

Annual Meeting 2026

The CCBA annual meeting was held on March 28 at Pirate's Cove in Galesville, MD with a record turn-out of 42. While the meeting was intended to be focused on a belated 50th anniversary of the club's founding, the focus changed to celebrating the life of our dear friend Steve Flesner who passed suddenly only a handful of days before.

The meeting opened with a few announcements followed by a few raffles that went on throughout the meeting. Items for the raffle included many donated by Steve prior to his moving to an apartment. He wanted his catboat friends to enjoy them as much as he had over the years. Everything went.

A "State of the Ship" report was made by the Commodore noting that our finances are in good shape, membership is holding steady, and the many events of last year were a success. Butler Smythe our long-standing webmaster is ready to pass on the job. Bill Stratton has volunteered and is moving forward with the transition. Thanks to Butler for his fantastic work over twenty plus years.



Presentations were made on this year's upcoming events. Bruce and Jill on West River; Hartge's Marina is on board again for slips, Frank the Omelet Man is doing breakfast and they're hosting the Saturday night feast at their home. Butch did a brief burst on Prospect Bay; the usual Round the Islands and lunch at Fisherman's. Al & Catherine Renzi are hosting a huge week-end of local catboat lore and



more on and around Tilghman Island. It will be a special event.



. Craig Ligibel has come up with the South River Stampede on the South River involving racing and a shoreside feast at Chris Graae and Mary Kfoury's home. Rich presented the Down River Race and the Corsica River events. The club was involved in this event for many years in the past. It's put on by the Rock Hall Yacht Club. As a lead-in to the Down

River, Bob Corney is putting together an Upriver event the previous day. We've gotta go up to come down so we might as well race. We have been invited again to the Corsica River event. .Marc Cruder has planned his bucket list cruise up the James River. An epic nineteen day plus journey down the western shore and back up the eastern shore. Frank Newton is hosting the Wild Goose Chase again with Friday night dinner in St. Michael's. Always a fun event to close out season. He is also hosting the Holiday Party.

Marc Cruder made a special presentation to celebrate the life of our departed friend and mate Steve Flesner. Using a display with photos of Steve's many sides, it was a great tribute lubricated by a toast with Dark&Stormys. A card was passed around the room for everyone to offer a sentiment to his wife Lois. A copy of the cover follows. Unfortunately, I neglected to copy the sentiments but they were heartfelt.



Be sure to make reservations for West River Classic!!

West River Classic May 23-25

Contact: Bruce Ogden & Jill Seagraves 703-615-8607,



Crossing the bar:

Steve Flesner crossed the bar on March 19, 2026 suddenly and shortly after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer while at Calvert Medical Center in Fredrick, MD, recovering from a fall. He was 82. Steve was an active member CBA and CCBA for over 30 years.

During that time, he was on the CBA Awards committee, where he initiated a dress code change from blue blazers to Ha-

waiian shirts. This led CCBA members to be referred to as Steve's "Thugs from the Chesapeake" subsequently memorialized in a presentation at the CBA Annual Meeting in 2016. Steve was also the Cruising, Races and Rendezvous Editor, where he wrote a regular column titled: "Down Dee Bay, Hon." He also kept a Chesapeake presence on the CBA Steering Committee.

Steve was a prime mover, responsible for updating the CBA publication: The Mystic 20 Catboat as well as the recipient of the John Killam Murphy, Dolphin and CBA Bulletin Editor's Choice awards over the years.

He used to say: "I don't sail catboats, I collect them." Steve had a Wilkerson 22, a Mystic 20, a Marshall 18 and three Marshall 15s; the last *Scotty*, sailed out of Solomons, MD.

