



Commodore's CommentsMark Hallquist



JULY 2007 ISSUE



Junior Sailing camp starts this Friday. All help with this four day event would be appreciated. Last years event was very successful. The key to that success was the number of volunteers. I hope we can have as good a turn out for this year's event. The Commodore's Picnic will be on the Fourth of July again this year. The Yacht Club will provide barbe-cue beef, turkey and ham for the adults and hot dogs and Zumos for the kids. All those attending are asked to bring a vegetable dish, salad or dessert for the event. The dinner starts at 5:30, with the fireworks after. Some encouraging activities are occurring in the marina. The barge for putting pilings is in the marina. We have asked them to start at the end of C row and work their way up to the clubhouse and then back down D row. We may soon have dock space for our larger boats! Let's hope things go as planned.

I have been out of town for the last 6 out of 7 weeks, so I can not report much more about what has gone on at the Yacht Club. What I can report on is our sailing vacation in Belize and Guatemala. Karen and I were joined by Pat and Susie O'Quinn, Mary Lee and Chuck Devenzio, and Russ and Barb Test in our adventure in Central America.

The first couple of days we stayed at the Miramar Apartments without the Tests in Placencia, Belize. We had a second story 3 bedroom apartment with a veranda over the beach. Very nice accommodations right on the beach and the main street. The main street in Placencia is a sidewalk and is in the Guinness' Book of Records as the narrowest main street in the world. We had a great couple of days in Placencia. Placencia has about three grocery stores and a multitude of bars and restaurants. All of the food we tried in the restaurants was great and reasonable. I highly recommend Wendy's and Omar's. The coconut shrimp was also excellent at the Pickled Parrot. Beer is expensive everywhere. The grocery stores did have adequate supplies for provisioning.

On the third day we boarded our 41' catamaran, loaded our provisions and headed north to Pelican Cays. There were four heads and four cabins to accommodate the four couples. Saloon was huge. Boat had ample space. The catamaran did not point well which left us motoring a lot of the time we were traveling from Cay to Cay. Winds were typically out of the Northeast when there was wind during the day. There was always ample wind at night but sailing at night is extremely unsafe because of the reef systems.

Pelican Cays was about 20 nautical miles north of Placencia and part of the inner reef. A well protected hole about 60 feet deep. We probably added a few miles to the trip trying to use dead reckoning to find where we were going, but we finally made it. Temperatures were warm but we had a good breeze to make sleeping comfortable. It did manage to rain about every night we were there but it rarely rained during the daytime. The next day we went looking for Lagoon Cays to do some snorkeling. We stopped and went snorkeling but not really sure where we were. We asked some local fisherman where the Victoria Channel was and they lead us out but it was another channel about three nautical miles north of the Victoria Channel. We got our bearings and headed east for Little Water Cay for some additional snorkeling. Once done there we headed further east to our night's anchorage at Queen Cays on the outer reef. Queen's Cays were beautiful. The Cay had great fishing, snorkeling, and anchorage.

The next day we headed north to see if we could find some whale sharks. We did not find any but did find some really good fishing. We then turned around and headed south to Ranguana Cay. Ranguana Cay was reported to be an excellent spot with a restaurant and bar. The Cay and the restaurant did not meet our expectations. The next morning we started to head south to Hunter's Cay but when we started to raise the main the main halyard snapped so we headed back to Placencia. TMM was great. They picked up our boat and we went to lunch and did some quick provisioning (bought a couple of cases of beer) and our boat was ready for us when we were finished. We then headed southeast to Hunter's Cay. On the way down we caught some fish. Pat hooked about a 35 pound Barracuda that took him almost 45 minutes to pull in! We then did some more exploring and picked up a mooring ball at Lime Cay. The next day was spent exploring the local islands, fishing, and checking out of the country. We went to Hunting Cay to check out but they charged us \$80 dollars for staying in the park but told us we did not have to check out of the country before going to Guatemala.

Wrong!

