



## Long Cruise one for the record books!

*Originally planned for 18 days – stretched to 26 for some to make it home safely.  
Over 300 miles! Four boats and captains: Butch Miller on Lark, Phil Livingston on Patriot,  
Frank Newton on Tigger, and Cruise Commander Marc Cruder on Wanderer.  
Brief report by Marc on the last page – more to come!*

## CCBA Tilghman Island Gathering Event Report July 30 – August 2, 2026 Knapps Narrow's Marina, Tilghman Island, MD Hosted by Al and Catherine Renzi

The Chesapeake Catboat Association returned to Tilghman Island for a relaxed and memorable summer gathering that blended sailing, learning, and community. Eleven catboats of varying lengths and models filled the floating docks at Knapp's Narrows Marina, creating a lively waterfront scene and an impressive display for both CCBA members and Tilghman residents.



On arrival day, members gathered for dinner at Big Mack's, where Fred Sherriff presented Dave Park with a half-hull model of a Marshall Sanderling, recognizing Dave's long-standing contributions to the CCBA.



Attendance was strong: 40 catboaters participated in the various venues and parts of the program over the course of the weekend, and with the local Tilghman community joining in, 52 people attended Friday's *Catboat Builders of the Chesapeake* presentation at the Tilghman Volunteer Fire Company.

Friday morning began with Dave Park's well-received catboat clinic, covering catboat history, design evolution, and rigging approaches. The session concluded with a robust Q&A, giving members the chance to compare techniques, and share practical insights to improve their sailing and catboat performance. This peer-to-peer exchange set a collaborative tone for the rest of the weekend.





On the water, five instructional sailing pairings were organized, along with several additional crewing opportunities for those wanting hands-on experience. Modest but steady winds on both Friday and Saturday allowed boats to explore the Bay side and the Choptank side comfortably, making for enjoyable sailing without pushing the limits.

Knapp's Narrows Marina proved an ideal host, offering slip access, comfortable rooms, showers, and a pool. From the floating docks, members enjoyed views of the drawbridge opening and closing, the steady rhythm of workboats, and easy access to Gina's, Big Mack's, and the Tilghman General Store.

On Friday afternoon, members had the opportunity to tour the Tilghman Watermen's Museum, where they explored exhibits on the island's history, workboats, and the people who shaped the community's maritime heritage. This visit provided meaningful context for the catboat traditions discussed throughout the weekend.

Friday afternoon's program at the Fire Company featured Rich Scofield and Marc Cruder, moderated by Al Renzi, presenting *Catboat Builders of the Chesapeake*. Their stories brought to life the craftsmanship of Maynard Lowery and Joe Liener, supported by half-hull models, historical context, and personal anecdotes. The session concluded with a special moment: the presentation of a Fenwick Williams 16 half-hull model, crafted by Fred Sherriff, to Hall Kellogg of the Tilghman Watermen's Museum in honor of Maynard Lowery's legacy.



Saturday began with a group sail in the morning, taking advantage of the day's early light winds and giving members another chance to enjoy time on the water together. In the afternoon, the group ventured over to Severn Marine, where attendees had the opportunity to view two Maynard Lowery catboats on the hard — Catnipper and Miss Dalloway.



The day wrapped with a potluck dinner on the floating docks, where stories, food, and laughter carried well into the evening. Pete Peters, Doug Oeler, and Pete Doyle played Irish songs and sea tunes, adding a warm musical backdrop that carried the evening and made the gathering feel even more connected and festive. Members departed early Sunday morning to stay ahead of stronger winds forecast later in the day.



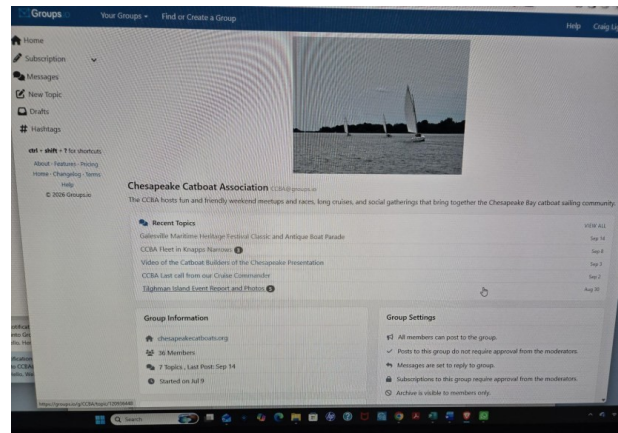
# New CCBA web sharing site up and running. Sign up and start sharing!!

