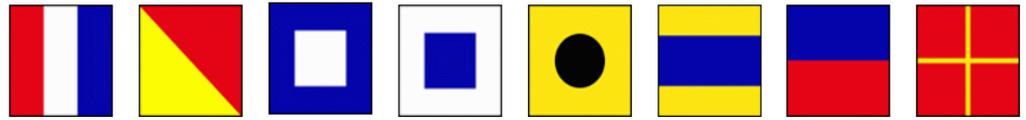


DEC  
2019



# T O P S I D E R



## The December Fun

### DECEMBER TECH TIPS



### HOLIDAY PARTY



### TOY DRIVE



## Commodore by Jay Leggett

It's hard to believe 2019 is almost over. We've had many great TASS events this year and your Board is already working on the 2020 calendar, so check the online [TASS EVENT CALENDAR](#) for upcoming events. We will have our annual TASS Business meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2020 Houston and Thursday, March 5, 2020 to review 2019 and look ahead to 2020 events. Please be sure to attend one of the two meetings and think about how you can volunteer to help, even if it's just taking the lead for a social event.

As you know if you've attended a recent TASS meeting, our 2020 TASS Board election nominations are underway. Last day to make nominations is Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Ballots will be sent on January 6, 2020. IN addition to Board positions there will be items of business order on the ballot. Please be active and participating by voting when you receive your ballots. Even uncontested positions deserve your support through your vote.



Our June 2020 sailing / land adventure to Majorca, Ibiza and Formentera off the coast of Spain might have one or two spots left on Mike Vaughn / Errol Gomez's boat, otherwise we have full crew aboard our three large catamarans and one 56' mono-hull. Thanks to Joanne Moschella for researching the land post trip in Barcelona.

## Vice Commodore by Urs Rathgeb

### Last Race of the Season – Commodore's Cup Race

A total of six boats, the highest number of the season (except for the Carol Becker Regatta) had signed up for the Commodore's Cup Race, which marked the season finale for this year's racing activity. I am particularly happy to report that we had a total of three(!) charter boats in this race. In addition to that, Julie and John Mastroianni, who just recently joined TASS, entered the race with their Pacific Seacraft 31 "ANDIAMO".

Unfortunately, conditions were difficult. In anticipation of light winds, John Klumb chose a short course: from the Kemah Channel Entry (Marks 1 & 2) upwind to the F-Mark (the "Giraffe"), after a port rounding on a beam reach to the H-Mark (the "House"), then, after another rounding back to the Kemah Channel entrance. Total course length 7.1 nautical miles. As always, the competition was sailed as a pursuit race.

We started in about 6-8 knots of wind from a north easterly direction, however, after the first boats had rounded the first mark upwind, the wind completely died down. The two leading boats, *ASTARTE* and

*NIGHTWIND*, drifted next to each other all the way to and around the H-Mark, which provided welcome opportunities for trash-talk between the two boats, whenever one of them picked up a temporary little breeze and moved ahead. Only one more boat, Andiamo, made it around the first mark, before John called the race at approximately 2 pm. Nevertheless, it was a beautiful few hours on the water, and while it was cool initially as we went out on the bay, it warmed up gradually.

Since the race was abandoned, there is no “official” ranking, and the race will not be counted for the 2019 Commodore’s Cup award. Nevertheless, trophies were awarded for those crews who drifted the furthest by the time the competition was called.



*3<sup>rd</sup> place was awarded to the Mastroianni’s on “ANDIAMO”*



*Placing second was “NIGHTWIND” with its Charter Crew*



*And finally the “ASTARTE” Crew, which managed to drift the furthest!*

As always, the race was followed by a well-attended after race party, more about that in the Social section of this Topsider.

## Commodore's Cup 2019

Since this last race was not completed, ranking for this year's Commodore's Cup remains as it was after the previous race, as follows:

<u>Ranking</u>	<u>Boat Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Astarte	15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Nightwind	7
	Bohemian Mermaid	7
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Two Thumbs Up	5
	Oxbow	5
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Blue Horizon	4
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	Sea Lady	3
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	Mischief	2

As always, the award of the Commodore's Cup perpetual trophy will take place during the Christmas Party.