(the adventure continues on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The next day we headed east for Livingston at the headwaters of the Rio Dulce River. The weather ahead looked very nasty, but like most of the storms around the area, they were short lived and we did not encounter any storms. Getting across the sandbar at Livingston is quite simple. Go the buoy and head straight for the town. Do not worry about all the flags as we did, they are there for fishermen to mark their fishing holes. We arrived in Livingston and paid our entry fees which were about 500Q which is about \$80 dollars US. We put up our yellow flag and waited for them to board us. They are out to lunch from noon to 2:00 pm so we waited until after 2:00 for them to arrive. After completing all the stops for immigration (Immigration, Port Captain, and Customs) and shopping we had our dinner along the river. Watch out for the boat boys you will have to pay them to watch your dingy.

The next mornings ride up the Rio Dulce was incredible. Limestone cliffs were on either side of the river with the jungle growing up the walls of the channel. Families and fishermen were traveling up and down the river in their dugout canoes. No roads leading from where we were to where we were going, only river. After the river we crossed Lake Golfete and then entered the town of Fronteras. The Corps of Engineers built a 90' high bridge over the river there in 1980. Once only a bus stop, now Fronteras has become a small town with many shops. There is even a store there owned by Walmart. We found a place to have some pizza (needed a break from eating all the fish we had caught) and did enjoy some great shopping. As we headed to our final destination, we saw September Morn (formerly resident of PAYC row C) docked along the river and did a swing by. I saw someone on the deck and yelled "Hey Don!" He jumped into his riverboat and came along side for a short visit. While we were there Curtis and his wife showed up (former resident of PAYC row E) and spent some time with us as well. Don is just hanging out along the river and Curtis is running a sailing school in Belize. The day was not over we still needed to make our destination by nightfall. We passed the old Spanish fort and headed northwest on Lake Isabella. We found our pilings and dropped anchor about a mile off the shore line. The next morning we pulled in closer to shore and dropped our anchor at Finca el Paraiso. We rode our dingy ashore and arranged for transportation up the Rio Aguas Caliente. Transportation was a cart pulled behind a tractor up a muddy road to the hot waterfalls. The waterfalls are about 25' high. These falls pour into a cool stream but the actual waterfall temperatures are too scalding to stand under. After that we headed back across Lake Isabella and Golfete to our moorings for the night on the southeast site of Lake Golfete. The next morning we arrived in Livingston to check out of Guatemala. It took us two hours to travel up the Rio Dulce but only one hour to travel down due to the river's current. We paid our exit fees to Customs, Immigration, and Port Captain (about \$110 US) and headed north to Belize. Our next night was a bit exciting. We picked up a mooring ball on the south side of South Snake Cay in about 30 feet of water with good protection from the northeast seas. As we were approaching the mooring ball both fishing rods began to sing. So all at once we were bringing in fish, and connecting to a mooring ball. Karen brought in a grouper that went on the grill that night for supper. Susie caught a mackerel. At about 2:00 am a storm came up out of the southwest, where we had no protection. The seas were building and white caps were forming. The island that was a good distance away before was just a bit off the stern of the boat. We were no longer in 30 feet of water but about 15 feet. We turned on the engines as a failsafe and watched to see if the seas would build any further. After a half an hour we determined that it would not get much worse and set up an anchor watch and sent everyone else back to bed.

Our final day in the reefs we anchored at Colson's Cay and did our final snorkeling. We then headed back to Placencia for a dinner at Omar's. Lobster season had just opened up and Omar and his sons had just caught some fresh lobster for dinner. The lobster, lime juice and banana milk shakes were great. Barb and Russ left about 6:30 am and we pulled back into TMM about 10:00 am. Everyone showered for what reason I do not know. We were just as wet after the shower as we were before the shower. The mainland can get very hot. Our flight from Placencia left at about noon but our flight from Belize was delayed about seven hours. We did not arrive at home until about 2:30 am and had to work that morning. A great vacation anyway!

