

# Chesapeake Catboat Association

Volume 24 Issue 4 Fall, 2016

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.

## What's inside:

- \*Shaw Bay Raft-up...Page 2
- \*Long Cruise photos...Page 3
- \*Commodore's Corner...Page 4
- \**Chessie*, Corsica Updates...Page 5
- \**Owl & Pussycat* Profile...Page 6
- \*Whitehall Bay Recap...Page 7
- \*Down Dee Bay...Page 8
- \*Short Cruise Recap...Page 9
- \*Racer's Edge...Page 10
- \*Spots worth a stop...Page 10
- \*New member promo...Page 11

## Dues still a bargain @ \$15!

CCBA Treasurer Paul "Show me the money" Cammaroto says its never too early to pay your dues! A check made out to Paul and mailed to Paul at 10505



Unity Lane, Potomac, MD 20854 before Jan 1, 2017 will get you a free drink at the Annual Meeting!

## Long Cruise a Howling Success!

### CATBOATS PROWL ON THE POCOMOKE.



This year's cruise of almost 250 miles over 10 days, was attended by a core group of five catboats, one trailer sailor and three "drive-by" cruisers, who with a little help, joined us underway for the leg north from Crisfield to Dames Quarter, MD. The core group pro-

ceeded south from the Annapolis area with stops in both directions at Slaughter Creek, the Honga River and Crisfield, MD where they staged their run to the Pocomoke River, via Broad Creek, across Pocomoke Sound and through the navigational cut above Williams Point.

This first ever Fall Cruise was characterized by comfortably cool weather and consistent winds that made for long stretches of good sailing daily. Rain for several days and high river levels did keep the group from going farther than Pocomoke City, but the balance of good weather, facilities and food ashore more than compensated. (Continued On page 2)





# Gull represents CCBA at Shaw Bay Raft up.

September 10th there was a concert on the water at Shaw Bay. The concert by Them Eastport Oyster Boys was free but donations were being collected to support the River Keeper/ Clean Rivers program. A pump-out boat was re-purposed for the evening to solicit donations and , also as a fund raiser, sell Natty Boh beer which had been donated. The price of the beer was also a donation to the program. CTSA boats and one CCBA boat (*Gull*) attended the concert which used the stern of a workboat as stage. Acoustics were excellent and all the anchored fleet would hear the music. *Gull* then spent the night in Dividing Creek which was much quieter than the beer soaked fleet in Shaw Bay.

Sunday produces a howler from the North and a long wet slog home with *Gull* triple reefed the entire way. A remarkable number of large power cruisers detoured to come close and take photos of the funny old boat. On the way back we observed that a large hole had rusted in the side of the Bloody Point Bar Light. -Reported by David Bleil

## Long cruise continued...

. Special thanks to CCBA member Larry Antonik, who, assisted by neighbors [Alane](#) and Tom coordinated a great road trip to Salisbury for some interesting eats and great catboat camaraderie. On all counts, the Fall Cruise may be here to stay. Watch for more details of

Cruise 2016 when the full account hits the CCBA website in the near future.

-Marc Cruder



### Returning Cruisers

- Marc "***I have no local knowledge***" Cruder with crew John "***Blind man steering***" Brown sailing *Wanderer*: Wittholz 25 (Glass)
- Dave "***Bucket list***" Bleil with crew Jim "***Now that's a meat loaf***" Ohlmacher sailing *Gull*: Mystic 20.
- Butch "***I'll get there, but my mast is 35 feet***" Miller sailing *Lark*: Americat 22
- Jack "***The Gosling's flag is up***" Smith sailing *Winter's Dream*: Marshall 18
- Martin "***I seem to be floating off***" Gardner sailing *Planet*: Wittholz 25 (Wood)
- Phil "***Out front***" Livingston sailing *Patriot*: Marshall 18

### Drive-By Cruisers (who made the leg north from Crisfield to Dames Quarter)

- Steve "***I didn't even get a Dark and Stormy out of this***" Flesner crewing on *Lark*
- Mike "***I'd really like to breath marine air tonight, if I can help you with that***" Crawford crewing on *Planet* overnighiting on *Wanderer*
- Rich "***You're probably the best smelling one here***" McLaughlin also crewing on *Planet*

