



Commodore by Jay Leggett

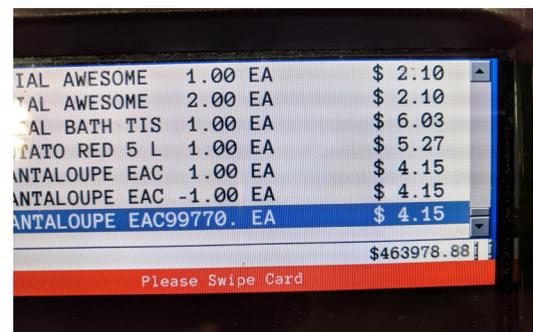
Hi TASS,

Our Bahamas sailing adventure skippers and their crews have just returned. We had wind (not always in the right direction) and the temperatures were not excessively hot; but almost everywhere we went was VERY shallow - typically 2-3' below the keel, with a 5'+ tide variance between low and hightides.



We've become accustomed to Galveston Bay, with a tide that often only fluctuates 1', and plenty of depth almost everywhere. It's a completely different world when choosing a route involves dodging the shallows. **Mark Shields** was a great crew addition and he took lots of pictures, so stay toned and we'll get those uploaded to the TASS Photos soon, for you to enjoy.

We were buying provisions at a large grocery store in Marsh Harbor, and the checker was almost finished so I looked down to see the total "damage" - the sub-total was \$463,978 - wow did we blow our budget. She quickly corrected the cantaloupes priced at \$97,770 EACH.



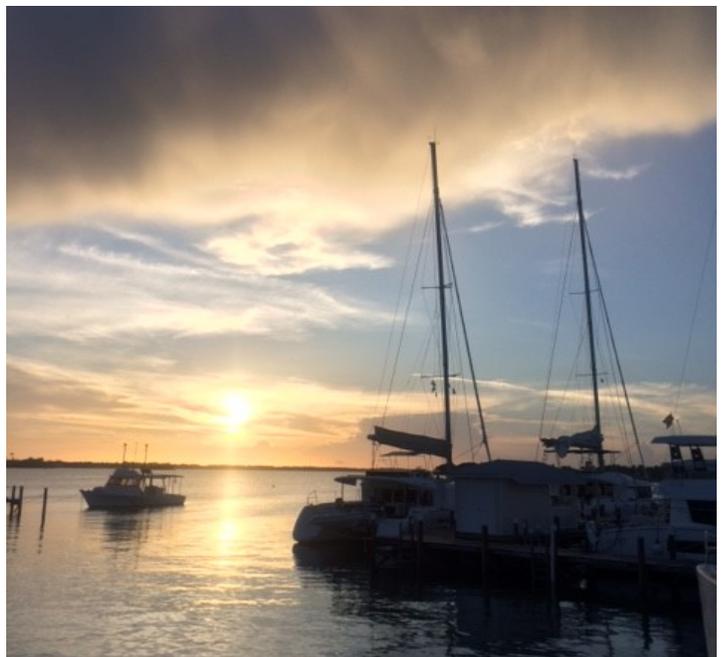
We saw and **Mark Langley's** boat swam with rays, sharks and turtles, but no lobsters. Even though lobster season was open, with a 6 lobster / person / day limit, there were none to be found, except in restaurants of course.

I hope to see everyone at the Pig Roast, Sept 15th, if not see you on the water.

Commodore - Jay Leggett—continued



*Wonderful sights
in the Bahamas*



Last manned light house in the Bahamas.

Vice Commodore - Urs Rathgeb

Crew Training

As part of this year's training schedule, we set up two crew trainings. The first one in August (Crew Training I) was targeted for beginning sailor's or those who have previously joined a few sails as passenger, the second one in October will be a continuation of the August training or for those who already have some experience, but want to learn more.

On August 12, I welcomed a group of 7 participants (of which four joined as new members!) for a short morning session in the classroom to go over some general boat knowledge, explain the principles why boats can sail upwind, and to cover safety issues.



Classroom Session in the Morning



Making ourselves familiar with the boat rigging

The afternoon was spent on the water. After, making ourselves familiar with the boat and its rigging, followed by crew briefing and safe undocking, we went on to put the theory into practice. Conditions were ideal, with 12-15 knots of wind, and with the mainsail reefed just a bit, it was a perfect day for a training sail.

