

Editor: Craig Ligibel ; tcligibel@vml.com

All the catboat news that's fit to print.

2024 CCBA season gets off to impressive start.

Commodore Butch Miller and his band of catboaters stormed Pirate's Cove in Galesville as the 2024 Catboating Season got underway with a packed house of members for the CCBA Annual Meeting On St. Patricks Day.

The year's events were outlined and well received by the membership.

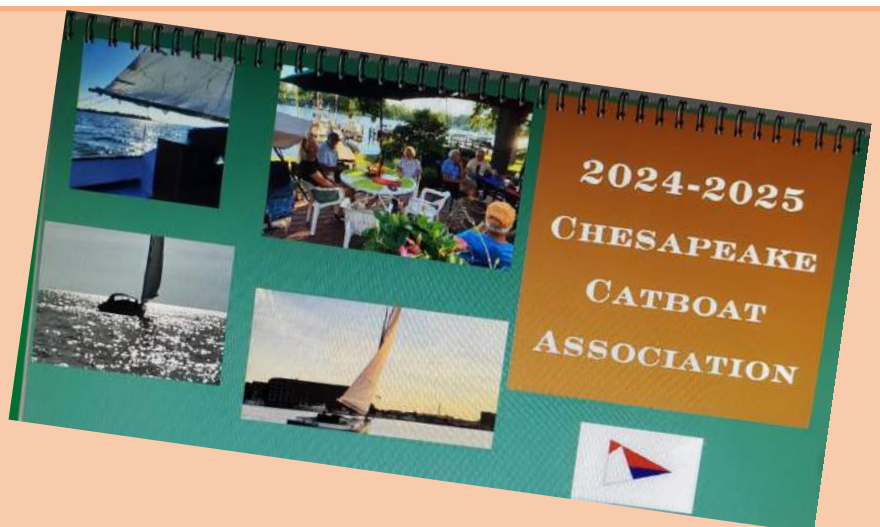
Honorees for CCBA awards were: Phil "Ironman" Livingston for the Tut Tuttle Award recognizing Phil's sailing prowess and his ability to make every on-water CCBA event. "Jersey Frank" Newton won The John Brown Award for his tireless efforts to add events to our schedule like the Christmas Party as well as coordinating dining events in conjunction with sailing. He's also the host of the Goose Chase...and just an all-around great guy.

The Clewless Award for the most egregious act committed on the water or off was not awarded this year.

Order your 2024 Chesapeake Catboat Calendar today. Only \$20.

Order by email to Steve Flesner.

flesner00@comcast.net



2024 CCBA Events

West River Classic May 26

Contact: Kate Grinberg, Tim Kallman
301-908-6966 or kathryngrinber@gmail.com

Prospect Bay R&R June 22

Contact: Butch Miller – 410-271-2540 or anmillero3@aol.com

Ligibel's BBQ Extravaganza and Poker Run August 10

Contact: Craig Ligibel – 903-488-0433 or craigligibel@vmi.com

Long Cruise Sept 16 to 23 *Up the Sassafras.*

A finish to last year's cruise

Contacts: Phil Livingston, Fred Sherriff, Butch Miller

Wild Goose Chase October 18-20

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

Holiday Party Dec. 1

Dock House Restaurant, Kent Narrows @ 2 PM

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

Other Opportunities:

Sail with Tigger Aug 17

Join Tigger on Casco Bay Maine

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

CRYC Annual Regatta September 27-28-29

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



Commodore's Corner March 2024

Hello Cats,

Winter is in the rear-view mirror and the sound of sanders is in the offing.

Since the last Corner we've had a couple great get-togethers. The Christmas Party was a hoot with the debut of the CCBA Kazoo Band lead by Jersey Frank who had plans for a big hum at the annual CBA meeting. Last weekend, we held our annual meeting at Pirate's Cove in Galesville which has become our favorite watering hole. We all had a fantastic time especially with the Kazoo rendition of "What to do with a drunken sailor?" Awards were presented; **The Tut** went to Phil Livingston for his racing prowess and the **John Brown** to Frank for promoting our social agenda including his help with arranging restaurant accommodations, hosting the Wild Goose Chase and for just being Frank. No "winners" for the **clewless** so a call went out for "someone please do something stupid this year". Running aground does not qualify as we only have one trophy. We had many door prizes included five or six authentic Hawaiian shirts donated by Steve. Thanks to those who helped with the meeting David B, David M, Craig, Frank, Fred, Phil, Steve, Wanda and Denise.



