

# PORT BAY CLUB

EST  
HUNTING **1912** FISHING  
Rockport, Texas



## Port Bay Club Newsletter

September 11, 2023

Greetings Fellow Port Bay Club Members,

I hope everyone had a great summer and was able to make it down to the Club to fish and relax. There were fish to be caught and shade to be found on the front porch and under the CRR. The summer started with a much-appreciated healthy shot of rain. Despite abnormally low tides and a drop off in rain throughout the summer, the fishing was still pretty darn good. Redfish and black drum could be found up shallow on the flats and sand bars. The Picton and Lucci area outside of Swan Lake is always a great place to start if you're looking for a tailing redfish to sight cast. The trout have bounced back from the 2021 freeze and healthy fish once again can be found in numbers. My favorite spot for a short boat ride has been the oyster reefs off the west side of Italian Point. The summer rounded out with the Port Bay Annual Member-Guest Fishing Tournament in August. Please see separate letter from organizer Emerson Hankamer for a full run-down of the weekend's events and winners.

Tye, Jeremy, and our awesome team have set a fever pace getting ready for the 2023 duck season. Blind brushing, boat prep, and motor tune-ups are well underway with the first weekend of teal season wrapping up. Despite the heat, 86 teal were killed this past weekend, with 56 coming from Saturday alone. There are



still two weeks left in teal season. Get down for some live practice before November's start of big duck season! US Fish and Wildlife Service's annual population survey is reporting a 16% increase in green-winged teal, a 24% increase in Pintail, and a 13% drop in Redhead populations from 2022. The full report can be found on [ducks.org](https://ducks.org) and YouTube.

### **Club Improvements**

Along with prepping for the upcoming duck season, Tye has a handful of Club improvement projects underway.

AEP will be out this fall to set two new poles to get power over to the future guide house. Along with power, Tye is working on extending water and septic service to make the building usable for our guides to have a place to rest on campus during duck season. Miguel's trailer will also be moved once the infrastructure is in place. Tye has ordered three new skiff motors to cycle out the oldest in the fleet. Crews are starting Wednesday on the installation of a new fence that will run from the entrance to the end of Port Bay Rd. The new entrance will be recessed and the gate to the dugout blind will be moved for ease of access. The new fence will be a tremendous help for Tye in keeping the public off Club property adjacent to the kayak launch.

A huge thank you to Nathan Allen for donating towards the cost for the new fence. Nathan has pledged to cover 50% of the cost. The estimated total cost for the fence, motors, and guide house improvements is \$36,000. Treasurer John Ferrata keeps the Club in budget throughout the year with a healthy safety net, but any additional member contributions to help fund improvements are greatly appreciated. Please reach out to John at [jb3@nlineauto.com](mailto:jb3@nlineauto.com) or 281.797.9059 if you would like to contribute to the projects. Every little bit counts. A suggested donation amount is \$350.

### **Welcome New Members!**

Please join me in welcoming our new members that have joined this year! I look forward to getting the opportunity to meet you this fall and winter.

- August "Gus" Schneiderheinz – Regular Member
- David McWilliams – Regular Member
- John Ferrata IV – Regular Member
- Enzo Pellegrino – Regular Member
- Chris Schneider – Regular Member
- Rick Grellier – Regular Member
- R. Alex Barclay – Junior Member

I am deeply saddened to share that we have lost two beloved members of our Club this year. Dr. Bill Cox, a passionate member since 1974, passed this summer. Dr. Cox loved the Club. His visits down, all the way up until this past duck season, will be greatly missed. He saw the Club through highs and lows, and always helped wherever he could to keep the Club going. Dr. Cox's family has requested we fly his American Flag from his time in the US Air Force. We will always humbly remember his service to our country and passion for the Port Bay Club.

Equally as passionate for the Club was Kirby Taylor, who passed away in March of this year. Kirby joined in 2020 as Junior Member and was never far to be found once duck season was around the corner. Whether training his retrievers or scouting the marsh, Kirby approached our sport with unrivaled enthusiasm. Kirby served the Board last year as junior member representative. He wanted to be involved and help in any way he could for the good of the Club. I am honored to have gotten to know Kirby before his passing. Kirby's kindness and passion for the Port Bay Club was infectious and felt by everyone around him. In honor of Kirby, we are dedicating marsh blind #9 to him, renaming it "Kirby's Blind".



### **Note from Tye**

*Greetings all -*

*The club is in good shape thanks to some recent rain brought to us by Tropical Storm Harrold. We ended up getting about two inches and although I would have liked to have gotten more, we'll take anything we get at this point. The fishing has picked up a little and hopefully that will hold through September and into the fall as temperatures begin to drop (eventually).*

*Speaking of Fall, duck season is right around the corner and will be here before we know it. I took a walk through the marsh this week and wish I had a better report, but there is very little grass. The combination of low summer rainfall, high temperatures, and VERY low tides for the last three months have unfortunately taken their toll. However, the bay is looking really good as far as grass is concerned and I'm hopeful that late rains will maybe turn things around at the last minute for the marsh.*

*As you all know, this summer has been a struggle for A/C units as they've been working overtime to counter the heat. I ask that everyone visiting the club be mindful of that, making sure doors are shut completely and keeping the thermostats at a reasonable level.*

*Also, please keep the dock as clean as possible when fishing. This includes not leaving dead bait scattered around, emptying, and storing bait buckets at the end of your visit, and returning anything borrowed from the motor shed.*

*If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me any time.*

*Thanks all and I hope to see you at the club soon.*

*Tye*

Thank you to all Port Bay Club members for your continued support of the longest continuously running Hunting Club in Texas. As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I hope to you see this fall!

Jonathan

**Jonathan Clarkson**

**President**

**Port Bay Hunting and Fishing Club**

**832.275.6582**

**[Jonathan.m.clarkson@gmail.com](mailto:Jonathan.m.clarkson@gmail.com)**