

Volume 2018, Issue 3

March 2018



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL SAILORS - FOUNDED IN 1984

# TASS Topsider



## Commodore by Jay Leggett

March is a big month for Tass, we're launching our new software platform tirelessly curated by Thann Dauterive. This new web platform will make it much easier for all our members and guests to navigate our website, to find and sign up online for our many social and sailing events, as well as explore a refreshed photo and technical library (work in progress). Watch your email inbox for the launch notice in early March, login and fill in your profile details along with selecting specific details you want shared with TASS members ONLY, ie: name, phone, email and emergency contact, but maybe not your address and birthday. Your personal information is NEVER shared beyond our membership. We will have help sessions after our Thursday night meetings for anyone that wants to stay after, which will also afford an opportunity for you to buy dinner / drinks from our two wonderful restaurants that host our weekly meetings.



*Captain Dave McCabe – Sailing Angels – Special Speaker at Members Meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> in Seabrook.*

Sailing Angels Foundation. This will be a help, as we 'kick off' 2018; we plan to serve at least 2,000 participants this year!

The turnout and reception of your members at last Thursday night's meeting was very impressive. I was proud to have our Sailing Angels volunteers/your fellow TASS members participate, and I was gratified in the interest exhibited by your TASS attendees!

I would be grateful if you would remind those TASS members who expressed interest in joining our charity, to help as Skippers or skilled Crew:

Go to our website (see below) and Register, noting they wish to volunteer.

Additionally, near the end of my presentation, I told the group about how the local regional singer, Shake Russell, had 'embraced' our charity, and composed & recorded the 'Sailing Angels' song. In turn, his friend Tim Russell 'jumped onboard' and that all resulted in the musical video which we attempted to play (without success) on Thursday. Go to a quiet place to listen to/view this short music.

Enable audio and click on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCl5Wg3t5a8>

## Vice Commodore - Urs Rathgeb

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Even though we are blessed that we can sail Galveston Bay year round, for many of us winter is a season during which we do less sailing, and when we spend a bit more time than usual for indoor activities.

With that said, we already kicked off this year's TASS training series on February 18, with a workshop covering the "Rules of the Road" at sea, presented by Captain Don Dykstra.



*Over 20 TASS members joined presenter Captain Don Dykstra for the first TASS Training event for the year*

Don shared with us the core concepts of the international navigation rules, providing examples for their application, and sharing many "war" stories, gathered during his many years at sea on commercial vessels. Thanks, Don, for an excellent start into this year's training season!

Of course the racing season is coming up, and I look forward to a great and competitive season. It was not easy to find someone who could slip readily into the role of race czar, after Andrew had done such an excellent job for a number of years, but I believe we have found a competent successor in John Klumb. As in previous seasons, we have a total of seven races scheduled, culminating with the Commodore's Cup Race on November 10.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves though: Our first race is scheduled for March 17, and in honor of St. Patrick, we named it the "The Crazy Irishman Chase". John will put together a course that may contain some surprises, and you will have to pay close attention to what you will be doing on the water! Wear green, and join us for the pursuit! Next up on the calendar, April 28, will be the traditional Carol Becker race in its 22<sup>nd</sup> edition, which features a woman at the helm at all times from start to finish. Of course male participation is allowed - to trim the sails and as rail meat.

In order to make it more attractive to participate in our races, TASS members now do not pay an entry fee for the races, meaning there is no excuse for any member who owns a boat not to sign up. And of course I hope that many of our guest racers who have joined us previously for the racing season will sign up. Consider joining as a member - it takes only three races to break even!

I look forward to see you sailing on the bay!

# Social Director—Joanne Moschella

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine Tasting honoring our TASS Sailing Achievements at Marilyn Reed’s home was a big success. Close to 40 of our sailing community showed up bringing Mediterranean Wines and delectable Greek dishes for a festive evening.