Catboaters celebrate St. Paddy's Day at Annual Meeting!



Ironman Phil presents Jersey Frank With John Brown Award.

Phil Livingston receives Tut Tuttle Award from Fred Sherriff

Get ready for West River Regatta!!

West River Info

It's ON!~ West River annual Regatta and Catboat Rendezvous, Memorial Day weekend May 25-27.

Once again located on the West River at Hartge's Yacht Harbor in Galesville - Hartge's has changed ownership since this event began 5 years ago (?). The setting is the same great venue with slips for overnighters and great space for socializing and eating. The racing is informal and fun- don't be intimidated if you are the competitive sort; there's room for everyone to get out and have a good time sailing the course.

The event kicks off with a Saturday barbeque dinner hosted by members Bruce Ogden and Jill Seagraves, at their lovely house on Chalk Point, across the river from Hartge's. THANK YOU, Bruce and Jill! This is a catered meal provided by West River Pit BBQ, at a cost of \$20 per person. Non alcoholic drinks will be provided but this is a BYOB event. Please fill out the form on the flyer or send an email to let Kate know you are coming and pay ahead if possible.

Sunday morning - Omelet breakfast brought to you by our own Jersey Frank (THANK YOU, Frank!). Bottomless coffee, pastries, and omelettes, followed by a round of sailing seminars and stories on the lawn. If you have an idea for a seminar or a good sailing yarn to tell, please let Kate know asap. Skippers meeting at noon, first gun at 1:00. The race committee will determine the course and adjust the time as dictated by the weather.

Awards, snacks and BYO Barbeque on the lawn afterward. Bring a personal main dish for the grill. Sides will be provided and maybe a special treat TBD (Craig? Oysters? - I haven't been in touch with him about this, so probably best not to announce). This is also BYOB.

Many of us stay Sunday on boat or nearby sail or drive home Monday morning.

For those bringing cats on trailers: There is a public launch site in Shadyside off Parish Creek. Some have launched at nearby hartge's Yacht yard but according to Hartge's personnel this is no longer available. Might be worth investigating in person.

Some new details to pay attention to this year:

Hartge's is requiring anybody who uses a slip or pulls up to a dock for any amount of time to pay a dock fee. 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. **To request a slip assignment you need to contact Harbormaster Brad Wells (contact info on flyer) in advance.**

That's it- Details on flyer. Contact Kate and Tim with any questions.

kathryngrinberg@gmail.com or (301) 908-6966.

Sorry not to see all of you today!!

2024 West River Heritage Regatta and Catboat Rendezvous

May 25-27

Hartge's Yacht Harbor, Galesville

Superlative Sailing, Friends, and Food!

Saturday, May 25

*Sail in

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

Sunday, May 26

8:00 Breakfast Omelettes - courtesy of 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 main to BBQ. Snacks, sides and non alcoholic drinks provided. BYOB

Monday, May 27

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.

RSVP using attached form or email Kate Grinberg: kathryngrinberg@gmail.com (301) 908-6966



artwork by Dave Park

West River Heritage Regatta and Catboat Rendezvous 2024

Please fill out this form or contact Kate whether or not you are bringing a boat!

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

Name: _____

Boat Name: _____ No. of people: _____

_____ I/we plan to attend Saturday BBQ @ \$20/person. Number of people: _____
Please send check to Kate or Venmo @kathryn-grinberg in advance

Note: You **must** reserve a slip at Hartge's whether you are spending the night or partial day. Call Brad (Harbormaster) (443) 607-6306 to reserve.

Sylph gets a new home

I've had *Sylph*, a Hermann 17 catboat since 1991, when I found it abandoned and decided to rescue it from Beaton's in Mantoloking, NJ. Reading about Cap't Bill Hoover's voyage from Long Island to the Chesapeake in *Gull*, I did the same when it was my turn in 1992. The rest is CCBA Long Cruise history.



