



# TOPSIDER



## MARCH 2019



### From the Commodore, Jay Leggett

It's hard to believe it's already March, as we prepare for our 2019 sailing adventure to the French Riviera in July there's always more things to add to the "to-do" list. Thankfully we have some great help crafting our week on land in Provence, from TASS Members on the trip.

This month we start our Houston social meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday's, so be sure to check the calendar for the "Houston social location of the month" and if you have any favorite "haunts", check yours out to see if they can accommodate 20-30 people on a Thursday evening, 6-8pm; and if they can, send me an email and we'll put it on the list. PLEASE SIGN UP, SO WE CAN GET A HEAD COUNT.

We have had some beautiful weekends for sailing so if you haven't been out on the water you've really missed a treat. We had great weather and full charter boat crews for all five of the GBCA Icicle Regatta on all Saturdays in January and one in February; with even two full TASS charter boats out for that race - it was great times had by all. One of the January races set a participation record for 69 boats in the race.

Thanks to all who attended our Annual TASS Business meeting last Thursday, it was a good turnout and I so appreciate our great TASS Board who spent tireless hours preparing all the information that was shared.



### From the Vice Commodore, Urs Rathgeb

#### Racing

With the winter months (almost) behind us at this time, I am looking forward to the 2019 TASS race season.

Since initially published, we had to make a couple of adjustments due to event conflicts, so here is the 2019 TASS Race Calendar one more time.

| TASS 2019 Race Series |     |                        |
|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|
| MONTH                 | DAY | TASS Event             |
| MARCH                 | 16  | Crazy Irishman Chase   |
| APRIL                 | 27  | April Fool's Challenge |
| MAY                   | 11  | Spring Fling Race      |
| JUNE                  | 22  | Flip Flop Challenge    |
| AUGUST                | 17  | Explorer's Race        |
| SEPTEMBER             | 28  | Carol Becker Race      |
| NOVEMBER              | 9   | Commodore's Cup        |

First up on March 16 will be the Crazy Irishman Chase, and I am sure John will add a twist to the race course, just like last year. The race is posted on the calendar, and ready for signup. Remember that for TASS members/boat owners, there is no race registration fee. Non-members registration will be \$20.00 per race. Please ensure that John Klumb, our Race Czar, has your boat information to assign a boat handicap. [Register your boat here.](#)

If you have never raced before and want to join the TASS Charter boat, you are welcome to do so. We always have a fun atmosphere on the boat, and we find an assignment for everyone, from complete novice to experienced racer! [Sign up here for the TASS Charter Boat.](#)

Whether you are going to participate in the race, or just want to just enjoy the company of friends this late Saturday afternoon, join us for the traditional After Race Party on the patio at Sundance Grill II. Don't forget to [sign up here for the party](#), so that we can provide the restaurant with a headcount, and above all, don't forget to wear green in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

## Training

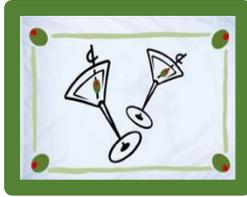
I am excited to announce that TASS Member and Skipper Nancy Welch has made herself available to lead two All-Women Crew Trainings this spring/early summer. We will kick it off with a **Basic Crew Training** on April 7, aimed at beginners, or those who have already done a few sails but want to get active on the boat. The training will start with a classroom session in the morning, covering some basic boat knowledge, principles of sailing and safety, with the afternoon on the water. [You can find a training outline and sign up here.](#) Nancy and I are still finalizing the date for the Intermediate Crew Training, most likely in June. That session will build on the April training, or be for those who already have some sailing experience. More to follow later.

We will repeat these two trainings in the fall, at that time for mixed crews.

Also on the schedule on May 5 in the afternoon is training covering Sailing Safety, led by Mark Shield, TASS member and former US Coast Guard member. I believe you will all join me in emphasizing how important that particular topic is. Mark will cover all aspects of boating safety, from planning and preparing for a safe day on the water to what to do in an emergency situation. He will do so both from a perspective of the skipper as well as the crew member. [Sign up for this essential training here.](#)

I look forward to see you on the water or at one of our events!

Your Vice Commodore



### Social

March 16<sup>th</sup> - **CRAZY IRISHMAN CHASE** race party. Get in the spirit and wear your GREEN for this party.

**Predicted to be the biggest social event of the 21st century**

The countdown is on for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party with a **SHORT 8 weeks until the deadline** to register. Don't be link Cinderella late to the ball, please register to attend today! Posted to the web is an updated itinerary. Be sure to check for the latest plans. Lois has done such a terrific job to make this the best ever. Especially note that the Friday & Saturday event are BYOB. You don't want to be short in the barrel! Also note on the Saturday ONLY itinerary that TASS will supply soda's, mixers, ice for your libations.



Check the [ITINERARY](#) attached to the event [REGISTRATION](#) for all the details and please register today.



### From Membership, Patricia Gumbs

Hello TASS

2018 was a great year for membership we had 36 new members. 2019 is going to be an even better year we currently have 10 new members as of this publication. I would like to thank Marilyn Reed our former membership director for all the Years of service and dedication to her many roles on the board. I hope to see her soon to continue the adventure. We have seen a return of alumni and lapsed members renew recently. We appreciate the support of all members.



|                |    |                 |    |
|----------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Bill Turner    | 1  | Melody Bohmann  | 17 |
| Olga Adair     | 3  | Mark Langley    | 18 |
| Ky Russell     | 8  | Mark Shield     | 21 |
| Kimberly Reuse | 9  | Amy Collins     | 24 |
| Dennis Hughes  | 11 | Thann Dauterive | 26 |
| Paula McCoy    | 14 |                 |    |

Wishing you all the best that life has to offer. HAVE A GREAT DAY



### From Webmaster, Thann Dauterive

I hope you enjoy each month the rotation of information and photos on the website. We are doing our best to try and keep up to date with this active group. If you have something to contribute please feel free to contact me at [webmaster@sailtass.com](mailto:webmaster@sailtass.com). As always, we continue to ask that you please visit your membership profile. It is terribly important that you update your information. – THANK YOU!



### Tech Talk

Stuff sailors should know – What's a brass Monkey?

In the heyday of sailing ships, all warships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck?

The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem; how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it.

The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much faster than iron when it's chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far and too fast, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would roll right off the monkey.

Such weather was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.'