Volume 2018, Issue 5

May 2018

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL SAILORS-FOUNDED IN 1984

TASS Topsider

Commodore by Jay Leggett

Hi TASS,

We are already several months into beautiful sailing weather, so sign up for a leisure sail and come enjoy our great weather. I hope everyone has logged into the NEW TASS website www.SailTASS.com and updated their profile with emergency contact information and any other details that are missing, as well as saving your new password. The new web-site has been working wonderfully, and I hope you've found it MUCH easier to use than the old one, as I certainly have.

I hope you enjoyed our annual Carol Becker / Tie one on for Buzz regatta and awards dinner afterward. See all the photos on the TASS Facebook page and in our Social column.

Hopefully all of our China trip folks have gotten their China Visas, if not you need to get that done, departure date is less than 60 days.

Our Labor Day **Marsh Harbor Bahamas trip** (Fri, Aug 24 - Mon, Sept 3) has one spot open on my boat, so if you're interested call me 713-459-0094 for details.

Vice Commodore - Urs Rathgeb

We already sailed the second race of the year this past weekend, for the Carol Becker Trophy.

As usual, me met at the ice house for the skippers' meeting. Our Race Czar John Klumb staked out a triangle course that led us from the Kemah Number Two mark to the South Boaters Cut, then to the F Mark, and finally back to the Channel entrance.

Relaxed atmosphere at the skippers' meeting

While everyone worried about conditions before the start, it turned out to be a marvellous sailing day. Winds were a bit on the lighter side, with winds between 5-10 knots from the East to Southeast. Nevertheless, all five boats that had started finished before the race-cutoff time at 4:30 pm.

Due to its rating, Astarte started last, and as usual, passed boat after boat, but did not quite catch up to Mischief, which kept the upper hand in a photo finish, separating first and second place by a mere 2 seconds. A second challenge developed between the two charter boats, with 3 lead changes during the race. In the end, Tarah Shell was able to hold off Nightwind by seven seconds.

Here are the complete race results:

Ranking	Boat Name	Points
1st Place	Mischief	5
2nd Place	Astarte	4
3rd Place	Tarah Shell (Charter Boat)	3
4th Place	Nightwind (Charter Boat)	2
5th Place	Nirvana	1

Vice Commodore - Urs Rathgeb

Carol Beck Race continued…….

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1st Place went to Nancy Welch and crew on Mischief

2nd Place went to Cheryl Morvillo and her crew on Astarte.

3rd Place went to John Klumb and his females at the helm & crew members on Tarah Shell.

Vice Commodore - Urs Rathgeb

Carol Beck Race continued…….

Rather than words, I am letting photos speak about this beautiful day on the water.

Social Director—Joanne Moschella

April has been the month to honor our female sailors. We started with April 14th, The Mermaid Regatta hosted by our very own Babs Bukowski, who started the race, along with the Women's Sailing Association. Our club was well represented and accomplished taking home honors in the HYC Club Handicap as follows: Nancy Welch on "Mischief" won first place and Nancy Kahlden on "Astarte" placed third. Congrats to these two fabulous women and their crew for such an outstanding finish. We ended the day with a lovely awards dinner hosted by Babs. Thank you Babs for including TASS in such a wonderful event.

Our second event to celebrate female sailors is April 28th, The Carol Becker race, where only women are at the helm. The after race party, "Tie one on for Buzz," was held at Amadeus Italian Restaurant & Piano Bar with 37 attendees, a large turnout. 1st place Prize for the craziest "Tie" was awarded to Mark Langley.

Social Director—Joanne Moschella

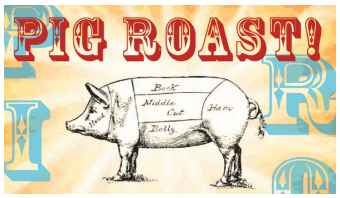
Tie-one on for Buzz after Race Party…….

Social Director—Joanne Moschella

May 6th, Mark Monroe is hosting the Seabrook Bicycle Ride and Hamburger Fest. We haven't done this in three years. Mark has a very inter esting and historical bike path for us to enjoy starting at 9:00 a.m. and returning to his house for Karl Bumiller's fantastic grilling at noon. Hamburgers and Bratwurst with potato salad, baked beans and potato chips are on the menu. BYOB, a dessert to share, and a lawn chair. Please come for the hamburgers even if you don't participate in the bike ride.

