



**1001 Main Street  
Palacios, Texas 77465  
(512-972-5454) or (512-972-1098)**

**"The Rhumb Line"**

### **The Commodore's Corner:**

It certainly looks as if summer has slipped away and fall is fast approaching! Really don't know where the time went but it was fun, so I don't question it very much. We have a lot of new boats in the marina that need to be made welcome. Get by and say hello to the folks and get them interested in the Yacht Club. Remember that some folks are not used to the relaxed atmosphere we enjoy at our gatherings and may be really appreciative of it!

Serendipity provides quite a few discounts for Yacht Club members. Aside from sprucing up the marina and RV areas, Jim and Linda go out of their way to make us at home and help out with various activities. Be sure and tell the thanks!

Many more activities are scheduled for the remainder of the season. Come on out and participate, as in our Labor Day weekend, you'll be surprised at the fun we have. Our thanks to Lane, Bert, Craig and Rick Harrison for the races over the holiday weekend. Sounds as if they were a great success, keep up the good work. The Girl Scouts who have completed the "Start Sailing Right" class are having a "play day" on the bay September 27th. We will be taking them from the beach to Coon Island, having a picnic lunch and returning by 4PM. The whole day is planned from 10am-4pm. I think we will fill every boat the academy has, plus mine and anyone else's we can borrow.

It will soon be time for me to step down from the Commodore's position and let someone have it who has more time to devote. Start thinking of who you would like to have, making the decisions now, then when the time comes it will be easy.

Warren Pierce

### **JULY 4th Club Activity**

Well for a first try I guess all went well. Friday we were running late, so when I got to Serendipity several boats were already on the Bay. John Connor (Anniversary) Bob Fellingham (WindDancer II), Wayne Talbert (Ms Ruby), Craig

Hlavinka (Hedonic), Bob Allen (Windswept), Betsy Browder & John Demier (Tessier), a JY-15 and two "cats". As we made our way out of the harbor I noticed that there were many boats out on the bay, both sail and power. We had a great afternoon sail and went back in to join the Connors and Talberts at the Palacios Mexican Restaurant for dinner (8 jumbo fried shrimp). Just before dark we returned to Serendipity and went out to anchor for the fireworks. It got dark rather quick and since we were last out again all we could see were anchor lights, so I'm not sure who all was out there but there were at least eleven vessels on the east side of the bay to watch the firework show. Saturday several boats went out for an overnight on the hook - not sure where all they went maybe they could make a report to Serendipity and the rest of us could share in their adventures. As for us, we sailed Dolphins and the M26, swam in the pool and cooked hamburgers in the PYC BBQ-pit. The Betsy & John joined us at the club house to cook, where were the rest of you guys? It was a fun weekend for me with family and fellow sailors, let's do more sailing and social activities!

### **PYC Club Races**

June races were canceled due to RC breakdown and high winds. Funny no one really wanted to race a six-mile alternate course in 25 knot winds. I think we showed some intelligence. Laura Griffith was rigged and bravely went off the beach to retrieve the one mark that did get set. She made two perfect tacks and arrived at the mark with her sunfish flying off a wave exposing half her hull and centerboard. One of those, "I wish I had my camera", shots. Laura retrieved the mark anchor and began to tow it back to the beach, it looked like a wild short ride. July we fared much better, unfortunately I could only make one race before returning home for a birthday party. Those in attendance had a great day and we are looking forward to August (hopefully not too lite-of-air). Well

August came and went with a blow. Saturday we met at Serendipity. I intended to place the course in East Bay to get out of the "fetch" building off Rail Road Park. But alas, I could find no takers (except "crazy Craig" who was willing to race anywhere, including the harbor). Sept, I will set a course and we will go out unless it is an actual hurricane or worse. Remember we are running two fleets now, A (experts-Ha!) and B (those without trophies) AND current standings reflect "participation" all of us have missed races and most were canceled anyway - So come on back and protect your standing during the last two race weekends.