This year’s honorees were Doug and Barb Schindler. Barb spoke so eloquently about their 3 years cruising the Greek Isles. With their wealth of information, they could easily write a book on every aspect of cruising and where to set anchor along the coastline of the islands that they have visited. Their knowledge and experiences of places visited could not all be covered in one evening of slideshows. I am hoping for an encore from them in the future.

The evening ended with prizes for the best wines of the evening. Winners for the evening were Mark Langley, Jay Leggett, and Pat Halter.

**Friday, March 2**, is movie night in Houston. The group will meet at Café Adobe between 5 – 5:30 p.m. for dinner and enjoy a 7:10 feature of “Red Sparrow.” The group usually goes to a local wine bar afterwards. If you are interested, please show up. We would love to see you!

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** is the Saint Patrick’s After Race Party at Sundance Grill on the patio. Please wear something green and join us, whether you have raced or not, to enjoy the evening for a “Touch of the Irish Luck.” We will start for 5:00 to gather and due to boats coming in at different times, awards won’t be given out until all have arrived.

**April** is the month to honor our female sailors. April 14<sup>th</sup> is the Mermaid Regatta hosted by our very own Babs Bukowski, who started the race, along with the Women’s Sailing Association. Boats from our club will be participating. April 28<sup>th</sup> is the Carol Becker race where only women are at the helm. The after race party, “Tie one on for Buzz,” location and details are in the works.

Smiling faces at the Wine tasting.....



# Social Director—Joanne Moschella

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More smiling faces at the Wine tasting.....



# Social Director—Joanne Moschella

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More smiling faces at the Wine tasting.....



## Membership Director—Marilyn Reed

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***TASS is 173 members strong, and growing!***

Woohoo! You know your membership director is one happy camper over that number! Clearly, everyone has been doing his/her part and talking about the good times we have in TASS. Fun is just contagious! Keep up the good work Sailors! I think 180 is a worthy goal for March. This month we have 3 brand new members. Two of those, John and Ann Ewers, have already been on a sail with Skipper Urs! Check the calendar, read your Topsider, peruse The Weekly Blast for more awesome events coming up!

Join me in welcoming our newest members:

(3) Mark Klebenow, John and Ann Ewers.

And, thanks a heap to our renewals :

(8) Monica Tilhou, Denise Parsons, Doug Cagle, Augie Lipsanen, Rob Sherrill, Barb Schindler, Karen Long, Mary Morgan for renewing your memberships for another year of fun on the water with your TASS family.

Several of you need to log onto the website or come to a meeting to renew your memberships, which managed to escape your attention last month – Matt and Judy Carder (Matt is one of our skippers who needs to plan a trip back to Houston so we can play on the water. Everyone would love to see you guys!) , Lee Carpenter (Mr. Amazing Race himself), Ben Miller (racer extraordinaire), Paul Shepherd, Doug Rubino (What about those fishing trips?), Jean Erwin.

Come on sailors, if you have let your membership lapse, it is time to log on and renew! 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 March babies (13 ) Holly Cooper, Melody Bohlmann, Mark Langley, Amy Collins, Olga Adair, Margaret McCord, Thann Dauterive, Michael Mino, Brenda Hamilton, Paula McCoy, Maria Zurinsky, Itsy Vandenburg, Mark Shield. Come on to one (or all) of the April meetings and we'll raise a glass to you and even toss you a free TASS koozie – now, that is incentive!

See you on the water, at the meetings, or wherever else the winds may take us!

## Purser— Nancy Welch

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Hi everyone. Since the last TASS election had no one else running for the Purser's position (surprise!) I never needed to give a campaign speech. But why waste it, so here is what it would have been: "My main goal in wanting to be Purser for TASS is to make the position obsolete, or at least as obsolete as possible." Short and sweet. What is meant by this statement is that we (the board) are trying to bring TASS into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are going to try to encourage, educate, and if necessary twist some arms into signing up and paying for events online. This means even if you sign up at a meeting, instead of putting your name on a piece of paper, we'll help you fill out the information on a computer or phone. If you really, really, really don't want to submit payment via Paypal or credit card online, we will have a way to take credit card payments at meetings. We are strongly discouraging cash, but.....

