

Chesapeake Catboat News

Vol. 19 Summer edition David Bleil, Editor Issue 2



Next events

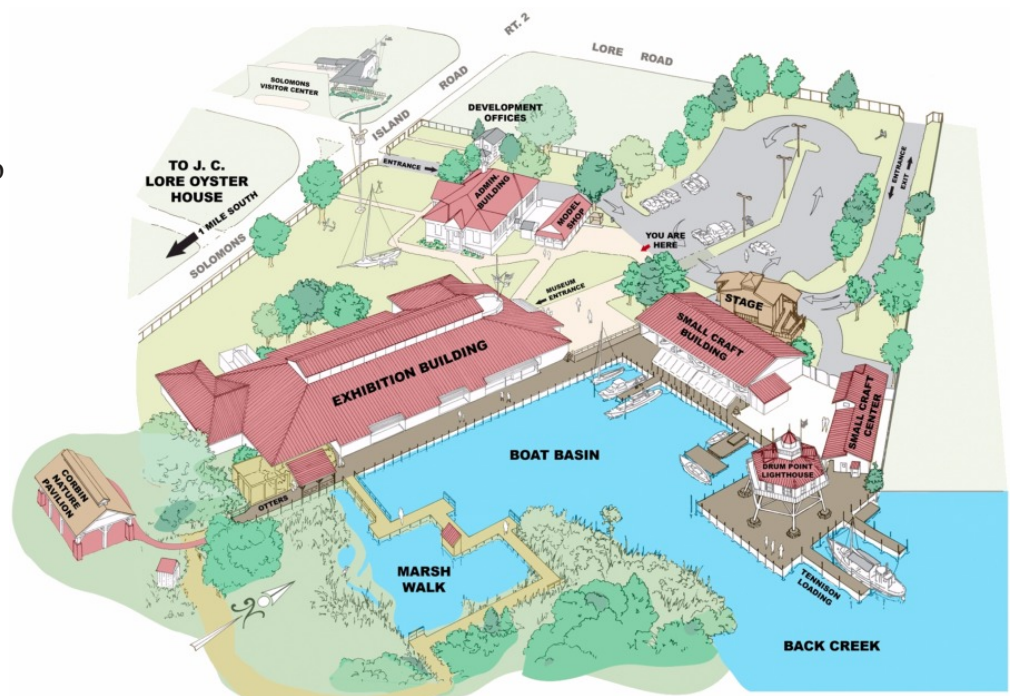
The Southern MD CCBA contingent will again host the Patuxent Shootout at the Calvert Marine Museum at Solomons, MD over the July 4th weekend. Sail or trailer in on Saturday the 2nd, race and potluck will be on the 3rd with departure on the 4th. If anyone wants to stay longer, there are plenty of marinas as well as anchorage space just outside the museum area.

This year we have split up the Shootout duties. Butch Garren (410-394-0014) and Al Suydam (410-326-5242) are coordinating the event with the museum so any questions about the museum and its facilities should be directed to them. For those wanting to trailer their boat in, there is a launch facility under the bridge just as you enter Solomons. Dockage will be in the museum basin just behind the Drum Point Lighthouse. There may be a skipjack tied up in the basin, but there should be plenty of space for our fleet. Note that there is a bathroom/sink in the boat shop that we have access to, but no shower. We will try to accommodate those wishing to take a shower. There is also a frig in the shop if we need it. Please contact Steve Flesner (410-586-8179) if you are going to attend and let him know what you would like to bring to the potluck..thus avoiding 5

jello salad dishes!!

We are having ham and turkey in lieu of firing up the barbeque and calling the fire department! After we are through telling lies about the race we will commence "happy hour" discreetly as there will be museum visitors in the area until 5pm. shortly after that we will begin an assault on the pot-luck dishes!!

