



## Palacios Yacht Club Newsletter

Located At Serendipity Marina

Palacios, Texas

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# "The Rhumb Line"

## PYC Summer Series Finals

After six very competitive races the first PYC race series ended in a down pour. We had shifty winds from the east with broken squalls raking across the course throughout Saturday. Several regulars missed all or part of this series and other new comers were talking about joining. We would really like to see ya'll back out there with us and novice racers may learn something about their boat and crew. Standings are **1. Hollister (9.25), 2. Aliseda (14.5), 3. Young (16.0), 4. Fellingham (18.75)**. PYC racing continues in August on the 19th. Come join us, we are having a lot of fun.

## "Dolphin" Races Continue

The PYC "board boats" and "day sailors" are up to ten participants with several youth beginning to join us. Last month yours truly took a mental leave of absence and tried to finish down wind on a F course. Maybe I thought it was an America's Cup course?, sorry Charles (I pushed him into the start line with me, *How long have you been racing - Lane?*). I decided my son needed me to entertain him on shore more than I needed to be a hazard on the course, so I headed for shore. About half way in I caught a nice squall. The bay got angry, the chop turned into dark green swells and icy rain drove into my new sail - the hull was screaming toward the harbor with only the rudder in the water (it seemed that way) as my boat ripped into the quiet cove I let out a scream in delight at the howling wind and thrill of speed. OK - Ok, (it seemed that way).

New comer John Bright has been mopping up the course in a used, borrowed and crippled Sunfish. You need to cover this guy on the course. After the first half of our races for the year, the standings are **1st. John Bright, 2nd. - Smithey (Pam), 3. Smithey (Dad), and 4. Hollister (insane Lane)**.

**\* Any one young or old with a small boat should join us on the 3rd Sunday of each month 1:00pm.**

## PRT/4H Sailing Class

Warren Pierce headed-up the first sailing class of 1995 with 15 young sailors. Many have begun joining us and we are looking forward to expanding our ranks. The next class is scheduled for August 10th -- 13th. Call Warren at 512-972-3066 to get on board.

## Independence Regatta July 1

Every race weekend lately has been uncharacteristic of the season or even the last month. This regatta started slowly and finished slowly. Winds were light, out of north and shifty. Racers went searching for the breeze and John Bright seemed to be the only one to find it regularly, finishing as much as ten minutes ahead of the rest. On the last race I had re-adjusted my sail and then got a tremendous lift to cross in front of John at the finish line. The only "protest" came from #5305 against the Race Committee for having it's barging buoy too far astern. This was cleared up later, when the "buoy" was identified as members of the RC swimming in lifejackets. **Thank you!**, to the PRT and Warren Pierce for running this event. We got a great course set, neat T-shirt, a cap and good BBQ meal. **Star Spangled Trophies too!** You should have been there.

## GULFPORT TO PENSACOLA

The PYC was represented by Regalos de Dios in the 47th running of this 100 mile race. We arrived in Gulfport, MS Thursday at 5:00pm and parked at the Gulfport Yacht Club. Their club house is like a large beach house at the entrance of the Bert Jones Harbor. We relaxed on the first floor deck and had a great view of the Mississippi Sound, (watching other racers arriving by water). At the skipper's meeting Tootie Barnett recognized us for, "traveling all the way from PALAYCIOUS TX." Which was followed by a welcoming round of YE-HA's. Mark & I stayed with

