

Sea Scout Ship 681
Old Ironsides
August 24, 2017

Ship 681 enjoyed a "Two Day Turn" adventure on the *Point Glass*, a retired 82 ft. Coast Guard Cutter refurbished as a Sea Scout Ship based on the San Bernard river outside of Brazoria, Texas.



The Ship members piloted the boat 77 miles down the Inter Coastal Waterway from its home base through Freeport and on to Sea Star Base Galveston (SSBG) on Offatts

Bayou.



While underway we took a 6 mile excursion into the Gulf of Mexico offshore of Freeport in order to perform some Celestial Navigation training.



All Sea Scouts spent time at the helm driving the ship, performing communications tasks with commercial barge traffic and regular engine room observations validating engine operating pressures and temperatures.



Once we arrived at SSBG several members of our ship participated in the Galveston Sailing Community weekly Wednesday night race.

While on the cruise we completed many rank advancement requirements, including promoting two Sea Scouts to Apprentice and Ordinary Seaman.



A GREAT time was had by all!

Our ship participated again in one of the Beer Can races in mid August - unfortunately the wind died and even one of our Hobie Cats had to be towed in !

Last weekend we had 8 youth and 2 adults participate in the annual NOW (Not an Ordinary Weekend) training event. This is in preparation for the annual Minto Rendezvous held in September where 30+ Sea Scouts Ships from the Southern region compete in 20 Sea Scout skill events. Trophies and bragging rights for the next year are awarded.

Weather pending, we will be camping this weekend with our "sister" Boy Scout Troop. At present we expect 35-40 Scouts, in three shifts, to be sailing - swimming - performing service projects.

- Chris Schuttger - Skipper - SSS 681 - Old Ironsides