Memorial Weekend is approaching fast as TASS heads to Galveston. We have a total of 6 boats so far and this should be a fun filled week end packed with events. We head out Saturday morning and will be docking at the Galveston Yacht Basin. After docking, we start the dock party hosted by the Charter boat. Bring an appetizer to share and B.Y.O.B. Sunday, we head out to sail in the Gulf for the day and back at the dock in time to get ready for dinner reservations at Riondo's on the Strand at 6:30 p.m. A fun night to stay and party on the Strand afterwards. Uber is available for us as well. Monday morning will be a dockside breakfast so bring a dish to share at the Charter Boat. Afterwards, we head for home.

September 15th, Charlie Holcomb is hosting a pig roast/pool party at his house. Save the date, more details to come.



June will be travel month for most of the club members so no event are scheduled. I am in the process of working on some summer events and welcome any suggestions.

Since TASS members will be enjoying several trips to foreign and out-of-state places this summer, I will try to cover the various trips as we are scattered to a variety of destinations. Safe travels and fair winds to all.

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 May! 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!

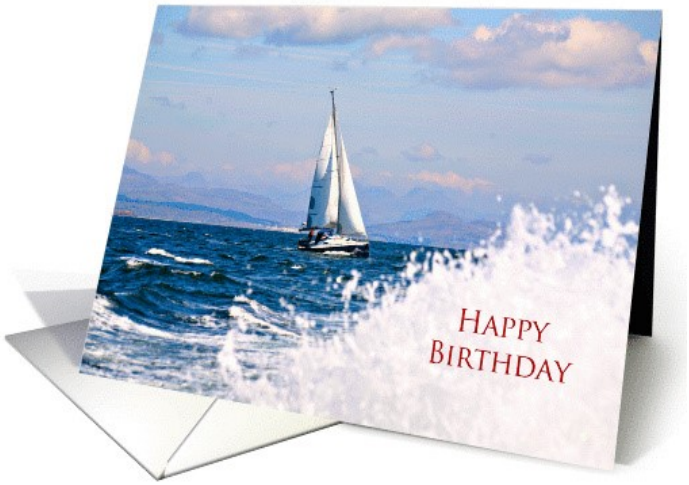
Welcome our brand new members when you see them! (2) Donald Barrus, Gavin Gerondale.

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 is 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've 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 May babies (12) :

Ed Bajorek	Lee Carpenter
Thomas Casillas	Hope DeNicola
Pat Halter	Rick Hasler
Carolyn Kahlich	Mark Monroe
Sean O'Brien	Gigi Siton
Louis Titus	Belinda Wolfe



Come on to one (or all) of the May meetings and
we'll 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

Many of our TASS members went to Galveston to see the TALL Ships on Thursday, April 5th. We Sailed with the Tall Ships and enjoyed the sights of their sails dropping along with rough weather and winds. It truly was a grand day and we ended the evening with dinner when all the ships came in. What sights we had!

Tall Ships® Galveston by our Galveston Historical Foundation's

The "Picton Castle"

After sailing with the Tall Ships we dined on the Strand that evening: Shirley Nicola, Henry Pine, Laura Marlin , Marilyn Reed, Jim & Meade LeBlanc and Susan Levy

Membership Director—Marilyn Reed

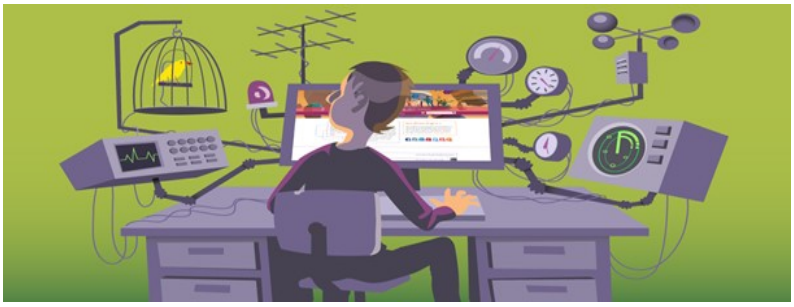
More Tall Ships.....

