

First Watch



US Brotherhood of the Coast Official News Letter

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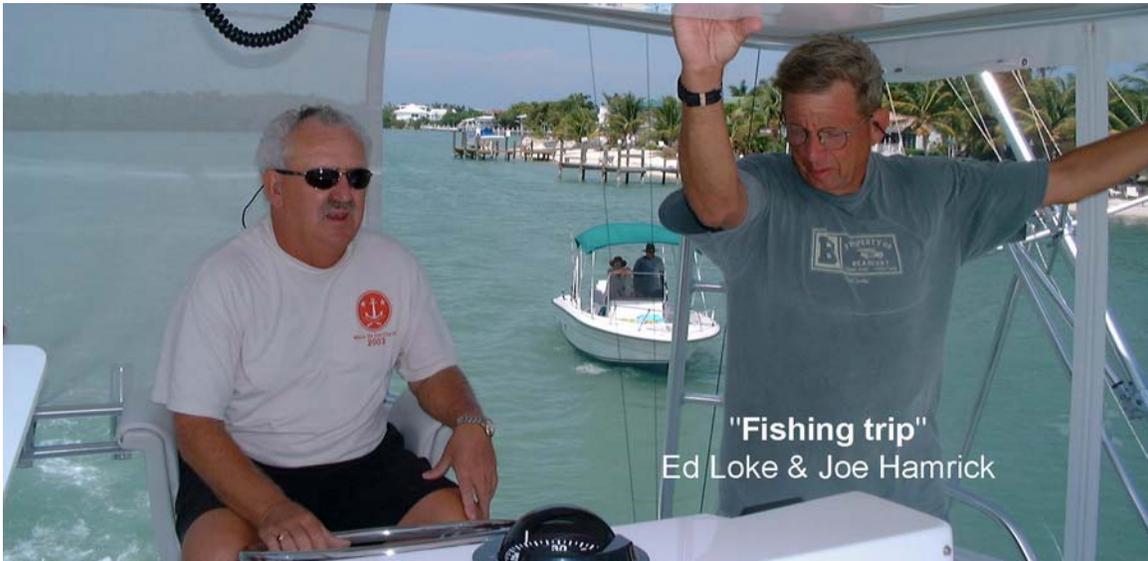
Message from the National Captain

For an organization such as ours, there is no status quo. Either we are active and we grow or we are inactive and we whither away. The difficulty in the growth of Tables has always been finding those individuals who are worthy of becoming Brothers of the Coast. I once tried to identify the qualities that are common among Brothers and found, that due to the diversity of the group, those qualities defied definition.

Even the Tables are different. Just as each Table is autonomous, the chemistry of the Brothers and the dynamics of Table change from place to place. The common thread is a spirit. It is the ancient spirit that was shared by the sailors of the world's oceans. They shared an understanding of the power of the sea and the dangers they faced that lubbers could not conceive. And, they shared a concern for the welfare of the nautical Brethren that transcended politics and language barriers.

This spirit is the basis of the Brotherhood of the Coast today. Ron Reifsteck, from the Abaco Table, has identified a group of individuals, near Montross, Virginia, who he believes are worthy of the Brotherhood. He has asked permission and been approved by the US Table Captains to form a Potomac Table. Ron will transfer his flag to the US and become Captain of the new Table. Albert Seidl, Joe Horvath, and Sam Britton will be the sponsors to help insure their success. Please join us Labor Day weekend so that we can have as much support as possible for our newest Table.

News From the Tables



FISHING, STROKEN & PARTYING IN THE FLORIDA KEYS!!!

Article by Ed Loke

It's been a really busy first quarter for the Brothers here in the Keys.

First was our annual President's Day weekend zaf. Each year our group gets bigger – and this was certainly true of 03. A total of 34 of us had a super time, and the chance to renew old friendships.

Out of state Brothers attending were the Wright's from San Antonio, Ripley's from Chesapeake, Reifsteck's from the Abaco table, and Albert Seidel from Savannah. Plus, of course, most of the usual Florida suspects were here.

Between a fish-fry, pizza parties, Cuban BBQ, etc. we ate well. The boat trip to Bahia Honda State Park was a hoot, and the ladies once again managed to win the Keys Kup golf trophy.

Mark your calendar now for the 2004 event on February 14 – 16.