Butler Smythe (410-326-4626) is organizing the race, thus the appeal for wind!! We have a committee boat lined up. The race course will be announced once we get organized under the lighthouse. The skipper's meeting will begin at 11:30 on Sunday July 3rd and the race approximately one hour later. We have some unique trophies that Butch Garren, our engraver has made so all we need is for three of us to cross



The layout of the mooring basin for the Shootout on the Patuxent.

the finish line for a change!!! Looking forward to seeing a good turnout. The museum is pleased to have us at their facility and will be advertising our event, so who knows, we may even convince someone to buy a catboat!! We also expect museum visitors to be asking questions about our catboats and possibly peeking down below..so cover the sand box and tidy up!! Any additional information will be posted on our website.

by Steve Flesner

Corsica River Race weekend July 23 and 24.

The details will be on the websites -theirs [www.cryc.org] and ours. On their site, check out the tab for CRYC Annual Regatta. David Park is our contact person for this event. The Race weekend has historically take place at the Conquest Beach county park. However this year's CRYC Annual Regatta will be hosted at the CRYC Ship Point facility directly on the Corsica River on July 23 & 24th. The site looks great and is ready for a major regatta/party this year with hot showers waiting for you. The usual schedule is to sail in Friday evening and spend the night at anchor. Registration is at 8:30 AM saturday. Skippers meeting will be at 10:00 AM. There is coffee and breakfast pastry available for purchase both Saturday and Sunday morning. The specific course for each class would be determined the morning of the first day and be set to establish at least one windward leg. The rationale for this option is to take advantage of the distance from Ship Point into the Chester by making it a race rather than just a transit. Because of the change in venue it is essential to check their website and ours for up to the minute details not yet available.

There is traditionally a catered barbeque

dinner Saturday evening complete with Bluegrass band. Dinner tickets must be reserved in advance at registration. Ice for the trip home can be ordered in advance as well.

There is no ramp for trailerable boats, although there are some in the area. Persons planning to trailer a boat they can not manhandle down the beach need to do some research for a ramp in the area which meets their needs. We are guests of the Corsica River Yacht Club and we follow their rules.

The primary focus of the CREYC is youth sailing and there will be several classes of very small sailors in very small boats. The organizers have done a superb job in the past of keeping separated the small fast class racers and the "ponderous" Catboats. This event combines a series of short races over Saturday and Sunday morning to yield an overall award per class. The reigning champion for the series is Ben Heilman in his Marshall Sandpiper. Catboats are considered one class, large or small, they score them all. They do use our handicap numbers for our class if we remember to supply them.

Past events

Report of the Annual Meeting March 5.

We had a quorum for our annual meeting, at least 35 members showed up at the Severn Inn and the room was set for 48 so there was space for expansion. The exhibit tables held a couple



31 Foot Cat Ketch, Wood and Traditional ?

Yup, sounds bout right for a young fella like Brown

of model Catboats, recommended readings and examples of the Association Burgee for sale. The view was spectacular, as always with some intrepid sailors apparently out from the Naval Academy in small boats on cold water. During the sampling of the offerings of the bar there was lively discussion of the rather unusual 31 foot wood Cat Ketch offered on the CBA website. After a period of socializing Commodore Cruder reminded us that he still does not have a portfolio and called the meeting to order.

We had a short report on the Catboat Association Annual Meeting in Mystic and a review of the event s scheduled for this year. A chart of the annual long cruise, set for June 12 through June 18 was posted showing the nightly anchorages as planned. Adjustments can and will be made for contingencies of weather and tide (and possibly bugs). Butler Smythe reported that there is a schedule conflict at the Calvert Marine Museum and we will likely have to find another venue for the event this year. Thus plans for the Patuxent Shootout are still rather fluid. The Corsica River Yacht Club race weekend drew only three boats from CCBA last year. This year we are hopeful that more of the regulars will bring their boats to this well managed, fun event on July 23 and 24. Thunder storms have a high probability at this time of year. Bring your big anchor. The Great Whitehall Bay Race went so well last year one can only wonder what new treats will be in store for us over the Labor Day weekend. This year the Prospect Bay Catboat Race will occur before the Old Salt Race which will be sailed from the Miles River to the Western Shore. The change is intended to improve the Catboat participation in this Chesapeake Traditional Sailboat event. The last event for the year is a sail in rendezvois not a race. We gather at the St. Michaels Maritime Museum

for the Small Craft Festival. There will be a museum admission charge. After the Small Craft Festival closes we retire to David and Maryanne Bevan's summer home for a pot luck meal and gam. Not a CCBA event but one of note – Shoveller has been invited to participate in the Downrigging weekend in Chestertown on October 27 through 30. There will be more details in a future newsletter but put the event on your calenders.

