



# THE LIGHT



## Updated Web Site, Directory and Cards All in February!

It's funny. Three years ago, the Laguna Madre Yacht Club web presence was a simple page hosted inside a local public library site. Search engines couldn't find it and most people didn't know it was there. Today, just a few years later, we have a site that can be relied on for up to date information on social events, races, old issues of the light and many other important events. The club is listed on other Texas sailing sites and is regularly visited by users across the US.

While we have limited the content at this point, you'll find that there is quite a bit of information available to users. The club history, current schedules - social, training and racing, almost three years of The Light (ouch!) and even the Club Song are there for the asking...or shall I say...clicking. As always, your input is more than welcomed. The site was arranged to be user friendly and encourages others' input.

We have grown and will continue to do so in the future. This last month marked another growth in our web presence and resulted in a few new items available on-line. You'll find that Herb Stark is now (graciously) posting photos in our gallery. If you select the Photo Gallery link, you'll see a series of galleries all posted by Herb. In the future, please send your photos to Herb and he will make sure they get on-line for everyone to see. I think this will be a wonderful way to document our time together both on and off the water.

The new Directory is also in the US Mail and on the way to all our member's homes. You'll see that some

of the old content is gone resulting in a smaller and more portable book. I keep mine on my boat so that I can identify other members on the water. It is a great way to say hello! Don't worry about the

content that has been removed from the Directory - it has all been moved to the web site and is available in digital format and may also be read on-line.

Finally, you'll see that your package also includes membership cards and the card that allow reciprocity with other YCA member yacht clubs. If you've seen older issues of The Light, you all know how often I've been able to use this card as I travel across the US. There is nothing like walking into a high-brow club with my LMYC card and being treated like a local member.

Thanks to Marilyn, Bill, Bob and Herb for all the help on these projects! They are another example of great teamwork.



### TRAINING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

February 19<sup>th</sup> was start of our 3-part Coastal Navigation Seminar put on by Larry Lewis and Jim Godfrey. The first session covered navigation tools and equipment needed on the boat as well as how to swing and use the magnetic compass and how to steer by compass both day and night. The second session on February 26<sup>th</sup> covered the navigation chart -- what it tells you and what it doesn't, speed-time-distance calculations and ways to measure your speed through the water. We also discussed tides and currents and methods of determining the drift and set of the current while at sea using the Maneuvering Board or by other techniques. All this was followed by exercises in chart plotting and finding position by multiple bearings or by running fixes. We had 18 attendees in the first session and 16 in the second. Larry Lewis provided a fantastic breakfast spread at both sessions which was enjoyed by all. The last navigation session is scheduled for Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 0900. In this session we plan to cover the nuances of using the GPS as well as trip planning and dealing with the navigation process on a small boat.

Other upcoming training classes include:

- RULES OF THE ROAD, Sid Rouch, April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- GALLEY COOKING, John Pinkerman, May 7<sup>th</sup>
- EMERGENCY TACTICS, Larry Lewis, June 25<sup>th</sup>
- SMALL BOAT HANDLING, Wes & Rick, August 20<sup>th</sup>
- SAIL TRIM & RIGGING, Fritz Corey, October 26<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

For more information on the Yacht Club's training program contact John Pinkerman at 956-451-8113.

### From the Secretary's Desk

With many thanks to Brian Mikiten, the Annual Membership Directory is on its way to you. The 2011 Membership Directory has a few new features including some important phone numbers that may be helpful to keep handy and a "user's guide" for the Clubhouse.

Also included in the mailing are your LMYC membership cards and your Yachting Clubs of America Reciprocal Cards for use as you travel our fair seas or country!

If you are traveling and you'd like to use your cards at a marina or club in the United States (including Hawaii and Alaska) or the Virgin Islands, you can access a Reciprocal Guide at <http://ycaol.com>. There is currently a hard copy of the guide at the clubhouse in the library, and we should be receiving an updated one soon.

Note the back of your membership cards...in case you are at the clubhouse and can't seem to remember the code, we've included a label on the back of your card with directions on how to open the door. Hope this helps...it's no fun needing to get in to the club house and not being able to open the door!

Looking forward to seeing you at the Mardi Gras Social on the 12<sup>th</sup>!

