

Editor: Craig Ligibel ; tcligibel@vml.com All the catboat news that's fit to print.

Commodore's Corner

Hello Cats,

Being the final installment of the Comm. Corner for the year, I thought I'd do a brief wrap-up of events and make mention of what's coming up next year. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did which was highlighted by reaching my goal of a cruise to the brewery.



So here goes:

The annual meeting at Kentmoor was a hoot highlighted by Frank's fashion show, the abandon ship drill, a positive cash flow report, the welcoming of a few new members, Steve's retirement after seven years and the installation of a new Commodore. A record number of members attended and thanks to all who came from near and far.

The first sail-in event was the West River Regatta & Rendezvous. put on by Tim and Kate. A great time was had racing, enjoying Chef Frank's Overloaded Omelets, Craig's oyster buffet, Fred's "How to Varnish in 18 Steps" seminar and Marc's "Now I Know What I've Been Hitting All These Years" talk about the history of Thomas Point Light. Kate also managed to coerce some popular vendors out of some great SWAG for a raffle. Thanks!

Then there was the first blow out, Prospect Bay. They went out and they came back, tails between their legs. We did have a very well attended lunch at Fisherman's Inn thanks to the charm of Jersey Frank. More coercion. They wanted hundreds to reserve the room but they met their match with Frank. Never ones to waste rum, the trophies will be altered and presented next year so we saved a few more bucks.

We were once again invited to the Corsica River Yacht Club's regatta, the hottest event of the year. If memory serves, we had six boats who raced in light airs on Saturday. *Lark* found the bottom more than once at the approach to the start line, arggh. We didn't bother to post on Sunday and bugged out in the morning. The dinner and band were great as usual and the beer was included with the dinner. Another fun time, not horribly hot and no storms.

Next was the Catboat BBQ and South River Sail-In put on by Craig and Colleen at their lovely home. For those who sailed-in Craig came up with an incentive. A poker run with pick up points along both shores of the South River. No cards involved. Instead, pictures were taken of various land marks. The oysters, of course, the main dish of BBQ and tasty sides and rhubarb pie were delightful. Thanks Craig and Colleen.



The long cruise up the Wicomico to Evolution Brewery in Salisbury was next and the second blow out. We tried some new spots along the way. The unanimous favorite was Tedious Creek at the head of Fishing Bay. Of course, the stop at Larry's was special as usual. His daughter, Lisa really pulled out the stops to welcome us. We had some antics on the way in after a gusty afternoon. Dinner at the brewery was attended by fourteen. The real blow out was in Salisbury where we took two lay days considering 40knt gales in the bay. Stay tuned for details in the write-up. It's coming along but slooowly.

The Wild Goose Chase was a fantastic end to our event season. We had a very enjoyable and well attended dinner and breakfast in St. Michael's before a fantastic downwind sail into and up the Wye. The

peace and quiet in Pickering creek was only broken by a crazy crop duster and the chatter of geese. See the write-up within.



We had a banner year for membership and welcomed new members Caleb Burns, Thomas & Teresa Caro, Jim & Becky Carter, Mark Dean, John Downey, Carl Fly, Conrad & Julie Gordon, and Brian McCandless. We hope to see them on the water next year if not sooner.

In the next newsletter we should have next year's calendar ironed out as well as a date for the annual meeting. Unfortunately, our friends at Kentmoor have retired and there is no news of what the new owners are planning. They will be missed dearly. So, we're on the search for a new venue for the meeting. If anyone has a suggestion for a centrally located place that will take a party of thirty or so without charging an arm and a leg for a room, please let me know.

We are still looking to add another event of some kind to replace the Whitehall event. If you would like to host an event, please let me know. It could be as simple or complicated as one would like. The main thing is to get us cats together preferably on the water.

Best wishes for the holidays and success with the coming boat projects. This year I just hope to get *Lark* put away properly unlike last year.

Hope to see many of you at the meeting. Until then...

Your intrepid Cat Herder,

Butch Miller

The 80th Annual Corsica River YC Regatta –

The CCBA continued a tradition of attending this long-running regatta over the July 23-24 weekend. The event started off on Friday evening with dinner at the Rock Hall YC which lies two miles due west of CRYC. RHYC provides a welcome destination for catboats arriving from various home ports around the Bay. By late July the Chesapeake is warm and lazy and the catboats began motoring early in the day.

