



Chesapeake Catboat Association

Spring 2025

Volume 34, Issue 2

All the catboat news that's fit to print.

Editor: Craig Ligibel; craig.Ligibel@vml.com



CCBA kickoff meeting draws record crowd!

Lots of laughter, great food and catboat conversations as the CCBA started off 2025 at Pirate's Cove in Galesville.

Commodore Butch and his gang have a great catboating year lined up...starting with the ever-popular West River Classic May 25.

Make plans now to attend ...by land or sea.

Sign up using the form on page 4!!



Commodore's Corner

Spring 2025

Hello Cats,

We've made it through another winter with dreams of returning to another season of fun and adventure out on the water.

Our annual meeting was a huge success with a record 41 fellow sailors joining in on the fun. Pirate's Cove took great care of as usual. Phil, Bruce and Jill, Al and Katherine, Frank and I all gave presentations of their/my respective events. The Harris Creek event put on by the Renzis is new this year and looks to be a fun event including crafty awards for the race. Details will be sent out sometime prior each event as a reminder and call to join in. Of course, there were raffles of some great Marty's Bag gear as well as a few books kindly donated by Money Bags. Phil once again took home the Tut Tuttle award for event participation and racing prowess and Craig Ligibel was honored with the John Brown award for his long-time support of the club by publishing our newsletter and calendar as well as hosting the biannual BBQ. A certificate signed by all in attendance was presented that reads:

"The members of the Chesapeake Catboat Association hereby recognize David Bleil, a founding member, for his decades of support to the association through editing and producing our newsletter, managing the membership rolls and money, maintaining the historical archive, sharing his wealth of catboat experience, and his continuing fellowship. Many thanks from all of us."

Also of note was the report of David Morrow's honor of being awarded the CBA's Broad Axe award given for his restoration of Anna. Well deserved. No mention was made of any alterations to the original Marshall design was made.

Speaking of the CBA, the meeting in Mystic was enjoyable as always. Peter Legnos hosted us once again at his home on Friday night. Always a great time and an opportunity to catch up with each other. We filled two tables at the meeting and enjoyed the lunch presentation by Adam Cove about his participation in The Race to Alaska sailing his Marshall 18. The race is 710 nm from Victoria, BC to Ketchikan AK. Adam, set two records. One for the fastest single sailor and one for the "under 20" class. You can find the race site through an internet search. It's worth checking it out.

Butler Smythe has after many years has decided to retire from his webmaster role. Many thanks to him for his hard work in keeping the site up and in order. If anyone is interested in assuming the position, please let me know.

Many thanks to Steve, Frank for manning the check-in table and Marc, trust but verify, for plucking the raffle tickets

That's all for now.

Best for a smooth spring commissioning and hope to see you at West River.

Butch Miller

Commodore/Cat Herder.





Phil "Ironman" Livingston wins Tut Tuttle Award.



Ligibel wins John Brown Award



2025 CCBA Event schedule



Annual Meeting March 15

Pirate's Cove Restaurant @ 1 PM

4817 Riverside Dr., Galesville MD 20765 410-867-2300

Contact: [Butch Miller – 410-271-2540 or anmiller003@gmail.com](mailto:anmiller003@gmail.com)

West River Classic May 25

Contact: Kate Grinberg, Tim Kallman

301-908-6966 or kathryngrinberg@gmail.com

Prospect Bay R&R June 21

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

Oxford Parade August 2

Contact: Phil Livingston – 901-484-6320 or pl642@comcast.net

Harris Creek August 30

Contact – Al Renzi – 484-356-8291 or

al@yellowspringsfarm.com

Long Cruise Sept 13 to 22 To the Islands

Contacts: Phil Livingston, Fred Sherriff, Butch Miller

Wild Goose Chase October 18-19

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

Holiday Party Dec. 7

Dock House Restaurant, Kent Narrows @ 2 PM

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

Other Opportunities:

Catboat Assoc. Annual Meeting – Feb. 7 & 8

CRYC Annual Regatta August 16 & 17

Contact: Rich McLaughlin - 302-932-3222 or rkmcl12@gmail.com

Dates are of the actual event. Sail-in and sail home days not noted.



