

Editor: Craig Ligibel. 443-949-7707. tcligibel@vml.com. The contents herein are believed to be accurate. Have fun and be safe on the water.

2016 Prospect Bay Regatta

We had four boats which was three more than one so the race was on. Bubbly and Dusty trailered in. Patriot sailed over on Saturday from Oxford camp-



ing up a nearby creek and Mystic Wind made an early passage from the South

Dominic and Paul Cammaroto, Craig Ligibel, Butch Miller

(Continued on Page 6)

2016 Patuxent Shootout

Sometimes it's a learning experience, like maybe it's not a good idea to hold a catboat event on Father's



Day! We had a one design race, 3 Marshall 18's and a grand total of 9 members show up for the race. *Patriot*, with Iron Man Phil Livingston arrived

Saturday after motoring across from Oxford.

(Continued on Page 6)

Upcoming Events

***Corsica River Yacht Club Regatta** - 22-24-26 July .Contact: Rich McLaughlin . 302-932-3222. **Online registration is not available, at this time. CCBA members attending the event are welcome to lay over Friday nite at the RHYC, as guests of Rich McLaughlin. Racing is held both days with food & music on Saturday evening. Email: contact@cryc.org**

Annapolis Area Short Cruise. NEW DATES!! August 4-7. A new event with more food than sailing. Contact Craig ligibel for details. 443-949-7707.

***Great Whitehall Bay Regatta** - 5-7 September (Race 6th) (Labor Day Weekend) Contact: David Morrow 410-757-1060

***2016 Long Cruise** - 16-25 September (Catboat Prowl on the Pocomoke River) Contact: Marc Cruder 410-987-9616

***Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival** - 30 September-1 October Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Contact: Dave Park . 302-684-3647

*. **Wild Goose Chase** - 8-10 October

* **Chestertown Downrigging** 29-30 October

New Dates for Annapolis Short Cruise— Aug 4-7.

2.

We start with an overnight in Mill Creek, just off Whitehall Bay. Dinner at world-famous Cantler's Riverside Bar and Grill. Then, we proceed to Crab Creek on the South River. Dinner will be ashore at Craig Ligibel's BBQ Pit. Everything provided. Bring your appetite! Then, an overnight on the Rhode River with plenty of time to kayak/gunkhole around the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater.



Dinner on your own. Head home August 7. Please contact Ligibel prior to Aug. 1 to confirm your attendance. A dinghy and bug spray recommended! tligibel@vml.com or 443-949-7707.

Buzzzzzzzzzz

Off!!!!

**Biting flies making
Summer sailing a pain?**

**CCBA member Martin Gardner sends us this
tip from the USDA :**

**"Catnip oil and its active compounds—
nepetalactones—are powerful repellents
against stable flies....better than DEET
and DMP." Who knew? Catnip oil sprays easily.
Has a mild, earthy odor. It is harmless to
boat plastics. It works for about an hour and
can be sprayed directly on the skin. Do not
mix with your Dark**



**and Stormy's! Give it a try. The editor is not
responsible if your boat is attacked by catnip-
crazed felines!!**



Hoover Gin Pole finds new home

The infamous Hoover gin pole used by many of us over the years to step and unstep their mast is now residing on the wall in Steve Flesner's garage. Bill Hoover made the pole which was reputed to be from a WWII life raft according to rumors that Dave Park started . David Bleil reminded CD