Learnings are as follows:

- 1. Choose your anchorages carefully to assure good protection from all angles of wind.**
- 2. Use the GPS as a guide despite what TMM recommendation to use dead reckoning.**
- 3. Bring fishing poles.**
- 4. Don't bring floats and hammocks.**
- 5. Good planning pays off.**
- 6. Belize has great fishing.**
- 7. Always check out of a country before entering another.**
- 8. Do your own provisioning from Placencia.**

We are planning another trip to Belize next year at the same time. Sign up sheet will be posted in the Yacht Club. We would like to get at least two boats lined up for next year. I hope to see you next week supporting the junior sailing event or at least at the Commodore's picnic.

Mark.

Junior Sailing Paul Vera



Well camp is here and we are getting ready for another well attended Junior Sail Camp. We as a club have been doing this for a long, long time and should be proud of doing such a great thing in teaching a child to sail her or his own boat. Without help and continued support for this camp it would not happen. Be on the look out, young sailors will be on their way.

Paul Vera
963-3525

RacingPaul Vera, 963-3525



Well the race calendar has been posted on the website and hope everybody is able to attend alot of the races. A couple of new things to look for in the race calendar, we will have an extra month of Thursday Night Racing. Also I'm going to try to put together a couple of fully crewed boats to race offshore to Galveston on Memorial Day weekend. This has not been done in many years and I think we have enough people to do it, and we have 7 moonlight races.

Our first moonlight is Feb. 3 skippers meeting is at 6pm.

Russ Myers will continue being our score keeper and our new member to our Ratings Committee is Mark Hallquist. Also I have appointed Martin Novich to help in running the racing. So with Russ Myers, Richard Hughes, Mark Hallquist as our rating committee and Martin Novich as second chief bottle washer we should have a great year. Come on out and enjoy.

The Mardi Gras Youth regatta is coming Feb. 17-18, I will need as many of you as I can get, we will need your expertise to run this event. I expect to see you there. Also if you have a power boat we need it.

That's it see you on the race course!

Paul Vera
963-3525



Be sure and join us at the **PAYC Club-house for the **Annual Commodore's Picnic on July 4th ! The fun starts at 5:30—**
be there or be square!**



Cruising from the Cruising Guruby Pat O'Quinn



The last two months have been unbelievable! As the Cruise director, I have been cruising. First, from PAYC to Mobile, Alabama with Russ Test's boat. Gene Kohrman, Butch Neely and I had an adventure or nightmare, whichever you prefer. The ICW is awesome! Bald eagles everywhere. Boat trouble...for sure. Still a great adventure!

Then off to Chesapeake to get Charlie Seat's new 43 foot boat. It is equally beautiful there. BUT,... you talk about a rough piece of water! We didn't know about the rivers emptying into the Chesapeake. We hit the Potomac River at night and what a ride! Ed Wiltz, Charlie Seat, and two of Charlie's buddies made up the crew. Boat trouble,..Oh my god!!! Then at the entrance to the Atlantic we almost got blown out of the water by a Destroyer doing live fire, then that night, an Aircraft carrier almost ran over us. Believe it or not, we couldn't pick up that monster on radar until he was only about a mile and a half off. I wonder, does the military have some technology we don't know about? I will say, anyone who sails the Atlantic ocean has my total respect. Even in good weather, we hit waves sometimes 15 to 16 feet tall. Like the guy told us, "they don't call it CAPE FEAR for nothing"!!

The final trip was to Belize. By far, this is the most beautiful water I have ever seen. Snorkeling, sailing and fishing were unbelievable. Mark and Karen Hallquist, Chuck and Mary Lee Devenzio, Russ and Barbara Test, and the O'Quinns made up the crew. If you ever get a chance to make this trip, Please don't miss it, I promise you will love it.

We have a few trips planned in July so keep the calendar open. Galveston is the next big trip. We are trying for the week of the 13th, 14th and 15th. It is a short trip, but always fun. More info will be forthcoming.

