

Padre Island Yacht Club

Docklines

June-July 2004

Vol. 20, No. 6



The boarding of the Yacht *Sea Dancer* by Phyllis Bowling

We had been sailing in the Caribbean Sea for several years and knew what to watch out for. We knew that we must keep an eye on the weather, we knew the procedures for checking in and out of different islands, we checked our boat over frequently and kept it in good repair and we had heard the many stories of boardings in the night by unwelcome guests. Mostly those stories were about locals'. Lads that swam out to boats on moonless nights in the hope of finding something to steal off the deck or to steal the dinghy which was tied on to the yacht. We prepared ourselves by keeping our companionway hatch locked from the inside at night and we used cable (and later small chain) to attached the dinghy to the stern. However, over time we forgot that unsuspected things could happen in the most unsuspecting places.

Everyone had told us what a delightful island Dominica (not to be confused with the Dominican Republic) was. It was somewhat primitive which was its' charm and the people were especially friendly. We sailed into Portsmouth Harbor on the western side of the island and selected an anchorage at the southern end of the harbor in front of the small town.

We took the easy way as the bay was quite protected and took a mooring (we usually trusted our own ground tackle more than moorings we knew nothing about) in front of a small hotel. We entertained friends that night on the boat and went to bed late. About 1:30 a.m. I awoke to see Gart standing beside our berth and looking at the hatch over our aft cabin. He had heard someone climbing up the stern and could see his form in the black night standing on the deck. "Get off the boat!" he said in his deep voice hoping they would jump overboard and swim away. Not knowing if they did, he stuck his head up through the hatch and was met by a sawed-off shotgun in his face and a demand to "haul himself" up on deck. I had not heard the faceless voice but I knew something was wrong. I sent to the radio and began calling for assistance on the hailing channel (VHF16) without much hope of getting anyone in the bay with

Suddenly a man dropped through the aft cabin hatch with a machete in his hand. I backed up into the salon turning on lights as I went and saw the young man that the radio microphone and cut the cord with the machete rendering it useless. Before I knew it, there were three of them in the salon and one in a loud voice was demanding that we give them drugs. Of course, we had no drugs and after looking through several cabinet and finally believing me that there were no drugs, they demanded money instead. They took Gart's wallet which was lying on the nav table and had \$300 worth of local money which we had just exchanged that day. They were getting very nervous and repeatedly threatened us with the machete and managed to get another \$300 from our guests. Later, we thought that they were probably high on drugs.

All this time, Gart was tied hand and foot on the deck. They exited quickly the same way they came through the aft hatch and we heard them leave in a dinghy (which they had stolen from the boat moored next to us) and headed in the direction of town. After we got Gart untied, he was able to rewire microphone cord and we began calling for the authorities in town. They answered after a bit and offered to come out to our sailboat but we asked them to wait until dawn so we could actually see who was approaching. We saw them searching the shoreline in the dark for the dinghy. They found the dinghy, without the motor, the next day up a river. They were very concerned and professional in getting a report from us and the townspeople were apologetic. We stayed around for a few days and went ahead and explored the island.

Unfortunately, as the years went by, we had this same story happening to others who went in to Dominica even through many sailors had a hard time believing that this had happened in a place they found so friendly and pretty. We did to.

Lessons Learned! 1) Always be security conscious.

- A. Always lock the boat up tight when no on board.
 - B. Don't leave things around on deck to attract thieves.
 - C. At night, raise your dinghy upon deck (if there is space) or up on the davits if any.
 - D. If you can't do "c" above, chain the motor to the dinghy and the dinghy to the boat.
 - E. At night, lock all hatches that aren't necessary to be open of ventilation purposes..
- 2) Have a plan on what to do if you hear someone on deck at night. *Sea Dancer* did not have such a plan.

Continued

The Commodore's Column

Commodore Jerry McCracken



Important decision made

On April 30, 2004 the spring meeting of the P.I.Y.C. membership discussed the increase of dues and boat slips fees. After a lengthy debate, the motions to increase the quarterly dues to \$85.00 plus tax and boat slips to \$80.00 plus \$5.00 minimum electric effective July 1, 2004 was passed. I would like to thank everyone who came and expressed their feelings and helped with this important decision. It is good we have an open forum to discuss major changes in our club.

