

Sea Scout Ship 681 - Old Ironsides

January 2019

Just a quick recap from 2018 - Ship 681 ended the year with a total of 21 outings on our S2 sloop totalling 41 hours of sailing/training and 143 nautical miles under our keel ! Of course, that doesn't count sailing we did in Corpus Bay or Galveston Bay with other Sea Scouts. It was a busy year.

Speaking of busy years ... Yee-Haw It's January and away we go !!!

We started off the year cold and drizzly camping for 4 nights and 5 days. We hosted Boy Scout Troop 234 for a Winter Camp on the Water event. Most Boy Scout Troops travel to a Winter Camp each year to work on Merit badges and Rank advancement. Troop 234 asked our Ship if we would host a Winter Camp and teach water based Merit Badges. Our Sea Scouts ran the Galley and provided instruction on Sunfish, Kayaks and a Motor Boat. In addition, we had Aviation, Radio and Chess Merit Badges taught by adults in the Troop with those skills. Including a field trip to Lakeway Airport to sit in and mess about in a plane. A grand time was had by all. MANY MANY THANKS to AYC Race Committee Chair Jim Casto for saving our bacon by validating our Motorboating Merit Badge Instructor to use a Race Committee boat. TWO (yep .. not just one) of our prior committed motor boats came up missing because their owners didn't plan ahead and check their operation and cancelled in the last 2 days before our camp !!



Just this last weekend we sent 15 Ship members to Galveston for the annual Sea Scout Academy. Three days of fun and training in ALL Sea Scout Ranks. This year was particularly special as 8 of our attendees were actually adult members serving as instructors. Our Ship really gave back to the annual regional event. The 6 youth had a participated in

Apprentice, Ordinary and Able rank training and each moved closer to completing their rank advancement.

We're now looking forward to February. We march up Congress Avenue from the river to the Capitol in the annual Scouting Report to State on February 2nd, Scout Sunday on February 10th and are planning to participate in a couple of the Frostbite Series races and at least one of the race classes.

- Chris Schuttger - Skipper - SSS 681 - Old Ironsides