



THE LIGHT



A Trip to Port O'Connor

Morris and Cynde Sinor

April 2010

We departed Port Isabel in our Morgan O.I. 41 and motored to Port Mansfield (strong N wind) on our first day. We spent the night side tied to the dock in front of the Chamber of Commerce building (directly across the channel from El Jefes). Shortly after we arrived, we were visited by a municipal employee who said it would okay to stay overnight (no charge) if we were departing early in the morning. We left at first light.

On the second night, we checked out the facilities at the Padre Island Yacht Club – starboard turn into the channel between marker 54 and 55 (a mile or so before the Kennedy Causeway bridge in Corpus Christi). Stay right through the short channel into the community. The yacht club is the first building on the left and has an excellent side tie dock at the corner. Shortly after we docked a member came around, checked out our yacht club membership and gave us the combination to the clubhouse where we could use shower and bathroom facilities. Electricity and water were available on the pier. The night we were there, several club members were trying to get a poker game together and, if we had shown the least bit of interest, we certainly would have been included!! Excellent facilities and very friendly members.

Our next stop was the Port Aransas public marina. We called the harbormaster (361-749-5429) and



were told to side tie to the main pier just down from the restrooms and laundry facilities. Electricity and water were available. Cost was \$35 for up to 40'. Tied up Immediately in front of the Harbor Master was a local shrimper (Pollyanna) who goes out each night and sells fresh shrimp from his trawler the following morning –fantastic!

The local bus (The Wave) goes by on a schedule (which you can get from the harbormaster), circles through town and the beach for .25 cents. Additionally, there is a Nueces County bus which travels from Port Aransas to the bus terminal in Corpus Christi which will make stops at West Marine or the mall or anywhere else along the way for \$1.25!!! If you need to get to the airport from the bus terminal they will call for a taxi which takes about 10 minutes and \$10-12. The same bus also goes to the USS Lexington and the CC Aquarium on Friday and Saturday. To ensure you have a seat on the bus, call City Hall, 361-749-4111 to make a reservation, preferably 24 hours in advance. The bus departs the port area at 7:30 and 10:00 am every day.

We ate at a local Mexican restaurant (can't remember the name but it was cheap and good) the first night and at Fin's the second night (right next to the marina with indoor and outdoor dining. Cynde was particularly pleased because they had a veggie burger!). The food was good and the service very friendly. For lunch one day we ate at Bundy's, 112 E White Avenue – about a block off the main street of Alister, also excellent. Another restaurant that was highly recommended by several people was Virginia's but we were unable to make it there on this trip.

Port Aransas has a small museum that details the history of the Port area and was very interesting. The museum is only open in the afternoons. The volunteer who gave us the tour was well versed in the history of the area and was quite interesting. Where else have we stopped the march of a shore break that was moving south at 200 feet a year! The museum is located at 219 E Ave East and has a web site portaransasmuseum.org. Both nights there was a gathering of live-aboards and local people at the pavilion at the end of the dock for an informal sing fest and Budweiser celebration.

Our next stop was at the Rockport City Dock (Aransas County Navigation District – harbormaster number is 361-729-6661) where we were assigned to one of their transient spaces. Docks are located on the left after the jetty. Cost was \$30. It is a bit of a walk to the bathroom, shower and laundry facilities, but they are nice. There is a major shopping center approximately one-half mile down highway 35. H.E.B. no longer provides taxi services to transient cruisers but the walk is pleasant.

As you pass the jetty entering into the city dock facility, the Rockport Yacht Club is located just to the right. They have a transient side tie dock which is available to reciprocal yacht club members and which has electricity and water hookups. If the dock is available you can just tie up to it. You may or may not be visited by a club member. The club house and bar are open on Friday night at 7 or 7:30 and on other special occasions.

Final stop was Port O'Connor. We had expected to anchor at the Matagorda State Park. Our guidebook, Skipper Bob, indicated no problem getting up the channel to the Park (5 feet of good water). He was quite wrong. It has shoaled in since the guide was published and unless you have a very shallow draft you won't be going there.