I sold *Sylph* to Catboat Kid Matthew back in 2018 when his company assigned him to Baltimore. When he was reassigned to Wilmington, NC in 2022, *Sylph* reverted back to me. Needing to get back to *Wanderer*, I decided it was time *Sylph* had a new caretaker. So I went thru the boat, got it launched in 2023, shook it down with a good weekend trip under sail to Oxford and back, then put it on the market.

Although listed with CBA and CCBA online, as well as Spinsheet, Matt rewrote the ad for Facebook Marketplace and she was sold to the first caller. That caller was Stefan Marculewicz, former CCBA member and owner of *Yankee*, a Herreshoff 18. Stefan was active in the CCBA, hosted events and created our first website before Butler Smyth took the helm. He also represented CCBA on the CBA Awards Committee. With both his boys graduated from college and out of the house, he was ready for a catboat again. With a second home on the Choptank, he knew just where *Sylph* needed to be, so he invoked the clause in the ad which read "sail delivery available anywhere on the Chesapeake."

Once his check cleared, I delivered anything I could find that went with property on Horn Point the last week. We made the delivery trip on Sunday was a perfect day with a north, just under 10 knots. The trip was 6



ing from the Rhode River to Cam-
point of sail, minus the power transit thru Knapps Narrows and the bridge opening. *Sylph* showed her stuff and maintained a bone in her teeth, while keeping us dry as she sailed smoothly over the gentle rollers developing as the day went on. Upon arrival, we hauled *Sylph* on her trailer and placed her in location for winter storage. Stefan's wife Anne was there to meet us and the day was so perfect, we decided there was no rush to get back to the Western Shore, so stayed to enjoy the sunset and catch up.

While bittersweet, because both Matt and Noelle grew up on that boat, you can only sail one boat at a time and can't keep them all. We had fun with *Sylph* in our time, including the CCBA Delmarva "inside" Circumnavigation over 20 years ago. I was happy to pass her on to an old friend who will keep her sailing the Chesapeake Bay. More importantly, Stefan is well positioned with the catboat interest, passion and resources to keep her "Sailing Another Day" as Cap't Hoover would say and in the best tradition of the CCBA.

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—Marc Cruder

Indulge Your Sailing Habit

AT THE Sailing Museum

▲ By Craig Ligibel

I am no stranger to sailing and maritime museums. I have coerced my wife into visiting institutions devoted to sailing and the sea on over three continents. Halsey Herreshoff himself gave me a behind the scenes tour of the Herreshoff Marine Museum in Bristol, RI. Aussie 18-footer Squadron commodore Ian Smith explained the intricacies of sailing these over-canvased rocket ships while visiting Sydney's Darling Harbour Maritime Museum. SailGP and Emirates Team New Zealand skipper Peter Burling helped me pilot a foiling 50-foot catamaran in a simulator during a visit to the team's Auckland base. And I've joined America's Cup Inspire Youth as they completed a series of hands-on sailing challenges in the Exhibition area of the America's Village in Bermuda.

Each experience was unique and added to my knowledge of sailing, but to be honest, none of my previous experiences prepared me for a visit to the one-year-old Sailing Museum in Newport, RI. The museum, built inside a 130-year-old building on Newport's iconic waterfront that once housed the press office of the America's Cup, is one sailing experience not to be missed.

Edu-tainment

Shouts of "Hey, this is really cool," "Watch out, I'm coming through," "Whew—grinding is hard work," and other exclamations of exhilaration fill the cavernous 8000-square-foot exhibit space with the sounds of discovery, excitement, and joy.

"We call our museum experience *edu-tainment*" says newly appointed executive director Ashley Householder, who took over the position in early June. Prior to obtaining her new position, she served two years as the museum's director of exhibits.

"We have 14 interactive exhibits. Our goal with everything we do is to bring the sailing experience to life in such a way that old salts and newbies alike will come away from their time with us scratching their heads in amazement at what they have just



experienced and wanting to come back for more either in an educational environment or actually out on the water with their hands on a real tiller," says Householder.

Sailing Museum board of directors co-president and American's Cup winner Gary Jobson echoes her emphasis on hands-on learning. He says, "The goal is to create a living memorial to all the sailors who have come before us and to inspire new generations to take up the sport we love so dearly."