After dinner, showers, and a welcome dose of air conditioning a fleet of six catboats slipped away from the docks to find anchorages in Emory Creek bordering CRYC to the east. I launched the Bay Hen in the evening and headed across early on Saturday morning. With light air and the Honda 2hp gently assisting I was half-way across the Chester when in the distance the silhouette of a catboat coming out of the Corsica came into view. It was Pete McCrary and his Peep Hen returning to the ramp at RHYC. Upon my arrival at the pre-race captain's meeting I learned that the night had been a hot &



still on Emory Creek. With the wisdom of an octogenarian our senior sailor chose to abort the event and live on to sail another day.

Six boats competed for three races at the mouth of the Corsica on Saturday. After a delay, the wind freshened adequately to race utilizing wide tacks across the narrow river. LARK, the Americat 22 captained by Commodore Miller was impeded at times by the shoals due to draft. PATRIOT the M18 was the catboat to beat on this day.

'Ironman' Phil Livingston was in the zone all day but credits the win to Patriot's doily curtained lights. Admittedly, I do find that look distracting while closely crossing tacks. The M22 PRIDE displayed her usual measured performance aided by electronic navigation with 'Smooth as Glass' Fred Sherriff at the helm to place 2nd. Seasoned sailor and newcomer to the event, Bob Leigh raced LEIGHWAY the Menger 19 to a strong 3rd.

At the CRYC pavilion that evening we relaxed and shared stories from the day over an Eastern Shore BBQ dinner. Afterwards, the Menger 19 TIGGER with 'Jersey' Frank Newton & Dave Park onboard made way for home followed by the BayHen PEKING and me. A strong southerly fetch and foul tide in the Chester resulted in TIGGER missing the last Kent Narrows bridge opening and over-nighting in the north side basin. I too arrived back at RHYC much later than expected. Commodore Miller provided the adjusted-time regatta results with the help of the CRYC race committee. Many thanks to CRYC for another well-run regatta, and to all the CCBA members and guests in attendance.

-Rich McLaughlin

Catboaters chow down at August BBQ feast



More than 20 catboaters representing no fewer than 11 vessels journeyed to the South River home of CCBA newsletter editor Craig Ligibel for the traditional August catboat cookout.

“It gets pretty hot here on the Bay during the Summer...so an event where people can come by boat or car makes sense for our far flung membership,” said Ligibel

Arriving by water were Dave Park and Fred Sherriff; Frank Newton; Digger Vermont and Josie Smith; Phil Livingston and Rich Mcloughlin and Kate Grinberg and Tim Kallman who won the award for longest commute...a 12-day journey from Massachusetts.

In addition to the traditional Ligibel oyster feast and BBQ ribs, the catboaters had the added

honor of participating in the first ever Catboat Poker run...a GPS plotted course that led the mariners past several South River on-water locations. Upon arriving at the Catboat Casino at Ligibel’s BBQ joint, the catboaters turned in digital images from their voyage and received a playing card for each correct entry.

With a high hand of two pair, Kate Grinberg and Tim Kallman were declared winners of the event with Phil Livingston and Digger Vermont coming in second and third respectively. New member Chris Graae also participated in the Poker Run but was declared ineligible because he did not register his intent prior to the race!

Several catboaters overnighted in Little Aberdeen Creek...with at least two members of the group heading out early the next morning...missing the dockside breakfast goodies Ligibel and his wife provided.

The South River catboat BBQ is an every-other year event, alternating activities with Phil Livingston’s Oxford Catboat Parade.



The Long and short of the Long Cruise...

The Commodore is still composing!!

Here is his preliminary script..

.We had a fantastic cruise up the Wicomico to Salisbury and Evo brewery. Seven boats started and four made the entire trip. Had an especially nice visit at Larry's. We ended up skipping Solomon's to make up a day after laying in Salisbury for two days due to gale winds. The write up is progressing like molasses but it'll get done. Kate shared some great pics and there will be more to come.

Quite a time was had by all. Stay tuned for the blow to blow...soon to be a major motion picture!!



