



# Chesapeake Catboat News

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## Next Events-

### **Mid Atlantic Small Craft Festival,**

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels Maryland October 4 & 5. Plan to sail in Saturday, tour the boats and boat builders on display, spend the night in the harbor and sail home on Sunday. Small boat builders from all over the East Coast bring in examples of their work and they camp out on the Museum grounds. St Michaels is an interesting, walkable town with ample places to eat even if you are not interested in the Museum. If you do not tow a dinghy there is Water Taxi service available to get you to and from your boat to town. David and Maryanne Bevan have again offered to host a last of the season potluck, 5:00 PM at their summer town home 252 Perry Cabin Drive, St. Michaels. The presentation of the awards for the Prospect Bay Race and the annual W.I. Tuttle Memorial perpetual trophy will be made at the dinner. The dinner does not depend on good sailing weather. There is ample parking available in front of the town houses. Look for the CCBA burgee on the front door.

For this event please contact David Park 1 302-684-3641 or cats4sea@gmail.com to RSVP. Please do not call the Bevans.

### **Wye Wild Goose Chase revived.**

Columbus Day Weekend October 11,12,13. Plan is to meet in Dividing Creek on the East Branch of the Wye Saturday night for a raft up. Wye Island is mostly an undeveloped wildlife management area which attracts vast flocks or migrating waterfowl at this time of year. There are several launch ramps in the area including Wye Landing off Wye Landing

Road, Newcomb off Saint Michaels Road, and Clairborene fronting Eastern Bay. These are county ralmps and a use fee applies. Butch Miller probably knows of several others in the area. Sunday we plan to explore several branches of the Wye, spend the night in the West Branch and sail home Monday (Federal Holiday). This is a flexible, weather dependent itinerary. Sailors could make it a two day event, stay over Saturday night and start home Sunday afternoon if they choose.

## Also of interest-

Sultana Downrigging Weekend Oct 31 - November 2 in Chestertown, MD. Friday Party foot of High St., concert, Tall ships Illuminated (great photo op.) Saturday sail on the tall ships (fee varies by ship), concerts, tall ships illuminated & fireworks. Sunday sail on the tall ships, concert and fireworks rain date.

## Past Events

### **2014 Corsica River Yacht Club Annual Regatta July 26 and 27**

The Annual Regatta is a perennial favorite. Several traditions have developed around this event. The first of these being that boats sailing in on the Friday before are invited to stay at the Rock Hall Yacht club just across the Chester River from the Corsica. This year Richard McLaughlin and Mike Crawford were our member hosts at Rock Hall. **Gull, Wanderer** and **Sarah K** sailed up the Chester to the small docks at the RHYC. The Yacht Club provided showers, a pool and a steady flow of Dark & Stormies. We received a call from Richard McLaughlin that he was having engine start problems and would be a bit late.



provided the information for this year's courses and the flags and horns of the start sequence. During the skipper's meeting the sky's opened up and heavy rain convinced the committee to delay the start a bit. The only CCBA member not sitting out the downpour was Dave Park who had become concerned with the threatening weather and had started home. He was waiting for the Kent Narrows draw bridge when the deluge struck and was possibly considering changing the name of **Sarah K** to **Sitting**

**Shoveller** with Mike Crawford aboard arrived later. With all fed and clean, the fleet moved from the dock to the mooring field to anchor for the night, with the exception of **Gull** who remained on the pier to keep the shore side facilities accessible. That was a bad strategic decision. During the night the wind switched to the South and the wave trains came rolling up the Chester. The Rock Hall Yacht Club on Langford Creek is completely exposed to waves from that direction. **Gull** and crew spent the night bouncing off the fenders.

**Duck.**

Catboats are only one class in this Regatta. We share the course with other boats but each class is started separately so part of the challenge is staying out of the way of the classes starting before us while being close enough to be ready when it is our turn. **Gull** went out with two reefs in and shook one out before the start of the first race. At the start we found **Tenacity** waiting for us, living up to her name. Richard had sailed to the start line without a working engine and was ready to race. On the first race **Gull** pulled ahead of everyone else and once in the clean air stayed there. The second race she did it again.