Down on the Chesapeake, Steve was known to CCBA members as:

- "Rover" when he was our Roving Ambassador responsible for Recruiting and Membership
- "Commode Door" when he relieved me and was our Commodore from 2015 to 2021, and
- "Money Bags" when he most recently held the position as our Treasurer

He and his wife Lois, who survives him, also hosted the Patuxent River Shootout event for a number of years. Steve was enthusiastic about everything catboats, following the catboat building career of Tilghman Island native Maynard Lowery, known particularly for his Fenwick Williams designed 16 footers, both open and cabin models. Steve made several storyboards which he donated to the Tilghman Island Waterman's Museum. In more recent times, when he couldn't make an event, he would always call and say: "Have a Dark and Stormy for me!" Steve is best remembered by long time friend and Mystic 20 designer/builder Pete Legnos:

"Steve leaves a huge void. He has been such a good friend, always reaching out to maintain the connection. His aura of humor, subtle positivity and encouragement will be with me always. My daughter Ali was very sad when she got the news. Steve was so kind to her when she was at George Washington University. It was a long time ago though the memories of his kindness and inclusiveness are with her today. I will be getting together with her to make a Dark and Stormy and that final toast to Steve. He meant a lot to us. I will never forget him."

Farewell and following seas from all your catboat friends. —Marc Cruder

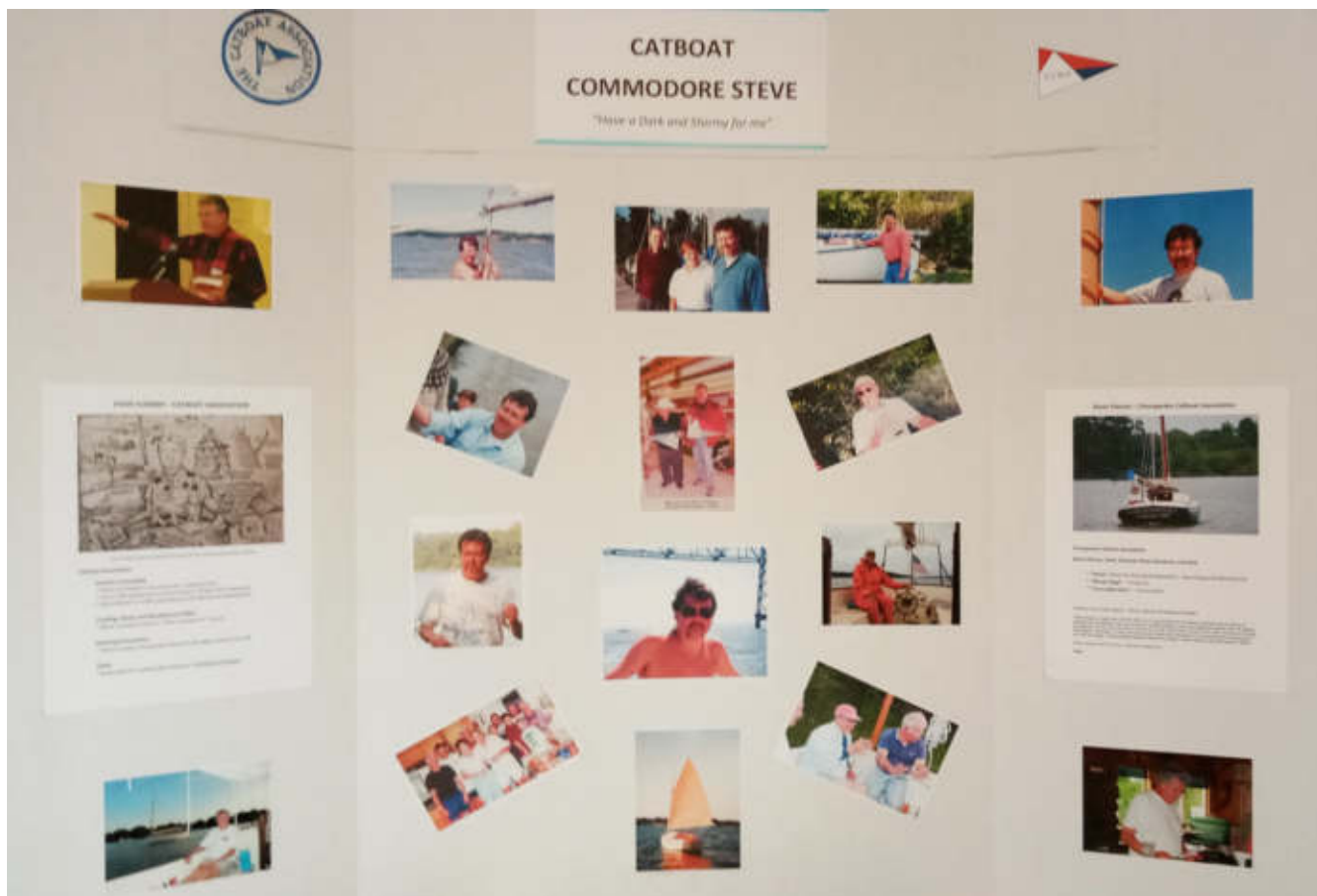
Dear Lois,

We are all shocked and saddened to hear of your loss. Steve was a beloved character to his friends and with your help a huge supporter of our boat clubs. Many of us have fond memories of the times you graciously hosted us at your home over the years. Those were special days, thank you.

We held our annual CCBA meeting on March 28 and devoted a significant portion of it to a celebration of our friend Steve. Marc Cruder put together a story board with photos of his many sides; Sailor Steve, Catboat Collector Steve, Commode Door Steve, Money Bags Steve, etc. After some words, Marc gave a toast involving "Dark & Stormy for Everyone". This card was passed around the room for your catboat friends to add their sentiments and best wishes. Tim Lund, Nate Titcomb, Eric Peterson and Skip Stanley of the CBA offered their condolences and well wishes to you via email.

If there is anything that we can do for you please reach out. We're here.

Your Catboat friends