Jobson is pleased with the result of the Newport facility: "The Sailing Museum and National Sailing Hall of Fame has surprised visitors from around the USA about the stories, artifacts, and interactive

displays that explain the sport of sailing and the inspiring stories of the inductees of the National Sailing Hall of Fame and the America's Cup Hall of Fame. People of all ages and levels of sailing experience will find many things of interest. The place is great fun to visit. For me, the project has extended 20 years, and it is heartwarming to see it finally open. Everyone is welcome and comes away impressed about the sailors and the sport."

The facility cost over \$9 million. Jobson is proud to say, "We opened our doors almost entirely debt-free."

The museum incorporates a number of interactive displays and hands-on-learning experiences all packaged in



a user-friendly, high-tech experience. Not to be given short shrift, there is an impressive interactive wall of honor in the back that pays homage to National Sailing Hall of Fame and America's Cup Hall of Fame honorees. Just touch the screen to navigate through the world of sailing's greats.

Beginning your journey

Your journey into the world of Wind and Water starts at the first station as you enter the museum. Here, you will be met by a visitor experience associate who will introduce you to the exhibits you will be viewing and interacting with. Be sure to fill out the information at this station so that the QR-coded wrist band you got when you bought your ticket can be your passport to learning as you work your way counterclockwise around the exhibit hall.

One of the first things you'll do is select a boat type that will be your avatar as you go through the exhibits. Interactive stations will guide you through the design process. You can even name your boat and create your own burgee.

The main hall of the museum is divided into six thematic areas: Wind and Water; The Making of a Champion: Mental; The Making of a Champion: Physical; Teamwork; Competition; and Legends of Sailing—National Sailing Hall of Fame and America's Cup Hall of Fame.

Other stations emphasize navigation, boat handling, teamwork, onboard stability, and physicality.

At the popular tiller station, for example, visitors get the chance to steer a virtual course using a tiller and understand the forces of wind and water on the course of their boat. Their performance



Yacht racing crew uniforms of the 1930s worn in America's Cup campaigns and foul weather gear worn by Hall of Famer George O'Day aboard the 1962 America's Cup winner Weatherly.

in steering a course is recorded by sensors so visitors can see how they ranked among other "sailors" undergoing the same trial.

A really cool virtual reality is a video dome where guests "hop aboard a SailGP F-50 catamaran," our guide Mike Gillis, told us. "That's a rush. Going over 40 miles per hour in a sailboat is amazing. Hang on!"

Eighty-something catboat sailor Paul Swigert and his wife Shane were among the visitors your reporter caught up with at the museum. Swigert, a rocket-scientist turned sailor, was impressed with the degree of interactivity the staff was able to pack into the exhibits.

He says, "I was brought up to believe that museums were static places for dusty exhibits. This museum breaks all the rules. Here, they want you to put your hands on the exhibits. You won't see many signs say-

ing 'Don't touch' here."

Swigert was particularly impressed with the helming station where just the slightest deviation in course was recorded in your digital logbook.

Grind, grind, grind!

Your reporter couldn't wait to try his hand at the grinding station. I had just finished interviewing Sail GP and America's Cup grinder Cooper Dressler several months ago in Australia. He told me he maintained a heartbeat of around 175 and a power output of 1000 watts for the extent of a 10-minute sprint. I was eager to see how I would stack up. Ugh. Truth be told, I could hit the heartbeat mark for 30 seconds but couldn't come close to the watt output even at peak exertion. Don't know how those guys do it!

My wife Colleen did a stint at the University of Missouri as a museum docent. She was particularly impressed with the hands-on aspects of the Sailing Museum. "Kids and grandparents can get a real feel for what the sport of sailing is all about," she says. "I wish my husband knew half of this stuff. We'd still be sailing together if he spent more time here learning the mechanics."

Our tour of the museum took a little over two hours. We could have spent longer, but the allure of the shops and oyster bars of the Newport waterfront awaited.

