

Chesapeake Catboat Association

Tilghman Island Gathering-Honoring the Catboat Builders of the Chesapeake

Join fellow catboat owners for a relaxed weekend on Tilghman Island this summer. From July 30 to August 2, we'll gather at Knapps Narrows Marina for dockside conversations, sailing clinics, group sails, and a look at boats built by Maynard Lowery. Whether you're interested in learning, sailing, or simply spending time around other catboats, this is an easygoing chance to connect and enjoy time on the water together.

This gathering is also a **community event for Tilghman Island**, offering local residents the opportunity to join in commemorating Maynard Lowery and the boatbuilding heritage he helped shape. For the CCBA, it's a chance to share our boats, history, and stories with the community, and to showcase a full lineup of catboats on the floating docks—an open invitation to see these boats up close and learn about the legacy they represent.

Dates: Thursday, July 30 – Sunday, August 2, 2026

Contact-Al Renzi
Al@yellowspringsfarm.com
Ph./Text: 484-356-8291

Location: Floating Dock, Knapps Narrows Marina & Hotel, Tilghman Island, Maryland.

No charges are taken at the time of booking. You will simply provide a credit card to hold the reservation. Slip fees can be paid by cash or card upon arrival.

Rates:

- Dockage: **\$2.50 per foot per day** (no minimum)
- 30-amp service: **\$10 per day**
- 50-amp service: **\$20 per day**

Amenities: Complimentary morning coffee and continental breakfast provided by the Kent Narrows Marina Inn starting at 8am. Showers and restrooms are available on-site. A pool is also available for slip holders. You may also book a room during your stay.

Marina Contact Information:

- **Address:** 6176 Tilghman Island Rd, Tilghman, MD 21671
- **Phone:** +1 (410) 886-2720
- **Website:** www.knappsnarrowsmarina.com
- **Contact:** Randy, if he is there, but otherwise anyone at the marina can take the reservation.



Participants:

- CCBA catboat owners and members
- Maynard Lowery—built wooden catboats—we **have 1-2 Lowery catboats that will be on view at Severn Marine.**
- Maritime friends, boatbuilders, and community members who knew Maynard Lowery, are welcome to attend the presentation and panel discussion at the Fire House.

Thursday, July 30 -Arrival Day

- Arrival at Knapps Narrows Marina. Please hail the Knapps Narrows Marina on Channel 16. They will switch you over to Channel 71 to get you anchored most likely on the inside of the floating docks.
- Those not wishing to dock for three nights may anchor out and join activities in the morning.
- Informal evening — everyone on their own for dinner and socializing.
- Local restaurants include *Big Macks Kitchen and Dock Bar* and *Gina's*, both located at the Marina and an easy walk of a few minutes. *Two if By Sea* serves breakfast and is within a 15-minute walk from the marina.
- If you need to make a food/beverage purchase, the Tilghman General Store is located close-by-about a 15-minute walk.
 - 5949 Tilghman Island Rd. Tilghman Island, MD
 - Hours 5am-7pm

Friday, July 31 — Catboat Clinic

8:00am-Complimentary Coffee and continental breakfast for slip holders at the Marina Inn.

8:30am- Catboat Clinic

This program welcomes *all* catboaters—new owners, prospective owners, and long-time sailors. The clinic offers a chance to explore the legacy of Chesapeake catboat builders, including

Maynard Lowery, while also providing hands-on learning with experienced owners and sailors. Whether you're interested in design history, practical maintenance, or time on the water, this session is designed to meet you where you are.

CCBA long-time member Dave Park will talk about catboat design variations utilizing current member catboats and also referencing the Maynard built Fenwick Williams Crosby wooden catboat design

- Review of various catboat designs and their features and benefits
- Understanding and optimizing catboat rigging on these different boat designs
- Cockpit visits and open discussions with experienced catboat owners

We will have several catboats on-site at Knapps Narrows Marina, including Menger, Marshall, Wittholz, Mystic, and Americat. The Maynard Lowery-built Fenwick Williams wooden catboat and the Crosby wooden catboat will be located on the hard at Severn Marine just down the road. Herreshoff owners have been invited to participate, pending confirmation.