Once sailing on different points of sail, and how to adjust sail trim accordingly became routine, we moved on to tacking and jibing. In the process, every training participant got to do each of those at the helm, the jib and the mainsail trimmer positions, until a safe, efficient maneuver was executed each time. Of course we took some breaks from the drill, enjoying the great sail, as well as some snacks

On October 13, most of the training's participants will join for the Crew Training II session, building on the knowledge acquired during Crew Training I. John Klumb and I will jointly act as instructors, so that we can ensure each participant learns as much as possible, both at the helm and on the sheets.

Since the October Crew Training II session is already fully booked, we are considering a second date for another class. If you are interested, either sign to waitlist on the website or send an email to vicecommodore@sailtass.com



The crew returning after a full day of training

Vice Commodore - Urs Rathgeb—continued

Explorer's Race

The competition for the cup is heating up, as we sailed Race #4 of the season in August.

The course, as always set up by our Race Czar John Klumb, was a triangle for this race, but with a twist. The section between F and H-Mark was to be sailed three times, twice upwind and once downwind.



Conditions at the start were great, with around 15 knots of wind coming from the South to Southeast, and all teams made it quickly to the F-Mark. However, somewhere in between the first and second mark, there was a phase during which the wind seemed to come from either nowhere or everywhere at the same time. After spending 15 minutes of permanently trying to figure out from where the wind blew, trying not to lose ground towards the next mark, and observing the competition doing the same crazy maneuvers, the wind finally settled that South to Southwest was as good as any other direction, and conditions returned to what they originally were. In the end, Nirvana ended the race just 25 seconds before Nightwind in a close finish. Rankings for the Explorer Race as follows:

<u>Ranking</u>	<u>Boat Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 st Place	Nirvana	3
2 nd Place	Nightwind	2
3 rd Place	Astarte	1
DSQ	Oxbow	
DNF	Two Thumbs Up	



3rd Place—"Astarte" Cheryl & her crew



The TASS Charter Boat Crew on Nightwind took 2nd Place

Vice Commodore - Urs Rathgeb—continued



And the winner of the Explorer Race is ... Mike McInerney with his crew on Nirvana! Congratulations!

After the race, everyone met at Sundance Grill for the Explorer's Quiz, more of that in a separate article in this issue of the Topsider.

After the Explorer Race, the close competition for the cup between the top three contenders remains, with only 3 points of separation between the teams, and Nightwind moving two points closer to Oxbow. Nirvana, after its win in the Explorer race, passed Two Thumbs Up and Escape Hatch, to move into 5th place. Ranking towards the cup after four races:

<u>Ranking</u>	<u>Boat Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 st Place	Astarte	12
2 nd Place	Mischief	10
3 rd Place	Oxbow	9
4 th Place	Nightwind/Tarah Shell	7
5 th Place	Nirvana	4
6 th Place	Two Thumbs Up	3
	Escape Hatch	3
8 th Place	Alcyone	1



Next up on the race calendar, on September 22, will be the Equinox Race. Go [register your boat](#), or [if you want to sign up for the Charter Boat](#).

I look forward to see you on the Water!

Social Director—Joanne Moschella

I want to thank Thann for writing about the Tass Explorer's Party as I was not present and understand it was quite fun and something unusual for the group to participate in.



I just got back from a wonderful adventure, sailing across the Abocos Islands for 9 relaxing days. We had two 45' catamaran boats and a total of 15 crew to man them. Mark Langley, Mark's sister, Sandra Powers, Lisa Fires, Terry Bechtel, Bob & Susan Simmons, and Cheryl Morvillo, were on one boat and the other crew consisting of Jay Leggett, Patricia Gumbs, Babs Bukowski, Terri Mc Castlain, Charlie Holcomb, Gavin Gerondale,

Mark Shields, and myself cruised all over the Abocos Islands taking in the sun, some quick showers, snorkeling, swimming with Sting Rays, Sharks, and even Pigs. I think I need to elaborate on that last sentence. While anchored at Man Jack Cay, Mark's crew took their dinghy to shore and got in the water to let the sting rays and sharks swim around them. Our crew decided to stay onboard and snorkel.



Later, Jay, the only one in the water at the time, was lying flat on his raft with his feet dangling over the edge and snoozing when he felt something come by and braise across the bottom of his



foot. Needless to say, it startled him as Patricia told Jay it was large and fast. I was on the bow of the boat and saw that it was probably the 5' Nurse shark swimming around the boat. I have never seen Jay move so darn fast to get out of the water.