We had a good turnout for Mother's Day brunch. All the men who cooked and served did an excellent job to make the day special for all the ladies. The decorations and food were beyond everyone's expectations.

I would like to thank the board for all of their hard work in making the Blue Plate in May a huge success. The bar-b-que chicken, sides and dessert made for a great meal. Food is one the things our club does well. Its like a family reunion when we all get together and share a meal.

Family Picnic

The committee planning this summer's Family Picnic consists of Vickie Nunez (Chair), Bev Hoffman, Irene walls, Debbie Collins, Kay Harbour, Cynthia Atteberry and Neve Scheffknecht.

We're planning Water Sports headed by Bev with Kayak, paddle, raft, Lazer & Sunfish races with perhaps a few surprises thrown in. Cynthia has tons of ideas for balloon games with will involved both the young and the young at heart. There will be a whole group of games for the kids, with prizes for the winners. For adults horseshoes, croquet, sack races balloon races and hula-hoop races are planned.

We're asking that folks sign up for the games and races when they arrive although you can certainly join in later and the games will have scheduled beginning times which will be announced loudly. We hoping to get everyone involved instead of letting the kids have all the fun.

We encourage everyone to bring their water toys-kayaks, paddleboats, Sunfish and Lazers, and whatever else you have. It's a great a time to share your favorite past times and expertise with others at the club.

We plan for the party to begin around 2:00 with dinner planned for 6:00. Speaking of dinner... the clue will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and all the garnishes, as well as, a key and margaritas. We'll ask each participating family to bring one of the following: appetizer, salad or side dish, or desert.

We're looking forward to having a fabulous Family Picnic to remember. If you'd like to help, please give Vickie Nunez at call at 949-9885

Docklines

Published monthly by the Padre Island Yacht Club, 13402 Whitecap Blvd., Corpus Christi TX 78418, telephone 949-2248. On the web: <http://www.piyec.org> Mailing address: 14493 S. Padre Island Dr., Suite A, PMB 342, Corpus Christi TX 78428.

Club Officers: Commodore Jerry McCracken, 949-7277; Vice Commodore Dave Walls, 949-7351; Treasurer Bill Boyd, 949-7132; Secretary Kathy Coker, 949-1056; Social Director Katharine Robinson, 949-0405; Cruising Director Bruce Nunez, 949-9885; Rear Commodore Jim Baker, 949-1506; Information Director Maddrey Reader, 949-8324; Past Commodore Bev Hoffman, 949-7551;

Send items, photos and ads for publication in Docklines to piyccedit@stx.rr.com

Sent items for Club Scrapbook to Historian Maggie Westgate, 949-1460 mwestgate@stx.rr.com.

Social Scene

By Katharine Robinson

Mothers' Day was an elegant sit down event with the tables set and red roses for all our ladies. It was a beautiful day after the torrential downpours of the day before. With music in the background, our ladies were served with eggs benedict, fruit cut, orange juice, coffee and mimosas.

Millie Winters, Bev Hoffman's mom, was the oldest mother attending.

The day was provided by Bruce Nunez, Pete Geneseo, Don Martz, Lee Westgate, Al Woll, Bill Boyd, Jerry McCracken, Dave Wall, Gaylor Heemink, George Young, Bill Fairey, Mern Williams, Jack Simonis and Rick Wilson. Our thanks to all the men who supported this event.



The Board Blue Plate was a great success with Board members providing a delicious grilled chicken dinner to over 80 people. Although the Board worked hard putting the Blue Plate together, recognition should also go to the spouses who also worked to make it a fun evening. Karen McCracken with grandson Nicklos supervised Grandpa's cooking. Jaki Boyd and Vicki Nunez helped with set up and clean up. Gay Baker made a delicious pot of beans and Chuck Hoffman moved tables and helped set up.

Of course, Dorcas Payne, our Blue Plate Chairperson, was busy as a bee packing up leftovers and helping with clean up. And it was a lot of fun having Skipp Dinkler in the kitchen helping us dry and put away dishes.

PIYC's Annual Beach Party Saturday June 19th at 4 p.m.

