



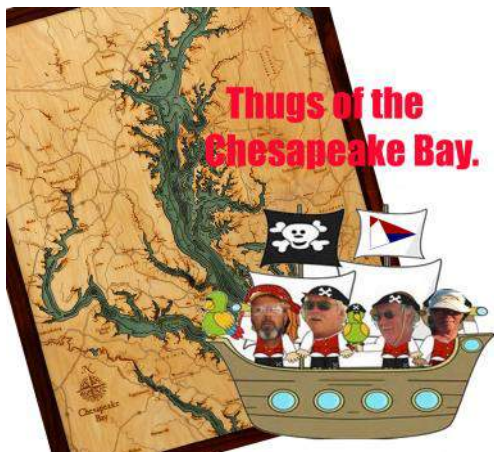
# Chesapeake Catboat Association

Volume 24 Issue 2 Spring, 2016

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

## Chesapeake “Thugs” wow the crowd at Catboat Association Annual Meeting

Commodore Steve Flesner and his “Band of Chesapeake Thugs” presented a spellbinding presentation of what catboating on the Chesapeake Bay is all about.



The multi-media presentation featured video, slides, true stories and some bending of the truth. The highlight was the presentation of “Catboat Kids” by Noelle Cruder and Dominic Cammaroto. See next page for more.

All the News That ‘s Fit to Print.

Welcome to the First Issue of The Chesapeake Catboat Association Newsletter produced by yours truly.

I promise to keep the info short and sweet...newsy and timely.

If you want to help out with a story, photo or idea, just email me.

Thanks. And keep the pointy end up.

Craig Ligibel, Mystic Wind

tcligibel@vml.com

## 2016 Events

- \* **Prospect Bay Race** - 28-30 May (Race 29th) (Memorial Day Weekend)  
Contact: Butch Miller 410-271-2540
- \* **Patuxent River Shootout** - 18-20 June (Race 19th) Calvert Marine Museum Solomons Island, Contact: Steve Flesner 410-586-8179
- \* **Corsica River Yacht Club Regatta** - 22-24-26 July  
Contact: Rich McLaughlin 610-268-3780
- \* **Annapolis Area Short Cruise**. 5-7 August. A new event with more food and fun than sailing. Contact Craig Ligibel 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 (Catboats 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 410-827-4168
- \* **Wild Goose Chase** - 8-10 October
- \* **Chestertown Downrigging** 29-30 October

## Pay Up!!

Dues are due for 2016! Send a \$15 check made out to:

**Paul Cammaroto**  
**10505 Unity Lane**  
**Potomac, MD**  
**20854**



# CCBA Invades the Catboat Association's 54th Annual Meeting

By Commodore Steve Flesner.

Well, we didn't actually invade it but we did give the Feature Presentation! Eighteen of us enjoyed a fun filled weekend at the



Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa taking in the All Catboat Vendor and Member Resource Show and a multitude of seminars that ranged from racing rules, catboating for beginners, photography and drones (given by our own Butler Smythe!), diesel mechanics, to knots & ropes...a cat food sampling of apps, desserts and drinks. You could easily say there was a little something for everyone to include the younger generation (those under 55!!) After the gam on Friday night we headed over to Peter Legnos' home for a warm up party and dinner of his famous clams linguini along with pizzas and dessert from Scialo Brothers Bakery on Federal Hill in Providence, RI....always a good time!

The hit of the meeting was our presentation on Sailing Down the Chesapeake Bay given by Steve Flesner and the Band of Thugs; Butch Miller, David Bleil, Dave Park, Dave Morrow, Marc Cruder and the catboat kids...Noelle Cruder and Dominic Cammaroto. We mastered multitasking between the remote that controlled our photos while delivering our segments of the presentation. The real hit of the day were the kids. Noelle informed her father that for every lesson she learned over the years on their catboat, she taught him at least one as well. She also described the group of catboat sailors on the cruises that if added up, would probably make one good mom...which left a few moist eyes amongst us! Dominic offered his perspective that all things on the Bay are majestic but when you are racing and win by just a few seconds...the skies open up and the seagulls sing...or something to that effect! He also noted the graying of the CBA audience and politely suggested that they need to recruit a younger generation into the catboat fold...all agreed. If I said we were a hit...let's just say everyone came up to us later and all but asked for autographs!

A good time was had by all. Maybe you should consider attending next year's CBA meeting and join the fun! It's tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in January...not to worry, the hotel has a big hot tub and indoor pool!

