

6th Annual West River Heritage Regatta draws a crowd.



May rains and cold temperatures finally yielded to early summer conditions, making for a splendid Memorial Day weekend to kick off the 2025 sailing season. The 6th annual West River Heritage Regatta was again hosted by Hartge's Yacht Harbor and attended by catboaters near and far. Difficult spring conditions and various personal issues interfered with early season sailing, but that did not deter folks from coming to enjoy the event,

A few hardy souls braved challenging conditions to cross the Bay from points east and north. PATRIOT (Phil Livingston), TIGGER (Frank Newton), MYSTICAT (Jim Palmer), and CHESHIRE (Dan Shiplett) reported unset-

tled conditions and high waves. Tired skippers and crew arrived at Hartges Saturday afternoon, ready to secure a slip and wring out wet gear.

A large assembly of catboat skippers, crew, and friends gathered at Bruce and Jill's home on Chalk Point for the traditional catered barbeque supper. The Saturday rendezvous was a welcome chance to reconnect, share stories and updates and enjoy the commanding view of the West River.



Food, drink, friends, and relatives – lots of great mixing.



The weather did not disappoint and Sunday morning was welcomed with the traditional Jersey Frank Omelette breakfast. Porch sitting, coffee, omelets made for a relaxed start to a busy day. People arriving by vehicle drifted in and joined the group, assembling for two brilliant sailing seminars. Al Renzi (St. Michaels) prepared a thorough talk about the history of catboat building on the Chesapeake Bay. He resurrected materials created by Steve Flesner and now housed at the Ches Bay Maritime Museum, detailing builders and the stories of different early cats in Chesapeake Bay history. Brian Palmer of Washington College (son of Jim and Barb Palmer) gave a fascinating talk about

electric propulsion and the successful effort to compete for the world's fastest time on the water. Both presenters were prepared with compelling stories, photos, artifacts and more. Thank you, Al and Brian!



Our well prepared race committee registered boats and ran the skippers meeting, preparing boats for a 1:00 start. Many sailors without boats joined skippers, enabling everyone who wanted to sail to be able to. The triangle course started off Chalk Pt to the windward mark. Winds were light and variable at the start.



Occasional lifts and light gusts provided advantage for those in the opportune position. The nine boats were spread out but some friendly competition occurred before the finish and CATNIS (Peter Bell) crossed the line ahead of



others. The second race started with a bit of confusion as several boats crossed the line before the 'gun'. It all sorted itself out. Peter once again made his way to the head of the pack, chased by Phil and others. The two spirited races were friendly and sporting. Much thanks to our very competent race committee, John Coile and Theresa Schlacter.

Peter Bell (CATNIS) once again took first place, followed by Phil Livingston (PATRIOT) and Jill Segraves (LURA) in third. Winners received elegant hand carved trophies by our own Fred Sherriff - thank you, Fred. Awards, raffle swag and supper followed and most drifted off after sundown. The visiting cats spent the night in slips and departed early Monday morning.



For more great pictures, go to: <https://kgrin.smugmug.com/2025-West-River-Heritage-Regatta/n-HN3hRH>

<https://photos.digger.jodig.net/library/albums/aswzpvv6djic7uo61/view>

Prospect Bay Race & Rendezvous, 2025

This year's event will be held on June 21 and will be a round the islands course; Bodkin and Parson's. The slot between Parson's and Kent Island will be in play again this year but more consideration in course layout will be given to the wind direction. Although it makes for some sporty sailing, no more dead down wind through that narrow passage.

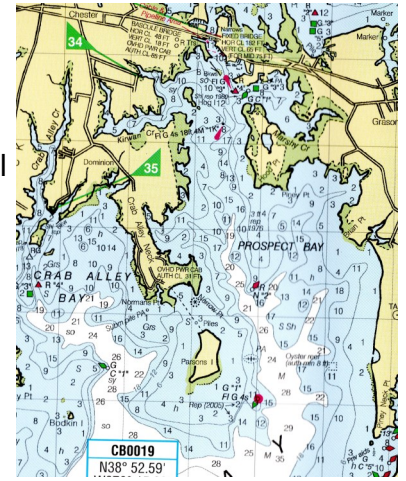
The start will be at 11:00 AM with the exact location to be determined by weather. The early start will give us time to do the longer course and get us ashore in time for dinner.