Come play on the beach... Visit around a campfire

Go to Bob Hall Pier parking area and turn right (south) and look of the PIYC flag and a keg. Hotdogs, chips and s'mores provided. Games egg toss, limbo contest, coconut toss prizes, music, boom box and maybe a guitar player. Since it's the day before Father's day, some of the ladies have something special planned for the men. Chaired by June Geneseo 949-7359 Co-workers: Bonnie Wilson, Peg Fairey, Frances Rosarius, Anne Weatherill, Mary Roy and Cynthia Athberry.

See you for a fun day at the beach.

Greeting cruisers

By Bruce Nunez, Cruising Director



Greetings cruisers. Sorry to report that Bahia Hee Hee was cancelled this year. Mother Nature refused to cooperate and dumped too much rain. The good folks at Bahia decided not to make everyone swim and wade through the mud. They have promised to make it up to everyone with an extra special Bastille Day celebration this year. Windshadow, September Song, and Mariah made the alternate trip to Port Aransas for a pleasant weekend. We were joined by Bill and Jaki Boyd and Gerald and Lynn Loveless who made the land cruise. After snacks and adult beverages on the pier we all dined on a fine Mexican feast before retiring to September Song for some more adult beverages.

I'll be out of town until June fifteenth but we've been invited to join Bay Yacht Club for a new cruise to Whataburger and Farrahs on the nineteenth. This won't be a long distance sail but promises to be a good time. It also affords the land cruisers an opportunity to meet the BYC folks and party with the boaters.

I would like to get a patriotic boat parade going for the 4th of July. We would all decorate our boats in a patriotic theme, then meet at the club at noon and wander our way through the canals before heading off as a flotilla for Corpus Christi and the fireworks show. If this idea interests you please let me know. If there is not enough interest we'll just cruise to Corpus on the 3rd and skip the parade.

Also July 10th is the Bastille Day celebration in Ingleside. Larry Joe Taylor will be providing the entertainment. Those interested will cruise over that morning. As usual Bahia doesn't have a lot of dock space so plan on bringing a dingy and anchoring out. I understand that water taxis will be available for those that need transportation from the anchorage. This one is always a good time.

Beer Can races are coming soon--so until next time. See you on the water, Bruce

PIYC Spring Board Meeting Minutes April 30, 2005

Commodore Jerry McCracken called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Secretary Kathy Coker verified a quorum was present.

Minutes of the November 2003 meeting were read. Upon motions by Maddrey Reader and seconded by Carol Flynn, minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report was given by Bill Boyd. He stated that the note on the building should be paid off in October. He also stressed the rising cost of insurance.

Commodore McCracken opened up the meeting for discussion on the Board of Directors recommendation to raise dues. A lively discussion followed. Ralph Coker moved and Tom Harbour seconded the motion to raise the dues to \$100.00 plus tax per quarter for family memberships and \$80.00 per month for dock rental fees plus a minimum of \$5.00 for electricity. Bob Maupin moved and a member seconded to table the motion. Motion failed 22 to 24. A vote was called for and the (original) motion passed 37 to 24. This included proxies given to the board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Coker, Secretary

Jerry McCracken, Commodore

They came, they sawed, and assembled 4 picnic tables

By George Flynn



From left, Dick Danofsky, Al Woll and Bob Wheaton helped pre-cut trestles and braces prior to the assembly of tables.

The Padre Island Yacht Club is a do-it-yourself sort of organization.

And club members really did it over the weekend of May 21 by producing four new picnic tables for the club's patios and decks.

Each table was inscribed with the names of those who ponied up a share of the \$100 that it



From left, Ulla Skovdal, Lizz Hlavaty and Barbara Williams formed the "girl's team" in the assembly process.

cost to build each table.

Paul Hlavaty was both cheerleader and coach of the effort. Hlavaty and George Flynn made two trips to town to fetch the 27 2x6x12's to build the four tables.

Rustproof Deckmate screws and stainless steel carriage bolts were purchased to hold it all together and to withstand an Island salt air environment in which, some say, "even plastic rusts."

When the lumber and materials were on site, an e-mail went out to the table donors to come down to the club on Saturday to put the tables together.

To ease their work, the table committee — Dick Danofsky and Bob Wheaton in addition to Hlavaty and Flynn — pre-cut the trestles and braces essential to the tables' structural integrity.

