

Chesapeake Catboat News

Volume 22

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David Bleil, Editor

No1.

Steve's Travels – Lookin' for Catboats!

Steve Flesner

In early September, Lois and I loaded up the camper and headed north to Maine in search of catboats. We got as far as Mt. Desert Island and the count was only 3, one along the road and two at anchor...not much for 700+ miles. On the way back we stopped just outside of Searsport to check out a wooden catboat, Sea Pup that was covered sitting along Rt 1 outside of O'Donovan & Doyle Wooden Boatworks. John O'Donovan was kind enough to give me a tour of their facility. Prior to opening O'Donovan & Doyle, John worked for Beetle Cats in Wareham, MA and was involved in the building of Kathleen. They are currently rebuilding a 60 ft wood classic powerboat that looked pretty impressive. Sea Pup, 21 ft., was built in 1937 by Manuel Swartz Roberts of Edgartown, MA and is now owned by a woman in upstate ME. John said they are awaiting a decision by her current owner as to how much work she was willing to "spend" as the hull needed refastening among other things. I found this



ad for her that you might find interesting; <http://www.davidjonesclassics.com/sail/1335/sea-pup-21-roberts-catboat-1937/>. Another classic that needs to be saved....don't they all!



Driving south, we headed over to the Blue Hill area and decided to stop by the Wooden Boat School and store where I mentioned I knew Martin Gardner and Al Suydam (both instructors at the school) expecting a discount...no dice! While Lois shopped, I went over to the boat shop to check out the latest projects the students were working on. Lunch was in progress, so I was allowed to wonder through the shop which is normally closed to visitors while the students are working. Most students stay at the Wooden Boat dorm in Brooklin which is just down the road, for the heartier, there is a grassy campground with excellent facilities only a short walk to the boat shop. After that, we headed down to the Wooden Boat docks to check out the fleet. Wow, some really beautiful boats hanging off moorings. I can easily see what keeps the

editors of Wooden Boat Magazine entertained....a view you would never get tired of.

A few miles down the road was the famous (for the rich and famous) Brooklin Boat Yard. Needless to say it's quite the place. Work was going on in various buildings on at least 6-8 boats wooden boats of various sizes. The mooring area in front of the boat yard was filled with a fleet of drop dead gorgeous and expensive boats...and nestled amongst them were a hand full of catboats...ah, the trip had been worth it! If you haven't been up to that part of Maine, you owe it to yourself to check it out...just don't expect a discount at the store, but then again, that didn't keep me from picking up some really neat catboat stuff!



one session. Martin sails **Planet**, a beautiful wood Wittholz 25, built by Story and maintained by Cutts & Case in Oxford where he is known as a "Patron of the Arts" as well as an major employer for Oxfordians! Martin has cruised with us for the last 4 years and recently introduced our Commodore to the sophisticated taste of Compari and soda on the rocks...my, my, so much for a dark and stormy! Any of you interested in sharpening

your catboat sailing skills might consider enrolling in the course next summer, just don't expect us to adjust your handicap. The 60 acre saltwater campus of the Wooden Boat School offers accommodations from camping to dorm facilities and is in an absolutely stunning

location. Check out their website at www.thewoodenboatschool.com.

Catboat Sailing Course

Steve Flesner

Last August one of our esteemed members, Martin "Left Coast" Gardner developed and taught a five day catboat sailing course at the Wooden Boat School in Brooklin, ME. The course was held August 11 - 16 and the five slots were immediately filled with a waiting list if a vacancy occurred...like if somebody fell out of a catboat?! The students, under command of Capt. Gardner, sailed a Fenwick Williams 16, a Crosby 21 and a Crosby 25. It was such a success that it will be held again next year with the possibility of more than



Annual Meeting season-

Catboat Association 52nd Annual Meeting-

the big one - at the Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa in Mystic, CT. [Route I-95, exit 88 to

Groton] By the time of the meeting on Friday Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 the roads should be clear of snow and ice. Boats and gear will be on display in the Mystic Marriott Hotel. Workshops and working sessions are scheduled throughout Saturday and Sunday Morning until noon. The Featured speaker is Clinton Trowbridge: *The boat that wouldn't sink*. Our official Rover [AKA roving ambassador] Steve Flesner will represent the CCBA in Mystic due to outside conflicts which keep the Commodore without Portfolio from attending this year. Please send Steve all items of interest to be brought to the attention of the CBA Steering Committee. Steve is also collecting photographs in digital form for a slide show at the evening social in order to highlight the past years activities of the CCBA. Nominations for CBA awards for 2015 will also be appreciated. Steve wears many hats organizationally speaking.