The awards dinner will be at our favorite spot, Fisherman's Inn at Kent Narrows at 4 PM.

Again, I extend an invitation to anyone who is not into our very casual version of racing to come out for a day of sailing and/or to join those sailing-in for a rendezvous up one of the nearby creeks. We had a few drop-ins last year who had a blast. The area is a great place for overnighing and day sailing and the raft-ups are great fun. There are three very nearby ramps for those trailering over. You will need a permit but I'll be glad to pick them up. Also glad to share some excellent anchorages nearby.

Please contact me if you will be joining us and/or for further information.

Call or text - 410-271-2540 or email at anmiller003@aol.com



2025 CCBA Events

Prospect Bay R&R June 21

Contact: Butch Miller – 410-271-2540 or anmillero03@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

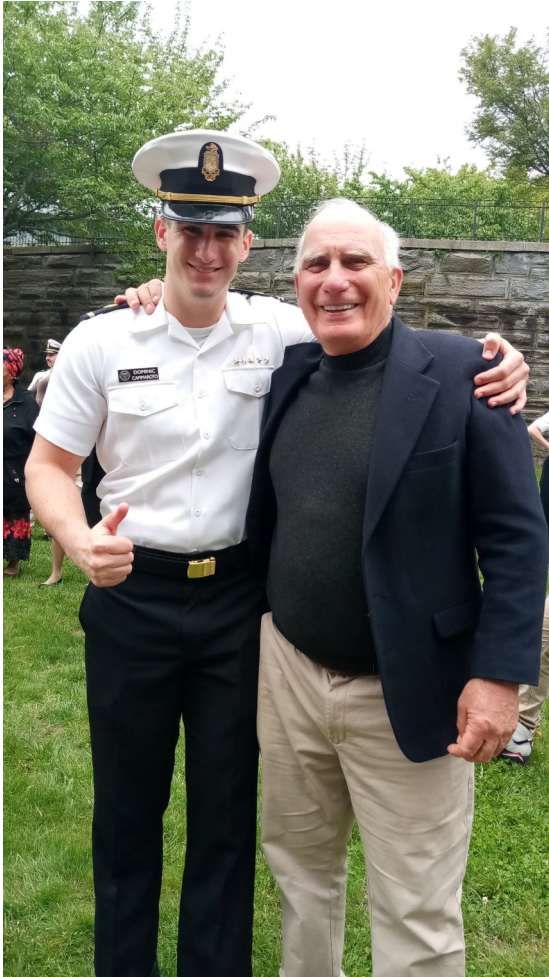
Wild Goose Chase October 18-19

Contact: Frank Newton - 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



“Catboat Kid Cammaroto” Graduates SUNY Maritime College

Third Assistant Engineer Dominic Cammaroto pictured with a proud Chief Cammaroto.

- Attended graduation at the Fort (St. Mary's Pentagon) at the State University of New York Maritime College
- Dominic was wished well by many including CCBA, which I represented in addition to providing some Coast Guard (Retired) Regulatory Oversight.
- From his humble beginnings with CCBA on cruises and in races, to his recognition as the most recent "catboat kid"....he's officially launched.

Considering all the consternation and confusion in the young workforce post Covid, it was a pleasure to see a group of dedicated and disciplined men and women ready and willing to enter the maritime workforce without reservation after 4 years of a quite unique college experience.

--Marc Cruder

David Morrow and Anna take on the Tennessee River. Guess who won?

Day 1.