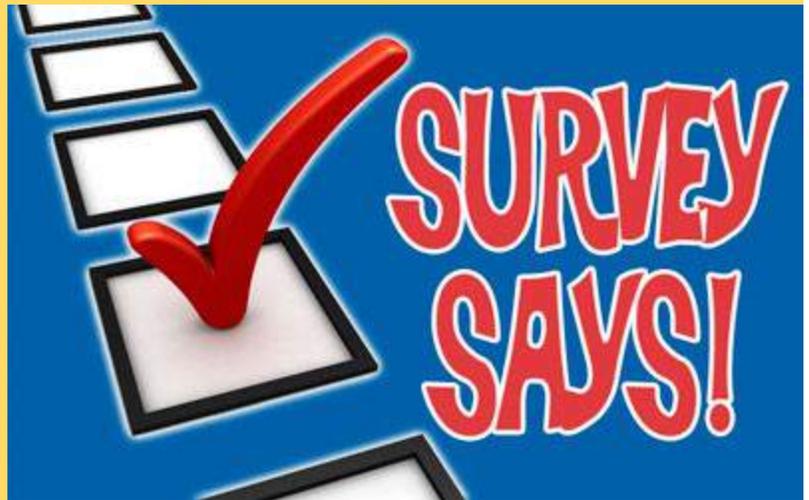
that we had once used it to unstep Tuckernuck's mast that for some reason was stuck in the mast step. After pulling on the block and tackle, we noticed that the bow had been lifted a few feet out of the water so we gently lowered it and diagnosed the problem. CD doesn't remember what it was but David accused him of epoxing the mast to the mast step....not true! Contact Flesner to arrange "lend-lease" rights.

Editor's note: There is also some line, neatly coiled, that Lois is eager to donate to a good home!

Members say “ Keep on keepin’ on...” 3.

Last Spring, we asked CCBA members what they thought of the various ways we communicate with them. More than half of our members responded to the survey. Thanks for your input. There were no surprises in the results...but we did get some good feedback on how to move forward with future communications. For the record, here’s what you said:

- 80% say the newsletter is the most important method of communicating
- Very few (less than 25%) visit the website with any frequency. When they do, they look at “for sale” and “events” sections
- Most people like the way the newsletter is delivered electronically as a PDF. They would be open, however, to other electronic means of distribution
- Proposed newsletter sections focusing on boat restoration and interesting places to go are high on the list of feature stories members would like to see more of.
- Members would be open to holding the Annual Meeting at a location other than Rock Hall, eg. Annapolis-area.
- Comments included
 - “Keep up the good work.”
 - “ Give David Bleil a Pulitzer.”
 - “Get a better picture of our Commodore.”



Catboat racing tips by David Morrow

All sailboats, and especially catboats, are sensitive to angles of heel. One of the fastest ways to kill your speed on a catboat is to sail over powered with too great an angle of heel.

There’s an old saying I heard years ago: “reef fast and reef often.” Too many of us are either hesitant to reef or intimidated by the process. I think most of us sail boats with jiffy reefing systems. This method of reefing is far superior to the old roller furling systems that rolled the mainsail around the boom. I use a single line jiffy reefing system that allows me to reduce sail in under a minute. I pre-mark my gaff and throat halyards, lower them to the mark, take in the single reefing line then pull everything tight! I can then tie in the reef points at my leisure once I’m back on tack.



I encourage everyone to practice reefing on a calm day. Getting the process down in calm winds and waters will help make you more proficient when the weather turns sour.

Spots Worth a Stop!

4.

By CCBA sailing gourmet, Steve "I never met an oyster I didn't like" Flesner.

An Army runs on its stomach, or so Napoleon once said.

Well, catboat folks do too! These are three places on the Eastern Shore that are some-

what unique and have great food. First stop is just off Rt 50 before you cross over the bridge at Cambridge. Turn into the Ferry Point Marina and go to the marina office. Just behind the office nestled along the waterfront is T.L. Morris Seafood. Their card says #1 Crab Carryout on the Shore which could be true, but we stop there after Marc Cruder introduced us to their shrimp salad sandwich made to order. Doesn't look like a restaurant, but you can enjoy



the best shrimp salad sandwich while sitting in Adirondack chairs along the shore line on a sandy beach. I mean really, how good does it get! The shrimp salad has Old Bay and some mystery spices in it and is served on a hamburger bun or could be bought by the pint, qt, etc. Bring a cold beer and you may never make it any further down Rt 50!!! They were so good that Marc and I stopped there twice on the cruise last year with the excuse that we needed ice!

