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VOLUME 31 | ISSUE 3







Features

34

Brendan Sailing Summer Camps Celebrate 40 Years

A longtime resource for kids with learning differences and their parents, Brendan Sailing celebrates its 40th anniversary.

By Meredith Glacken

43

Safety Series Part 3:

Medical Challenges at Sea

An experienced offshore sailor and emergency care physician offers tips for preparing for onboard medical challenges.

By Captain Cheryl Duvall PRESENTED BY SWITLIK

47

Spring Commissioning:

Sailboat Launch Preparation From the Bottom Up

Start by inspecting your hull and work your way up. By Capt. Michael L. Martel

51

Chesapeake Bay Marinas 2025

Finding a community on the waterfront, news from regional marinas, liveaboard life at the marina, and our updated marina directory.

By Staff and John Herlig

65

Charter Notes: Celebrating a Big Milestone in French Polynesia This family did not choose the fastest route to

paradise... but it was worth the trip.

87

Racer's Edge: Getting Off on the Right Foot

Common themes that successful teams share as they prepare for racing season.

By David Flynn of Quantum Sails



Kristen Berry of Gale Force Images took this month's cover shot of Brendan Sailing students enjoying a day on the water in Annapolis.

Departments

- **Editor's Note**
- **Readers Write**
- **Dock Talk**
- **Farewell to Friends:** Mike Oh, a Sailor Who Inspired Many
- 24 **Chesapeake Calendar** PRESENTED BY THE BOATYARD BAR & GRILL
- **Chesapeake Tide Tables** 28 PRESENTED BY BAY SHORE MARINE
- Start Sailing Now: Where Are They Now? 30 Interviews by Beth Crabtree
- Where We Sail: Who's That Gull Laughing at Me? 33 By Pamela Tenner Kellett PRESENTED BY HERRINGTON HARBOUR MARINAS
- Congratulations, SpinSheet Century Club and Racing Team 2024
- See the Bay: Visiting the National Cherry Blossom Festival by Land or by Sea By Karen Soule PRESENTED BY OSPREY MARINERESTORATIONS
- 89 **Brokerage Section:** Used Boats for Sale
- Marketplace
- 99 **Index of Advertisers**
- 100 Biz Buzz
- 102 Chesapeake Classic: SpinSheet 1996: A Little Help From Our Friends

Cruisina Scene

- Bluewater Dreaming: Marine Mail Call By Cindy Wallach PRESENTED BY M YACHT SERVICES
- **Cruising Club Notes** PRESENTED BY YAZU YACTHING

- Chesapeake Racing News: CBYRA High Point Awards, racing down south, and more.
- Small Boat Scene: The Attitude Is Gratitude By Kim Couranz
- Sailfaster: American Magic's Sara Stone, 86 Interview by Pete Boland



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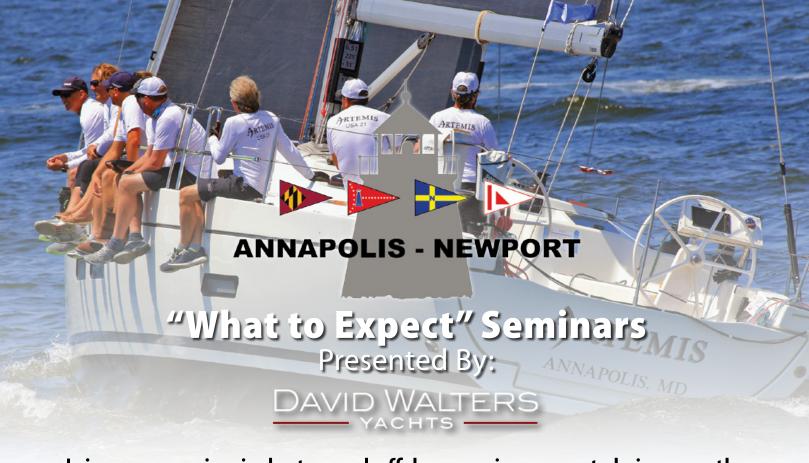
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March Safety Equipment for Vessel and Crew

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June Race Weather Forecast

Seminar dates and Registration will be available in January 2025 on the Annapolis to Newport website. **annapolisnewportrace.com/seminars**

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Of Seabirds and Spring A By Molly Winans

rom the cockpit of an anchored sailboat in St. John, US Virgin Islands, in January, I admired a seabird floating overhead, its wingspan forming a wide and graceful "W." "I think that's a frigatebird," I said.

"It is a friggin' bird," a friend commented, and we laughed.

Something—perhaps the crew serving lunch—changed the topic in the sunny, protected cove in which we'd dropped the hook. Many times, I've been the one handing up sandwiches from the galley, so it felt luxurious to have lunch served to me.

Three years ago, I wrote about our day sail charter in St. John aboard the Hans Christian 43 *Tipitina* with Captains Matt and Bonnie and their two boat dogs. Our group of friends enjoyed the experience so much that our host, also named Matt, signed us up again, this time on the

new, more expansive *Tipitina*, a custom Chance 55.

On this year's sporty, bumpy day, we sailed under jib alone to make our way to a more protected area for snorkeling and to a different one for lunch. Captains Matt and Bonnie do an amazing job of keeping their guests comfortable, happy, fed, oriented among local islands and landmarks, and entertained.

Sailors who appreciate well-designed swim platforms would admire *Tipitina*'s spacious sugar-scoop platform. Captain Matt defogged our dive masks for us before we slid, snorkeled and finned, off the platform into the water. We spotted a variety of tropical fish, starfish, and an eagle ray.

Other than ferry rides to and from St. Thomas, our *Tipitina* sailing day was our only one spent on a boat. When home on

the Chesapeake sailing up its rivers and creeks, I admire waterfront homes from the water and wonder who lives there and why they rarely seem to occupy their verandas, docks, and boats. For much of this weeklong St. John trip, I was the one on the terrace who looked down at Cruz Bay wondering who sailed by, on what type of boat, where they hailed from, and where they would moor for the night.

This may come off as whiny, as if to say, "Villa life is not all that." It is *fantas-tic*. But, I am a water person. From our cliffside perch up above the bay, I pined for that turquoise water and yearned to be closer to it, on it, or in it. Although my injured shoulder prevented me from paddling (irksome), we found our way to a palm-fringed beach one morning. While the others lounged in the shade, I happily swam in the salty, luscious sea and spied more fish.

When I returned home from vacation, I called my dad to tell him about the trip. Having come from a family of bird nerds, of course, I described the big seabird with the pterodactyl "W" wings.

Without skipping a beat, Dad said, "That's a magnificent frigatebird."

Google proved him right. It sounds like a mythical bird name, doesn't it? Perhaps it could be symbolic of things we yearn for, such as gawking at waterfront houses from a sailboat, or gazing at the water from a villa wishing you were sailing. It's silly, isn't it? If you're lucky enough to be on or next to a body of water, if even for a few hours, you're fortunate. Nothing beats it.

March unfolds as a month of yearning, of "almost there." Our own magnificent seabirds, the osprey, fly home. We reunite with sailing friends, burn our socks on the equinox, and prep our boats (see page 47). We can reach out and almost touch sailing season. Aren't we lucky? Happy spring!



Molly





SpinSheet Memories

In our 30th anniversary year we asked our readers to share feedback about SpinSheet.
This is what SpinSheet Century Club member Suzanne Fryberger sent last month:

obbs and I started visiting the Chesapeake regularly in 1999, so I have to guess that we started reading SpinSheet at the same time. In Perryville, our local rags were the Mariner and the Nor'Easter; SpinSheet was the big time, and in some ways, it felt a million miles away—racing news about skilled sailors in Annapolis—but it also stretched us to find a way into that world.

My favorite section of SpinSheet is the Cruising Life column by John Herlig. I feel a familiarity with how he describes his experiences; sometimes it can feel lonely being the contemplative soul, but it's incredibly satisfying to live deeply in our world.

The article from 2024 that sticks in my memory most was written by Betty Caffo, "A Sailing Couple's Change of Heart."

Dobbs and I have enjoyed being in Betty and Al's presence at the Havre de Grace Yacht Club Invitational, both on and off the water. As I adjust my own sailing style and place in the boating community, I welcome reading about how others have done the same, especially when it involves continuing to support racing on the Upper Bay.

I'm a Century Club member and have been for many years, and those 100-plus days on the water are what make me capable of thriving through the remaining 265 in a year.

(When asked to write a love letter to us): Dear SpinSheet, You have been with me through 25 years of sailing—my connection to the Chesapeake when I've roamed far, my inspiration and guide for summer cruises and local racing, and a link to the people who love these things too. While free, you have always been priceless.

Suzanne Fryberger Perryville, MD



We welcome your SpinSheet memories and feedback anytime.

Email editor@spinsheet.com.

The Admiral

That stern-looking kid is my son, Jay Kircher, who started sailing on the Bay before he was a year old. He's now a helicopter pilot stationed in North Bend, OR.

John Kircher





The Winner Is...

We forgot to announce our grand prize winner for the 2024 Mount Gay Rum Photo of the Month Contest! Heather Irene Howard (left) won a Mount Gay duffel for her fun shots of her Herrington Harbour Sailing Association race committee. Stay tuned for the details on our 2025 contest. Our winning selfie photographer writes:

The Mount Gay Rum bag arrived today, and it is gorgeous! I love it. Thank you, SpinSheet, for the honor. I will celebrate tonight with a Mount Gay Rum drink!

Heather Irene Howard Alexandria, VA



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five things you should know about boat insurance

Are you ready to embark on your next on-water adventure? Before you set sail, here are five things to know about boat insurance.

1. Boat insurance isn't just for accidents

With comprehensive coverage, you'll also be protected financially for theft, vandalism, and unexpected events like storms if you need repairs or replacements due to damage.

2. Accidents can happen to anyone

When accidents happen, boat insurance offers liability coverage for damages or injuries you cause while boating, up to specified limits. It can also cover lawsuit costs if you're sued.

3. Boat insurance can cover medical payments

Boat insurance offers a range of optional medical payments coverage limits, helping to cover medical expenses if you're in an accident or someone is hurt on your boat, regardless of fault.

4. Most lenders require boat insurance

If you financed your boat, you'll likely need boat insurance since most lenders require boat insurance to protect their investment. Additionally, some marinas or municipalities require proof of insurance for docking.

5. Progressive offers specialized boat coverages

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How To Find a Community of Sailors

It breaks our hearts in the SpinSheet headquarters to receive a phone call from someone the week after our final crew party to ask if there's a good way to meet sailors. SpinSheet offers four excellent ways to meet sailors, and three of them are in the form of live, in-person SpinSheet Crew Parties. All three of our annual parties are free, open to the public, and open to sailors of all skill levels, including brand new ones. Our fourth offering to make sailing connections is our free online Crew Finder, explained below.

Mark the 2025 dates on your calendars now: **Sunday, March 9 for the Solomons Crew Party** at Southern Maryland Sailing Association from 4-6 p.m.; **Saturday, March 15 for the Hampton Crew Party** at Hampton Yacht Club (new venue!) from 4-6 p.m.; and **Sunday, April 27 for the Annapolis Crew Party** at Eastport Yacht Club from 4-6 p.m.

A few tips for party attendees:

- Show up on time and stay for the entire Crew Party. These parties only last two hours each, so come early, put on your nametag, and take advantage of the chance to meet skippers looking for crew or crew members looking for a boat to sail on.
- New to sailing? You will meet sailors with boats who are willing and able to teach you, as long as you remain open to learning new things. If you're shy, bring a friend! All are welcome. We at SpinSheet also name "ambassadors" to help newcomers navigate the party and give you ideas for sailing in the upcoming season.
- Think about your goals. Do you aim to sail regularly on weeknights in summer, or would you like to do weekend and/or long-distance races? Do you hope to find someone to daysail with casually? Are you open to any and all sailing? What kind of sailing have you done in the past? Sailors will ask you these questions, so think about your responses.
- Bring boat cards, a pen, paper, and/or your smart phone. You may make enough new sailing connections that you forget who's who, so jot down names, numbers, email addresses, and notes about boat types or conversational specifics.



- Dress casually. Most of our attendees will wear casual weekend attire, such as shorts, jeans, baseball caps, and flip flops or boating shoes (you will not need those, as these parties are on land or inside a yacht club).
- Are you involved with a sailing club? We may have options for you to exhibit at the event. Reach out to editor@spinsheet.com.
- Bring cash. We offer cash bars at each event with adult beverages and non-alcoholic options.
- Bring a friend or two. Especially
 if you have friends who are also
 interested in getting into the sailing
 community, we welcome them.

SpinSheet's fourth tool for connecting sailors is our free online Crew Finder service. Sign up at spinsheet. com/crew-finder, and start searching for boats to sail on or crew for your boats. Successful Crew Finder seekers give great details about their sailing experience (that may be "brand new to sailing" or "10,000 miles of bluewater racing") and also search the system regularly rather than sign up and forget it.

And the most successful sailing community connectors go to our spring parties *and* sign up for (or update their profiles) our online Crew Finder, which is open now. Good luck! We look forward to meeting you this spring and seeing you on the water.

CBMM Celebrates Legacy of Black-Owned Seafood Packing Company

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) has announced plans to rehabilitate a historic structure on its campus and rename it the Coulbourne & Jewett Education Center with the support of a \$242,000 grant from the state of Maryland through its African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP).

In preserving and enhancing the simple Victorian residence that most recently served as its Museum Store, CBMM aims to share the history and celebrate the legacy of the Black-owned Coulbourne & Jewett Seafood Packing Company, which was once the largest employer in St. Michaels.

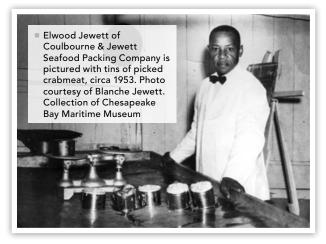
In the early 20th century, entrepreneur William H.T. Coulbourne lived in the home on Navy Point, a short walk from the innovative firm he owned with business partner Frederick Jewett. William Coulbourne and Frederick Jewett were among the earliest seafood packers in the region to specialize in crab meat, and they devised a crab meat grading system that is still used by the seafood industry today.

The opportunity to reimagine and restore the historic structure came with the move of CBMM's Museum Store across campus into the new Welcome Center, which opened during the fall of 2023. The long-term vision is for the Coulbourne & Jewett Education Center to become a vibrant learning hub as CBMM's primary space for public and student programming with

the capacity to accommodate groups larger than a typical classroom.

The AAHP grant funding will go toward the exterior renovation of the building, which was constructed circa 1875 as the miller's residence for an adjacent sawmill. Later phases will focus on interior renovations to repurpose the space for educational purposes.

While the story of the Coulbourne & Jewett Seafood Packing Company is



shared elsewhere on CBMM's campus, its connection to this building's history has been largely untold. That will change with the addition of outdoor interpretive signage detailing the story of these pioneering entrepreneurs and the laborers who made their living on Navy Point while highlighting historic connections between Black communities and the Bay. For more information, visit cbmm.org.

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Be Wary of USCG Documentation Renewal Notices

nfortunately, it's that time of year again, and BoatUS wants to warn boaters with vessels that have a U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation to be wary of any letter arriving by U.S. mail offering renewal.

BoatUS advises that while the Coast Guard does send official annual renewal notices by U.S. mail, other notices being received in the mail are not from the Coast Guard but rather third-party companies whose name or return addresses may appear similar to that of the official U.S. Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC).