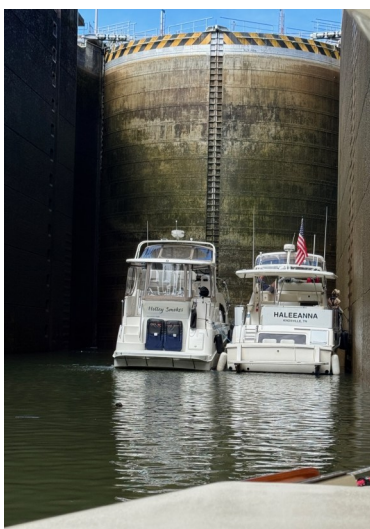
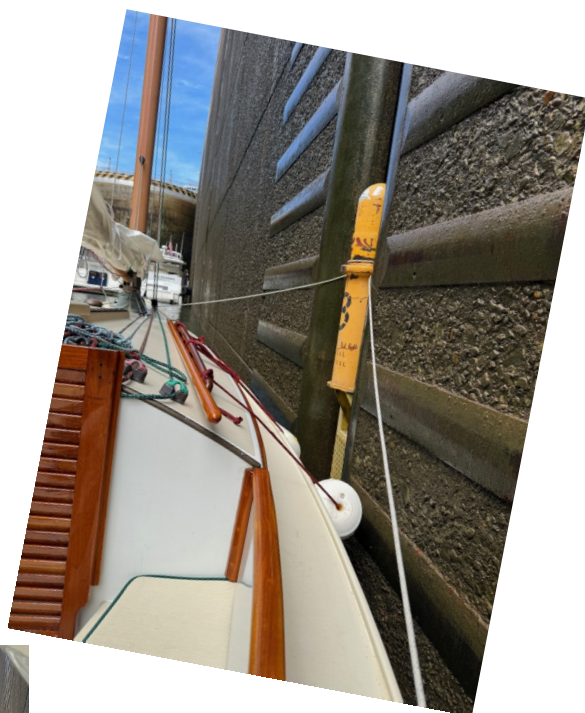
The day started well departing Annapolis at 6:30 AM. Then I was hit with the trifecta of travel woes: DC Beltway stop and go for 30 mins, a flat tire on the trailer that tore up the wheel well on RT 81 South and a horrific storm in TN. Safe and sound in a dry hotel room!



Day 2. The day started off with a stop at Ft Loudon Marina for fuel and ice. Then ANNA had her first experience in a lock. 70' drop. We had two lock buddies that were amused at ANNA's size. No issues and enjoyed the current push for several hours.

Unfortunately the wind built with gusts over 25, again right on the nose making the afternoon a real slog.

Safe in Kingston, TN for the night. Plans changing as we are expecting 3-4 days of heavy rain and lightning. Not sure how they are changing, but will come up with Plan B tomorrow.



Plan B. Head home early.

Well the Great Tennessee River Transit ended up being more of a 3 day TN River sprint around the storms ending up in Ten Mile, TN I finished the trip there because of predicted heavy rain, wind and thunder storms. I had been second-guessing my decision to stop until I heard from a buddy last night who had just driven around a twister 20 miles where I was supposed to be anchored in Alabama had I continued!!

So here's what I learned/experienced:

1. All of my systems, electronics, and rigging worked as planned. I could easily go 2-3 days without having to recharge my Jackery Explorer 1000 dockside by using the Jackery 100W solar panel. The StarLink mini worked perfectly and navigation using my iPad and Navionics software was spot on. Food prep was a non-issue as well. The Yamaha 6hp outboard operated without a hitch burning around 1qt of gas per hour at 3/4 throttle.

2. My Dodge Ram with 307,000 miles ran flawlessly and the trailer, in spite of the tire blow out, handles a Sanderling with ease. (The tire was a 4-5 year old upgraded radial with no tread wear. Why it failed is a mystery) My Butch Miller custom mast cover is a must for long distance trailering as is the hull cover.



3. My mistake was to try and do a 652 mile trip in one stretch. In hindsight, I should have done 4 legs of lengths between 150 and 175 miles. I also need to remind my brain that I am not 30 years old, but rather 65. I just can't single-hand ANNA as I used to. Hand steering for 7-8 hours, even under power, is exhausting.

I will be launching ANNA here in Annapolis later this week and look forward to some nice local sailing/cruising.

Thanks for following along!

David

Editor's choice...

Having sold my catboat, your editor has been forced to write about other nautical adventures. Herewith a recent story of mine about sailing in Tasmania that appeared in *Sailing Magazine*. Enjoy.

<https://sailingmagazine.net/article-2637-cruising-at-the-bottom-of-the-world.html>



Mark August 1-3 for Annual Oxford Catboat Parade

It's that time again, August 1, 2 & 3, when we all get together for another great weekend with our wonderful boats. This time it will be in the charming little village of Oxford, MD, for the Catboat Parade.