Chesapeake Catboat Association

– Our annual business meeting will be held at the Rock Hall Yacht Club on Saturday March 8 2014. Start at Noon – Food and beverages available for individual purchase. This is where we set the years event schedule, collect dues for 2014 and elect club officers. There will also be an unprecedented opportunity to volunteer for club functions. Check the website: Chesapeakecatboats.org for late breaking developments
 RSVP Richard McLaughlin at 601-268-3780 or richardmcl@comcast.net.



Lunch at the Rock Hall Yacht Club,



Awards are given at the Annual Business Meeting by Commodore Marc Cruder.

Proposed schedule of events;

1. Pax River Shootout – May 24, sail in to Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, MD/ May 25 race and return to the Museum for the dinner and the awards ceremony. May 26 sail for home.
2. June 15 through 21. Spring Cruise north to the Bohemia River. Details to be announced at the March Meeting.
3. July 25–27 Corsica River Yacht Club Annual Regatta with a class for Catboats. Usual routine is to spend the night Friday night at Rock Hall Yacht Club and cross to Corsica early Saturday morning for registration and the skippers meeting. Races all day Saturday and Sunday until about noon then head for home Sunday afternoon.
4. August 30 to September 1 [Labor Day weekend] Great Whitehall Bay regatta. Sail in Saturday, races Sunday followed by dinner and awards at the Providence Yacht Club. Sail for home on Monday.
5. Prospect Bay Catboat Race September 13 -14 at Greenwood Shoals Creek.
6. October 4- 5. St. Michaels rendezvous – no race – at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival with dinner and gam at the Bevans.
7. October 11–13 [Columbus

Day weekend] Wye River Wild Goose Chase rendezvous – no race– just a last chance to enjoy the best Fall weather, Fall foliage and watch flocks of migrating waterfowl.

Dues notice enclosed. Still a bargain at \$15.00. Please remember to make all checks payable to David Bleil, Treasurer. There is no discount for cash but it will be cheerfully accepted at the annual meeting.

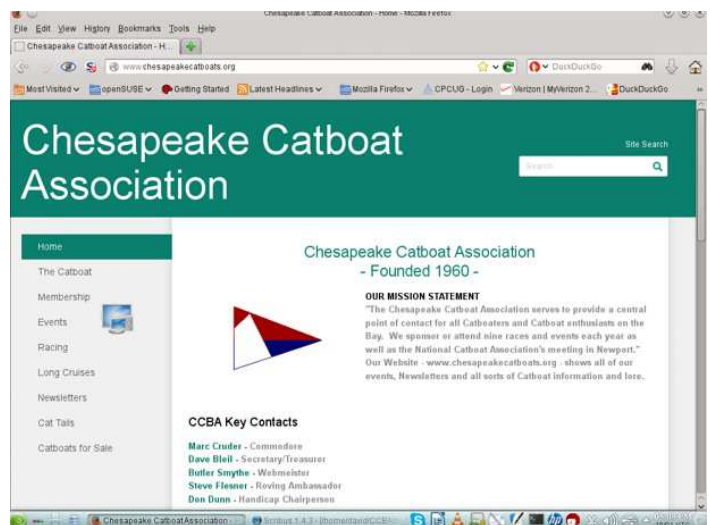
This annual meeting will provide exceptional opportunities to make a personal contribution to this all volunteer organization. We have come this far only in four decades through the efforts and time of many individuals who host events and maintain the infrastructure of organization. An organization may last indefinitely but individuals do not. Put your personal stamp on the shape of CCBA's future.

APPEAL FROM THE COMMODORE – WEBMASTER NEEDED!

