



The Voyage Home

By Chris Bird

It all began in March when Anita turned 50. To celebrate the occasion, I chartered a 32-foot sailboat for a week in Vancouver, Canada. The week at sea reminded us how much we both enjoy the water. A month or two later I brought home a *Cruising World* magazine and Anita started searching the Internet. She came across a Vancouver 32 in Florida and a Vancouver 36 in Annapolis. These are the bigger sisters of the Vancouver 27 we sailed to Australia and back in the late 1980s. The whole project then seemed to take on a life of its own. Remember, we live about three hours drive from the coast. We flew to Annapolis to look at the 36. We were supposed to see the boat out of the water and then in the water while she was being surveyed but Hurricane Isabel intervened. We saw her out of the water but the yard was only taking boats out of the water as the hurricane approached. Nothing was going back in. I knew a lot about the 36 and had a file on it. It is essentially a two-person boat, designed to cross oceans. She was built in 1981 in Florida and she had a lot more electronics than our Vancouver 27. She had an Autohelm, radar, a GPS and even a single sideband radio which we still don't know how to operate. We bought her without ever seeing her in the water. She had belonged to a woman who used her as a floating condo and she had not been sailed for four years.

We changed her name to *Invicta* which means "undefeated" and is the motto of the county of Kent in England where I grew up. After provisioning and buying essential gear such as life jackets and flares, also less essentials such as a hand-held GPS and a clock to match the barometer. We began the journey back to Texas with our new vessel. Heading for the fuel dock, I discov-

ered how much more difficult it is to handle a 36-foot 18,000 pound boat than a 27-foot 9,000 pound boat. We scraped our way against some pilings to the fuel dock. After that daunting start, it took us a month to complete the 2,200-mile trip.

Filled with diesel, water and provisions, we motored south through the Chesapeake Bay in a fog that hid the shores from us. We motored for 20 hours with the Autohelm keeping us on course and the GPS telling us where we were. We dropped anchor off Norfolk, VA the next morning and slept most of the day. The following day we started at Mile 0 on the Intra-coastal Waterway (ICW). This is 1,250 miles of canals, rivers and open water that stretch, inside the barrier islands, from Norfolk to Key West. We had been advised not to go around Cape Hatteras but to keep to the ICW at least as far as Beaufort.

We went through several bridges which had to be raised or swung open for us. Some of the bridges opened on request by radio but others open on a schedule, usually once an hour but not at all during rush hours. We also went through the only lock on the ICW. By nightfall we had reached Coinjock, NC. After an ill-advised attempt to anchor, we secured at a marina. I decided it was time to check the oil in the engine. I opened up the engine compartment to find oil had leaked all over the place and none showed on the dipstick. This was the low point of the jour-



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The Commodore's Column

Commodore Jerry McCracken



Life is good on Padre Island

Karen and I have just returned from vacation to Mazatlan Mexico. While we were there, we went to the marina and visited with some cruisers. They were very interesting people and we enjoyed the stories they told. One thing that surprised both of us was there were no sea gulls on the beach. We saw brown pelicans and lots of pigeons, but no sea gulls. It is fun to go but it is also good to get back home.

Bay Yacht Club hosted the April's cruise. It was combined with April's social party and hats off to Bruce Nunez and Katharine Robinson for a fun time. Maddrey Reader did a great job on the new membership roster.

By the time you read this article, we should have had our Spring meeting and voted on the possible increase in dues. Regardless of the vote turnout, we have a great club. I am looking forward to the next party and cruise.

The men will be serving Mother's Day Brunch on May 9th, so please let us know if you will be coming so we can plan on how much food to prepare.

Don't forget May 15 is the cruise to Bahia for the Bahia Hee Hee Party.

The Board will be fixing and serving the Blue Plate on May 21st. It's sure to be a great meal, so be sure to attend.

This & that

Maddrey Reader, Editor

My husband, David, retired this month after 30 years in the Navy and has set one more thing to do before he settles back into civilian life. Together with his brother in law, Ray Duering, David plans on riding his bike from San Diego, California to St. Augustine, Florida at distance of approximately 3,518 miles. The trip will take about 58 days with them traveling an average of 75 miles a day. The beginning of the trip will be unsupported until they reach Tempe, AZ. The plans call for my sister in law Vernice and I to meet them in Tempe and to provide support or SAG until they reach San Antonio. They will take a three day break over the Memorial Day weekend. And then return to San Antonio to finish the ride.