As we engaged with the interactive exhibits, we logged our activities in our digital sailing locker. At the end of our tour, we could see how well we performed



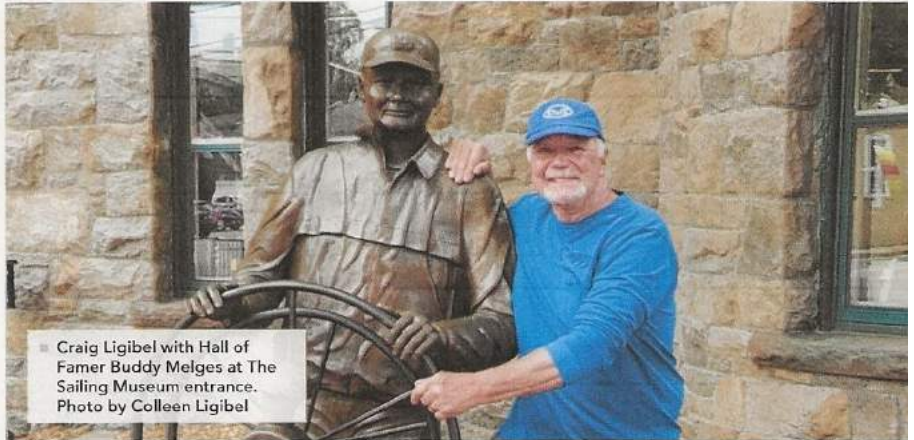
Mike Gillis and Ashley Householder try their hand at grinding.

Newport Seafood

No trip to Newport is complete without sampling *Narragansett Bay* seafood. We slurped oysters at the nearby Midtown Oyster Bar on Thames Street and dined on fresh lobsters at Mooring Seafood Kitchen on Sayers Wharf. The food was a bit pricey but very good (\$3.50 per oyster is the going price). Parking in downtown Newport is scarce and expensive (\$9 per hour in visitor lots; \$3.50 per half hour on the street). We found Uber from our bed and breakfast to the waterfront easy and economical. All in all, a great town to visit. See the sights. Sample the local cuisine, and indulge one's sailing habit.

in the skill sections of the museum. Colleen and Paul were the rock stars of our group. I brought up the rear. At the conclusion of our tour, we could interact with a resource map to identify places to go for sailing instruction and additional on-water experiences.

The museum has partnered with New England Science and Sailing



■ Craig Ligibel with Hall of Famer Buddy Melges at The Sailing Museum entrance. Photo by Colleen Ligibel

Foundation (NESS) to develop a core curriculum to be used in STEM classwork with a local school. Householder reports that the first trial of the program with 60 sixth-grade students was received enthusiastically by students and teachers.

Learn more

The Sailing Museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day during the summer and fall. Winter hours start in

December. The museum is closed for the month of January. Admission costs \$18 for adults; \$15 for seniors, military, and college students; \$12 for youth 11-18; and free for children under 10. Check the website for special exhibits and current hours. Annual memberships start at \$50. Member benefits include special programming and advance notice of museum events. Go to thesailingmuseum.org for more details. ■

What To Do With the Grounded Catboat

Words by Digger Vermont

Music by CCBA Kazoo Band

Chorus:

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 to lift the keel free
Jump on the sides now all together
To find some deeper water

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

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

Tug with a line to pull her forward
Tug with a line this is a war now
Tugging with a line just made it worse still
We're deep in muck and mire

