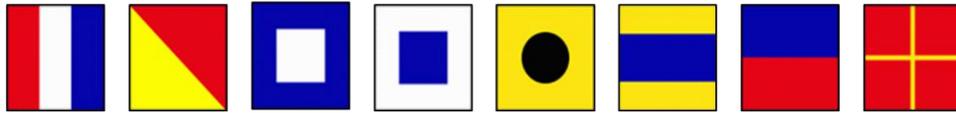




# TOPSIDER



*February, 2019*

by Jay Leggett



Greetings **TASS** Members

The most important event for our club takes place each year with the election of the Board of Directors. You the members cast your vote and entrust to the elected board the responsibility to guide the club in a positive direction representing members to the best of the board's ability. The board governs through the by-laws that are set for the club, is responsible for the financial wellbeing of the club and

sailing and social aspects which for the past 35 years have made TASS the great family that makes us proud to be members.

The 2019 elections were held in January and I am pleased to present your new 2019 TASS Board with the voting results below. Before we get to the new officers, I'd like to take this opportunity to personally convey a HUGE thanks to two Board members that have served TASS for 2018 and MANY previous years are stepping down to spend more time with family and their professions – Joanne Moschella-Social Director and Shirley Nicola-Secretary. I'd also like to thank the many TASS members that have served in various Board positions as well as hosted many of our large events – fortunately, there are too many names to list.

The new Board will consist of, Jay Leggett-Commodore, Urs Rathgeb-Vice-Commodore, Charlie Holcomb-Treasurer, Vivian Bruder-Secretary, Patricia Gumbs-Membership, Nancy Welch-Purser, Mike Vaughan-Fleet, and Thann Dauterive-Webmaster. This year, since we did not have anyone step forward for the nomination of Social Director, the Club will self-manage the social events by volunteer committees until further notice.

Having served several terms on the board, I assure you this is a very hard-working group of people that do their best to bring YOU our Members the very best that TASS can offer to promote sailing and provide members the opportunity to participate in the sport of sailing in many ways here and abroad. We've hosted and participated in on the water training aboard our charter vessels and at various skill levels, diesel maintenance, navigation, weather, CPR & First Aid; as well as many international sailing trips all over the World.

The board is always open to your suggestions and highly encourages your input and feedback by contacting any one of the Board members via email or in person. Feedback and suggestions are the best way to help us serve and grow.

Once again, thank you for voting and congratulations to the Board on their election. I am proud as Commodore to lead this great group of dedicated people.

Total number of votes cast in the election equaled 50.

Commodore	Jay Leggett	49
Vice Commodore	Urs Rathgeb	49
Treasurer	Charlie Holcomb	49
Secretary	Vivian Bruder	49
Purser	Nancy Welch	50
Fleet	Mike Vaughan	50
Membership	Patricia Gumbs	50
Social	Vacant	-
Webmaster	Thann Dauterive	48

### What's Up Next for TASS

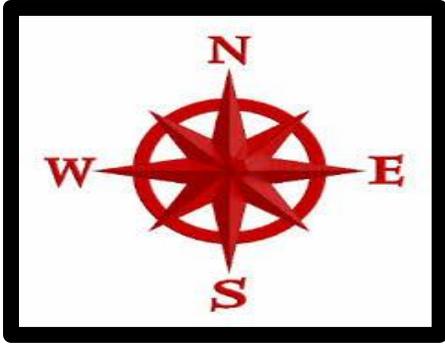
We have announced the dates of the upcoming ANNUAL BUSINESS REVIEW MEETING for TASS. This is an annual opportunity for members to receive an overview of the club as we wrap up 2018 and present the plans for 2019. Each board member will provide a short summary of results as related to their position along with setting expectations for 2019. The 2019 calendar of events will also be shared and already the events are stacking up to be a great year of sailing, racing, social events, and travel. February is the beginning of the TASS fiscal year and a great time for you to give input into our 2019 calendar events. We will also take this opportunity to say thanks to the Officers that served in 2018 and past years, and induct the new 2019 Board.