Since riding across America on a bicycle isn't something that is done everyday, David and I would like to also use his ride as a fund raiser for our Church's Children and Youth programs. If you are interested in helping You can pledge one cent, or more, for each mile traveled. You could do a prayer and pledge week (or day) and pledge a specific amount for that week (or that day) – along with keeping David and Ray in your prayers. Pledge forms are available at Island in the Son United Methodist Church or calling Kathryn Bainbridge at 438-2353.

One of the great things about our "electronic and wireless" age is that you will be able to go online and see daily briefs and pictures of the ride.

Docklines

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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.

The social scene

By Katharine Robinson

Thank you Bay Yacht Club! On April 3, nine boats and many other club members headed over rough waters to BYC. Arriving in the mid afternoon, they were greeted with beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a wonderful pot luck dinner. The next morning BYC members prepared a huge country breakfast which was enjoyed by all. Thank you Bay Yacht Club for making all of us feel at home and so welcome.



Spoil Island Clean up- This was my first year to be involved with Spoil Island Clean up and what an interesting and fun day it was. Mark your calendars now for next year. Boats and people meet in the morning to go forth gathering trash. No kidding! This is really fun. You will be surprised with the treasures you will find. After working, all come back to PIYC for—you guessed it—**food!** Hot dogs—chips— and beans. We had members cooking and serving. Then we had door prizes-Lots of them. Spoil Island Clean up is a day of lots of work,

lots of food and lots and lots of fun!



Ladies night out-Tuesday evening, April 20, twenty seven of your club members got together to brainstorm on your up and coming social events. It was a very productive time and I'm excited to report that thanks to these ladies we have a lot of great things planned. Starting with **Sunday May 9th Mother's Day Brunch** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Dave Wall and Bill Boyd and their helpers will cook while several of us ladies will do the set up. Since many of us will have out of town guests, please RSVP. **Saturday June 19th—Annual Beach Party.** June Geneseo is chairing this event. Phone 939-7359. **Saturday July 25th— Family Picnic .** Vicki Nunez is chair—Phone -9885 and on **Saturday, August 21st—Annual Party;** Katrina Warren is the chairperson Phone 949-1083. If you were unable to attend our planning meeting but would like to help, give any of our chair-people at call. We'd loved to have your help.



*ALL Ladies are
Invited to*

**Mother's Day
Brunch**

**Sunday, May 9th
Serving from
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

RSVP to

Katharine at 949-0405 or 537-8886 or Kath-

Greeting cruisers

By Bruce Nunez, Cruising Director



April saw us heading downtown to the Bay Yacht Club. It was a brisk and windy day which made for a great sail down. We had our best turnout yet with nine boats making the trip. Many others made the land cruise and partook of the wonderful hospitality of the BYC.

Coming up on the first weekend in May is the Rockport Nautical flea market. This is a good place to pick up parts for the boat as well as tools, paint, knick knacks, and nautical art. You can find just about anything nautical at great prices.

Also in May is the Bahia Hee Hee blowout. This event has become legendary among the boating crowd and just keeps getting better every year. Let's try to set a new record for PIYC boats and land cruisers attending this year. For those who are new to Bahia Hee Hee, it is held at the Bahia marina at Ingleside on the Bay. Dock space is extremely limited but there is plenty of room for anchoring and rafting. There will be water taxis for ferrying folks back and forth to the marina but if you have your own dingy it is a good idea to bring it along. Everyone is also asked to bring a side dish for dinner. They provide beer and soda and usually have some great BBQ for everyone. Judge Carl Lewis and the Deadbeats will perform. This local band has a reputation for putting on a great show. All in all it promises to be a great time so make your plans for the 15th and come to the Hee Hee.

Till then see you on the water.



Wheelhouse Notes and More

Vice Commodore Dave Walls

We had a great turnout for the Spoil Island Cleanup and I personally thank each one of you who participated. It really feels good to see so many people get involved in a community project such as this.