## TASS Crews participating in the 2020 GBCA Icicle Race Series

As in previous years, besides several private TASS boats that will sail the GBCA Icicle Race Series, we will once again participate with a Charter Boat in the Club Handicap Class. The sails have been set up on the website, and are ready for sign-up

Since the Icicle series are not a TASS event per se, and we want to limit any deficit from these sails for the organization to a minimum, cost for all participants including the skipper will be \$65.00 per sail, as in previous years. In turn we will limit the number of people on the boat, to make for a good experience. If there is demand for a second boat, we will see if we can nominate a second skipper and fill that up.

If you enjoy the atmosphere on the race boat, and haven't signed up for one of these, do so. While it can be somewhat chilly, we always have a lot of fun, and some of these race days are absolutely beautiful!

## TASS Race Season 2020

In mid-November, I participated in a coordination meeting between the sailing clubs and organizations around Galveston Bay, during which we tried to avoid conflicting dates for next year's racing season. I am pleased to say that to a large degree, that goal was achieved, and there is a great readiness to improve coordination between the clubs and encourage cross participation. I will provide additional information in the next Topsider, but for now, I would like to announce the dates for the 2020 TASS Races:

March 14 .....	Crazy Irishmen Chase
April 29.....	April Fools
May 16 .....	Spring Challenge
June 27 .....	Flip Flop Race
October 3 .....	Carol Becker Woman's Regatta
October 17 .....	Wear Pink Race
November 14.....	Commodore's Cup Race

I am excited to announce that our Carol Becker Woman's Regatta will be one of five races of an official inter- club Woman's Championship (exact naming still under discussion) in Galveston Bay! We will share more information in the first Topsider of the year, both about that, as well as the upcoming season in general.

Your Vice Commodore

Urs Rathgeb

## **SOCIAL by Joanne Moschella**

The Commodore's Race took place on November 9<sup>th</sup> where our dinner venue was at Tuscany Bistro on Admiralty Way, in the Randall's Shopping Center. TASS showed out in force with 45 members and guests filling the entire restaurant. We had a lovely dinner and the wait staff went out of their way to make it a successful evening. Prizes were awarded to the winners who drifted the farthest, as there was no wind in our sails that day. Please remember that when you have a large crowd like this, getting your check does take some time. That being said, please remember to pay your bill before leaving the event.

The TASS Christmas Party is coming up on Friday, December 7, 2019. Cocktail attire is suggested. I feel that it is the very best and fun event of the year. We will start in the hotel suite #165, so please bring a bottle of bubbly and an appetizer to share. We have no microwave, so please keep that in mind. Our dinner party will start at 7:00 and we have a fabulous buffet in store for you. Those that need a gluten-free dinner must contact me concerning this. We are having a DJ for our music and end the evening back in the suite for those of us desiring to continue the partying! TASS has breakfast reservations in the hotel restaurant from 10:00 – 11:30 on Sunday morning. We will be ending the weekend, for those that are interested, with trolley service to "Dickens on the Strand" while leaving your vehicle in the Moody Gardens Garage. As of today, there are a few hotel rooms available. The deadline to register is Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> so please call to reserve your room and go to the website to make your dinner reservations.



TASS meeting for December includes regular meetings:

Dec. 5, Kemah, at The Back Door, [\[Info & Registration Here\]](#).

Dec.19 at Barry's Pizza, [\[Info and Registration Here\]](#).

We have only one social meeting on

Dec. 12 at Maggiano's Little Italy, Post Oak Blvd, [\[Info and Registration Here\]](#).

We encourage you to sign up to give us a headcount. We are always happy to see such a large group, as we had at Maggiano's last social. Suggestions for upcoming Socials are welcome!

No meetings or Socials for December 26 or January 2 due to the Holidays.



TASS will ring in 2020 with the annual Black-Eyed Pea Contest hosted by Lois and Neil Geyer at their home. The event will start at 1:00 so bring your very best pot of Black Eyed Peas or dish to accompany them. Also, B.Y.O.B. Prizes will also be awarded. Please [\[Register Here\]](#).

