PROGRESS REPORT

The

HOUSTON YACHT CLUB

1956-57

by

Commodore Louis F. Bonner

In pursuance and as your representative, shall like to report the events and proceedings of this season’s activities. These events and proceedings of the entertainments of the club are enjoyable to the members. In addition to the above said, I have this pleasure to express the thanks of the members and recognize the names of Mr. J. B. Hall, Mrs. J. B. Hall, and Mr. J. B. Hall. Likewise, in making this report to you it will not be complete without the names of the members and officers of the club. Their work and efforts, and the other officers of the club, make it possible for a successful year to be enjoyed.

Louis F. Bonner, Commodore
October 1938

Dear Mr. James,

I am writing to thank you for your kind words of encouragement and support during my recent trip to China. Your hospitality and guidance were greatly appreciated, and I am sure that the successful completion of our mission was due in large part to your assistance.

I am pleased to hear that your business has been successful and that you are enjoying the fruits of your labor. May your success continue in the future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

President, [Organization Name]
HOUSTON YACHT CLUB

PROGRESS REPORT FOR 1956-57

The Houston Yacht Club in our year 1956-57 saw a great deal accomplished from the standpoint of improvement of facilities and from activities we presented or at which we acted as host.

Before going into this progress in detail; however, I should like to draw your attention to the individuals in which you entrusted the future of the Houston Yacht Club for this year and to whose credit this year of accomplishment is dedicated.

OFFICERS

Vice-Commodore L. F. Van Stone
Rear-Commodore George H. Allen
Fleet Captain Dr. David A. Hagerman
Secretary Randon Porter, Jr.
Treasurer Charles Markle Knipe
Measurer Edwin T. Davis
Fleet Surgeon Dr. R. J. Helman
Fleet Chaplain Rev. Edwin T. Summers

TRUSTEES

Dwight H. Austin
Fred J. Drew
Walter W. Pondren, Jr.
Wm. D. Morse
Capt. W. R. Parker
J. Robt. King
Leon J. Settegast
Sterling Germany

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

House and Grounds L. F. Van Stone
Harbor George H. Allen
Entertainment W. R. Bacon
Yachting Frank E. Haupin & Sterling Germany
Race and Regatta Edwin T. Davis
Publicity Fred J. Drew
Special Assignments L. F. Van Stone
Club Photographer W. Harold Broyles
Sea Scouts Dr. David A. Hagerman
Membership Fred J. Drew

I, personally and as your representative, should like to commend these ladies and gentlemen for their sincere efforts, time spent in performance of duties and their dedication to the job at hand. In addition to the above-named, I am sure you also recognize the work and spirit thereof as performed by our Ladies Association, this year under the joint-chairmanship of Mrs. Clayton Warr, Mrs. Jack Feagins, Mrs. Frank Haupin and Mrs. L. F. Van Stone. Likewise, in making this report to you it would not be complete unless we recognized the capable and efficient manner in which our Club has functioned under our thoughtful manager, Mr. Howard Brown, and his always helpful always charming wife, Anne. Under their inspiration and direction we not only have one of the finest personnel our club has ever had, but an atmosphere has been created that our membership enjoys to the utmost. Food service and facilities are of the finest ever. In behalf of the flag officers, board members and club membership, we give our sincere thanks for a most splendid job well done.

Louis F. Bonner, Commodore
HOUSTON YACHT CLUB
PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956-57

The purpose of this report is to give members a comprehensive review of the programs, activities and improvements of our Club during the past year. Programs of this Board as well as those initiated by the past Boards have been carried out in the same spirit of advancement and progress as is evident in our history.

Financing of the improvements noted herein can be reviewed as follows: Of the monies previous to 1957 appropriated for house and grounds improvements, there was a note outstanding in the amount of $13,500 on the first day of this fiscal year. During this year there was repaid on this note the amount of $9,000 leaving a balance outstanding of $4,5000. Planned repayment indicates that this amount will have been completely amortized by March 15th of the coming year 1958. In addition to this outstanding amount we have assumed an additional obligation of $29,000, which was expended as follows: Harbor Improvements Program $25,000 and expansion of our properties by purchase from the City of Shoreacres sixty additional feet of frontage $4,000. In addition to the above, interest in the amount of $1,698.15 has been paid on these obligations. In capital improvements to the membership's benefit investments totaled approximately $16,000 in 1957 for all departments exclusive of the harbor and were approximately $33,800 for the harbor, all of which while not yet fully amortized, will pass to the equity of each member in the future. This figure amounts to a capital increase of approximately $320.00. For any member's further information there is in the Club office a complete audited financial statement available for your inspection at your request.

Activities and projects have been completed by the responsible committee as stated:

HOUSE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE - Mr. L. F. Van Stone, Chairman

GROUNDS - Mr. A. S. Barada, Jr., and Mr. Geo. H. Allen
Lighting for our parking lot and drive-in entranceway to the main building was designed and installed. Additional pebbled concrete walk areas were installed to our harbor and these lighted. The barbecue pit was bricked in, a new sign installed at our main entrance and our grounds re-landscaped. Our parking lot was given a protective and decorative nautical border. Our previously installed concrete walkways were lighted.

BUILDINGS - Mr. W. W. Fondren, Jr., and Mr. Ed T. Davis
Our main building underwent extensive improvement and modernization. Highlights of this program were: Installation of the neon-backed letters HYC on our building side facing Todville Road. New lighting fixtures installed in our Terrace Dining Room, the men's locker room and dormitory. New reading lamps installed for our guest rooms, as were vanity lights complete with separate switches and shaving outlets. Additional new umbrellas purchased for our pool patio. A mimeograph machine purchased. A new fibre-glass diving board for the pool. The third floor ceiling was remodeled with installation of a custom acoustical tile ceiling and new recessed lighting fixtures. This area also received a face-lifting with installation of new Ships Mahogany doors and new locking hardware. The north face of our main building was waterproffed. A new & larger fibre-glass canopy installed over our Bar Terrace.