Bernie Huddleston Sr was a CBA member and designer/builder of the wood composite 20 ft. PANDORA, currently owned and campaigned by Drew Staniar. PANDORA was on the cover of Wooden Boat Magazine in 1990 and her lines are the basis of the cruising cat currently available from Arey's Pond. Bernie Huddleston Sr. frequently presented at the CBA Annual Meetings on topics related to racing, trim and optimal performance of catboats under sail. He succumbed to cancer at an early age. The following is a response from his son Bernie Huddleston Jr. upon hearing about Steve Flesner's sudden passing.

"Back in the islands, man! Weekend in American Samoa. I'm headed to Barefoot Beach Bar for a bit of debauchery - yep -

looking for another tattoo! Still no catboat sitings..." -Steve, American Samoa

"No catboats, but I took out a trimaran wind rider, and it went like stink! Lois and I spent 5 days before my conference, then I went to work with plenty of sun, surf, and bikinis!!" - Steve, the Virgin Islands

"I'm putting Pelican in the water in two weeks. I am working a ton before my flight here on the beach. Just another day in paradise!" - Steve, St. Thomas "P.S. no catboats..."

These are just a few snippets from the many postcards Steve Flesner sent me over the years until his retirement from his career with the United States Federal Government. Porto Rico, Hawaii, Saipan, Key West, and often American Samoa. These weren't his vacation spots; this is where the IRS sent him for work. I never knew exactly what Steve's job was, but it didn't surprise me that he found a way to serve his country while enjoying a beer by the water and a warm breeze.

And that really summed up Steve. On the surface, he was a man who didn't take life too seriously, which, it turns out, takes a certain kind of wisdom. But underneath that easy manner was a bedrock of commitment that never shifted. His boat was shipshape. His cars were always pristine, and they lasted for decades. He loved his country and wore his career as a civil servant like a quiet point of pride. And when my father died, and I was a thirteen-year-old boy without a man to guide me, Steve was there. Not because he had to be. Because that's the kind of man he was.

My father, Bernie Huddleston, was an early member of the Chesapeake Catboat Association, a group of men bound by the sea, the slow, steady mastery of sailing, and the kind of competition that only sharpens friendship. I spent summers as a kid racing catboats, orbiting regatta dinners, and late-night tie-ups on the water for one last beer, sprite for me. The obligatory dirty joke, the ribbing of a fellow sailor as two catboats passed on the water. The passionate interpretation of the rules after a close race, because apparently every CCA member is an accomplished courtroom lawyer. And the learned helplessness of knowing that in light wind, Gull would beat everyone by a mile.