A 2017 Coast Guard issued bulletin says in part:

"The NVDC is aware that there are commercial entities that offer to manage the certification/renewal process on behalf of vessel owners for a fee. The Coast Guard does not endorse any of these companies, and the companies do not operate on behalf of the Coast



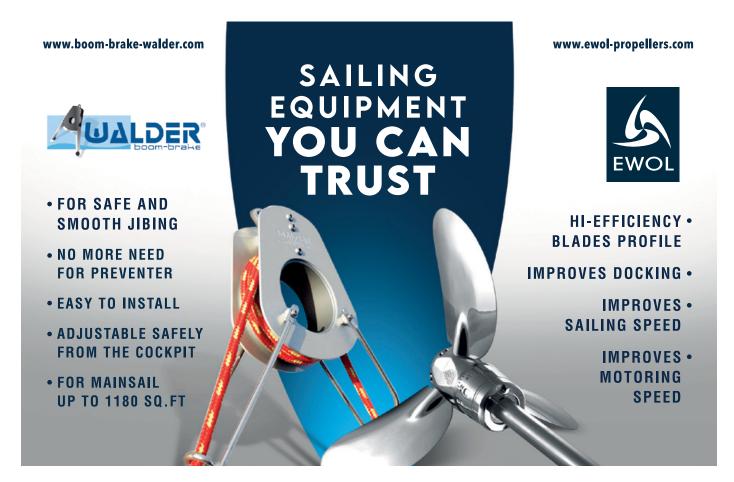
Guard in any way. Any fees charged or agreements offered by such companies are in no way associated with the NVDC certification process. In addition, these companies are not authorized to issue any form of documentation, including travel letters and/or permits that authorize operation of ANY vessel. Customer complaints can be made through the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) website at ftc.gov."

While third-party companies may legitimately provide services to assist with

vessel documentation renewals, the Coast Guard's own renewal process is simple for most vessels, and the price ranges from \$26 for one year up to \$130 for a five-year expiration, which is often much lower than what third-party services may charge.

To renew, go to the Coast Guard National Documentation Center website at uscg.mil/nvdc and click on "instructions and forms," then "Certificate of Documentation Application for Renewal."

More information can be found at boatus.com; search USCG documentation.



Oxford-Bellevue Ferry Welcomes New Owner

hen it opens for its 343rd season in early April, the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry will have a new captain at the helm.

Jim Andrews, who holds a 1600-ton captain's license and owns the Galvestonbased company JettyLight, has purchased the ferry business from Captains Judy and Tom Bixler, who have been the keepers of the ferry for the past 23 years.

"It takes a special person to own and operate a ferry with a legacy this strong," says Captain Tom. "We're confident

■ The Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, established in 1683, is one of the oldest privately owned ferries in the US. Photo by Mark Sandlin

that Jim, who is a professional mariner and successful entrepreneur, has the personality and commitment to shepherd the ferry business into the future."

America's oldest privately owned ferry route has been a vital link across the Tred Avon River since its establishment in 1683. As its name implies, the ferry provides transportation service for vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, and passengers connecting the town of Oxford and the community of Bellevue.

"The Oxford-Bellevue Ferry is much

more than just a means to cross the Tred Avon," says Captain Judy. "It's a cornerstone of the community's identity, often referred to as the crown jewel of Talbot County."

Captain Jim says, "This acquisition represents an exciting new chapter for both the Oxford Bellevue Ferry and JettyLight. We have been impressed to our core by the way Captains Judy and Tom Bixler have developed this business and



maintained the Talbot, and we are honored to continue this heritage in historic Oxford. Our commitment to maintaining the ferry's iconic charm will have a very familiar feel to our employees, customers, partners, and stakeholders."

The Bixlers assure fans of the ferry that they are not planning to leave the area and will be actively involved in the transition of the business to its new owner.

The Oxford-Bellevue Ferry will open for the season on April 5 for weekend crossings. The ferry will begin its seven day a week operation on Oxford Day, April 26. For more information on how to join the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry team, email Capt. Jim Andrews at jim@jettylight.com.







Happy Birthday, Maryland!

Bring the Whole Family To Celebrate for the Weekend

That used to be a one-day celebration, officially March 25, has turned into an entire weekend of festivities. Maryland Day Weekend, a unique heritage-based group of events in Annapolis and southern Anne Arundel County, offers friends and family

a chance to experience the local history, culture, and heritage of the region.

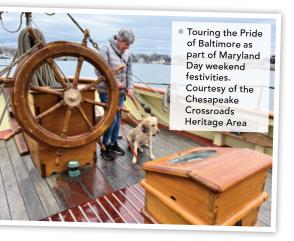
Many already know we have the signers of the Declaration of Independence calling the area home, regional arts destinations, and a rich maritime history on the Chesapeake Bay, but Maryland Day organizers have plenty of surprises in store, too. Plan to visit Annapolis for the weekend, March 21-23. More than 30 locations will open their doors for free or just \$1 and give you fun, affordable reasons to experience the area with all your friends and family.

Events and destinations to visit include live music, gallery exhibits and talks, walking tours and hikes, tours of the *Pride of Baltimore II*, Annapolis Maritime Museum, Annapolis tours by Watermark, Captain Avery House, historic homes such as the Charles Carroll and Chase-Lloyd



Houses, Anne Arundel County Archeology Lab, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Arts Lab of South County, Chesapeake Children's Museum, London Town and Gardens, US Naval Academy, Seafarer's Yacht Club (learn about Sea Scouts), speical events at St. Clement's Island Museum (free admission), and many, many more.

Find the free, intuitive Where in Annapolis official mobile app guide to Maryland Day for up-to-the-minute information for all events. Download it for free in the Apple App store or Google Play store or find it at whereinannapolis.com. Find event details at marylandday.org.



Cox To Lead Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area

aking people aware of history and why it matters" is at the heart of C. Jane Cox's new role as executive director of the Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area (CCHA), which is the lead organization in planning the Maryland Day weekend events.

Formerly known as the Four Rivers Heritage Area, CCHA expanded its partnerships and geographical reach (from Southern Anne Arundel County north) and officially rebranded a year and a half ago. Cox began her position on January 1 following the retirement of her predecessor, Dr. Carol Benson.

No stranger to our rivers (she's a sailor), the regional countryside (she's an equestrian), or regional history (she's worked for 28 years in archeology and historic preservation with Anne Arundel County), Cox brings decades of deep experience and knowledge to CCHA.

In her tenure with the county, Cox conducted archaeological excavations at hundreds of sites, preserved dozens of buildings, developed planning documents guiding the county's preservation programs and initiatives, and nurtured the public archaeology laboratory and research program, while building strong connections within local and state government.

"I look forward to bringing my vision and creativity to expand and enhance heritage sites' offerings and programs across the Chesapeake Crossroads. I'm also excited to help our partners tell their unique stories in fresh and innovative ways," she says.

"You could think of history as a boring book on a shelf, but there are so many places where you can immerse yourself, engage with, and feel history," Cox says.

What's she excited about? "Maryland Day," she says (see above), as well as various aspects of her position from marketing to grant writing. "Also, next year's Mary-



land 250 celebration on July 4, 2026. Were you alive for the 200th? Do you remember what you did to celebrate? I think it's important not to just tell the (Declaration of Independence) signers' story but that of the average guy's role in history."

Learn more about CCHA and its heritage sites, attractions, and events at chesapeakecrossroads.org.

Winners of the 2024 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year Awards

ast month, US Sailing announced the winners of the prestigious 2024 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year Awards, recognizing sailors' exceptional accomplishments in the sport over the past year. The selection process involved a vote by past Rolex Award winners and prominent members of the sailing media. The winners were honored at an awards ceremony during the 2025 US Sailing Leadership Forum in Coronado, CA.

Rolex Yachtsmen of the Year winners Ian Barrows and Hans Henken secured a bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games in the Men's Two-Person Skiff (the 49er), breaking an eight-year Olympic medal drought for the United States. Despite weather delays that added stress to their final medal race, the duo executed a remarkable performance, clinching the bronze medal on the final leg of the race.

Following their Olympic success, Barrows joined the coaching staff at the College of Charleston, where he continues



to inspire and develop future sailing talent. Henken has returned to the roster of the USA SailGP Team, serving as a flight controller and grinder.

Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year Cole Brauer made history and captivated the global sailing community during the inaugural Global Solo Challenge, a singlehanded, non-stop 'round the world ocean race designed to reduce the cost and environmental impact of ocean racing.



Competing aboard her Class 40 First Light, Brauer achieved second place in the race, becoming the first American woman to sail solo around the world.

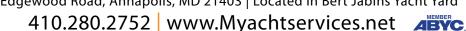
Brauer's journey was not only a feat of endurance and skill but also a storytelling triumph. Through her regular photo and video updates on Instagram, she amassed nearly 400,000 followers, bringing the adventure and challenges of solo ocean racing to a new audience. Her achievements have redefined what is possible in the sport and inspired countless sailors and fans worldwide.

Learn more at ussailing.org.





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Mike Oh, a Sailor Who Inspired Many

1972-2025

ailors all over the Chesapeake Bay mourn the loss of Baltimore sailor Mike Oh, who passed away January 23 after a short, fierce battle with cancer.

A native of Columbia, MD, Mike first got involved in sailing after he'd graduated from Lehigh University and moved to Federal Hill in Baltimore to work in his family business. He started sailing at the Downtown Sailing Center (DSC) and never stopped.

Soon he began working at the DSC. Over the next 25 years, Mike's waterfront positions on the Chesapeake included DSC fleet captain, relief captain for Living Classrooms and the *Lady Maryland*, captain for the *Schooner Woodwind*, and senior fleet manager for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, where he had worked for the past eight years. Most recently, he volunteered his time working on log canoes, as a board member for the DSC, and as a Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race volunteer.

To call Mike a passionate sailor would be an understatement. He sailed in everything from a J/24 to a PHRF boat to a schooner and in every event from a weeknight race to a transatlantic crossing (to Ireland via the Azores).

His close friend James Boicourt says, "Lady Maryland was what really hooked him on schooners. We always joked that the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race was our Christmas and that it was something we looked forward to even more than



Christmas. He was a fixture of the fleet, and I believe his plan was to sail on most of the boats over time. He raced with *Lady Maryland*, *Sultana*, *Woodwind*, *Virginia*, and for a number of years on *Adventurer* 65, a 1926 Alden Malabar 6, with the official title of tactician."

James brought Mike into log canoe racing: "It was a natural fit. Once he took the job with CBF, he was finally able to commit consistently to weekends. He quickly became the fore (main) trimmer on *Edmee S*, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum's main racing boat... He also sailed numerous times in the Deal Island and Cambridge Skipjack Races on the *HM Krentz* (Captain Ed Farley) and *Ida May* (Captain Shawn Ridgely)."

He adds, "Few people I have known were able to combine their understanding of racing strategy and apply it to traditional boats with the enthusiasm and skill that Mike did. He could often see things in the rig or sail trim that others could not. He is

the only person that I have ever seen (and likely ever will) climb the mast of a log canoe, in the water, to deal with a skyed halyard."

Introducing others to sailing, especially on traditionally rigged boats, infused Mike with joy. James says, "Between us, we shared an inside joke of intentionally hooking people for life on an experience they would never be able to quite return to normal from again. The conversation would go, 'Oh, are they \$@*%&!' meaning the person would never be able to get it out of their blood, and the answer with a chuckle and a nod was almost always Mike's characteristic 'Yeahman!'"

Numerous sailing friends of Mike commented on his kind and helpful nature, skilled teaching, respectful attitude, and sense of adventure. He was, in short, easy to like as well as a great crew member to have onboard in all conditions, and the guy who instigated good-hearted shenanigans.









"Mike was an unbelievable networker in the sailing community and biking community," says James. "Those who met him became friends, usually with stories about how Mike changed their lives by getting them involved in one adventure or another. The real message to remember Mike by is just how little it takes to change the lives of those around you, with some enthusiasm, friendship, and a sense of adventure."

Ashley Love says, "I'm one of those people whose life changed because of adventures he got me into... You just knew if Mike Oh was involved, whatever we were doing was going to touch your soul. Then, the next time something came up, you knew you could do it. Everyone needs that friend that is the doer, the one to show up and build, hammer, hot glue something together, to transfer everyone into another world, one where anything is possible with a little elbow grease and imagination. Without him, we all need to step up and be that person."

In the Chesapeake sailing community, Mike Oh will be greatly missed and not forgotten. A waterfront celebration will take place when the weather warms up. Friends may make memorial donations to the DSC (downtownsailing.org) or CBF (cbf.org).

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For more details and links to event websites, visit spinsheet.com/calendar



Capt. Henry Marx Memorial

US Sailing International Safety at Sea Course

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presented by The Mariners' Museum and Park in Newport News, VA, and Landfall Navigation. \$325, ticket sales close Feb. 17. This hands-on training course will prepare you for survival offshore in demanding situations and emergencies. Register: marinersmuseum.org

Collaboration and Celebration Hampton Roads

Oakliff Sailing and friends will gather at the Hampton Yacht Club for Collaboration Working Sessions for competitive sailing athletes, funders, and organizers. Attendees will roll up their sleeves and get to work on sharing information, thoughts, questions, and tips. The sessions will be moderated by Oakcliff, yet all are encouraged to share, listen, and learn from local organizers and athletes. 12:30 to 6 p.m.

1 US Coast Guard Auxiliary Safety Review

At Fawcett Boat Supplies (919 Bay Ridge Road, Annapolis, MD, 21403) from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. RSVP to info@fawcettboat.com. Seating is limited, so sign up early.

March

5 Interpreting Surface Weather Maps Webinar

Join marine weather expert Mark Thornton for an online lesson in decoding the confusing symbols on surface weather maps to gain a better understanding of the large-scale weather pattern and how it will evolve. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Attend this one webinar (\$35) or the bundle of three (\$90) to include learning about Thunderstorms and Weather Apps: spinsheet.com/weather-webinar

Boating and Fishing Flea Market with Nautical Arts & Crafts

Kiwanis Club of Poquoson. Local legend guest speakers. Raffle prizes include a seaplane ride. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Poquoson High School, 51 Odd Rd, Poquoson, VA.

SpinSheet Crew Party - Solomons

Find a boat to sail on or find crew for your own boat at the SpinSheet Crew Party. Sailors of all levels, including newcomers, are welcome to join the fun. Southern Maryland Sailing Association in Solomons, MD, from 4 to 6 p.m. Free and open to the public. Cash bar.

12 Thunderstorms and Weather Radar Webinar

Join marine weather expert Mark Thornton for an online lesson in forecasting thunderstorms and tracking their evolution. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Attend this one webinar (\$35) or the bundle of three (\$90) to include learning about Interpreting Surface Weather Maps and Weather Apps: spinsheet.com/weather-webinar

1 4 AYC Foundation Fete and Auction

The Annapolis Yacht Club's philanthropic arm, AYC Foundation, will host its biennial fete and auction Friday, March 14, at AYC's main clubhouse. The event will celebrate some inspiring sailors across the region, feature live music, gourmet hors d'oeuvres and craft cocktails, and provide a chance to win top-tier auction items. The Foundation will host two events in the Skipjack at the Main Clubhouse: a free event for sailors ages 9 to 22, 4 to 5 p.m., featuring refreshments and snacks and the opportunity to interact with some inspiring sailors during a moderated panel, and a main event, \$250 ticket, 6 to 9 p.m., that will feature cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a moderated discussion led by talented sailors who will engage in a lively discussion with guest panelists, and an auction. Tickets and sponsorships are tax-deductible and will directly support the Foundation's important community

Do you have an upcoming event? Send the details to: editor@spinsheet.com

CPR/AED and First Aid for **Boaters**

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Selby Bay Yacht Club in Edgewater, MD. \$100 for CAPCA and Selby Bay Yacht Club member; \$115 for all others. This course meets the CPR and First Aid requirements for USCG Captain's License. The certification has a twoyear expiration date. The program is taught by American Heart Association Certified Instructors who are all experienced boaters. To register for the class, contact Capt. Alan Karpas at Alan@SafetyInstituteOfMD.com

SpinSheet Crew Party -**Hampton YC**

Find a boat to sail on or find crew for your own boat at the SpinSheet Crew Party. Sailors of all levels, including newcomers, are welcome to join the fun. NEW VENUE THIS YEAR: Hampton Yacht Club, from 4 to 6 p.m. Free and open to the public. Cash bar.