Curlew does it again!! Another successful voyage from New England to the Chesapeake.

One would think that repeating a 500 mile trip in a 22' Catboat might fall under the 'definition of insanity' description...but CURLEW was up to the task again and we called her home for twelve days, sailing from Bass River, MA to home port on the West River. This time, we enjoyed a long string of high pressure fortune and encountered only two days of intimidating weather, with 20+ knots wind at our nose and seas that kept us on high alert. New England waters delivered near perfect sailing conditions, from Cuttyhunk (boatside oysters!) through Narraganset Bay. While gusty winds, rain and waves provided formidable challenge on LI Sound, our ride on the East River through NYC was magical: anchored with a view of the Throgs Neck bridge bejeweled in light, we caught Hells Gate at slack tide and rode the East River shortly after dawn in near solitude. After dodging the usual ferries and freighters in NY harbor, we sailed around Sandy Hook to points south, watching dolphins and the beachgoers along the Atlantic coastline pass by. Perched at the northern tip of Barnegat Bay, BHYC rolled out the red carpet for CURLEW. As before, we were incredibly grateful for this chance to refresh ourselves and our supplies, stretch our (now near atrophied) legs, and linger not long enough. The remainder of our journey was marked by wind and weather near Long Beach Island, a feisty approach to Atlantic City, and the joy of a slow meander, under drawbridges and through the marsh refuge along the ICW to Cape May. Our challenging trip up the Delaware Bay ("rip the bandaid off") was rewarded with pristine conditions the next day as we entered the familiar waters of the Bay, enjoyed a homecoming night in Rock Hall and an uneventful return to the West River, home sweet home



Honk...Honk....Honk.

Wild Goose Chase 2022. Great times. Even a couple of geece!!

This year's Wild Goose Chase was held on the amazing weekend of Oct. 14-16. Six boats and eleven crew participated which was the largest turnout in years.



The group gathered on Friday in St. Michael's arriving from various directions on very light winds. *Patriot*; Phil and Earl from Oxford, *Lark*; Butch, Denise and Lenny along with *Tigger*; Frank and Dave sailed down from Crab Alley just up the river, *Talley Ho*; Jim and Rich from Rock Hall. *Leighway*; Bob and *Wacoma*; Jim and Barb Palmer's Block Island 40 bailed on their Alberg 30 cruise group to join their catboat fellows.

Dinner was excellent at Foxie's Grill including a short round of Manhattans on Fred who drove in from Chestertown. Also unable to get away for the weekend, Tim and Kate drove over from the boat show.

Following our traditional breakfast at Carpenter Street Saloon, Saturday morning set up with a perfect 10-15 out of the south making for a perfect one reef downwind sail across the Miles and to the top of Wye River East. Sailing the river is always interesting with gusts and lulls brought about by the varying shoreline. Tacking around at the top of the narrow river put the wind on the nose so the sail went down and the engine went on. We ventured up Skipton Creek to the skinny water where Dave Park kept a boat for many years. Lenny did get to see the black sheep on the hillside estate, twice

The anchorage was Pickering Creek on the east side of the river and very protected. *Lark* joined the four other cats rafted to the big girl,

Wacoma after a shore stop for Lenny at the Audubon Society Park. No one else being there, we ignored the No Dogs sign. When ya gotta go...

The midafternoon cocktail hour was in full swing spread across three boats. Understandable considering sunset and cool temps come early this time of year. After the aerobic show by the crop duster the night turned amazingly quiet and still. Not even a clunk from the rudder. The only noise was the chatter of a few geese who finally made an appearance after a few years. A better day would be hard to come by.

The stillness remained on Sunday morning as goodbyes and well wishes until next time were offered. We peeled off for another visit to the No Dog zone then followed *Wacoma* down the creek and out into the river for another light wind on the nose sail toward home.

It was one of the best trips ever with a great group of friends, fantastic weather and some great sailing.

Butch Miller



First...and last...call for photos for the 2023
Chesapeake Catboat Association calendar!!

Send your best
shots to:

tcligibel@vml.com



Ho...ho...ho...

**New CCBA logo items just in time for
the holidays!**



New rugby shirt!

New watch cap!

New scarf!

New coffee/drink mug!