2025 West River Heritage Regatta and Catboat Rendezvous

May 24-26

Hartge's Yacht Harbor, Galesville

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

Saturday, May 24

*Sail in

18:00 Pit BBQ dinner at Bruce and Jill Ogden's home 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 25

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

10:00 Sailing Seminars (or Story Swap)

12:00 Skipper's Meeting

13:00 First Gun

16:30 Awards, Cocktails and Dinner on Lawn - Bring a personal item for the grill and a side to share (*new this year*). Dessert and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. BYOB

Monday, May 26

Depart for home port

All boats must register with HYH and fill out a short-term transient form. This includes overnighters and any 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 assignment please contact Brad Wells, Harbormaster: brad@HartgeYachtHarbor.com or call (443) 607-6306.*

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RSVP using form below or email Kate Grinberg: kathryngrinberg@gmail.com (301) 908-6966. Send to 6510 76th St., Cabin John MD 20818

Name: _____

Boat Name: _____ No. of people: _____

_____ /we plan to attend Saturday BBQ @ \$20/person. Number of people: _____
I am paying ahead by _____ check or _____ Venmo @kathryn-grinberg

Don't forget to RSVP for Bruce and Jill's Friday night BBQ!!! Mouth-watering food; great kickoff party.

Herding cats...

Reprinted from December 2024 SpinSheet.

Craig Ligibel story



The Chesapeake Catboat Association serves to provide a central point of contact for all Catboaters and Catboat enthusiasts on the [Bay](#). The association sponsors or attends multiple races and events each year as well as the National Catboat Association's meeting in Groton, CT. Its members have a lot of fun sailing and socializing together as you will read below. Here is the latest on the local catboating scene.

"We don't take ourselves too seriously, and we welcome anyone who wants to learn more about catboats and our association," says CCBA commodore Butch Miller. Photo by Craig Ligibel

Chesapeake Catboat Association's banner year

The Chesapeake Catboat Association (CCBA) capped off a banner year early in December with a laid-back Holiday Luncheon held at the Dock House Restaurant on Kent Island.

Commodore Butch Miller reflected on the year just completed saying, "Thanks to all of our Bay area catboat members who sponsored events up and down the Bay. It takes a lot of work to put on an event for 20-30 catboaters who sail eight-10 hours from their home ports for a race or a dinner. These boats are not the speediest. We have to make provisions for not enough wind... too much wind... and sometimes mass confusion when the weather turns bad." Miller, along with his wife Denise, sails his catboat out of his home port on the Eastern Shore.

The year started with the annual West River Classic Race & Rendezvous on the West River. More than 15 boats hit the line for a fun up and down race prior to slurping down local oysters and knocking on Royal Farms chicken. The event held at Hartge Marina is a club favorite given the lawn-side accommodations and the opportunity to overnight in the West River basin or at the Marina.

Next up was the Prospect Bay Race & Rendezvous around Parson's and Bodkin Islands on the Eastern Shore. Light winds and brutal heat made this race a yawner, but fun nonetheless.

The South River Poker Run and Barbeque is always a highlight of the year with catboaters collecting virtual playing cards as they sail to predetermined coordinates along the river's edge. We served up oysters aplenty at Chez Ligibel.

The Long Cruise is always an adventure as the intrepid catboaters brave late summer wind and water to complete a 60- to 150-mile cruise to a number of destinations over a six- to eight-day period. This year, the group enjoyed a royal sendoff as Bob and Elaine Leigh pulled out all the stops with a cast-off barbeque at their home on the Magothy before the cruisers sailed to the Sassafas River and environs and endured the Bay's usual late summer fluky weather.

In October the group convened on the Wye River for the Wild Goose Chase. We enjoyed lots of beautiful scenery, a night in St. Michaels... not so many geese.

The year culminated with the aforementioned holiday party where the cool cats got the chance to gather and join together on their kazoos in playing the CCBA's theme song much to the appreciation of the assembled crowd.



There's always room in one of the catboat cockpits for a guest or two to join in the fun. Photo by Craig Ligibel

Plans are underway for the 2025 season.

A kickoff meeting will be held on March 15 at Pirate's Cove in Galesville, MD, to outline the group's next year's activities.

"We are a group of sailors with a keen interest in catboats and having fun on the Bay. We don't take ourselves too seriously, and we welcome anyone who wants to learn more about catboats and our Association," says Miller. He invites anyone with an interest in Catboating to check out the group at chesapeakecatboats.org to get the latest on what the association will be up to in the year ahead.