Saturday morning early the fleet sailed through a light fog to the Corsica River and dropped anchor off the Corsica River Yacht Club property. A skippers meeting with coffee and donuts provided,

The order of finish for the two races combined was:



The view of the finish line from Gull's transom

1st <b>Gull</b>	Bleil & Ohlmacher
	R1-1, R2 -1
2nd <b>Wanderer</b>	Marc Cruder
	R1-3, R2 -2
3rd <b>Shoveller</b>	Michael Crawford
	R1-2, R2 -4
4th <b>Tenacity</b>	Richard McLaughlin
	R1 -4, R2-3
DNS <b>Sarah K.</b>	David Park

This year the organizers of the barbeque chicken feast Saturday evening tried a new group of entertainers. The bluegrass band was out and a DJ was in. There was an impressive number of participants actually dancing once the dining was

done and the tables moved out from the shelter. I suspect that the DJ will be back next year. The night was calm, the beer truck well attended and everyone slept well. No one dragged through the anchorage this year and the participants on their boats were happy that this event had not become a tradition.

Another tradition which has built up through the years is severe thunderstorms which blow through Sunday. Given the distances to home and Monday being a work day every one of the Catboats decided to skip any further racing on Sunday and try to beat the bad weather home. Tenacity made it home under sail.

### Great Whitehall Bay Regatta – Labor Day Weekend.

Butch Miller organized this year's CCBA's signature event and pulled it off in spite of the changes in the Providence Yacht Club environment. This year only two slips and the T-pier heads were available for boats sailing in which included **Mystic Wind**, **Sarah K**, **Wanderer** and **Gull**. A steady south west wind made the passage to Whitehall Bay easy. The Marshall Sanderlings **Anna** and **Bubbly** arrived by trailer and did not require overnight dock space. The hazy, hot and humid afternoon made the pool and the Dave Park is speechless after being found Clew-less.



Its not the **Silent Maid**, but what the heck! The captain and crew of **Anna** are all smiles receiving the Capt. William Hoover Memorial perpetual trophy,

shower much appreciated.

Sunday was race day starting with coffee and donuts. The course and start sequence instructions were distributed to each contestant. The wind continued from the South and continued building, necessitating the start line to be placed in an awkward location near the mouth of Whitehall Creek adjacent to shallows. The course was triangular, twice around followed by a windward / leeward leg. In every pass the boats had to cross the start line. As the skippers have become more experienced the start line has become more congested but the starting sequence worked well. Two races were sailed and the results combined to determine the overall standings.

Results of the combined two races were;

- 1st **Anna** Marshall Sanderling David Morrow
- 2nd **Bubbly** Marshall Sanderling Paul Cammaroto
- 3rd **Paws** Ares Pond Lynx 16 Richard Rogers & Jessica Rogers
- 4th **Wanderer** Whittholtz 25 Marc Cruder
- 5th **Gull** Mystic 20 Bleil & Ohlmacher
- 6th **Mystic Wind** Mystic 20 Craig Ligibel
- 7th **Sarah K** Herreshoff America David



## Park

The First Place Winner receives for one year the Capt. William Hoover memorial trophy to display. The Second and Third Place winners



Mattie Mohler draws winning tickets for the raffle while her grand parents look on.



Waiting for the fried chicken, the main table at Whitehall Bay

received Jefferson Cups, a tradition started by Bill Hoover when he created the event. Bill Hoover also started the "block head" award to recognize the most obvious screw-up during the event, but that award has since been



Calculating the results, applying the handicap corrections to compensate for the differences in size and design of the competing boats.

retired. To substitute for it Butch Miller created the Clew-less award out of the clew of an historic old skipjack sail. This year the temporary recipient of this perpetual trophy was David Park who managed to graze the outboard on the back of the committee boat during the start of the first race.

Steve Flesner provided material for a raffle thereby transferring his excess memorabilia of the 50th CBA meeting into someone else's memorabilia. Steve drafted Mattie Mohler, grand daughter of Richard Rogers to draw the tickets. Mattie and her mom, Jessica Mohler also sailed on *Paws*, so 3 generations were aboard on this race. The traditional pot luck dinner featuring more food than even hungry Catboaters can eat followed the awards and raffle.

That evening a few hearty souls spent the night on-board with every intention of leaving early to avoid the predicted severe weather. Severe weather arrived overnight with rain and an enthusiastic excess of lightning. By the next morning the Bay was calm. The remaining Catboats motored home without incident.



View to the West as the thunder storm rolls through Providence marina.



Buoys out / buoys in. Then buoys out again. The Prospect Bay race bouy boogie.

