

# VENTURING MAGAZINE

## A New Adventure at Sea Scout Base Galveston

May 2015



Sea Scouts in the Houston area have an eight-year tradition of a Spring Long Cruise. In the past it was camping and cooking at a marina for smaller boats. In 2015, we had a wonderful opportunity to have the first week-long Sea Scout long cruise at Sea Scout Base Galveston (SSBG), a brand new facility on the Gulf Coast.

SSBG is the brainchild of Charles and Rosemary Doolin, who have invested their time and treasure in building a wonderful facility. It allows Scouts and the public an opportunity to learn about the coastal aquatic

environment and the skills that a recreational or professional mariner needs to operate safely on the water.

Sea Scout Ships 1996, 846, 26, and 1332 combined forces to put on a joint program. We offered a Scout Lifeguard class (all passed!), Swimming, Lifesaving, Rowing, Small Boat Sailing and Motorboating merit badges. We provided all the hands-on activities/classes for the Sea Scout ranks of Apprentice, Ordinary, and Able. Sea Scouts holding the Ordinary and Able ranks taught some of the classes to further their pursuit of the Quartermaster rank, the highest in Sea Scouting.



We sailed small boats called FJs and medium-sized boats called Sonars in the afternoons, when it was a little warmer. We had a rigid inflatable safety boat available for the inevitable capsizes (but the Sea Scouts righted themselves every time). All of this was provided by SSBG. SSBG also has larger sloops and ketches under the supervision of Coast Guard licensed captains. Finally, it has a retired 82' Coast Guard cutter, the SSS Point Glass and a 100' educational vessel, the Bay Smart.

Some of our youth earned ranks during the week, so we held Bridges of Review at night when they were needed. And we capped off the week by a crew of Sea Scouts cooperating with the United States Power Squadron to survey the navigational aids in the Offatts Bayou, confirming they were in the right position (to 10 feet by GPS!) and undamaged. This was an Eagle Scout service project by Jason Fink, the boatswain of Ship 846.

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