As a final touch, the edges of the tabletops and benches were routed into rounded, splinter-free surfaces.

Table donors include Walt and Karen Kleine, Pat and Gwen Kelly, Mern and Barbara Williams, Jim and Anne Weatherill, Jorgen and Ulla Skovdal, Rich and Bonnie Wilson.

Also, Archie and Edie Hamilton, Bill and Jaki Boyd, Al and Carol Woll, Bob and Cathy Wheaton, Paul and Lizz Hlavaty, George and Carol Flynn, Fred and Barb



Paul Hlavaty carved sponsors' names into tabletops

New Members

Welcome Aboard!

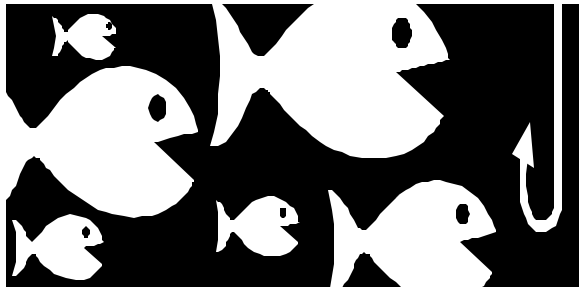


By Rear Commodore—Jim Baker

Harry and Pearl Benoit, 13965 Binnacle St., Corpus Christi, TX 78418, 949-9891, hbenoitjr@aol.com. The Benois arrived here after 23 years in New Hampshire and 12 years in Florida. Harry is a civil engineer and an avid reader and golfer. Pearl also is a reader and is active in PIE.

Herb and Janabeth Taylor, 15329 Gypsy, Corpus Christi, TX 78418, 949-7016, htaylorjr@stx.rr.com. They have a 22-foot Hydrasport powerboat, named *Reel Nauti*. Native to Corpus Christi, Herb is retired from Celanese. He and Janabeth enjoy boating activities and fishing.

Jim and Diana Gaugler, 13561 Bullion Ct., Corpus Christi, TX 78418, 949-2119, gauglerj@stx.rr.com. They own an 18-foot SeaRay powerboat. Jim's careers include industrial management and teaching and Diana has both real estate and teaching expertise. Both enjoy bridge and Jim is also a golfer. They look forward to the yacht club's "Island Attitude."



Experience sunset Key West style at Annual Party

Mark August 21 on your calendar—that's the date of the PIYC Annual Party, and this one is shaping up to be outstanding. Partygoers will experience "Sunset Celebration in Mallory Square-Key West" and they won't have to go to Florida to do it! If you have been to Mallory Square in Key West, you know the fun and magical festivities that happen every night in anticipation of sunset. If you haven't been there, you'll enjoy discovering a new and entertaining way to view the sunset.

Of course, we will start with Happy Hour featuring Tequila "Sunsets." During the Happy Hour, you'll travel through a mini recreation of Mallory Square, complete with street acts and music. There may also be a surprise or two we are not revealing yet. Following dinner, we'll get ready for the "Mallory Square Sunset Celebration" Hopefully the weather will cooperate and Padre Island will have a gorgeous sunset to rival Key West's. Following sunset frivolity, there's more fun dancing to the music of Tequila Sunrise. (Maybe, we can change the ban's name for the evening to Tequila Sunset.) Read more about this fabulous event in upcoming newsletters.

The Annual Party Committee, chaired by Katrina Warren (949-1083), will be working to make the 2004 Annual Party a memorable one. If you would like to help with decorations, entertainment, food preparation, etc, give Katrina a call. Right now, we are lining up entertainment and we need people to volunteer for street acts. The "street" entertainment is a very essential part of the Mallory Square re-creation—you would perform for about a hour. If you have a talent (or not) in music, mime, juggling or tight rope walking, please give Katrina or Jaki Boyd (949-7132) and let us know how you would like to par-

Cook's Notes

By Dorcas Payne

WHAT A BOARD!! Our own P.I.Y.C. Board at your service as Host Chefs for the May Blue Plate. We had a fantastic turnout for the Char-Grilled Chicken entree as the *Blue Plate Special*. The guys grilled the most sumptuous and generous servings of chicken and the gals made the marvelous accompaniments of baked beans, green salad, pasta salad and bread. Millie Winter, (Beverly Hoffman's mother), graciously shared her chocolate birthday cake and ice cream with us for dessert. We had a record turnout for the event and a good time was had by all.