## CCBA members named to National Positions

Commodore Steve Flesner was *invited* to join the CBA Steering Committee so there is now representation from down here on dee Bay up there in the CBA!! Paul Cammaroto is now the Awards Committee Chairman and Butler Smythe joined the Awards Committee for a three year stint. Steve is also the CBA Bulletin Cruise editor and Butler is the Bulletin's Sailing Techniques and Seamanship editor. And to top off a great weekend, Steve was awarded the Editor's Choice Award for his contributions to the CBA Bulletin. So...as you can see, our CCBA members are very active within the CBA. If you aren't a CBA member, I can only say you are truly missing out on something. Check out their website [www.catboats.org](http://www.catboats.org) and sign up.



Dominic and Noelle.



Flesner presents Dominic with honorary CCBA Hawaiian shirt.

# Annual meeting features great food and awards aplenty.



Commodore Flesner presents retiring Newsletter Editor and Treasurer David Bleil with an original piece of artwork commemorating David's 28+ years of Chesapeake Catboat Association involvement. Congrats to David on a job well done! Flesner forgot to roast David....but Bleil got the last laugh as he chided Flesner for the many excuses he always conjures up...not to go sailing!

Fresh from their successful feature presentation at the Catboat Association Annual Meeting in Mystic, CT Steve Flesner's Thugs and the CCBA's normal people assembled at the Rock Hall Yacht Club for their traditional kick off to the 2016 sailing season. Twenty five members enjoyed Richard McLaughlin's hosting of the event at his Yacht Club. The RHYC set out a delicious buffet lunch of MD Crab soup, pulled pork barbecue, cheese and crab nachos, plantains and salad. The bar provided beer or Dark and Stormies on request .

Business items included were some slight modifications to the Portsmouth numbers as reported by Dave Morrow; a request for dues from Treasurer Paul Cammarato and the announcement of a newsletter survey by newsletter editor Craig Ligibel. Watch your email-box for more on that.

## New Short Cruise planned for Aug 5-7. Will feature good food and good fun. Not much sailing!



Mark August 5-7 on your calendar as a new, **SHORT Cruise** will be organized by Newsletter Editor Craig Ligibel. The cruise will start off Mill Creek in Annapolis (NW of Whitehall Bay) where we'll feast on Crabs and Oysters at Cantler's Crab House. Then, we'll proceed to Crab Creek off the South River where we will raft up....and be transported to Ligibel's house for an Oyster and BBQ Feed. The last leg of the trip will take us to the Rhode River for Dark and Stormy's as we anchor adjacent to the Smithsonian Research Park. Those with interest, please email Craig at: [tcligibel@vml.com](mailto:tcligibel@vml.com).

## Long Cruise Now Slated for September: CATBOATS PROWL ON THE POCOMOKE

*Warning: This cruise is not for the faint of heart. Think before you commit.*

After an easy run on the lower Choptank last year, I promised the only CCBA survivor of the 1991 Pocomoke River cruise that we'd go back to make his bucket list shorter. This cruise breaks tradition by being a full 10 days long to keep the mileage reasonable. We will stay to the Eastern Shore starting at Slaughter Creek on the Little Choptank, then to the Honga River before making Crisfield where we'll stage our run for the Pocomoke. The Pocomoke, with depths from 10 to 29 ft, is said to be, for its width, among the deepest rivers in the world. The trick is getting there. We'll take the shallow route thru Broad Creek, then up "The Muds" to the dredged channel behind Williams Point. First overnight will be at Pocomoke City before moving on to Snow Hill for a visit then back down to Shad Landing for the night. Return will be back thru Crisfield, then on to visit CCBA member Larry Antonik at Dames Quarter, before heading back to the Honga and finishing on Slaughter Creek again. The fall time frame should make temperatures cooler, keep bugs at bay and allow us to enjoy the natural beauty of the Pocomoke or "darkwater"River. Full details are on the Chesapeake Catboat Association website: [www.chesapeakecatboats.org](http://www.chesapeakecatboats.org). Call Long Cruise Organizer **Marc Cruder at 410-987—9616** for details. This promises to be one for the books.





**More details on other 2016 Events:**

**New Prospect Bay Race** . Host Butch Miller – May/28-30. Our earliest event and incentive to be launched and

ready. Butch has proposed a new exciting race course and an alternative to the traditional pot luck post race get together.

**Pax River Shootout.** Host Steve Flesner – June/18 – 20. (Father's Day Weekend) We will be gathering and overnighting Saturday June 18 at the Oyster packing house in Solomons Island, part of the Calvert Marine Museum. Capts meeting will be held on the dock behind the Lore Oyster House in Solomons at 11 am on Sunday the 19th. Race expected to start sometime around 12:30-1:00pm. The race will be held in the Patuxent River on Sunday then boats will return to the main campus of the museum and tie up under the Drum Point Lighthouse for a pot luck dinner and libations. Monday, boats head for home.