Welcome to the ccba@groups.io group at Groups.io, a free, easy-to-use email group service. Please take a moment to review this message.

You can visit your group, start reading messages and Posting them here: <https://groups.io/g/ccba>

The email address for this group is: ccba@groups.io. Because our system allows for participants to post via web or email, you can use this email to post new topics.

But most importantly, please add this email address to your safe sender list in your email client's contacts.



The Chesapeake Catboat Association (CCBA) hosts fun and friendly weekend meetups and races, long cruises, and gatherings that bring together the Chesapeake Bay catboat sailing community.

You can set your subscription settings here: <https://groups.io/g/ccba/editsub>. You can opt to receive: all messages in individual emails, collections of messages in a digest, a daily summary, or only special notices.

If you do not want to belong to this group, you may unsubscribe by sending an email to: ccba+unsubscribe@groups.io

To see and modify all of your groups, go to [groups.io]groups.io. Visit our [help center](#) for more information about how the Groups.io site works.

Regards,  
The ccba@groups.io Moderator

## Commodore's Corner September 27, 2026

**Not much to report since the last edition. Been focused on prepping for and enjoying the long cruise.**

**A full report will follow but we had a great time until the Nor'easter trapped the boats on the lower peninsula for a week. Patriot took a shot and headed for Crisfield on Wednesday only to get stuck in Crisfield. Lark and Wanderer are still at Bob Traylor's pier in Onancock resting after an amazing two days of his and Andrea's hospitality. Huge thanks to Bob and Bruce for tending to them through the storm. We're headed back down in the next day or so to get back in the saddle for the final four or five days of the trip.**

**Richard Jones and Steve Quinn have joined us as new members. Steve found us on the cruise so we reeled him in. Richard has purchased Kit Kat from Bill Nalls and will keep her in Chestertown.**

**Word is that the CBA meeting will be held in Newport again this year.**

**That's all for now. See you out there, Butch**

# Honk. Honk. Get ready for Wye River Goose Chase. Oct 16 - 18

**Friday 16th:** Arrive at St Michaels, Md.

Some anchor out and others reserve a slip at the Maritime Museum or one of the marinas. Gather at the Museum courtyard or one of our boats for a GAM, BYOB and an appetizer. Dinner will be at Foxy's Harbor Grill at 6:00.

**Saturday 17th:** Breakfast at the Carpenter Street Salon at 8am. Sail over to the Wye River after breakfast. For those who cannot make it to St Michaels on Friday, meet on the Wye for a raft up Saturday afternoon. BYOB and an appetizer to share. Location of the raft will be decided according to weather and communicated to participants.

**Sunday 19th:** Leave for your home port

For more information, or if you would like to attend the weekend or any part of it contact Jersey Frank Newton at 908-581-8774 or [finewton3@yahoo.com](mailto:finewton3@yahoo.com)



## Two Holiday Parties in December!

Holiday Gathering  
Sunday, December 13, 2026 @ 10AM  
Jim & Barbara Palmer  
364 Riverside Drive  
Pasadena, Md

Jim & Barbara Palmer will be hosting the Holiday Gathering this year at their house on the Magothy River. Due to a conflict with their schedule the date has been changed from December 6th to the 13th at 10 AM.

This will be a brunch, coffee and tea will be provided, and all are asked to bring a covered dish to share and any other beverages you may like.

RSVP, with the dish you will bring, to Jersey Frank Newton by phone, text or email at 908-581-8774 or [finewton3@yahoo.com](mailto:finewton3@yahoo.com)

Hope to see you there. Don't forget your Kazoos!

The Palmer's have offered their home as an alternative to a public restaurant so as not to disturb other patrons with our shenanigans!!!