the boat that evening and walked up to one of the casinos for dinner then back to the "Chart Room" for a couple iced cervezas, then chatted with YC-security in the parking lot till 11:00pm. Friday the 23rd we started at 12:35pm with about 115 boats. Jack was at the helm for the next 4 hours as we tacked out to *Ship Island*. After rounding the island we began a 48 mile leg to the Mobile sea buoy. The Gulf was calm with small ground swells and winds around 12-15. While at the helm on this leg I saw a sting ray flip out of a wave just off our bow, (strange sights at sea). Not much changed over the next few hours, except for the setting of the sun. After finishing a turn at the tiller I stood at the stern rail and watched the setting sun turn our wake wave tops golden. We logged off the passing islands and called into our "ground crew" when the GPS showed us just off *Petti Bois Island* near where they were staying Friday night. When Teresa asked where we were I stated knowledgeably "Out in the Gulf of Mexico". Oh! the wonders of modern technology - (Teresa thought we could have been a little more specific, with all that wonderful gear on board). After dark we were greeted to a light festival in the Gulf. **And I thought we'd be alone in the dark on the ocean.** The lack of a moon was not a problem as various rigs, shrimp boats, platforms, dredges and buoys lit up the waves around us. Watching the compass and checking the GPS and napping off-shift, became our nocturnal activities. Upon reaching the Mobile sea buoy I tried to set that @%#!\* spinnaker and got it twisted halfway up in the dark. So we continued on with the genoa. Around *Perdido Key Pass*, the moon finally joined us with a thin crescent just as the sun began to rise. Jack was at the tiller and said we had 11.5 miles to go, I took over so he could nap till we reached Pensacola. Uncle Jim had to take the helm as my eye lids were starting to snap tooth picks. About an hour later Jack woke and asked how much further? I checked the GPS to confirm the lack of wind since Jack went to sleep - yep! only 10 more miles. Two hours later we got enough wind back to fly the spinnaker across the finish line ahead of two other boats. Total time-in-route 22 hours and some odd minutes. We still had another 2 more hours to go coming in off the gulf and down the back side of *Santa Rosa Island* to the Baywatch Condos. Our ground crew arrived just before us and had fresh clothes and hot showers ready as we docked. Later we went to the Pensacola Yacht Club for the awards ceremony. This club has a large "historic" two story home club house on oak covered grounds on *Bayou Chico* just off the bay. We enjoyed a few beverages as the band played and kids played chase in the limbs of large oaks. As the sun set we headed off for some much needed sleep.

The next couple of days we swam and sailed Pensacola Bay and toured Fort Pickens and other area sites. It was hard to up anchor and hit the road home as this is really a great area to go boating or on holiday.

## PYC DECK FUND UPDATE #2!

Thank you for your response to the call for donations. We have received a few more but are looking for the rest of you to complete this project. Also we would like to work the shore to provide small boat access to the water at the club house. So call to schedule some work time with Lane or Warren. Also! - Call Commodore Ripke with your intent to contribute to the deck fund. 512-972-3960. Thanks again to those who have responded.

## This Month:

**July 15th - PYC Summer Social** plan a fun Day Cruise and Picnic at the club house in the afternoon. **NOTE: the PRT and some of our members will be working the Hobie Midsummer Classic this same weekend, if you want to join them for BBQ dinner at \$5.00 a head. MUST Call Warren to reserve a plate, 800-457-2403.**

**Also on the 29th** the Hobie Dunes Regatta weekend. These are big "cat" races, come join the fun.

**July 22nd - 23rd** Coast Guard Aux. - annual Seabird Rendezvous (Convention/Drills), they are expecting 50 or more vessels in Serendipity. Also on the 23rd (Sunday) the **River Watch Network** student exchange program sponsored by the LCRA. They will have students from Russia in the county all weekend. Sunday at 2:00pm at the Rail Road Park Beach they will conclude with a board boat sail and beach party. If you can skipper a boat please call Roberta at 512-972-3960.

## FOR SALE

70' Coronado 25'; roller jib, 2 mains, spinnaker, 2 15hp Evenrude outboards, \$1500 call Roberta 512-972-3960, proceeds to benefit Friends of Elder Citizens in Palacios.

93' MacGregor 26' w/ 91 Mariner 8hp, Main, Jib, Genoa, Stern Rail & Ladder, Bimini, Screens & Pop-top cover, cushions, head, compass, VHF Radio and many more items. \$10,000, call Lane or Jack at 409-245-1669. (We are wanting to move up to the 26X, more on that next month!)