# “The best Long Cruise ever...”



# The Commodore's Corner: by Steve Flesner

What happened...where did the sailing season go?!!! After 10 weeks of hot humid weather,



fit only for power boats, we got a few weeks of nice sailing weather, then monsoon rains! Oh well, there's always next year! My best day on the water was sailing on *Lark* with Butch Miller on the leg of the long cruise between Crisfield and Dames Quarter. Sort of made up for all I didn't do over the summer. This year also saw a decline in catboats and

folks at our 4 main racing events. When you don't even draw enough folks for a potluck, you know there is something wrong...plan B, go to the Ruddy Duck! Some of our members had eldercare duties; a few others were busy with engine rebuilds, as for the others...a mystery to me!! Prospect Bay saw 4 boats, Shootout 3 and Corsica 1...Whitehall race was called due to weather but at least we had 20 for a delicious potluck! We shifted some events around and will rethink the schedule for next year. Craig Ligibel will be sending out a survey to find out what you think about how we hold events . Thanks for responding,

The annual Catboat Association Meeting will be held January 27-29 at the Marriott Hotel and "Spa" in Groton, CT. It's a great winter break...note I said SPA along with a pool and Jacuzzi to work out the kinks of the aging process...hell, I'll be in it the Jacuzzi all three days! If you see a guy who resembles a raisin...don't ask! If you haven't attended a CBA annual meeting, you are really missing out. The hotel is great, there are all kinds of marine related vendors, new boats on display and a number of breakout sessions that cover a variety of topics from beginning catboat sailing to engine maintenance, cooking, photography...you name it, something for everyone...you included! The local restaurants in Mystic range from "Mystic Pizza" to some of the best seafood in New England. Ever had a stuffie...well, you have missed something special if you haven't! You can drive, fly or sit back and relax and take Amtrak while enjoying the scenery; getting off at the New London, CT Station, the hotel shuttle will pick you up...how easy is that! We usually have 20+ from CCBA at the meeting....can't let those Swamp Yankees think they are the only ones who sail catboats! This year's guest speaker will be Mary South, editor of Soundings and she just loves catboats. Hope to see you there; you owe yourself a good time even if you aren't on the water!! Check out the CBA website [www.catboats.org](http://www.catboats.org) for more information on the event.

**Stay tuned for date and location of CCBA Annual Meeting. We are working on a date in mid-Feb at a new location on Kent Island. I will send out an email as soon as confirmed!**



## Construction update: Peter McCrary's cat-ketch "Chessie".



*(We first reported on CCBA member Peter McCrary's project boat Chessie in the Spring Issue. Here is an update. Let's hope he gets her in the water before the end of the year!)*

Building "Tattoo," the CLC PocketShip, took about 14 or 15 months. She was 14' 10" LOD. But "Chessie" is almost 35% longer (20 feet). I'm beginning to realize that building her is taking a lot more than 35% more work.



Work on "Chessie" started in May 2015. I had originally hoped

to have her ready for the September 30 Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival [this year] -- but that has turned out to be impossible. Keeping the project "fun" means that my time [building her] has been about like building "Tattoo." That's an average of 2 to 3 hours a day. Presently, I'm priming and painting the bottom and topsides. The waterline boot was just finished this morning.—Peter McCrary.



## “Ironman” Livingston dominates Corsica River event!

*The Corsica River regatta was hot this year. The temps were hovering around 100 degrees with little to no wind. On my race course we had 12 comets, 5 wind mills and me, the only catboat. In the first race, the very professional RC gave me the normal 5 minute countdown to the start. Now, remember I am the only catboat on the line. So I played along and sailed up and down the line looking very much like a 12 meter. Also, being slower than everyone else, the RC shortened the race, just for me. At the windward mark a chase boat came up along side of me, gave me a horn, told me I won, now return to the start line for race #2. I went back to the RC and told them it would be OK with me if they wanted to just say GO for the rest of the races. All I got was the deer in the headlight look. So, for race #2 I got another, flag up, flag down, horns, and everything else that goes along with Brenton Red pants and Navy blue blazers. I won race #2. During the race they must of had a meeting of the minds, because, for race #3 the RC looked at me and asked me if I was ready? I replied, yes. They responded with a loud GO! I then won race #3.*