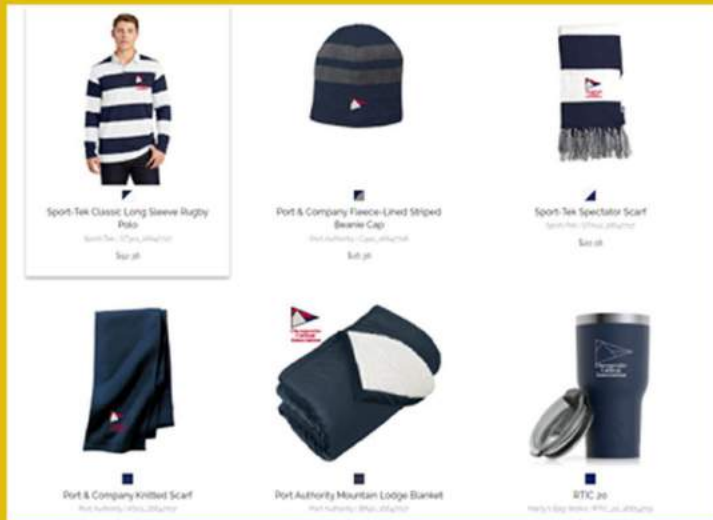
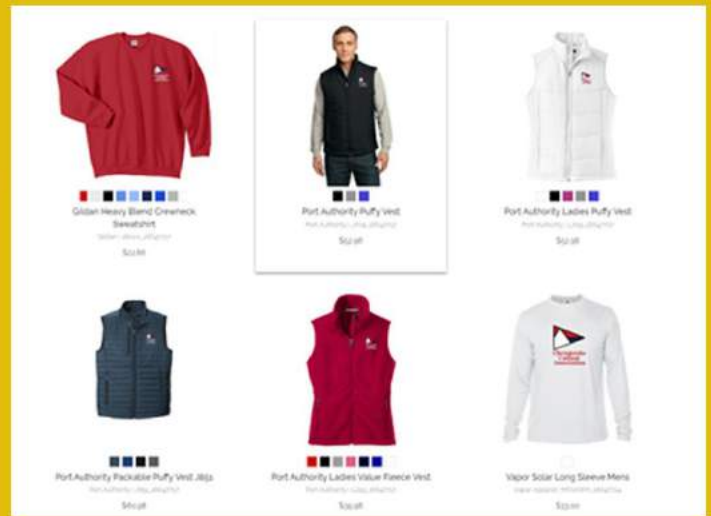
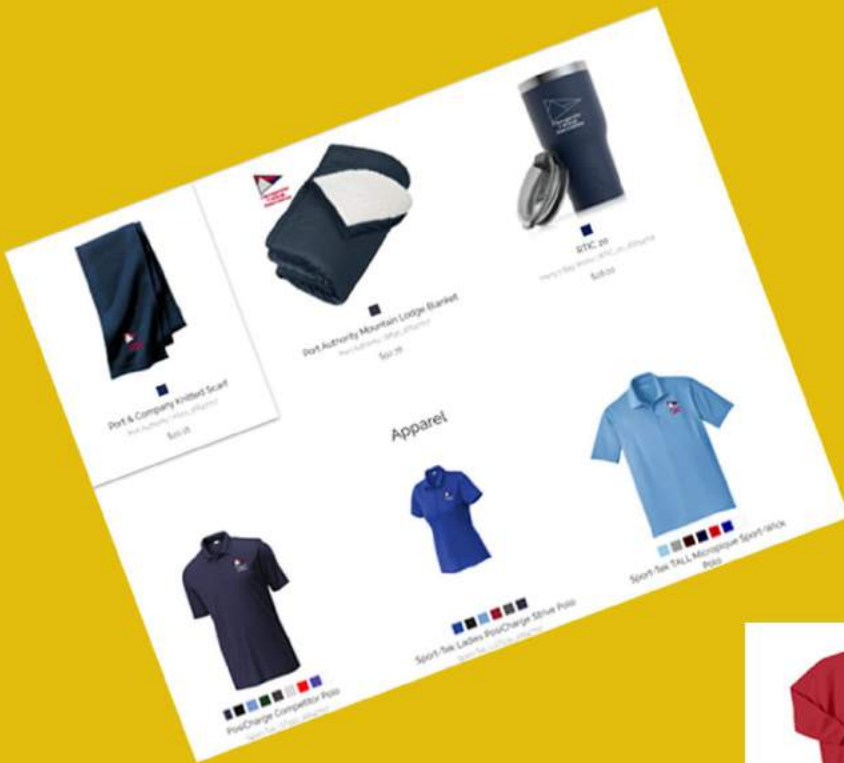
Set out a kedge with anchor in dinghy
Set out a kedge with well set anchor
Set out a kedge to haul her off
This god forsaken mud bar

Use another boat with running motor
Use another boat in deeper water
Use another boat with lots of power
To pull from muck and mire

