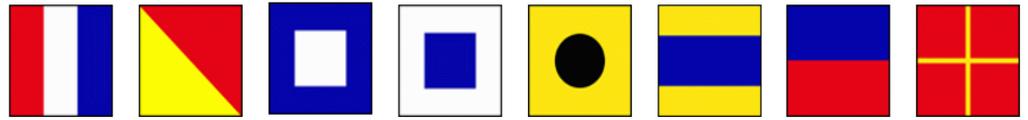


JAN
2020



T O P S I D E R

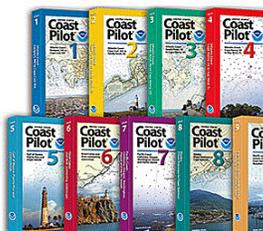


CC



The January Fun

JANUARY TECH TIPS



BLACK EYED PEA PARTY



ICICLE RACES



VOTE

Our 2020 TASS Board online **election ballot was sent to members on January 6th**. Please look in your in box for your ballot. We ask that you PLEASE VOTE, even if there's only one candidate running. If you didn't run for a Board position this year, consider running next year and volunteer this year to help with any Board position to get familiar with the tasks involved. Access the voting ballot by going to the home page of the website. You will find the VOTE button on the home page. You can click on the VOTE HERE button BUT... you must log into your account to be able to vote, otherwise you will get an ERROR message and you will not be able to access the poll to vote. Voting Poll closes on January 16th. Only online voting is accepted.



TASS Texas Association of Social Sailors

Welcome to Sailing, Racing and Travel Fun

Board Voting Poll is OPEN until January 16, 2020. Members Only can vote.

You must log into your account to vote.

VOTE HERE



Celebrating 35 years of Social Sailing in the Greater Houston Area

Commodore by Jay Leggett

Happy Holidays to all of you. It's hard to believe it's already 2020. I hope everyone had a great holiday season with family and friends. Your TASS Board already has lots of great sailing and social events already planned for 2020, but we want to hear from you - what TASS events do you want to see added to our calendar? [TASS EVENT CALENDAR](#) Join us at our upcoming annual planning meeting on February 20th with your ideas or maybe you have a favorite theatre venue, volunteer to host an event and we'll help plan and bring it to our TASS family.

Our June 2020 Spain sailing adventure to Majorca, Ibiza + land post-trip to Barcelona is full. We'll be formulating a detailed sail-plan in the coming months, with lots of Ports for the crew to research.



SOCIAL by Joanne Moschella

The holidays are ending and we are approaching 2020 with enthusiasm for the coming year.

The TASS Christmas Party, on Saturday, December 7th, was a huge success for those of us that attended. At the same venue as in years past, we had a lovely weekend enjoying Moody Gardens in Galveston.



We danced the evening away with a very enthusiastic DJ who made sure we enjoyed the music and the dance floor stayed full. I don't remember how many years it has been since I saw that much participation from the group. I would like to announce that the club has a new dance queen in our

Secretary, Emily Farris, who must have danced just about every single song. Her enthusiasm definitely rubbed off on the rest of us.

The traditional pre-party in the suite was festive with delicious appetizers furnished by our group and plenty of bubbly. We proceeded to the dining room for a wonderful dinner with accolades by all for the delicious and abundant variety.

I am afraid some of us are showing our age as there were a few slips on the dance floor. And, of course, we finished the evening back in the suite for the after-party and closed out the weekend with our group breakfast Sunday morning at the hotel restaurant.

I, for one, have so enjoyed this annual event and Moody Gardens has been an excellent value for services that we received. Unfortunately, the members have not overwhelmingly supported this event and attendance has dropped. We will be in the process of reviewing and considering alternatives to the holiday party. All suggestions are good suggestions and we encourage your input, please.

No meetings or Socials for December 26 but our Kemah contingency did gather for a social at Tookies Seafood on January 2nd as an alternative to the Thursday monthly meeting. It was a nice group gathering and delicious seafood was enjoyed by all. Thanks, Mark Monroe, for arranging and hosting this event.

We have board elections in January and as the Social Directory nominee, I could use some help. I am looking for suggestions for Meet & Mingle locations in Houston, Host for events in the South Kemah area, chairpersons for events that YOU as a member suggest, plan and host. Social is a huge part of our organization and we want to continue to make it all-inclusive meaning we do WHAT YOU would like or suggest. So in 2020, it is important that you get involved. Put on your thinking cap for some event that might be a group interesting fun event. Let's coordinate and have some fun.

