

Volume 2018, Issue 4

April 2018



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL SAILORS - FOUNDED IN 1984

# TASS Topsider

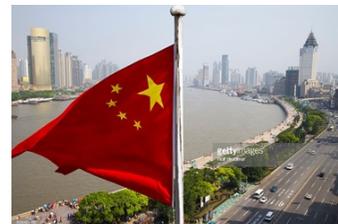


## Commodore by Jay Leggett

Hi TASS,

I know you I hope you have opened the new TASS website, logged on and saved your password. I hope you are enjoying the amazing functionality that this new company has brought. Everything we have tried works almost flawlessly and there will always be a few bugs but mostly there are no issues whatsoever so if you have any issues or trouble please reach out - you can send an email to [webmaster@sailtass.com](mailto:webmaster@sailtass.com) or call Thann or myself and we will be glad to help.

TRIPS -- for those of us that are going to China, you should have received your travel information so that you can complete your visa application. If you need any help give me a call.



Our Labor Day trip to San Francisco is basically not gonna happen this year, as all of the boats above 36 foot are on hold for a flotilla they are doing to Mexico. So... our Plan B had evolved to 10 days in Marsh Harbor, Bahamas; Friday, August 24th, returning on Monday, September 3rd, which is Labor Day. If you're interested get a skipper and crew together and give me a shout and we'll work on getting more boats. So far we have two boats full that I know of, left over from trying to do San Francisco.



# Vice Commodore - Urs Rathgeb

The race season has started, with an exciting “Crazy Irishman Chase” in honor of St. Patrick's Day!

In order to make the race live up to its name, our Race Czar John Klumb put a challenging course together that included a “slalom” section – see picture. As if that wasn't enough, during the race morning's briefing, the 8 skippers in attendance were presented with the option to either race the course clockwise or counter-clockwise.

Conditions were near ideal, with winds between 10 and 15 knots from the East to Southeast. At some point, at least a few of the boats experienced a few drops of rain, but as the race went on, the sun broke through the clouds

Turns out that the right choice to sail the course this afternoon was clockwise, which was chosen by both the first and second place winner. Nevertheless, all boats finished within roughly 20 minutes after more than 2 hours of race duration, emphasizing how well the handicaps were set and how competitive the field was.



In keeping with the Irish theme, up for grabs were a few bottles of Jameson Whisky. Race results as follows:

<u>Ranking</u>	<u>Boat Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Astarte	5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Oxbow	4
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Escape Hatch	3
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Nightwind	2
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Mischief	1
DNF	Lazz	
DNC	Nirvana	
DNC	Dancing with Dolphins	

## Vice Commodore - Urs Rathgeb

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*1<sup>st</sup> Place went to Mark Langley and his crew on Astarte*



*Andrew Clark (Oxbow) was presented with the trophy for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place*



*3<sup>rd</sup> Place went to Gilbert with his Crew  
on EscapeHatch*

After the race, everyone met at Sundance Grill to exchange stories, and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon with grub and drinks and in good company.

Next up on the race calendar, April 28, will be the traditional Carol Becker race in its 22<sup>nd</sup> edition, which features a woman at the helm at all times from start to finish. Of course male participation is not only allowed, but encouraged - to trim the sails and as rail meat.

## Social Director—Joanne Moschella

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Spring leaped into action for the TASS group with our Saint Patrick's After Race Party at Sundance Grill. I was on the Charter Boat and even though we did not place, we had a fun time in our green attire. The party had a good turnout as we watch Astarte take the awards for first place, OxBow for second place, and Escape Hatch for third. The day started out cloudy and looked like rain only to turn sunny and warm. Happens all too often on the bay.



Upcoming events to watch for and sign up on the calendar for April, is the Carol Becker Race and Tie One on for Buzz Party, April 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be having dinner, awards, and music with dancing at Amadeus Italian Restaurant on Kipp St. Prizes will be awarded for the craziest tie so come join the fun. I need a head-count, so please be diligent and sign up.