Why is this important to you the members? Just in case you missed a meeting or the Topsider information, the annual meeting is your time to catch up. We hope you will attend either the Kemah/Seabrook meeting or Houston meeting (dates listed below). We are looking for a huge turnout and want our Members to be involved, so PLEASE JOIN YOUR TASS FAMILY and attend one of the meetings on 2/21 or 3/7/2019.

#### **PLEASE RSVP to one of the meetings by clicking on the link below**

Houston [Annual Business Meeting](#) will be held on Thursday, February 21, 6 pm – Barry Pizza  
6003 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77057

Seabrook/Kemah [Annual Business Meeting](#) will be held on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm - Iguanas  
Ranas, 2900 E Nasa Pkwy, #100 Seabrook, TX 77586



by Urs Rathgeb

### Season Start 2019

What an incredible start into the 2019 sailing season!

Three out of the first four weekends of the year offered unbelievable great sailing weather, with temperatures in the high 50's/low 60's, and winds between 8 to 15 knots (we will not be mentioning the remaining weekend).

This is what it looks like to be sailing in January on Galveston Bay:



*Part of the GBCA Icicle Race I fleet pictured from the TASS Charter Boat "Tarah Shell" skippered by our Commodore Jay Leggett. Pictured to the left "Stellar of Course", helmed by Nancy Welch.*

Like in the previous two years, TASS put a charter boat Crew together for the GBCA Icicle Race series, which so far has participated in all four of the races in January, consistently placing in the middle of the field (Club Handicap). Considering that we sail a boat that we do not own, and with changing crew from week to week who are not training together, I consider that a success.

I also should mention that many other TASS members participate in the race series with their own boats (Astarte, Escape Hatch, Ox-bow) or are crewing on other boats (Stellar of Course, Hobgoblin, Lazz). The first four boats ranked in the series for the Club Handicap have all at least one TASS member on board! For complete results, click [here](#).

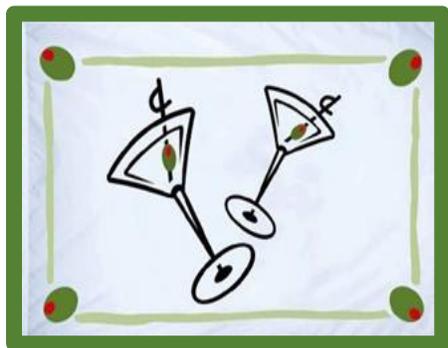
There is one more race in the series on February 9, and TASS will not be participating with one, but rather with two charter boats for this last race of the series! There is one more open spot on the second boat as of this writing. Even if you have never raced, consider joining us. It's not all about winning – the two things I enjoy most during a race is the spirit that develops on the boat

feeling as a team, and the fact that I always am learning and refining my sailing skills (of course, we are not upset if we place well too!). Also, there is a great after race party with food and drinks, and plenty of sailors to mingle with!

Posted on our website is a collection of photos from all the races, contributed by crew members. Catch the action by visiting [www.sailtass.com](http://www.sailtass.com) [Race Schedule and Results](#).

This is going to be an awesome season for TASS, and I feel honored that you trust me to serve as your Vice Commodore for another year.

See you on the water or at one of our social events! Your Vice Commodore, Urs



**by Lois Geyer, Reunion Chairperson**

**Predicted to be the biggest social event of the 21<sup>st</sup> century...** I should know I have been in the club for all those 35 years!

Put May 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendars! Friday evening at 6:00 PM there will be a pot luck, BYOB dock party at the [Harbor House Marina](#) in Galveston. Please bring a lawn chair, your drinks and a dish to share.