Schedule modifications – The Parson Island Circumnavigation Race?

This event has been in the planning stages for a couple of years and this is the year we *might* actually pull it off. Notice will be short and probably sent by email or phone only. Butch Miller is the contact person for this event.

Short Report of the Cruise to the Island.

This represents the abbreviated Cliff's Notes version. Commodore (w/o portfolio) Cruder's detailed and polished prose should appear in the next issue.



The only marina on Smith Island and a welcome addition for the cruiser. Steve and Pauli (shown here) Eads run the marina and a B&B. They are gracious hosts and run a clean and friendly place.



Dry land is rare on Smith Island.

This year the cruise attracted the largest number and variety of boats in my memory. The largest boat in the fleet was Shoveler and the smallest was Tatt00. The appearance of a cold front and its associated high winds caused Tatt00 to reconsider and return to the relative safety of the Patuxent river. New this year were; Planet, a wood Witholtz 25 (Martin Gardner), Tatt00, a home built 14' pocket ship (Peter McCrary) and two Nonsuch 22's - Rejoice (Alan Suydam with crew Steve Flesner) and Whiskers (Butch Garren and grandson Scott). Bill Bell returned with a new to him Marshall 22 Bobbin . Returning cruisers included Wanderer (Marc Cruder with crew John Brown), Dusty (Butch Miller), Winter's Dream (Jack Smith),

Caerulean (Bytler Smythe), Gull (David Bleil), Shoveler (Mike Crawford with crew son Tristen and Richard McLaughlin).

The first night the fleet assembled in Brooks Creek and the kayaks were out and about. The first Dark & Stormy's of the season were produced. That night the wind piped up and everyone started out the next morning well reefed down.



A couple of boats felt the need of fuel and ice and went to the Slaughter Creek Marina. The short trip across the Little Choptank convinced Gull to tie in the third reef. Most boats were able to get under the fixed bridge on Hooper's Island although a few of the larger boats went on around the lower tip of the island. By the time all the boats reached the shelter of Fox Creek some adjustments to the sea state and wind had to be made. Caerulean also went back to the Patuxent to drop off a kayak which had proved tedious to tow.

Both of the Nonsuch 22's came through Kedges Strait the next day to rejoin the cruise at the Somer's Cove Marina in Chrisfield. The larger boats went outside of Bloodsworth and Marsh Island, enjoying an exhilarating day of surfing the rollers which had a fetch all the way from Baltimore. Gull and Dusty took the inside passage seeking some shelter from the same. Everyone arrived at the Jane's Island Light at about the same time regardless of the route they chose. The availability of ice, hot showers and a swimming pool was welcome after a day of sailing under challenging conditions. Chrisfield is littered with bankrupt real-estate developments which have seriously constricted the working waterfront. The Captain's Galley was closed but other crab

oriented seafood emporiums were open and we found and patronized them. With the wind and seas still up there was no rush to leave the comfortable marina. We walked and explored Chrisfield Wednesday morning. Early afternoon provided enough time to stock up on ice and head across to Ewell on Smith Island. With the wind on the nose and considerable traffic in the channel some chose to motor, some chose to sail. Whiskers chose to sail back to the Patuxent after encountering engine troubles entering the Big Thoroughfare. Local help was unavailable. The only marina on Smith Island is in Ewell and we filled it, stacking two boats to a slip where possible. The marina was comfortable and secure. The associated B&B is Chesapeake Sunrise Bed and Breakfast also run by Capt. Steve and Pauli Eads. We encountered several Islanders who were attempting to adapt the island to a more versatile, tourist oriented economy. They realize that crabs are insufficient to support the island's population and tourists require accommodations. The last time I had visited the island there were no Bed and Breakfasts. Now there are several. But travelers still have to make pre arrangements to eat at a local restaurant after 4:00 PM. And for those of you who could not make the cruise to Smith Island, there are other ways to get there. Check out www.smithislandcruises.com. The ferry that used to run from Point Lookout to Ewell on Smith Island is now operating out of Solomons Island running to Smith Island on Friday and Saturday.