### Steward's Corner

Our social will be held on March 12 at the Laguna Madre Yacht Club. The theme is Mardi Gras. Come and enjoy all of the Festivities! The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be at 7:00. We will be having Jam-balaya and other Cajun dishes. If you would like to bring and appetizer or a desert, it would be greatly appreciated.

Jana Craft, Steward

## Commodores Corner

Col. Bill Maples

Although a short month in days, February 2011 was far from being short in work performed by the Club Flag Officers and its members. Continuing the work projects outlined in the first part of 2010 for the years 2010-11 time line, your club continues to advance toward accomplishing those goals.

2011 came in with a rush of volunteer organization and enthusiasm called "Get It Done." The Commodores Ball set the 2011 year standards, in Gala style, introducing events praised by many in the area of protocol such as getting back to the "pledge of allegiance to our Flag," "a well thought out invocation by Mark Fryer and a guest speaker our County Judge Carlos Cantu," Un-believable finger food and a great main dinner, music - gorgeous Ladies and an evening orchestrated by Larry Zamponi. Planned and coordinated by our Ball group The Hughton's, The Myres and the Craft's. Then the new year began--A massive clean-up of the club house following the earlier re-decoration scheme including new chair backs by the Myres and Craft team and monies from volunteers- Bob Fisher and Mike Myres manual labor installing a brand new sprinkler system that has returned our lawn to a bright green, and Mark and Dee Fryer along with our Vice Commodore Fisher getting our flag pole back to operational standard and rumors have it that our busy Vice Commodore is planning a "Big" rug cleaning club project..Thanks Bob...

All this was soon followed by our appointed Publication Committee coordinated by our Rear Commodore Brian Mikiten, Herb Stark- Web Site editor, Marylin Myers-administration/formatting and shipping working together going over the top reorganizing the LMYC web site and the Members Directory. Check out the new information reservoir with more available information and all new great photos by Herb Stark on the LMYC web site. A system where all can contribute to its content.

The yearly LMYC membership cards along with the renewed American Yachting Association Reciprocal cards "(that will be given to everyone)" and the new directory are all in the mail. Enjoy the hard work by the committee.

But there is much more. The 2011, Boating educational training committee, coordinated by John Pinkerman, is well on its way with instruction in maintenance and navigation

procedures so far, given by our own members, Wes Thom, Jim Godfrey and Larry Lewis. Well attended, with more to come and more club instructors----Check your web site and the Light. The attendance was outstanding and the "Hands on" training is what we wanted...Check the schedules.

The race and cruising committee headed by our Fleet Captain Rick Ekstrom has become an all around detailed race and cruising group, considering the desires of everyone both sail and power and new racing awards have been approved and will be given out. His interest and enthusiasm has greatly increased the attending group's size.

I cannot finish my report without adding my personal praise for our Flag Treasurer Chris Hughston. He has worked hard and is controlling our spending while coordinating a budget that will again, "keep us from having to tap the CD well," as well made a few bucks. Great Job Chris. The Flag has approved the retirement of the Cruising-Snoozing and Boozing Award. In its place will be an award presented yearly to the individual who has represented the spirit of recruitment, cordiality and esprit de Corps of the LMYC- spreading good will and camaraderie through the year.

Last but not least, I am in the process of planning with the Commodores of the "Race to the Border Group," due in June and will be going out again recruiting volunteers to form up the Commodores Committee for working with the some 40 boats planning to attend. Last year we had a great group of volunteers.

So there another of my long winded presentations...But now all have a feeling of what your Flag team and volunteers have been doing for this new year. Come on out and join the groups this year. It is fun and makes you feel a part of a team.

Thank you to all. 2011 will be the best yet and God Bless you and yours.

Colonel Bill Maples  
Commodore

### Pompano Update

A large applause-Or a slap on the back or a nod--- should be given to the Boating and Water Ways committee that I appointed early in 2010 to shake lose the dredging project in the city for the fingers. We have been working with the city for almost a year, raising funds, coordinating with the Corps of Engineers, working on the ground with the city planners and commissioners...and low and behold, I have been informed that the dredge is in route from Galveston and should arrive, barring bad weather, this week end. Dredging-completing in 45-60 days. I would like to personally thank Jim Godfrey for acting as our BM&M liaison for our Group made up mostly of LMYC club members with the city. So if you have nothing to do, go stand watch and make sure they are digging. Contrary to a couple of our past members comments, "that our constantly prodding and working with the city is going to antagonize them and result in bad feelings for the club," "Just the opposite." Everyone is working together, even in assisting with the planning for completion of the Pompano project.