## Social Director—Joanne Moschella

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Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Mark Monroe has graciously agreed to host the Kemah Bike Ride for another year. We will have grilled hamburgers and knock-wurst. A fun day starting at 9:00 a.m. and lunch at 11:30. Please come and join us even if you do not participate in the bike ride.



Memorial Day Weekend is coming up in May and sign-up sheets are online for boat owners wanting a slip at the Galveston Bay Yacht Club, dinner at Riando's on the Strand for Sunday, May 27, and day sailing on the Charter Boat for that same day.

- Dinner and dancing on the Strand Sunday night.
- Boat owners need to contact Galveston Bay Yacht Club and tell them you are with TASS on the floating docks for \$2.00 per foot per night.
- We have having a dockside cocktail party hosted by the Charter Boat, so B.Y.O.B. and an appetizer to share. Monday morning, we will enjoy a dockside brunch before heading back.

If any of our members would like to have additional events added to the calendar, please do not hesitate in asking me. All requests are welcome.

## Membership Director—Marilyn Reed

**TASS Membership is 179 Strong and growing!**



I'm liking that number and raising you to 180 as our goal for the month of April. Keep up the good work of spreading the news of our raucous (yet informative) meetings, sails, and very diverse activities! Check the calendar, read your Topsider, peruse The Weekly Blast for more awesome events coming up.

Welcome our brand new member when you see him! (1) Harry Elmendorf.

And, thanks a heap to our TASS members who renewed their memberships for another year of fun on the water with your TASS family.

Come on sailors, if you have let your membership lapse, it's time to log on and renew! We have so many cool events planned that you are not going to want to miss a thing. Alternatively, if you been thinking about joining, the time is now! Just say YES! **CALLING ALL MEMBERS**, if you are missing a familiar face, pick up that phone and give a shout. That just may be the nudge that's needed. Plus, it just feels good to know someone is missing us.

Happy Birthday to all you April babies (10) members:

Charlotte Cicatello	Noah Kingston
Pat Lawther	Gilbert Garcia
Patricia Gumbs	Hope Bliss
Ray Montello	Larry Cullen
Trish Hazeldine	Mark Klebenow



Come on to one (or all) of the April meetings and well raise a glass to you and even toss you a free TASS Koozie!

See you on the water, at the meetings, or wherever else the winds may take us!

## Membership Director—Marilyn Reed

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**TASS Members—If you haven't seen the postings on the TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE 2018 Race Series it's a must see..... TALL SHIPS ARE COMING TO GALVESTON! April 5th thru April 8th.**

Enjoy a sneak peak of the visiting tall ships to this year's TALL SHIPS® GALVESTON and learn about their incredible histories.

**Tall Ships® Galveston invites you to Galveston Historical Foundation's Texas Seaport Museum to toast the end of the day and beginning of the evening at this special festival event. The Tall Ship ELISSA welcomes you onboard for complimentary wine and beer (courtesy of Saint Arnold Brewing Company), special entertainment and private access aboard our visiting fleet.**



**TALL SHIP TOURS:** See details @: <http://www.galvestonhistory.org/events/tallships/harbor-ship-viewing-tours>

See the visiting fleet from a totally different angle! Learn more about the histories of our visiting fleet, view dolphins as you travel through the bay and maybe even catch a glimpse of our day sail vessels as they pass by.

# Purser— Nancy Welch

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We'll talk in May

## Webmaster, Social Media—Thann Dauterive



March 19, 2018 marked the milestone for TASS as we launched the new web site. The site supports many new features which I could list but the best way to experience the features is to take a tour of the site yourself. You cannot break anything or screw up information, so I suggest you click on everything in the menu bar to see what is under each header of featured information.

To get started, below is the home page view – just navigate through each menu option



The important element I would like to mention is you are a member of TASS and as a member in order to **ACTIVATE** your account in the new system you **MUST** do the following as soon as possible.

