

Chesapeake Catboat News

Vol. 21

Summer Summary

David Bleil, Editor

Issue 2

Next Events – Corsica River Yacht Club Annual Regatta

Friday July 26 most boats will sail to the Rock Hall Yacht Club to spend the night at moorings. Richard McLaughlin (Cell: 302.598.0535) will again be hosting the CCBA at the Rock Hall Yacht Club. RHYC is located directly across Langford Bay from the CYRC. At RHYC, the bar and restaurant will be open Friday evening for drinks and dinner. CCBA members will also have access to the pool, air conditioned showers, anchorage, and a floating dock, for dinghies. There is extremely limited access to a pier so plan to pick up a mooring or anchor out. The Rock Hall Club website is <http://www.rockhallyachtclub.org/>

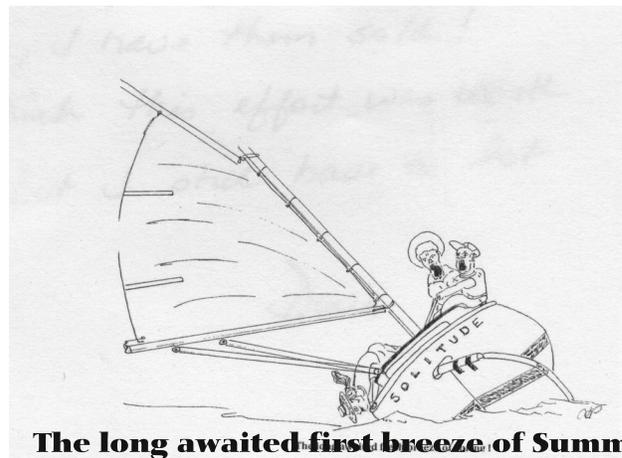
The Corsica River YC 72nd Annual Regatta is scheduled for July 27th & 28th. The CCBA participates annually, in this event. It's two days of Catboat racing, with a barbeque chicken dinner, and live music, on Saturday evening. CCBA usually has a good showing with several boats and drive-in member participation. Follow the link to the CRYC website, whereby you may register, in advance. If you look around, you will also find some great pictures of our Catboats participating in past year's regattas. The captain's meeting is 0945 on Saturday morning. An 0800 departure will allow adequate time to sail/motor across to the event area, on Saturday morning particularly if you have preregistered. There is no dockage at the CRYC so plan to tow a dinghy or wade ashore. http://cryc.sailregattas.com/_/cryc/ui/Index.aspx?tabid=640

Great Whitehall Bay Race and Rendezvous – Aug. 31 thru Sept. 2, Labor Day weekend

Historically the Great Whitehall Bay is our largest event. Boats usually sail in or are trailered to the Providence Yacht Club on Mill Creek, part of the community of Providence. Butch Miller handles the race logistics and arranging for what ever dock space may be available at the yacht club. There are no transient slips at Providence so Butch has to

work a deal with folks who plan to be out from their slip for the three day weekend. He needs to know what boats are planning to arrive on Saturday. Please call him at 410-271-2540 or email at anmiller03@aol.com. There is a good ramp for launching trailered boats right at the yacht club and limited parking for boat trailers over night. If you plan to bring a boat in on a trailer please inform Butch.

Skippers meeting about 9:00 Sunday at the dock and race or races to follow depending on the weather. Sunday evening we all adjourn to the vicinity of the club house for a pot luck dinner and awards presentation. This aspect of the event is coordinated by Mrs. Carolyn Hoover who presides over the preparation and assembly of food and beverages as well as the cleanup of the club house. There will be more details available before the event via email and on the website. Carolyn's contact information is; phone 410-757-0530 and email seahoover@msn.com.



The long awaited first breeze of Summer.

Past Events

Patuxent River Shootout or 4 Sided vs. 3 Sided!