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Current Standings after seven races:  
A FLEET; 1st Pam Smithey (5.25), 2nd Laura Griffith (19), 3rd Ed DeCoux (21), 4th Charles Smithey (25), 5th Charlie Jones (32)  
B FLEET; 1st Bob Fellingham (28.5), 2nd Warren Pierce (29.75), 3rd TIE MK Beard & David ? (31.50 each) 5th Craig Hlavinka (32).

Some good examples of attendance include me, I have not made but one race and I'm nowhere near appearing in the standings last year I was first. Also the tie for third involve two people who have been to races where the rest of the fleet was absent, get the picture. See you next month 9/20/97 meet on "The RR Park beach" for instructions races start at 1:00pm.

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### **NEW OFFICERS NEEDED!**

It is that time again, and we won't take no for an answer. There are many new members and many of you that have been members have not held a post. It is time to get some new blood and new ideas to help the club grow. Serendipity is excited and wants to help us with activities. We will also be reworking the "by-laws" to make for a better yacht club operation. The following positions will ne to be filled;

Commodore - Vice Commodore - Rear Commodore - Treasurer - Secretary - Governors (5). Also there will be committees appointed by these officers to handle club activates. The main committee needed is a race committee. I know there are members who just want to enjoy being on their boats and what better place to be on the water than in the middle of a race course?? If I can do it anyone can, would like to hear from the cruisers or

non-racers with any type of boat who might like to be out on the water with us on the third Saturday each month.

Call in now to volunteer for a spot on the ballot or you will hear from us advising you of your new position. Lane 512-972-1098 or Roberta 512-972-3960.

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### **Up Coming Events!**

1. August 30th (Labor Day Weekend), "small boat" races. The PYC and guests will continue the annual labor day regatta with races starting at 1:00pm. We will get in as many races as possible and then all go out to eat at PMR for trophy awards. There will be a \$5.00 fee and registration required. Register at the PYC club house in Serendipity Saturday morning.

2. August 31st (same weekend), "BIG BOAT" race. The PYC will host the 1st annual La Belle Regatta. There will be a \$10.00 entry fee and registration at the PYC club house Saturday and Sunday morning till 10:00am. Sunday the race start will occur out in Matagorda Bay at 12:30pm with the start line just west of marker #28. We will sail approx 4 miles South/SE to the "double tanks", round them and return to start line for finish. Then we will have hamburgers and awards about 6:00pm. The Skipper's meal is included with his registration all additional hungry personnel will pay \$3.00 each. Call Lane at 512-972-1098 or evenings at 409-245-4658 if you plan to register and give us your meal count.

3. Hobie Cat Races (Sat. & Sun.) Sept. 13th -14th

4. September 20th - PYC club races for "small boat fleet" to be set up in east bay for a change in scenery.

5. October 18th - the last of the club races for 1997

6. October 25th and 26th the PYC Halloween Cruise to Port Lavaca  
Come help us celebrate the "Discovery Birthday" of Mort Robert or (dead Bob), our local skeletal celebrity from the LaBelle shipwreck. Who knows you might spot him riding on one of the other boats. More later on departure times and meals.

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### **Where's the Newsletter?**

By now if you are one of the few who read the PYC newsletter in it's entirety you

may be wondering where it has been. That is a very good question but since I have been so busy I don't have a clue. I would like to apologize to the membership as some of you may have missed events or activities due to the lack of this vital line of communication being broken. Again we are sorry and will strive to keep some ~~form~~ from of monthly notice in your hands. As you can see from the "Up-Coming" events list that some of those already came and went. I'll report on those below.

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### Palacios YC's Labor Day Regatta

After many phone calls I determined that the Portsmouth fleet, the 505's, the 470's and Sunfish were lost for 1997. Confusing correspondence, "too hot", "too windy", "~~too many mosquitoes~~", "~~too tired of traveling~~" and many more excuses accounted for the missing participants. Undaunted I called the die-hard fleet of DOLPHIN SR's and we mustered a fleet including some local Sunfish. We scheduled for one day of racing on Saturday hoping to run three or more races. The weather cooperated and we had a great day. Winds built from light to medium to perfect as we raced three modified olympic courses. After 3 we decided to hit the beach and award trophies so we could get over to the Palacios Mexican Restaurant for some Shrimp and Fajitas!

