

Chesapeake Catboat News

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Focus on Fall

David Bleil, Editor

Issue 3

The Great Whitehall Bay Regatta – Aug. 31 to Sept 2.

The Labor Day weekend is traditionally the largest and best attended of the year's events. The schedule is as follows; Saturday August 31 sail in to Mill Creek off Whitehall Bay to the Providence Yacht Club. Providence Yacht Club is a private community organization and CCBA must coordinate with committees there. There is a good paved ramp at the Yacht Club for launching trailered Catboats and limited temporary parking for the trailers. Please coordinate with Butch Miller [<mailto:anmiller03@aol.com>] or 410-271-2540] if you plan to launch your boat from Providence. There are limited spaces at the piers of the Yacht Club so it is best to be prepared to anchor out or raft up with other members. There is a floating dinghy dock for those who anchor out. Please coordinate with Butch Miller so he knows how many and what size boats he needs to accommodate.

Sunday, Sept. 1st the skippers meeting with coffee, fruit and pastries is at the dock at 9:00 AM. The course layout, start and finish lines and signals will all be presented at that time. Depending on the wind unpowered boats may have to request tows from other contestants out

to Whitehall Bay or paddle furiously. The course and number of races will be determined by the weather and may be modified as conditions require. Keep track of the signals. At the completion of the race or races we will all reassemble at the Providence Club House for the presentation of awards including the William Hoover Memorial Perpetual Trophy. Every form and size of Catboat participates. Places are determined by a handicap system designed to compensate for differences in boat size and rig. The handicap system does not however compensate for mistakes so the plan is to try and to make as few as possible.

There is a swimming pool at the club house which is usually open to guests of Carolyn Hoover but that is subject to weather and the availability of lifeguards. If you like to swim without the fishes and sea nettles bring your suit.

There will be a pot luck meal at the club house following the awards presentations.

Non-sailing family members are invited to join the activities around 4:00 PM by driving in to the Club House. There is limited parking space at the Club House so you may need to park on the community streets. Please plan to contribute something to the meal, either food or beverages. Again please inform Denise and



Captain Bill Hoover Perpetual Trophy; half hull model of Gull, donated by Peter Legnos, the boats designer and builder.

Butch Miller of your contribution and any dietary issues. Folks usually spend Sunday night on their boats and depart Monday for their respective home ports, suitably adjusting their departures to the weather.

Prospect Bay Catboat Race – September 14,15

Roger and Jill Compton host this last competitive event of the season in Prospect Bay at the head of Eastern Bay. The race starts at 1:00 PM on Saturday. This is not a three day weekend so some prepositioning of boats may be necessary on Friday or the previous weekend. Trailered boats will find a convenient State ramp at Kent Narrows under the Route 50 high bridge. Another, County, ramp is located on Good Hands Creek which is less busy.

The start/ finish line of the race will be marked by a Kodiak Pursuit with a green awning, Modulation. Course information and start signals will be given by the race committee at the start line. This will be a standard triangular course, windward start, marked by highly visible inflated buoys. After the race all the boats will proceed to the Compton's dock on Greenwood Shoals Creek where we may raft up at the dock. Occasionally space has been provided on adjacent neighbors docks. So it is a good idea to let Roger know in advance what size boat you are planing to sail in. A pot luck dinner will follow with Roger preparing the barbequed chicken. Please call the Comptons at 410-827-6016 or email rogercompton61@hotmail.com. Non sailing family members are also welcome.

In addition to places in the Prospect Bay Catboat Race an award will be given for the best overall performance of the season, the W.I.Tuttle perpetual trophy. This trophy commemorates Washington Irving "Tut" Tuttle,



The W. I. Tuttle Perpetual Trophy for best all season performance. With past winners –old photo.

one of the early members of CCBA who single handed an 18 foot Catboat around the Delmarva Peninsula, a feat which has been subsequently replicated by other members of CCBA on a couple of occasions. The Perpetual Trophy award is designed to encourage participation in as many events as possible in any one year.

The Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival

The last event of the year – Saturday October 5 is a rendezvous without a race. The focus is the Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum at St. Michaels, MD. The festival runs for several days. Amateur and professional builders of small craft present their accomplishments while camping out on the museum grounds and sharing techniques. We sail in on Saturday, anchor in Fog Cove then tour the boats on exhibit and watch the various sailing, paddling, rowing and sinking races. A lot of spectacular wood working is on display. In the evening we call the water taxi to take us over to Perry Cabin where David and Maryanne Bevan host the last pot luck dinner of the season. The water taxi will return us to our boats after dinner. For those unable to sail in, the address of their house there is 252 Perry Cabin Drive, St. Michaels, MD 21663. Please call them at 610-649-4822 to let them

know you are coming and arriving by water or land. In recent years the weather has not been conducive for sailing in and nearly everyone drove but the exhibits of the festival (the Museum charges admission) and the last gam of the season are well worth the trip by either water or road.

Recent Events

Corsica River Yacht Club Annual Regatta

The weather forecaster was not playing nice but the actual weather was not too bad for the weekend. Friday afternoon boats headed for the Rock Hall Yacht Club an an invitation from Richard McLaughlin, a member of RHYC and CCBA. The trip up to Langford Creek was mostly motoring. The Rock Hall Yacht Club featured a lively bar and suitable menu to an overflow crowd of members and guests. An increasing breeze straight up the river into the exposed anchorage of the RHYC left the Catboats rocking and rolling all night. Tenacity, Shoveller, Wanderer and Gull departed in the morning mists for the 900 hrs skippers meeting at the home of the Corsica River Yacht Club. There was breakfast and hot coffee in the assembly hall. We all checked in and received our dinner ID tickets. The course was announced and cue sheets handed out. Dinghys were left at anchor and the Catboat

fleet headed out, joined by Ben and Emma Heilman in their Marshall 15 *Mephistopheles*. Milling around us were 404's, Comets, Penguins, Windmills, and various configurations of Lasers. Classes were started according to class flags flown from the committee boat.

Conditions were becoming boisterous so *Gull* tucked in a reef. The NOAA weather radio was calling for severe thunder storms that evening or next day. After experimenting with the course and anticipating the wind to increase, *Gull* tucked in a second reef. Big mistake. The wind not only did not increase but instead subsided a bit. After the first race the reefs came out. Three races were sailed on Saturday with *Dusty* and *Mephistopheles* dueling it out for first place, often side by side.

Late afternoon had the fleet returning along with the larger boats from the cross Bay race. The beer truck was open for business and the barbeques were roasting chickens for the evening's feast. The traditional Bluegrass Band, now known as the Chester River Runoff, was entertaining the crowd. A well fed crew turned in that night listening to the weather forecast of severe weather in the morning. In spite of the forecast the night was calm but the mood was nervous in the morning. Because of the long trip home coupled with the probability of severe weather on the way, *Wanderer* and *Tattoo* elected to skip the Sunday races and head home after coffee and donuts. The CRYC Race committee was nervously rearranging the sailing course to the inside of the Corsica River so that the smaller boats would have only a short distance to safety. This resulted in a twice around triangular course cross wise to the river current. With all classes of boats on the same course there was a lot of traffic to keep track of. Anticipating a probable bailout and head home part way through the race *Gull* towed her dinghy to the course and left it anchored in the shallows out of the way (once we had figured where out-of-the-way was).



The committee boat was start and finish line on Sunday,



The Bluegrass Band entertains while we eat – a lot!

Not a CCBA event but fun anyway.

Downrigging at Chestertown – November 1-4

The forecast bad weather did arrive late Sunday afternoon catching *Wanderer*, *Dusty* and *Gull* on route but close to home. The rain was heavy but the storm was not nearly as bad as others which have followed previous CRYC Regattas.

- Official final results of the 4 race series –
1. Ben & Emma Heilman – *Mephistopheles* – Marshall 15
 2. Butch Miller – *Dusty* – Marshall 18
 3. Ohlmacher & Bleil – *Gull* – Mystic 20+
 4. Richard McLaughlin – *Tenacity* – Marshall 22
 5. Michael Crawford – *Shoveler* – Fenwick Williams 25
 6. Marc Cruder – *Wanderer* – Whittholtz 25
- DNF Peter McCrary – *Tattoo* – Chesapeake Lightcraft 14

The most interesting collection of tall ships and the occasional Catboat happens in Chestertown, MD the weekend following Halloween. Just to make things more interesting on Sunday November 3rd Daylight Savings Time ends and there is a solar eclipse. Saturday and Sunday visitors can board and explore the tall ships which include the *Sultana*, the *Pride of Baltimore*, the *Kalmar Nyckel*, schooner *Virginia* and others. Catboats which have participated include *Silent Maid*, *Shoveller* and *Patience*