(To be continued in next issue...)

Commodore's Corner...

Words to the wise from our wise leader.

By Steve Flesner

It's the first day of Summer and already we have had two events, Prospect Bay over Memorial Day weekend and the Patuxent Shootout June 19th. I would be a bit remiss if I didn't mention that both of these events had a "lighter" than normal turnout...Prospect Bay 4 boats, 10 mem-



bers, Shootout 3 boats 9 members...far less than the usual attendance. Granted, we decided in

March to move the events around from their normal dates to accommodate the fall cruise and other member's suggestions. Hopefully we can come up with a schedule that will work for everyone and get the turnout back on track....enough said! Corsica Bay is next followed by the Annapolis Short Cruise and Whitehall....mark your calendars...be there or be square!!!!

Thanks to those who submitted Home Port info so we could add it to the membership Directory. Hopefully it will connect some of us! It's not too late to submit that information to me to add to the Directory.

Also want to take a moment to thank Craig for the entertaining newsletter that he creates....the folks on the CBA Bulletin are getting jealous!

Don't forget to send in story ideas... cats under repair...places to visit...amusing stories from "the old" days. Whatever floats your boat. There will be a prize for best catboat story published in these pages!! Email : tcgibel@vml.com

Where You at and Whatcha Got?

5.

Steve Flesner

Going thru the Directory on a rainy day I decided to find out where our members were from and what catboats they might have. Given that we are the Chesapeake Catboat Association it was no surprise to find that most of us are from around the Bay...yes, and apples do fall from a tree, but not far!

MD – 30; VA - 9; PA – 9; DE – 5; DC - 1 ; NJ – 2 (close enuf!) Other locations included: MA -2, NC -2, ME, TN, CT, CA -1



I used the Annapolis (South River) area as a dividing line for northern and southern MD, 20 north, 10 south. The 30 include 7 scattered along the Eastern Shore. Adding in the other locations around the Bay to that mix we have 37 northern and 19 southern Bay area members.

We do however attract members from elsewhere...even 1 from California although I'm told deep down in his mariner heart he

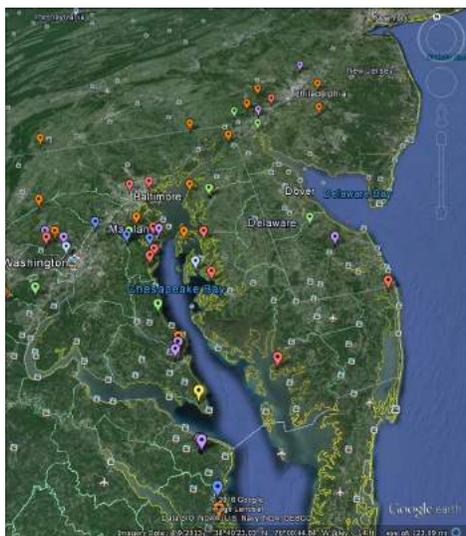
isn't a surfer dude but rather a Bay guy and has long had this thing for the Chesapeake Bay returning every year to sail *Planet* on the week long cruise...Martin Gardner!

OK, so what's out there that floats?

Marshall 18 -14; Marshall 22 – 9; Marshall 15 - 4; Mystic 20 – 3;Atlantic City 24 – 2; Herreshoff 18 – 2; Herman 17 – 2; Menger 23 – 2; Wittholz 25 – 2.

The remainder each had 1...Atlantic City 21, Fenwick Williams 25, Menger 17 & 19, Arey's Pond 16, Crosby 20, Classic Boat Works 22, Marsh Cat 15, Peep Hen 14, Nonsuch 22, Mud Hen 17.

Misc boats – 5



New interactive map!!

Your humble scribe took Steve's idea one step further...and created an interactive map that shows where we live as well as boat info. The link to this map is included in the email announcing this newsletter. If you click the email link, it will take you to the map. The map also can be accessed by clicking on the link below. If this doesn't work, you can also **copy** the link and paste it into your browser. Pretty Kewl!