Pat O'Quinn

The Harbor Dude Reportby Gene Kohrman



Mean Gene the sailing machine is busy working on **Panache** (his much beloved castle on the water) & is currently dry docked over at Bosun's for awhile. You might say he's been "grounded" ..hehe.! Not much to report until something else major happens around the marina such as all the slips being fixed (which IS underway finally—but progressing at a very slow rate). Still, ANY progress is welcome as always. Please get a chance to come down and check on your boats if you get the spare time as Summer brings a whole new set of maintenance issues for most boats. See you on the water compadres!

The Harbor Dude

PAYC BOARD MEETING MINUTES * June 12, 2007

Club Members present were: Russ Myers, Terrill Adkisson, Alan Aldredge, Gene Kohnman, Mike Wise, Paul Vera.

Treasurer's Report:

No report at this time

Harbormaster:

(Reposted from General Meeting Minutes)

Gene Kohnman reported ten slips are unusable on row C.

Membership:

Application from Paul Cannatella was approved.

Racing:

(Reposted from General Meeting Minutes)

The 3rd Thursday Night Series has been completed. Ken Ruddy won the series in the racers fleet and Art Lynd won in the cruisers fleet. Upcoming races are: Full Moon July 28, the 4th Thursday Night Series will begin on July 5 and the Dieter Junge Galveston Race on Saturday July 14th. On the July 28th Full Moon race you could be ask to bring some of the kids that are participating in the Junior Sailing camp as crew.

House & Grounds:

[No report at this time](#)

Cruising/Socials:

(Reposted from General Meeting Minutes)

The annual Commodore's Picnic is coming up on July 4, 2007.

Safety:

No report at this time

Junior Sailing:

(Reposted from General Meeting Minutes)

There will be a Junior Sailing camp planning meeting on June 19, 2007 at 7pm.

Old Business:

Gene Kohnman wants the dock box issue to be addressed at the next board meeting.

New Business:

Paul Vera is still trying to liquidate the remaining V-15 fleet equipment.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Russ Myers, Secretary of the PAYC

secretary@payc.us

Final update on the First Annual PAYC Treasure Hunt :



As Paul would often say, "Ok, listen up". So far I have 2 commitments to donate to the treasure chest: *West Marine and Grove Laundry Basket*. The latter being a new company formed by our new members Sara and Jim Pearson. If anyone else out there wishes to contribute to the chest feel free to do so. I'm also waiting to hear from *Academy, Walmart, Best Buy and Gander Mountain*. The reason I am soliciting donations is that I was told our club hasn't the funds. I guess I need to go to more club meetings.

Now for those of you, who don't know what I'm talking about, let me explain. Based on the TV show Survival and the Great Race and now Treasure Hunt, I've come up with an idea of having a PAYC sailing treasure hunt. Sabine Lake is our game board. Several of our members liked the concept, so I was given the ball to run with it. I created the rules, two courses, and I am currently working on T-shirts and treasure chest donations. The purpose: This event is to promote sailing skills, teamwork, a chance to get familiar with our lake using a map, a chance to meet club members, and finally just to have fun and win prizes.

Basically how it works: We will have 2 teams competing against each other on separate courses. Each team will be given a clue at the clubhouse. The red team will sail together in 2-3 boats and search for their second clue in a wine bottle somewhere about or out in the lake. The blue team will do the same but in a different direction. There will be X amount of clues per team. The final clue will be the same for both teams and will lead them to the treasure chest that I have hidden. The chest will consist of the donations and will be divided among the winners. It's not going to be that hard.

Finally, we set a date for **July 7**. I have two boats and 5 people signed up so far (several more have signed up since at the time of this writing). I would like to see 2-4 more boats and about 19 more people. More would be great. I'm ordering 25 custom shirts and plan to charge a \$15 entry fee to pay for them. The treasure donations are free. So if any of you old-timers or silent members have any salt left in your blood, come join us. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the kitchen at the clubhouse.

