



THE LIGHT



Reciprocity Magic

Brian Mikiten

Those of you that know me probably wonder if I'm ever really in Texas. While it seems that way sometimes, I am fortunate that my travel schedule allows me to be in either San Antonio or SPI on a more than regular basis. One of the benefits of my job is that I usually have a bit of free time to explore the towns I visit and in some fortunate cases, they are near the ocean.

From Knox, Maine to Sanibel Island, FL to San Francisco, I've been able to sail some wonderful areas while still attending to business. Recently, on a trip to Chicago I was speaking to a local sailor about the famous Mackinac Island race. We spoke about LMYC and our involvement with transient sailors when I realized that not everyone knows about the reciprocity membership offered by the Yachting Club of America.

In many ways, this is magical and a wonderful benefit for our club members. I'll use my recent trip as an example. I was in Chicago with a few hours to spare and very close to Lake Michigan. I stopped into the Chicago Yacht Club, showed my LMYC membership card and was immediately issued a CYC card with full member privileges.

The club has the stature of the NYYC, SFYC and other high brow establishments and came com-



plete with a multi-story club house, large restaurant, private parking, trophy room and other lovely amenities. I was given a quick tour and had a lovely lunch on the patio while I watched boats come and go from the moorings.

This is all thanks to the fact that LMYC is a member of the Yachting Club of America which guarantees reasonable reciprocity of membership to all members of the YCA. In simple terms, your experience in any member club should be the same as mine was in Chicago and other venues. Think of it as our club within another club.

On that same note, extend the same greetings and assistance to those visiting our club. I've always enjoyed this aspect of membership and snicker each time I realize what a low membership fee we have compared to other clubs.

The guides listing all member clubs may be purchased at <http://www.ycaol.com/regorders.html> and are a wonderful guide to services and locations of the members.

Commodores Corner

Although this month has been relatively quiet from the outside, quite a bit of internal action has taken place. In a short summation, the Boat and Waterways meeting with the federal group was well attended, and some conclusions were formulated and acted upon.

1. The USCG is going to officially request of the Corps of Engineers an in depth survey (Hydrology) study at the Corps expense, with a very high percentage expectation of approval.
2. The USCG has removed all marking buoys from the ICC into the fingers due to the "liability" the impression such buoys give to boaters, even though the world wide charts are marked as "2.5" foot of water. A buoy has been left marking the entry to the channel now abandoned due to the lack of maintenance over several years.
3. The USCG is working in conjunction with their higher headquarters and our planning group toward moving the ICC entree point into the fingers and the Safe Refuge area to the natural channel that commences in the area close to the Causeway/Pirates Landing area and marking same. This point is expected to quickly become the approved marked entree into the fingers since many have been using it for years anyway.
4. This action will be accomplished as soon as the City provides funding for the opening of the "bottle neck," entering the fingers. The City is in the process of moving on such.
5. All concerned Congressional / USCG/ Corps/ and city entities now recognize where the emphasis must be placed and the immediate need to open the "Bottle Neck" in order for the Pompano Project and re-establishment of the safe refuge anchorage to continue.
6. Homeland Security will continue its "No Go" entree into the fingers, raising the issue of local security in the fingers. This is actually helping our cause.
7. The lack of maintenance action throughout the water ways in the fingers, that has resulted in immeasurable irresponsibility, causing the City of Port Isabel to actually "lose" its ICC entree as well as the possibility of a great liability facing the city if damages occur to vessels unable to traverse out or in to the fingers in case of storm disturbances, has become a "Hot Issue," within the Federal entities..A rapid attempt at fault finding is in

the air...However such candid inquiries will eventually cause a resolve.. Also becoming a concern of the local authorities is the possibility of citizen property owners pursuing a de-evaluation of taxing amounts on properties that can not be marketed as "Passable water ways---"inciting a possible need to voice an action for tax reduction."

These are issues that all federal entities have been brought into by our committee.

The continuance of your concerns that are now broadening from the "Bottle Neck" to property damage if a hurricane hits that could greatly affect boat insurance by not being able to move vessels from a danger area, to property devaluations due to the inability to attract property buyers and the clear view of the possible need to reduce taxes accordingly, are items to add to your listings in letters to your representatives...

Bill Maples Commodore

New Member Updates

We always enjoy meeting and greeting our new members. In order to ensure their privacy, we will publish the information which can be added to your directory only via email to existing members.

Back Issues of The Light

Missing back issues of The Light? Was there a particular article, quip or cartoon that you'd like to reference? All the old issues are on the website and available for download as PDF files.

Sailors are a Good Bunch no Matter Where You Are!

Mike & Marilyn Myers s/v Sweet Pea

Mike and I were recently in Ohio visiting his mother and attending his 40th class reunion from Carey, OH high school. If you've never been to Ohio in the winter—DON'T GO! If you've never been to Ohio in the Summer—GO! You are really missing something! A truly beautiful part of the world, especially up around Lake Erie.