<https://batchgeo.com/map/4cd563eb78526bcc478663a611274344>

Prospect Bay continued...

South River on the morning of the race.

Sunday morning, race day, started out to be more of a mid-summer day, cloudy, not a breath of wind and a threat of storms. We met at the starting mark on time and bobbed around until at 11:35 "Iron Man" Phil on Patriot declared that he "wanted to go around the island". So the starter dropped the flag and the race began although Phil had not yet raised his sail. No matter as we were drifting away from the start mark. Eventually the wind began slowly build to six knots or so and we made it past the start and

toward the narrow shallow pass between Parson Island and Kent Island. Patriot took the lead and with Bubbly close to the rear. Much to Dusty's delight "Iron Man" Phil decided to cut the corner between Parson Island and a tiny island cut off of it by hurricane Isabel. This was not in Dusty's plan as much of the time the strip between is uncovered. But it was a high tide and after a few bumps they made it through. They made it so Dusty decided to follow on a slightly different hopefully deeper track which almost lead to disaster as he passed within a couple feet of barely submerged ton of an iron farm implement. Mystic Wind was waved off and wisely went around the little island and its surrounding shoal.

Patriot led the way back to the start mark and took a victory 360. Apparently, he hadn't either read the race sheet or remembered that the start mark was not the finish mark. As the yacht club is further up the channel at Kent Narrows, the finish was set at a point a mile or so further toward dinner and a cold drink. Thunderstorms were brewing at that point so the Iron Man waved us past and he wisely lit off for Oxford and safety albeit with head in hand.

It was a snail's drag race from there to the finish but places never changed. Bubbly lead far ahead followed by Dusty and Mystic Wind.

Although, we had only four racers but participation was higher at the awards dinner. Marc and Debbie Cruder.

C.D.Steve and Lois Flesner, and Denise Miller joined to the racers, Craig Ligibel, Dominic and Paul Cammaroto and Butch Miller

There was even a David Bleil sighting as helped Mystic Wind make fast to the dock.

Awards, hold overs from last years cancelled event, were presented with a bit of a surprise. After the Hoover/Dunn handicapping was applied, awards were presented opposite the order of line finish. Mystic Wind took first honors, Dusty second, and Bubbly third.

The sailors had a great adventure going once around the island and holding the dinner at the Kent Narrows Yacht Club turned out to be a hit. The food and the atmosphere were right on. *By Butch Miller*



Patuxent Shootout continued... 6.

Scotty and I motored down from St. Leonard Creek meeting Dusty with Butch and Denise Miller as they launched at the boat ramp under the bridge in Solomons. Dusty appeared with a new look, a raked mast after a brief encounter under the bridge with the bridge. I was reminded later that Don Dunn believed that a raked mast made his AC 21 perform better...guess we'll see! Mr. Brown and Beth, his daughter, met us at the boat basin. Lois would join us at the awards ceremony...she had dog duty at home! Brenda and Joe Clark arrived just in time for the Capt's meeting. Turns out Brenda is a sailing instructor (of course I knew that!) and was commandeering Scotty using Steve and Joe as movable ballast!

After a brief Capt's meeting with Ken Spring and his committee boat, we headed out into the



Mr. Brown, Beth, Phil, Butch, Ken.

river. Once there, we found something lacking...

wind, barely a puff. As evidence of that, it took us almost 15 minutes to cross the start line after the horn sounded. From there, it was a long slow slough to the first mark. After almost two hours Butch called the race dropping his sail. Iron Man said "I'll be damned if I quit being only about 100 feet from the first mark", so he drifted up to it, then called it quits. A command decision was made by Butch, Race Chairman. He proclaimed that awards would be given according to where you were on the river! *Patriot* 1st, *Scotty* 2nd and *Dusty* 3rd. I mean what else do you

do with engraved Jefferson Cups that say Patuxent Shootout 2016! After a brief ceremony we all



Joe, Brenda, CD, Phil, Butch

headed for the Ruddy Duck Brew Pub for cold beer and dinner. The Commodore, in a gallant gesture, gave the 2nd place award to Brenda as it would have been embarrassing explaining how he earned it holding the main sheet or moving his butt from port to starboard! *By Steve Flesner*

CCBA Cats sail for glory in Elf Classic Yacht Regatta

7.

