

Well it was another beautiful Wednesday morning here at the seaport – bright, sunny and clear – though the view out my office window is somewhat diminished by the absence of her Ladyship – whose keel finally came out of the water at Bollinger Shipyard yesterday. I took advantage of her open slip to take another vigorous morning row in *Grace*, though she took a bit of bailing first to remove all traces of the week’s wet weather – all six inches of it.

My morning tide was heading westward at quite a clip – nearly two knots, which is probably better than half what I usually manage at half pressure... so my headway towards the Ocean Star platform was rather poor at best, accordingly. The trip back was brisk in every sense, but channel traffic required me to overshoot by about a furlong, so the return from near the cruise terminal was a hard slog to both windward and tideward. Invigorating, in any case.

This week:

This **Saturday 29 January** is another ‘off’ Saturday – but we never tire of your bright shining faces ‘round the workshop. Plenty of jobs to wrap up on dry land before we see ELISSA home again. We’ve got some of her brightwork showpieces (wheel box, skylight leaves...) indoors for stripping and varnish work, and we’ve got many a block to renew before daysails. The museum displays from aboard could also use more than a little sprucing up. If the weather is as nice as predicted, we might even do a little straightening around the waterfront, haul out more sails in preparation for bending on and perhaps evaluate what’s needed to get *Filibuster* back in service. **Mr. Willhelm** will be directing our lubberly activities in any case.

Sunday 30 January is more of the same, but the weather may be drizzly. No matter, we have warm beverages and a workshop full of teak to coat. The demure **Ms. Sheffield** is your mistress of ceremonies.

Things to be Thinking About:

Saturday 5 February will be the next Seamanship Training **Class XVI** and the day of your **Final Exam**. At this stage there is more than a little uncertainty as to the whereabouts of ELISSA on that date – but we fear the odds of her being back

home at TSM are slim given our late start on shipyard. At this stage we intend to administer the written exam and however much of the practical as is practical (probably knots) on that day. Because crew selection follows almost immediately, this exam cannot be made up after the fact. If you expect (or even conceive) that you might miss it, then you should arrange to take it early (which means letting us know in advance). We may have to administer climber check-off and shipboard practicals at the following training class, but rest assured that you will be evaluated on all skills in some way before we sail, as it is a part of our agreement with the US Coast Guard.

Katy/West Houston continue to hang down at **The Shakespeare Pub** every **Thursday at 18.00**. (14129 Memorial, between Kirkwood and Dairy Ashford.) Be there or be uninformed and thirsty.

We intend to have a **Central Houston study group** on **Wednesday 2 February** around **18.30** – hosted by some combination of **myself, Mr. Parma** and **Mr. Johri** with possible guest stars. At this point I think we will probably meet at Rudyard's on Waugh, because it has more space than most of the other locations that come to mind. Please let us know if you intend to attend, so that we can have some idea how large a table to assemble and how many gold stars we should bring.

The **Galveston study group** is meeting at **Mr. Orange's house** under the watchful eye of **Mr. Warrington** on **Friday 4 February**. I suppose that means that you could conceivably cover all three study sessions in a grand seamanship marathon if you are so inclined. I don't think there is a triple crown, however.

The **commemorative crew T-Shirt** for 2011 is coming... and we have designs. Becky has collected them and will have them on display at training on **5 February**. Votes will be tallied then I'm told. You do not need to have chili to vote on t-shirts.

ELISSA is now resting comfortably at **Bollinger shipyard** but she will be returning at some point in the not to distant future. Stand by and stay tuned as we will need sailing and ground crew when the time comes.

Christine has waves of **overnights** coming up (assuming that ELISSA is back home). **Friday 4 February** is likely to be called off for lack of ship, but **Fridays 11 & 18** and **Saturday 19 February** are all in need of help. Contact she who shall recruit crew (christine.hayes@galvestonhistory.com) for details or if you'd like to sign on.

Tuesdays we work and play. Come enjoy the lovely weather – and learn a bit from your elders.

The annual **TSM chili cookoff** is coming on **Saturday 5 February** – immediately following **Class XVI**. Becky's full set of chili rules are taking on a life of their own, but I will include them here for your perusal. I will likely put them on my web site as well.

Chili cook-off Legalities 2011

For all you sneakin', connivin', lawless, rules-ain't-fer-me volunteer crew members

1. them there cook teams should include at the leastest, one active crew
(ya can prop 'em up ifin' their too tired to stand)
2. each a yur teams gits a table to decorate (or not) from 1700 to 1800
(mite be a haf portion ifin' ther's a lot'o competitiers)
3. tastin' and votin' begins at 1800 and ends at 1900
4. top three in each 'best chili' and 'best décor' git announced and rewarded
and ifin' yur the #1 chili, you'll be facing the Coasties #1 chili
sumtime durin' the year.

and don't dare let Roy De G down cuz he brung 'er home this year agin.

5. one human bein'= one ballot
fer markin' best chili and fer markin best décor
and ya better put them ballots in the proper locale or they won't count!

NEW NOTES ON VOTIN' AND EATIN'

If yur cookin' chili, each a yur team gets a votin' ballot.

If yur bringin' sumthin' else, appetaser, sweet endin', dish-on-the-side,
ya git a votin' ballot.

If all yur bringin' is yur appetite,
ya give big E. \$4 fer a ballot.

And each a ya needs to have a ballot to taste the victuals.

Visitors git to give big E. \$4 too to mingle and eat
(even tho they have to rub elbows with you salty, grubby lot)

And don't fergit yur cold, hard cash to wett yur whistel with a cool beverage
and quench the fires of
The Tall Ship of Texas Chili Bowl 2011.

Contact Becky Jones (becky.jones@galvestonhistory.org) with your team name and participants if you intend to play or if you need her to translate any of the preceding – we need to be sure we have enough tables set up and plugs available for pots. Register or you won't be on the ballot.

Stuff and Such:

The **Locker room** is a bit of a mess. and that's being polite. We're taking advantage of spare hands and no ship to do things like clear it out. Get down here ASAP and **tidy up your stuff** if you don't want to have it tidied for you. If it's **in your locker** or **clearly labeled**, then we'll leave it alone (or put it back on the shelf after cleaning). If it's on the floor, in a corner, or otherwise hanging 'bout, it will go in the lost and found or the bin. Unclaimed lockers or those labeled by folks we never see will be cleared unless you get in touch ASAP and explain why you need one even though you've not been around all year. Danke.

Mr. Schaumburg still has several ASTA crew memberships available at the bargain rate of **\$25** for the year. That's half the price of a bucket of Corroseal, and twice as much fun.

Safety harnesses have sold out completely, but having your own makes you smell better. If you'd like to buy one, let us know. We're taking names and promises.

We have a new set of free **parking permits** for weekend use in the UTMB parking lots. Good for commuters.

Finally the **Mitchell Match** is in swing – and has been extended. The deadline to meet the challenge made by George Mitchell, the Wortham Foundation and

other supporters has been extended. They have generously committed to match each dollar given to Galveston Historical Foundation up to \$150,000.00 before March 31, 2011. If you are looking for a way to kick off the new tax year right – feel free to scoot over and see what you can do:

<https://ghf.destinationnext.com/donation.aspx>

See you 'round the deck,

Charlie Wright
Waterfront Manager

Texas Seaport Museum / ELISSA
Pier 21, Number 8
Galveston, TX 77550

(409) 763-1877

www.tsm-elissa.org

A Project of Galveston Historical Foundation