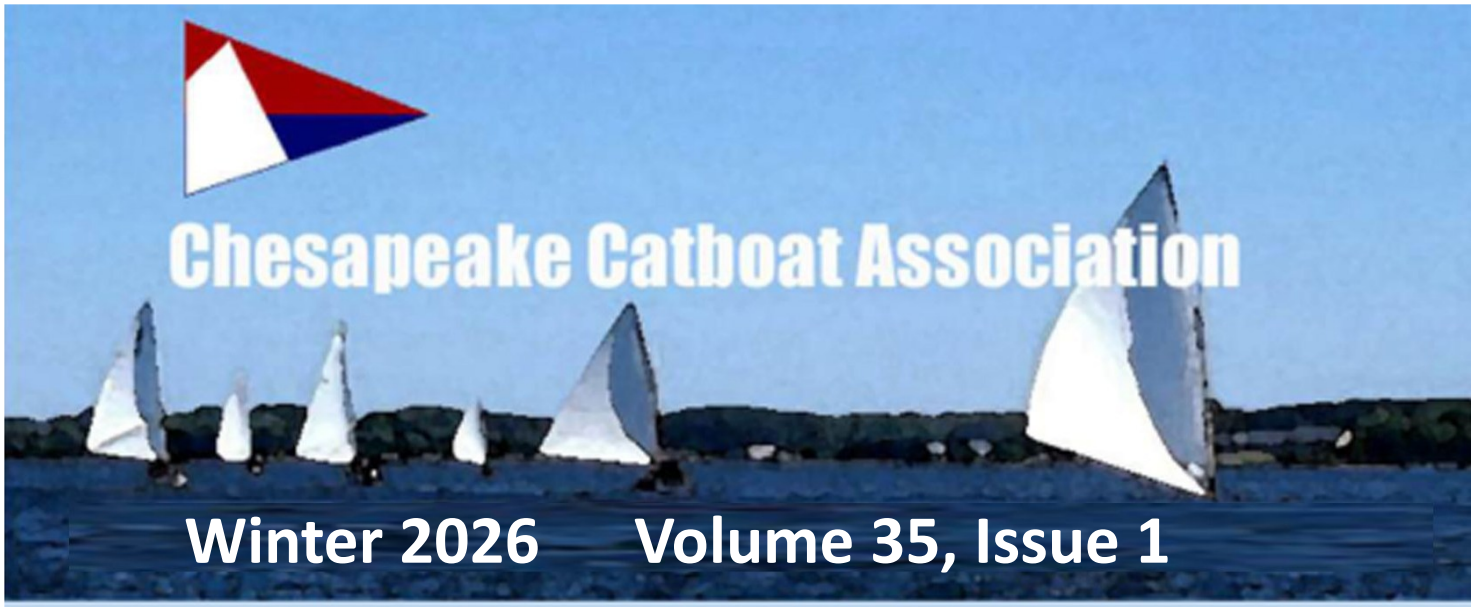


All the catboat news that's fit to print. Editor: Craig Ligibel; craig.Ligibel@vml.com

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

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@gmailcom

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

CRYC Annual Regatta July 24-26 Contact: Rich McLaughlin - 302-932-3222 or rkmcl12@gmail.com

CCBA Holiday Party

The CCBA Holiday Party was held at the Dock House restaurant on Kent Narrows, Sunday, December 7th. We had a great turn out of twenty-six members and guests. Our servers Ashly and Trinity did a great job of taking our food and drink orders and serving our needs.

Everyone enjoyed the food and drinks and the camaraderie of fellow Catboaters, and sharing experiences from the past sailing season.

The highlight of the party was the singing of The Twelve Days of the Long Cruise, with lyrics by Digger Vermont, to the tune of The Twelve Days of Christmas. The words were sung by Digger, Nancy Park and Jersey Frank with background music provided by the "Musical and Talented" Chesapeake Catboat Sailing Kazoo Band.

If you missed this event, we hope to see you at our Annual Meeting in March and out on the water this year.

The 2026 Catboat Association's annual meeting returned to Newport, RI after many years in Mystic, Ct.

—Butch Miller

On Friday, Frank & Linda Newton, Dave Park, Fred & Wanda Sherriff, Denise and myself met for breakfast at the Tic-Tok diner in Clifton, NJ to break up the drive and enjoy some Jersey breakfast cuisine. Denise and I enjoyed a spin through MetLife stadium parking lot along the way as well as sightings of a couple of power company truck convoys headed south. Otherwise, the ride was uneventful.