1. Go to your browser and type [sailtass.com](http://sailtass.com) or [www.sailtass.com](http://www.sailtass.com) either works
2. You will see the HOME PAGE and in the upper left corner of the page above the word HOME is a grey box that says **“Log in”**
3. Click on the **Login** box
4. Next the page display asks for your email address – **put in your email address**

# Webmaster, Social Media—Thann Dauterive

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## ACTIVATE YOUR ACCOUNT WITH TASS—continued

- a. You do NOT have a password set up therefore you need to click on the blue letters that say **FORGOT password**.
  - b. The screen will display a code # which it ask you to enter – Do this as it instructs you on the screen.
  - c. This is to authenticate YOU as a user of the system. It will send you an email to your email address to verify that you are you! Just like your bank does.
  - d. Follow the instructions in the email.
  - e. Set up or reset your password
5. Now you can login with your email and password.
  6. This will now allow you to see all information authorized by members only, register for events etc.

The registration process for an event is not much different (looks different) but the process is the same.

Chose an event from the EVENT and CALENDAR tab from the home page

Select an event

Click on register & proceed.

For more on the use of the new site, you can attend any weekly meeting of TASS, any location and I will be there holding a 15 minute demonstration and Q&A session following each weekly meeting so plan to ATTEND a meeting and stick around so you are informed.

Most important, if you see us or any event on Facebook don't just LIKE IT – hit the **SHARE** button and **SHARE** our events and activity with your community. Who knows they might just LIKE IT too and SHARE it or join TASS.

Please direct all website questions, concerns, suggestions via email to [webmaster@sailtass.com](mailto:webmaster@sailtass.com)

### How to Sail to Windward with Blazing Speed!

If you are anything like me, it can be confusing to try to remember just what your Genoa luff telltales are telling you.

These small pieces of yarn or ribbon can help you learn to sail a boat better, faster, and with more power. Learn a new way to use telltales for close hauled sailing with these three easy secrets!



Genoas and jibs often come from your sailmaker with telltales already in place. Look along the luff in the lower third, half-way point, and upper third of your boat sails.

Racing sailboats use telltales to help beat the competition on race day. Small cruising boats can use them to get to windward destinations faster.

“ Ultimately, sail trim is all about keeping a boat sailing fast and balanced.

*Brian Hancock --  
author, offshore racing sailor*

#### Trim before Going to Windward

Before you use telltales, make sure to trim your sails. In moderate winds, tension the halyard to keep the Genoa draft about 40% aft of the luff; tension the halyard or Cunningham to keep the mainsail draft about 45% aft of the luff.

Set the mainsail boom close to the centerline. Allow the mainsail leech to twist a bit (fall off to leeward). Sight up the leech and ease the mainsheet an inch at a time to induce twist.

Watch the top batten as you ease the mainsheet. In light air, keep the top batten parallel to the boom. In moderate air, keep the top batten open a bit to leeward. This helps the air exit the leech without turbulence.

Trim the Genoa so that it matches the mainsail. The Genoa leech should lie within about 1" to 2" of the spreader tips. Now, you are ready to use your luff telltales.

# Tech Sailing Talk

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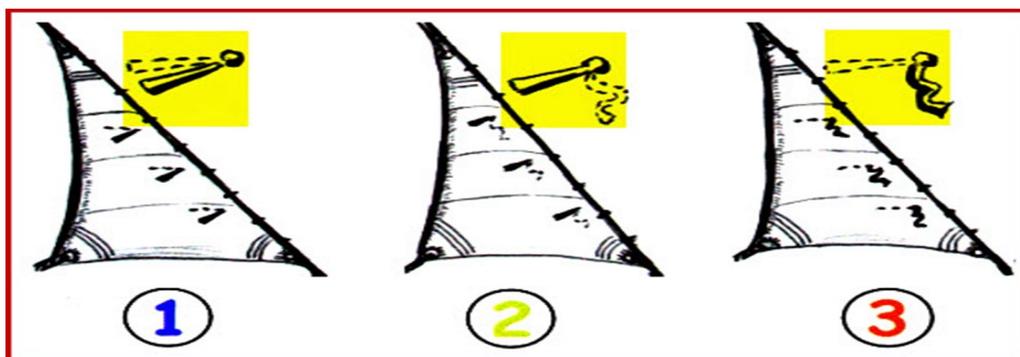
### How to Use Genoa Luff Telltales

You want your telltales to stream in a "V" pattern on the windward and leeward side of the Genoa (or headsail) when going to windward or reaching.