Holiday Party Time

December 6, 2026

Dock House Restaurant  
110 Piney Narrows Rd, Chester, MD

Contact Frank Newton for details.  
908-581-8774 or  
[finewton3@yahoo.com](mailto:finewton3@yahoo.com)



## Josie Smith new newsletter editor!!!

My partner digger and I have a Menger 19 named Pipsqueak, which we have sailed around the Chesapeake since 2021. We have enjoyed trips to the West River Regatta, the Oxford Catboat Parade, Baltimore Harbor, and most recently the event at Knapp's Narrows Marina, among others. I'm looking forward to connecting more with the Chesapeake Catboat Association's activities as the incoming editor of the newsletter. Many thanks to Craig as he guides me through the process.



Josie and digger on the high seas



Pip under sail. Photo by Jill Seagraves.



Josie and "the husbands" Baltimore Harbor



**Many thanks to Josie for taking over for me.  
It's been a blast. Keep those good catboat vibes  
and stories coming.**

**You can reach Josie at [josieosie@jodig.net](mailto:josieosie@jodig.net).**

**ligibel**

# Dave Morrow's Tennessee River Odyssey Day by day recap of Dave's trip. What an adventure!

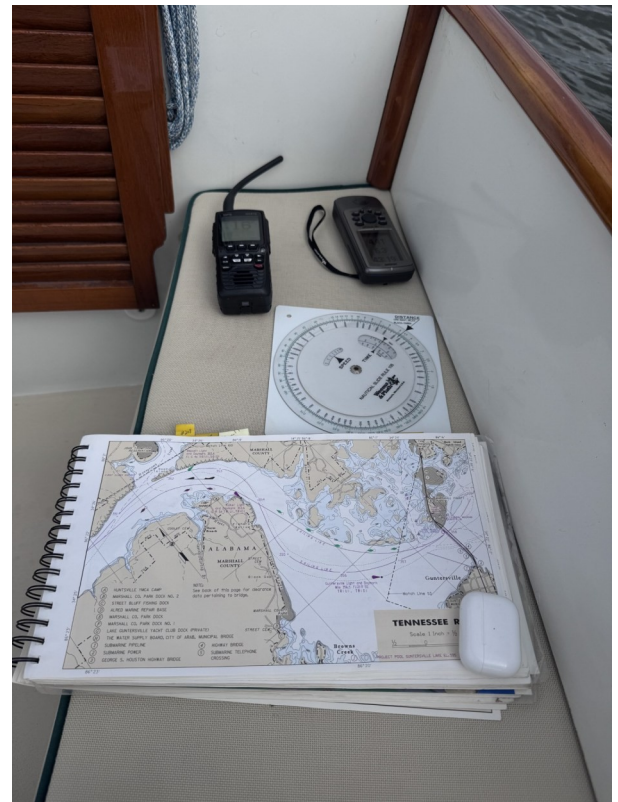
Hi All!

I depart Sunday at 8am towing ANNA back to Guntersville, AL where I will begin the final leg of our transit of the TN River. I plan to use this email group to keep you all posted on my progress. You can also follow along on the Catboat Association's FaceBook page.

Some of the fun parts of this leg are the Wilson Dam lock with a 93' drop, the Rosenbaum's Frank Lloyd Wright House in Florence and the Muscle Shoals recording studios where artists such as the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan and Lynyrd Skynyrd recorded some of their greatest hits. The Stones recorded Brown Sugar here)

A major concern is the final lock, Kentucky Dam lock, that was damaged on 9/1 by a barge full of gravel. Commercial traffic is backed up and the alternative lock, Barkley Lock is closed for maintenance until 9/30 forcing commercial traffic to wait sometimes 24 hours to lock through. I am allowing a few extra days to make it through this final lock.

Stay tuned for all the fun!



