

AUGUST 2020



T O P S I D E R



“MISS WENDY”, photo courtesy of Hope & Kevin DeNicola

#### COMMODORE - Urs Rathgeb

As there appears to be some silver lining on the horizon with the number of new COVID-19 infections at least no longer increasing before hopefully starting to decline, the board discussed during its recent meeting when and how to restart face to face activities in a responsible way.

We decided to “sit-out” August and, for another month, conduct only virtual club-sponsored activities (e.g. Zoom meetings). While growth rates of new infections, hospitalizations, etc. have shown some recent rates of slowing in the region in published statistics, they have not yet receded and remain on a very high level.

In anticipation of positive trends beginning to materialize through August, we are intending to set up some limited face to face activities outdoors in September. The following are anticipated:

- Leisure sails, but with a limited number of crew (maximum 6 incl. skipper). To keep the deficits per sail within reasonable levels, the board decided to modestly increase prices for the time being to \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members. While there will not be a face-covering mandate at all times on the boat, crew members who sign up should be ready to physically distance and wear a mask in confined areas (e.g. in the cabin, when close to others in the cockpit, and anytime when keeping a physical distance is not possible). Please look out for any additional skipper instructions in the event listing when you sign up for the sail.
- A race is scheduled for September 19 but without an after-race party.
- We are hoping to set up one face to face meeting in Kemah and one in Houston, both in outdoor locations, and with necessary physical distancing measures in place.
- We tentatively rescheduled the Pig Roast (initially scheduled in August) for October 10, but depending on the situation, may have to implement some restrictions on the number of participants.

These events will be set up on the calendar over the next few days, but we all should be aware that the above may be subject to change, just as many of our plans earlier in the year had to be changed or scrapped. You are encouraged to check the calendar for events and reference the weekly BLAST for changes and announcements. As a board, we have the task to balance the desire of our members to enjoy events with what is socially responsible as the situation develops.

Our club life continues to be put to the test. As much as each one of you, I crave to go sailing, racing, feel the wind on my face, and meet you all afterward in the bar to catchup and - of course - have a Margarita or two!

However, rather than focusing on everything we cannot do right now, let's take some time to be thankful for and enjoy what we have. This time more than any other in my lifetime is showing me that nothing is for granted, and to have patience and be humble. Our true friendships and connection will endure, and once we are through this, we will pick up where we left off.

Please stay safe.

Your Commodore

Urs Rathgeb

#### **VICE COMMODORE - Andrew Clark**

September 19th will be our first race in our restart phase.

October 3rd, we have Carol Becker Woman at the Helm Regatta

October 17th, the race is WEAR PINK to bring awareness to breast cancer

All these events will soon be online for registration. Be sure to watch the weekly BLAST or check the calendar for the announcements that registration has opened.

We hope to have several boats participate making a good show on the water.

#### **Treasurer - Charlie Holcomb**

Take note that all refunds from canceled events have been issued. Look at your PayPal or Credit Card statements which will reflect the credit. Thank you for your patience as we sorted through the credits.

#### **SOCIAL - Joanne Moschella**

As we all know, things are shutting down once more. I am sure that we are all disappointed that our sailing and social events have gone to the wayside as we try to stay safe and healthy. Who would have thought that the only social interactions taking place in a large group would be a zoom meeting? It seems that this is our new normal for the time being.

We will continue to plan events for the future and hope that we will be able to attend them. In the meantime, continue protocols and take care. I hope to be seeing everyone soon.

### **July Zoom Wrap Up**

Thanks to ALL our loyal ZOOMERS throughout the month of July that participated in the **Summertime Backyard Recipe Series**. We had so much fun visiting photographs of your backyards, and the weekly recipes submitted were deliciously appetizing even in virtual real-time testing.

Here are the winners of the recipe contest.

### **WHAT'S UP FOR AUGUST**

The month of August we will continue our ZOOM Meetings. We have a great line-up of topics and antics planned for the month. Be sure to register by 5:30pm on the Thursday of the Zoom meeting in order to receive the link in time for the 6:30pm ZOOM meeting start.

If you have not joined us yet, give it a try.