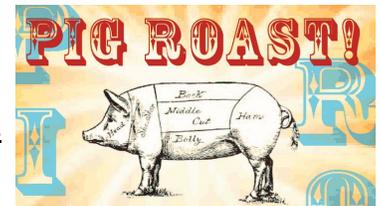
A multitude of Sting Ray's, a couple of Barracuda and Nurse Sharks amused us as we watched safely nestled on the deck of our boat. Another stop at No Name Cay where one would visit "Piggyville" and feed the pigs turned out to be a little lack luster for me. One could not get that close to the young piglets for their huge mothers hoarding most of the food and attention.

Social Director—Joanne Moschella

For me, the most enjoyable aspect of the trip was celebrating Bab's birthday and we stretched that over several days. I so enjoyed seeing her at the helm as we sailed with some robust winds that powered the boat a little over 8 knots. I know she enjoyed herself and we enjoyed her! Evenings spent playing Mexican Train before going to bed rounded out our trip.



We are reenacting a version of the Original Pig Roast along with a Pool Party at Charlie Holcomb's house on September 15th. Please sign up on -line at www.sailtass.com/ and go to our calendar.



As of today, 18 have signed up so please join us for a fun day. The pig and sides are all taken care of. Please bring a desert to share, lawn chair, B.Y.O.B, and bathing suit. We could use a **couple of volunteers** to aid in roasting the pig and setup. If you can help, please let me know.



Looking forward to seeing everyone at our meetings and events!

Social Director—Joanne Moschella



Social Director—Joanne Moschella—continued

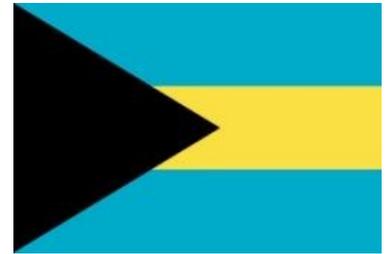


Social Director—Joanne Moschella—continued



*Dinning in Cape Town Boat #1,
Jay Legget's Crew*

*It was Babs Bukowski's
Birthday on August 30th, all
went out to dinner.*



*Dinning in Cape Town,
Boat #2, Mark Langley's
Crew*

Social Director—Joanne Moschella—Continued

By: Thann Dauterive

THE EXPLORER



August 18th, 2018

What follows every TASS race on the water?



YES, Of course, a great party filled with

laughter and fun and August's race was no exception. After some of the trickiest winds of the race season this year, our sailors and land lubbers were treated to a different after race party with an EXPLORES THEAMED QUIZ SHOW Jeopardy style. Our well attended crowd was divided into 4 highly intelligent teams competing for the correct answers to questions based around YUP you guessed it – EXPLORERS. Categories of questions consisted of People, History, Locations and Mystery. Our Vice Commodore, Urs Rathgeb was game show host as questions were fired out to the rowdy, competitive, willing participants. Teams had a chance to ring in and shout out their answer competing for progressively increasing points. True TASS spirit was exhibited with teams challenging both the host and the validity of historic explorer questions and answers. The winning team producing the most points accumulated was Jay Leggett's team with Patricia Gumbs, Andrew Clark, Monika Trieb and Marion Herndon? In a very ceremonious presentation each of the winning team members were presented with a highly coveted 8th Wonder of the World called a DOOHICKEY! The tool that every sailor must possess. Good times great memories had by all.



Social Director—Joanne Moschella

September 15th is the PIG ROAST.

We are nearing our goal to have a great crowd to fill the pool and feed our hungry TASS people. The deadline to register is **Midnight Sunday September 9th**! No late registrations so please if you plan to attend – [Register ASAP](#) -

Pig Roast & Pool Party
Sept 15th
Included in the dinner menu will be Piggie, Potato Salad, BBQ beans & Green Salad.
Bring a desert to share, your favorite beverage(s), a lawn chair, towel and swim costume
Members may bring a guest \$25.00
Registration DEADLINE Sept 9th
NO LATE REGISTRATION

REGISTER SO WE CAN HAVE PIG!