We've also been fortunate to have a visit with Mark (El Maestro) and AJ Eller from the Chesapeake Bay table. They are cruising on their sailboat MARAJ, and spent most of April in Marathon.

Our engage Nelson Perez sponsors an annual Golf/Fishing tournament at our local Sombrero Country Club. This year we entered Brillo's boat the "Lucky-L" as a Brotherhood Of The Coast contestant. Aboard were Sid Dean (Fishbait) Joe Hamrick (Bubbles), Mark Eller, Ed Loke (Brillo), and prospective brother Larry Hamilton.

While we took "Dead Last" in the golfing portion, we earned trophies for 1st place in the offshore division (42 pounds of fish caught). We also got 1st place for "Biggest Tuna" caught by Mark Eller, and "Biggest Dolphin" caught by Sid Dean. Mostly, we had a bunch of laughs and brotherly fraternity. Joe Hamrick.





All is well here on the southern Chesapeake Bay. Spring has arrived and the sailing season is upon us. Frankly, after this past winter (unusually cold and wet), it is time to get back out on the water and enjoy the sun and warm breezes.

The Chesapeake Bay Table has had a good past several months. Our monthly Tip-A-Few gatherings have taken on a new look with each month sponsored by a different Brother of the Table. These gatherings have included sessions in the homes of the Brothers (and Sooks), new marinas, new restaurants, and much more. The gatherings have been attended by 100% of the Table's active Brothers but have been down in numbers since our group has had so many Brothers out doing what we were intended to do with life – CRUISING!!

'Country Boy' & Frankie Ann, 'Limey' & Holly, and 'El Maestro' & AJ all ventured south this season with time in the Florida Keys, the Bahamas, and other southerly destinations. They have experienced both the good and the bad of the cruising lifestyle and have weathered both conditions in grand fashion. They wanted me to express their gratitude to all of our Brothers, both US and foreign, who have offered assistance and hospitality in their cruising adventures. All we have heard from them is that the cruising life would have been much more difficult and certainly less entertaining without everyone's willingness to help out and PARTY. We look forward to the return of these folks in the next several months – I can hear a Party being formed right now.

'Rocket Boy' has been assigned to a work duty with NASA in Washington, DC and has been forced to be absent from Table activities during the week. Sook Sherry has been able to represent him at our gatherings and we have managed to get with Preston on some weekends. Thankfully, Preston's assignment will end in the next month or so and he will be back with us on a regular basis.

'Piper of the Sea' took advantage of an offer from the schooner Adventurer and joined them in the Bahamas to serve as crew for their return trip to the US. Scott has been pursuing the dream of purchasing a steel schooner of his own and I'm sure he picked up valuable experience on his trip aboard Adventurer.

'Brise-Galets' & Natacha have moved into their new home in Norfolk and are set to host our upcoming May Tip-A-Few. Between Bernard's bicycling activities and Natacha's English classes and driving lessons, they are staying very busy.

'Pilot' & Francine have been seen climbing on sailboats at both the area local boat shows and various local brokerages. It will not surprise any of the local Brothers to see a new vessel at our anchorages in the near future.

Last but not least, 'Cruz' & Ann and yours truly 'Blue Stache' & Diana have been busy holding down the home front here on the Bay. Boat projects, home projects and other activities have brought us to another cruising season and we are looking forward to sharing some good times with our Brothers as they return from all over.

The word is out that we will have the privilege of entertaining some Texas Brothers during the summer months and as you all know, we look forward to it – PARTY!!! 'Julio' & Mary and 'Ernest' & Betty Sue from Houston will be headed this way soon to enjoy our great Chesapeake Bay cruising grounds. We wish them safe passage on their voyage this way.

That's about all for now from the Chesapeake Bay Table. If any of you are going to be in our area by land or sea, let us know when and where. There is nothing (repeat nothing) better than an impromptu party among Brothers.

Clear skies, following seas, and consistent breezes.