BLACK EYED PEA PARTY

Closing 2019 with the annual Black Eye Pea Contest, graciously hosted by Lois and Neal Geyer, was as successful as it has been a tradition. A good turnout of 25 guests attended and it looks like the ladies claimed all three places.



Congrats to Barb Schindler winning 1st,
Sharron Simms was 2nd and
Meade LaBlanc 3rd.



Gary Powers gave a history of the black-eyed pea cook-off that started in 1995.

Happy New Year and fair winds to all!

FLEET NEWS, Michael Vaughan



January is racing month for TASS as we have the charter boat Night Wind scheduled to race in the GBCA Icicle races. We have skippers scheduled for each race. If you are up for racing in the cooler weather and want to race, there are still a few positions available. These races are a lot of fun and there is a party at GBCA afterward. There are no leisure sails scheduled during January.

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. 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. [TASS EVENT CALENDAR](#)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS by Patricia Gumbs

Hello TASS we are about to begin a new chapter and I hope this New Year finds everyone in good health. I want to thank all of you that contributed to the Toy Drive. This year was a huge success and I am sure that many children were happy to receive a toy for Christmas.

Looking forward to what this year will bring to the club. Let's all get out on the water this year. Bring a friend along to a meeting or meetup and introduced them to sailing!

Finally, just a quick reminder to renew your membership so you won't have to pay guest fees for events. Also, help me to keep track of who is going to an event by registering even for meetings this give a headcount so we can secure a venue. Thank you all for your support and hope to see you all soon



Happy Birthday to



TASS New Year Babies!

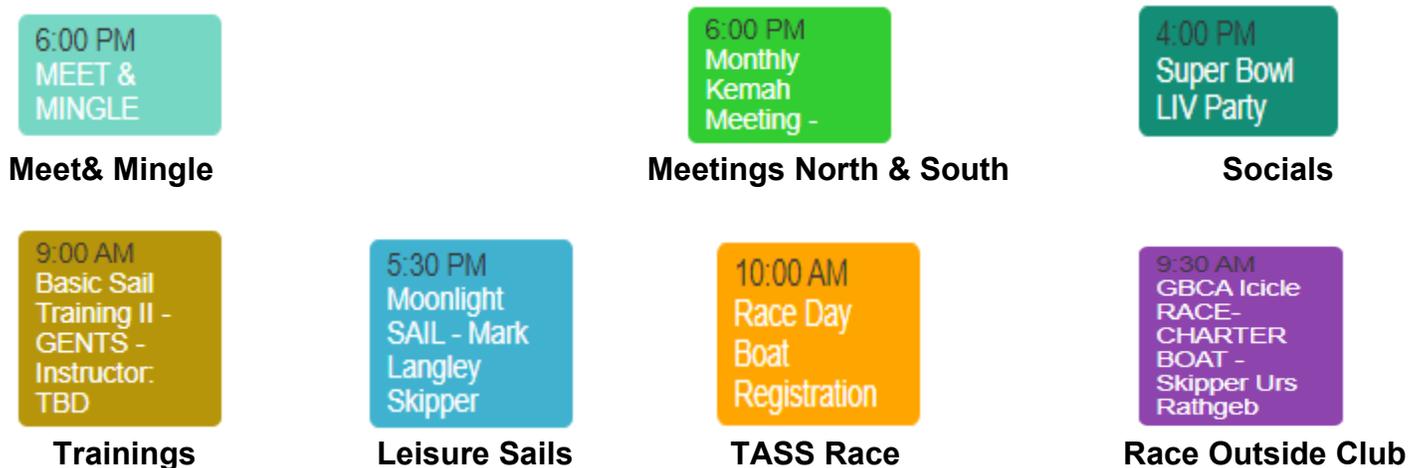
Members	Date
Malcolm Jones	3
Meg Albin	6
Michael Vaughan	21
Robert Broussard	21
Jimmy Raper	22
Denise Hanrahan	27
Clark Southmayd	31
Charles Hanson	31
Stephanie Martin	31

Patricia Membership Director

Webmaster by Thann Dauterive

Santa brought the webmaster a new set of crayons. Oh, my and the webmaster has been busy. Check out the [TASS EVENT CALENDAR](#). If you are in the calendar display view by month you will see we

have added COLOR to delineate the various activities on the monthly. Last year we had so many events, social, sailing, racing, race participation in other clubs, meeting & meet & mingle it seemed a good idea to color code events making your search easier when viewing the calendar. Here is a preview of the color madness:



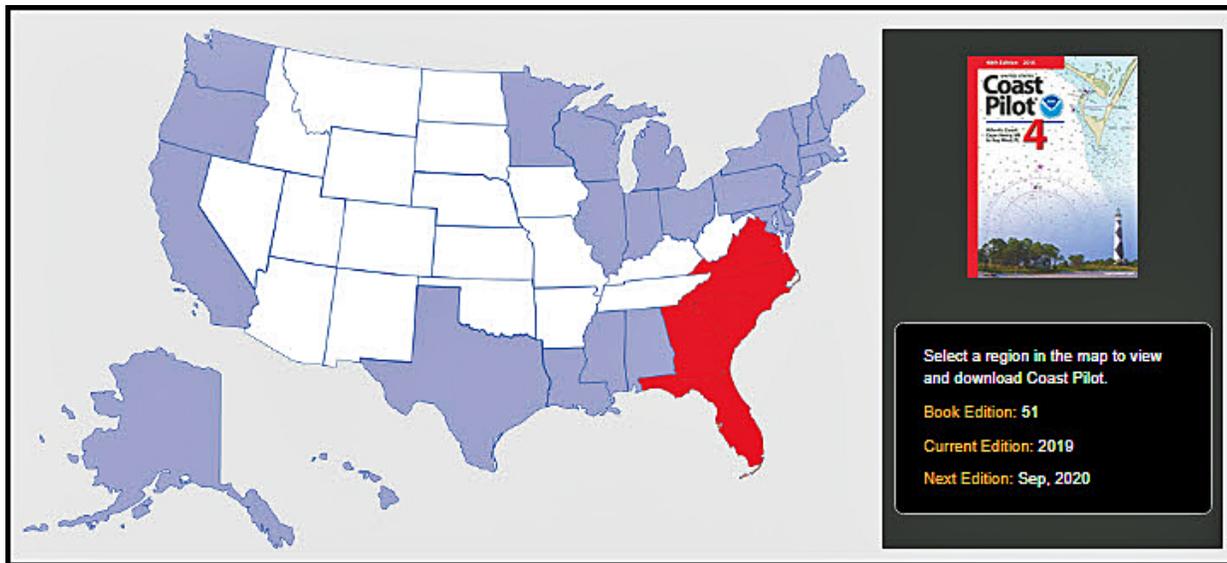
I hope this makes your year of participation and early registration for an event easier to navigate. It is said and repeated, but so important even if an event is FREE, we ask you to register ourselves and your guest. Register early as possible as this will assist the event planners in delivering the highest quality events with grand participation.

Please feel free to contact me at webmaster@sailtass.com for questions or suggestions.

December TECH TIPS

Sailing Navigation Secrets - FREE Cruising Guides for Sailing! <https://www.skippertips.com/public/1787print.cfm>

If you are anything like me, you read all you can about new places to sail or cruise. But cruising guides can come at a heavy price--unless you know about one super source of the latest, most accurate cruising guides--all for FREE! Take advantage of this goldmine of information if your cruising plans are for the US and its territories.



Shaded areas show the coverage of Coast Pilots. Here, we want to find out more about cruising in the warm tropical waters of the Florida Keys. We set our cursor over that area and it changes to a solid red color. We can download the latest, up-to-date edition of the applicable coast pilot (in this case, CP-4). See more below.

Every year, new Cruising Guides fill the bookstores, covering the more popular coastal and inland waterways. Many of these offer excellent advice, specifically for the small-boat sailor. But it's best to use caution when using a recreational guide unless you're confident in the reliability of the information.

Coast Pilots -- Faithful Companion to the Navigator

The Office of Coast Survey, a division of NOAA, offers sailors a free cruising guide that's hard to beat for accuracy and detail. Issued annually, nine volumes of the U.S. Coast Pilot cover all navigable waters within the United States and its possessions, including Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Islands.