We have board nominations coming up and I could use some help. I am always looking for suggestions and welcome any assistance given. If you have suggestions for a 2020 social event that you would like to host or be the chairperson, please email [social@sailtass.com](mailto:social@sailtass.com) with these suggestions ASAP! The board is laying out the 2020 calendar of events now and advance planning helps us bring you fun and successful events.

Happy Holidays and fair winds to all!

#### FLEET NEWS, Michael Vaughan



As we move into the last month of 2019, we still have a couple of sails planned. There will be no sail on December 7<sup>th</sup> because of the Christmas party. There are sails scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> (already full) and 21<sup>st</sup>. It is easy to register for any sail by simply going to the calendar on the website and select the day you wish to sail. Check out events here also. The Board, Fleet & Vice Commodore are preparing the 2020 calendar of sails and races and will soon populate the 2020 calendar following the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. [TASS EVENT CALENDAR](#)

Signup early for these sails, as you know we can only go out when there are enough people registered. Also, if you do not sign up early, you may not get to go. We are lucky in Houston to be able to sail year-round so let's get out on the water.

**REGISTRATION REMINDER** – We try to have some type of sail each weekend unless there is another event that overrides sails. Windward Sea Venture, our charter company, is getting busy and we will have challenges to reserve the boats that we want if we are not able to reserve early.

Normally, sign-ups for sails end at midnight on **Thursday** night. If we do not have enough people registered by midnight on Thursday, it is likely that the sail may be canceled. So, please sign-up early so that we can all spend more time on the water.

Let me also share with our members and future members that our Charter Partner Windward Sea Venture offers ASA certification courses. Check out their Sailing School if you are looking into any of your ASA courses. [Windward Sea Venture Sailing School](#) or call then @ 281-467-2279. Be sure to tell Daryl you are a TASS Member.

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS** by Patricia Gumbs

“Welcome” to our new members. As of today, we have 42 new members this year. Please join me in welcoming our newest members for October/November.

Randy Russell  
Stephanie Martin  
Martha Garrison.  
John Mastroianni  
James M Bozeman

Our club is heading in the right direction, our new members have shown a strong interest in wanting to learn to sail and race.



Happy Birthday to our December members.

Martha Garrison	4
Jerry Boldra	13
Catey Carter Curley	18
Andrew Clark	18
Cindy Hide	10
Gregory Janak	17
Nancy Welch	18
Richard Perkins	20



Friendly Reminder for the Toy Drive. Let’s show our spirit and help light up a child’s eyes this Christmas

Donations welcome or bring an UNWRAPPED. TOY to the next TASS Meeting. Kemah Dec. 5 or Houston Dec. 13

Donations can be brought to the Christmas Party.

Happy Holidays

Patricia Membership Director

## Webmaster by Thann Dauterive



As promised, monthly I am gathering the most frequently asked questions that come from members and guests and share each month some of the questions that seem to stump the crowd. Do not hesitate to ask your question. You can be a contributor to help make improvements in our process, systems, and communications. We don't know what you don't know unless you ask.

EMAIL: [webmaster@sailtass.com](mailto:webmaster@sailtass.com)

FAQ's can be found in the TASS library on our website at [TASS FAQ's](#)

? **I registered for an event online and received an email that my registration was canceled. Why did this happen?**



A Have you ever bought a concert ticket online and once you select your seat you only have so many minutes to complete your ticket purchase. Well, the TASS registration system is just like ticket purchase, sometimes you pay for the ticket [event] sometimes it is free. Either way, when you register it is like making a ticket purchase. In the system for paid events [think of it as a ticket to enter the event] you only have 15 minutes to complete and PAY for the transaction. Should the transaction TIMEOUT, you will receive notification that your event registration or [TICKET] has been canceled. If this happens your payment was NOT processed and you were NOT charged and you are NOT registered for the event. You WILL, however, need to go back into the system and register again.

? **How does my account with TASS actually work?**



A Everyone that is a member or guest has a TASS account. This account is established just like a bank account when: 1) you join as a member and fill out the profile information. Or 2) guests also fill out profile information when you register for an event. Account setup is a 1-time action. Completing all the information in the profile is important so we may contact all members and guests should anything related to an event or emergency change.