Saturday we will tour the [Tall Ship Elissa](#) and [The Texas Seaport Museum](#) starting at 6:00 PM and continue through the evening. At 7:00 PM there will be a Mexican dinner buffet outside by the Elissa. This is also BYOB. DJ Brandt will provide our dancing music.

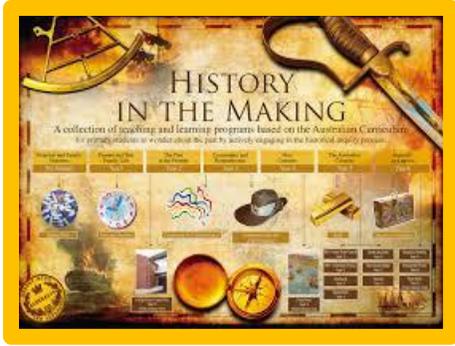
**Registration and prices...**Price for TASS members and alumni is \$75.00; \$85.00 all others. [Register EARLY](#) on our website. Alumni members you will need to register individually using your email address so be sure that even if you are a couple, Lois has both persons email address which will expedite your registration and alumni discount.

**Make your own accommodations.....**The area offers some nice B&B's so you may want to check out [Airbnb](#) for listings but do so quickly as the area is popular this time of the year and accommodations will go quickly. An alternative to the Airbnb would be to stay in a hotel. We have secured a block of rooms - 2 night (Friday and Saturday) discounted rooms are available at the La Quinta Hotel, 1402 Seawall. Phone # 409-763-1224. \$107.10 plus tax for Friday and \$134.10 plus tax for Saturday using the TASS name. One-night stays are available but not at a discount. Of course, stay anywhere you like!

For more information, registration and [photos of past reunions](#) please go to [sailtass.com](http://sailtass.com) and click on the 35<sup>th</sup>-anniversary party. Also, you are requested to state the year you [joined TASS](#), [any officer positions held](#), and [most favorite TASS trip](#).

People are already signing up and are coming by land, sea, air and RV's!

If you know of a past member that might not be on the alumni list, please email Lois Geyer at: [TASS-2019-reunion@sailtass.com](mailto:TASS-2019-reunion@sailtass.com).



### TASS Archives

Ripped from the pages of the TASS Archives we have found some interesting artifacts to share as we lead up to our 35<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration.

Enjoy and check out more history on our special 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary website pages [here](#)

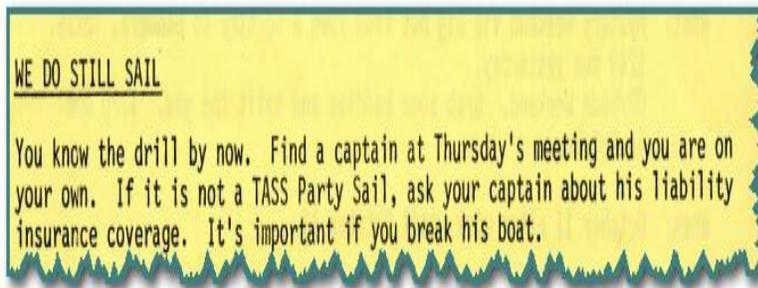


### Do you Remember .....

1988 – The 4<sup>th</sup>-anniversary party with Kent Brotherton, Commodore



WOW what a Texas size cake. TASS goes big on everything.



Topsider Archive October 1986 – Do you remember how to register for a sail! The clip from the Topsider says it all. Wow we have come a long way in 35 years to online registration Bada Bing Bada Boom



Keeping in Touch especially with non-local members that are cruising or just live in another city is always fun. Such a connection took place on New Year's Day as Evangelina looked up our recently relocated member Monika who now lives in San Francisco. The two girls spent the day, visited the beach and toasted the New Year with a glass of bubbly at Monika's new home. Thanks for sharing and great to catch up with



members even at a distance. Monika we will miss you for the women's races and hope you plan a trip to come race with us soon.



