

Commodore's Corner

This month the wind and sailing activities increased dramatically. The PYC Mariners Fleet series, held on 4/20/96, had four skippers battling for first place, ... the Hollisters "water craft" kept the others well astern.

The turn out for the Texas Catamaran Championships was a dismal 15 out of 30 boats. Several other weekend races and various other competing interests kept them away. The winds on Saturday kept *Pookie* and crew bobbing in the bay, when they sought shelter from the wind the Race Committee believed them lost at sea, it created a considerable amount of excitement until *Pookie* appeared bobbing on the southern horizon. On Sunday the winds forced the RC to cancel all races. Despite their disappointment the skippers and crew appreciated the hospitality displayed by all Y'all in Palacios.

We developed, approved (at the 4/20th PYC meeting) and mailed the Palacios Yacht Club's Letter of Incorporation to Austin for approval from the State. We anxiously await their response!!

Next, on the agenda, is the Kiwanis Charity Regatta and the Around Matagorda Bay Rendezvous (AMBR)... we certainly welcome your attendance at both of these events. Come on down ... the waters warm!

Commodore Paul Serra

PYC CALENDAR - UP COMING EVENTS!

- 5/18/96 **Mariner Fleet Races** - meet 10:30am at PYC club house!
Last month we BBQ'ed - burgers, bring your own and we'll fire the pit again!
* > Also the **Shirts/Hats/ID's** are being ordered, we'll distribute at this weekend.
- 5/19/96 **Dolphin Fleet Races** - meet 1:00pm at Rail Road Park Beach!
- 5/24-27/96 **3rd Annual A.M.B.R.** - Register NOW! The event occurs on Memorial Day weekend, Many boats, lots of sailing, great food, a good time with boats and friends. **HAVE CREW BUT NO BOAT? OR HAVE BOAT BUT NO CREW?** - Call us for help.
- 6/8/96 PRT hosts the **LASER Gulf Coast Masters**, this is a major event come down and spectate or jump in and help out. Call Warren at 800-457-2403.
- 6/22/96 **Dolphin SR Nationals**, calling all Dolphin SR's in the area we this event is back in south Texas after being held hostage in Dallas and Oklahoma for many years. Show your support for the NDSCA and get down to Palacios.
- 6/29/96 **Area F - Alter Cup**, a major multihull championship. Come join the big time.



The Rhumb Line

Palacios Yacht Club

458 Commerce
Palacios, TX 77465

PYC Day Sails

On Saturday, April 13th, five vessels made a day of it on the bay. Jack Hollister had four guests from Beaumont on *Regalos de Dios*. The two couples were enjoying an auction package offered at the Babe Zaharias Golf Tournament held in Beaumont each Memorial Day Weekend. The package included a weekend stay at the bay front **Moonlight Bay Bed & Breakfast**, a round of golf at Rio Colorado and a day sail with Jack. They had a marvelous time in our area and really loved Palacios. Also out with guests were Warren and Roberta on the *Westerly* and Rick Gangluff on *Tropic Wind*. Two other unidentified boats were out on the bay out of **Serendipity**. Let's hear more about the times you use your boat outside of the regular PYC activities.

Mariner Fleet Races

The first PYC races for 1996 finally got underway on Saturday the 20th. Warren, Leita and Craig served as RC. Four boats made the races, including the Hollisters, Fellingham, Gangluff and new member Carl Eldridge. Winds started at 8 to 12 for the first race. By the end of the first race most were considering smaller head sails. At the start of the second race we had about 15 knots of breeze with higher gusts. It turned out to be a fairly nice day on the water as the sun came and went. When the races were over everyone met at the club house and we fired up the pit. Chef Warren grilled cheese burgers for those present. I think we'll do that after every race, so bring your food and the grill will be hot. The PYC race series runs to October so you other racers have plenty of time to get your points.

"Wild" Dolphin Fleet

On Sunday, six boats planned to race. Illness kept one from participating, then the 18 knot winds (and increasing) kept another one on the trailer. I had only my light air rig since Charles didn't make it from Victoria. The RC decided they did not want to get beat up on a boat anchored in the white caps, so the races were called off. Still, after coming that far, four of us decided to launch anyway. Warren was first to break the harbor, he returned with harassment for those not in the water yet. Ed Decoux and I were next. Warren went back out with me, waves crashing over the bow as we tacked toward the middle of the bay. At one point I noticed several sail clips were off, time to head in. I spotted Warren and turned down wind to chase him. We had those Dolphins "tale walking" back to the beach. When I got along side him about 100 yards outside the harbor, and hollered to Warren, "Lets Crash and Burn". We sheeted in and ran full tilt to the jetty opening. Allen Olinger, down for his first race with the PYC, was just coming off the beach when we came flying into the harbor screaming at the top of our lungs. Sorry Allen, we are normally a more reserved yacht club.... NOT! Allen got his turn to go out a fly in, I think he enjoyed it - from the grin, that he couldn't wipe of his face. Next small boat races will be May 4th at the Kiwanis Charity Regatta, see you there.

Porta-bote

I had occasion last year to pick up a 12' "square back" Porta-Bote from Charles Smithey of South Texas Sailboats, Victoria. Last weekend was the first time I had a chance to take it for a spin. Although I could have done it by my self, with the wind howling - I welcomed Craig Hlavinka's help for launching. Once the 2 h.p. out board was chugging and my life jacket donned, I headed out from R.R Park ramp for Serendipity. The boat road well in the wind whipped seas but I was definitely under powered. Upon arriving in Serendipity, Craig met me at the dock and was amazed that I did not have any water in the boat. The whole rig fit inside my suburban, is alot cheaper than an equivalent inflatable and more manageable than a hard dinghy. You can motor them, row them or they even have a sail kit with lee boards. If you don't catch me down there with mine before Sept. watch for Charles and me at the Tx Youth Circuit Regatta in our Porta-bote's.

Tx Multihull Sailing Assoc. Cat Weekend

On Saturday the winds went from 0 to 15 in the span of a couple of hours. Fifteen "cats" made it to the Texas Catamaran Championships on *Tres Palacios Bay*. Many regulars were missing, reasons unknown. The high winds begin to plague the sailors in the first race. As the wind increased to near 20 knots, more boats hit the beach with equipment failure or crew failure. We had a tense moment when *Pookie* and crew could not be found before the 3rd race. Seems some radio confusion led the RC to think they were on the "RACE" beach. Bob & Paul were discovered to be on the "SOUTH SHORE" beach taking a stroll along the shore to get a break from the wind and waves. Races were canceled Sunday due to 30 knot winds. See the Hobie Cats again on 6/29/96.