'Blue Stache'





Much water has flowed under the keel since our last communiqué to the First Watch. Looking back over the past five months, brings on the realization that this Table is so centrally situated between the south and the north, it has become a good stopping off harbor. Back at the beginning of the year, we were still on Man O' War in the Abacos and had the pleasure of celebrating New Year's eve with four Brothers and their Captives from the Chesapeake Table. Brother Rob Sanger, Captive Holly; Brother Scott Ripley and Captive Ann; Brother Mike Monteith and Captive Frankie Ann and Brother Preston Caraway and Captive Sherrie, all arrived by ferry from Marsh Harbor, where their respective boats were moored and joined us at Abaco Brother Rowdy Dowty a.k.a. Ted's home for a rollicking Pirate New Year's eve party. Everyone had a bunk for the night and coffee and bloody mary's in the morning, before heading back to Marsh Harbor.

Once back in Savannah, the reality of getting back to work was grim and cold. Brother Tony Perry is Captain of a yacht down in Brunswick, but has still managed to party with us some weekends, and when not available his Captive Gill comes to play. Brother Jerry Jones and Captive Jill flew off to Peru in March/April to visit archeologist son Brad and had a grand time and will shortly be taking a tour group to Scotland. Captive Alise Seidl's Birthday party was a scheduled Brotherhood get-together and Savannah Brothers Mike Pranschke (working in Florida) and Gary Johnson (lives in Florida) both came up for a jolly good time.

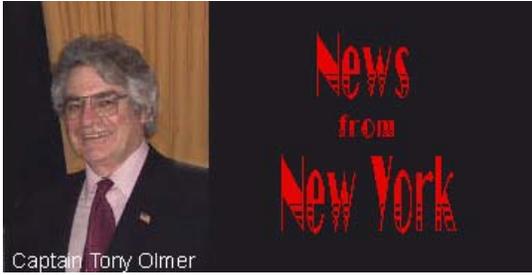
We have had two visits so far from Abaco Brother Ron Reifsteck and Captive Patricia, the last one being May the 8th on their way back to Virginia, from Florida. There was much discussion over dinner about the upcoming inauguration of the new Potomac Table and the Labor Day weekend, when hopefully the Table will come to fruition with

seven new Brothers. Ron & Patricia had no sooner departed than we had the pleasure of hosting Sun Coast Brother Bob Langenbach and Captive Evonne who arrived at PJ's Marina with "M/Y Cheers". We had a delightful evening with them, first drinks on their boat and then dinner at Tubby's Tankhouse down the road in Thunderbolt. The following day, Captive Maureen took Evonne grocery shopping and then later Brother Albert took them to the Telfair Art Museum and later that evening we had a BBQ on Alise & Albert's roof-garden. They will be visiting Brothers along the way, up to NY when they head for the Erie Canal. When we met up with Bob and Evonne, Maureen and I realized we had been at Bob's induction into the Sun Coast Table, in Fort Meyers a few year's back.

Brother Gary Johnson a.k.a. "The Swedish Navigator" is off on his Brotherhood travels again. He flies to Germany in June to join Brother Heinz from the Travemunde Table in Germany. Together with Captive Brigitte they travel to the UK for the English Table's National Zaf in East Anglia. Then Gary heads to Scandinavia to join another Travemunde Brother, Sven and sail, Norway, Denmark and Sweden for six weeks. Many of you from both the Sun Coast and Gold Coast Tables, will remember both Heinz and Sven from our Tybee Island Boucan a few years ago.

Fair Winds for the summer and a great big ORZA!! From the Savannah Table





German Voss became a Brother. It all happened on a cold winter day in the home of Engagé Robert and Marie-Françoise Coles. It was in front of a roaring fire from where "Raclette," (cheese melted by the fire and scraped off the block and dripped onto a plate where boiled potatoes garnished with cured meats are added) flowed continuously. Blanc de Blanc wine and herb schnapps accompanying the raclette also flowed continuously. After the induction of German (Gaucho) we passed the little jug of rum around and after that everything went fuzzy. I can't be specific about what happened next but I'm positive we had a great time.

Several New York Brothers and Captives have been working hard towards the goal of hosting the National Zafarrancho in 2004 and I must report that already several exiting ideas have been explored which look very promising.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Galveston this Fall.



Robert Coles NY newest Engage serving the "Raclette"



Orza!

Nº 221

Gaucho





The Gold Coast Table has enjoyed many parties and get-togethers since the last newsletter.

Our New Year started with a party hosted by our newest brother, Jeff Neuwirthy and Captive Jane Comforth. Their back yard and tiki hut were a perfect place for a great evening - enjoyed by the brothers and their friends.