**by Patricia Gumbs**

Here we are, it's February and almost Valentine's Day. Guys remember - Diamonds are a girl's best friend.

What a great start to 2019! We had several new members in December and 7 new members as of 1/21/19. At our 1/17/19 meeting at Barry's Pizza, we had 30 people in attendance and 5 new members joined that night. Welcome to the entire guest that attended hope to see you back soon.

## TASS MEMBERSHIP Going Strong at 162

The TASS board would like to give a warm welcome back to Sharon Sims and a huge thank you for all the guest who came to the meeting with you and are now our newest TASS members.

Please join me in welcoming our New Members

Mary Berna	Steve Budde	Denise Hall	Nick Hardy
Karol Hutson	Becky Nesmith	Larry Newbern	Andrew Smith



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FEBRUARY MEMBERS

Mary Mann	1	Barbara Schindler	12
Denise Parsons	1	Nancy Kahlden	13
Kenneth Albers	1	Lois Geyer	14
Emily Farris	5	Gayle Dale	16
Shirley Standifird	8	Laura Marlin	18
Sharon Sims	8	Laurie Sapp	19
Dick Gallaway	9	Wally Collins	19
		Ron Rogers	27

Looking forward to a wonderful year with fun events and great sailing.



by Thann Dauterive

Did you know? When you register for ANY event paid or free, the registration system will email you a confirmation record of your registration. YES! This is true. Often, I am asked questions about registration, people unsure if their registration actually processed through the system or if payment was received.

Well, the easiest way and quickest way for you to check if your registration was recorded is for you to check your email. Where does the email come from? The email is generated from our TASS web & data management system and found in your inbox email it will say that the email is from; **TASS Texas Association of Social Sailors** as seen in the photo example.



The example on the right is the full text of the email and as you can see it is personally addressed to YOU with details of the registration and event information. Pay close attention to the section at the bottom which states ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. This is information that WILL NOT appear on the website calendar of the event. This is how we communicate to you special instruction, perhaps the location address because the event is at a private home or the skipper of your sail may give additional information about time, place, or what to bring on a sail. DO NOT delete them when you receive the confirmation email until the event has passed. This is for information record.

Dear [REDACTED]  
Your event registration has been completed. Thank you for registering!

**Super Bowl LIII Party**

When: 3 Feb 2019 4:00 PM, CST  
Where: Houston, TX - Members Event

**EVENT DETAILS:**

**SUPER BOWL LIII IS HERE**

**Are you ready for some FOOTBALL??**

WHEN: Sunday, February 3, 2019

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

HOST: Mark Langley

Parking is very limited, arrive on time and please do not park in an illegal spot.

Car pool or Uber if you can

BYOB BRING A DISH TO SHARE

**Members will receive a confirmation of your RSVP along with the address location of the party to respect the privacy of the host.**

**PLEASE REGISTER SO WE PLAN THE HEADCOUNT  
IT REALLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR THE HOST**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Mark Langley is the gracious host of the party.

This event is private and limited to TASS Active Members.

Active Members may register (1) guest.

For privacy reasons you are receiving this email confirmation of your RSVP to communicate to you the address and phone number of the host.

[REDACTED]  
thank you for your RSVP and we will see you at Super Bowl LIII



## Tech Talk

### Will Your Sailing Rigging Pass This Test?

Did you know that a tiny piece of rigging the same size and shape as a bobby pin works as hard as the mythical Atlas to hold up your mast and rigging? And most of these pieces of "sailing rigging gold" cost less than \$1.00. Follow these easy tips to make sure your costly sailboat rigging stays in place this coming sailing

season! Make sure that you can see about 1/2" of the threaded wire inside each turnbuckle body. Replace broken or missing cotter pins right away. Follow the steps below for sailing safety.

#### Take the First Step to Rigging Integrity

Your shrouds, stays, blocks, furling gear, boom vang, and mast and boom fittings rely on one single fitting to hold them in place. If this fails, your rig could crash over the side, a block could slingshot across the deck, or your costly sails could be torn by a sudden unexpected load.

