

# CHESAPEAKE CATBOAT NEWS

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David Bleil, Editor

Issue 1

## CATBOAT ASSOCIATION 45TH ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 2-4 IN NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND.

The Hyatt Regency Hotel on Goat Island will be flying the burgee of the Catboat Association starting Friday February 2nd in the evening. From 6 PM to 8 PM there will be a social gathering, sharing of photographs and tall tales of sailing adventures from the year past. The Hoovers used to designate their room as a gathering spot for Chesapeake Catboaters so look for a small CCBA burgee on the door of the room where the chief of Chesapeake Catboat restoration and the editor/treasurer will be holding forth.

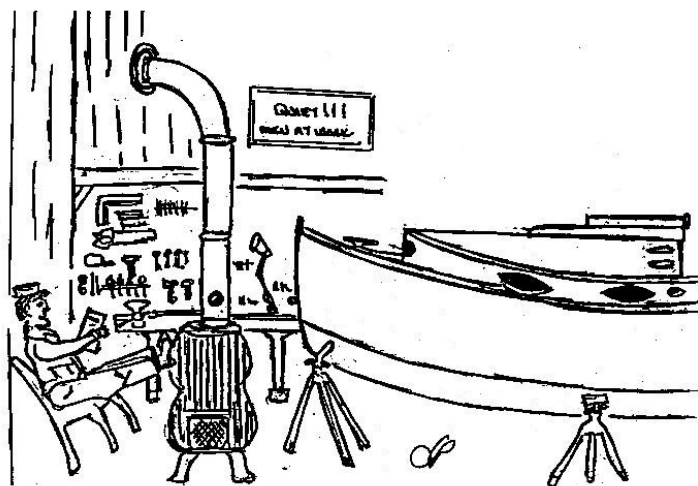
The small burgee is a gift to the Association from Mary Dunn (who incidentally is still ready to make a few for members who do not yet have theirs. Bring your @20.00 to the our annual meeting on March 10 and she will custom make one for you).

On Saturday there will be (weather permitting) an A-Cat on display in the parking area. This year the Catboat Sailing for Beginners will revert to the old guard conducting the session because

Marc Cruder has a scheduling conflict. Two concurrent sessions are scheduled for most of Saturday morning including a Field trip to the International Yacht Restoration School the worlds largest recyclers of Beetle Cats. Topics of the Saturday sessions include sailmaking and engine maintenance, knots and more. The featured speaker will be Gary Jobson who will be exploring the A-Cat's history. There

is also scheduled to be a first ever Catboater's ball with a Key West – Jimmy Buffett theme. Another attempt to make life interesting for the non-fanatic sailor side of the family

These meetings are always the best way to deal with February when it is too cold to even think about getting out and scraping away on the old boat although we have been remarkably lucky so far. Whether the weatherman can promise to avoid all traces of a February blizzard between Maryland and Rhode Island remains to be seen.



My Gawd Ma ! They wants dues agin ! \$15.00  
They mus think we is rich !

## CHESAPEAKE CATBOAT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY MARCH 10 FROM 1 TO 4 PM (1300 TO 1600) IN ANNAPOLIS AT SEVERN INN

This is our one business meeting of the

year where we set the schedule of events, collect the dues, find out who has and who has not sold their boat and generally recharge our internal batteries for the sailing season just ahead. There will even be a door prize for a randomly selected attendee but you must be present to win. So plan on it and mark your calendars. Dues are \$15.00 per year which cover the costs of the web site, the newsletter mailings and a portion of the events. Checks must be made out to David Bleil, Treasurer. Anything else will be refused by the Credit Union where our funds are kept. There is a brightly colored sheet included in this mailing. That is for the updating of the membership directory. Please complete it and bring it with you so that the directory can be kept current. The directory is produced by Steve and Lois Flesner and will be emailed to those members who do not indicate that they prefer a mailed copy so please make sure that you check the appropriate box on the membership update form if you have a slow connection or no connection to the Internet.

This year will mark a departure from past patterns. We will be meeting at a restaurant for lunch instead of the pot luck meal. It should be less work for everyone and somebody else does the cleanup! According to the advance team, the menu ranges from \$9 to \$17 for sandwiches and from \$10 to \$18 for the lunch entrees. There is also a bar. The restaurant is easy to get to from either shore. Approaching from the East, cross the Bay Bridge on Rt. 50 and exit at the Route 450 "Naval Academy" exit before the Severn River bridge. It is an odd clover leaf requiring a right turn off the loop then a left at a light at the base of the hill. Follow Rt. 450 up to the light just before crossing the Naval Academy bridge. Turn left at the light then an almost immediate right into the access road to Jonas Green Park. The Severn Inn is the first building on the left.

From the West, take Route 50 to Annapolis. Exit at Rosco Rowe Blvd. and turn left at the second traffic light, Taylor Ave. When you reach a Yield sign go right onto Rt. 450 and follow that around past the Naval Academy, across the Severn River and turn right at the traffic light at the far end of the bridge. The Severn Inn will be visible at that intersection. Take the next possible right.

**POTENTIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2007  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE, ALTERATION, MODIFICATION  
OR ELIMINATION. STAY TUNED! DETAILS WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.**

1. Labor Day at Round Bay – Stefan Marculewics will host/coordinate this one again this year. Probably no shore meals, raft-up in Manider Creek on the South side of Round Bay. Focus on this event to get your boat in the water and ready to go. Race around the permanent marks of Round Bay.
2. Long Cruise to Deal Island in June 10 through June 17. Commodore Cruder recommends you come along. The cruise will be a little earlier in the season so we still should have good wind and sleeping weather. This is a relatively underpopulated region of the bay and should be free of speed boats but there will be crab pots in abundance. The usual details of where we congregate at the end of each day and navigation items of note will be presented at the annual meeting.
3. July 4th is not a weekend this year so the Patuxent River Shootout and cookout at Steve and Lois Flesner's house may have to shift a little. Details to be discussed and determined at the annual meeting. Guided tours of their new Mystic 20 are sure to be conducted for those who make it to Saint Leonards Creek.
4. Corsica River Yacht Club race series late July at Conquest Beach on the Chester river. The CRYC has a dandy web site to provide all the details as the time for the event draws closer and there is a link to their site from our site [www.chesapeakecatboats.org](http://www.chesapeakecatboats.org).
5. August (TBD) a trailer sailer event in Fenwick Island vicinity. Come and find out if there is wind at Ocean City because there isn't likely to be any on the Bay. Host is Jack Smith

(Winter's Dream). Details will be presented at the meeting.

6. Old Salt Race, a CTSA event. This race from the South River mouth to the Miles River mouth is held on a Friday because it used to feed into the traditional boat races at the St. Michaels Maritime Museum. Now it doesn't, but is still held on a Friday. It is a great way to get warmed up for the Prospect Bay Race the following day and get to mix it up with an eclectic assortment of old boats and an equally eclectic set of definitions of "close aboard".
7. Small Craft Festival at the St. Michaels Maritime Museum is in October. The date is not published yet but it is around Columbus Day. This event will displace the Wye Wild Goose Chase traditionally held on Columbus Day weekend (the weekend of the year with the highest probability of storms).
8. Dean Worchester Memorial Race in October. Another CTSA event in which Catboats are encouraged to participate but open to all traditional sailing designs.

Members are encouraged to propose, plan and implement additional events such as visits to unusual ports of call, races, raft-ups or any other fun thing to do in shoal draft boats. Bring your ideas to the annual meeting. You may actually end up with offers of help to get the idea implemented. And remember there will be a prize!

### **A REQUEST FOR YOUR 'REAL' CHRISTMAS TREES TO GO TO POPLAR ISLAND HABITAT RESTORATION.**

Chrissy Albanese has requested that any one who has a real evergreen type Christmas tree and would like to donate them to the Poplar Island habitat restoration project where they will be used as nesting structures for wood ducks and blackbirds in one of the completed wetland cells. She

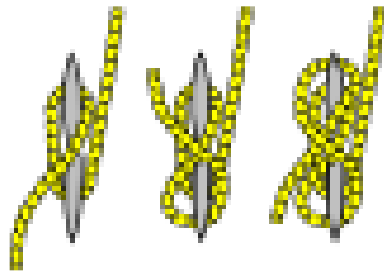
requests that the trees have all tinsel removed and be brought to the Tilghman Island land base any time in January. Perhaps some kind sole would volunteer to haul several trees to Tilghman in one trip. Any one have pickup truck to devote a trip to the cause? Chrissy notes that the ducks would be appreciateive but that you probably would not want any of them dropping a thank you. They are looking for 100 to 150 trees. Progress on Poplar Island includes two completed and fully planted cells, an confirmed nesting of American Oystercatchers with one successfully raised youngster. This is the northernmost nesting of Oystercatchers in the Chesapeake Bay. Send a note to [ChrissyAlbanese@earthlink.net](mailto:ChrissyAlbanese@earthlink.net) or call her at 410-770-6503if you would like more details on the Christmastree re-use program.

### **CTSA EVENTS AND THE DEAM WORCESTER MEMORIAL RACE - LAST EVENT OF 2006**

Marc Cruder finished first in the Old Salt Race in *Wanderer* after encountering the endless finish line bug in the CTSA racing regs. Discussion of the issue at their year end awards ceremony seemed to tend toward tightening up the definition of "close aboard". There are always a few brave



sailors campaigning their Catboats in the Chesapeake Tradational Sailboat Association's last event of the year and this year Hoby Bauhan was the standard bearer, making this race the first of the season for him and *Sweet Pea*. It looks like we should see more of him this next season now that he has his new joints working for him.