A visit to Fort Lauderdale by the new U K Grand Frère, Fred Bentley and his wife, Sue, prompted a party at Ross and Pepper Dupuis' home. Fred and Sue headed back to England shortly after the party, but we all look forward to seeing them when they return to Florida later this year.

Danny and Joy Connor had their annual Super Bowl party at which a great deal of treasure was exchanged at the football pool! Almost everyone was thrilled with the outcome.

Several brothers and their captives headed to Marathon for the annual President's Day Keys Zaf. The brothers in the Keys provided lodging and docks for visiting brothers who cruised down in their boats.

Mark Brown and Jill Judy had a new house-warming party attended by many brothers and friends. It seems that Brother Mark is quite a carpenter, in addition to his other skills.

Steve and Liz McNamara invited the brothers and captives to a "come in pirate attire" party at their house, where the food was not only delicious – but abundant. Cannon fire was heard throughout the neighborhood when Steve's brass cannon fired off many salvos! The Gulf Coast ZAF will be held in conjunction with the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show, October 31-November 2. Stay tuned for further updates.
ORZA!

Jules Harper (Lobster Man)

This may be the only virtual table in the Brotherhood. Our brothers have always had a tendency to wander, but at the moment there is only ONE hanging near Corpus Christi.

Our captain, Ken Sharp, and his special captive, Carrie Philbrick, left a few days ago to travel to South Africa. They went to visit our former table captain, John Gibson and Captive Diane – for a very special reason. They plan to marry there. We wish them both much joy.

Steve "Boom-Boom" Schwedhelm USN is now stationed in the State of Washington and his family is now finally all in one place. He and Deb are expecting another daughter very soon. His home is not far from the San Juan Islands, but he sold his boat in Florida, so his boating is restricted to rented Navy sailboats.

Dave and Barb May are in the process of leisurely bringing their Gulfstar 44 back to Texas from Florida. They are planning on stopping in Orange Beach, Alabama, to visit with another CC brother, Doug Henkel and Captive Sandi.

Tim "Pak Rat" Stephenson and Captive Sharon are spending time in Florida as well. They are buying a Gulfstar 44 and then should also head back to Texas. Maybe, we will have to change our table name to Gulfstar. Three of the five boats owned by Brothers are Gulfstars.

Larry "Rum Line" Jones has spent many hours lately in the US Coast Guard's Operation Liberty Shield. Larry, Captive Jean and their Gulfstar 36 are all part of the USCG Auxiliary. During the operation in Iraq, this group did many hours of patrolling in and around the Port of Corpus Christi at the request of the regular Coast Guard.

Maybe next time we can report about boucans and pillage because some brothers will be back and there are several potential engages.

ORZA!

Jean Jones



Following a fine start to the year, at the Dayton's New Year's Eve party, the Houston has moved into our schedule for 2003. Along the way we have marked several milestones. February 15th we held the second annual Buccaneer's Ball. Complete with the "Tableau" (a skit poking fun at something new every year), a fine dinner, and of course some dancing. Friday night April 11 we celebrated the long awaited departure of Steve and Lili Wolfson. Steve and Lili had a great send off. There were Brothers from San Antonio to help out, and Jerry and Kari Morris slipped into town for the surprise party. The Wolfson's said they really were going to cut the lines this time. The morning after, Saturday April 12, we inducted our newest Brother, John Killian (aka "Sneezy 37"). Easter weekend the Table made it's annual trip to Offats Bayou. On Saturday, a fine seafood supper was served-up by Fred Lowe and Mark Sandridge, with considerable help from Mike Wendele and others. Jim and Betty Vick began an extended cruise on "Slippin' Around". They will fly back to Houston from time to time to keep the business running and see the kids. By the end of May, the Vicks had traveled as far as the Abacos, spending good times with the Brothers of Sun Coast Table along the way. In the Abacos, Jim and Betty hooked up with Houston Table cruising Brothers, Bill and Mary Hallmark and Steve and Ann Bolin. Now back in the States, all three boats are making their way north, to the waters of Chesapeake Bay, for the summer. Memorial Day weekend found the Houston Table over at Double Bayou, where the weather cooperated, and the group enjoyed a crab and shrimp boil sponsored by our friends at the Marker 17 Bar. During the second week of June many Texans invaded the British Virgin Islands for a bit of chartering. Houston opted for the second week, San Antonio the first, with a short overlap (probably not short enough for the locals). Sorry, the pictures

