

# Ensign Distance Race

By Jane Heron



On Saturday, April 24, 2021, Houston Yacht Club (HYC) Ensign Fleet 2 cruised from HYC to Double Bayou across Trinity Bay (approximately 17 miles). It was a bluebird Chamber of Commerce day with moderate wind from the WNW. This is not the prevailing wind direction. As a matter of fact it is the opposite of what is the norm for the Galveston Bay area. The goal for the hearty sailors of Fleet 2 was to cruise over to Double Bayou and to have a downwind race back the

next day. When the invitation from the Commodore went out to the fleet to participate in the distance race, Commodore Robert Williams joked about the trip being downwind both ways. Well, the way over was a perfect downwind cruise. None of us could believe how perfect the wind and weather were that day.

The entrance to Double Bayou requires a lot of attention to keep from sailing for about 2.5 miles. Island Lodge on Oak Island took over the entire huge kitchen and easy to settle in and bay with a great group made the trip: Chasin' other woman, and



thirteen sailors, RC Nick, spouse assist Judie and Steve, ECA Hall of Fame guests Dean and Kay Snider and loyal dog, Mae Belle Heron. Judie, Steve, and Nick brought in the food by car that was contributed by everyone for the overnight stay. Fleet Commodore, Robert; well-known for his grilling abilities; provided a "melt in your mouth" brisket. Everyone contributed delicious food but the ones that stand out are RC Nick's homemade ceviche, Commodore's wife, Judie's delicious breakfast casserole from Southern Living "Cheesy Sausage and Croissant Recipe" served along with Yolanda's breakfast pasta. Yummy! BYOB was encouraged but ECA PC John Cutler and crew Chuck Wielchowsky made sure we would never run out of red wine. I helped as much as I could but there was more red wine the next morning.



Kay and Dean Snider

Oak Island Lodge

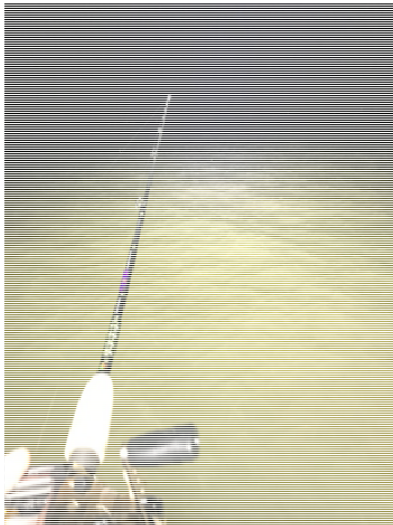
Oak Island, Texas

The afternoon and evening lent perfect temperatures and no Texas? ECA Hall of Famer, Ed an extensive collection of lodge porch was the place to breathless sunset.



itself to beautiful weather with mosquitos. What? Am I in Bluestein's son, Boyd provided music for us all to enjoy. The be for everyone to enjoy a

After dinner, several people enjoyed nighttime fishing on the lighted piers. How could it get any better than this setting? I am convinced that this time will rank up at the top of my times spent on this planet.



After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast, the Ensigns left the dock to sail back to HYC. The conditions had deteriorated somewhat with winds gusting a little heavier than anticipated coming from the opposite direction than the day before. So, as expected, we were racing back downwind. You could feel the eager competition all around you. With four Ensigns competing, RC Nick was going four deep with awards. First, second, third place trophies would be presented and a fifth of Rum would be presented for the last place finish. The race was a dog fight the whole 17 miles with John Cutler on "the other woman" winning first place. Dynamite managed to maintain a distant last place. It was speculated that they sandbagged so they would win the Rum. In a true sailor fashion, the rum did not

consumption.

What a time! Life does not get any better than this time with my Ensign friends! Thank you, Robert!