After we got off the bottom, we called the port and were directed to St. Christopher's Marina. St Christopher's is located just past the Fish Center and public ramp and has a spacious, easily accessible side tie dock. The only identification is the name of the marina painted in relatively small letters just above the transient dock. If the owners had not been there waving their arms, we would have missed it. The owners were friendly and very helpful. They were amazed we had made it back and forth through the next 4 miles north in the ICW because there had been a lot of shoaling in the last year. Fortunately, we had high tides and that kept us away from another bottom meeting. They also gave us useful information about the location of the alternative ICW route. There were electricity and water hookups at the pier. Shower and bathroom facilities are approximately one-half block away. The telephone number is 361-983-2017. Cell phone numbers are 512-517-2632 or 361-920-2552. They have 3-4 additional transient boat slips depending on the size of your boat. You can call and reserve a slip in advance.

We made the decision to return to Port Isabel the following day because we were having battery and sounder problems and did not relish the idea of continuing without a reliable depth sounder.

On the way back, we picked up a SE wind and were able to make 11 knots for a period of time. The only difference was that we stopped at Marker 4, which was as good as usual.

Thanks to Morris and Cynde for this wonderful report that pushes me to make the same trip this summer! Ed.

Commodores Report Colonel Bill Maples Commodore

Again we find ourselves at the end of another month that has been filled with success in all corners of our club. Exuberance and enthusiasm by the LMYC members in all our endeavors and goals for this year is obvious. The epitome of loyalty and team participation, is while I was busy with-club repair, who should walk in but our first Commodore, Mr. number (1) Tommy Carruth. "Bill who do I give this to? I then realized Tommy had a check and an application for a new club member. I proudly took his application and pinned it to the bulletin board for the two week waiting period of scrutiny which all applicants must endure. As Tommy is always in a hurry, he said- "Commodore, I am following your challenge for everyone to get a new member for the year. Mr. Stark is mine!" "How many others are taking the challenge?" Following Life member Tommy Carruth's lead how many Life Members in the area have a new member in your sights? I know LM, Skip Maggard is working overtime on it.

We have a NEW 42 inch TV!

The donations received at the last social for the purchase of the TV were sufficient to purchase not only the TV but to assist with the monthly payments for the year. After the count, Bill and Cathy brought the total to over \$1000.00 and they are going to pay for the first two months bill as well. Mark and Dee Fryer have donated a great Blue Ray DVD player to compliment the new television. The installation of shelving and the TV set up is almost done and will be ready for our next social. It is not to late for those who did not attend the social who care to donate to the TV set. Send your donations to Larry Zamponi, filling in for George. Larry's address is in the directory.

SEA SCOUTS

As I mentioned in a memo last week, Pastor Don has informed me that a great deal of enthusiasm is happening at his church, with new applicants. I have informed Dottie and Mac McMillan's family of the kick off of the troop their funds will assist.

Take Notice of the Entry Wall

With the help of the experienced Commodore extraordinaire, Wes Thom, while moving maps in order to build a shelf for the Blue Ray DVD player, we moved the timely LMYC plaques to the center front wall. The impression is great when you first walk in.

2010 Race and Cruise Schedule

MAY 15, 16 GULF AND BAY RACES
JUNE 19, CRUISE TO THE ARROYO COLORADO
JULY 17, BEACH PARTY
AUGUST 7, RACE TO PORT ARANSAS- OCEAN SERIES #3
AUGUST 28, STRANGE BREW ON THE WATER
SEPTEMBER 18, 19 GULF AND BAY RACES- START FALL SERIES
OCTOBER 16, 17 GULF AND BAY RACES
NOVEMBER 20, 21 GULF AND BAY RACES

Remember, you don't have to own a racing boat to race. Everyone is welcome under our handi-capping rules where the best sailed boat and not the fastest wins.