This shape indicates that you have an even flow of air on both sides of the sail. But if one side of your sail gets more air flow than the other, one side will stream while the other flutters.

It's easy to forget which way to turn the boat to get those yarns or ribbons streaming again. In this new method, concentrate only on the windward side telltales.

First, ask yourself what the windward yarns are doing. Compare their action to the telltales on the leeward side. Use the memory keys below to know which way to turn the boat...



Are you sailing with your sails trimmed (1), stalling (2), or pinching (3)? Concentrate on the windward side telltale. Compare it to the leeward telltale to know whether to point higher or fall off for best performance.

In the illustrations, you are looking at the windward side of the Genoa.

### 1. Windward telltale streaming--Leeward telltale streaming

*What does it mean?*

Perfect sail trim. Good air flow on both windward and leeward side.

### 2. Windward telltale streaming--Leeward telltale fluttering

*What does it mean?*

Stalling. If most of the wind blows onto the windward side, this blocks the air from the leeward side. This causes that leeward telltale to flutter, fly around in wild circles, or hang down like a limp noodle.

# Tech Sailing Talk

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## 1. Windward telltale streaming--Leeward telltale streaming

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Stalling. If most of the wind blows onto the windward side, this blocks the air from the leeward side. This causes that leeward telltale to flutter, fly around in wild circles, or hang down like a limp noodle.

*What will happen?*

Stalling causes the boat to slip sideways more than it should. This reduces your speed.

*What action do you take?*

"Streaming = Head Upstream".

Streaming means you need to sail "up-stream"--or closer to the wind. Sail toward the wind just enough to get the "V" pattern that indicates perfect sail trim.

## 3. Windward telltale fluttering--Leeward telltale streaming

*What does it mean?*

Pinching. If most of the wind blows onto the leeward side of the sail, this blocks the air from the windward side.

*What will happen?*

Pinching causes the boat to slow because it's sailing too close to the wind.

*What action do you take?*

"Fluttering = Fall Off".

Fluttering means you need to fall off the wind. Turn away from the wind just enough to get the nice "V" pattern that shows perfect trim.

Notice in each action step, you concentrated on the windward telltale to know what action to take. If it streamed by itself, you sailed upstream, or closer to the wind. If it fluttered by itself you fell off, or farther away from the wind.

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### **Captain John's Sail Trim Secrets**

*Telltales on a Genoa should 'break even'. That means if one telltale starts to flutter, then all telltales on the sail should flutter at the same time. If they don't, you'll need to adjust your Genoa sheet block position.*

*Make this easy test: Sheet your sails for beating and make a super slow turn toward the wind; pinch just enough until the telltales start to flutter. If all telltales break at the same time from top to bottom, you're good to go. If not, see the next step...*

*Top telltales dance first? Move the sheet block toward the bow (Top = Toward). Bottom telltales dance first? Move the sheet block back. (Bottom = Back). These actions apply tension to the leech (toward) or foot (back).*

*When you move your sheet block, slide it just one or two holes at a time up or down the track. Lock it into position. Repeat the 'break even' test. Once you find the perfect block position, duplicate the position with the block on the opposite side of your boat.*

## TASS Officers

February 2018—January, 2019

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## TASS Membership Fees

New ..... \$65.00  
Renewal before expiration .... \$60.00  
Out-of-town/state ..... \$25.00

## TASS Sails

Leisure Day & Moonlight sails  
\$50/members; \$65/Guests  
Day sails depart at 12 or 1 pm till 5  
or 6 pm  
Moonlight sails depart at 6 pm till 11  
pm  
Crew Training Sails  
\$60/members; \$75/guests

**We're on the web:  
[www.sailTASS.com](http://www.sailTASS.com)**

## Meetings

Every Thursday Night  
6:00 pm—Social Hour  
7:00 pm—Meeting

Check the calendar at  
[sailtass.com](http://sailtass.com) for details