The "Oliver Hazard Perry"

The "Lynx"

The "When and If"

Webmaster, Social Media—Thann Dauterive



Since the launch of our new membership software and web site a short 45 days ago, we have had very positive feedback and user experiences. Our calendar of events, sails races and trips posted **exceeds 80 events**. Never before have we been able to give our members such a broad and long view of event offerings and there will be more events added for 2018.

Here's the scoop! Members, we strongly request that if you have not yet made your initial log in to the profile to authenticate your membership account, please do so as soon as possible. Yes, you read the newsletter and with good intentions tell yourself, "OH! I HAVE TO GET THAT DONE", then you get busy. We do understand, but it is important that you set up the authentication of your membership account. WHY, so when it is time for you to register for an event, your registration experience will be quick and smooth. If you procrastinate in your authentication, you will have extra steps to contend with before you register.

Here is another very good reason to authenticate your account and update your profile. It is so important that your profile information is up to date. **WHY!** Because your profile contains information on how we contact you AND more importantly, how we may reach your EMERGENCY CONTACT should there be a reason to do so.

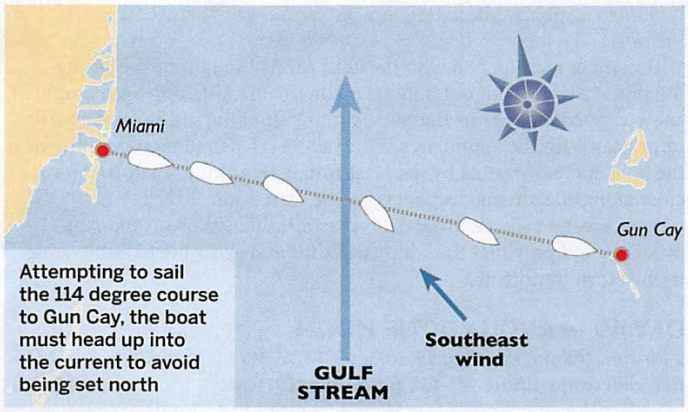
We will be sending via separate email the instructions on how to log in and authenticate your membership account this week. Please look for the email and take a moment to help out TASS.

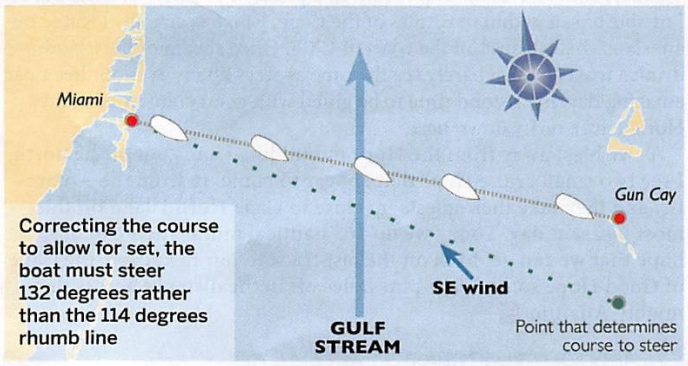
Questions, concerns, suggestions, contact: webmaster@sailtass.com

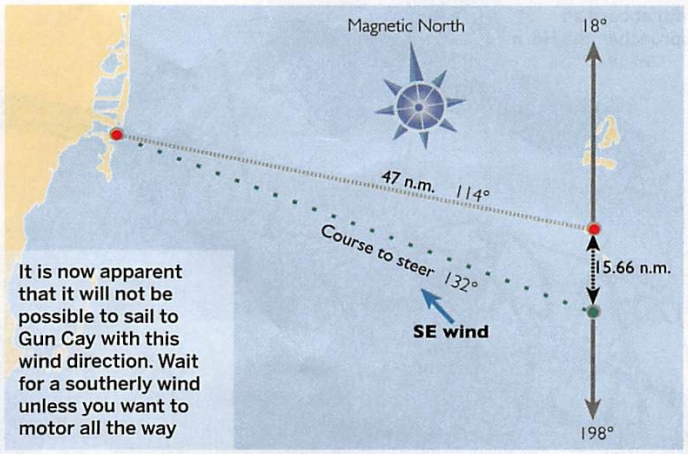
ON DECK SEAMANSHIP

Understanding Set and Drift

The proper tactics can get you there faster *By Connie McBride*







An understanding of the effects of set and drift is vital for coastal sailors; it can make the difference between an enjoyable passage or a struggle to reach your destination against a foul current.