My father had a particular fondness for this group, unlike any of his other friendships. He saw them as men of real character: the quiet confidence of Irvin Tuttle, the booming charisma of Bill Hoover, the deep friendships of Bleil, Cruder, Park, and many others. He wanted this group to guide me after he was gone. I imagine he pictured Bill Hoover pulling me aside at sixteen to instill the twelve virtues of manhood.

But Steve is the one who answered the call. And Steve understood something my father might not have anticipated: I didn't need a carefully crafted lecture or the rules of life spelled out for me. I needed someone to think of me. To write me a letter from a beach in paradise. To give his time, and to teach me the mundane and necessary things: how to steam crabs, how to drive a stick shift, how to care for a car so it would last, and maybe catch a glance from the girls. Someone to remind me to have fun, while limiting the dumb things teenage boys inevitably fall into, and that life was going to be okay.

Steve kept me close to the water. From the time my father passed until I found my way back to sailing twenty-five years later, almost every time I was on the water, I was with Steve. At a race or just out on the lake by his house. We never had much wind, but we always had a beer and a laugh.

My dad and I built a wooden Sunfish together named Kiki, and he passed away before we could apply the final coat of varnish. Steve had me over one afternoon, and we sanded and finished her together, just in time for the race at Corsica River. Then Steve stored Kiki in his garage for the next twenty-five years. He never once hinted that I should come and take her off his hands.

I often wondered what compelled Steve to show up for me the way he did. At my father's celebration of life, he pulled my mother aside and told her, *"I'm going to step in and take Bernie sailing. I will guide him. You can count on me."* Maybe it was that he didn't have kids of his own, or that he felt some deep obligation to his friend, my father. He talked more than once about how my dad had taken the time to teach him to be a better sailor: to read the tiller, to master a new boat, to trust his instincts on the water. It touched him that my dad was so generous with his time and shared so many of his secrets.

My father taught Steve to be generous. And Steve, without ever saying so, passed that same gift to me.

I often wonder if he knew how much it meant. The guilt hit me hard when I heard about Steve's passing. Was I as generous with my time as I got older, the way he had been with me? Did I call enough, visit enough? Did he know? The painful irony is that because my dad had cancer and we knew the end was coming, there was nothing left unsaid between us, even though he missed most of my life. Steve was there for nearly all of it, and somehow everything went unsaid. Steve did leave me with several virtues, as it turns out. They just came in the form of postcards and afternoons on the water rather than a formal address at sixteen:

1. Be charming as hell.
2. Never miss an opportunity to flirt with a beautiful woman.
3. Downshifting saves your brakes.
4. Don't pee upwind.
5. Nothing lasts forever, so enjoy it when it's good.
6. Be generous with your time.
7. Be a kind and thoughtful teacher.
8. If you get a chance to live in Europe, do it.
9. Be funny.

Don't take life too seriously.

The one thing that gives me solace is this. In 2023, when my daughter was four months old and just able to travel, we drove from New York to St. Leonard, Maryland, so that Steve could hold her. It was the last time I saw him in person - a fitting end for a man who helped a boy without a father become a father.

Fair winds, Steve. No catboats where you're going, but I have a feeling you'll find a bar by the water and a warm breeze. I love you, and thank you for everything.

Bernie Huddleston Jr

Commodore's Corner 4/13/26

Spring is doing it's best to arrive on the Eastern Shore. The geese have left and the ospreys arrived on time around St. Patty's Day and the trees are laying down their green coating with miserable effect on the sinuses.

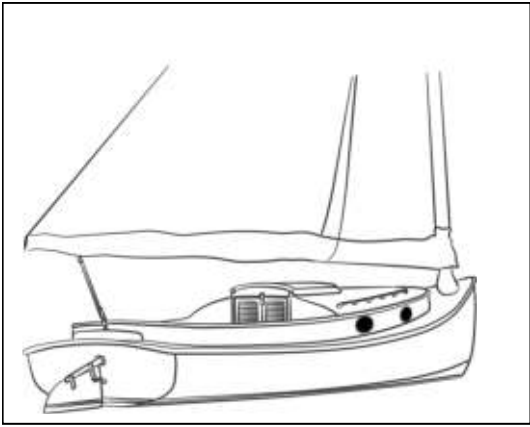
Our annual meeting in March had a record turn-out as a few made a special trip to join in on the celebration of life for our friend and comrade Steve Flesner. He was well celebrated and will be sorely missed.