KITCHEN AND FOOD - Mr. Fred J. Drew
At the request of the entertainment committee a family nite buffet, at minimum price was instituted. Seafood Nite, which proved a complete success during the summer, was begun on Friday nights. A large chafing dish and an additional ice machine were purchased the latter part of the summer. New menus were put into service. Our Terrace Dining Room became a more formal room with a complete redecorating and use of table linens which enhanced its appeal considerably.

POLICY - Mr. Leon J. Settegast
Into this sub-committees hands fell a myriad of details, each carried out with efficiency and dispatch. Augmented by other members
this committee handled such details as publication and design of our new By-Laws and House Rules, a new survey of our property, re-designed application blanks, etc.

A special committee consisting of Mr. A. S. Barada, Jr., and Mr. Frank E. Maupin were responsible for selection, design and installation of the new Trophy Case and re-newing of our trophies which are located there. A new master hot water heater for our rest-rooms and guest rooms was installed to replace the original which was no longer adequate. This heater, while not appreciably speeding up initial delivery, does assure us of a supply of hot water, sufficient both in temperature and quantity, to these areas.

HARBOR COMMITTEE - Mr. Geo. H. Allen

Of great help to this committee were such members as Capt. W. R. Parker, Harold Bludworth, A. C. Felt, J. Fred Haworth, Jr., K. G. Peebles, Jr., and Rufus G. Smith.

Perhaps primary among the accomplishments of this committee was completion of the first and major phase of our permanent harbor plant. The harbor was shelled to stop erosion and the south outer jetty protected by a series of short groins. The bulkhead at the harbor entrance was completed. The small boat launching area was initiated and crane dock rebuilt and bulkheaded. Several old and antiquated slips were torn out and through participation of the membership eight sailboat slips, six 32' covered boat stalls, and five large stalls, four of which were 72' in length and one of 54', were constructed. A new electrical system was installed to furnish maximum power to our north harbor as was additional plumbing. A covered area for relaxing, complete with ice box and coke machine was added to the harbor. The jetties of the club were re-designed and raised to the general height of the club building site to furnish maximum protection to the fleet and storage area.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Mr. Frank E. Maupin and Sterling Germany

Such functions as the Harbor Party and Boat and Barge Party were highlights of the club's year. This committee had many other functions, some of which were forced to be cancelled due to inclimate weather; however, this committee proved itself of incalculable value in providing power craft for the various club and Race Committee functions where such was required.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE - Mr. W. R. Bacon

Mr. Wm. D. Morse, Mrs. Frank E. Maupin and Mrs. Chas. M. Smythe assisted in the planning and successful execution of many entertainments. Such functions as the New Year's Eve Party, Commodore's Ball, Sweetheart Dance, Pirate Party, San Jacinto Day Weekend, Labor Day Weekend, Regatta Entertainment and Women's National Entertainment were planned by this committee to increase the enjoyment for our membership.

GENERAL

Several other committees with specialized work completed or carried
forward their tasks with dispatch and diligence. Among these projects were acquisition of our additional property, headed by Judge W. F. Hamblen, Jr., Duncan Neblett, and the late W. J. Mills. The Special Assignments Committee under leadership of P/C Charles Markle Knipe, V/C L. F. Van Stone. The Sea Scout Committee under leadership of Dr. David A. Hagerman. Our Club Photographer W. Harold Broyles, and many others.

Of particular note was the Women’s National Sailing Championship headed by P/C Charles M. Smythe. His Sub-Committee heads were Ed Davis, Racing; Sterling Germany, Yachting; W. R. Bacon, Entertainment; Fred J. Drew, Publicity; P/C A. C. Felt, Harbor; Mrs. Charles M. Smythe, Registration and Welcoming; John H. Hatcher, Transportation; Joe Genitempo, Committee Boats; W. Harold Broyles, Photographic; J. Fred Haworth, Inspection and Ship-Shape; and Rufus G. Smith, Protocol. This function probably saw more intensified activity and planning than any event of our recent history. In particular, being the first Women’s National ever held outside of East Coast Waters, we wanted this function to be outstanding. That this Committee, with cooperation of the membership in general, succeeded beyond our fondest hopes is well evidenced by the many letters and messages of thanks and commendation received from our N.A.Y.R.U. Officers, Judges, and the participants. The Racing and handling of all basic functions was as close to perfect as possible and the entertainment program perhaps the most elaborate we have ever attempted. For those who did not realize the effort that went into this program, we can only say that they should have been with us more that week. Total expense of this function not recovered was $3,544.67, or approximately $14.00 per member. Publicity received, local, national and international was voluminous. Such national publications as Time, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, Yachting and others carried notations about this event.

The Houston Yacht Club’s reputation for hospitality was well protected as we hosted many events for boating organizations such as the Coast Guard, Boating Trades Association, G.B.C.A., Seabrook Sailing Club, and the Houston Power Squadron.

It is felt that the Houston Yacht Club for 1957, through the efforts of so many hard-working committee members and the membership itself, has made a record of which you can well be proud, and I, as your Commodore, should like to express my appreciation as well as that of the Board of Trustees and Officers to the members of the Club for their participation and support of the various activities and facilities of the Club, for it is with this participation only that your Club can offer increased facilities, functions and services for your pleasure and benefit.

Louis F. Bonner, Commodore