Understanding Weather Apps Webinar

Join marine weather expert Mark Thornton for an online lesson to give you a better understanding of how your weather apps work and how to interpret the data. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Attend this one webinar (\$35) or the bundle of three (\$90) to include learning about Interpreting Surface Weather Maps and Thunderstorms: spinsheet.com/ weather-webinar

Maryland Day Maryland Day commemorates the formal founding of the colony of Maryland, when the newly arrived colonists erected a cross on St. Clement's Island; this event took place on March 25, 1633/34. Find events around Maryland at marylandday.org

Annapolis Oyster Roast and Sock Burning

12 to 4 p.m. at the Annapolis Maritime Museum. Rain date March 23. Celebrate the spring equinox and the beginning of boating season each March by burning those nasty winter socks. GA tickets \$50 for adults, \$10 for children ages 5-10, ages 5 and under are free. VIP tickets \$125.

CAPCA Monthly Meeting 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. at the Annapolis Elks Lodge and online via Zoom. Speaker: Captain Elizabeth Christman - Piloting ships between the C&D Canal and Cape Henry. Free.

Maryland Day on St. Clement's Island

Celebrate the founding of Maryland at the state's birthplace at St. Clement's Island Museum. Catholic mass on the island at 10 a.m. followed by an official ceremony on the mainland at 2 p.m. Also free water taxi rides to St. Clement's Island, free museum admission, food truck, children's activities, and more.



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March (cont.)

Watermen's Story Swap Join local author and emcee Brent Lewis, as well as a panel of local watermen, for a lively evening of stories of the past and present drawn from lives spent on the water harvesting from the Bay. 5:30 p.m. at the Van Lennep Auditorium at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels (also available virtually). Suggested ticket price \$8.

Eastport Civic Assoc. Appraisal Roadshow "Fun" Raiser First Show, doors open at 9 a.m. Show runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Second Show: doors open at Noon. Show runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. \$15 per item appraised. \$10 suggested spectator donation. Food and drink for sale. Money raised goes to area youth groups. Event Location: 525 State St, Eastport Democratic Club. See <u>eastportcivic.org</u> for more details

MTAM Safety at Sea At the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. Three US Sailing Certificate courses will be offered: Offshore Sailing, International Offshore Safety with Hands-On Training, and International Hands-On Only Training. A Safety for Cruising course will also be offered (no certification): mtam.org

March Racing

through Mar 30 **ILCA Frostbite Racing**

Hosted by Severn Sailing Association, Annapolis, MD.

through Mar 17 **AYC Frostbite Racing Series 2** Hosted by Annapolis YC.

April

Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the boardwalk in North Beach, MD. If you love birds, wildlife, and nature, or just want to learn more, please come out and be a part of this wonderful festival for a great cause. It is an event for the entire family and people of all ages.

Bay Bridge Boat Show at Safe Harbor Narrows Point

New location, same great boat show! At Safe Harbor Narrows Point on Kent Island. Tickets: annapolisboatshows.com

For more details and links to event websites, visit spinsheet.com/calendar





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First Landing Wine and Arts Z Festival

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum in Coltons Point, MD. Enjoy wine by the glass or purchase a bottle from St. Mary's County wineries and craft beverage makers, all while browsing locally crafted items and more on museum grounds. Family-friendly activities, also water taxi rides over to St. Clement's Island State Park. Event admission is free; various costs for vendor purchases, water taxi rides, museum admission, etc. Rain or shine.

Sail & Sell: A Maritime **Market Collective**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at: Bacon Sails and Marine Supplies, Chesapeake Light Craft, and Fawcett Boat Supplies. In Annapolis, MD. Visit each location for deals and promos. Flea market and swap meet.

Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show At City Dock, Annapolis. Tickets: annapolisboatshows.com

SpinSheet Crew Party -**Annapolis**

Find a boat to sail on or find crew for your own boat at the SpinSheet Crew Party. Sailors of all levels including newcomers are welcome to join the fun. 4 to 6 p.m. at Eastport Yacht Club. Free and open to the public. Cash bar.

April Racing

AYC Wednesday Night **Racing Series 1**

Hosted by Annapolis YC.

BCYA Tuesday Night Racing

Hosted by the Baltimore City Yacht Association.

AYC Spring One Design Regatta Hosted by Annapolis YC.



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All times listed are in Local Time, Daylight Saving Time has been applied when appropriate. All speeds are in knots. Tides & Currents predictions are provided by NOAA.gov

















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Current Differences and Speed Ratios

Secondary Stations Baltimore Harbor Approach	Min. before Flood	ime Dif	Speed F	Ratios Ebb		
Cove Point, 3.9 n.mi. East	-3:29	-3:36	-4:08	-3:44	0.4	0.6
Sharp Island Lt., 3.4 n.mi. West	-1:39	-1:41	-1:57	-1:43	0.4	0.5
Thomas Pt. Shoal Lt., 2.0 n.mi. East	-1:05	-0:14	-0:22	-0:20	0.6	0.6
Pooles Island, 4 miles Southwest	+0:59	+0:48	+0:56	+1:12	0.6	0.8
Turkey Point, 1.2 n.mi. Southwest	+2:39	+1:30	+0:58	+1:00	0.6	8.0

Corrections Applied to Baltimore Harbor Approach

Secondary Stations Chesapeake Bay Entrance	Min. before	ime Dif	Speed Ratios			
	Flood	Flood	Ebb	Ebb	Flood	Ebb
Chesapeake Beach, 1.5 miles North	+0:29	+0:48	+0:06	+0:00	1.0	0.7
Chesapeake Channel, (bridge tunnel)	+0:05	+0:38	+0:32	+0:19	2.2	1.2
Stingray Point, 12.5 miles East	+2:18	+3:00	+2:09	+2:36	1.2	0.6
Smith Point Light, 6.7 n.mi. East	+2:29	+2:57	+2:45	+1:59	0.5	0.3
Point No Point, 4.3 n.mi. East	+4:49	+5:33	+6:04	+5:45	0.4	0.2

Corrections Applied to Chesapeake Bay Entrance









MARCH 2025 CURRENTS



For more than 10 years we've brought you inspiring stories of sailors who took up the sport as adults. This month we catch up with two such sailors to learn how they're progressing.

A bigger boat and overnight cruises: Stenart Pittman

If e first interviewed Pittman in 2023, about four years after he started sailing. In that time, he had moved up from a Newport 16 to a MacGregor 26 and was having a blast sailing out of the West River, but he wanted to go farther, have a little more space, and bring more people aboard. Plus, with his growing skills, he was ready for a boat that could sail a little better. He tells us:

Late in 2023, as a Christmas present to myself, I purchased a 1999 Hunter 380. I took possession in Baltimore and sailed it under the Key Bridge (thankfully I took some video) and back to the West River.

I'm on my Hunter every moment that I can be, and I have kept the boat in the water all winter so that I won't miss any decent sailing days.

In mid-December I had my first experience with engine failure. I was on my way back to the dock and determined that I could sail in, but the wind died about 100 yards from my pier. I jumped into my inflatable dinghy and rowed to the dock, pulling the Hunter, and arrived safely. While I am not a mechanic, I grew up on a farm and by necessity I learned a little about fixing a tractor engine. Fortunately, I think those skills will transfer to my boat engine.

With my bigger boat I've expanded my cruising range and taken overnights to St. Michaels, Solomons, and Rock Hall. Although I most often sail alone, I love entertaining friends and staff aboard. One day last summer I took out my sister and three of her friends. When the wind lay down, we threw a line off the stern, my sister and her

friends jumped in the water, and we pulled them along. Everyone had a great time that day. We even spotted dolphins. Another memorable guest was an older gentleman with limited vision. He was a sailor, so I have him time at the helm, and he absolutely came to life.

While I enjoy entertaining aboard, I also use my Hunter as a floating office. Either at anchor or at my slip, I'll make phone calls, attend Zoom meetings, write, and read. The boat is a great place to go when I need a quiet place to think. My kids are gradually becoming more interested, and my wife and I enjoy sitting on the boat with glasses of wine.

In the future, I hope to explore the Bay for a week and complete a Del-MarVa circumnavigation to get some bluewater experience. I still dream of sailing in the islands after my term as county executive ends in December 2026.

Sailing on the Chesapeake and beyond: Donna Clapp

t's been over four years since I first shared my sailing dreams with SpinSheet, and it has been an incredible journey! Sailing isn't just a hobby for me anymore; it's a way of life. I'm so lucky that my husband, Roger, and our close friends are as passionate about it as I am.

I'm proud of how much I've improved, particularly with the spinnaker, on our boat *WaterDog*. During the 2022 Herrington Harbour Sailing Association's Women's Regatta, my friend Clo helped me get to know that big, beautiful sail. The wind wasn't cooperating that day, but we gave it our all. My crew of amazing ladies came

from all over the DC, Maryland, and Virginia areas, and we had an absolute blast!

My home base is the Eastport Yacht Club (EYC), where I've become a regular. As co-chair of the EYC cruise committee, I'm so grateful for all the memorable raftups we've had. The camaraderie and

Find more articles, new sailor profiles, and videos at StartSailingNow.com





laughter we share out on the water are truly priceless.

In 2022, Roger and I joined The Corinthians Chesapeake Bay Fleet. Last summer, we cruised with them and our sister club, the Little Ship Club, in London. Navigating those 12-meter tides in Cornwall was an exhilarating experience, and the charming villages and our new friends made it all worth it.

Our love of sailing has even taken us to Greece twice. We bareboat chartered from Kos in 2018 and last year from Skopelos. What an incredible way to experience the beauty of the Aegean Sea!

Back home, I'm passionate about giving back to the sailing community. I am a regular race committee volunteer for J/World Annapolis Thursday night racing, and I can't wait to volunteer with CRAB (Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating) again this year. For three of the past five years, I've volunteered with the EYC environmental committee.

Since 2020, we have entered WaterDog in the EYC Lights Parade, and in 2024 we received a secondplace award for our rendition of the Screwpile lighthouse. Many thanks to Jason Kamps, our artist, and the many hands of our WaterDog crew for turning my dream into a reality!

Every time I set sail, I discover something new. Whether it's here on the Chesapeake or in some faraway place, I'm so grateful for all the amazing experiences and the wonderful sailing family I've made along the way.

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Find a Sailing School

ew sailors or those returning to sailing may want to seek instruction or coaching at a sailing school or club. Many such organizations exist on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. They offer certifications for beginners, returning sailors hoping to brush up on seamanship skills, cruisers seeking bareboat chartering or navigation experience, and racers wanting to hone their skills. The following is a sampling of schools and clubs that offer sailing instruction on the Chesapeake. For a more complete list of schools offering certifications outside this region, visit US Sailing or American Sailing.



Chesapeake Bay Sailing Schools

- Annapolis Sailing School annapolissailing.com
- Annapolis Naval Sailing Association ansa.org
- Blue Water Sailing School bwss.com
- Captain In You Sailing Schools, Inc. captaininyou.com
- DC Sail dcsail.org
- Gratitude Sailing Institute gratitudesailing.com

- J/World Annapolis jworldannapolis.com
- SailTime sailtime.com/annapolis
- Sail Solomons sailsi.com
- West River Sailing Club learn2sailwrsc.com











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Who's That Gull Laughing at Me?

📣 By Pamela Tenner Kellett

espite working in the field of avian conservation I consider myself an amateur birder at best, along the lines of an advanced beginner. I can definitely distinguish what order level a bird may fall into but am still working on distinguishing among warblers and sparrows. One of the trickiest for me are shorebirds, particularly the gulls. This may be why the laughing gull, Leucophaeus atricilla, is one of my favorite gulls that return to the Chesapeake Bay region in March.

Their breeding plumage is a striking black hood with a red bill and white crescents around their eyes. This is the only gull that sports this distinctive color scheme, and I always feel confident in my identification. Of course, their maniacal high-pitched laugh is also a dead giveaway.

Laughing gulls are considered small coastwise gulls with a length of 17 inches and a wingspan of 40 inches. Their nonbreeding plumage consists of a black bill

and white head with some dark smudges, and their legs can vary from orange to black (not helpful on the positive identification front). Male and female birds sport the same plumage. Juveniles, like most gulls, have mottled brown feathers also making identification quite challenging as flocks can be mixed. Laughing Gulls do not present with their full adult plumage for three years, which is a long time to find them confusing!

Laughing gulls' habitat is varied from beaches to marsh, agricultural fields to landfills. There are two nesting colonies in the Chesapeake: one south of Crisfield and one in Ocean City. Nesting colonies can be quite large, and typically both the male and female contribute to nest building. Occasionally the male will start a nest to attract a mate. Laughing Gulls are monogamous. The same pair will mate over multiple years; the lifespan can span up to 22 years.

Once the nest is constructed, the female lays up to three olive-colored eggs with brown mottling for camouflage. The eggs hatch within 20 days. The chicks are fed by both parents and fledge in 35-40 days. They are vulnerable to predation even from other gull species.

Laughing gulls are opportunistic feeders consuming everything from fish to mollusks to insects to the French Fry you are holding in your hand that you just bought on the boardwalk. I was once reading on a beach on the Gulf Coast of Florida and was holding up a piece of dried mango about to take a bite when a laughing gull flew in from behind me and grabbed it out of my hands. I did not laugh. Laughing gulls are even known to snatch fish out of other birds' mouths which is called "kleptoparasitism."

Laughing gull populations are considered stable and abundant, giving sailors ample opportunity to hone their

identification skills before they migrate south for the winter. Keep an eye and ear out for their ritualized communication displays that gave them their name.





BRENDAN SAILING SUMMER CAMPS

Celebrate 40 Years of Empowering Youth With Learning Differences Through Sailing

📣 By Meredith Glacken

his year marks an important milestone for one of the region's most transformative programs for young people. A longtime resource for kids with learning differences and their parents, Brendan Sailing celebrates its 40th anniversary of its summer camp series, which takes place annually in Annapolis and St. Mary's, MD.

"It's incredible to see the impact we've made over the past 40 years," says Brendan Sailing founder and chairman Jim Muldoon, who was inspired to start the program after seeing the transformation his son Jimmy underwent while sailing on his racing boat *Donnybrook*.

Muldoon's mission to bring sailing to children with learning differences such as ADHD, dyslexia, and dysgraphia, and autism spectrum disorder began in 1985, when he and Jimmy, who was young and struggling with dyslexia, left the dock together to head out sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. Muldoon observed that the more Jim-

my built skills that helped him harness the power and direction of the boat, the more confidence and self-assuredness he gained. After that, Muldoon set about building an accredited youth sailing program and a curriculum that would bring that same experience to thousands more kids with learning differences.

Now in its 40th year, Brendan Sailing is ready to launch into another round of week-long camps, including one with overnight stays at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The application period for 2025 camps opened on February 12, and signups will be accepted until the slots are filled.

"Over the course of a week, campers learn how to sail, work with their peers, and solve problems—all while building confidence in an environment that is intentionally designed to support different learning styles," says Brendan Sailing executive director Jane Millman.