*On Sunday, we all had donuts, coffee, skippers meeting, and only one race, due to a lack of wind. The race was called with everyone in place. I won this race as well.—Reported by “The Ironman” himself!!*



**What's up, pussycat?** A look at the cats that make up our fleet.

## The Mud Hen “Owl & Pussycat”

*By Kevin Gleason*

The Mud Hen, like her sisters, Bay Hen, Marsh Hen, Peep Hen, designed by Reuben Trane, are variations of the cat-rigged sharpie. With their hard chinned sides and flat bottom, the sharpie achieved their recognizable form by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. With a retractable center board the sharpie, like the catboat, evolved as workboats supporting fishing in the shallow tidal waters of the northeast. Specifically, the sharpie found a home in Connecticut and New York along the Long Island Sound. Like the catboat, the sharpie moved south. You can find abundant articles online about the sharpie, its origins, and its regionally represented variety in both size and rig configuration.

Bitten by the sailing bug, I loved to sail with my father on the lakes and rivers of New York and the Chesapeake Bay. However, after college my boat shoes sat in the closet; a career and new family kept me land bound and dreaming. When the opportunity presented itself to get back on the water, I decided I wanted a flexible trailer-sailor that could be towed easily by a small car. It needed to have a large and deep cockpit for our three young children to safely move around in and a camping-cover to extend our time on the water to overnights trips. But most of all it needed to have a shallow draft to allow us to explore the unique world of thin water and explore secluded beaches and islands. As a confirmed gunkholer and tide-pool watcher, the Mud Hen appeared to be the perfect fit.

In 1999 we found “**OWL & PUSSYCAT**” in Brielle, NJ. Her original owners sailed her on Barnegat Bay. We kept her name, as we identified with the character from the children’s poem, by Edward Lear, of the same name.

*“The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea  
In a beautiful pea-green boat,...  
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,  
They danced by the light of the moon,..”*

In the 17 years that we have owned her, we have trailer sailed her extensively on the Potomac River, as well as the Chesapeake Bay, Lake Norman in North Carolina, Deep Creek Lake in Western Maryland, Big Assawoman Bay and Little Assawoman Bay off Fenwick Island, Delaware. Her current home is the Potapskut Sailing Association (PSA) on Backhole Creek off the Magothy River in Pasadena, Maryland. Wherever she sails, her green hull and gaff rigged Tanbark sails always gets approving waves and comments.

Kevin & Lisa Gleason live in Ijamsville Maryland and also own an Atlantic City 24 Catboat “**ELSA KATE**” .



# Tropical storm Hermine blows out Whitehall Bay event.

By Commodore Head Scribe Flesner

OK...so what happened to the race? Hurricane/tropical storm Hermine rudely interfered with the Great Whitehall Bay race and potluck. Actually, this was the second time in 26 years that



the race has been scratched because of a storm. Event host, Paul Cammaroto, in consultation with the “bay crossers” made the call on Friday. With winds predicted to be 20-25 on Saturday and Sunday, race day, 30-45 and given the fact that half the fleet would have to cross the Bay on Saturday requiring a Coast Guard escort, prudence was the better part of valor. Or, as Bill Hoover used to remind us, “Live to sail another day”!

So what do catboaters do when they can't race, you got it, they eat, drink and talk catboats! 20 CCBA members gathered at the Providence Yacht Club for a potluck and awards ceremony. The Tut Tuttle Award for participation in the most number of CCBA events went to Ironman Phil Livingston for showing up to three races and one mini cruise that he took by himself...he was the only catboat! The infamous “Clueless” Award was once again captured by Butch Miller for raising his Marshall 18 mast under a bridge prior to launching only to find



out the bridge was lower than the mast...ouch! He now has crossed over into a more traditional Chesapeake Bay rig with a slight “Bugeye” aft rake to his catboat. Performance has not been affected as he still came in last at the Shootout! Trophies for the race will be held for next year, we just have to have the 6 crossed out and a 7 engraved into the Jefferson Cups! And least I forget, the potluck dishes were scrumptious...a variety of healthy salads, pies and Chef Paul



Cammaroto's special pasta dish that he created on the spot...like I said, what do you do when you can't race...you eat, drink and talk catboats! Oh, and did I tell you...maybe I shouldn't; the weather on Sunday was perfect for racing...sunny and winds 10-15...guess there's always next year!