Now how does this account/profile work? Your profile is like your personal TASS account just like a bank account.

As you have a bank account number your account number with TASS is **YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS** is your account number. Your email is unique to you and no emails can be duplicated or used by a spouse or partner/friend. We do not have JOINT accounts/memberships within TASS, so if you have a spouse or partner, they **MUST** have their own account/membership/ guest profile established by their individual **independent email address**. Any transaction that you register for FREE or PAID is recorded and stored just like a bank check register. This never changed.

? **How does the password in my account work?**



**A** Again I can best describe the password in your account as your password in your bank account. Each time you log in to the TASS system, you must use your email address and your password. **YOU** chose the password that you can **REMEMBER!** And like the bank or credit card, if you **FORGET** your password, **YOU** must reset the password. The system admin has **NO visibility** to look at your account and tell you what your password is. This is for security reasons. At the login screen, and you will see the FORGOT password link in blue letters. It looks like the diagram on the left. Simply click on the FORGOT PASSWORD and follow the instructions on the screen to reset your password. You will receive an email once you complete the instructions and in the email, it will guide you to reset your password. Again, it works just like your bank or credit card reset. You must go to the email and complete the reset. This is once again for the security of your account.

? **How do I know if I actually paid for an event?**



**A** Here is the fun part. Your TASS account has a statement of transactions just like your bank statement shows your transaction history. This is visible only if you are logged into your TASS account. You need to select the EVENTS tab for the history to display. Note ALL events that you register to participate in Paid or FREE are recorded in your statement. Paid events will show the invoice # and payment method and amount paid. Canceled transactions also appear in the statement. The green circle next to the event indicated that we recorded that you attended that event. Some events we record attendance to give us a record of the number of people that actually attended. This is important for us to understand if an event was a success, should we continue or repeat the event or do we need to make adjustments to our events to increase participation. **THIS IS ALSO WHY WE CONTINUE TO ASK YOU TO REGISTER FOR AN EVENT, FREE OR PAID.**

? **If I am registered for a Leisure Sail, who should I call if I have weather, departure/return times, cancellations, or other questions?**



**A** You should always contact the SKIPPER designated for your sail if you have questions regarding the logistics of a sail. The Skipper's name is listed on the calendar for the designated sail and contact information with phone numbers and email address for ALL skippers can be found on the website under [CONTACT>Skippers](#). The Contact page can be viewed by members and guests.

? **If I signed up for a sail and cannot make the sail what should I do?**

**A** - If you sign up for a sail and cannot /will not attend, you should notify **The Skipper**. This way the skipper will not hold up the sailing departure waiting for you to show up at the dock.



Attending a MEETING or MEET& MINGLES and let people know your spot is available is the best way to recover your money. Check the [Calendar](#) for events. You can also post a note to the [TASS Facebook](#) page. TASS is not responsible for selling your space or any money exchange, however, if you find a substitute for your spot it is REQUIRED that you notify the Skipper immediately. See above Q&A on how your designated skipper.

**?** - Will I get a refund for the sail if I cannot participate?

**A** - We DO NOT issue refunds for sails or events. Refunds are only issued should a Skipper CANCEL a sail due to a condition that is determined to be unsafe or the event cannot take place. That said, if you want to find someone to replace you at the event or on the sail, it is entirely up to you to broker your spot to others. A few suggested ways to do this is by attending a MEETING or MEET& MINGLES and let people know your spot is available. Check the [Calendar](#) for events. You can also post a note to the [TASS Facebook](#) page. TASS is not responsible for selling your space or any money exchange, however, if you find a substitute for your spot it is REQUIRED that you notify the Skipper immediately. See above Q&A on how your designated skipper.



**?** - Where can I view photos taken on trips or from events?

**A** - Recently, we have set up a Google Photo Album to allow *members* to share their favorite photos from events or trips with other *members*. Yes, we do have some guidelines that we would appreciate that you stick with when uploading the photos.



