

A VOICE FROM AFAR
Jim Haynes, PC

It's been a while, going on three years, since Betsy and I moved to north Texas to be near our daughter, but we certainly have not forgotten our friends on Marco nor the Marco Bay Yacht Club.

When we first moved to Marco in 1990 our primary experience with boating was with a SunFish sailboat we owned. Our first boat on Marco was a twenty-six foot cabin cruiser. Shortly we met people, who suggested we join the MBYC, which changed a lot of things for us. We began cruising and partying with them.

We were also impressed with there "no boat left behind" rule. On a return trip from the Tampa area, our engine overheated. The crews of five other boats pulled into a port and stayed overnight with us. The next day we contacted a repair yard, who picked up our craft, then returned to Marco aboard a mate's craft.

Over the next several years the MBYC was our main source of friendships and experiences. I could hardly believe it when, then Commodore Frank Lagay, asked me to assume the position of Fleet Captain. Me?

Things went on from there. Many short and long cruises; one commercial trip with our mates up the Danube, from Budapest, through eleven locks over the Alps, ending up in Amsterdam. Multiple trips to the Bahamas. Winning a Christmas boat parade trophy, based on an idea of Larry Kelly's, that was the first of five in a row. To win all those trophies, our members worked their tails off helping each other; one time gathering in a garage to change bulbs in many strings of lights from multi-colored to pink. Add to that the five murder mystery cruises we took to different locations, where members adlibbed parts my Commodorable and I asked them to play. They were so funny and we couldn't wait to see how our friend would dress and what they would say.

We keep up on what's going on now through the Baylines, which is so creatively edited by John Putnam. Today, led by the likes of Ginny and Bob Vroman and Alex Orsolini, seems as strong and innovative as ever, as is the supporting efforts of its members. One thing that impresses me is the continuing support of long time members like Dave Brand being Fleet Captain and Dave Besuden Asst. Fleet Captain. Leanne Thomas, Co-chairing the Social Committee with Marcia Orsolini. Cea Horton, Treasurer. Wally Graefe, Audit Committee Chair. Owen Henning, Administrative Officer. And of course there's always the great Gordon Henry, Long Range Planning and Pat Kenworthy, Secretary, and Larry Oswald, Historian.

It looks to us as if the life blood of the Marco Bay Yacht Club is still pulsing strongly. My only words of advise folks is, "Keep up the good work".