Annapolis parent Jennifer K. adds of her son's experience, "One of the most significant changes we noticed was in Anthony's self-esteem. Each day he came home beaming with pride, eager to share his achievements and adventures on the water.

"The sense of camaraderie and friendship he developed with fellow campers was heartwarming," she continued. "He felt understood and accepted, which was incredibly important for his emotional well-being."

Millman says there are still a few spots available for this summer, though each year it fills up more quickly. She says the program's popularity is the result of how uniquely tailored the camps are to youth with specialized learning needs, all while being taught by US Sailing-certified instructors.

"Brendan Sailing is all about experiential instruction with a focus on learning by doing," says Millman. "It's important to us that as we offer that experience, our campers feel they're learning in a safe and supportive environment for growth. It's why each of our instructors is trained in the Brendan Approach."

After several years of the program's development and lived experience, Muldoon partnered with educators to professionalize and accredit the training program for its instructors.

"We realized we needed to formalize how we train the trainers," says Muldoon.

The Brendan Approach teaches instructors to adapt their coaching methods to meet individual needs, improve communication, and maximize outcomes for campers with cognitive differences and unique learning styles.

"In the United States alone, there are 2.3 million kids with diagnosed neuro-diverse learning profiles," Millman says. "One in 36 are on the autism spectrum. A one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work







for them, and that's where the Brendan Approach steps in to fill the gap."

More than 500 sailing instructors across the U.S. have been certified in this method since its inception in

As part of its 40th year celebrations, Brendan Sailing has expanded its scholarship programs for 2025 and beyond, ensuring the positive impact of the program is accessible to all. As the organization looks beyond its anniversary year, Muldoon says they remain committed to the core values of inclusion, empowerment, and community.

"Our plans for the future include expanding our reach to more families, enhancing programs, and continuing

to adapt to the evolving needs of children with learning differences," he says. "Brendan Sailing is a place where every camper has the opportunity to shine and grow, and our mission remains to provide children with learning differences a space to feel accepted, build self-esteem, and achieve their personal best."

To learn more, visit brendansailing.org.



We're Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary! Tell Us How Awesome We Are!

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for example, we will send you a cool hat as a thank you (or a bribe).

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Stories of the Century

Congratulations, SpinSheet Century Club and Racing Team 2024!

Fe celebrated our 2024
SpinSheet Century Club
and Racing Team at a
Saturday afternoon party at Bacon Sails
and Marine Supplies February 8, which
featured beer, cake, and awards. In total,
we counted 120 Century Club members
and 60 Racing Team members; 100 of
them made it to the party.

For readers just tuning in, the Century Club is comprised of boaters who logged 100 on-water days, on any type of vessel, within the calendar year, earning them a SpinSheet burgee and bragging rights.

Rather than log days on the water, SpinSheet Racing Team members earned 25 points through logging various regatta series, earning them a high-tech team shirt from our longtime sponsor Team One Newport.

Congratulations to David Sites and Catherine Tobin Kraus for sharing credit for the Erewhon Award in honor of Jack Sherwood, which goes out to the Century Club member(s) who logged the most days. In 2024, a leap year, David and Catherine logged 366 days on the water.

David, who was also the Erewhon Award winner in 2023, blew our minds this time around by logging 731 consecutive days on the water, making him our first (and we suspect only) Super Centurion in SpinSheet history. For the record, David continued his everyday boating habit until he reached 750 days. Just wow. Congratulations, David!

All boaters—whether sailors, powerboaters, paddlers, or a combo—are welcome to join the Century Club Challenge (spinsheet.com/join-spin-sheet-century-club). All Chesapeake racing sailors may join the Racing Team (spinsheet.com/racing-team). Thank you to our sponsors Bacon Sails and Marine Supplies and Team One Newport; make sure to give them your business and thank them for making boating more fun for all of us.

We printed the Racing Team members' names in our January issue (and at spinsheet.com). On page 38 find our Century Club members' names. Congratulations to all!









SpinSheet editor Molly Winans awards David Sites the Erewhon Award for being the top-scoring Century Club member as well as the SpinSheet Super Centurion for logging 731 consecutive days on the water.

Can You Log 100 Days On The Water?





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2025 Century Club Leaderboard*

- 1. Drew Mutch 38 Days
- 2. Catherine Tobin Kraus 34 Days 7. Bill Cabrall 17 Days
- 3. David Sites 27 Days
- 4. Mike Pitchford 24 Days
- 5. Antoinette Wilkins 20 Days
- 6. Michael-Anne Ashford 18 Days
- 8. Wade Moler 14 Days
- 9. Bill Hannigan 11 Days
- 10. Shawn Owen 9 Days

week sailing with friends in Martinique on Anenome, a Lagoon 42 catamaran. As of 1/17/2025

AJ Batcheller had an unforgettable

To view leaderboard and to log your days, visit spinsheet.com/century-club











The Century Club Class of 2024

In alphabetical order by first name:

Abby Postle Salkin AJ Batcheller Alan Bomar Alison Banholzer Americo Cottely Anne Stevens Ashley Love **Aubrey Marino Baard Johansen** Ben Clark Bill Carruth Billy Hannigan **Bob Gallagher** Bob Ohler **Brad Miller Brett Smith Brian Robinson** Carrie Will Casey Firth Catherine Tobin Kraus Charles Fort Cheryl Duvall Chris Bates Cindy Wallach Cynthia "Cynde" Nordone Dave Nestel **David Sites David Stalfort** Dianne Sullivan Donald Kohlhafer

Dorian Haldeman Doug Hobbs Drew Mutch **Ed Tracey** Eric Packard Eric Richardson Eva Hill Frank Sheeder Gary Parr **Gerhard Straub** Glenn Robertson Greg Brennan Greg Flach Haley Varner Hannah Dickmyer Heather Irene Howard Ian Morrison Jack Regan James B James Ronayne James Townsend Jamey Dumas Jason Aulds Jason Fox Jayne Durden Jeff Joy Jere Glover Jeremy Salkin Joe Cummings John Burke

Jonathan Nepini Jordan Hecht Jose Turcios Julianne Fettus Julie Miller Karen Wood Keith Chapman Kelly McMurray Kelly Smith Ken Vinson Koralina McKenna Lars Rathjen LeAnn Myhre Lisa-Marie Lane Lorie Stout Maille (= Molly) Lyons Mariah Dean Mario Santana Mark Hergan Mason Cook Matthew Coyle Matthew Sheridan Maude Laurence Melissa Bloom Michael Bevis Michael Jewell Michael McCaulev Michael-Anne Ashford Michele Ward Mike Pitchford

Naia Wallach Nancy Herman Nick Simpson Nikki Bruno Pete Lesher Rebekah Bromwell Richard Turman **Rob Hindman** Robert Coker Robert Marino Russ Borman Sean Martin Stefanie Brady Stephanie Sams Steven Birchfield Sunny sturmer Susan StGeorge Suzanne Carter Suzanne Fryberger Terry McCauley Terry Slattery Timothy Dull Tom Dean Varner Burke Vicki Saporta Wade Moler Walter Reiter Will Libcke William Levitan





















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Visiting the National Cherry Blossom Festival by Land or 69 Sea

A By Karen Soule

rom the mouth of the Potomac River to our nation's capital, it's a twisty 94-nautical-mile trip replete with shifting shoals and tidal swings. But for the intrepid cruiser, the bucolic farmland and ultimate destination, Washington, DC, is well worth the fuel and plotting skill needed, especially during spring and in time for the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

The festival is the capital's largest event, attracting more than 1.5 million visitors intent on celebrating spring among the thousands of cherry trees in full bloom. This year's festival runs from March 20 through April 13. And while peak bloom is dependent on the weather, the performances, music, and food will go on whether it's a blustery March or a sunny weekend in April.

A Bit of History

The Tidal Basin's first cherry trees, a friendship and goodwill gift from Japan back in 1910, unfortunately landed in DC riddled with insects and worms and were promptly burned. Two years later, another gift of more than 3000 saplings arrived healthy. With little fanfare, First Lady Helen Taft and the Japanese ambassador's wife planted the first trees. They remain standing today.

Decades later, when construction began on the Jefferson Memorial, a group of women incited the "Cherry Blossom Rebellion," to protest any removal of the trees by chaining themselves to the trunks. The Jefferson Memorial was eventually built, and any trees removed were transplanted. Except for a brief time during World War II when the cherry trees were referred to as "oriental trees," the fragrant blooms have welcomed visitors to the nation's capital as a sign of spring and renewal.

A Huge Schedule of Events

The month-long National Cherry Blossom Festival, a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the festival's nonprofit organization, offers events from educational tours to food festivals to music performances.

The festival's opening ceremony and preview of offerings takes place Saturday, March 22 at the Capital's Warner The-

ater. To obtain free tickets to this event, join the email list at <u>nationalcherryblossomfestival.org</u>. The opening ceremony, featuring Japanese tap dancers, traditional puppetry shows, and American performers will also be livestreamed.

For the following four weeks, the capital will be filled with food stands, music performances, and of course, cherry blossoms. Some ongoing events include:

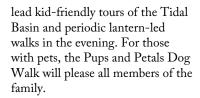
- More than 100 performances at the Tidal Basin's ANA Stage throughout "peak bloom" will feature music including bluegrass, rock, and jazz and dance performances showcasing Flamenco, Zumba, and clogging. Stop by any time between noon and 6 p.m. to enjoy these free performances.
- Families with younger kids will be inspired by the NPS Bloom' Junior Ranger Program where youngsters can earn a junior ranger badge and participate in the "Mystery of the Broken Branch" virtual tour. From March 23-April 7, park rangers will



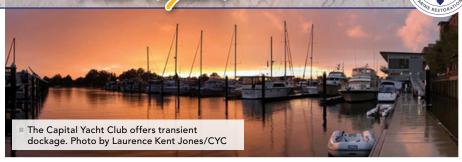
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- There's no better way to welcome spring than with more music and the Blossom Kite Festival on March 29. Both adults and kids are welcome to register online for the Kitemaker's Competition. Or, become a kite expert by attending a kite flying workshop and viewing the numerous videos online. Finally, bring your own kite and watch them soar.
- If you're missing the water, attend "Petalpalooza" at the Capital Riverfront Navy Yard along the Anacostia River on April 5 from 1-9 p.m. Along with a plethora of art and music, this event caps off with Potomac River fireworks beginning at 8:30 p.m.
- "Paws and Petals" is the festival's focus on being a pet-friendly event. Canine visitors are welcome at many events, and pet comfort stations are located throughout the grounds. Pets must be leashed.
- On April 12, the National Cherry Blossom Parade will run the length of Constitution Avenue. Enjoy a break from walking and delight in the displays. This is a ticketed event with costs between \$25-40.
- For anyone needing a break from the crowds, a cruise downriver from DC's waterfront to George Washington's historic Mount Vernon might be the cure. City Experiences offers a full-day, narrated boat tour of the river and admission to Mt. Vernon. Visit CityExperiences.com for more information. Private boats can also obtain dock space at Mt. Vernon on a first-come, first-serve basis. Check out mountvernon.org for more information.



How To Get There

Arriving at the festival by car requires advance planning. Close-by hotels book up well in advance, parking is limited, and restaurants often require reservations. Organizers recommend using the DC metro to get downtown, so staying a few miles away may be best. Everything is in walkable distance... provided you've got comfortable shoes and rain gear if necessary.

For boaters eager to experience DC, yet longing to leave the crowds at the day's end, cruising up the Potomac can be rewarding. (Check with the USCG about travel restrictions in the Potomac near Reagan Airport.) Between the Chesapeake Bay and DC, there are few places to stop, although Colonial Beach, VA, does feature the Boathouse Marina as a waypoint. Visit: Theboathousemarina-va.com.

Once in DC, cruisers can consider several marinas:

- National Harbor Marina is just downstream from the festival and sports full amenities including security, a casino, and water taxi. Slips must be reserved well in advance. Check out: nationalharbormarinadc.com.
- The Capital Yacht Club offers transient dockage with advance reservations. Located on the Washington Channel, it is very close to all DC has to offer. Mooring balls are also available at The Wharf. Visit: capitalyachtclub.com.

However you visit DC—by boat, car, train, or plane—the National Cherry Blossom Festival is a colorful and exciting time to spend a few days. With kites in the air, music on the grounds, and food everywhere, there are activities for young and old alike.

About the Author: Karen Soule sails her Outbound 46 Soulemate with her husband, David, out of Fishing Bay Yacht Club in Deltaville, VA. She cruises between the Caribbean and New England, but likes the Chesapeake Bay best.

















SAFETY SERIES: PART III

Medical Challenges at Sea

A By Captain Cheryl Duvall

hether you are a racer, cruiser, or day sailor, you need to be prepared for various medical challenges at sea, ranging from minor injuries to full-blown emergencies. Even a small cut on a finger or toe can become a liability if not properly treated. Other common occurrences on the water, such as heat exhaustion and hypothermia, can quickly escalate to life-threatening emergencies if timely action is not taken.

I recently spoke with Dr. Bill White, a retired emergency physician and avid sailor. Bill is also a volunteer coach for the US Naval Academy (USNA) offshore sailing team, and a member of the Cruising Club of America (CCA). He has participated in nine races to Bermuda and multiple passages to and from the Caribbean. He is currently planning a transatlantic crossing with the CCA this summer. At the time of our conversation, Bill was preparing for the MTAM Safety at Sea (S@S) seminars where he will deliver a lecture on offshore medical care.

While S@S seminars are required for crew participating in most offshore races, many Bay sailors and cruisers have found their lectures and hands-on classes to be invaluable. Even the S@S virtual seminars are excellent alternatives for sailors who want to improve their knowledge.

In addition to taking classes, I asked Bill for recommendations based on his extensive medical experiences both on and off the water.

Medical Supplies

All boaters should have medical supplies onboard that are appropriate for expected crew members, anticipated duration, and distance from shore-based assistance. Commercial marine kits are readily available and should be supplemented with easy-to-understand books that can give additional guidance, including when to call for professional assistance.

Some boaters augment commercial kits with additional supplies and ask their primary physician to prescribe medications such as antibiotics for use when offshore.

"However, having a robust medical kit isn't helpful if you don't know how to use its contents appropriately," cautions Bill. "There are a variety of antibiotics that are used to treat different infections, and using the wrong one can create more problems than it solves."

In addition to bringing enough personal medication for the passage duration, Bill advises that crew should carry information regarding their personal medical history, including current medications and pertinent allergies. This is especially prudent for extended passages or when out of range of professional services. If confidentiality is a concern, crew can simply prepare a sealed envelope that is only opened if needed.

Training and Assistance

Bill and I both agree that sailors should be trained in CPR and first aid. While there are many local training options, I prefer classes offered by the Chesapeake Area Professional Captains Association (CAPCA) because they are taught by boaters with additional content specific to challenges at sea.

To address concerns about handling onboard medical emergencies, Bill recommends Maritime Medical Access (MMA), a telemedical service available through George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine. MMA provides 24/7 on-call physician support to vessels at sea, including private yachts. Costs are quite reasonable and are based on size of vessel, number of crew, passage duration, and location. They utilize almost any form of communication including texting.

Most Common Incidents

When asked about the most common incidents at sea, Bill mentioned a 2010 study that examined 1226 sailing-related injuries and their causes. The findings cited crew maneuvers and adverse weather conditions as top contributors to onboard injuries. The most common cause of head injury on a boat is getting hit by the boom. Boom related injuries accounted for 80 percent of deaths. Other serious injuries include burns from spilled or sloshed hot liquids in the galley. Wearing foulies while cooking can help prevent burns, but an additional layer of protection should be worn beneath since hot water can sometimes melt foulies and complicate burn injuries.