Hopefully the rest of the boat slips will be completed by the time you read this. The contractor has predicted completion by the 26th, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

We have formed a Building Committee in anticipation of enlarging the building in

2005. Our goal will be to decide exactly what we want to do, determine approximate cost, how to finance, etc. Suggestions from members would be most welcome. This, of course, is all dependent upon our renewing our lease with the city.

My thanks to all of you who are constantly volunteering to help with the wheelhouse, ground maintenance, electrical repairs, dock maintenance, gate maintenance etc. you certainly make my job a lot easier.



Spoil Island

Clean Up



Photos submitted by
Irene Wall



New Members

Welcome Aboard!



By Rear Commodore—Jim Baker

April was a good month new member-wise. Let's all extend the hand of Island and PIYC fellowship to:

Walt and Karen Kleine, who come to us via the good reports of Pat and Gwen Kelly. Walt has spent a number of years as a U.S.A.F flier and as a civilian for the U.S. Navy and Karen has been a teacher and public school administrator, with a specialty in special education. They live at 14427 Compass, Unit B-7, phone 949-0740. With nine children and 13 grandchildren they will easily keep their home and their 20-foot Parti-Kraft, *Folks' Folly*, busy and merry.

Ray and Linda Meckel live now in Pleasanton, TX. They chose Padre Island and the PIYC for their leisure time on their 28-foot Rinker power boat, *Harmless Addiction*. Ray, an aircraft mechanic at the NAS, loves diving, windsurfing, flying, fishing and miniature donkeys. Linda is a Wisconsin gal and joins Ray in his interests. They live at 4360 N. 281, Pleasanton, TX 70064, telephone 831/281-2220.

Jim Cattoor was a Navy flier and an American Airlines captain. Originally a Minnesotan, he moved here from Dallas, bringing with him a 21-foot Hurricane powerboat. Jim likes good scotch, trains, planes, automobiles, motorcycles, computers and reading. He lives here at 13730 Cayo Cantilles Ct., phone 949-1740.

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ney.

Anita was talking lawyers and setting the sale aside. I was just appalled. Fortunately, when I stepped ashore, some guy told me what a good boat we had. This improved morale somewhat. In the morning, a Sunday, the marina folk found us a semi-retired diesel mechanic. He said he could not find a major leak, just a few small ones. He also said the engine sounded good. Anita's brother, also a diesel mechanic, said if the engine hadn't been used for four years, the seals had probably dried out and it might heal itself. So it proved. At the end of our journey she used a quart of oil in 50 hours of motoring rather than three quarts in 30 hours.

We continued down the ICW, getting one good day of sailing across Albemarle Sound, but mostly motoring. We reached Beaufort, N.C. several days later and anchored with many other boats in the harbor while a cold front with winds to 30 knots went through. We were impressed with the Beaufort Maritime Museum which lends boaters vehicles for two-hour periods for free. We borrowed one and replenished stores.

From Beaufort, we sailed and motored down the coast to Charleston, SC and secured at the City Marina. It is a private operation run like a first-class hotel. They deliver a morning newspaper to your boat and have a courtesy van to take you downtown and back. We wandered around the old city and had a great dinner at Magnolia's. We continued down the ICW because of adverse weather forecasts until we reached the Savannah River. We then sailed parallel to the coast with one side trip to Jacksonville, Florida, until we entered the Port of Miami at night. That was a little stressful. We anchored just south of the Rickenbacker Bridge in Biscayne Bay that night. The next morning two Miami police boats hailed us. They said a film was being made on the shore nearby and if we were going to hang around for a few hours, the director asked us to move closer so he could get us in the shot. *Invicta* missed her opportunity to be immortalized on celluloid.