Stewards Corner

Ahoy to All!

This month we will be honoring all the mothers since our social is just one day before Mother's Day!

The Commodore will be bringing something special for all the mothers.

As for the menu we are going Italian! Spaghetti and Meatballs, Garlic bread, Salad etc.

I'm looking forward to a big turnout, but of course won't know for sure until you RSVP!

Bill Rushfeldt, Steward

www.lagunamadreyachtclub.org

Don't Forget

The yacht club newsletters are always on-line at the web site (shown on the left here).

Regular updates for events including races, social occasions and other fun things are on-line as well.

Please make sure you update us if you change your email address as this is our default method for the distribution of timely news.

Follow the activity of club members on The Fingers on-line and via email. Your support in this effort is critical. While many of us may not have a boat in the Fingers, everyone's ability to use this as a safe harbor is important. We would also like to ensure that those in the Fingers are able to get out and enjoy using their boats.

FLEET CAPTAINS REPORT
MAC AND DOTTIE MCMILAN
MAY 1ST AND 2ND 2010

WINNERS!- "TENACIOUS" AND CREW

Skippers meeting 8:00 AM Saturday morning: 4 boats represented, Tenacious (Miles and Arlette), Night Magic (Rocky and Linda), Aqua Mania (Gordon Mitchel and Jeff Stanteen), Ciclon (David and Gene Hicks). The forecast looked perfect, NOAA was calling for SE @ 15 kts for Saturday, and N 15 to 20 kts on Sunday. However, a light norther was already entering the upper valley.

We experienced wind from just about any direction you might imagine before it went north for good. Night Magic had made it 14 miles north, almost to the arroyo. We anchored for about half an hour hoping the wind might shift again, but eventually we gave up and started the motor. Tenacious passed us motoring toward Port Mansfield with CICLON behind them. AQUA MANIA turned around and returned to Port Isabel when the wind shifted.

Three of us ended up at El Jefies marina. El Jefies is under new management, what an improvement. They charged me \$32 slip fee for the night and were friendly and hospitable, as opposed to what we experienced with the prior management. This is a nice destination for a week end run. About 15 LMYC sailors hit the beach for Liberty,



some of us ate at El Jefies, some tried the crawfish at The Pelican. It was a lot of fun. Early Sunday morning the wind was light from the north. It looked promising for a nice run home. Ciclon was experiencing motor trouble; I think they ended up behind "READY ONE" (towboat U.S.) with Capt. Rick Ekstrom at the helm. I hated to see Rick and Valerie miss the race, but it was comforting to know that the towboat safety net was in place. That left Tenacious and Night Magic. Night Magic left about an hour before Tenacious, which was more than the allowance from the handicap for the trip. Tenacious was a just spot on the horizon when we left, she steadily gained for 28 miles, and then blasted by us. Tenacious is an appropriate name for the boat and crew. Both of us were running spinnakers, what a gas! We had a dolphin escort most of the way. Winner 2nd Annual Mac and Dottie McMilan Race !!!!! The tenacious crew of "TENACIOUS"! Congrats Miles and Arlette, great race!!



For changes or comments email bmikiten@idworld.net

Your 2010 Flag Officers

Commodore

Col. Wm. "Bill" Maples
H 956 421 3168 C 979 218 4850

Vice Commodore

Robert "Bob" Fisher C 956 299 1259

Rear Commodore

Brian Mikiten C 210 863 5245

Steward

William Rushfeldt C 956 266 3789

Fleet Captain

Rocky Poovey C 956 535 2224

Treasurer

George Lesieutre C 956 453 3436

Secretary

Jo Anne Lesieutre C 956 761 3169

Barrister

Bill Schwer C 713 882 0976

Fleet Surgeon

Wes Thom C 956 778 7628

Membership information

membership@lagunamadreyachtclub.org

Port Isabel, Laguna Madre, Texas

May 2010