Your Commodore

### Fleet Captain's Report

As everyone knows this February we experienced the coldest weather in the last twenty years in South Texas. Our Mexico Triangle Race was moved back due to the extreme cool water temperatures. The race was held Feb. 13 with beautiful sunny skies and light winds. I mean really light winds, the committee boat Rede 1 being operated by Herb Stark and his friend Jim reported winds at the start line of .8 knots. The cool water temps kept the the number of participants to just 4 boats. The start of the race at the end of the jetties was particularly challenging with the light winds and a strong incoming tide. I'm glad the Fleet Captain at the skippers meeting had forgotten to remind the contestants about the no motoring rule 10 minutes before the start of the race. Our boat the "Lucky Stike" really needed engine power as we made negative headway while attempting to make the start, the current was pushing us into the end of the south jetty. "Sweet Pea" crewed by Mike & Marilyn Myers along with John & Marilyn Howe were also struggling to make the start line.

After getting off to a really slow start the boats headed south to the first mark 7 miles southeast to the yellow buoy at the TPWD artificial reef site. The wind was predicted to increase during the afternoon to 15 kts but I don't think we ever saw more than 6 knots. Although it was sunny and in the upper 60's all of the boats were struggling to make the mark after 4 hours. It was jointly discussed via VHF radios to shorten the race as it was more than apparent we wouldn't complete the race to well after dark. Therefore we would sail to the mark and head straight back to the jetties for the finish. The crew on the "Sweet Pea" were so happy that they did tricks with their boat doing 360's. "Lucky Stike" with Nicole Ekstrom at the helm was the first boat to round the mark with the O'day 25 skippered by Frank Keyes and Able in hot pursuit. The results of the race were O'day 25 first place followed by "lucky Strike", "Sweet Pea" and Andre & Malena with their Montgomery 17.

Now that the temps are really picking up everyone should get ready for our first race of the Spring Series set to begin March 19 & 20. More info on that race coming soon.

Rick Ekstrom 956 371 1693

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### Treasurer's Report

Ahoy from your fleet Treasurer,

The club renewals have been good this year but there are a few stragglers who need to send in their money. I have been a member for three years now but have only been able to be active on a regular basis for the last year. Like many of you I never knew all the things going on in the club and the benefits it offers. It has been a real pleasure getting to know a group of people who share a common interest and love of the sea.

Along those lines these same people are a wealth of information. No matter what question or problem with boating or seamanship you may have, somebody in the club has probably already dealt with it. This "brain trust" has already saved me hundreds of dollars and hours of frustration and slowly but surely is making me a better, safer sailor. In a more formal sense the club has also taken up a very active educational program. Take advantage of it. Over the next few months I'll take time to mention some of the not so obvious "extras" provided by membership, for now take advantage of the sailing, socials and schooling that are available. You'll be glad you did.

See you on the water,

Chris Hughston  
Treasurer



Thanks also to Chris for these wonderful photos. Please feel free to send in your shots of our members on the water!

For changes or comments email [bmikiten@idworld.net](mailto:bmikiten@idworld.net)

## Your 2011 Flag Officers

### Commodore

Col. Wm. "Bill" Maples  
H 956 421 3168 C 979 244 3144

### Vice Commodore

Robert "Bob" Fisher C 956 299 1259

### Rear Commodore

Brian Mikiten C 210 863 5245

### Steward

Jana Craft C 281-825-1479

### Fleet Captain

Rick Ekstrom C 956 535 2224

### Treasurer

Chris Hughston C 956 454 4443

### Secretary

Marilyn Myers C 956-533-4551

### Barrister

Bill Schwer C 713 882 0976

### Fleet Surgeon

Wes Thom C 956 778 7628

Membership information

[membership@lagunamadreyachtclub.org](mailto:membership@lagunamadreyachtclub.org)

Port Isabel, Laguna Madre, Texas

March 2011