We arrived at the Newport Harbor Island Resort in time for the gals to head to town while the boys went for an interesting tour of IRYS, the International Yacht Restoration School. Paul Cammaroto, Phil Livingston, Tim and Kate were already there and of course Frank ran into a ferry driver that he knew. After the Gam at the hotel, the aforementioned were joined by Dave Morrow and Drew Stanier at the Red Parrot for a lively dinner. Tired from the drive most of us went our own way after that.

Saturday morning rolled in cold and windy with whitecaps on Narragansett Bay. The meeting began with the show of vendors which unfortunately was absent any boats as they couldn't fit through the door. Along with that were various seminars and presentations throughout the day. We nearly filled two tables at the luncheon and were joined by Jeff Sutherland, a member from Ocean City, NJ. Among the topics was the awards presentation led by Frank Newton. He has finished his fourth year of his three-year term. Kate Grinberg will continue her term and Dave Morrow is taking up Frank's slot. Thanks to all three for representing our group. Martin Gardner, a famed former member and former owner of *Planet* was honored with the John Killam Murphy award for "The advancement of the principles and the perpetuation of the traditions of sail as exemplified by the Catboat Association". Martin has been adeptly teaching a course on catboat sailing at the Wooden Boat School for many years. The luncheon presentation was by Yarrow Thorne about his life and his part in the building of the catboat *Whirlwind II*, a Gil Smith design.

Due to the impending winter storm, most if not all of us headed home after the presentation.

We had a fantastic time as usual getting together with our local friends as well as those from up north.

Dues due NOW! Send $20 to Butch. Add $5.00 for calendar!!

Commodore's Corner

1/27/26

Winter has returned to our area one that takes me back to the 60's and 70's, a real winter. The ground is frozen, there is ice on the bay and the kids are sledding on the one hill on the island.

The CCBA has settled on a very full schedule of events for the season including Marc Cruder's bucket list three-week cruise to the southern bay and up the James River stopping at historic Yorktown, Jamestown, Williamsburg and on to Richmond. It's new ground for us and should be a great adventure.

Al Renzi is putting together an event on Tilghman Island to honor catboat builders on the eastern shore of the bay. He and Fred Sherriff are looking for plans of a Fenwick Williams 16 to build a half-hull model for the event. If you have access to plans, please let us know.

Many of us enjoyed another great time at the CBA Annual Meeting in Newport, RI. Our own Martin Gardner was honored with the John Killam Murphy award. Unfortunately, the impending weather forced us home early. Thanks to those who made the meeting a very enjoyable success.

Nothing else to report in this slow-moving season.

Hope winter treats you kindly. Crab season is on the way.

Mark March 28 on your calendar.

2026 CCBA Annual Meeting. Pirates Cove, Galesville

Be there or be square!!

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

Pick up your calendar at the meeting. Only $5!!

Grounded Catboat

words by digger vermont and sung to the tune of *Drunken Sailor*

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE GROUNDED CATBOAT
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE GROUNDED CATBOAT
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE GROUNDED CATBOAT
STUCK IN MUCK AND MIRE

Jump on the sides to heel her over
Jump on the sides now all together
Jump on the sides to lift the skeg to
Free from muck and mire

All to the stern and jump like crazy
All to the stern just like the last time
All to the stern to raise the bow and
Free from muck and mire

CHORUS

Jump o'er the side into the water
Jump o'er the side into the deep mud
Jump o'er the side to push her sternward
free from muck and mire

Heave with a line to pull her forward
Heave in rhythm while we sing a shanty
Heaving with a line just sunk it deeper
In the muck and mire

CHORUS

Set out a kedge with anchor in dinghy
Set out a kedge with well set anchor
Set out a kedge to haul her off
This god forsaken mud bar