### **Aug. 6 - Maritime Madness Trivia ZOOM**

with Host Trish Hazeldine

TEST YOUR MARITIME KNOWLEDGE

Play along with our ZOOM Game Night

[Maritime Madness Register](#)

**Aug. 13 - ZOOM, Surfing with TASS, General Conversation and Tips & Tricks of the TASS web site. Forum Blog & Contact a Member.**

[Surfing w/ TASS](#)

**Aug. 20 - ZOOM, Hang out with friends**

[Hang out with your friends on Zoom](#)

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**Aug. 27 - ZOOM, Travel Through Photography** on a TASS virtual trip with Mark Shield

[Travel Through Photography](#)

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**Sept. 3 - Kemah Meeting** - Outdoor meeting at the Sundance Pavilion. Our meetings will start up again. We have missed our South Bay friends and hope to have a good turnout.

Be sure to register and let us know you are coming.

[Kemah Meeting Register Here](#)

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### **FLEET - Mike Vaughan**

As we restart our sails in September clicking to register is easy. However, before you CLICK— Read the event in the description in its entirety online in the calendar. Events/Sails may have some special information regarding the sail, provisions or instructions. It is important that you understand this information prior to clicking to register. Once you register refunds are not allowed unless the event/sail is canceled by the skipper or TASS board per our cancellation policy.

The skipper of record for that day may also send you information regarding the sail. Be sure to read all emails or listen to all voicemails that may contain instructions by your skipper.

### **MEMBERSHIP - Patricia Gumbs**

#### **Membership Corner**

Hello TASS as we continue to adjust to the ongoing pandemic, I hope and pray that everyone is staying healthy. Please continue to follow social distancing guidelines and wear your mask. As a

medical professional I want to let you know that the Virus is real. Take care of yourself and protect your health.

Someday soon we will get back to sailing and socializing. Hang in there TASS this too shall pass. Please continue to join us on Zoom on Thursday nights. Check the blast and website for updates.

From Membership. Keep the faith we will sail again and socialize.

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUGUST MEMBERS**

Wishing all of you the best on your special day.

Janusz Abromowic	Gloria Arnold	Lee Morgenthaler
Douglas Ashby	Joanne Moschella	Jan Peterson
Holly Bedman	Henry Pine	Suzy Rogers
Barbara Ann Bukowski	Alfonso Sanchez	Steve White
Diane Finch	Jack Turner	Jim Williams
George Golden	Karol Hutson	Ron Jackson
Ana Mode		

#### **WEBMASTER - Thann Dauterive**

Enjoy following TASS on Facebook. We encourage members to follow on the TASS Facebook site and when you find events or information be kind enough to click on the SHARE button. This helps TASS through social media bring attention and even new members to us. So, remember

**Don't just Like Us -- S H A R E TASS**

#### **TECH TALK**

How to Lower Risk When Docking Your Boat with "High-Load" Lines

You may think because I taught boat handling for the Coast Guard and later at the Chapman School of Seamanship, that I walk on water when it comes to docking. Nah, far from it. I've had my share of "Cap'n Crunch" incidents. Learning never stops...

One lesson I learned early on was to give the utmost respect to a line under load. Think of load as lots and lots of tension. Loaded lines include headsail sheets, the mainsheet, sail trim control lines, docking lines, anchor rode, and towing line.

And, speaking of docking lines, let's talk about the [docking spring line](#). Now, there are springs used to hold a boat in position in her slip or next to a dock. But, springs used to help maneuver the boat are unique because of the loads placed upon them by an engine, wind, or current.

Nylon docking line stretches under tension. When you release tension, the line "recovers" back to the original length. Ease tension on a docking line so the line recovers in a controlled manner. Otherwise, the line could "slingshot" the boat away from the pier.

So, if you need to use a spring line for docking your boat, follow these five basic steps:

1. Ease tension onto a spring line. Use just enough throttle to get the job done.
2. Keep tension on the spring. Avoid the temptation to shift into neutral.
3. Control the amount of tension on the line with the throttle (minimum).
4. Attach your other docking lines to hold the boat in place.
5. Ease the throttle to release tension on the spring line. Secure the engine.

Learn more about how to dock your boat with spring lines under any condition of wind or current in the latest, 3rd edition of [Dock a Boat Like a Pro](#), filled with easy steps and illustrations!

**Did you know Skippertips members get this eBook and 19 others for FREE, along with 3000+ articles, videos, newsletters, and more? [Click here to find out more.](#)**

Warmest regards,  
Captain John - [www.skippertips.com](http://www.skippertips.com)

#### TRIVIA

The dog days or dog days of summer are the hot, sultry days of summer. They were historically the period following the heliacal rising of the star system Sirius, which Hellenistic astrology connected with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. They are now taken to be the hottest, most uncomfortable part of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

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