### **RANDOM SIGHTINGS.**

Travelers crossing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge have undoubtedly seen a distinctive Catboat mast in the rental boat dock vicinity of Sandy Point State Park. Curiosity overcame my reluctance to part with the entrance fee and I checked it out. The boat is *Doubler*, a Marshall 22 specifically modified to be sailed by sailors in wheel chairs or other physical challenges. All the lines lead back to the after portion of the cockpit and are secured by substantial cam cleats so the operators do not have to move about the boat to work any lines. The boat is property of the CRAB organization which is an acronym (whose meaning I failed to record) an organization dedicated to providing recreational opportunities for persons with physical limitations. The organization has a headquarters building in the Park at the marina. We should at least advise them of our schedule of events and see if some one in their group wants to take *Doubler* to some of our local activities

### **RULES OF VARNISHING I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO RELEARN.**

1. A heat gun is an essential tool for removing multiple layers of aged varnish. When the temperature is exactly right, it comes right

off in large curls. When the temperature is almost exactly right, varnish is an intractable gooey mess.

2. The smell of warm varnish reminds me of the smell of extracting honey from the bee hives in my younger days. It is a pleasant aroma. The aroma that reminds me of the wood burning set of my youth is not at all pleasant under the circumstances.
3. Different orientations of wood grain absorb varnish differently and in some cases completely.
4. When the varnish has been applied – do not do anything else in the shop for the rest of the day and do not sand or sweep anything in the same county for the rest of the day.
5. The best way to avoid circumferential drips on a spar is to orient it vertically. The old timers varnished their masts while erected in the boat, which also helps adhere the mast to the step.

### **NEWS OF MEMBERS AND NEW MEMBERS**

*Pandora* is about to have a sister. Ares Pond Boat Works has received an order for a new 20 foot Catboat based on Bernie Huddlestun's *Pandora*. Because Bernie never drew up plans for the boat (he lofted the plan full size on the floor of his shop) Ares Pond is planning to make a new set of plans by taking the lines off the existing boat. If more than one Catboat connoisseur is willing to place an order, there may be some new fast cats to keep an eye out for in the future.

Steve Flesner continues his illustrated Catboat travelogue with regular web postings of fabulous photos. He is also promising to spend as much time with his *Mystic 20 Tuppernock* as he does with his RV. He is replacing the shaft, possibly the cutlass bearing and enlarging the rudder. He has located a diesel mechanic in the area to help him with the shaft issue and possibly the rudder enlargement as well using the same design that Capt. Hoover developed for *Gull*. If the current mild

weather holds for another couple of months all will be well and Tuppernook will be in the water this Spring.

James Pyles is rebuilding the Palmer inboard in his Marshall 22. Fortunately Karl Allen was able to point him to a source of supply for a needed part in Annapolis. We are all looking forward to seeing *Independence* in the water this coming year and trying to figure out how a Marshall 22 morphed into an Eagle in the last directory. It is a never ending source of amazement to me how these typos perpetuate, replicate and reappear. Please send in your corrections folks so we can keep making the directory better and more accurate.

The current mild weather has been most helpful for my project to replace the toe rails on Gull. The original ones appear to have been teak. The new ones will be white oak and, at least initially, larger than the wood they are replacing. Thirty years of sanding and varnishing can make any piece of wood a lot smaller. Butch Miller is serving as the master carpenter for this job with me serving as his understudy and occasionally useful assistant. The oak needed to be steam bent to follow the curves of the hull in two dimensions with a minimum amount of twist. So there have been days when the driveway looked as if it had were a cooling tower for a power plant with clouds of steam issuing from the silvery steam box. Steamed oak has a mind of its own and I have been amazed at the kinks and twists that the wood develops after its internal friction has been reduced through heat. The replacement rails and taking the mast down to bare wood and rebuilding the varnish has certainly given me lots of outside time this season and opportunities for building new skills.

*Pussy Foot'N* will be getting an engine overhaul this Winter with the installation of

a tachometer, fuel gauge and some necessary hose replacements to keep the Universal Medalist in top condition for the 2007 season. The work will be done by Karl Allen at his Edgemere shop.

Don Dunn has made an impressive recovery from his fall out of a deer hunting tree stand. In addition to recovering from his knee replacement surgery he had to recover from broken ribs, a punctured lung and a multitude of bruises. He is presently on target to recover the necessary mobility to sail *Granmary* to the CCBA events next season.

Capt. Gerald LaMarque from Solomons Island has joined us. He sails a 14.5 foot Handy Cat, Hull No.32, named *Catnip*. Unfortunately for us, he sails *Catnip* at his Summer home in Vinyard Haven, MA.

However he has considered bringing the boat to the Chesapeake. In addition to being a long time Catboat sailer he is a certified marine surveyor and we can all use a marine surveyor from time to time.

There are a record number of Catboats listed for sail in the latest CBA Bulletin. Anyone looking for a boat or seeking to upgrade (Now really! How can you upgrade from a Catboat?) should check out the widest range of offerings in many years.