## Prospect Bay Catboat Race, September 13-14

Hosts Roger and Jill Compton set out a race course buoys for Saturday afternoon just in time for lots of rain and very little wind. Heading out in foul weather gear *Sarah K* and *Gull* were greeted by the soggy crew of *Wanderer* inbound. Our Commodore, having experienced the weather firsthand on the 5 hour trip from the western shore, announced that "no one could race under these conditions" and we should plan to hold the race on Sunday. So Roger and Jill retrieved the buoys in the

rain and also retrieved the three Marshall Sanderlings who had launched from trailers in Prospect Bay and were looking for the rest of the fleet. While venting their frustration, the crews of the Marshall Cats (plus dogs - Biscuit and LuLu) came ashore at the Compton's pier or an adjacent neighbors pier. A well supplied bar and a dry house kept everyone happy through an equally well supplied dinner. Normal presentations of trophies had to be postponed until the next day when the race results would be known. The trailer sailors

went home for the night leaving their boats at the pier while the true cruisers enjoyed a preview of crisp Fall nights, clear sky with stars one could really see and pleasant sleeping temperatures and humidity. Sunday morning brought the clear skys and breezes every one was looking for. After they fed breakfast to the assembled sailors, Roger and Jill once again set out the inflated buoys for a twice around, then up and back course.

The race started at 10:15 Sunday morning much to the dismay of Marc who was faced with a long slog home in weakening wind after the race. Never the less he satyed and finished the race.

in the Comptons house waiting out the rain and the lack of wind.



The Sanderlings exulted in ideal conditions and finished 1,2,3.

Results on corrected time:

1st **Anna** David & Kimberly Morrow Marshall Sanderling 60.4

2nd **Bubbly** Paul Cammaroto & Andrea Rose Marshall Sanderling 75.0

3rd **Gull** D. Bleil & J. Ohlmacher Mystic 20+ 78.8

4th **Dusty** Butch and Denise Miller Marshall Sanderling 81.0

5th **Wanderer** M. Cruder & J. Brown Wittholz 25 92.8

6th **Sarah K** David Park Herreshoff America DNF

After the race everyone headed directly home expressing thanks for the extra work Roger and Jill put into the event to provide suitable sailing weather and a fun experience for all. (If Biscuit and LuLu expressed an opinion about the fun, it was not recorded) Marc and John had the longest return trip in a dying breeze but using sail and the trusty Bukh they made a steady 4 knots and tied up by 4:30 Sunday night/

## News of members and new members

There have been a lot of traveling this year and boats changing hands.

PussyFoot'n's new owners are Mitchel Lieberman and his wife. They live in Trappe, MD and, at least initially, have taken the boat to Oxford. They have been invited to join CCBA. Mitchel's e-mail address is 'horowitzm@liebermanresearch.com

## **Traveler is Traveling Again! Traveler has been extensively refitted.**

Steve Flesner

Just in time for Labor Day, **Traveler** was relaunched from the yard she had been in for the past year and motored to her new slip at the Holiday Inn marina in Solomons Island. Butch Garren and I helped with dock lines and backing her into the slip. John looked like a happy camper finally getting her back in the water. Ken Spring, Rob Dale and Chris of Small Open Boats in Port Republic did the work. A new rudder replaced the wooden one that was about to fall off! She was reglased in places below the water line and substantial work was done to the deck..rot removed, lots of epoxy and fiberglass, new hatches made as well as a spiffy new paint job. There is still more work that will be done at the slip and in time she will be moved to a yard to put in her sticks...a shortened (topsails removed) rig. The mast is currently being overhauled and once that is completed she will put back together and be ready for next season. She should be easier to handle with the reduced rig and John confirms that he will be reloading his library and supply of "spirits" in the very near future. I was going to crack a bottle of champagne as she hit the water, but he did not want the varnished bow sprit scratched and suggested we have Bloody Mary's instead...it was a bit too early for either! As for that bow sprit...trust me when I say you do not want to see it coming up on your stern at a high rate of speed...if you do, I suggest you abandon ship immediately!

## **Butler Smythe moves Down East.**

Butler has relocated **Caerulean III** to Blue Hill, Maine where he will navigate with serious tides and real rock shores instead of the mud banks of the Chesapeake. Butler had documented his voyage on the CCBA website [www.chesapeakecatboats.org](http://www.chesapeakecatboats.org) complete with photos and videos of his voyage. The log of his travels is too long to include here but visit the website and select "cat tales" to read the complete and unredacted account of his



Butler Smythe motoring happily along up the Atlantic Coast in **Caerulean III**.



Blue Hill Maine, new home of **Caerulean III**

brush with bad weather, passage through the Cape Cod Canal



and other classic cruising grounds stories.

Not necessarily small boat friendly traffic in the Cape Cod area.

The website has been redesigned with a clean crisp style. The website has been made accessible to other members, in particular Steve Flesner, who have volunteered to keep the content current.