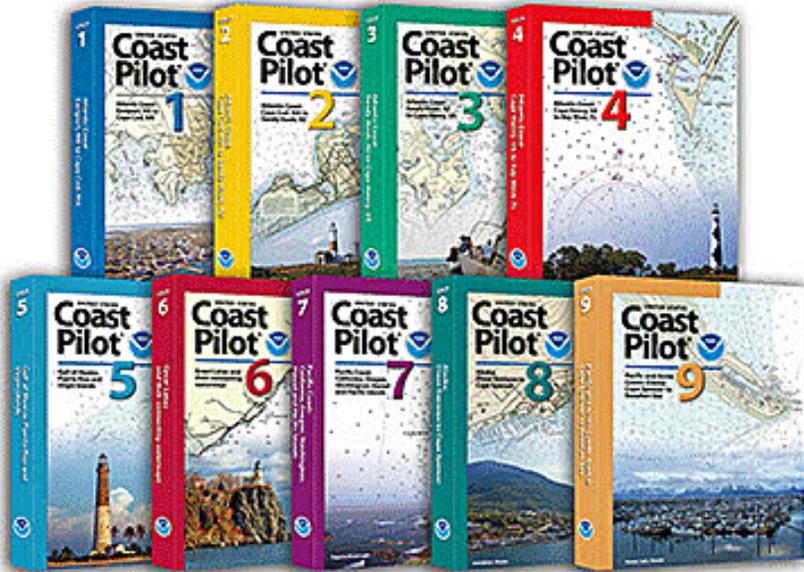
You'll find detailed navigational information on seasonal weather, prevailing local-winds, and currents, dangers, physical land characteristics, prominent landmarks for landfall, harbors, anchorages, marinas, repair facilities and emergency services. The National Ocean Service and NOAA constantly update each guide through a constant flow of information from professional and recreational mariners.

Title Boundaries -- Just the Tip of the Iceberg

Each Coast Pilot covers the coastline and all adjacent inland waters lying between geographic boundaries. Look at the title of Coast Pilot 3 below. This guide covers the Atlantic coast from Sandy Hook to Cape Henry. But it also includes the New Jersey Coast, Delaware Bay, Philadelphia, the Delaware - Maryland – Virginia coastlines and the entire Chesapeake Bay. Note that Alaska has two Coast Pilots (8 and 9) because of the vast geographical area.

- Coast Pilot 1--Eastport, ME to Cape Cod MA
- Coast Pilot 2--Cape Cod, MA to Sandy Hook, NJ
- Coast Pilot 3--Sandy Hook, NJ to Cape Henry, VA
- Coast Pilot 4--Cape Henry, VA to Key West, FL
- Coast Pilot 5--Gulf of Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

Coast Pilot 6--Great Lakes and Connecting Waterways
Coast Pilot 7--California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Pacific Isles
Coast Pilot 8--Alaska: Dixon Entrance to Cape Spencer
Coast Pilot 9--Alaska: Cape Spencer to the Beaufort Sea



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How to Get Free Instant Updated Editions with "One Click"

Always use the latest editions. These have corrections that can affect safety and navigation. For example, a major storm can alter the profile of shoal water and navigable water boundaries. The latest editions of both publications and charts will often include this vital information.

U.S. Coast Pilot now offers completely updated publications every week! The new PDF version, available free on the NOAA website, will be updated each Tuesday with the latest corrections for navigation safety. With one click of your mouse (use link shown in steps above), you can get a brand new edition each week of the year--for no cost!

Mark Your Coast Pilot Along with Your Nautical Chart

Use a highlighter to mark those parts of the Coast Pilot that apply to your sailing route. Use the Coast Pilot along with the nautical chart and mark your chart at the same time as applicable. That way, you can refer to both publication and chart at-a-glance while planning or underway. Make sure that you mark:

- Prominent Features and Landmarks
- Channels
- Anchorages
- Dangers and Shoals
- Tides and Currents

- Weather Notes
- Small-craft facilities

Boost your sailing navigation skills and knowledge to new heights with the super useful information found in the US Coast Pilots. Make sailing safer and worry-free when you make preparations ahead of time for cruising the waters of the world!

Captain John was a navigator, ship driver, search and rescue skipper and master training specialist in the US Coast Guard. He later directed the chart navigation and seamanship departments for the Professional Maritime Training program at the Chapman School of Seamanship in Florida, where he taught aboard a fleet of power and sailing vessels.

Click Here to Discover the Benefits of Skippertips Membership!

<https://www.skippertips.com/public/1052.cfm>

TRIVIA

Many of you have sailed by the east end of Pelican Island and seen the exposed shipwreck sitting high out of the water, but did you know the history behind it?

The U.S. attempted to build 24 concrete ships due to steel shortages during WWI of which only 12 were actually built and placed into service. The **S.S. SELMA** was built in 1919 by F. F. Ley & Co, Mobile, AL and operated for less than a year as a tanker. Her hull was damaged when she struck a jetty in Tampico and she made it to Galveston where attempts to repair the damage failed. A trench was dug and she was scuttled at her current location.



Since 1992, besides recognition with a Texas Historical Commission's Official Texas Historical Marker, she has been designated as a State Archeological Landmark by the Texas Antiquities Committee, as the Official Flagship of the Texas "Army", and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Do you have any TRIVIA to share about vessels, sailing, Galveston Bay area, etc.?
Send your TRIVIA to topsider@sailtass.com and get it published in the TOPSIDER!