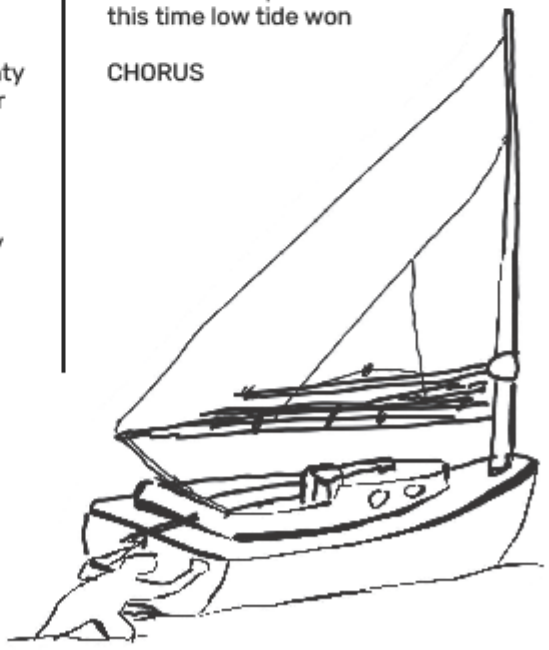
Use another boat in deeper water
Use another boat with lots of power
Use another boat and spare no throttle
To pull from muck and mire

CHORUS

Wait four hours till the tide comes back in
Wait for hours in the sun of summer
Wait four hours till we gently float
Into some deeper water

Sit in the cockpit and sip a cocktail
Sit in the cockpit with cheese and crackers
Sit in the cockpit and hoist a cold one
this time low tide won

CHORUS



Tell-Tales of the Long Cruise[1]

(sung to the tune of "Twelve Days of Christmas")

words by digger vermont

On the first day of the long cruise
we met at Jim and Barb's
and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

The second day of the long cruise
we entered Fairlee Creek
with a hard right through the inlet
and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

The third day of the long cruise
we stopped in Baltimore
toured aboard the John Brown
with a hard right through the inlet
and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

The fourth day of the long cruise
Lark ran hard aground
we pushed and pulled to free her
toured aboard the John Brown
with a hard right through the inlet
and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

the fifth day of the long cruise
we sheltered from the storm
and draaank late that night
pushed and pulled to free her
toured the John Brown
with a hard right through the inlet
to have a picnic on their grassy lawn

The sixth day of the long cruise
the storm had yet to pass
with one more day of waiting
we draaank late that night
pushed and pulled to free her
toured the John Brown
with a hard right through the inlet
and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

The seventh day of the long cruise
we anchored in Dun Cove
with starry skies above us
and one more day of waiting
we draaank late that night
pushed and pulled to free her
toured the John Brown
with a hard right through the inlet
and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

The eighth day of the long cruise
there weren't no air at all
we motored forty miles
with starry skies above us
and one more day of waiting
we draaank late that night
pushed and pulled to free her
toured the John Brown
with a hard right through the inlet
and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

The ninth day of the long cruise
was not like that before
we reefed against the west wind
motored forty miles
with starry skies above us
and one more day of waiting
we draaank late that night
pushed and pulled to free her
toured the John Brown
with a hard right through the inlet
and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

1 All people and events in this work are fictitious and any resemblance to those living or dead is purely intentional.

The tenth day of the long cruise

we stayed not at Tangiers

weren't no slips to take us

reefed against the west wind

motored forty miles

with starry skies above us

one more day of waiting

we draaank late that night

pushed and pulled to free her

toured the John Brown

with a hard right through the inlet

and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

The eleventh day of the long cruise

we gunk'd up Hudson Creek

with wild geese all flying

weren't no slips to take us

reefed against the west wind

motored forty miles

with starry skies above us

and one more day of waiting

we draaank late that night

pushed and pulled to free her

toured the John Brown

with a hard right through the inlet

and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

The twelfth day of the long cruise

we headed for home ports

some near and some much further

with wild geese all honking

weren't no slips to take us

reefed against the west wind

motored forty miles

with starry skies above us

one more day of waiting

we draaank late that night

pushed and pulled to free her

toured the John Brown

with a hard right through the inlet

and had a picnic on their grassy lawn

(closing verse)

The night after the long cruise

while falling off the sleep

the memories swirled around me

like eddies round a piling

the days upon the water

the night with full moon rising

the cocktails in the cockpit

the cups all raised in glad toast

we draaank to our health!

pulling hard on tiller

while closely hauled

tell-tails in the wind

and it started with a picnic on the lawn

Calling all cats!!

This is the sixth year for the EWE Spirit Cup, a fun regatta to raise money for Annapolis' people in need. The organizers would like to see a big fleet of catboats competing. They will be offering **discounts or free** entry plus special bonus prizes for our own CCBA Fleet. Stay tuned for details. Go to: [www.ewe.spirit..org for](http://www.ewe.spirit..org) information on the organization. Your editor can vouch for the cause. It's a good time in the water with a great party afterwards, More details to come. Make plans to participate.

This would be a great tune up for the West River Regatta May 23-25.