10am-1pm-Instructional Sailing Matchmaking Session:

For those wishing to sail with an experienced catboater—either on your own boat or aboard someone else's—please contact **Al Renzi** in advance. Al will coordinate your “catboat captain match” for the sail

10-1pm-Optional Group Sail

For participants not joining the instructional session, a group sail to **Dun Cove and/or Black Walnut Cove** will be organized depending on weather and timing.

2:30 p.m. — Visit to the Tilghman Island Watermen's Museum-Guided Tour

Location: 6031 Tilghman Island Rd., Tilghman, MD. 10–15-minute walk from the marina. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

The Tilghman Watermen's Museum is the living heritage of Tilghman Island, featuring exhibits on watermen's tools of the trade, boat-building tools, workboat models, local art, and the history of the island's seafood industry. Its collections highlight the people who lived by the tides, the vessels they built, and the culture shaped by generations of work on Tilghman.

After the tour we will make our way by foot to the Fire Hall, which is only a few steps away from the museum.

4:00–5:00 p.m. — Presentation at Tilghman Volunteer Fire Company

Catboat Builders of the Chesapeake & The Boats of Maynard Lowery

- We will meet at the **Tilghman Volunteer Fire Company** for a special presentation on Chesapeake catboat builders, with a focus on the life and work of **Maynard Lowery**.
- The Fire Company venue is a **10–15-minute walk** from the marina.
- The program will include an overview of the catboat building traditions of **Maynard Lowery (Tilghman Island)** and other local catboat builders.
- A **panel discussion** will feature:
 - **Rich Scofield** (retired, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum), who was mentored by **Joe Liener** and will bring several of Liener's original half-hull models to share, and
 - **Marc Cruder** (retired U.S. Coast Guard; former Commodore, CCBA).

Both panelists knew Maynard Lowery personally and will share stories about him and the distinctive characteristics of the boats he built.

- The session will include photos, half-hull models, and a concise look at New England catboats developed as single-sail workboats, contrasted with the evolution of Chesapeake working craft. We'll also touch on the barcat—the sailing version of the motorized crab scrape and arguably the closest Chesapeake counterpart to a catboat—while highlighting the distinct purposes, hull forms, and regional traditions that set these boats apart.
- Maynard Lowery built nearly all of his catboats on the Fenwick Williams 16 design. In recognition of that legacy, a Fenwick Williams 16 half-hull model will be presented to Hall Kellogg, co-founder and emeritus board member of the Tilghman Watermen's Museum. This presentation honors Lowery's craftsmanship and the Chesapeake boat tradition he helped shape.

6:00 p.m. — Dinner at Gina's restaurant at the bridge (please let us know if you plan to attend so that we can make the appropriate number of reservations with the restaurant)

Saturday, August 1 — Group Sail & Catboat Parade

8 a.m.- Complimentary coffee and continental breakfast at the Marina Inn

10:00 a.m. — Visit to Severn Marine-10-minute walk from the Marina

- ***Patience*, an 1898 Herbert Crosby catboat, is on the hard and available for viewing.**
- **Also present will be *Catnipper* a Maynard Lowery wooden catboat that has been on the hard for several years and may be available for sale**

We can view *Patience* to highlight the hallmark features of Herbert Crosby's classic working-catboat design—broad beam, powerful gaff rig, and a hull built for carrying capacity and stability. We can then compare these characteristics with the later Fenwick Williams 16 design that Maynard Lowery adopted for nearly all of his catboats. The FW16 reflects a more modern, recreational interpretation of the type, with finer forward sections, lighter displacement, and a more responsive helm. Together, these contrasting designs offer an engaging look at how catboats evolved from 19th-century workboats to 20th-century pleasure craft.



1:00 p.m. — Group Catboat Sail Around Poplar Island—depending on weather conditions, we may switch the timing to the morning.

- CCBA boats and Maynard Lowery–built catboats
- Participation encouraged for all including the Lowery catboat owners and catboat owners located in the Tilghman Island area

6:00 p.m. — Group Potluck Dinner at the Marina adjacent to the floating docks

- Held on the floating dock at Knapps Narrows Marina among the boats.



Sunday, August 2 — Departure Day

- **8am**—Complimentary coffee and continental breakfast at the Marina Inn
- Departures throughout the morning