Ever since Al Gore claimed to invent the internet, CCBA has tried to embrace the technology. It was the creation of a website that made us finally publish the association's officers and the "Commodore (without portfolio)" among others, was born. More than that, our foray into the web world sputtered and faltered for a long time, until Butler Smythe stepped in, giving us a reliable presence in cyberspace. His reorganization of "Cats for Sale" is getting more hits and results than the CBA National Bulletin and literally saved us from the "fiscal cliff" last year. It has proved to be self-supporting and provides a stipend that helps supports our hosted events.

Having a website is a minimum necessity in today's digital age and it has served us well, however in order to maintain it, we need a new Webmaster. Butler has certainly done his share and given us fair notice on stepping down. As a volunteer organization, I appeal to

the membership for help. See the announcement on the CCBA Home Page. No experience needed and Butler will train and continue to support anyone who has the time and interest to keep our group and its mission out there in the public domain. Unlike some of our members, I would prefer we not fall off the grid. A seamless transition would be best. You will need a computer with an Internet connection. The webmaster handles all listings of Catboats for sale and posting of cruise reports and Newsletters on the website when they are sent by email to him. Please contact Butler directly via the key contact link on the CCBA Home Page or at: caerulean1@yahoo.com.



Venerable Newsletter seeks fresh techno-savvy young editor.

The Chesapeake Catboat Newsletter has been around for at least a quarter century and has seen a few changes along with the Association it informs. Initially nameless, then later called "Cat-tales" the Newsletter was started by Bruce Smith, continued by Bernie Huddlestun and then by David Bleil. It has gone from a one page mimeographed occasional to a quarterly multi-page publication with color photos now optimized for electronic distribution. But the current editor, noted for his inability to spell, is wearing out. To continue this publication

into the next millennium will require a dedicated volunteer who can see better, type and spell better and will keep submitted material better organized. Preferably someone adapted to the new tablet computer environment.

News of Members & new members

Steve Flesner

Steve Flesner's Mystic 20, **Tuckernuck** is heading to Marco Island, FL to its new owner...a guy who sailed around the world on a gaffer for 8 years with his parents. Sounds like it is going to a good home and will get in full seasons of sailing.

Adam Hantman has his Marshall 18 at Small Open Boats, (SOB) in Port Republic where Rob Dale and Ken Spring are installing the new Marshall cockpit. Ken and Rob are doing a "facelift" on **Traveler**. John Brown left them his credit card and said, "I want her to look younger than me, just do what you have to!" New hatches, new rudder, cut down rig for easier handling and many "touch ups" are in progress along with some "botox"! There will be little varnish and a lot of ceatol and chewing gum. We look for her to be done in the Spring when John will invite us all to a proper relaunch and commissioning...unless he took all the booze off the boat!

Noelle Cruder, one of the original "catboat kids" graduated from college in December...making both Marc and Debbie proud parents and empty nesters! Rumor has it that Peter McCrary is selling **Tattoo**....so what's he building now to replace her?! Butler and Maria Smythe had their first dose of a Maine winter when they found their retirement home outside of Blue Hill in a "deep freeze"! But then we had a bit of that here.