# News from Down on Dee Bay Hon!

## More ramblings from our esteemed Commodore...

Ok, so maybe July and August aren't the best sailing months on the Chesapeake Bay, so our attention shifts to other things...like Crabs! This is an exceptional year for crabs according to the Department of Natural Resources forecast and what the watermen are catching. Last year's high of \$280-300 a bushel for #1's has dropped to \$130-160 which doesn't make the guys and gals working on the water very happy, but the rest of us are ecstatic! Lois and I catch them off our dock on St. Leonard Creek off the Patuxent River. We invite friends for steamed crabs but don't expect an invite for crab cakes unless you helped pick the crabs, a necessary job before you can have crab cakes!!! Lois picks the bodies; I work on the claws usually over my morning cappuccino. Mello, our Cardigan Corgi, sits patiently between the two of us in case an errant piece of crab just happens to hit the floor...more from Lois than me!

Rumor has it that in June, Dave Morrow crewed on *Wasp*, an A cat built by Beaton's. She won the race coming from behind and they were awarded the Hartranft Trophy given by Peter Kellogg. Dave's comment was "drinking out of a big silver trophy is a step up from a CCBA dark and stormy"!!!

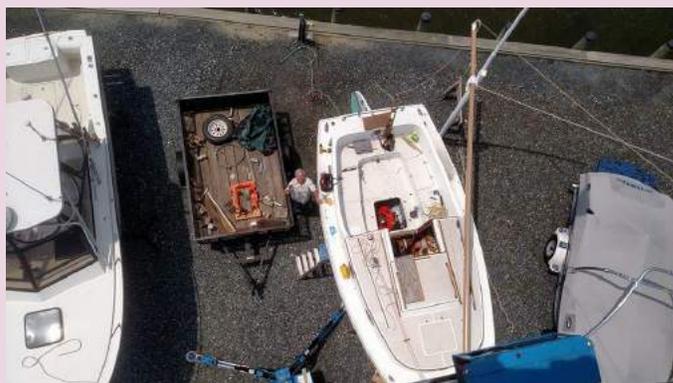


Marc Cruder was putting the finishing touches on his new gaff leather with a crème that he describes as having the consistency of elephant snot. When he took time to read the tube, much to his surprise it was actually a "nipple soft crème, Lansinoh Hpa Lanolin, the #1 brand recommended by lactation consultant".

The CCBA race committee is rethinking *Wanderer's* handicap given the effect of this product...it appears to cause a distraction on the committee boat and *Wanderer* seems to point higher!

Butch Miller rebuilt the Atomic 4 gas engine in *Lark*, his Americat. Given our delivery trip from Yorktown, VA last year, it was a wise thing to do. He also added an extra fuel tank due to fuel consumption and the lack of interstate gas stations on the Bay. It will now become the mother fuel ship for CCBA!

Paul and Dominic Cammaroto picked up a Marshall 18 for resurrection. They are busy working on that along with *Bubbly*, his other Marshall 18 and *Frances B*, a 32' Chuck Paine double ender that Paul started in 1986, sold in 1996 and bought back in 2013 for a complete rebuild. Isn't that like remarrying your ex?!! Yes, he has a very large barn; either that or his living room is full of wood chips and sawdust! Anyone looking for a house cleaning job may apply!