and stories are still classified. This 4th of July, a group from the Houston Table with spend a week in Port Aransas. Greg Heck will head this one up; he and Keisha plan to leave Waterford July 1st and begin the return trip on July 7th. Greg says Larry Joe Taylor's "Island Time Festival" is Friday and Saturday night (Greg's going Saturday), and "Polk-Chop" promises another of his fine cookouts during the week. Friday October 9 through Sunday October 12 are the dates for the USA National Boucan, hosted by the Houston Table, in Galveston, Texas. Finally, Ken Hutchinson will make the arrangements for a November trip to the banks of Double Bayou, probably November 8-9. Last years fall trip was so much fun, we're going to do it again!

See you in October,

Pirouque



The San Antonio table has been busy during the first months of 2003. In February we divided our forces and some went to Houston for their Mardi Gras Ball (I am told it was a great party!) while others packed their bags and "felt presidential" in Florida. I am here to say that the Florida party was also great and Cheryl and I hope to make it an annual event. In March, we had a beach party at Josef's place at Canyon Lake. Max and Shirley, who helped host a lot of us in the UK last year, visited us and we gave them a tour of the town including a trip to the Alamo. Tricky Dick and Sara hosted a BBQ at their house in April where Dick treated all to his famous meat. Following dinner, we all took out our GPS's and had a treasure hunt around the lake. That was a different event and was quite fun. In May we had our second annual Texas Trailer Trash (ttt) party at Cheryl's and my hill country "estate"

complete with pink flamingos , a live band in the back of a pickup truck and sofas in the front yard. Baby backs and long necks were the main menu. We made the band keep playing until 12:45 am (They Shoot Horses Don't They?) when we finally released them. I think that they will be back next year though. Finally, in May several brothers from SA along with Fred and Sue Bentley from the UK and a large number of brothers from Houston invaded the BVI and for a time had a 6 boat flotilla over there. We strongly suggest a USA-BOC rendezvous in the BVI in 2005 to prepare for the world zaf in 2006!

Photos San Antonio Table



Pirates at 50



There is no news from the Sun Coast



There is no news from the Pacific North West

The new Table of the Potomac

Just ask Captain Ron

Potomac Table Inauguration ZAF

Labor Day Weekend

All Brothers and Captives are invited to join in this Gala BOC event. We plan to have the inauguration of brothers of the new Potomac Table prior to cocktail and dinner on Saturday.

Date: Saturday, Aug 30, 2003

Time: 1600 Hours

Place: 671 Bushfield Rd.

Mount Holly, Va. 22524

On the Nomini Bay off the Potomac River

Dress: Full Pirate Gear

R.S.V.P. 703-242-9433 (Oakton);
804-472-4893 (River); 703-475-3707 Cell
Email: ronald.reifsteck@verizon.net
patricia.farrell3@verizon.net

We are planning visits to George Washington's & Robert E. Lee's birth place that are located not far from our house. If you are golfer Millers Glen Golf course is located across the road. Jacques Recht said he would arrange a tour of a Virginia Winery and my wife Patricia plans to take those interested to a local Art show in Kilmarnock, VA. That will probably include a stop at the Tides Inn in Irvington, VA, and local shopping. That about covers it at the moment. Of course you can always bring a book and watch the water.



¡ ATENCIÓN !

Brothers of the United States and World

Save these Dates...

Thursday October 9th through Sunday October 12th, 2003

The Table of Houston is proud to host the **Brotherhood of the Coast 2003 U.S. National Zafarrancho** in Galveston, Texas. Our Zafarrancho hotel is **The Tremont House**, a Wyndham Historic Hotel, located at 2300 Ship's Mechanic Row, Galveston Texas. Make your hotel reservations at: 1-800-WYNDHAM or the local number 409-763-0300. Identify yourself with the Brotherhood of the Coast to receive our negotiated room rate of \$109 per night.

SCHEDULE AND HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, October 9, 2003

Check-in and explore The Tremont House and its amenities, visit the BOC Hospitality Room for suggestions, schedules, and directions to Galveston's many attractions.

Familiarize yourself with the nearby "Strand", its variety of bars and restaurants, fabulous shopping, and purveyors of antiques.