POSTED RESULTS ARE:

Dolphin Fleet: 1st Lane Hollister; 2nd Ed DeCoux; 3rd Charles Smithey  
Sunfish Fleet: 1st Jack Hollister  
Portsmouth Fleet: 1st Lane Hollister

The Palacios Labor Day Regatta will return next year! ~~I hope the remaining Texas~~ sailboat racers will join us again, we missed the shrimp boil annually hosted by "Camp Austin".

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### 1st Annual LABELLE CUP race

After a long absence (1.5 years) the PYC "big boats" returned to race on Matagorda Bay. Sunday during the Labor Day weekend the PYC and Serendipity hosted the first LaBelle Cup race. Eight boats ranging from 41' to 22' gathered in the north west end of Matagorda Bay and close hauled to the "double-tank" platform, around and back on a 6.8 mile course. The bay water was sparkling green and the sky was clear blue. The winds were great during the race but shifted so that we sailed mostly close hauled both ways. And it did get

rather gutsy for our trip back. We got back to port an hour earlier than planned. After a clean up and something cold to drink, we gathered at the REC-Hall for dinner. Jim grilled 40 burgers and Linda prepared the fixings & tea. Thanks guys! In recognition of the vessel our event was named after the first place award was a polished pewter porringer (say that 5 times real fast). A porringer was a sailor's all-in-one cup/bowl/plate used to receive his daily ration of grog, gruel or what ever. Three of these porringers were found on the Belle shipwreck and one of them may hold the real name of "Mort Robert" (Dead Bob). Craig Hlavinka read a proclamation kicking off our annual event, which was also commemorated by a round ~~fired from his cannon over the harbor.~~ It was a great day on the water and ashore.

RESULTS:

1st Place: Jack Hollister *Regalos de Dios*  
2nd Place: Steve Wilburn *Zhen Zhen*  
3rd Place: Doug Dunham *Chimera Too*  
and First Across the Line: Joe Fitzgerald  
in *Rhapsody*.

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### BOAT US Coop-Group

For the last four years the PYC has participated in the Boat US cooperative group program. What this means to our members is, if you would like to join Boat US you can get in at half the regular rate. There is no cheaper way to get in and there are many benefits to members. To join fill out their new members app and put the "PYC Group Number" on it and pay half the rate. If you are already a member then renew yours at our group rate. The number is: **GA83498Y**

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### Wednesday Night Races?

As our membership grows with local members there has been some discussion in holding something in the afternoons for those in town. If interested please let us know. It might be a little late this year but we could get in a few afternoons/evenings.

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### Mort Robert Day!

Since the PYC usually sails for Port Lavaca on the weekend closet to Halloween. We are planning to set a unique event for the weekend before this to remember the "re-birthdate" of our skeletal celebrity Dead-Bob. This event will consist of the racing of board-boats that have been retro fitted with square sails. More later but,

it looks like this could be a lot of fun and very inexpensive to get into. (one old hull, some closet rods and a bed sheet?) Who knows this might be the start of a 15th-17th Century Maritime Festival.