# Short Cruise comes up short on sailors... But is long on good food!



Short cruise organizer Craig Ligibel reports a good start to what he hopes will be an annual Annapolis-centric Short Cruise. The three day



event held in early August had sparse but enthusiastic participation. *Gull* joined *Mystic Wind* for a romp on the South River. The Millers, Browns and Flesners joined *Gull* crew David Bleil and Jim Olmacher and hosts Craig and Colleen Ligibel at Ligibel's Oyster Bar and Pit BBQ for a great feed. *Gull's* crew departed well fed...and anchored just off Harness Creek. Iron Man Phil Livingston and *Patriot* overnighted by himself on the Rhode River. "I hope this is an annual event," Flesner was overheard saying. "That Ligibel may not know how to sail, but he smokes a mean rack of ribs."



# RACERS EDGE

## The Day God Visited a Catboat

By David Morrow

It was the day of the first races of the 2016 Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association season. Several years ago, the first of the 2 races on the first day of sailing had been dedicated to honor Nelson Hartranft. Mr. Hartranft had single-handedly saved the A Cat fleet by purchasing each of the original 4 boats, restoring it and then selling the boat to someone who would promise to race it in the BBYRA fleet. He then built the first new A Cat in 60+ years from plans found in an old desk. He named his new boat Wasp and I was lucky enough to be sailing on her this season.

As we were preparing to leave the dock, Nelson Hartranft III came out of the house and let us know that his father had unexpectedly passed away the night before. We were devastated!

It was a very somber tow up Bay. We all agreed that we would dedicate the race to Mr. Hartranft and the start sequence began. After 1 minute the race committee fired the cannon twice and raised the postponement flag. The committee then read the history of Mr. Hartranft's love of catboats and that he had saved the A Cat fleet over the radio. There wasn't a dry eye on the boat, especially after each boat in the race came by and their crews waved and saluted Wasp. The RC then re-started the sequence and the race began.

I'd like to say we sailed a brilliant race, but by the final leg we were solidly mid-fleet. Then something miraculous happened. A huge wind shift came our way, slowly at first, then, as it filled we were lifted above and around the boats ahead of us allowing Wasp to win the Hartranft Trophy. As we crossed the finish line we knew Mr. Hartranft & God were surely aboard our boat that day.



## ***Spots worth a stop...*** by Steve "the catboat gourmet" Flesner

**(This is the third of three stops Flesner recommends. The second spot, Taylor's Island General Store, closed in May...perhaps anticipating Steve's review.)**

The end of Hoopers Island boasts five seafood processing places, some marinas, and one restaurant, Old Salty's Seafood Restaurant in Fishing Creek overlooking Tar Bay. Old Salty's really surprised us. It was a pretty big place with a bar, nick knock shop and great views of Tar Bay. What were even bigger were the Oysters. I had a half dozen topped with lump crab and cheese and a dash of spice along with their made fresh daily crab soup. The oysters were the largest I have ever seen outside of a museum. I could only eat three and took the rest home. Lois had a crab cake and I politely asked if it was as good as Ms. Mary's...her response was, "I couldn't tell, maybe if I had them side by side!" The menu was quite extensive, something for everyone including carnivores who like large steaks! With all those seafood processing places, you can bet the crabs, oysters and fish will be right off the boat! On your way back home, it's worth driving thru the Black Water Refuge, just bring bird watching binoculars!



**Help us find some more members!**

Print this page out. Ask your marina or local Marine Store if you can display it on their bulletin board. If you refer a new member prior to May 15, 2017, Commodore Flesner will buy you a drink at our next gathering!!

# **We are looking for a few "Cool Cats!"**



**If you own a catboat or want to find out  
about catboating on the Chesapeake Bay,  
we'd like you to join our group.**



**The Chesapeake Bay Catboat Association has more than 67 members all over the Bay. We stage a number of races, regattas and events throughout the year. We don't take ourselves too seriously. And we have a ton of fun. Take a card (at right) and shoot us an email. We'd love to have another "Cool Cat" in the group!**

**Yes.  
I want to find out more!  
Just send an email to:  
[tcligibel@vml.com](mailto:tcligibel@vml.com)  
for all the info.  
Dues are \$15 per year.**



**Chesapeake Catboat Association  
[www.chesapeakecatboats.org](http://www.chesapeakecatboats.org)**