Nonsuch Rendezvous Invites CCBA Members to Solomons Island

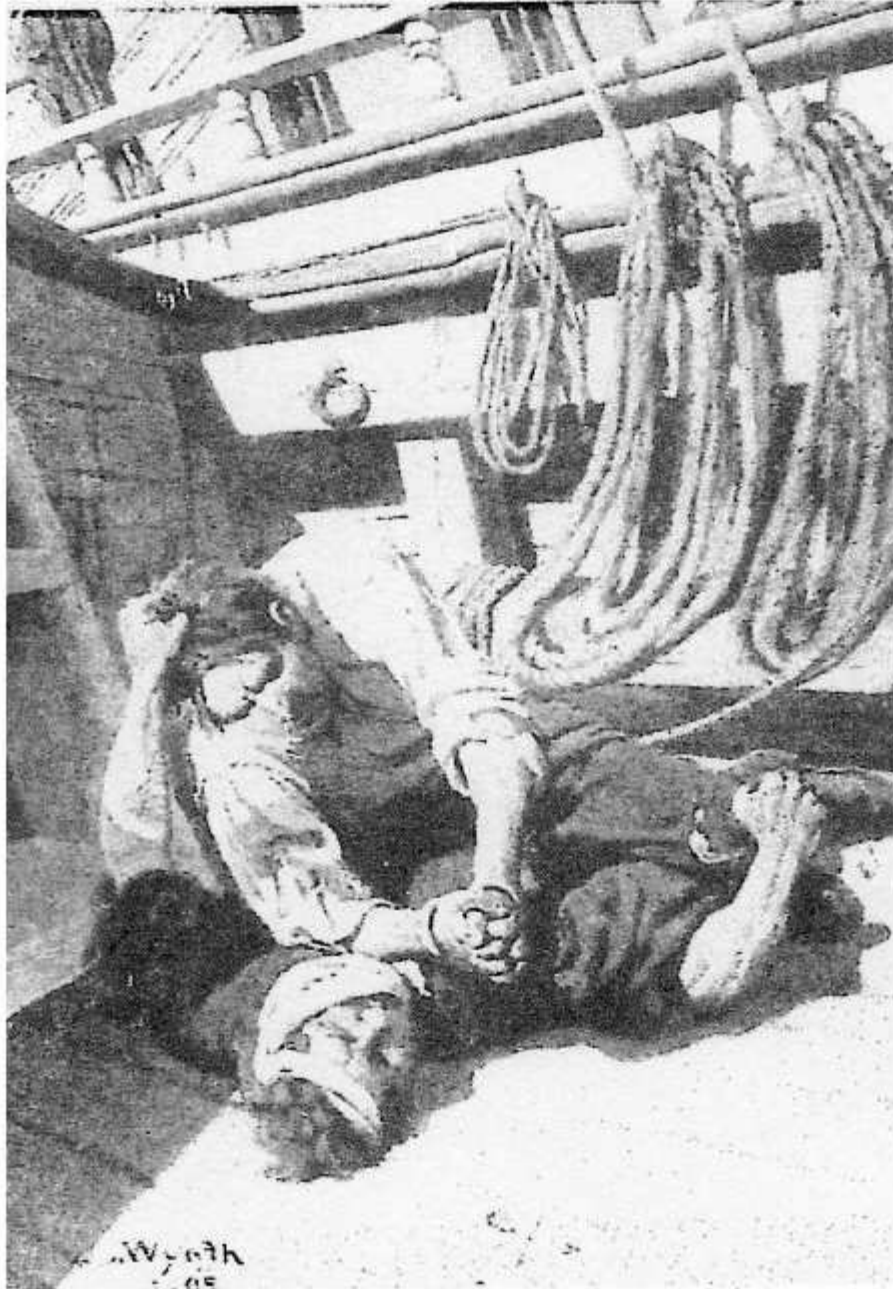
Nonsuch sailors from Southern Maryland have enjoyed being members of the Chesapeake Catboat Association for years. After all, the Nonsuch is a contemporary catboat.

Now the "Nonsuchers" are inviting all the traditional catboaters to join them in Solomons Island on June 20-21 for the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Nonsuch Association Rendezvous. This casual rendezvous promises to be a great way to bring in the summer of 2014!

Whether you sail, drive, or hitchhike to Solomons Island, we want Chesapeake Catboat Association members to come to the rendezvous and join us onboard a Nonsuch for a harbor parade, an exciting poker run, a lunchtime raft-up, and lots of eating/drinking/merrymaking into the evenings.

Various onshore events are planned, including remote control yacht races in the basin at the Calvert Marine Museum. You can even go for a sail on the museum's newly refitted skipjack, the Dee. Slips and even hotel rooms will be available for reduced prices for this event. If you prefer, you could make a daytrip out of it. So mark your calendar and picture yourself in Solomons Island for the summer solstice on June 20-21! For further information, contact Chesapeake Catboat Association member Tom Jones at tjones1080@aol.com or (860) 951-2840. Don't miss it!

**Don't Fight it!
Pay your Dues**



**Dues for 2014 are due by the Annual Meeting
March 8 or mail to David Bleil, Treasurer,
1444 Defense Hwy,
Gambrills, MD 21054-1906**

**Please make Checks payable to David Bleil,
Treasurer**