1. No more than 15 of your very best photos.
2. Photos should be cropped and subject persons should be CLEAR – in focus.
3. Photos should contain sailing-related – people photos. While the scenery and amazing sailing vessels can produce brilliant photography work, remember we are SHARING our people's experience with others. Let's face it people LIKE to see themselves in photos.
4. You are responsible to police your photos and we ask that you be respectful of others in your photo sections. The board will monitor the photos and reserve the right to remove any photos we find in poor taste or that reflect poorly on the club.
5. DO NOT create a new album. Should you find a new album topic is necessary, email [webmaster@sailtass.com](mailto:webmaster@sailtass.com) and one will be created.
6. Albums are reserved for Trips and Special Events. Weekly sails/ meetings etc. you can post fun stuff and share on the [TASS Facebook](#) page. Facebook is a great advertisement for TASS and encourages new people to join so **SHARE THERE. Don't just LIKE a post.**
7. NO, the TASS board will not upload your photos, so please do not send them to us.

Here are the links that are active:

[2019 Carol Becker Regatta & Tie One On For Buzz](#)

[2019 Chesapeake Bay - September](#)

[2019 San Francisco Group Sail - September](#)

[2019 TASS France June Summer Trip](#)

[2019 TASS 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party - May](#)

Please feel free to contact me at [webmaster@sailtass.com](mailto:webmaster@sailtass.com) for questions or suggestions.

## December TECH TIPS

### Do You Know These Deadly "Dangers of the Deep"?

IF YOU SAIL OR CRUISE, YOU'LL NEED A GOOD WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF DANGERS TO NAVIGATION THAT LIE "BENEATH THE WAVES". THEY CAN HIDE LIKE A CHAMELEON ON A NAUTICAL OR ELECTRONIC CHART. HERE ARE THREE DEADLY HAZARDS THAT COULD CRACK YOUR KEEL, PUNCH A HOLE IN YOUR HULL, OR EVEN TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR STEERING!

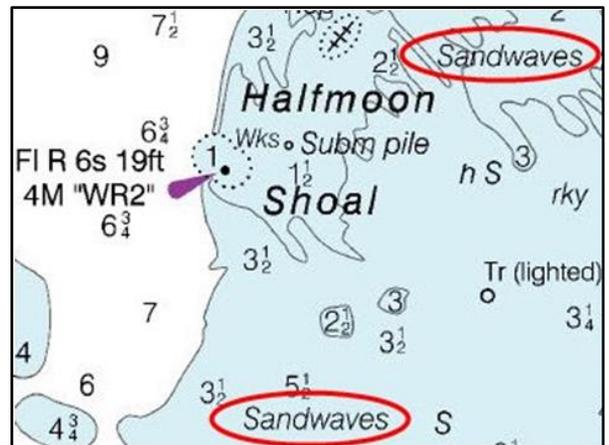
#### 1. Look for Hidden Waves Beneath the Surface!

Note the sandwaves abbreviation to the south and northeast of Halfmoon Shoal light on this chart in the Florida Keys. These sandwaves are located in a dangerous reef called "The Quicksands".

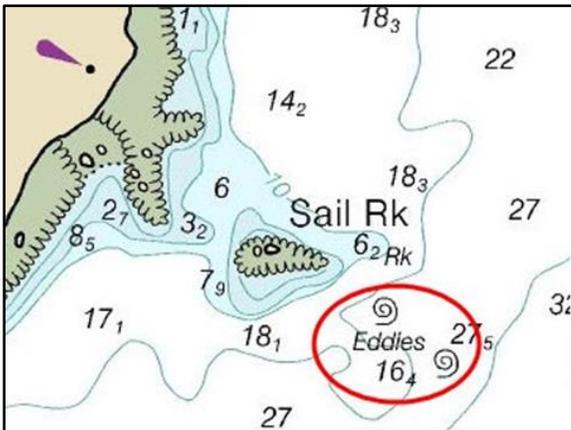
Sand waves are dynamic bottom waves of sand generated in tidal areas. They look similar to surface waves and can have wavelengths hundreds of meters long.

One study states that sand waves can reach heights of one to five meters. These phenomena can decrease the amount of navigable water in an area.