By Steve Flesner

The CCBA held the 8th Shootout over the Memorial Day weekend at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons Island, MD. The Friday before the weekend looked a bit foreboding with a

strong front from the north blowing 30 knots with gusts up to 35 and temperatures in the low 60's. As Butch Miller would say, "it looked like a big boat trip", and as it turned out, he was right! Pete McCrary took one look at the white caps on Friday afternoon, launched **Tattoo**, his 14' Lightcraft in the river, notified the Coast Guard and made a successful, probably a bit wet, dash to the calmer waters inside Solomons a few miles away from the launch ramp. Marc Cruder and John Brown departed Ponder Cove at 0530 in **Wanderer** on Saturday, double reefed, plenty of sail tape and with an outgoing tide. Wind at Thomas Point was 18 knots sustained with gusts to 25. They made hull speed plus and arrived at Drum Point in 5.5 hours making the museum's boat basin a few hours later. Marc estimates they were making 7.5 knots "over the ground" possibly setting a new speed/distance record for **Wanderer**! The more prudent contingent of Marshal 18's trailered in, Butch Miller - **Dusty**, Paul Cammaroto - **Bubbly** and Dave Morrow - **Anna**. The 4 Nonsuch guys Al Suydam - **Rejoice**, David Darmstadter - **Blue Heron**, Butch Garren - **Whiskers** and Tom Jones - **Kit Kat**, had their boats in the various marinas in Solomon's so they just toodled over Sunday morning!

Saturday evening, guided by Butch Garren, 17 of us met for dinner at the Ruddy Duck, a local brew pub. Good food, good brews and great company!

So, where does the 4 vs 3 come from? Marc



Marconi and Gaff Rig duel it out at close quarters - no broadsides were fired!

suggested that it looked like a "Nonsuch invitational" given their fleet in Solomons; possible one of the larger fleet of 22's known to exist! Traditional catboats have 4 sided sails, Non-such guys have 3 sided and still believe the world is flat once you leave Solomons! Actually, this was really shaping up to be a unique opportunity to see just how the two types of catboats performed in what we described as lively conditions, 15 - 20 kts still blowing from the north with gusts over 25, but in the high 60's. Al Suydam held the Captains meeting at 11 and explained the course. Similar to last year, but starting at a mark on the far side of the river given wind direction. The first leg would be to windward. Ken Spring and Ned Sprague would be on the committee boat reading and napping!

Given the fact that we had 8 boats and many folks without boats, each Capt screened his crew and all were accommodated who wanted to be crew. This year's "ringer", Katelin Wells, went with Paul and Andrea on **Bubbly**. Turns out she has an extensive catboat background and lived just down the road from Marshall Marine and used to ride her bicycle to the original Beetle shop and even wore a cap that said Padanaram, a dead give away! Bob and Gail McDonald from NC went with **Kit Kat**, Steve Flesner (cat-less) and Adam Hantman on **Rejoice**, Scott and Darcy were on Loveboat, aka, **Whiskers**, Denise and Jennifer on **Dusty**, Matt and Noelle with dad along as crew on **Wanderer** (John Brown was given shore leave), Kim and Spencer on **Anna** and Catherine and Cooper, their dog(!) on **Blue Heron**!

The first race saw **Anna** first across the start line closely followed by **Whiskers** and **Bubbly**. **Dusty** decided to take a different approach and headed for the Eastern Shore but realized that since they could see no other catboats, returned post haste! The 2 1/2 mile course was covered in a bit over an hour giving ample time for a second race. The wind had piped up during the last two legs of the first race so the Nonsuch guys tucked in a reef leaving the 4 siders under full sail. Once again **Anna** jumped into the lead followed by **Whiskers** and **Wanderer** who would soon be in their own close quarters battle with **Wanderer** coming up to only a few feet of **Whiskers** starboard quarter before having to back down before someone fainted! The remaining fleet had

their own exchanges over the course but none could catch **Anna** who finished first in both races. Upon returning to the boat basin, all agreed it was two of the best Shootout races we have had and there were some interesting observations made concerning the 3 siders and the 4 siders. They mixed it up and neither dominated the other in overall performance.