South of Miami, it was somewhat disconcerting to cross bays and sounds with an average depth of seven feet when we draw five. At one point I me-

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Cook's Notes

"**Muy Bueno!**" was reported to be the response of those who attended the April Blue Plate. Mexican Food was the evening's menu which featured tamales and accompaniments.. All was under the able direction of Host Chefs Marilyn and Larry Gomillion. Marilyn prepared the delicious chili and beans. Assistant Chefs Jaki Boyd prepared the salad and Carol and Steven Spoonmore made the Spanish rice. Ice Cream provided a welcome cool down for a perfect finale . Carol Woll, and Phyllis Bowling assisted with serving. Larry and Bill Boyd helped with the table setups and Bill with collections. **Muchas Gracias!** to all those who made the Mexican Blue Plate a sizzling success.



Carol Woll, Jaki Boyd, Carol Spoonmore and Phyllis Bowling—Photo by Carol Flynn

COMING UP on May 21

Your PIYC Board will be Host Chefs and doing the cooking and the serving. The menu is unknown, but is sure to be something special. Don't miss this one!!!!



Treasurer's Report

By Bill Boyd

The Club had a very good response to the "greetings" (i.e. second quarter billing statements) I said you would receive in the last Docklines. To date, all but twenty-three members have paid their second quarter dues, and all but two members have paid the April slip rentals. Four members are over ninety days in arrears. Thanks to everyone who has paid promptly. This really helps keep PIYC solvent!



The Board will present its proposal for dues and dock rental increases at the April 30 General Membership Meeting. The present dues are \$69.28 plus sales tax for a total of \$75.00 per quarter. The proposed increase is \$100 plus tax per quarter. This represents an increase of a little over \$10 per month for a family membership. Slip rental would be increased to \$80 per month plus a minimum \$5.00 electric charge or the amount for actual usage. We've already talked about the necessity of increasing dues with our rising costs in previous Docklines.

PIYC needs a quorum at the April 30 meeting to vote on the proposals. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send your proxy vote, either in support of or against the proposal, **in writing** to Commodore Jerry McCracken, 13833 Eagles Nest Bay Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78418, or by **email** to kmccrack@stx.rr.com or bill1079@aol.com.

Do you get our e-mail updates?

Every so often, we send out e-mail updates to our events giving you last minute information. Last week we sent out an e-mail concerning proxy voting for the Spring Meeting. Other times, for example, for the BYC pot luck, we send info asking member to bring dishes, asking for help with docking, rafting and other assorted things. If you're not hearing from us by e-mail, we probably don't have your correct address. Fill out the change of address form in your membership roster and drop it in wood box at the club.

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andered off the channel and the depth sounder read 4.7 feet. But we didn't go aground. We eventually reached Key West and anchored in the harbor. The island is a magnet for cruise ships and we saw about eight in the three days we were there. We had a great day ashore in warmth and sunshine. We walked 13 blocks in each direction to a butterfly conservatory. Just after midnight, the wind hit us like a plank. A cold front brought winds gusting over 30 knots and we dragged anchor four times. That was no fun. Even the water taxi was swamped.

We left Key West on a Sunday and headed west across the Gulf of Mexico. We had good wind for several days followed by a day of motoring in a calm. Then the wind from the NE picked up as another cold front moved in. The night before we arrived in Corpus Christi Bay, we were weaving among uncharted oil platforms in a gale - 35 knots of wind. The next day at dusk, we followed a huge tanker into Aransas Pass and Corpus Christi Bay. After a night anchored just south of Ingleside, we motored south across the bay to *Invicta's* new home at the Padre Island Yacht Club where we were met by the then Vice Commodore Jerry McCracken. As we drove home, we were just amazed to see all the Christmas lights. The season of festivities just crept up on us.

Chris Bird and his wife Anita Reeves live in

Williams takes most buncos

Once again our monthly bunko game which was held on 4/7/04 was fun! Refreshments were provided by: Barbara Williams

Most Bunkos - Barbara Williams (6 Bunkos)
Most Wins - Ruth Kelley
Second Most Wins - Eloise Reuter
Boobie (Most Losses) - Eileen Maltais
First Bunko - Linda Populski

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, May 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 —

- April 30—Spring Board Meeting
- May 1-2—Rockport Nautical Flea Market
- May 9—Mothers' Day Brunch— RSVP needed
- May 15—Bahia Hee Hee Cruise
- May 21—Board Blue Plate Special
- June 19—Beach Party
- July 24—Family Picnic
- August 21—Annual Party