This event is not a race, but, rather an opportunity to showcase our special boats for all to see. So spiffy up your little yacht and sail, tow or trailer her to Oxford. Here's what we have planned:

- Fri. Aug 1st at 1700 (5pm) dinner at Doc's. We were here last time and it was wonderful. It's on the water with a fabulous view. Then we go over to the Scottish Highland Creamery for the best ice cream in Maryland. They are across from the town park and the Oxford Market. Transportation will be provided for those sailing in.



- Sat. Aug 2nd at 0700-0900 (7-9am) We will (my wonderful wife) be hosting a French Toast buffet at the Boat Barn. Don't worry, you don't have to be there that early. It just starts then.

-- 0830-1100 (8:30-11:00) At the Oxford Community Center, they'll be having a "cars and coffee" event. It's only a five minute walk from the house and is always fun.

-- 1200 (noon). Skippers meeting in the Boat Barn to answer any questions about the route and pair up anyone willing to take someone who needs a ride.

--1330 (1:30pm) Meet out at marker "Red 4" just out of Town Creek, slightly to the right for the beginning of the parade. This will keep us away from the Town Creek traffic.

-- 1800 (6pm). BBQ at the Boat Barn. We will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, water, soda, BYOB. If you would like something else just bring it. Also, please bring a side dish to share. Ice, grill, utensils will be provided.

- Sun Aug 3rd 0700+/- (7am) Coffee and donuts at the Boat Barn. Depart for your home port whenever you like. Come to the Barn whenever you roll out.

NOTES:

- The Boat Barn is in my backyard which backs up to Town Creek Marina, 410-226-0213. Please call to make a reservation. Please bring cash.



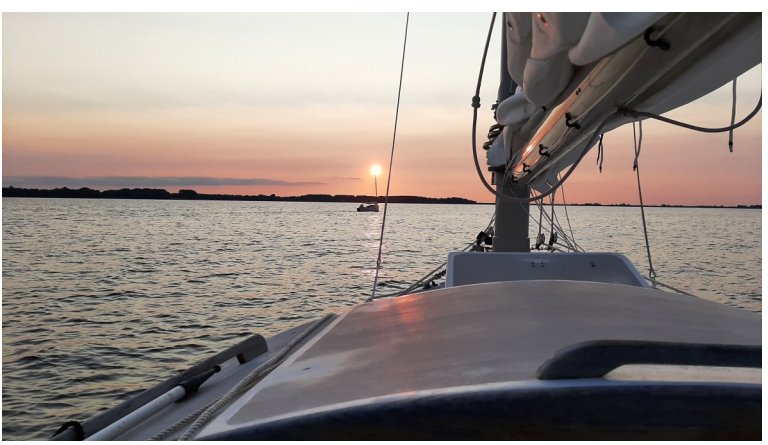


Sail/drive to Oxford, MD. The best place to dock would be Town Creek Marina, 410-226-0213. Tell them you are with, The Livingston Catboat Group. Next is Jack's Point Marina 410-226-5105. They are both owned by the same people. This marina is just three houses away from my house. Both are wonderful facilities and just seconds from the Barn.

- If you trailer in just let me know, parking will not be a problem.
- A friend has offered her guest rooms to us if you prefer. A/C is nice. Call for details.
- If you prefer to anchor you may do so anywhere in Town Creek, just don't forget the dingy.
- If driving in the speed limit drops to 35mph well before Oxford. Law enforcement is very serious about this speed limit. In the village it's 25mph.
- The Boat Barn will be open 24/7 all weekend with coffee, tea, water, soda, ice and A/C. I have room for two upstairs in the Barn. The A/C can make snowballs.

So, to recap the four big W's:

- Who: All CCBA members
- WHAT: Oxford Catboat Parade
- WHERE: 104 3rd St. Oxford, MD
- WHEN: Aug 1, 2 & 3



So come do catboat stuff with catboat people. It's going to be a great weekend. —Phil Livingston

FOR SALE!! 8-foot 1950's Thompson wooden "cartopper" row boat and vintage 5 HP Mercury motor for sale.



Great dinghy for catboaters. 90lbs. Just in time for Prospect Bay . Boat needs some TLC. Cedar ribs. Merc needs tuning. \$1000 for both or Best offer.



Craig.ligibel@vml.com