Scan shallow waters for this abbreviation or the wavy lines that accompany the abbreviation (northernmost sandwaves in the illustration to the right). Keep clear to avoid grounding and serious damage to your keel, rudder, shaft or propeller.



#### 2. Steer Clear of These "Mini-Whirlpools"



I believe few things in boating are as disconcerting as loss of rudder control. Lose control of steering on a twin-screw boat or ship, and you still have some control over the vessel. You can "steer" with the engines.

Lose control aboard a single screw power or sail boat and you will have your hands full--and even more so in swift currents.

Tide rips and eddies can cause "mini whirlpools" on the surface. These could overwhelm small vessels and lead to loss of control and grounding.

In the illustration, note the small circular "Eddies" symbols and abbreviation to the southeast of Sail Rock. Highlight

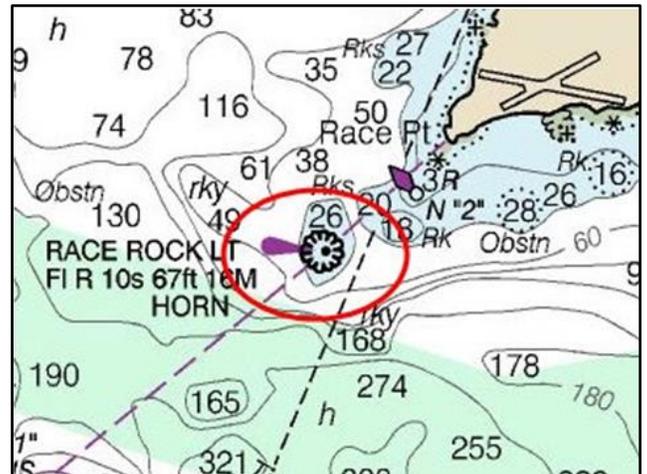
these dangers on your nautical or electronic chart. Set your GPS alarm to trigger if you sail too close.

### 3. Don't Let Riprap Ruin Your Day!

Lighthouses welcome mariners to harbors, guide them along the seacoast, and provide position "fixes" along the intended path inside big bays and rivers. But you need to avoid sailing too close to those that show a squiggly boundary that surrounds the black dot (note the riprap symbol of a squiggly circle at RACE ROCK LT).

This indicates stones, slate, or similar foundation material has been placed around the base of the light structure to fight erosion. Some lights are exposed to waves in all weather. Without the addition of riprap, the light's main structure could be damaged.

But sailors beware; at higher tidal stages, riprap can hide beneath the waves. And, riprap material can move after a big storm or storm surge. Steer clear to avoid "keel contact" with deadly riprap!



Keep your small sailboat in safe water when you know the most vital nautical chart symbols for sailing safety. Sail with confidence this sailing season--wherever in the world you choose to sail or cruise! (Skippertips members, download my eBooks "Chart Symbols Made Easy" Parts I and II).

**[Not yet a member? Get instant access to 2,500+ sailing articles, 375+ sailing videos, 475+ sailing newsletters, and 20+ FREE eBooks at no extra cost. Click here to learn more!](#)**

## TRIVIA

Many of you have seen the gray and white naval-looking vessel moored beside Seabrook Shipyard while motoring through Clear Creek Channel to the Bay and wondered about its history.

The "YP 655" is an 80 ft., wooden hulled, U.S. Navy patrol craft built in Stockton, CA in 1958 and subsequently sold into private service as the "ST. ELIAS"



According to <http://shipbuildinghistory.com/smallships/yp.htm> :

*"The designation YP originally meant a yard patrol craft. The Navy created its initial fleet of YPs from about sixty Coast Guard boats no longer needed after the end of prohibition. This fleet grew to about 650 for WWII, mostly by the acquisition and conversion of private yachts and fishing vessels. After the war, all these boats were sold off and the YP became a training craft, primarily at the U.S. Naval Academy."*

Do you have any TRIVIA to share about vessels, sailing, Galveston Bay area etc.?

Send your TRIVIA to [topsider@sailtass.com](mailto:topsider@sailtass.com) and get it published in the TOPSIDER!