As this issue is chock full of news, that's all from me for now.

Enjoying the pollen and the sanding dust.

Butch





2026 West River Heritage Regatta and Catboat Rendezvous

May 23-25, 2026

Hartge's Yacht Harbor (HYH),
Galesville

*Come launch the season with superlative sailing, friends,
and food!*

Saturday, May 23

*Sail in

18:00 Pit BBQ dinner at Bruce and Jill's home (1020 Shore Drive, West River, MD) on Chalk Pt across the West River. \$20 per head, payable in advance (see below). BYOB. Limited parking- meet at Hartge's at 5:45 to carpool.

Sunday, May 24

8:00 Breakfast Omelets - courtesy of our own Jersey Frank

9:30 Sailing Seminars (or Story Swap)

11:30 Skipper's Meeting

13:00 First Gun

17:30 Awards, Cocktails and Dinner on Lawn - Bring a personal item for the grill and a side to share. Dessert and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. BYOB.

Monday, May 25

Depart for home port.

*All boats must register with HYH and fill out a short-term transient form. This includes overnights and day-only visitors as well. **Even if your boat only stays for a few hours, you need to be identified and assigned a slip or mooring, for a minimal fee of \$20.** Hartge's staff will be checking you in and assisting with docking or mooring assignments. To request a slip or mooring assignment please contact Kat Schwenk, (443) 607-6306.*

BBQ RSVP using form below or email Bruce Ogden: bruce@gr8sail.com, (703) 615 8607 and send payment to: 1020 Shore Dr., West River, MD 20778

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Name: _____

Boat Name: _____ No. of people: _____

_____ I/we plan to attend Saturday BBQ \$20/person. Number of people: _____

I am paying ahead by _____ check or _____ cash. (Checks payable to Bruce Ogden)

WEST RIVER Annual Regatta Catboat Rendezvous Information

The West River Annual Regatta and Catboat Rendezvous will be held over the Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-25, 2026.

Once again, the regatta is located on the West River at Hartge's Yacht Harbor (HYH) in Galesville, MD. The setting is a great venue with slips and moorings for overnighting and a great place for socializing and eating. The racing is informal, fun, and affectionately known as a "race parade."



The goal is to have a wonderful time sailing your catboat and of course display the beautiful catboats to the folks on shore which include homeowners, Chesapeake Yacht Club, diners at Stan and Joe's and Pirates Cove restaurants, as well as boaters on the West River.

The event will start on Saturday, May 23rd with a catered barbeque dinner hosted by Bruce Ogden and Jill Segraves at their home at 1020 Shore Drive, West River, across from HYH. This is a BYOB event and the cost of dinner is \$20 per person. Non-alcoholic beverages are provided. Please RSVP by filling out the form on the flyer or send an email to Bruce Ogden at: bruce@gr8sail.com and please pay ahead of time by sending a check payable to Bruce Ogden at 1020 Shore Drive, West River, 20778.

May 24th, Sunday morning, is race day and features omelets prepared to order by our own Frank Newton along with bottomless coffee, tea, juice, fruit, and pastries. Let Bruce know if you would like to give a talk on a subject area that is of interest to catboaters. The skippers meeting will be at 11:30 with first gun at 1:00. The race committee will decide and brief the racecourse and adjust the time or racecourse based on the wind and weather.

Awards, BYOB, and potluck will be held on the Hartge's lawn after the race at 5:30. Please bring a personal main dish and side to share. Grills will be available for grilling.

For those bringing cats on trailers, there is a public launch site in Shadyside off Parish Creek.

Harge's is requiring anyone who needs a slip or plans to moor (for any amount of time) to pay a fee. All boats must register with HYH and complete a short-term transient form. This includes overnighters and any day-only visitors. To request a slip or mooring, please contact Kat Schwenk at (443) 607-6306.