The National Captain's Cocktail Party (4:00-6:00 PM) Guests to include: Captain's meeting participants, international Brothers, and respective Captives).

Dinner is on your own, check with the hospitality room for restaurant recommendations.

Friday, October 10, 2003

Annual Captain's Meeting (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

Tour Galveston's elegant Broadway mansions: the Michael B. Menard House, Ashton Villa, and Moody Mansion.

Visit the Texas Seaport Museum and the southwest's largest Railroad Museum

National Zafarrancho Opening Dinner (6:00-12:00 PM): Western (as in Yee-Haw!) dress, dinner, and dancing at the historic 1876 *Garten Verien*. Located in Galveston's lush Kempner Park, this unique tiered, octagonal dancing pavilion is the only remaining building of a social club built by early German residents. Includes open bar.

Saturday, October 11, 2003

Tour the incredible Bishop's Palace, one of the most notable examples of Victorian design in the United States. Look in at the Grand 1894 Opera House

Participate in excursions to NASA and Space Center Houston, or the Battleship Houston and the San Jacinto Monument

Visit: Ocean Star an offshore drilling rig and museum. See the sights at Moody Gardens.

Golfers can make arrangements for tee times through the hotel.

Pirate Cocktail Party: Get your grog and stroll the decks of the beautiful 1877 tall ship *Elissa*. Includes open bar on the quay.

National Zafarrancho Pirate Banquet: at the Fisherman's Wharf banquet facility, over-looking Galveston's picturesque waterfront. Includes wine with dinner, and a cash bar.

After the speeches and awards, return to the *Elissa* for nightcaps at the bar on the quay.

Sunday, October 12, 2003

Pre-departure Breakfast: on the quay at the Harbor House Hotel Marina.
Mexican style breakfast and BOC style Bloody Mary cocktails.

ZAFARRACHO COST

The cost per person is \$195.00 if received prior to August 1, 2003. After August 1st the price will escalate to \$215.00 per person. Please make your checks payable to: **Brotherhood of the Coast 2003 Zaf.** Mail checks to: **Republic National Bank, c/o John Killian, 1055 FM 1960 West, Houston, TX 77090.**

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

When flying into Houston, visitors have the choice of arriving at two airports. Houston's George Bush International Airport is located on the north side of the city, about 60 miles from Galveston. Houston's Hobby Airport is located on the south side of Houston, about 30 miles from Galveston. Hobby Airport is a hub for Southwest Airlines, one of the most economical carriers serving Houston. Obviously, if you have a choice, book yourselves into Hobby, you'll be an hour closer to Galveston, and transportation costs will be a little more reasonable.

Once in Houston, at either airport, you have several choices for traveling on to Galveston. All of the usual car rental agencies are represented. The Brotherhood of the Coast has a corporate rate through **ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR**. Our corporate ID number is **06E1345**. You will save 10%. ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR can be found at internet address www.enterprise.com. **TAXI SERVICE** is available, but expensive, at approximately \$80.00 from Hobby and \$125.00 from Bush Intercontinental (this is one-way, for 1-4 passengers). The most economical transportation for two people is through **GALVESTON LIMOUSINE SERVICE**. **You must book these reservations in advance!** Travel is by large van and costs \$30.00 one-way (\$27 seniors) or \$50.00 round trip (\$41.00 seniors) from Hobby to Galveston. From Bush Intercontinental the cost is \$35.00 one-way (\$32.00 seniors) or \$60.00 round trip (\$55.00 seniors). They can be reached by telephone at 800-640-4826 or (local) 409-744-5466, and their website is www.galvestonlimo.com. Finally, there is another limousine service with a whole spectrum of vehicles that will pick you up at either airport. **PLATINUM LIMOSINE SERVICE**, at 281-920-3102, requires advance reservations for these prices. They are most reasonable for large groups traveling together or meeting at the airport. PLATINUM has large vans that can carry 7-12 people at \$20.00 per person from Hobby to Galveston, or \$25.00 per person from Bush Intercontinental to Galveston. They also have SUVs, limousines, and towncars available; if you fill them up the rates can be less than \$20.00 per person one-way.

¡ORZA! John Byrne, Captain, Table of Houston



She's coming to America

The Frigate Libertad will be in Baltimore July 28 to August 4