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Injuries

Most of the common injuries on a sailboat tend to occur on exposed body parts, such as fingers, hands, and toes. Lacerations must be thoroughly cleaned before applying an appropriate dressing and securing with a bandage or gauze wrapping. Since sailors are in a wet environment, Bill suggests buying waterproof Nexcare bandages to protect wounds from contamination. He also prefers using a syringe for high-pressure irrigation and carrying bottled water for wound cleaning, since boat tank water can be tainted.

If injuries to limbs require splinting, Bill recommends Sam splints which are lightweight, moldable, and easily form-fitted to body areas. Even if your boat isn't venturing offshore, splints can provide temporary relief and protection from further injury if a crew member experiences a sprain or break before returning to the dock.

Hypothermia

When exposed to cold temperatures due to wind, water, precipitation, or air, your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Prolonged exposure will eventually result in an abnormally low body temperature or hypothermia. Hypothermia affects coordination, cognitive function, and strength. This impacts not only the afflicted crew member, but it also burdens others who must care for the afflicted and assume their duties. In severe cases, hypothermia can progress to becoming life threatening.

We can avoid hypothermia by wearing layers of proper clothing, staying dry, and by keeping well hydrated and nourished.

Bill advises "The key to preventing hypothermia includes recognizing it early and understanding the stages. Someone may be cold-stressed but not yet hypothermic with a body temperature approaching 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Shivering occurs at this stage, but normal mental function and coordination can be maintained. Early

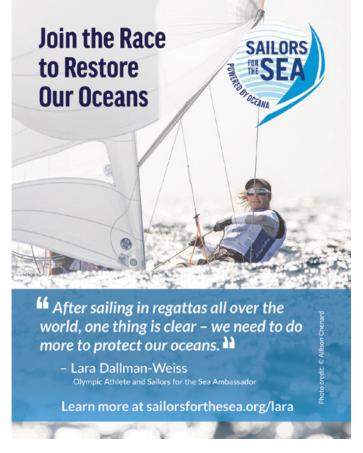
stages of hypothermia occur between 90–95 degrees core body temperature, where crew may act confused, stumble, slur speech, and have pronounced shivering. It's important to intervene immediately by rewarming them. This can be especially challenging as sailors are often in a cold and wet environment."

Rewarming actions require relocating the crew member to a warmer and dryer location, removing wet clothing, applying dry layers of clothes, wrapping them in blankets, and providing fluids and nutrition.

Sun Exposure

Sunburn and heat exhaustion are frequent challenges for sailors, especially racers who often don't have biminis to provide cover. Seeking the shade of sails, staying hydrated, reapplying sunscreen, and wearing hightech long sleeve shirts with hoodies are all helpful in avoiding heat-related illnesses. Similar to hypothermia, confusion and loss of consciousness can result if symptoms aren't addressed early. Prevention is the key to avoiding exposure-related illnesses.





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Seasickness

Everyone gets seasick. I used to say "I never get seasick" until it happened to me. At the time, I was one of six sailing from Bermuda to Newport and developed symptoms shortly after departure. Initially, I refused medication due to side-effect concerns. After one miserable day I took Dramamine and was back to normal within hours. I never missed a watch and now empathize with others who battle seasickness.

Bill had a few stories to share about treating seasickness on various voyages: "All medication has side effects. Some can cause dilated pupils, difficulty urinating, and even hallucinations, all of which are problematic on a boat. If you see crew getting confused or acting weirdly, ask if they are taking seasickness medication. One solution may be to stop taking it and

continued on p. 46



FOUR RESOURCES: -

- 1. GW Medical Faculty **Associates Maritime** Medical Access, (202) 741-2911: gwdocs.com/specialties/ emergency-medicine/ wecc/maritime-services
- 2. CPR/AED and First Aid for Boaters, March 15, sponsored by CAPCA: capca.net/education
- 3. Safety at Sea Seminar, March 29-30: mtam.org/safety-at-sea
- 4. "Marine Medicine: A Comprehensive Guide, **Adventure Medical** Kits, 2nd Edition" by Eric Weiss and Michael Jacobs









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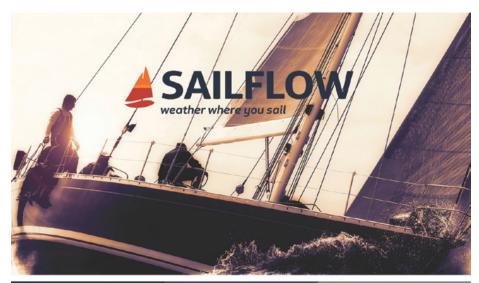


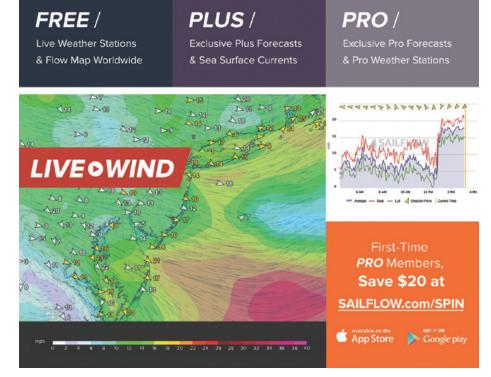


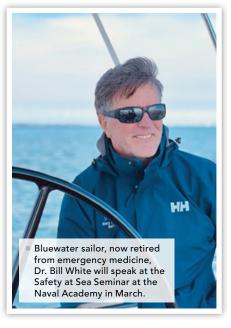


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reassess. Most people adapt to being offshore within a day or two. In my case, I initially apply a scopolamine patch (Transderm Scop) and remove it after three days."

One advantage of the patch is that it doesn't require swallowing and therefore can be effective even if someone is already vomiting. Suppositories are another non-oral solution. When asked about Stugeron, which is popular among some sailors though unavailable in the USA, Bill mentioned that it has been linked to both short- and long-term Parkinson's disease.

He added, "Sometimes the best seasickness medication, with the least side effects, is simply driving the boat. Perhaps it's because you are in control of the boat, with an eye on the horizon. It usually works."

An ounce of prevention

For most of us, serious medical challenges at sea are rare, but it can be rewarding to leverage winter months to increase our knowledge and make additions to our medical kits. Being prepared, with appropriate resources and skillsets, will help us avoid putting our crew and vessel in harm's way once we get out on the water again.

Getting an Early Start on Sailboat Launch Preparation...

From the Bottom Up!

A By Capt. Michael L. Martel

n the dead of winter, springtime can't seem to come soon enough, but when the weather begins to change, we come to realize that the calendar is relentless. A mad rush commences. We ask ourselves why we didn't begin this process of spring launch preparations sooner. Launching looms ever closer, anxiety mounts, and on occasion, the mad thought has been known to dart through my head that it's too bad that there isn't any way to possibly slow the season's progress down, albeit briefly!

I went through this same scramble every year, in part because my sailboat, with its traditional rig, was also equipped with an auxiliary diesel engine, a little four-cylinder Westerbeke that was certainly good to have, but doubly complicated spring launch (and haul-out/winterization) because I also needed to get the rig ready. Plus, my rig was a complicated one—a gaff main, gaff mizzen, plus two headsails, plenty to get ready every spring as well as to handle when underway.

I tend to work from the bottom up when getting the boat ready for spring launch. She's up on the hard, and, like an airplane pilot conducting his walk-around inspection before a flight, I begin by thoroughly inspecting the hull for any signs of damage or wear. I look for blisters, cracks, or other imperfections that may need repair. I clean the hull to remove any dirt, algae, or barnacles, and apply a fresh coat of antifouling paint to prevent marine growth.

I focus especially on through-hull fittings and screens, sometimes removing the slotted cover plate to dig out barnacles or old growth inside the entrance to the through-hull. I find that these barnacles will grow perhaps an inch or two up into the valve but never any further. A narrow putty-knife usually does the job. Of course I attach new zincs to the propeller shaft; there is no point in trying to recondition the old ones. If your boat has a depth sounder transducer on the bottom, make





Spring Commissioning

sure that it is clean and free from growth and paint; I will use a common scraper to accomplish this.

When I am certain that the bottom and drive train are ready to splash, I will paint the things that should be painted, and turn my attention to other things, beginning with the engine. It has always been my philosophy that the tasks that I can do properly, I will and should do, and the tasks that I cannot, I will pay a competent professional to do so that I avoid messing them up. For example, I can remove and clean sea-strainers in the fall; I can pickle my engine with non-toxic antifreeze and change pencil zincs; but I will leave the fuel system and filter changes, or tuning, valve clearances, or other things requiring professional expertise to the boatyard's mechanic. They do this sort of thing every day, unlike me. I want to keep my costs down where I can but also maintain my familiarity with the engine and other mechanical systems in my boat, because doing so also maintains my confidence in my ability to solve problems when they arise.

Years ago I learned the simple wisdom of keeping a bound "Nothing-book" of blank or ruled pages in which I would

record everything that I did each spring and every fall to remind me of everything that needed to be done every year and to add line items as they were added, or thought of, so that "My Boat" book would be a comprehensive and historical account and guide to follow. In this way, I would avoid forgetting important things, and who doesn't forget important things from time to time? My goal was that, as time went by year after year, the guidebook would become better and better. Indeed, it did.

Most boat owners who have auxiliary engines in their sailboats will wisely choose to contract the yard's mechanic, if they are known to be good and competent, to check out their engines prior to launch. Also, I will always top-up the charge in my batteries beforehand, since after a long winter, the first time I try to start a cold diesel engine could be problematic and require some extra cranking, so I want to make certain that my batteries have as much strength as they can for that initial effort.

Check the RACOR fuel filter unit's water separator cup to make sure that it is drained of water and sludge. Clean



■ Bronze seacocks, such as this traditional-style one, should be articulated open-shut at the beginning of each season to keep them from 'freezing' up due to dirt and corrosion. They disassemble easily; use a wire wheel to clean them well, re-pack them with grease, and reassemble not too tightly, just snug.

fuel and strong batteries are a must for re-launching at the beginning of the season, and make sure that the seacocks are wide open when she wets her hull. Be sure that the raw-water-pump impeller has been replaced properly and lubricated, the backing plate gasket is new, and the bolts are properly tightened in the proper sequence.



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I have always thought of my auxiliary sailboat as essentially a boat with two engines, the 'iron jenny' on one hand and the sails and rigging on the other. Once you have checked out the internal combustion one, you're ready to move vertically to inspect the rig, reattach the sails, and tune the rig, tensioning your stays to their proper tightness.

On a modern sailboat, owners know how important this step is, and the amount of tension that such elements as the backstay and shrouds should have. On a traditional rig, tensioning is important certainly but rarely requires such precision. I only pulled the mastswhich were solid wood and stepped into the keel—when they required refinishing or some major effort that required their removal. Doing so required the assistance of the yard crane and yard workers, which was always an expensive proposition.

Personally inspect all rigging components, including shrouds, stays, blocks, and halyards. Look for any signs of corrosion, fraying, or damage. Ensure that all fittings and turnbuckles are secure and in good condition. Replace any worn or damaged parts and lubricate blocks with a dry spray lubricant. There are a number of manufacturers of competitive dry lube products, and they effectively seal out moisture and do not collect dirt.

Over the years I have learned that properly caring for my sails over the long winter is excellent insurance against rot and degradation, certainly for synthetic sails. I treat them the same way that I would cotton or flax, even though they are polyester! Inherent good durability is no reason to be less than meticulous about this issue. My sailmaker has a loft for winter sail storage, and his prices are quite reasonable. In the fall, my sails are washed, air dried, folded, and stored in a dry place inside the sailmaker's facility such that I don't have to worry about them. Small problems such as tears, holes, or signs of wear are usually spotted by my sailmaker before I do, since his team knows what to look for.

A small repair now prevents a much bigger and costly repair later. Sails not properly washed and stored are subject to mildew growth, which does not appreciably damage synthetic sailcloth, but can result in black stains. There are a number

of ways to clean these stains, including solutions that include white vinegar, Borax, and other agents, but I have found that one of the most successful treatments is oxygen bleach powder and water. Oxygen bleach is easily found in the laundry detergent aisle at the grocery store.

Lastly, an item that is often overlooked is the need to check the expiration dates of fire extinguishers. I learned this lesson the hard way on a boat delivery when a mechanical breakdown forced me to tie up in an unfamiliar harbor where we were

boarded and examined by the local marine police. Aside from the simple logic of having up to date working extinguishers aboard your own boat, it's especially important if you plan to carry paying passengers. And, before heading out, make sure to verify that all navigation lights and instruments are functional. If you have ever had to replace a bulb in a navigation light on your bow while transiting New York Harbor at night—and I have—you will understand what I mean!

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When Your Crow's Nest Becomes a Crow's Nest

hat's that noise? You thought you got that squeak fixed. But this is coming from somewhere else. You climb up to the deck, following the squeaks. Peering into the anchor well, you see three open beaks revealing pink hungry gullets. A bird's nest. What do you do now?

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), "If the nest is not creating a problem, you have the opportunity to watch a fascinating natural process: the hard work of parent birds as they raise their young and the first flights of the young birds."

If you're a little earlier to the party and you don't want the nest, as long as there are no eggs or chicks in it and it's not a bald eagle's nest, you can remove it.

📣 By Maria Bellos Fisher

"You may need to regularly repeat this for several days to encourage the bird to nest somewhere else," said Gwenda Brewer, Ph.D., science program manager, with the Wildlife and Heritage Service.

If it is a bald eagle's nest, sit back and enjoy the ride. You cannot touch one of their nests, according to the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Anybody but an eagle

As for other birds, federal law protects native birds but does not protect non-native species. For any birds except (non-native) starlings and house sparrows, if the nest contains eggs or chicks, you must leave the nest alone until all of the chicks have permanently left. You can consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service for other options if a nest is causing

a concern or the birds are in immediate danger.

"We had nests on our boats," said liveaboard sailor T.J. Butler. "With the second nest, our sunken boat was supposed to be towed to salvage, but there were a bunch of delays. I discovered mama mallard nesting, and I was really worried about the boat being towed before she was done. We couldn't put off the tow because of the cost. I called every wildlife rehab around. Nobody would touch it because there are laws about ducks. It gave me so much anxiety.

"There was a bunch of stuff in the cockpit. I set up some ramps from the floor to the seats and to the edge so the ducklings could get off the boat," Butler told SpinSheet.