These tiny rigging warriors pin your rigging parts together, just like the nuts and bolts in an automobile. They are under constant load to deal with the stress, strain, and vibration imposed on your rigging as you sail. So, who are these champions of your sailboats rigging?

Often overlooked--sometimes with catastrophic results--the common cotter pin leads the pack as the single most important part of your standing rigging. These fasteners can be bought for less than \$1 at any nautical hardware store.

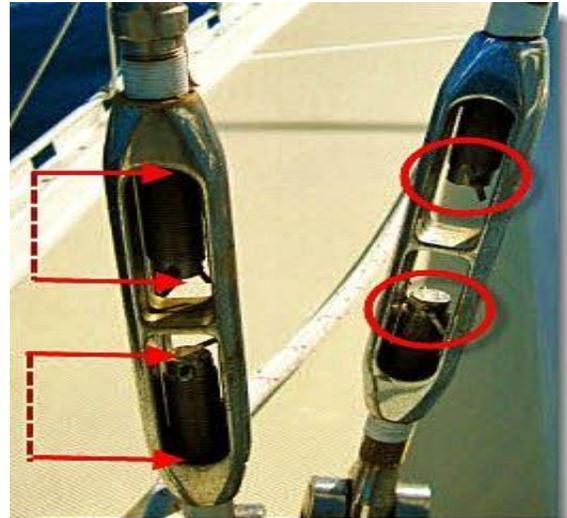
Cotter pins come in two varieties--cotter rings and cotter pins. Banish the "key ring" shaped cotter rings from your sailboat rigging for good. They have a nasty reputation of backing out of a fitting from vibration or stress. Carry and install "bobby-pin" shaped cotter pins for strength, durability, and super sailing security.

#### Inspect Your Rigging with Care

Follow this fast, easy inspection to check the most vital parts of your standing and running rigging. Check the turnbuckles and cotter pin integrity on each stay and shroud first. Start at the bow with the headstay. Work your way down the side to the upper and lower shrouds, then to the backstay, over to the other side, then forward to the bow.

Look for dishing, or distortion of the turnbuckle barrel or the stay or shroud end fitting. Once a barrel or end fitting has distorted, it cannot be bent back into place without weakening the damaged area. Do not set sail unless all fittings appear straight and true.

Pay particular attention to the top of each stay or shroud turnbuckle where the end fitting enters the turnbuckle barrel. This area can trap water and develop hairline fractures over time.



Look inside the turnbuckle body (see illustration above). Check for cotter pins on the threaded end fittings. Make sure that you can see about ½" of thread inside the turnbuckle body. Each shroud or stay needs that much threaded end so that you can replace the cotter pins or tune the rigging.

#### Replace a Cotter Pin the Right Way

Check that each cotter pin has been sized to the hole of each individual fitting, and shaped in the correct way. You need to be able to pull the cotter pin out for replacement, or in an emergency. Follow this easy process:

1. Use a cotter pin that fits snug in the fitting hole.
2. Push the pin into the hole as far as possible.
3. Shorten the legs to 1½ times the fitting diameter.
4. Spread the legs into a "V" shape.
5. Leave the cotter pins un-taped for instant inspection.

If you decide to tape over the cotters on shrouds or stays, use just enough rigging tape to cover the cotter pin (two or three wraps about 1" wide). This allows easy removal and inspection. Replace all missing or distorted cotter pins. Your sailboat will have additional components not included here.

Make sure you check the common sailing running rigging fittings listed below. Add to this list as you inspect your own sailboat. Use a boat check-sheet so that you catch small problems before they turn into big ones.

- Furling drums, swivels, and fittings.
- Lifeline turnbuckles.
- Boom vang.
- Mainsheets.
- Traveler control blocks.
- Running backstays.