**Corsica River Yacht Club Race weekend** – July/22-24. This is an event where we are guests of the Corsica River Yacht Club. Participants will need to register on the CRYC web site. Saturday evening at the CYRC clubhouse pavilion there will be a barbeque chicken dinner (at extra cost but well worth it) and a DJ for dancing afterward. There may also be a small band but that has not yet been announced.

**Great Whitehall Bay Race & Rendezvous** . Host David Morrow – September 3-5. This has historically been our biggest and best attended event, started by the legendary Capt. Bill Hoover and carried on in his memory. The winner of this event receives for one year the William Hoover Perpetual Trophy, a mounted half hull model of Gull. Because this will be the last racing event of the season the W.I. Tuttle Maximum participation perpetual trophy will also be awarded to the qualifying skipper

**Wye Wild Goose Chase** October-8-10 Our last on the water event of the season where we explore the undeveloped Wye Island State Natural Area and watch the migrating water fowl from along the Atlantic Flyway. Host David Bleil & David Park.



**Still time to enter the ELF Classic Yacht Regatta., May 13-14.**

This Regatta features classic boats of all shapes and sizes. It is a fund-raiser for the 1888 cutter, Elf. Captains row to their vessels from the Eastport Yacht Club, set sail, and make for St. Michaels. It's a great day on the water with some really cool boats. Yours truly is shown below piloting his dink to Mystic



**The Racer's Edge**

Tips from CCBA racing guru Dave Morrow on how *not* to finish last (like yours truly) in CCBA races!

Good boat speed, clean air and being on the line at the starting gun are key to a great start.

I suggest practicing – often – so that you're accustomed to the starting sequence, the timing to the line and maintaining your hull speed up and down the line. Equally important is NOT being over the line at the start! Nothing is more demoralizing that to be over and having to re-start -- almost always at the back of the pack.

Too many times when the starting horn sounds, boats are sailing away from the line, off the line or luffing with 0 boat speed.

Again, practice makes perfect!



# Cat-Ketch “Chessie” takes shape for CCBA member Peter McCrary



The Core Sound 20 Mk3 is a design by Graham Byrnes of B & B Yacht Designs out of Bayboro, NC. They sell plans and templates as well as kits for many small craft. The CS-20 Mk3 is an expanded version of their CS-17. Both are cabin versions of open boats -- thus the Mk3 designation. Her specs are:

LOA ... 20'

Beam ... 6' 4"

Draft ... 9" and 3' 6.25" @ DWL

Sail Area ... 180 sq ft (cat-ketch rigged)\*

Weight ... 600 - 650 lbs (dry)

*“This will be my 4th boat as a member. The only catboat was the first, a Whitholz 17 made by Cape Cod Shipbuilding. A lovely boat, but hard to trailer (mast-stepping, launching, recovery, etc). Then I made “Tattoo,” a Chesapeake Light Craft kit boat and sailed her for 4 seasons. I found her to be too small for comfortable cruising. Next a glass ComPac Eclipse which, at 4,000 lbs (trailer & boat) was too*



Bottom-up view of module.

*much for me. So now, I've found the CS20.3 design available in kit form. I'll name her “Chessie,” after our great body of shallow water (isn't her average depth about chest deep?).*

*I” think she'll be comfortable for cruising. There is a v-birth, each side 7' 6" long and a large cockpit. The mainmast is pivoted in a tabernacle and the mizzen mast [is] stepped in a tube. Both can be easily raised or lowered singlehandedly. And because her bottom is quite flat with no keel, she will be much easier to launch and/or recover. My other boats had shallow keels (4" on the catboat [no CB] and about 8" on “Tattoo” and the Eclipse).*

*“I arranged with B & B that they would assemble the hull to the point where it could be safely trailered to Virginia. The hull and other kit parts were ready in May last year. I'm now at the stage of stitching on the sheer strakes. My guess is that she's about 50% finished and I have a “soft” target of “turnover” in May and launching in late August. I'd like very much to participate in the Pokomoke Long Cruise.”*

—Peter McCrary, “Chessie” boat builder and skipper.



The prototype under sail.

**CCBA member Butch Miller “invents” easy system to cover and contain Marshall 18 sails and rigging.**

The Lazy Jack System makes it fast and easy to get on the road. Only \$650. Call Butch for details: 410-271-2540.



**Editor’s note: If you have a project underway and would like to share it with your fellow catboaters, just email me the particulars. Who knows. Somebody might even volunteer to help out...for the right amount of rum!**