**Click on the link to see pricing/sizes/colors
Plus all other CCBA favorites for you or that
special someone!**

[Click here to enter the CCBA on-line store!](#)

New and Innovative Crew Finder Network in North America

Are you looking to connect with fellow sailors? Are you planning to sail offshore or to organize your next coastal cruise? Do you need company for your liveaboard retirement? Did you just complete your sailing course and look for more experience? Do you need more crew for your racing season?

Coboaters is for you! We connect boating enthusiasts together, crew and captains, beginners and experienced sailors. It is free to join and to browse our hundreds of profiles and sailing opportunities anywhere in North America.

This looks like a cool deal. Go to: www.coboaters.com/en/ to check it out!!



New Members. 76 members strong!!Yea!!!

Welcome these newbies on the Water!!!!

Caleb Burns, Raleigh NC. *Plow Herreshoff America 18*

Thomas and Teresa Caro, Bristol, PA. *Odyssey Marshall 22*

Jim and Becky Carter, Takoma Park MD. *Rebeca Ann Menger 19*

Mark Dean, Landsdowne, PA. *Rebeca Ann Menger 19*

John Downey, Erie PA. *Nexus II Menger 19*

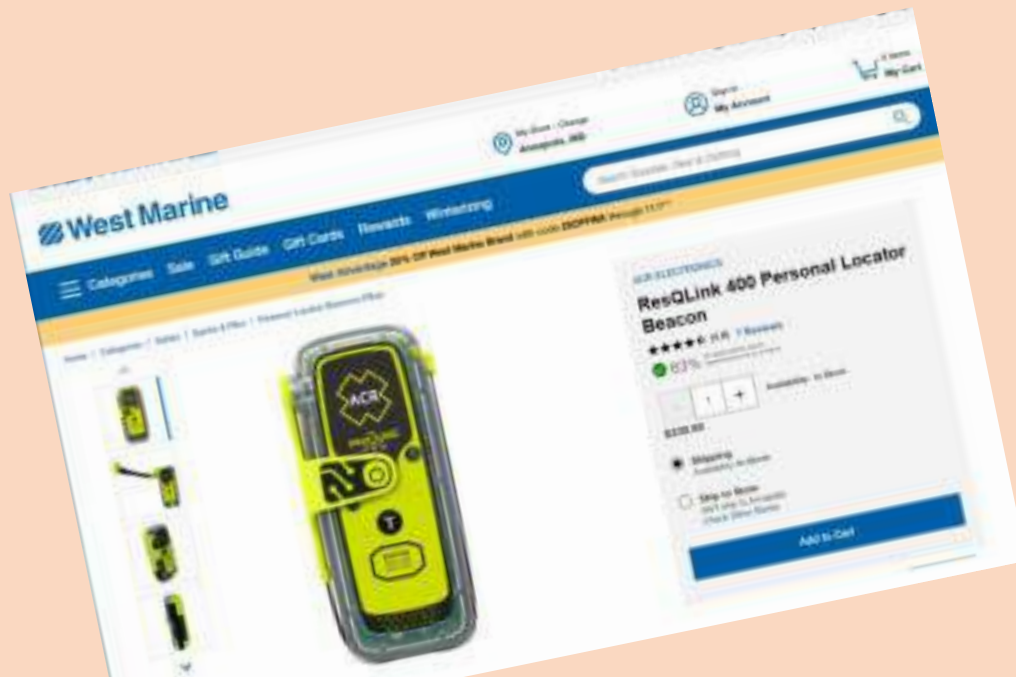
Carl Fly, Wakefield, VA. *Carol Lynn Atlantic City 24*

Conrad and Julie Gordon, Tilghman Island, MD. *Sunshine Daydream Marshall 22*

Brian McCandless, Front Royal, VA

Robert and Barbara Liotta, Washington, DC. *Mischief Marshall 18*

David Menzie and Barbara MacBeth, Chestertown MD . *Scotty Marshall 15*



Worth a look!! Might save your life if you get into trouble in the Bay!!!!
Cheap insurance when you are sailing solo!!



Ligibels and Millers at Sultana Downrigging!

For a story and more pix, go to:

<https://www.spinsheet.com/news/sultana-downrigging-festival-does-not-disappoint-tall-ship-lovers>