For further information and questions, please contact Bruce Ogden or Jill Segraves at: email: bruce@gr8sail.com, cell: (703) 615-8607 or email: jill@gr8sail.com, cell: (703) 835-3037 respectively.

2026 CCBA Schedule

Annual Meeting March 28 Pirate's Cove Restaurant @ 1 PM 4817 Riverside Dr., Galesville MD

Contact Butch Miller – 410-271-2540, anmiller003@gmail.com

West River Classic May 23-25 Contact: Bruce Ogden & Jill Seagraves 703-615-8607,

bruce@gr8sail.com, jill@gr8sail.com

Prospect Bay R&R June 6 Contact: Butch Miller – 410-271-2540, anmiller003@gmail.com

Up the Chester River June 18. "rbcorney3@gmail.com" <rbcorney3@gmail.com>

Tilghman Weekend July 30 - August 2 Contact – Al Renzi – 484-356-8291 or al@yellowspringsfarm.com

South River Stampede August 15 Contact – Craig Ligibel – 816-304-1409, craig.ligibel@vml.com

Long Cruise Patriot Cruise, Sept 8 – 23 or Jamestown and Beyond, Sept 8 - 27

Contact: Marc Cruder, 410-729-5305, mccruder2020@gmail.com

Wild Goose Chase October 16-18 Contact: Frank Newton - 908-581-8774 or finewton3@yahoo.com

Holiday Party Dec. 6 Dock House Restaurant, Kent Narrows @ 2 PM

Contact: Frank Newton - 908-581-8774 or finewton3@yahoo.com

Other Opportunities

RHYC Down
River Race –
June 19 Con-
tact: Rich
McLaughlin -
302-932-3222
or



First Annual CCBA Up The Chester River Pursuit Race 2026

Contact Bob Corney or Fred Sheriff for more info

The Plan:

Leverage the RHYC Down River Race on Friday, June 19 with an Up (the Chester) River leg the day before June 18th, starting near RHYC.

Start at the LC buoy off the Lankford Creek on the Chester River up to the CRYCC Red #40 buoyclub. Length 12.1 NM.



Timing:

Start at Noon on Thursday, June 18th.

Informal start - must be within 15 feet of "LC" Buoy at start time.

Informal finish - must end within 15 feet of the Red Buoy off CRYCC

Meals:

Wednesday night at RHYC? TBD

Thursday night at CRYCC. 6pm. I have reserved space for 30 people but flexible. Need a head count. Even if you don't race please come to dinner at the CRYCC. Fixed price dinner and cash bar.

Awards event for CCBA First Annual Up the Chester River Pursuit Race

Go to link below for Marty's Bag works merchandise

<https://stores.inksoft.com/ChesapeakeCatboatAssn/shop/home>



For sale. 1976 Lyman Cruisette. Make an offer



For Sale. 1976 Lyman 26' Cruisette. Kanza is a classic 26-foot Lyman fiberglass runabout. Needs mechanical (riser) work). Sold as is. I have owned her for 20 years. Mostly lift kept or fresh water. 270 Crusader HP engine. (original). Sink with running water. Battery charger; Garmin 624 chartplotter; remote spotlight, Newish cushions throughout . 4" V-berth cushions. Anchor mounted on deck for ease of deployment. Extra large bumpers. Stringers replaced 2007. Survey value at \$9500 in 2007 prior to restoration completed by Gasparilla Marine Service, Placida, Florida repairs costing \$30,000 +/- . Maintained by John Barnett Muddy Creek Marine, Edgewater, MD.

Text with expressions of interest.No reasonable offer refused **816-304-1409**

For more photos, go to: <https://craigligibel.smugmug.com/2026/Kanza>

Trying to sell my Lyman.

Will donate \$250 to CCBA if anybody in the Club buys or helps find a buyer.

Wanted, CCBA Newsletter editor

Four issues a year. It takes 4-6 hours to put together. Some computer skills needed.... Photoshoph and Publisher programs or similar programs a plus. Will train the successful applicant.No salary! Your chance to keep CCBA members up to date. Expressions of interest. Email Butch Miller at : anmiller003@gmail.com