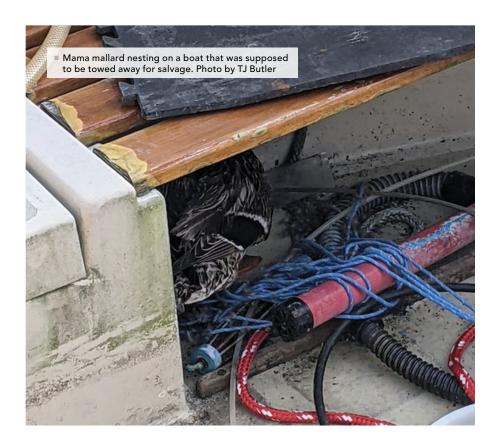
In the beginning

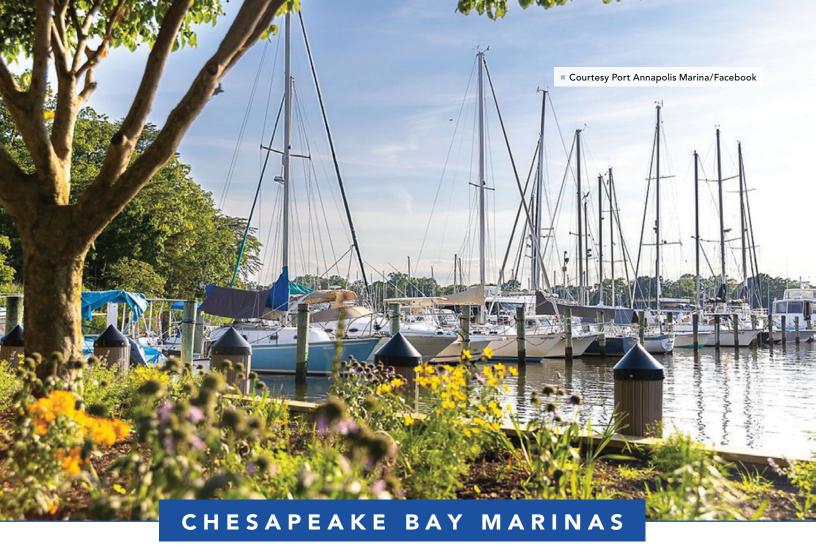
When you find a nest, to assess whether it's active, look for eggs, chicks, or young birds. These are clear indications that the nest is active. If there are no eggs, but you see a pair of birds frequenting the nest or carrying nesting materials, the nest is active.

"Birds in our area will use nests during the breeding season and sometimes as resting areas at other times of the year. Most birds leave the nests once the young are independent," Brewer said.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

How do we prevent bird nests from being built? Brewer said, "Often just the normal activity around a boat will make it an unattractive option for a nest. For boats being stored on land, it is useful to plug up any types of cavities, including the ends of metal tubes, that might be attractive as a nest site. Tight covers on boats will likewise reduce the formation of a potential nest cavity that could attract a nesting bird.





Finding a Community on the Waterfront

ven if they don't own a home on the water, most sailboat owners ■ on the Chesapeake Bay keep their boat at a slip at a marina and consider it a weekend home. The marina becomes a precious link between sailors' land and water life. Over the years of interviewing SpinSheet's weekend warriors and liveaboards, we've heard sailors say that their blood pressure goes down as they drive into the marina lot and unpack their coolers and duffels from the car. The walk down the dock to the boat, greeting dockmates along the way, generates a warm feeling.

Whether your boat's home is at a family-owned neighborhood marina or a resort with tiki bars, a pool, and a full slate of weekend events, it's there on your marina docks that you connect with other boaters. You never know who may extend a kind gesture such as hopping on your boat to secure your lines before a storm or retie a loose, slapping halyard that's getting beat up in the wind. Your dockmates may become your most loval crew when you need to take a sail off the boat for repair, hoist someone up the mast in the bosun's chair to change out your anchor light, or head out for a weeknight race.

When you arrive home from a sail, sharing a sunset docktail, barbecuing burgers around a picnic table, talking sailing on the docks, or enjoying a beach party with your slipmates could be the highlights of a summer sailing season. This community of like-minded boaters may provide lifelong friendships.

Your professional connections to the place also become important parts of your boating life. Marina managers and dockhands make sure your property is secure, keep you posted on events from tropical storms to blizzards, and keep

you and your boat's safety in mind. Marina staffers work long hours and always on holidays and weekends. Make sure to get to know them, thank them, and tip them where appropriate.

In this marina section, we deliver news from Chesapeake Bay marinas, offer a liveaboard's perspective on marina life, and conclude with our marina directory.

Choosing a marina as a long-term home or weekend slip for your boat can be confusing, as there are so many options to choose from on the Chesapeake Bay. By creating a marina directory in print and at spinsheet.com (searchable by amenities and boat size), we hope to make your decision-making process easier.

If you have an exceptional experience at a Chesapeake Bay marina, please share it with SpinSheet by emailing editor@ spinsheet.com. We love to celebrate the folks who work along the water and make sailors' lives better.









News From Regional Marinas

Anchorage Marina's Floatopia

Anchorage Marina's newest addition, Floatopia, is the first of its kind, pool/boat. Floatopia is a salt-water heated pool, designed and built in 2024. Adjacent to Floatopia is a sun deck where you will find picnic tables, grills, bathhouse, and live entertainment on Saturday evenings during the boating season.

Anchorage Marina, Baltimore's premier yachting destination, offers the highest quality facilities and some of the best customer service on the Chesapeake Bay. Conveniently located in the Canton area of Baltimore City, the marina is just minutes from the Inner Harbor and great restaurants, entertainment, and shopping within walking distance.

Visit the website for the entertainment schedule: anchoragemarina.com/entertainment.





Herrington Harbour Marinas Making Improvements

The Herrington Harbour Marinas' staff is thrilled to share some exciting marina improvement projects. The company's commitment to reinvest each year to enhance your boating experience is stronger than ever. The team has recently wrapped up a dredging project for the entrance channel, ensuring smooth sailing for all of its visitors.

But that's not all! Herrington Harbour Marinas are diving headfirst into a major project to protect their beautiful beach by installing state-of-the-art wave breaks along the shore. This enhancement will not only preserve our beach, a true gem of our marina resort, but also elevate your enjoyment! The project should be completed by March 1.

To learn more, visit herringtonharbour.com.

Marina Spotlight



menities

Max. LOA: 75' | Mean Low Water: 7'
Total # of Slips: 260 | Travelift: 50 Ton
Covered Slips | Clean Marina
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For more information call 443.607.6306 or visit hartgeyachtharbor.com



Dredging at Casa Rio... and Marina for Sale

The dredging of the slips and haulout area at Casa Rio Marina in Edgewater, MD, was completed in October. The Travelift pier and slips were dredged to a depth of six feet allowing Casa Rio to haul just about any boat. The fall haul season had no issues with hauling all the boats for winter storage.

Casa Rio Marina is currently for sale. Interested buyers should contact Hayatt Commercial Realty for more information. For more about the marina, visit casariomarina.com.

Working on Marine Skills in Oxford

Susan Campbell shares news from Campbell's Boatyards in Oxford: "Our apprentice/intern, Darrick Smith, is working part-time currently around his class schedule at Talbot County Public Schools as a senior. He is working with our marine technicians and is also a part of the Marine Trades Association of Maryland (MTAM) on-the-job training program.

"Nathan Dunker has just returned from Yamaha School in Georgia where he completed the Electrical Systems class. He is two classes away from earning his Yamaha Master Certification." Visit <u>campbellsboatyards.com</u>.





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- Spot clean stains and wipe off cleaners instead.
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- · Never litter and pick up any you find.
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Maryland Marina's Nautical Flea Market

Join the folks at Maryland Marina on July 26 for the Nautical Flea Market. Think of it as a swap meet for all things nautical. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., you can buy, sell, or trade boat-related gear, with tables available for both individuals and vendors. It's the perfect place to score great deals on new and used items!

There's something for everyone, with kids' activities, a bounce house, and a food truck offering tasty treats. Attendees can also enjoy free transient slips for the weekend and participate in raffles for amazing prizes. Don't miss out on this fun-filled day of deals, community, and all things boating. Learn more at marylandmarina.net.





Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Welcomes Glenn Shaefer as Marina Manager

The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina, a waterfront resort located on 342 acres of Maryland's Eastern Shore, welcomes Glenn Shaefer as marina manager. In his new role, Shaefer will oversee the operation of the resort's 150-slip River Marsh Marina.

Originally from Annapolis, Shaefer has been involved in recreational boating and sailing since he was a young child. He has experience managing various marinas on the Chesapeake Bay as well as South

Florida, including Key West and Ft. Lauderdale. Shaefer is a certified sailing instructor and holds a United States Coast Guard 200-ton rated master license.

"I am very excited to be the new marina manager at River Marsh Marina and look forward to working with the great team at Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay," said Shaeffer. "The marina experience is truly a hidden gem here on the Bay with premier docking options and incredible amenities. I look forward to welcoming guests with exceptional customer service to help ensure they enjoy an unforgettable time on the water."

River Marsh Marina offers short-term dockage for leisure travelers. When guests dock at the marina overnight, they have access to all of the resort's amenities including indoor and outdoor pools, whirlpools, tennis and pickleball courts, a miniature golf course, state-of-the-art fitness center, and multiple fire pits and grills. They can also book a tee time at River Marsh Golf Club, a soothing spatreatment at Sago Spa, or enjoy delicious Eastern Shore cuisine at the resort's onsite restaurants.

The marina is a Certified Clean Marina and is suitable for vessels up to 150 feet in length, from yachts to speedboats. The marina slips are equipped with electricity and cable TV connection, WiFi, and water hook ups. It also features showers, washers and dryers, and a Quarter Deck Marina Store for convenience.

River Marsh Marina is located at 38° 33° 89° N and 78° 08° 78° W. When approaching, the marina can be contacted on VHF Channel 09172. For more information rivermarshmarinacambridge.com or call (410) 901-6380.



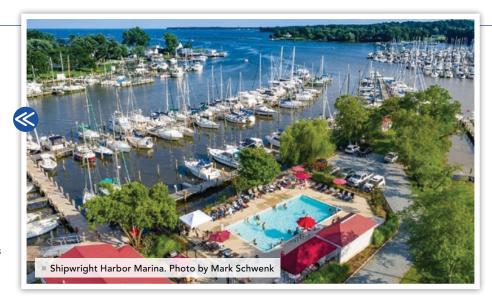


Exciting News at Shipwright Harbor Marina: New Upgrades, Events, Expanded Services, and

Special Slip Rates

This season, Shipwright Harbor Marina is thrilled to announce a reinvestment in the marina's outdoor kitchen. These upgrades will enhance the community experience, providing an improved space for gatherings, grilling, waterfront dining, and complimentary poolside happy hours every Friday. New additions include two flat-top grills, a commercial grill, sunshades, a bar overlooking the pool, and extra bar-height seatingperfect for relaxing and enjoying the view.

Shipwright's exciting social calendar is packed with events, from poolside happy hours to large-scale gatherings like the annual Seafood Festival. There's something for everyone, including family-friendly afternoons, themed parties, and laid-back marina socials. Highlights include the Sock Burning Party to kick off spring, outdoor movie nights, live music, and more!



Shipwright Harbor now operates Rockhold Creek Marina, offering a full range of services, including land storage, short-hauls, and paint packages—all conveniently available on-site. Shipwright can accommodate boats up to 15 tons and 18 feet in beam.

As an introductory rate, rent a 32-foot slip for your first year at just \$3600. This exclusive rate offers boaters a prime location

with top-notch amenities. Limited availability—act fast before these discounted slips are gone.

With new upgrades, exciting events, expanded services, and unbeatable slip deals, Shipwright Harbor Marina is ready to deliver another fantastic season on the water. Stay tuned for more updates and don't forget to mark your calendars for all the upcoming fun: shipwrightharbor.com.

Marina Spotlight

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Escape to Herrington Harbour

amily and pet friendly resorts delivering unforgettable experiences for all ages and have everything a recreational boater could desire. Family owned and operated since 1978.

These two Maryland marinas are nestled in Herring Bay, only two nautical miles apart by water. Offering the very finest boat slips, amenities and marine services on the Chesapeake Bay.

Centrally located on Maryland's western shore, the Herrington locations provide short distances to explore many popular destinations and unlimited Bay activities. The protected water of Herring Bay offers boaters a uniquely pleasant and exceptionally peaceful experience. Although close to Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis, upon arrival you will feel as if you are in another world.



Max. LOA: 90' | Mean Low Water: 7' Total # of Slips: 600

Gas & Diesel Available Pump Out | Clean Marina Certified Transient Slips | Maintenance | Pool

Restaurant/Bar/Food | Wifi

For more information call 410.867.4343 or visit herringtonharbour.com







Marina Life

A By John Herlig

Frustrations, Joys, and Family of Marina Friends

I was walking down the docks toward my 1967 Rawson 30 Ave Del Mar when I heard my name being called out. I immediately knew where and from whom it came, so I poked my head around the side of the marina office where I saw the dock manager, Peter, leaning against a piling having a smoke. It wouldn't really be fair to call this a cigarette "break," as I'm pretty sure that it was the work, not the cigarettes, that constituted the "breaks" in Peter's day, but he ran the marina well from that piling with a cordless phone in one hand and a lit Camel in the other.

"I'm gonna have to move you again," he said to me. "They're about to start on C dock."

The marina was plodding slowly through an extensive rebuild as questionable old wooden docks were slowly being replaced with brand new floating ones. In only six months of living there my boat had already been

in three different slips. Peter always broke the news to me the same way—outside his office leaning against that pilling, sucking on a cigarette.

I liked the marina despite everything that I *didn't* like about it. It was convenient. It allowed liveaboards. It was big enough that it was easy to stay lost in the crowd, if that was your goal. But it was also under a bridge that never went quiet, the facilities manager was constantly scowling



and barking at the folks he was hauling out, and despite my pair of dedicated shower flip-flops, the men's room shower stall gave me a case of athlete's foot that took me a year to get rid of.

Oh—and no one told me that there was a problem with the drinking water. I spent three months with a quite-rumbly gut that abated only when a neighbor saw me topping off my tanks one sunny morning

Marina Spotlight



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Shipwright Harbor Marina on Herring Bay

Shipwright Harbor is a family-friendly marina featuring 250 deep water slips, a private saltwater pool, and complimentary events. Enjoy quick access to the Chesapeake Bay and all it has to offer from our mid-Bay location. Spend time with your family and fellow boaters by our pool, outdoor kitchen, waterfront fire pit, or at our complimentary events like crab feasts, dinners with live music, and happy hours. Located just 25 minutes from the D.C. Beltway, Shipwright Harbor is ideal for both relaxation and adventure on the water.

Amenities

Max. LOA: 80' | Mean Low Water: 7' | Total # of Slips: 250 | Travelift: 13.5 Ton
Pump Out | Clean Marina | Transient Slips Available
Maintenance Available Onsite | Pool | WiFi | Bathhouse

and warned me to stop. He pointed to a small photocopied sign on a piling that was nowhere near the water tap. It read: "Not Potable. Do Not Drink." Welcome to marina life. I referred to my home base as a sort of "floating truck stop." It was an endurance test of sorts.

A year was enough on the river under the bridge. When friends of mine moved out of their slip in a small, private marina on Back Creek in Annapolis, I moved in in their stead. Gone were the Friday night barbecues at the old marina's picnic tables, and gone, too, was the plentiful parking and the easy access to Route 50 which took me to my job in Washington DC, four days a week.

I went from being one of several hundred boats to one of about two dozen, four or five of which housed liveaboards like me. We shared one small bathroom that was always clean. We had laundry facilities that didn't require quarters. From my new home I could walk to town in a matter of minutes. My rent had gone up a bit, but



my quality of life had risen along with it, hand in hand.

My marina neighbors became my friends. There was Paul, who was a sailing instructor. His wife was a chef, and she would bring home bottles of wine that were opened but not consumed at

catering events and drop one or two off with me as she walked down the docks. Curt was a former Navy sailor but had, upon retirement, moved into the trawler world. He would visit his boat every day, Monday through Friday, tinkering about on it all day long









Chesapeake Bay Marinas

as we boat people often like to do. The little community we formed was tight and felt more like family than not.

And believe me, marina families talk. Once, en route from Annapolis to St. Martin, I pulled into a Norfolk marina for a few nights to visit a friend. As I approached the T-head, every person from that marina who showed up to help tie me off knew who I was, where I had come from, and where I was headed. I felt as if they'd all got-





ten a dossier on me before I had even arrived. The same wellspring feeds the gossip mill and the help network—the folks who knew me before I managed to toss a bowline off the boat would have shown up with bags of tools and an infinite pool of ideas and suggestions had it been known that I needed help.