ROAST

18

The graphic features a thermometer with a red liquid level. To the right of the thermometer are three images of food: a plate of piggy, a slice of ham, and a piece of bacon. A red arrow points from the text 'REGISTER SO WE CAN HAVE PIG!' to the top of the thermometer.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our meetings and events!

Fair Winds, Safe Seas, and Happy Travels to All.

TASS TOPSIDER

Membership Director—Marilyn Reed

**TASS Membership is 156
Strong and growing!**



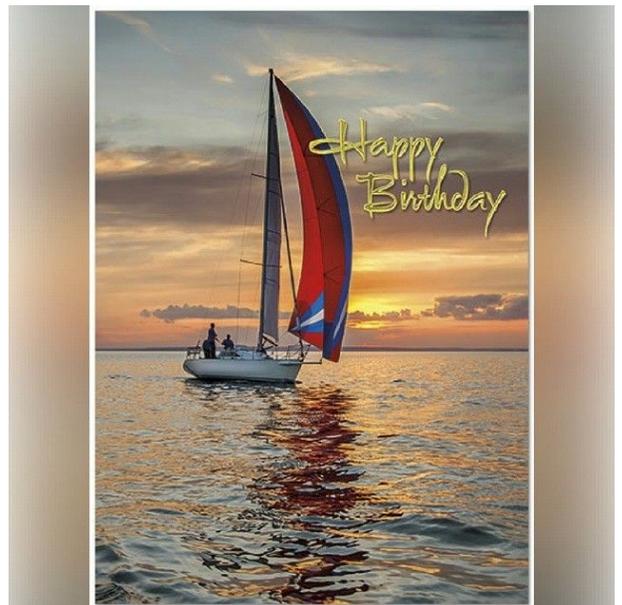
Welcome our 8 new members when you see them: Mitch Castro, Julie Hammond, Melinda Hughes, Dennis Hughes, Shirley Standifird, Roman Valoria, Joan Waddill and Jo Ann Zemlicka.

Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships this month for another year of TASS Sails and fun!

Come on sailors, if you have let your membership lapse, it is time to log on and renew! Don't make me hunt you down! 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 September babies! Come on to one (or all) of the September meetings and we'll raise a glass to you and even toss you a free TASS koozie!

Member	Birthdate	Member	Birthdate
Dick Howard	4	Monica Tihou	16
Chris Hunt	4	Michael McInerney	18
Patrick Spoor	7	Janet Cole	21
John Zwiegel	9	Vivian Bruder	22
Ann Quartarolo	9	Pamela Smith	25
Tom Szytel	15	John Welch	27
Pat Fitch	15	Kerry McKeon	28
Judy Rosanky	15	Terri McCastlain	29



The September honorees are:

Membership Director—Marilyn Reed—continued



Jim and Meade LeBlanc have been in Scotland.



Jim sampling single malt Scotch.

Village in Oban, Scotland



Tobermory a Village in Scotland

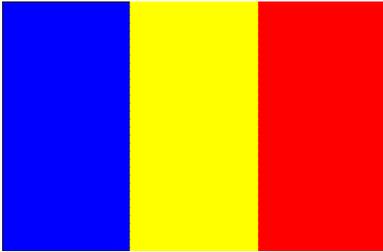


Scotland has lots of sheep.

I guess pencils need a small van to get them to their destination.



Membership Director—Marilyn Reed—continued



Henry Pine & Laura Marlin are in Romania and met up with Barb & Doug Schindler



Webmaster, Social Media—Thann Dauterive



As the saying goes; ***Time flies when you are SAILING WITH TASS!*** Here at TASS we have been supporting our new look and feel to the web site going on 6 months now. In case you are not an avid surfer of the web, let us give you an update of some things you may want to check out.

August – kicked off a NEW page dedicated to the **35th ANNIVERSARY of TASS** to be celebrated May 2019

Information on the plans for the event as they develop can be found [HERE](#)

BLOG – you can post comments on the subject – just read the topic and give us your comments

The **Blog** topic now active is – **WHAT YEAR DID YOU JOIN TASS?**

Historic Archives – you are going to love this page dedicated to the history of TASS featuring photo slide shows of TASS events over the years. Check it out, you may just see yourself or someone from the TASS tribe in the photos.

Sailing >Race Schedule and Results has been updated with the Commodores Cup Rankings for 2018. This year's cup will indeed be a race to the finish with 3 races left, so track results online – or better yet – join a race or after race party!