Photography Maggie Westgate



Note: You may note that several individuals on your 2004 Board have generously volunteered their talents and efforts at previous Blue Plate events and some others are scheduled as Blue Plate Hosts later in the year. Please take a moment to express your

appreciation for their dedication to our Club.

WHAT A BOARD!! Any member who would like to assist with a Blue Plate should contact Dorcas Payne at 949-0771

Thank you

Thanks this issue go to **George Flynn** for covering several events while Maddrey was on the road. His articles have made this a special issue. Thanks George! Also thanks to **Maggie Westgate** who also submitted photos covering the Blue Plate and Mothers' Day.

What great members these two people are and I appreciate their help with the Docklines.

Logo Shirts are in

If you ordered PIYC logo shirts, these are in and ready for pick up. Tom Kane gave us the name of a possible new vendor who is local, so it may be possible to get our shirts done here in town. It appears from Tom's e-mail that the new vendor isn't as expensive as the one we currently use. If things work out, we'll be able to get the same items and be able to reduce our costs.

Our next order will be place in the fall so don't despair if you didn't get a chance to order last time.

Treasurer's Report

By Bill Boyd



PIYC Profit & Loss

January through May 2004

Income

Blue Plates	1,681.50
Clothing Sales	1,672.70
Cookbooks	5.00
Courtesy Dock-Power	15.00
Courtesy Dock-Rental	215.00
Directory Sales	350.00
Docks-Power	1,012.46
Docks-Rental	6,207.50
Donations	34.05
Initiation Fees	2,874.50
Installation Banquet	2,550.00
Membership Dues	11,741.26
Miscellaneous Income	318.00
Wheelhouse	<u>2,842.10</u>

Total Income 31,519.07

Expense

Bad Debt	64.65
Bank Service Charges	173.30
Beverly Rogers	450.00
Blue Plate Exp	865.31
Clothing	1,048.93
Directory Expenses	369.22
General Supplies	398.93
Installation Banquet Exp	3,501.33
Insurance	3,295.59
Interest Expense	103.06
Lease Payments	2,435.75
Maintenance-Building	1,136.42
Maintenance-Docks	19.51
Maintenance-Grounds	375.00
Mem-Docklines	473.23
Mem-Historian	36.55
Mem-Members	230.42
Miscellaneous	128.88
Office Supplies & Postage	734.09

Officer Flag	184.90
Race/Cruises	104.20
Social-General	763.96
Social-Men's Coffee	87.49
Social-New Years Party	351.34
Taxes-Property	3,788.99
Telephone	153.36
Trash Disposal	380.18
Utilities-Electric	1,020.50
Utilities-Electric-Slips	864.76
Utilities-Water & Gas	234.43
Wheelhouse Exp	<u>3,122.27</u>

Total Expense 26,896.55

Net Income 4,622.52

A new feature in the Docklines will be a monthly profit and loss statement. This month's statement includes January through May. The checkbook balance, as of May 31, was \$13,244.13, which includes \$2,880.00 in refundable slip deposits. The CD balance is \$6410.48. Plus the normal monthly bills, some other expenses coming up are:

\$1900.00	New Slips
500.00	Shirts

Rueter takes most buncos

Once again our monthly bunko game which was held on 5/5/04 was fun! Refreshments were provided by: Eileen Maltais and Jutta Cox.

Most Bunkos - Ekiuse Reyter)
 Most Wins - Maggie Westgate
 Second Most Wins - Carol Woll
 Boobie (Most Losses) - Carole Lehnherr
 First Bunko - Maria Watkins

We want to encourage you to join us next month. You don't need to know how to play. It only takes a few minutes to have bunko mastered. Please join us at our next monthly bunko game will be held at the PIYC on Wednesday, July 5th at 2:00 pm.