As inside any other community there can be rifts, too. You know who habitually forgets their laundry in the washer. You quickly learn who plays music too late or too early, whose dog barks incessantly, and whose boat might leave you with a contact high as you walk by. You have your sovereign space and they have theirs, but there is a veil of privacy that you live collectively behind. There are precious few secrets behind the veil.

Marinas, like people, are all different, of course, but if you're in one, you know that behind the strange facade lies a community of folks who will form the fabric of your life—entertaining you, frustrating you, and ready to lend you aid at the drop of a hat. Just like family.

About the Author: John Herlig lives aboard his 1967 Rawson cutter Ave Del Mar and teaches at Cruisers University. Find him on Substack @jherlig.

Looking for a slip for your boat?

ind the perfect home for your boat in SpinSheet's Chesapeake Bay Marinas Directory! Click on the directory listings or map for marina information including available slips, transient slips, gas, diesel, pump outs, maximum boat length, water depth, maintenance, as well as other amenities such as restaurants, dock bars, and swimming pools.

If your interested in having your marina appear in our print and online directory please email advertising@spinsheet.com or call us at 410-216-9309 and ask to speak with an advertising representative.

		-			Max. LOA	MLW	otal # of slips	Travel Lift Tonnage	oat Ramp	ias	ump Out	lean Marina	overed Slips	ransient Slips iveaboards	Maintenance	athhouse	Pool Restaurant/Bar/Food ¹	Wifi
Marina Name	Location	City	Website	Phone #			-			0 2	3 6		0 1		1 2		1 E	<u>~</u>
Anchorage Marina	Baltimore Harbor, Patapsco River	Baltimore, MD	anchoragemarina.com	410.522.7200	110′	14′	574				•	•			,	•		•
Bowley's Marina	Middle River	Middle River, MD	bowleysmarina.com	410.335.3553	75′	8′	500	40				•		•	•			•
Broad Creek Marina	Magothy River	Pasadena, MD		410.437.0561	60′	6′	33											
Campbell's Boatyards	Tred Avon River	Oxford, MD	campbells boatyards.com/dockage	410.226.0213	100′	10′	170	25			•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Casa Rio Marina	Cadle Creek, Rhode River	Edgewater, MD	casariomarina.com	410.798.4731	42'	6′	36	35	•		•	•	ŀ	•	•	•	•	•
Coles Point Marina	Potomac River	Hague, VA	colespoint marina.com	804.472.4011	65′	7′	150	25		•				•	•		•	•
Cypress Marine	Cypress Creek off Magothy River	Severna Park, MD	cypressmarine.net	410.647.7940	85'	8′	40	50					ļ	•	•			
Dennis Point Marina and Campground	Carthagena Creek	Drayden, MD	dennispoint marina and camp ground.com	3019942288	100′	10′	70	75	•	•			Į,	•	•		•	•
Flag Harbor Boatyard	Just south of Calvert Beach and North of Long Beach	St. Leonard, MD	flagharborboatyard.com	410.586.1915	50′	7′	168	20			•				•		•	•

Filter by amenities online at spinsheet.com/marinas









Marina Name	Location	City	Website	Phone #	Max. LOA	MLW	Total # of slips	Travel Lift Tonnage	soat Ramp	ias	ump Out	Jean Marina	overed Slips ransient Slips	iveaboards	Maintenance	sathhouse	Restaurant/Bar/Food	Œ.
Harbour Cove Marina	Rockhold Creek	Deale, MD	harbourcove.com	301.261.9500	36'	5′	64	20		•		•						•
Hartge Yacht Harbor	West River	Galesville, MD	hartgeyachtharbor.com	443.607.6306	85′	6′	276	50			•		•		•			•
Herrington Harbour North	Herring Bay,	Tracys Landing, MD	herringtonharbour.com/north	410.867.4343	100′	7′	555	85			•	•	•		•	•		•
Herrington Harbour South	Herring Bay	North Beach, MD	herringtonharbour.com/south	410.855.5000	90'	7′	600			•	•	•	•		•			•
Lankford Bay Marina	Lankford Bay	Rock Hall, MD	lankfordbaymarina.com	410.778.1414	100′	7′	108	40		•	•		•		•		<u> </u>	•
Lighthouse Point Marina	Baltimore Harbor	Baltimore, MD	baltimore lighthouse point marina.com	410.320.6319	300′	8′	478					•	•			•		•

^{*}Not all restaurants/bars/food are on-site or are owned/operated by marinas.

FIND YOUR PERFECT Chesapeake Bay Marina



Looking for a slip for your sailboat?

Find the perfect home for your boat in SpinSheet's Chesapeake Bay Marinas Directory! Click to the online directory listings for more information and direct links.

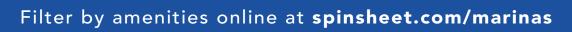


SPINSHEET.COM/CHESAPEAKE-BAY-MARINAS



					Max. LOA	MLW	Total # of slips	Travel Lift Tonnage	Boat Ramp	esel	ump Out	ean Marina	overed Slips ansient Slips	veaboards	Maintenance	athhouse	Pool Restaurant/Bar/Food*	Wifi
Marina Name	Location	City	Website	Phone #	Σ̈́	Σ	ı۵	Ĕ	8 (בֿ לַ	<u>-</u>	<u> </u>	3 ≝	5	Ž	8 6	7 %	ͺͺͺ
Maryland Marina	Frog Mortar Creek, 1 mile north from Middle River	Middle River, MD	marylandmarina.net	410.335.8722	70′	3′	360	25	•		•	•			•	•		•
Nomad Norview Marina	Rappahannock River, Broad Creek,	Deltaville, VA	oasis marinas.com/properties	804.776.6463	70′	5′	98	80	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
Port Annapolis Marina	Back Creek	Annapolis, MD	portannapolis.com	410.469.1990	80′	8′	250	75			•	•	•		•	•	• •	
Rod 'N' Reel Resort	Herring Bay	Chesapeake Beach, MD	rnrresortmd.com	866.312.5596	70′	5′	270		•	•	•		•	,		•		•
Sailing Associates Marina	Georgetown Harbor on the Sassafras River	Georgetown, MD	sailing as sociates.com	410.275.8171	120′	12′	80				•		•		•	•	• •	•
Shipwright Harbor Marina	Herring Bay	Deale, MD	shipwright harbor.com	410.867.7686	80′	7'	250	13			•	•	•		•	•	•	•
Skipjack Cove Yachting Resort	Sassafras River	Georgetown, MD	skipjackcove.com	410.275.2122	120′	18′	365	70	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•
The Wharf at Handy's Point	Worton Creek	Chestertown, MD	handyspoint.com	410.778.4363	65′	10′	120	35			•	•	•		•	•	•	•
The Wharf Marina	Potomac River	Washington, DC	wharfdcmarina.com	202.595.5165	500′	12′	300				•		•	'			•	
Whitehall Marina	Whitehall Creek	Annapolis, MD	whitehallannapolis.com	410.757.4819	50′	12′	115	25				•	•		•			•
Yacht Haven of Annapolis	Spa Creek	Annapolis, MD	yach tha venan na polis. com	410.267.7654	62'	10′	51	35							•		•	

*Not all restaurants/bars/food are on-site or are owned/operated by marinas.













Marine Mail Call

A By Cindy Wallach

The ideal is to be toes in the sand and away from "civilization," watching the sun slowly dip into a turquoise sea. That's all well and good until you need your tax papers, or a part for the boat, or a treat from the United States. Getting ready to sail away includes getting ready to figure out how you will get your mail while you wander the seas.

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night," is the oft-quoted unofficial motto of the US Postal Service, but it doesn't mention open ocean, hurricanes, or

Some cruisers keep their US-based home address and have a trusted person to forward their mail. Many people sell off their home and use family abodes in

the US as their new official address. And others use a mail-forwarding service. Mail for-

warding services have multiplied like bunnies since the old days and are all over now.

Research before you commit. Is the state and town important to you? Keep in mind many forwarding services do not count as a physical residence for things such as voter registration or a driver's license. Will they allow someone who is not you to collect your mail in person? And what are the fees for pickup versus forwarding.

Speaking of fees, check all of the fees. There will be a monthly fee for the service, but do they also charge for storing mail past a certain number of days, scanning, or holding bulky packages? Do they offer tracking? Don't get caught off guard by these important details.

Once you decide where your mail will land, the adventure begins. You sail away, and your mail piles up at that location. Now you are anchored at

and you want to check your mail. If you use a mail service, you log into your service for scans of the envelopes in your box. You can usually tell them to throw it away, open and scan it, or bundle it for forwarding.

Now you need to figure out how it gets to you in the islands. A common way is by airplane visitor. This can mean your visitor or even a cruising buddy's visitor.

Another way to get your mail is via marinas in various ports. This is super convenient in the US or

Caribbean



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islands that are US territories. Call ahead and ask the marina if they will hold mail for you. Some might only provide the service if you take a slip, but others will do it if they know you're coming fairly soon and plan to anchor nearby, take a mooring, or fuel up. Keep in mind that priority mail

and Prime always take longer when going to the islands, even if it's a US address.

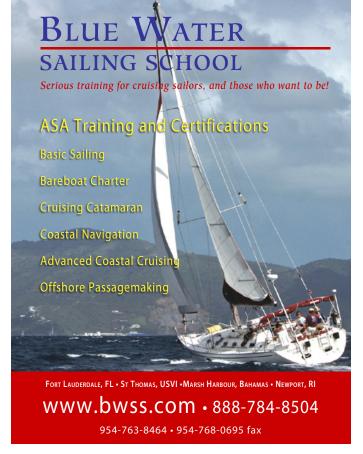
In the Caribbean there are also mail collection services that use a Miami address and routinely ship to the islands. When it arrives, you pay the duty on the item and/ or a price per pound, along with a monthly

fee for the service. The costs can add up, but the upside is that they will hold your packages and mail for a long time. We did this in places such as the Dominican Republic and Sint Maarten.

Are you overwhelmed yet? Let's follow some mail from start to finish.

We had a virtual mailbox service in our home port in Annapolis. Mail and small













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packages piled up there, as we used our virtual portal to check on what we wanted to get our hands on and what could be thrown away.

We also paid for an annual box in Sint Maarten for a couple of years. It made sense as all watery roads seem to pass through Sint Maarten, so we would use that as our Caribbean mail accumulation point. It is also duty free, so that's a huge bonus.

When we were getting close to arriving in Sint Maarten, we forwarded our Annapolis mail to their Miami address. We also started ordering boat parts, Amazon, and other goodies to that Miami address. All of that mail would arrive in Miami and be shipped out twice a week to the island.

The mail service store in Sint Maarten would hold it for us. They had no online portal, but we could email or call to check for arrivals.

We would arrive in Sint Maarten, anchor, and dinghy to shore just about a block away from the physical store. We would walk in, savor the cold air conditioning, and ask for our mail. They would have us sign, pay the fees per pound, and voilà, we have our mail and packages.

Sometimes, we would have to catch a weather window without all of our mail. Or we would be long gone from Sint Maarten and still need some school books, boat parts, or "Everything But the Bagel" seasoning. Priorities, right?

In that case, we would jump on the coconut telegraph and see which friends were passing through Sint Maarten and eventually headed our way. We call the mail service, give them permission to hand over our mail to the friend, and the friend pays the fees, or we give the service a charge card over the phone. Then, the mail jumps on the friend's boat and the dance begins. We play weather tag and hope to meet up a couple hundred nautical miles later somewhere in the same harbor. We mix some cocktails as a thank you, and the friend comes with a dinghy full of mail and packages like a salty Santa Claus.

It takes some planning but where there's a will, there's a way. ■

About the Author: For three years, Annapolis sailor Cindy Wallach cruised the Caribbean with her family aboard their St. Francis 44 MK II catamaran *Majestic*, which is now for sale through <u>multihullcompany.com</u>.

Charter Directory

hese sailboat charter companies specialize in sailing destinations such as the Chesapeake Bay, Northeast United States, Northwest United States, South America, Caribbean, Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, and South Pacific. Contact them and book your charter dream vacation today!

Company Name	Website				Reg	gion					Boat	Туре				Trip	Туре	
Abaco Yacht & Charter Services	<u>ayncs.com</u>	•								•	•				•	•		•
Conch Charters	conchcharters.com	•								•	•			•	•			•
Cruise Abaco	cruiseabaco.com	•							•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•
Dream Yacht Charter	dreamyachtcharter.com	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•
The Moorings	moorings.com	•		•			•	•		•	•		•	•			•	•
Virgin Islands Yacht Charters	<u>virginislandsyachtcharters.com</u>	•									•							•
VOYAGE Charters	voyagecharters.com	•								•	•				•			•
Waypoints Yacht Charters	waypoints.com	•	•							•	•		•	•		•		•

Find your perfect sailing charter at spinsheet.com/find-a-charter



CELEBRATING A BIG MILESTONE

IN French Polynesia

o celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary, the Elstner family of Annapolis didn't choose the fastest route to paradise. Instead, they rounded up their two adult sons and flew 13 hours on three separate flights to French Polynesia! Kirsten and John and their sons Jack (from La Jolla, CA) and Ben (Bozeman, MT) set sail from The Moorings base in

Raiatea November 27 for a four-day bareboat charter.

A little bit of background: this family does not consist of ordinary travelers. They've traveled the globe for work and pleasure, camped in the wilderness, sailed on the Chesapeake, buzzed around in powerboats on many bodies of water, trekked on glaciers,

gone deep diving among (and studied) sharks, caught thousands of blue crabs, and paddled around for fun. They're true outdoor adventurers who choose unique destinations. They had also amassed numerous frequent flyer miles for this special occasion and aimed to go to a brand-new destination.

We interviewed them last month about their memorable journey:



SpinSheet: Could you summarize where you went and/or favorite anchorages?

<u>Kirsten</u>: We sailed around Taha'a, a small island to the north of Raiatea—the two islands share an incredible lagoon. Our favorite anchorage was on the east side of the island, near Passe Toahotu.

Were provisions for the boat easy to find, or did the Moorings stock the boat for you?

Moorings stocked the boat. We still went ashore by dinghy for some additional provisions. There was a small grocery store on Taha'a.

How were your sailing conditions?

We were mainly in the lagoon, so I would call it relaxing and incredibly beautiful for snorkeling, diving, and swimming. Very calm and perfect weather for November, 80 degrees every day, no need for long sleeves.

Tell us about your excursions.

We snorkeled every day. The water was completely clear and full of life: healthy coral, lots of fish, dolphins, manta rays, sharks, and tons of colorful fish! We did some diving also.

Three highlights on sea or land?

A land highlight was dinner at a little family-run restaurant on the beach, a short dinghy ride from our Passe Toahotu anchorage. It was Thanksgiving. When the owners learned that we were there to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary, they covered our table with flower petals, baked a special cake, and came to our table to sing beautiful Polynesian songs for us. It was magical. Sea highlights were seeing a huge manta ray flipping and diving near the boat, sleeping out on the deck under the stars, and snorkeling all over the reef on our last morning, under a rainbow with a view of Bora Bora in the distance.

Did anything surprise you about the trip?

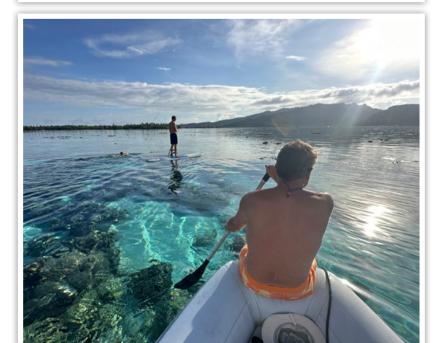
We were there during "rainy season," but only experienced a few showers. The weather was gorgeous!

