

4th— 4th of July Party and Marina Fireworks

12th—BYC Cruise to Bahia Marina Bastille Day

19th—BYC Board Meeting and Dinner

26th—Board Boats and Hot Dogs

3rd— Water Shore Advisory Board
 4th— 4th of July Party and Marina Fireworks
 12th—BYC Cruise to Bahia Marina Bastille Day
 19th—BYC Board Meeting and Dinner
 26th—Board Boats and Hot Dogs



AUGUST

1st-Navy Regatta Registration/Party BYC

2nd-Navy Day Race BYC Cruise to NAS

3rd-Navy Challenge Race/ Cruise to BYC

9th- 5:30 pm BYC Board Meeting/Dinner

30th- Commodore's Cup Race/ Cruise to Bahia

1st-BYC Navy Regatta Registration/Party at BYC
 2nd- Navy Day Race/ BYC Cruise to NAS
 3rd- Navy Challenge Race/Cruise to BYC
 7th - Water Shore Advisory Meeting 5:30 pm
 9th- BYC Board Meeting 5:30; Dinner
 15th- BYC Dinner
 23rd- BYC Dinner
 30th- Commodore's Cup Race and Cruise to Bahia



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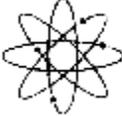

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