After the trophies were given out, the lies resumed, some even related to the days' races! The usual gourmet pot luck was held; smoked turkey breast, ham, NC barbeque, a polish sausage, egg and horseradish dish along with Chinese and Italian dishes, assorted salads and desserts; all non fattening of course! Once the party wound down, a few of us met in **Wanderer's** cockpit for a few more libations and to resolve what appeared to have been an error in calculation. **Dusty** finished well after **Wanderer** in both races so being the honorable thing to do; Butch Miller presented Matt Cruder with the third place trophy and asked for another dark and stormy. I apologize for not getting a picture of the presentation, but my camera wouldn't focus!! Bill

The happy winners – prior to recalculation.



Hoover would have been proud of the heritage he left behind, we do not protest races, we resolve, then have a cocktail! **Wanderer** made it back to Ponder Cove on Monday evening after an 11 hour slog north, a bit slower trip then on Saturday!



A well mixed herd of cats heading across the Patuxent

My thanks go to Butch and Karen Garren, Al and Nan Suydam and of course Lois, my better half, for helping make this year's Shootout such a success. As well as Ken Spring for again serving as the committee boat extraordinaire (it's a classic wooden boat!). It's always a lot of work, but it's always a lot of fun!

"Official" Race Results from the Race Committee and corrected for Portsmouth ratings (please note: the race committee found the scoring error and the correct results are below):

Place	Boat	Skipper
1	<i>Anna</i> – Marshall 18	Dave Morrow
2	<i>Bubbly</i> – Marshall 18	Paul Cammaroto
3	<i>Wanderer</i> – Wittholz 25	Matt Cruder
4	<i>Dusty</i> – Marshall 18	Butch Miller
5	<i>Whiskers</i> – Nonsuch 22	Butch Garren
6	<i>Rejoice</i> – Nonsuch 22	Al Suydam
7	<i>Kit Kat</i> – Nonsuch 22	Tom Jones
8	<i>Blue Heron</i> – Nonsuch 22	David Darmstadter

Long cruise to the Little Choptank
by Marc Cruder, CCBA Commadore & Cruise Commander

For those that missed it...
- We only had one day of rain (in two spurts...the first over an hour long and the second over three hours long...all Tuesday). We hunkered down and

waited having no necessity to be anywhere at a particular time.

- We had sunshine and sufficient wind to sail the rest of the days. With short distances to cover every day the fleet could wait until noon to set sail and still arrive with plenty of daylight.

- The anchorage at Philips Creek was a little more protected than we needed, but it gave three dinghies a chance to be rigged and sailed around the anchored fleet.

- Slaughter Creek Marina's best asset, aside from fuel that everyone needs, was its swimming pool. Craig Ligibel was on a "kitchen pass" and made the drive in time to join us for dinner at the Island Grille. We had to get there before the kitchen closed at 7:30 and made the transit by "marina-mobile" which entailed a short delay to rescue a tiny frog from the car door frame. The restaurant was good, but not the old Taylor's Island General Store some of us remember. No sherry for your cream of crab soup!...that's how you can tell it has gone to the tourists. But good camaraderie despite



The perfect spot for dingy sailing.



Shoveller rides out the rain

that. The well stocked bar also hinted a tourist economy.

- Fishing Creek, aside from the rain, got us up close and personal (some of us anyway...**PLANET**) with what it's like to be at the end of a Trot Line. After the rain ended several Catboats headed on up to Church Creek to view the Old Trinity Church in continuous service since the 17th Century. The graveyard holds remains from before the

Revolutionary War and some

from the War of 1812. It was **GULL**'s second visit but the first under her current owner.

- Gary Creek was another pretty spot, off Roger Van Dyke's house....but the treat was driving over to Tom and Judy Howell's on Le Compte Creek for



The mill turns to windward.

burgers and dogs in their log cabin as well as a tour of the old Richardson (Mr. Jim Richardson's) railway and boatyard. They were gracious hosts - we replaced Tom's Dickel Bourbon and filled his car with gas while on the final ice run of the night. At the head of Gary Creek is a reproduction of a colonial grist mill of an early style where the entire mill is pivoted to face the wind. Tom Howell built that. The entire drivetrain is wood. Several cruisers rowed dinghies up to the head of the creek to check out and photograph this mill.