Happy sails to you, until we meet again.

Art Lynd

Multi Hull Column by Ricky Richardson



The full heat of summer is upon us and I'm ready to heat up the preparations for the multi hull regatta on October 20th and 21st. Paul Vera the Race Committee dude and Russ Myers have both committed to the Race Management. They have promised to wear us out on the course, a feat that is not that easy to do to a true catamaran sailor. Since Paul and Russ have stepped up and taken the task of running the races for us, I now am able to race my Hobie 18, I am looking for a youth between the ages of 14 and 18 to skipper my rig. You will be required to spend some time on the water with me between now and October. My catamaran has a spinnaker so it can be a pretty wild ride downwind. There will be a youth class at this regatta which is something new for Division 6, the Youth Class will require the skipper to be under the age of 18 with a crew of any age. This is my attempt at getting young people interested in sailing. I am also willing to train any youth who would be interested in racing the Hobie 16 that the Yacht Club owns.


My fish and ski boat has a leak in the lower unit and now I'm in dire need of a chase boat, if any one could help me out with this it would be much appreciated. For safety reasons it is a pretty essential tool, plus they are needed to move the marks around when the wind changes. All volunteers and youth can contact me either by cell phone (409)882-4847 or email: cricharson@gt.rr.com you are also welcome to look me up at the Yacht Club, I am usually there on Thursday night races and the general meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. I will be at Youth Camp and look forward to meeting you there.

Ricky Richardson
cricharson@gt.rr.com
(409)882-4847

In the next Mainsheet issue:




<<— The Port Arthur Yacht Club was recently visited by a wonderful couple with this very unique boat! Catch this story and more in the next issue of the *PAYC Mainsheet!*



Port Arthur Yacht Club
 560 Pleasure Island Blvd. #79
 Port Arthur, TX 77640

Visit our website and learn everything you always wanted to know about boating on Sabine Lake. The PAYC has got it covered online!

<http://payc.us>



Next General Meeting: Tuesday, July 10th, 2007, 7:00pm at the PAYC Clubhouse. Board Meeting immediately following General Meeting.
 If you would like a copy of the current PAYC roster, email roster@payc.us and request one. Also, any member wishing to move from U.S. Mail delivery to email delivery (or vice versa) can do so by sending an email to mainsheet@payc.us

Commodore : Mark Hallquist
Vice Commodore : Pat O'Quinn
Secretary : Russ Myers
Treasurer : Karen Hallquist
Board of Directors : Terrill Adkisson, Gene Kohrman, Paul Vera, Chuck Devenzio, & Mike Wise
Trustees : Alan Aldredge, Sam Showalter, & Mike Gill
Harbormaster : Gene Kohrman
Mainsheet Editor : Steve Swanson
Website Editor (<http://payc.us>) : Carolyn Worsham

YACHTS FOR SALE AT PAYC

(Call Steve Swanson at 409-659-2272 to list your vessel or have it removed from this list)
 30' Olympic Princess Tom Thigpen 704-866-8856 or thigpen@midrex.com

Reserving the PAYC Clubhouse

Members wishing to reserve the clubhouse should first call or email .us. We will determine clubhouse availability by checking the most current calendar. You may contact us at clubhouse@payc.us or at (409) 722-5739. After your date has been cleared with the PAYC, you can then visit www.payc.us for a reservation application and more info.

Summary of *PAYC* Events in July:

- Jun 29th—Jul 2nd**—Junior Sailing Camp
- Jul 4th**—Commodore's Picnic—5:30—?
- Jul 5,12,19,26**—Thursday Night Racing—Skipper's meetings at 6 pm.
- Jul 7th**—First Annual PAYC Treasure Hunt
- Jul 10th**—PAYC General Club Meeting
- Jul 14-15**—Garrison's Ridge Cruise
- Jul 28th**—Full moon Race # 5—Skipper's meeting at 6 pm.



**J
 U
 L
 Y
 4th**

Come Celebrate !!!