Bay Nash

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America's Boating Club Houston

'Where the Cowboys Ride the Sea'

August 2026

A 36 foot Grand Banks Trawler

On-the-Water Training Event Summary

The Galveston Bay Sail and Power Squadron and the Houston Squadron conducted an on-the-water training event aboard *Calypso*, a 36-foot Grand Banks Trawler. The session combined practical **boat-handling** instruction with hands-on **navigation** training, giving participants the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in an active Galveston Bay operating environment.

Participants arrived at the vessel at 9:30 AM in preparation for a planned 10:00 AM departure. Under the guidance of Malin LaPlace and vessel owner Charles Scott, the group reviewed preparations for getting underway, including local weather and sea-state conditions. The training emphasized safe, deliberate decision-making before and during vessel operations.

Activities Completed

The program included instruction and observation in the following areas:

- Departing from and approaching a dock safely.
- Vessel fueling procedures and observation of a pump-out operation.
- Preparing the boat for departure through weather and sea-condition assessment.
- Motoring in Galveston Bay while observing aids to navigation.
- Standing watch and maintaining situational awareness.
- Maneuvering safely around other vessel traffic.
- Using onboard navigational, charting, and depth-sounding equipment.
- Monitoring marine radio traffic and discussing vessel communications.
- Developing “seaman’s eye” techniques to estimate position and conditions visually.
- Practicing two-point and three-point position fixes using plotting tools.
- Considering an anchoring exercise as conditions and time allowed.

Training Value

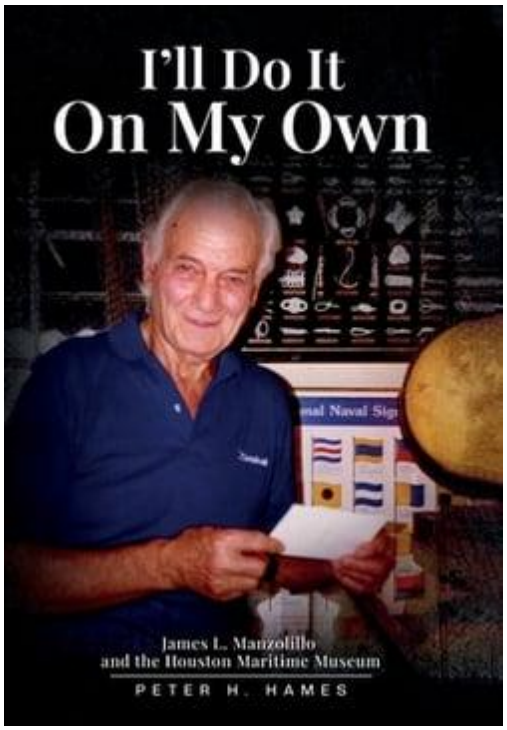
The event provided a practical setting for participants to strengthen core seamanship skills, including navigation, communication, watchstanding, docking, and safe maneuvering. By working aboard an operational trawler in Galveston Bay, attendees were able to connect navigational theory with real-world observations, traffic patterns, and vessel-handling decisions.

Participants were provided a notepad and mechanical pencil for notes. Additional navigation resources—including compass binoculars, a handheld compass, and plotting tools—were available, and attendees were encouraged to bring a chart of Galveston Bay suitable for marking during navigation exercises.

Acknowledgment

The training was made possible through the collaboration of the Galveston Bay Sail and Power Squadron, the Houston Squadron, and the support of Alan Cross, Malin LaPlace and Charles Scott aboard *Calypso*. The event offered an engaging and enjoyable opportunity for members to build confidence, improve practical skills, and share in the camaraderie of safe boating education.

Malin LaPlace



New Book – I'll Do It On My Own: James L. Manzolillo and the Houston Maritime Museum by Peter H. Hames

The Houston Maritime Center and Museum was founded in 2000 by James L. Manzolillo. This book tells his story.

"Perfect for readers who enjoy biographies, history, and stories of resilience, I'll Do It On My Own is a powerful reminder that one person's vision can leave an enduring impact for generations to come."

Book available from Books-A-Million. All proceeds benefit the Museum.

Happy Birthday Coast Guard

On August 4, 1790, the first U.S. Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to patrol U.S. ports from Massachusetts to Georgia. The United States Coast Guard takes form in this small fleet of "cutters"—fast-moving, speedy sailboats—tasked with intercepting marine smugglers and collecting tariffs on imported goods. It's the brainchild of Alexander Hamilton, the first U.S. secretary of the treasury under President George Washington.

William Mize Obituary

William "Bill" Henry Mize, Jr, 04/16/1926 - 07/27/2026

William "Bill" Henry Mize, Jr, 100, of Bellaire, Texas, passed away peacefully at home on July 27, 2026, surrounded by his loving wife of 77 years, his family and caregivers. Bill was born on April 16, 1926. As a World War II Army veteran and graduate of the University of Houston, Bill built a successful accounting career in the oil and gas industry, with particularly fond memories of his years at Mecom and Scurlock Oil. Bill lived a life marked by kindness, hard work, and devotion to family and friends. He also found great joy on the water. Passionate about boating, Bill devoted countless hours volunteering in support of boater safety and education through the Houston Sail & Power Squadron where he was a Senior Navigator with over 50 Merit Marks.
Bill is survived by his beloved wife, Sophie; children, William "Bill" Mize, III and his wife Nancy, Michael "Mike" Mize and his wife Deni, and daughter Michelle Edwards and her husband Eric; seven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and sister, JoAnne Ross. He was preceded in death by his parents William and Mallie Mize.

A funeral mass was held on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

Thanks to Michael S, a friend and USPS student from Long Island, their new weather reporting tool.

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