### Serendipity News by Linda

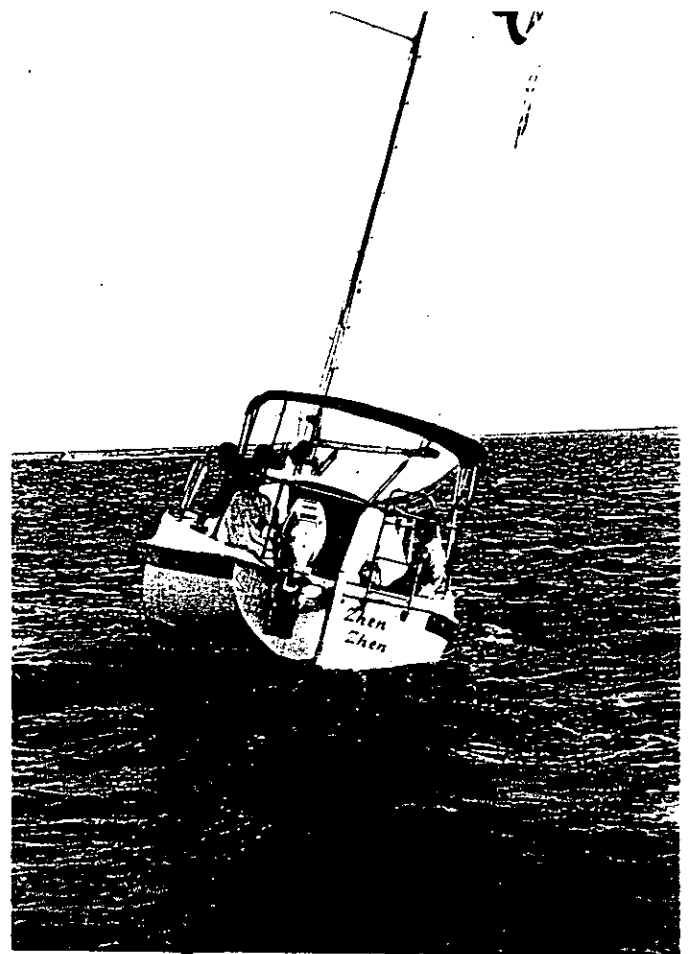
Just to bring everyone up to speed on the going's on at Serendipity - Work on the floating docks if progressing nicely; we're almost finished on the East side and will soon start on the West side. Should you see Phillip out there working, be sure and stop by to say "Good Day Mate"!!!! The pump out station is back in place and ready for use. Remember it's free to tenants and members of the Palacios Yacht Club, if they take the class - if not it's \$5.00.

In case you haven't been down on the weekends to see the crowds, the time is quickly approaching when we will have to put one boat in each slip. Rather than the one boat per double slip some have enjoyed in the past. If you have someone in mind, that you wouldn't mind berthing next to, please contact the office. We'll make arrangements to move you now, before other boats arrive. You also have the option of paying for both slips.

The cooler weather means it's time to start thinking in terms of that cold north wind which plays havoc with the boats. Please take time to inspect your dock lines, make sure they're in good condition so you won't break loose and damage your boat, your neighbor's boat or the marina. Put out QUALITY and QUANTITY fenders also.

#### Newcomers in the marina:

James & Catherine Conner West 16  
Bill & Wanda Ericson East 9 Windsang  
Ronald & Sandy Falstreau Center 29  
Katherine Rose  
Robert Kay East 14 Miss B Haven  
Mike & Cathy Lamontagne Center 14 Osprey  
Bobby & Maryian Marson East 28 Tah-Ta-Hay  
Jerry Myers Center 17 Whisper  
Lloyd Prevatte & Susan Price Center 10 Allegra  
Charles & Jean Smaistrla Center 11  
Hugh Vallely & Rhonda Sanders East 17 Monarch



The Wilburns



welcome back! HAKUNA MATATA

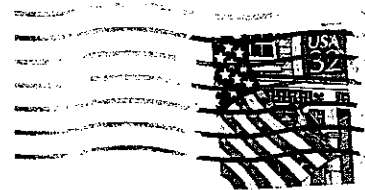
**Constitution sails with PYC!**

We not exactly, well sort of...  
PYC member Bob Fellingham, who is also in the Naval Reserve had to complete his two week active duty this year. So, in a stroke of great planning he landed a spot on the U.S. Navy's oldest commissioned vessel. Bob said he did not actually sail during the ocean voyage. But, he was on board for crew training and preparation, and also was on watch for part of the tow out of harbor. Then he was assigned duty ashore at the reception area. What a way to serve your reserve duty -- working with the USS Constitution. Hopefully Bob will have a program for us at a PYC meeting????  
I think the PYC needs a "tall-ship", call me if you have some investors.

*Lane*



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