Docklines



Padre Island Yacht Club
14493 South Padre Island Dr.
Suite A PMB 342
Corpus Christi, Texas 78418

— Coming attractions —

- June 5—Fishing Tournament
- June 18—Blue Plate Special
- June 19—Beach Party-Near Bob Hall Pier
- June 19—Bay Yacht Club sail to Farrahs
- July 9—Blue Plate Special
- July 10—Bastille Day Cruise to Ingleside
- July 24—Family Picnic
- August 21—Annual Party



Wheelhouse Notes and More

Vice Commodore Dave Walls

We now have two vacant boat slips. If anyone out there needs a slip, please call me. An anonymous donor donated several solar powered lights and Jack and Millie Simonis installed them at intervals along the dock and by the palapa. Not only are they very decorative, but they provide good lighting along the docks at night. Thanks Jack and Millie.

Diane Smith cleaned up the palapa, repaired the stools with new webbing, decorated with life rings and painted boat names on each ring. The palapa looks great and is a very nice place to meet and have cocktails or cook on the grill. Thanks to Diane.

The Board of Directors has formed a Building Committee to start planning for future expansion of the club building. The committee has come up with a couple of ideas and have posted drawings on the bulletin board.

The Building committee feels that it is very important to keep the club membership apprised of the work of the committee and to encourage membership input to the committee. This will be accomplished by holding town forum meetings periodically and posting drawings and committee minutes. The committee has no preconceived ideas about club expansion and desires input from all club members.

The Building Committee members are: Dick Danofsky, chairman, Bill Boyd, Al Woll, Bruce Nunez, Mern Williams, John Payne, Doug Martz and Dave Walls..

Sea Dancer Continued.

The steps below was what we put into effect after our boarding and made up *Sea Dancer's* plan for the remainder of our years in the Caribbean.

- A. Close any open hatches.
- B. Turn on spreader lights or other outside lights. Thieves don't like to be seen.
- C. Use your air-horn pointed out a port to wake up nearby boats or help on shore.
- D. Try to contact help on the radio.
- E. Make sure everybody in your crew knows what to do.

If *Sea Dancer* had had a plan such as the one above, the boarding would have had a much happier ending. Each yacht should create their own plan to fit their vessel, crew and circumstances. Just be sure you have one.

We spent 10 years cruising the island of the Caribbean and South America and Central America and heard of a few stories of boarding as serious as ours and never experienced anything like it again. We had a wonderful time and met so many locals and sailors from all over the world and are thankful that we could see the world in this way. Don't let tales of this kind keep you from going, just be prepared.



This is a photo of former Commodore Dean Lucas with this 1930 Ford Model A. Lucas fell in love with old cars as a high school student in Middletown, Ohio. He bought this Model A cabriolet (fancy name for convertible) last year from a local dealer. He claims it has a top speed of 40 mph. Forward progress is also impeded by people stopping to ask what sort of vehicles it is, or beaming at it as the car "Just like grandpa drove."

Submitted by George Flynn

Fishing Tournament Photos

Our annual fishing tournament was another success thanks to boat captains Mern Williams, Al Woll, Steve Spoonemore, Larry Reuter, Claire Sheehan and Ray Smith. Each captain had their special hole to get the really big ones and started off around 6 a.m. to catch the fish sleeping.

The Most Fish award went to Mern Williams for raking in four 17 inch trout.. Lee Westgate on Woll's boat got the Biggest Redfish award with this catch of a 28" long and 11 1/4 pounder. Jack Simonis got the Smallest Fish award and Millie Simonis got the Ugliest Fish award for catching a Stingray. Both Jack and Millie were on the Spoonemore boat. Jim Cruz on the Reuter boat pulled in a 18 inch- 2 1/2 pound trout earning him the Biggest Trout award. Jaki Boyd won the Biggest Fish by Female by catching in a 16 inch 1 pound trout. Captain Ray Smith didn't have a lot of luck pulling in any fish but was awarded the Skunk award for his good natured effort.

Our unique keepsake awards were made by Paul Hlavaty and our thanks to Irene Wall, Carol Woll and Maggie Westgate for fixing the great hotdog awards dinner. A special thanks to Dave Wall for spearheading the event and doing the grilling.



Awards by Hlavaty



Dave Wall & Jaki Boyd



Mern Williams



Jim Cruz



Jack imonis



Ray Smith