

# PORT BAY CLUB

EST  
HUNTING **1912** FISHING  
Rockport, Texas



## Port Bay Club Newsletter

October 5, 2022

Greetings Fellow Port Bay Club Members,

September Teal season has ended, and we are coming into my favorite season on the Texas coast. Redfish are schooling up on the flats and big duck season is just around the corner. The final weekend of Teal season saw some great hunts with blinds reporting 6-8 birds and a healthy quantity of birds in the area. There are big ducks already circling Swan Lake. Late summer rainstorms have provided an influx of freshwater that will help give the marsh grass one last kick to fill out before cooler weather sets in.

Tye has the lodge in great shape, chairs circled around the fire pit, horseshoe pit set up, and the CRR ready to host evening poker games and football watching. We have a new face in the kitchen, Chef Dickey, who is serving up some fantastic food for lunch and dinner. Chef Dickey is a local chef with quite the following on TikTok and Instagram. He has treated members to everything from smoked spareribs to homemade meatloaf and mashed potatoes. His fried chicken may be my favorite meal so far.

Jeremy has been very resourceful this year sourcing bay brush from an Ingleside city park that has provided a great savings to the Club. In years past we have had to purchase the material from private landowners. He is putting the finishing touches on the marsh blinds and is in full swing preparing the bay blinds for November. A few new bay blinds will be added this year to help expand the hunting options. With all of Miguel's hard work last year on boat maintenance, he only has a limited amount of fiberglass work left to do. In conjunction with the Marsh LLC, we brought in crushed concrete and graded the main entrance road to the marsh over the

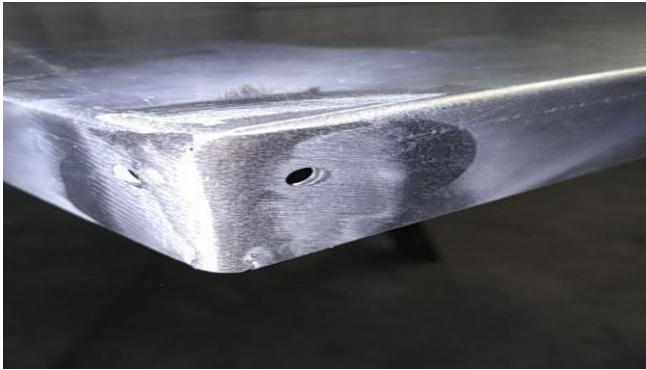
summer. Michael Soper has generously donated his ranch jeep to the Club to help transport hunters to the marsh blinds when conditions require. Thank you Soper!

The Farmer's Almanac is calling for a cold winter, which will hopefully help push the birds south to our waters this year. The link below is to Delta Waterfowl's September 2022 Migration Report:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80ZmKjLre2w>

Fishing has been picking up steam as well. Groups are reporting healthy numbers of redfish and black drum in Swan Lake and Lower Bay. Topwater, natural-colored jigs, and Gulp shrimp have been baits of choice, along with the cut mullet and shrimp mainstays. The trout fishing should only get better once the temperatures start dropping. Please remember the new slot limit in place for trout since the big freeze.

It's not too late! The Fly Fishing Tournament is next week, October 15th. There is still time to sign up with Tye.



### **Locker Room Update**

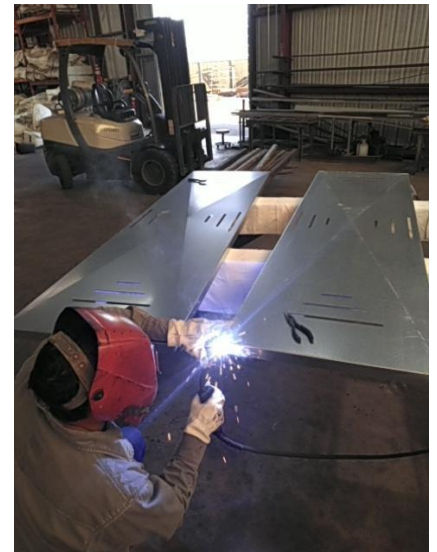
The locker fabrication is underway at Jim Farris' shop in Houston! He is tracking completion and installation by the end of October in time for regular Duck Season. Tye has the center dividing wall installed and a gun cleaning bench set up. There are still 30 lockers available for members who haven't purchased one yet and are still interested. If you are interested, please reach out to Tye or go onto our website.