*So today started with great potential. I was rigged and launched by 10AM. It was humid, but I didn't think much of it. After a quick run for some local barbecue, I was back on the boat and underway before 11AM. All was going well until a mechanical issue stopped the engine and the air that was moving by me stopped too! The temp was 95 by this time.*

*I quickly became very over-heated and could not figure out the issue with the engine. I was dizzy and my vision blurred. Tow boat US was 2 hours away so I decided to dunk myself in Lake Guntersville to cool off. It took a good hour, but my head cleared, I found the issue (a loose spark plug cap) and was on my way again. The Marshall Marine boarding ladder made getting into the water and back on the boat a breeze.*

*After 2 days of recuperating in Guntersville after the over-heating incident (me not the motor) I headed back on the water. It was an easy day of just 25 miles, 1 lock which was waiting for me when I arrived and no storms! Unfortunately no wind either. (Except for the 1 mile from LGYC to the Guntersville Bridge.) Upstream, the lake would have been a perfect broad reach as I headed down stream. On the other side, no wind at all. I didn't hoist sails for the short reach.*

*Nice scenery, friendly people at Ditto Landing Marina and a short Uber ride for a Southern meal in Huntsville.*

*Tomorrow is a lock-free day but long - 57 miles ending at Joe Wheeler State Park.*



*Yesterday was the longest Day so far on the entire TN River transit. It just worked out that the marina spacing left for either a very short day of 20 miles or a long day of 57 - motoring due the wind on the nose again.*

*(To be honest there was a 20 minute window right as the day ended where I could have sailed, but I was too tired by then) Anchorages are about non-existent on this part of the river. This distance allowed me more time for touring Florence, AL.*

*I pulled into Joe Wheeler State Park and was greeted by the Nina and Santa Maria, local tour boats. Today is a short day, but with 2 locks. The 2nd is the Wilson Dam Lock which has a drop of 94'. I hope to tour Frank Lloyd Wright's Rosenbaum House and maybe even the Muscle Shoals studios when the Stones, James Taylor, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Bob Dylan and many others recorded hits.*

*I'm thinking of all the catboat sailors (and others) being affected by this massive storm.*

*Be safe everyone!*

*A productive though short distance day. Made it through Wheeler and Wilson locks. (Wilson is a 94' drop.) Had time to tour the Rosenbaum Frank Lloyd Wright house here in Florence and then tour downtown. Tomorrow a longer day of 47 miles to Pickwick State Park where this leg will end.*

*The Wilson lock gave me a bit of trouble with some eddys and wind that blew Anna's stern around a bit. Once I got her settled it was a smooth drop of 94'. Note that the gates come up on the Wilson Lock upstream side. Too much pressure upstream for doors.*

*Clear skies tomorrow, but little breeze predicted. You all in the North East are getting it.*



*Well yesterday ended up being the final day on the TN River for Leg 3. Between the lost days at the beginning of the transit and the damaged Kentucky Lock to Kentucky Lock, it just made sense to end this leg at Pickwick Landing Marina.*

*Yesterday, like all the others, started with no wind and calm waters. But unlike the other days ANNA and I had a nice sail down Pickwick Lake. A bald eagle fished behind us and a commercial tow gave us a wave. (The captain's first catboat sighting.)*

*Getting back to my truck and trailer in Guntersville proved to be quite the challenge. I confirmed that both Uber and Lyft had service in the area before leaving home. However, in reality, they do not cover the area around the marina. Luckily a TowBoatUS captain was looking to make some extra cash and he agreed to make the 2 1/2 drive and save me.*

*I'm not sure when or if the final leg of this transit will occur. I know ANNA can do it, I'm just not certain my old body is up for it. Solo: 445 miles down 207 to go.*

*Thanks for following along.*

*David*



# Brief Report from Marc Cruder on “Patriot Cruise to the Jamestown Settlement 2026” (Aka the Very Long and Extended Cruise) October 2, 2026

LARK, PATRIOT, TIGGER and WANDERER departed September 8, 2026

Made Jamestown September 14<sup>th</sup> on schedule.

Arrived at Bob Traylor's at Deep Creek on September 20<sup>th</sup>, where the Nor'Easter took over with at least 4 days of above normal wind, seas, and weather... so we left our boats.



Joined at Traylor's by Jim and Barbara Palmer, Bob and Elaine Lee, Fred Sheriff, Denise Miller, and Anna Hoffman by land....and treated as if we were at a resort by Bob and Andrea Traylor.

Phil made it one more day then left PATRIOT in Crisfield.



Frank came back to Deep Creek with trailer and took TIGGER home.

Phil went back to Crisfield September 28 and was back in Oxford September 29.

Butch and I anchored at Solomon's and should make it home today.