## Webmaster, Social Media—Thann Dauterive



As reported in the past few Topsiders, TASS is transitioning to a new website. We are under development and approaching the time where we will cut over to the new site very soon. The new web will have a great layout, easy to navigate, intuitive from the titles on each page to read and get the latest information. One of the best new features will be the ease of social events, leisure sails and race events registration. Don't PANIC! We have several communications planned to inform you of the transition along with the when, where and how. We are also planning to hold a 15 minute demonstration and Q&A session following each weekly meeting so plan to ATTEND a meeting and stick around so you are informed.

Most important, if you have been on the current web and looking at the calendar for events, DON'T PANIC if you don't see planned events, sails etc. scheduled beyond **March**. **TASS has quite a FULL planned calendar for 2018**. Upcoming events in the short term can be accessed and registration can be completed on the existing web for TASS. In this transition, to give you more advanced view of the calendar, we have posted a more complete schedule on our **Facebook events calendar**.

Questions, concerns, suggestions are always welcomed via email to [webmaster@sailtass.com](mailto:webmaster@sailtass.com).

# Tech Sailing Talk

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## Are Decks Safe Enough to Keep Your Crew Aboard?

Falling overboard remains the #1 nightmare of sailors worldwide. Serious injury from the fall could render a person unconscious. Darkness and heavy seas hamper recovery efforts. What "first steps" can you take to help keep your crew aboard in all sailing weather?

You've probably read about wearing a PFD and harness until you're blue in the face. But what you will rarely read about are those subtle changes that occur when you step aboard a boat. Follow these tips for sailing safety this coming season...

### 1. Use Handholds AND Footholds.

Hold onto something whenever aboard, whether you are at the dock, at anchor or underway. In a flat calm lake or a raging storm. Grab lifelines, rails, sailboat mast or boom. Most production boats lack enough handrails below deck and footholds above deck. You need handholds and footholds on deck. Why footholds?

There are tasks where you will not be able to hold on with one hand. This might be for just a few seconds, but that's long enough to slide over the side. Try to wrestle a headsail to the deck with just one hand. Or reef a mainsail with just one hand. Or open a corroded screw pin with just one hand. In each of these, there will be seconds or minutes where two hands are needed.

That's why the best bluewater boat designers add extra high toe rails or proper bulwarks to their designs. Brace your feet against these and you have solid support. But, they need to be several inches high. Think of how you can beef up weak footholds in areas like the foredeck to make sailing or cruising safer.

### 2. Look Down BEFORE You Move Forward.

Look down, then forward before you move. Step over headsail sheets, winches, rope clutch gear, deck cleats and slippery boat sails. Keep lines coiled out of the way to prevent injury. Demonstrate how to move to new crew. Never assume.

Folks who do not sail often or who are new to sailing rarely understand how to move on a boat. Show-and-tell works a lot better than lectures. What's true with youngsters holds for adults. Pictures are worth a thousand words.

### 3. Squat BELOW the Uppermost Lifeline.

Keep your knees below the level of the uppermost lifeline. If thrown against the lifeline, this offers more area to brace your body. Squat like a linebacker to move fore or aft. This lowers your center of gravity toward the deck. In heavy weather sailing, lower your center of gravity even more. Crawl on your belly if necessary.

All sailors enter a unique environment whenever they step aboard a small sailboat. Follow these sailing tips to make each trip a safe one for you and your sailing crew.

## TASS Officers

February 2018—January, 2019

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## TASS Membership Fees

New ..... \$65.00  
Renewal before expiration .... \$60.00  
Out-of-town/state ..... \$15.00

## 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

\$60/members; \$75/guests

**We're on the web:  
[www.sailTASS.com](http://www.sailTASS.com)**

## Meetings

Every Thursday Night

6:00 pm—Social Hour

7:00 pm—Meeting

Check the calendar at  
[sailtass.com](http://sailtass.com) for details