There's nothing like the sight of a herd of geriatric sailors running at full speed down a boat ramp and flinging themselves in their dinghies in anticipation of a fast and furious row out to their anchored yachts to get your adrenalin pumping. After all, there's always the chance of a capsizing or two to keep things interesting.



No such excitement this year as captains successfully met the challenge of the *Elf* Classic's Le Mans-style start with an unusual amount of seamanship and good sportsmanship. Some yachtsmen were even overheard to say "excuse me" and "please give way" as they churned the water enroute to their respective craft.

As a 68-year-old skipper with a bad knee, I was not the first boat off the dinghy dock. But I made up for the slow start with a furious thrashing of oars and a somewhat circuitous route as I wove my way through the fleet to my waiting crew.

Mystic Wind, my 40-year-old gaff-rigged Peter Legnos- designed Mystic 20 catboat, was the defending champion for the coveted "first off the mark award." My regular crew was otherwise occupied in far away Barnegat Bay. But my new crew, consisting of veteran catboat Paul Cammaroto and his 14-year-old son Dominic was more than up to the challenge.

With Dominic on the anchor and Paul manning the helm, I deftly raised the sail with a show of smart line handling. We were off in good time... but, as it turns out, we were not as fast off the mark as the National Sailing Hall of Fame's sandbagger Bull, captained by Holly Vrotsos.

Nevertheless, we took our place near the head of the fleet as Dominic took the helm and steered us gingerly into the Bay.

The *Elf* Classic Yacht Regatta brings together an eclectic fleet of sailing vessels, ranging from the venerable (*Elf* is a 58-foot Lawley gaff topsail cutter, built in 1888) to the fanciful (*Riviera*, the 16'5" replica of an 1874 Nathaniel Herreshoff-designed sloop was built in Finland in 2005.) This year's fleet featured eight Hinckley Bermuda 40 yawls, including *Huntress*, owned by the Dales of Alexandria, Virginia. *Huntress* has the distinction of being Hull Number One of this classic ocean-going design.

The Cruising Class portion of the race was won by Richard Rosenthal aboard the Hinckley sloop *Someday* with the 15' Uffa Fox Albacore *Exotic Material* captained by Barney Harris winning the Dayboat Class. As it turns out, the race was called after six hours on the water, with skippers marking their positions via GPS to determine the order of finish.

As was our custom, we took a hard right at Thomas Point Light, sailed to *Mystic Wind's* home on the South River, and drove to St. Michaels just in time to see Barney Harris sign the log book as the first boat to finish. Anything more than 6 hours on a boat with a top speed of 6 knots is a couple of hours too many for this sailor.



CCBA member John Lauder pilots Dr. HOO (center)

We were amused when organizers called us at the 6-hour mark and asked us to "mark our position" to determine our finish. We replied that we had just crossed the center span of the Bay Bridge via land yacht...and thus were declaring ourselves ineligible for the sailing awards.

Our finish notwithstanding, Dominic acquitted himself well at the helm of *Mystic Wind*. He has been sailing on catboats since he was four years old. And over the years, he's learned a thing or two about small boat handling.

"There's a rush when you are leading the fleet," the gregarious Dominic says with a smile. "It not as much fun as scoring a goal in soccer...but it is pretty cool."

Dominic laughs when he says that without his catboat connection, he'd be just another kid with a cell phone.

"The *Elf* race for me was a chance to see some classic boats under sail...and be a part of an event that is helping to keep an iconic boat like the *Elf* sailing for many more regattas to come."



Paul and Craig celebrate their brief lead in the race. For more information about the Elf Classic Yacht race, go to: <http://www.cyrg.org>.