As an example, let's plan a Gulf Stream crossing from Miami to Gun Cay, Bahamas. You know it is safest not to cross the stream in any wind with a northerly component, so you are excited to hear that south-southeast winds will persist for two days at a moderate 10 to 15 knots. Your course to Gun Cay is 114 degrees magnetic, making you confident that you can sail in the predicted 160-degree wind. With no seas, in a boat that points well, you may be correct—were it not for the Gulf Stream.

The stream averages 1.5 knots where it intersects the route from Miami to Gun Cay. Depending on the speed of your boat, this may have a significant impact on your course, since the current runs almost perpendicular to your route. In a powerboat the effect of the Gulf Stream is negligible, but in a sailboat, especially one wishing to sail rather than motor, this current can make what at first appears to be a pleasant sail into an impractical and unpleasant experience.

Set and drift are two terms used to describe the effect currents have on your boat. Set is the direction in which the current is flowing—in this case, 18 degrees. Drift is the speed of the current. You need to take both of these into account when taking advantage of a weather window to cross any strong current.

Some sailors mistakenly believe that because they have a GPS to tell them what course to steer, they do not need to understand the effects of a current such as the Gulf Stream. This is simply not true. While your GPS will indeed display the straight line between you and your destination, it will not predict the effects of set and drift, which can change a favorable wind direction into a headwind.

Never forget that a GPS is reactive, telling you how to correct your heading to stay on course. This means that at the beginning and end of your passage, you will be sailing the predicted heading. However, in the middle of the stream, where the drift is strongest, you will have to point further and further into the current in order to remain on your rhumb line. Such a drastic change in your heading also brings the wind further forward so that you will be beating into it and, eventually, motorsailing. Not only does this eliminate the sailing option, it can also make for a less pleasant crossing.

By being able to predict the current's effect, you can choose a weather window that allows for an easy Gulf Stream crossing under sail. You can use set and drift to plot the course you should steer to arrive at your destination on a more consistent heading, spreading out the effects of the stream across the entire passage, rather than simply reacting to it when it is at its greatest.

Tech Sailing Talk

1. Find the distance to your destination in nautical miles.
2. Divide this distance by your average speed in knots. (Using your average speed is important. We all like to think our boats sail faster than they really do, so it is important that you be honest here.) This gives you the length of time of your passage.
3. Multiply this time by the average speed (drift) of the current. (The Gulf Stream averages 1.5 knots across this Miami-to-Gun Cay route.) This gives you the number of nautical miles in the direction of the current that you would be swept if you did not correct at all.
4. From your destination, plot the set of the current.
5. From your destination, measure the distance you found in Step 3 along the line you plotted in Step 4, in the opposite direction of the current. This gives you a point to use to find your course to steer.
6. Measure the bearing from your departure point to the point you found in Step 5. This is your course to steer.

By following this method, the bow of the boat will be pointing in the heading you found in Step 6, but the current will sweep you along the line that takes you to your original destination.

Let's look at the numbers for the Miami to Gun Cay example.

1. Distance: Miami to Gun Cay is 47 nm.
2. 47 divided by our average boat speed of 4.5 k equals 10.44 hours.
3. 10.44 hours times 1.5 knots of current equals 15.67 nm.
4. Plot the current at 18 degrees through Gun Cay.
5. From Gun Cay, measure 15.67 nm in the direction opposite the current: 198 degrees.
6. Determine the course from Miami to this new point. The course to steer is 132 degrees, though the bearing to Gun Cay is actually 114 degrees.

With the wind coming from 160 degrees, it now becomes apparent that it is impossible to sail to Gun Cay. You will have to wait for a more southerly wind in order to sail across the Gulf Stream between these two points. The other option is to depart Florida at a point farther south. But be sure to calculate the set and drift and determine your new course to steer, which will differ for every location. S

Connie McBride and her husband, Dave, are meandering around the tropics on their Creekmore 34 *Eurisko*

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TASS Membership Fees

New $65.00

Renewal before expiration $60.00

Out-of-town/state $30.00

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

Meetings

Every Thursday Night

6:00 pm—Social Hour

7:00 pm—Meeting

Check the calendar at sailtass.com for details