Thursday we chose to leave all but Shoveller there and use her to carry us all to Tylerton for lunch, prearranged by Larry Antonik. Larry met us mid channel standing up in 14 foot Dudley Dix sailing skiff sailed by a friend, Peter Alexander. Larry was doing his best imitation of George Washington crossing the Delaware.

Tylerton had an air of more prosperity than Ewell, possibly reflecting the cash influx from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the shoals of students staying there for environmental education classes. Nothing explained the Peacock, Peahen and their chicks but they were there. One never knows just what to expect on a CCBA cruise. Also unexpected was Tom Horton who was leading a Univ. of VA field trip through the marshes of the area. Steve Flesner flagged him down and we had him autograph a couple of the books he had written about Smith Island (Island out of Time).

Friday morning the fleet split up. Bill Bell sailed for home. Dusty, Gull and Wanderer sailed for Crisfield to explore the Annemessex canal behind Jane's Island State Park. The canal was wide and the wind from behind made sailing up the canal easy. Unfortunately, too easy. An imprudent decision to try to take a photo while sailing left Gull with a creosoted hull from scraping a sea-wall in the park. The rest of the fleet sailed the direct route west out of Smith Island then through Kedges Strait and up the



Sunrise over quiet Dames Quarter.

Wicomico River to Dames Quarter, Larry Antonik's home. Again we enjoyed Larry's hospitality, showers, local dining knowledge and the wildlife of the marshes (mostly winged).

Dinner was spectacular at a local establishment which featured an unusual menu including Oysters, Oyster Pizza and Buckram crab. It was all delicious in spite of some initial trepidations at the names of things. Saturday was planned for a sail on an actual working skipjack. However a medical emergency on the part of the skipper led to a cancelation of the sail and only a tour of the boat.

Some boats left early Saturday, others left after noon but all found their way home without difficulties.

Future events to put on the calender

Whitehall Bay Race

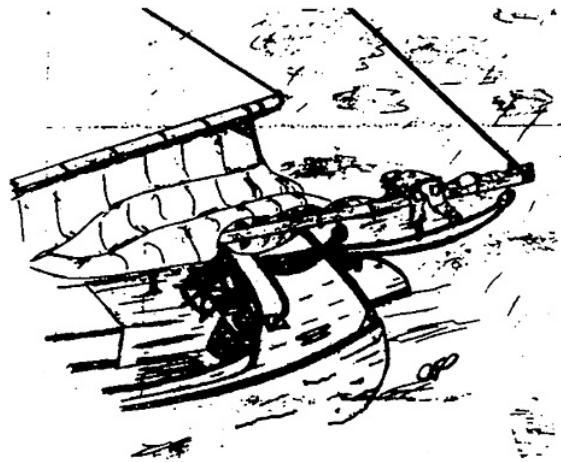
Plan to sail in to the Providence Yacht Club on Saturday September 3rd. The race will be Sunday, Sept. 4 in Whitehall Bay followed by a pot luck at the Club House and presentation of awards, including the Bill Hoover memorial perpetual trophy. A newsletter with more complete details should go out before this event.

News of Members and New Members

Club Burgees are available now in two sizes. Our Association Burgee was designed and produced by Mary Dunn for many years. It is now being produced by Butch Miller. Burgees identify you as a member of a recognized yachting community and really dress up a boat. They are now available in two sizes to fit Catboats both large and small. Call Butch at 410-271-2540 to order yours

Way in the future events

July 2012 The Catboat Association will be



Asked why the old fisherman always took a boy along, he responded - 'cuz he was quicker with the reefs!

having a sail in weekend at the Mystic Seaport Museum. The last such gathering was 21 years ago and drew Catboats from the Mid-Atlantic and the North East. It might be worth thinking about trailering up to the Mystic area and sailing in to the Museum. Future issues of the Bulletin will have more details so mark your 2012 calenders now.

Photo credits

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Page three - Steve Flesner

Page four top - Steve Flesner, bottom David Bleil

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Page six - Dave Park (Parktoon)