

Sea Scout Ship 681 - Old Ironsides

September 27, 2018

The months of August & September were pretty busy for our Ship.

The first part of the September saw our Ship move a storage shed from 2 miles down the road, to a position behind the UTSC shed. What we expected to take 5-6 hours was done in 3 with hard work by 2 teams. After emptying the shed of our gear, one team stayed behind and disassembled the shed. The other team drove to the "beach" and borrowed some dirt and rock to create a flat foundation at the new location. The first team arrived with the disassembled shed and the whole crew proceeded to rebuild. Thanks to AYC Board for approving our shed location giving us quick access to spare sails and spars when we come out to go sailing !



Our major project for the month was 'Trey Guilhas' Quartermaster Project. The old wooden split rail fence between the upper and lower parking lots was mostly rotted away from years of rain. After removing the old fence the "prisoner gang" went after the concrete in the holes with pick axes and rock bars. Removing all the old concrete was the hardest part of the job. This took half the day. Remember that dirt and rock we borrowed from the beach to lay our shed foundation .. well, we replaced it after removing the dirt and rock from the fence post holes, HA !! Most kids have never mixed Sakrete, so everyone got involved in mixing. A few rails had to be trimmed for the whole fence to fit properly and after a few more hours of labor a brand new split rail fence emerged.



Our last major event of August was a

day long training session for Sea Scout Ships in the "Capitol Area Council". Our Ship sponsored the event by hosting and providing leadership to staff the classes with trained instructors. Fifteen Sea Scouts from 5 different ships learned radio communications, first aid, navigation, marlinspike, line toss and nomenclature.

Part of their rotation through classes included a 2 hour service project where the kitchen in the clubhouse was painted, final concrete laid for the prior weeks Quartermaster project was completed and general cleanup around the grounds was performed.

Sea Scouts have requirements for service and AYC has been a GREAT help to them to provide projects over the last few years.



September saw Ship 681 participating at the annual Minto Rendevouz in Navasota Texas along with 20 other Ships from around north-east and south Texas. This is an annual competition of Sea Scout skills with a few "fun" events thrown in for good measure. Have any of you ever rigged your Sunfish blind-folded ? Call us if you need help with that !

Seriously though now ... one of the competitions is to walk a path through ATON's with 20 scenarios you must identify whether you are Stand-on, Give-way, what audible signal you are required to make. All based on Day-shapes, lights and whatever you can make of the configuration of the vessel or ATON you are approaching. Our ship came in 3rd in this event



Lastly, and assuredly not least, just this past week the culmination of YEARS of hard work and 2 years focused push resulted in Ship 681's FIRST Quartermaster Ranked Sea Scout !!!

This is THE highest rank in Sea Scouts and while only 5% of Boy Scouts receive the Eagle rank only 0.5 of Sea Scouts achieve Quartermaster rank. Trey has achieved both !!

Sea Scouts must earn the ranks of Apprentice, Ordinary and Able Sea Scout before earning Quartermaster. Totaling over 150 distinct requirements in categories of Ideals, Leadership, Swimming/Lifesaving, Safety, Marlinspike, Boat handling, Piloting and Navigation, Ground tackle, Practical Deck Seamanship, Environment, Weather, Radio communications and Navigation rules. Most of the Quartermaster requirements are focused on Leadership in service and teaching the requirements of the lower ranks.

Trey is a distinguished member of our Ship having prior to Sea Scouts earned the rank of Eagle as a Boy Scout. He has completed National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) - a program introducing teenagers to the principals of leading other people, Aquatics School - a program that expands on NYLT and teaches older Scouts how to teach Swimming, Lifesaving, Rowing, Canoeing and Public Speaking skills to other Scouts. He not only attended these camps but was recognized as mature and skilled enough to be invited back to Staff these training events the following year.

His greatest accomplishment before Quartermaster rank - it actually fulfilled several requirements - was completing the Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership Training (SEAL) program. This is a ten day team-building and leadership course that requires existing sailing skills and Ordinary rank to participate. The course is designed to develop leadership skills in young adults. Seamanship is the medium through which the course is taught; however, nautical skills are the means, not the end. This course, which utilizes an "at sea" experience as a laboratory, is intended to teach and apply leadership skills. There are few other media offering the opportunity for young people to actually put leadership skills utilizing group dynamics into practice. In SEAL, there is no "play acting." All situations and tasks are real, not created. Bad decisions or team failure can produce immediate and real problems. Trey completed this course in Galveston on a 44' Kalik. He has subsequently participated in numerous races on "Surly" and is scheduled to participate in this years Harvest Moon Regatta from Galveston to Port Aransas aboard the same vessel.

AYC had a LARGE part in helping Trey Guilhas race across the finish line. Our Ships membership in the club provided unparalleled access to resources, boats, service project opportunities and more. You ALL have a right to be proud of the part AYC had in Trey's accomplishment !!

- Chris Schuttger - Skipper - SSS 681 - Old Ironsides



Trey Guilhas after his Bridge of Review
(L-R) Ric Trent, Trey Guilhas, Sally Graves, Jim Graves