- Madison Bay turned out to be a nice surprise, thanks to Jack's launching and retrieving there...Miss Kitty was all ready for us. Although you can't depend on open transient slips, there were enough for the remaining 6 boats. For 25 cents, we found out the owner/barmaid of McCray's restaurant was Jamie, formerly of "Baltimore...Hon"...who kept us going on Bud drafts in chilled mugs, soft shell crabs and even crab dip pizza....all for a reasonable price. She even came in the next morning to make breakfast for those that wanted it....which was most of us. Facilities at the "campground" were adequate for \$1 per foot, we were able to get ice and watch the waterman come and go....as well as take a walking tour of Madison....all 1/2 a mile of it.

- Transit to Brooks Creek allowed me the chance to sail **PLANET**....and although it sailed very nicely as the real thing in wood....John Brown got competitive and kicked everyone's butt in **WANDERER** by making the anchorage first. As the last night, we threw everything but the kitchen sink into **SHOVELLER's** cockpit for the final extended happy hour. David Bleil informed us on everything from "biological ignorance" of different species of bamboo, to the how the tide works on the Chesapeake....a life long question that John Brown finally got answered.

- Some chat about next year included: Wye/Miles or the Pocomoke.....TBD.

Everyone was all business the next morning as boats started departing at first light. John and I made it back to the Rhode River before 2 pm.

Annual Meeting

The CCBA Annual Meeting was held at the Rock Hall Yacht Club on March 9th. Photos were shared of past Association activities, lunch was served and the Yacht Club bar did a brisk business. After lunch the business meeting was convened by

Commodore Marc Cruder who recognized several members for their contributions to the Association. Then Butler Smythe gave the feature multi-media presentation on the Website upgrade. The ChesapeakeCatboat.org site is now hosted on a new service provider which is saving the Association money and is providing a cleaner more attractive layout. A new policy of charging a \$10 annual fee for the posting of Catboats for sale to non-members was announced which should help support the cost of the website. It will also encourage sellers to notify the webmaster when a boat has been sold so the listings stay more current.



Dave Park's take on PLANET's unintended departure from the anchorage during the rain.

1. 1. New handicap numbers
2. Membership report
1. New membership
2. Total dues paid members
2. 1. Presentation of a half hull model to the Rock Hall Yacht Club commodore.

News of Members and new members.

Several long time members have new addresses;
David and Nancy Park
105 Heritage Blvd.
Milton, DE 19968

Phone 302-684-3647
email parkwye@gmail.com

Don and Mary Dunn
Foulk Manor North
1212 Foulk Road
Wilmington, DE 10803

Documents from the history file. The first gathering described by Josef Leiner in a letter to Mr. Edward Watson, Corresponding Secretary of the Catboat Association.

A meeting was held May 5, 1973 in Georgetown, MD at the request of Mr. Fred Middleton and attended by 12 members of the Catboat Association who live in this area. The purpose was to inquire into the possibility of having some rendezvous (sic) on the Chesapeake Bay. It seems a shame for members in this area not to make use of the delightful anchorages, rivers and coves this Bay has to offer. This is in no way intended to want to split the organization as it was formed in New England.

Before anything would be formed up as to a date and location we would like to know if the Association would give either a "yea" or "nay" on our planning.

There are enough owners and members in this area to make for some very nice get togethers. The Association would still operate as now and you would get as much information of what we are doing as possible. Someone would act as corresponding Agent and it would be up to the group whether we wished to continue to hold more rendezvous.

Hoping you will be able to answer me so a notice can be sent to the interested ones before too many weeks.

The substitute relayer of messages to date, Josef W. Liener, Wittman, MD.

The first Rendezvous was held at Swan Creek, Just North of Rock Hall June 16-17. The two original "officers" of the Chesapeake branch were Fred Middletown, Georgetown, MD and Josef Liener, Wittman, MD. I am sure they would be delighted to see how their organization has developed.