### **Welcome New Members!**

We have new members and junior members transitioning to full members. Please join me in welcoming them to the Club:

1. Charlotte Toney - John Ferrata's sister
2. Marcus Soper II – Junior to Regular Member
3. Joseph Anderson – Junior – Legacy of Michael Soper
4. Dean Meyer – Junior – Legacy of David Sams
5. Ben Carl - Junior – Friend of Kirby Taylor

This is an appropriate time to update the membership on the status of the Roster. We currently have 70 regular members. Nathan Allen, our membership chair, is doing a great job facilitating Club information to people interested in membership. Tye goes out of his way to meet and talk to folks who come down to visit and experience the Club. There are countless members that bring friends, family, and colleagues down as guests to hunt and fish throughout the year. We are working on a couple of events in Houston and Austin to gather members and people interested in membership to learn about our fantastic Club. We have a world-class facility, a terrific new chef, and first-rate duck hunting and fishing opportunities outside the front door to enjoy and share with family and friends. I ask that all members take it upon themselves to help the Club bring



the regular membership level to where it was pre-Harvey. If you know someone that might be interested in joining, bring them down to see what it's all about or get them in touch with Nathan and he can provide information regarding membership. Please feel free to reach out to Nathan, Tye, or myself with any questions or comments on membership recruitment. Included with the newsletter is a new Membership Brochure Mimi Meyer, wife of new junior member and David Sams' daughter put together. Please feel free to share it with people interested in the Club.

Nathan Allen - Membership Recruitment Chair ([nathanevanallen@me.com](mailto:nathanevanallen@me.com) / 713.725.8126)



### **Reminders for Duck Season**

As we come to the start of a new duck season, I wanted to include a friendly reminder on lodge and hunting operation procedures and safety.

- Lodge Policies
  - o Cancellation Policy – 72 hours' notice is required
    - Rooms- a canceled reservation during hunting season. There is a \$100/room charge if notice is not given.
    - Guides - if a guide has been reserved and goes unused because of a cancellation, the member will be charged \$50/hunt.
  - o Annual Waiver of Liability – all members and guests are required to sign the Waiver on an annual basis. Please make sure your guests sign upon their arrival to the Club
  - o When making a reservation, please specify if your party includes young children. This will greatly help Tye with quantities of food in planning meals.
- Hunting Rules
  - o Only two hunters per blind. Jeremy has the right to make exceptions to the rule and has final word.
  - o Alcohol is strictly prohibited in the blinds.
  - o Guns are to be unloaded anywhere on the Club grounds, except in a blind or skeet shooting.
  - o Please use the new locker room for all gun cleaning activities. Do not use the Lodge towels, rags, and bed comforters for this purpose.

## **Room Rate with Meals Cost Increase**

As you may have noticed with your own grocery store (or curbside) visits, food prices have gone up significantly. The Club has historically been close to break-even on food and kitchen staff costs. In analyzing last year's actual costs, the Club carried a significant loss. We want to provide quality meals and know the importance of this part of the Port Bay experience. To do this, the Board is implementing an increase in the Room Charge for nights stayed with meals. The fee will be raised from \$70/person/night to \$85/person/night for regular room and from \$90 to \$105 for a suite, effective November 4, 2022. Below are data points for reference on fees and the costs:

- Current meal charge per person per day: \$15.00
- 2021 average meal cost per person per day: \$27.70
- 2021 average meal loss per person per day: (\$12.70)
- 2021 annual loss on meals: (\$10,147.30)

I hope everyone can get down to the Club this fall and enjoy the sunrises and sunsets, comradery, and with some luck, great duck hunting this winter. Rebuilding our membership remains the priority for the foreseeable future and I encourage all members to help in this effort. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Jonathan

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