Travel Trips Photos – This summer has been a busy travel summer for TASS and to prove we get around the globe, we have been sharing the trips on our travel trips photo page. Check out the great waters and lands traveled.

Register or Renew – Yes, while mentioning the web site it is a great reminder to tell you that you can register for ALL TASS events & sails through the web by going to the **Events & Calendar** page, select the date/event register and pay online - EASY-DONE!

Renewal of membership is made easy for you also. You will receive an email within 30 days of renewal which has a LINK to renew in the email – click and renew. You can also log in to the web to your account and renew from your account.

Concerns, helpful suggestions or other comments are always welcomed. Contact me at webmaster@sailtass.com

Webmaster, Social Media—Thann Dauterive



Friends of TASS – *It takes a village to run a tribe.*

At TASS we like to share what is the latest happenings with friends of the sailing community in and about the Galveston Bay Area. As you know our great partner and charter boat provider is Windward Sea Ventures. Here is the latest from Windward Sea Ventures. They now have a weekly talk show online via SeaVenture Radio - powered by Windward SeaVenture

Be sure and check out SeaVenture Radio at VinylDraughtRadio.com every Tuesday at 1400 (2:00 p.m.). You can get caught up with what's going on in the third largest boating community in the USA. July 14th will be discussing what life is like as a liveaboard. The following week, August 21st, SeaVenture Radio is hoping to have a representative from the Texas Department of Transportation discuss the plans for the HW146 construction and how it's going to affect boating traffic under the Kemah Bridge. Stay tuned to VinylDraughtRadio.com and SeaVenture Radio. Send questions, comments or topic recommendations to SeaVentureRadio@gmail.com.

Visit [Windward SeaVenture](http://WindwardSeaVenture.com) on their web site or follow them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WindwardSeaVenture)

GBCA – Galveston Bay Cruising Association is another friend of the TASS tribe. GBCA is a racing organization unlike TASS who offers leisure sails, races and social events. GMCA sponsors races which many TASS members find themselves entering as a tune up for the TASS races. They can be fun, competitive and mostly their race calendar does not compete with the TASS Race Calendar. Check out their [Cruzan Rum Race](#) calendar which is still racing until September 29th. THEN.... Sign up for the TASS Races with only 3 races left in the season; September 22, October 6, November 10.



Tie the Five Second "Crossing Turn" Hitch

This single knot rises to the top as one of sailing's vital "foundation" knots. Many knots use the clove as a "*starter*", like the constrictor knot. Others use the clove as a "*finisher*", like the marline lashing. And, it's the perfect knot to show a novice--easy-to-learn and easy-to-tie.

You can use the clove hitch to:

- Hold fenders in place.
- Lash a rope coil to a rail.
- Hang rope below for storage.
- Form the foundation for the double constrictor knot.
- Finish off sailing gear lashings.
- Make a temporary hitch to belay a line to a post or piling (add two half-hitches for extra security).
- Hold your tiller in place for steering (temporary).
- Adjust the tiller with ease when hove-to.

Once you know the basic clove hitch, you're ready for a bit more advanced version--and one that's even faster! Tie the Clove Hitch with a super simple *crossing-turns* technique. Follow the steps below to learn this little-known technique.

Tech Sailing Talk—continued

1. Hold a long piece of line in both hands. In illustration 1, note how the working end of the line (right side of the line) passes beneath the belayed end. If you are right handed, follow this illustration. Twist the loop of line in your right hand and place it beneath the line in your left hand (this would be belayed to a cleat or other device) If you are left handed, the working end will be in your left hand; loop this beneath the other end.
2. Drape the loop over a post, piling, end of a tiller or other open-ended object as shown (illustration 2).
3. Create a second crossing turn in the same exact manner as the first (illustration 3). Slide the second crossing turn up and over the first crossing turn.
4. Drape the second crossing turn over the post, piling, or tiller (illustration 4).
5. Look at illustration 4. Realize that knots often fail because they are left loose like this after the final step. Spend a few extra seconds to remove the slack and tighten up the knot. Butt up the crossing turns next to one another. Work both ends of the hitch to remove as much slack as possible (illustration 5). You could add two half-hitches or a rolling hitch beneath the knot for extra security

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February 2018—January, 2019

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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
\$ 65 — \$ 85 Price depends on
level of course presented

**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