While we were up there, we headed up to Port Clinton on Lake Erie for our "water fix" and to watch the sailboats on the lake. We went to the Port Clinton Yacht Club and poked around for a bit and looked at the boats, with a particular eye for sailboats of course!

We spotted several very nice boats at one of the marinas, and decided to stroll the docks. As we meandered along, we spotted a boat that looked similar to ours...I couldn't tell from where we were what size, but she was a Beneteau, so we went over for a closer look.

To our delight, it was a Beneteau and it looked remarkably similar to ours, so daring to go a bit closer, we thought we'd chat with the folks on board and compliment them on their good taste! Lots of activity going on, and in talking to them, we found that their boat was exactly the same make and year model as the Sweet Pea! AND in the conversation that ensued, they invited us aboard for a short sail on the Lake!

Who would have thought as we drove up to Port Clinton that we would actually be on a boat—on Lake Erie—for a delightful sail with delightful folks.

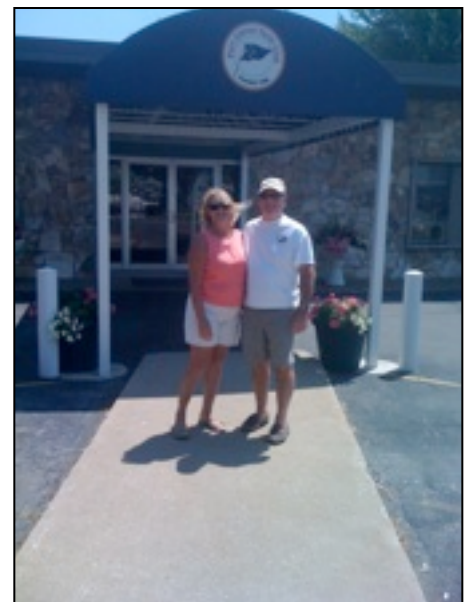
A special thanks to Bruce and Patty Foster from Perrysburg, Ohio for sharing their beautiful Marisol with us for the afternoon. By the way, she was running over 9 knots and pointing exceptionally well!

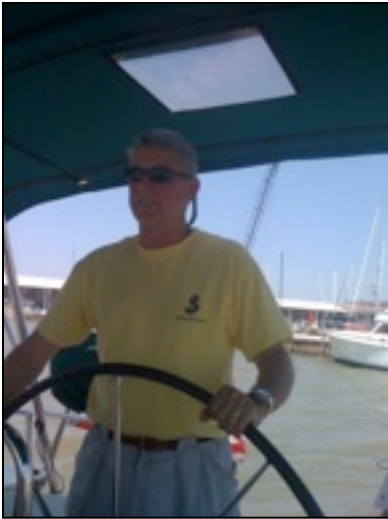


Draw Bridge opens every 30 minutes for clearance



Port Clinton Yacht Club





Top Left to Right:

1. Bruce Foster at the helm
2. "What do you call two sailboats on the water?—A Race!" Nice Catalina trying to catch up!
3. Another boat coming out of the marina and heading toward the draw bridge
4. Bruce graciously invited Mike to take the helm!
5. A view coming out of the harbor and onto the lake

2010 Race and Cruise Schedule

Note: Always check the website for current information

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 handicapping rules where the best sailed boat and not the fastest wins.

Steward's Corner

What a fun summer. I just got back from Port Mansfield where some of our most avid sailors made an impromptu trip. Trouble with current in our planned anchorage caused a small change in plans. We headed to town and spent the night at El Jefe's. To our delight they have new owners, who seemed friendly and nice. A great time was had by all.

This month our social is on Saturday, August 14. Social hour starts at 6 and dinner at 7. Since it is the "dog days of summer" we will be having dogs for dinner. Dress them up however you like. We are planning to have chili, onion, relish, mustard, catchup, and whatever else I can think of between now and then. Perhaps some Fritos or even sauerkraut! I'm sure we will have lots of side dishes too. Potato salad and baked beans are on that list so far. No doubt it will be another great party, so I hope to see everyone there.

Later this month is our "Strange Brew" on the water party. It will be Saturday, August 28 starting around 2 PM. The plan is to anchor out, and raft up over in the turning basin on the ICW between the clubhouse and the Brownsville ship channel. Once there we can share whatever kind of strange brew we bring along with our fellow members. The idea is for everyone to bring something in the way of an unusual brew. Perhaps a foreign beer or micro brew. Of course if you feel the customary blue cans are noteworthy, by all means bring what makes you happy! Remember if beer just isn't your thing, come anyway! Bring what you want. Lemonade or Ice tea, that's brewed isn't it?

Just a little foreshadowing for next month. It will be Mexican food night, and I'm still searching for volunteers who know Cocina Mexicana. I'm also looking for someone to help make Margaritas!

Bill Rushfeldt, Steward

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

Clubhouse Phone Number
956-943-5692

membership@lagunamadreyachtclub.org

Port Isabel, Laguna Madre, Texas

August 2010