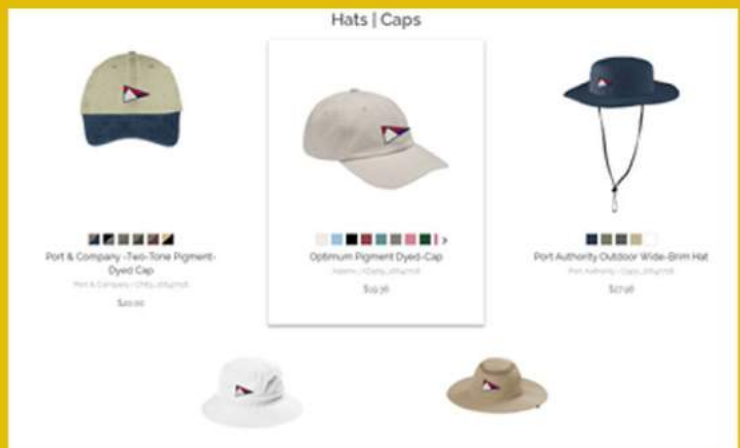
Wait four hours till the tide comes back in
Wait for hours in the sun of summer
Wait four hours till we gently float
Into some deeper water

Sit in the cockpit and sip a cocktail
Sit in the cockpit with cheese and crackers
Sit in the cockpit with another cocktail
Aint nothing left to do now

Click to order great CCBA Gear!!!



[Click here to order
from Marty's Bag
Works!](#)



Over the Bar James (Jim) Ohlmacher 1942 –2024

By David Bleil

An early member of the Chesapeake Catboat Association, Jim Ohlmacher, passed away January 25, 2024 after a short illness. His father built boats as a hobby and Jim inherited an 18 ft plywood sailboat which he kept in Selby Bay on the South River. He used to take me on overnights on that boat and convinced me that I should get a similar sized boat so we could cruise in company, so I purchased a used 18 foot Herreshoff America. It soon became apparent that the Catboat had enhanced sailing capabilities and Jim became permanent crew on *Melvil's Mouser*. His father's plywood sailboat was shoved into the garage where it remains today. The two of us participated in the events of the Chesapeake Traditional Sailboat Association [CTSA] including the often boisterous Chesapeake Appreciation Days race from Sandy Point Light to Baltimore light and back. The Chesapeake Catboat Association grew from the CTSA. There were only five boats then at the beginning of the CCBA and Jim participated in every cruise and race from that point on.

As the CCBA grew we gained the opportunity to sail other boats. I eventually acquired *Gull*, the Mystic 20, formerly sailed by Caption Hoover. We also acquired the use and maintenance of *Pussy Footin* the Compton's Mystic 20. On one cruise we were able to repair a leaking stem fitting by temporarily beaching *Pussy Footin* long enough to dry out and re-bed the fitting. Jim was a master mechanic. He could fix just about anything from outboards to steam engines and computers. When he wasn't sailing, Jim worked for IBM maintaining mainframe computers. He worked well past normal retirement age because he maintained the several coordinated mainframes in scattered locations which ran the world-wide payrolls for the U.S. State Department.



Occasionally we would participate in CCBA events each of us sailing one of the Mystic 20s. These boats were always providing new challenges. One day Jim was sailing *Pussy Footin* across the Chesapeake when a fitting broke and the tiller detached from the rudder pin. He was able to heave-to, devise a way to reattach the tiller and continue on to Whitehall Bay. I don't remember how he did it. Although we learned from each other he was the most gifted teacher. Our last trip together was a three reef slog across the Chesapeake in better than gale force winds. We made simultaneous decisions that we had gotten too old for this.



Jim will always be remembered for his sailing apparel....a Speedo!

Casco Bay Catboat Cruise

Saturday, August 17, 2024

The Casco Bay Catboat Cruise is an annual event held at the north of Casco Bay, Maine at the mouth of the New Meadows River. The event consists of two races, with a skippers meeting at noon and a raft up after the race. Participants are asked to bring appetizers to share and their own beverages. The contacts for the race are John Van Orden 207-841-8436 and Anne Bridgeman 207-443-5900.

I am planning to trailer Tigger to Maine for this event this summer. I would like to invite anyone who is planning to cruise the Maine coast this summer or visit Maine to join us in West Bath. There is great anchorage in the Basin at the mouth of the New Meadows River or further up the river at the cove in front of our cottage in Sabino. Also there are places to stay in Bath if coming by car.

For more information contact Jersey Frank Newton at 908-581-8774 or finewton3@yahoo.com.



More party pix!!