If you could do the trip over, would you do anything differently?

We would stay on the boat longer!











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ttention Chesapeake Bay sailing clubs: share your club news and events in SpinSheet's Club Notes section by sending a 350-word write-up and one or **L** more clear photos of smiling faces or pretty boats to <u>beth@spinsheet.com</u>. We'd love to hear about your cruises, educational programs, and outstanding club members. Let other sailors know about all the benefits your club has to offer! Thanks to Club Notes section sponsor, YaZu Yachting! Find them at yazuyachting.com and on Facebook.

A Keystone in Their Sailing Experience

By Sandra Kay

he Old Point Comfort Yacht **Club** (OPCYC) Peppermint Candy Ball was held on January 18, and many awards were presented for the 2024 season.

The Ben and MeMe Williamson Cruising Award, named for one of the club's most notable founders, honors members who have contributed substantially to the cruising program. This year it was presented to a couple who have been seasonally and extensively cruising for a number of years, Terry and Lena Hunsicker. Their names will be placed on a plaque that hangs in the OPCYC clubhouse.

In the club's latest newsletter, Terry states, "In 2000, I purchased a Watkins 27 and met my wife, Lena. Together, we sailed up and down the Bay for several years. In 2005, we befriended a South African couple and for a number of years became regular crew members on their Oyster 56, before buying our Moody 44 that we named Zoya.

"In 2001, being retired, we sailed Zoya from Boston to the Bahamas, with plans to explore deeper and deeper into the Caribbean over the next few years, eventually spending time below the hurricane belt. We truly enjoy this lifestyle and way of travel, and encourage others to pursue their dreams, in whatever form that may be. Hampton Roads will always be our home, and OPCYC has been a wonderful keystone in our sailing experience, providing the most enjoyable way to stay connected with our friends and the local sailing community."

OPCYC began in 1958 primarily as a fishing club, but over the years the membership evolved to mostly racing and cruising sailors. Today most of the local members are racers; however, cruisers are still an active part of the membership. Many, like the Hunsickers, venture around the US and beyond. Learn more about the club at opcyc.org.









On Charter

t print time, several members of Hunter Sailing Association Station-1 (HSA-1) were on charter in St. Martin. Pictured are skippers and crew from HSA-1 boats Blue Heron, Tide Together, and Renegade. Not pictured are the skippers and crew of Bootlegger, RuffnIt, and Pinch Me.

Eastern Shore Sailing

By Kristin West

n Saturday, February 1 the Eastern Shore Sailing Association (ESSA) gathered at the Cambridge Yacht Club (CYC) for their annual Change of Watch. Commodore Liz Principe is at the helm of ESSA for another year to build on the successes of 2024 which included membership growth, ORR EZ scoring, a storefront for ESSA swag, and grant procurement by volunteering in the local Eagleman competition.

This year, ESSA will continue to focus on growing the sport of sailing on the Choptank and Nanticoke Rivers. We want to: educate and invite other boat owners to join the racing and ESSA; enable new sailors to learn to sail by crewing; and collaborate with CYC and participate in CBYRA sponsored races.

If you have a home or sailboat here in the Cambridge or Tangier area and are interested in participating, please let us know! There are plenty of opportunities to improve your sailing skills, meet new people, and have a really good time! To learn more visit <u>essasailing.org</u>.



L to R: Choptank fleet captain Paul West, treasurer Mike Stewart, secretary Kristin West, commodore Liz Principe, vice commodore Rhonda Ford. Not pictured: Tangier fleet captain Chris Wilde.

CHESSS Is Off and Running

his year CHESSS (Chesapeake Shorthanded Sailing Society) is off and running with a winter series of Gather and Gabs at local restaurants. CHESSS will host its Spring Meeting jointly with Eastport Yacht Club, at EYC on April 12 starting at 11:30 a.m. Current plans include two very special guest speakers. Stay tuned for more details to follow.

Next on tap, on May 17, CHESSS will host its ever-popular Poplar Island Race. The Poplar Island Race is our annual, shorthanded, pick your own direction of rotation races. Despite boats rounding in different directions, it tends to result in surprisingly close finishes. This year's race will include CHESSS Spinnaker and Non-spinnaker classes, as well as several one-design classes racing shorthanded. Registration is open to members and non-members alike. Please come join us.

Our growing membership has expressed an interest in shorthanded cruising or cruise-races. The first of those will be an overnight raftup on the evening after the Poplar Island Race. Additional races and cruises are in the works for the rest of the season. For more information, please visit chesss.clubexpress.com.

Awards and Change of Watch

ore than 100 members of the Sailing Club of the Chesapeake (SCC) gathered in Easton, MD, for the 64th Annual Trophy Dinner Dance on January 25. The much-anticipated event featured the presentation of 11 trophies that represent SCC's rich history of racing and cruising on the Chesapeake Bay.

Marshall and Susan Steele took home much of the evening's "hardware" including winning legs in the Rendezvous and Labor Day cruises and the Armada and Medway Trophies, both of which are displayed at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Teena Grodner and Steve Horvath were awarded The Most Improved Club Race Skipper Award while Karen and Jim Taneyhill received The Spirit of Cruising Award for personifying the highest standards of yacht cruising while sailing with the Club.

The NoHard Feelings II Impressment Tankard Award was presented to Bill Coney for "going above and beyond" in his exceptional service to the club. The Charles Dell Award for Outstanding Committee work was awarded posthumously to historian Mark Kellogg whose life was celebrated earlier that day. Past commodore Frank Martien presented Brian Leney the Commodore's Special Award for his outstanding sustained chairmanship, volunteer support, and participation in the club. Beth Scheidt won the Lowndes Johnson Memorial Trophy for improving racing on the Bay and representing the club as an exceptional racing crew and skipper.

The most coveted award of the evening, the Ralph H. Wylie Trophy, was presented to Sue Mikulski for her outstanding meritorious service, significant contributions to the club, and the advancement of the club's mission over a sustained period.



Finally, Drew Fleming and Molly Wilmer, board president for the Hospice Cup, shared the \$5933 check from SCC to Hospice Cup, Inc. The Doug Segree Band then took over the stage as the members took to the dance floor. Learn more about SCC at scc1944.clubexpress.com.



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Peninsula Sailors Charter in Caribbean

any Peninsula Sailors members escaped the cold to bareboat charter in the crystal-clear warm waters of the Caribbean in February. One group headed to the British Virgin Islands to charter a catamaran and two Jeanneau Sun Loft 47 monohulls for 10 days. Another group chartered two catamarans in Grenada for seven days. The friends you make in a sailing club can last a lifetime, and there is no better way to enjoy each other's company than sailing together in the islands. Peninsula Sailors is looking for new members. For information visit sailbp.com.

Ready for Our Feathered Friends to Return

hesapeake Bay Tartan Sailing Club (CBTSC) has about 20 events planned for the coming sailing season. Our Annual Symposium will be on April 5 at Eastport Yacht Club. We have a variety of speakers lined up. If you are new to the club, the symposium is a terrific way to meet our membership. Current and prospective members can view the calendar and register for the symposium at cbtsc.org.



Parklawn Sailing Upgrades its Fleet

By Bill Levitan

arklawn Sailing Association welcomes a new boat to its fleet—the J/32 Glissade that joins the two Catalina 34s in the existing inventory. Glissade replaces the club's Goman Express 30 and serves as both a racer and a cruiser.

PSA's nearly 90 members are a combination of sailors who mostly like cruising and others who also enjoy racing. Members race in the Pirates Cove Race Club's weekly races as well as mid-Bay races. Like other J/Boats, the J/32 is designed for performance but with features that make for comfortable multi-day cruising. Thus, it satisfies the multiple sailing interests of our members.

We are now in the process of preparing our fleet for the 2025 sailing season. This involves going through our commissioning checklists, with members completing such tasks as bottom sanding and painting, preparing the systems, and reinstalling sails and canvas.

One boat in our fleet, the 34-foot Catalina *Summer Sun*, remained in the water over the winter and may be ready to sail in mid-March. The other two, the 34-foot Catalina *Pisces* and *Glissade*, will likely be splashed in early April. As is our custom, the weekends in April as well as some weekdays in April and May are reserved for training with emphasis on providing two orientation sails for new members and refreshers for returning members.

Our members may take out the boats for their personal use, and we have planned a number of club sails including the monthly full-moon evening sails, day and overnight sails to various Bay destinations, and a sail to Annapolis to view the Blue Angels demonstration during USNA Commissioning Week. As noted above, we will also participate in a number of races. Sprinkled throughout the season will be maintenance days in which

members ensure our boats are in good and safe operating condition.

Many of these events are on our club calendar at <u>parklawnsailingassociation</u>. org. The website also has membership information for those interested in joining our club. Membership is a great and very affordable way to meet and sail with likeminded friends without the burden of boat ownership.



PSC Volunteer's Path to Sailing

By Julie Day

If fell in love with sailing in Greece" remarked PSC training commodore, Igor Bosniak, who a few years ago was invited by his cousin (along with Igor's 10-year-old son) to join his cousin's family (wife and two children) on a sevenday cruise out of Volos, a coastal city on the Greek mainland.

Returning home, Igor immediately joined **Pentagon Sailing Club** (PSC) with the idea of becoming a bareboat skipper himself. He signed up for ASA 101 and 103 classes, but Covid intervened, and he had to wait a year before completing the certifications. His passion for sailing then led him to the Naval Academy. He became an XO in 2023 teaching midshipmen all aspects of operating a boat with the primary focus on leadership skills.

Igor's second charter, sailing around Mallorca on a 30-foot Oceanis, was less comfortable but failed to diminish his enthusiasm. Sailing again with his cousin, Igor brought along his wife and two younger children, aged two and four. Winds gusted to 35 to 40 knots, and while Igor wrestled with the sails, his wife huddled below with the children.

When Igor began volunteering at PSC, his job was to upgrade the system for documenting volunteer hours after Covid. Shortly afterward in 2023, Darryl Dennis, the PSC commodore, asked Igor to take over the training program, which was no small task. Not only does Igor schedule the ASA certification courses during the spring, summer, and fall but he arranges the venues, purchases and stores course materials, and locates instructors. He also organizes a series of classroom courses including coastal navigation and piloting taught during the winter months by PSC members.

When asked about his goals for the PSC training program, Igor said he plans to focus on the quality of train-



ing. Based on increased demand, he hopes to schedule at least two sessions per month for both regular and aspiring ASA instructors. In addition, Igor plans to work with a committee to review the PSC Bay Skipper program emphasizing qualifications and training. For more information on the club, visit <u>pentagonsailing.org</u> and/or the PSC Facebook page.





Calling All Typhoons

By Dave Hemenway

ecently, a group of sailors came together to form the Typhoon Class Association (TCA). TCA is a group of Typhoon sailboat enthusiasts and fleets with the goals of building a community of sailors who enjoy each other's company, providing support for maintaining and promoting Typhoons, encouraging local Typhoon fleets and communication between fleets, and holding recreational and Corinthian racing events. The TCA Steering Committee is comprised of Typhoon sailors from around the East Coast and Lake Ontario. I have been asked to coordinate this new sailing association.

Rappahannock River Yacht Club (RRYC) on the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia has the largest Typhoon fleet in the country with approximately 60 Typhoons in the area and 10 to 15 racing during many events. The East Coast Typhoon Championships will be held at RRYC on May 3.

While Typhoons are popular in many areas of the country, there has been little communication between these fleets. We would like to identify these Typhoon fleets so they could join our fledging association, a part of the Cape Dory Sailboat Owner's Association (CDSOA) which supports this new association. CDSOA is the national association for Cape Dory boats and others who are interested in full-keel traditional sailboats.

One of the objectives of the TCA Steering Committee is to locate where Typhoons are currently berthed and whether they are part of a local fleet. If you know of a Typhoon or local fleet of Typhoons, or you would like to be part of the new Typhoon Class Association, please communicate with Dave Hemenway via the CDSOA website or via email at TyphoonClassAssociation@gmail.com.

A Typhoon based newsletter was produced from December 1994 through August 2001 and edited by Noel Peattie of the California Typhoon Association. It was called The Typhooner. I found his newsletters interesting and informative and decided to reestablish them and distribute them via email. For the first year, the original Typhooner newsletters and the new quarterly Typhooner newsletters will be distributed to all CDSOA members and those who request one at no charge. They will also be available at <u>capedorysoa.org</u>.





Come on, Spring!

By Susan Theuns

he Compass Boating Club of the Chesapeake (CBCC) had a great turnout for our 2025 Planning Meeting. We even had several prospective members join in the event. We had lots of ideas and lots of input from members around the Bay area. We are so fortunate to have an abundance of rivers, tributaries, coves, and anchorages to explore. By the end of the meeting, we had a full year calendar of events complete with cruise directors for all but one event. We enjoyed a delicious luncheon, catered by Malin's Deli of Newark,

We have been busy over the winter months and are happy to announce our three most recent new members. Welcome to Jay and Tanya Ankers and Nancy Hendrick. We look forward to sailing with you this season!

Our first "on water" event will be the Get R Done in late April. Walt Parsons will serve as cruise director and port captain for this event. This is a safe raftup environment for those who have procrastinated or only partially gotten their boats ready for the sailing season. In May we have a Spring Fling Mini-Cruise, and in June we plan on a Spring Cruise starting in the mid-Bay. We will have at least one event per month during the sailing season and will have finalized itineraries, cruise directors, port captains, and marina information with advance notice to members.

One of the unique things about our club is that members can reach out to other members if they decide to take a quick one- or two-day sail and want to buddy boat. They can also ask for advice on a number of topics.

CBCC is a no-fee club where like-minded people with a shared love of the water can help plan activities for Bay cruising, raftups, ashore gatherings, and exploring. If you are interested in joining a boating club that is tailored to you, please send a brief description of your experience, contact information, and expectations to CompassBoatingClub@yahoo.com.

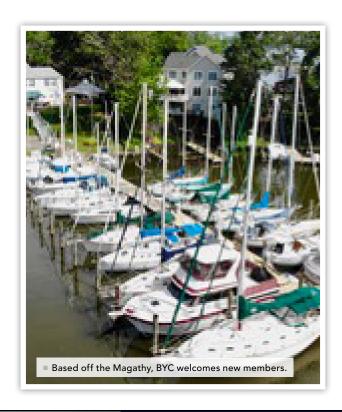
Belvedere Yacht Club Celebrates 73rd Year

The Belvedere Yacht Club, located on Forked Creek on the south shore of the Magothy River, is home to an avid group of boaters. Since 1952 the club has continued to grow. Its members share a camaraderie and a common interest in boating.

The club's social calendar for this year includes a sock burning party, Cinco De Mayo celebration, opening day festivities, a land cruise to watch the Orioles at Camden Yards, a small craft day, and our annual bull and oyster roast.

Belvedere Yacht Club is a founding member of the Yacht Clubs of Maryland and belongs to the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club Association. The club maintains a private mooring in Eagle Cove, for use by its members.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Belvedere Yacht Club, visit belvedereyachtclub.org or contact us at commodore@belvedereyachtclub.org to schedule a visit and meet some of our members.







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Finding Community on the Icy Potomac

By Connor Lothrop

Tinter is supposed to be the time of year when sailors pack up their boats, shrink wrap everything, and wait for sunnier days. The good folks of Potomac River Sailing Association don't see things that way. While the rest of the sailing community winterizes, these hearty sailors put on their drysuits and brave the freezing Potomac River in their ILCA dinghies.

I graduated from college recently and had been looking to scratch the year-round sailing itch provided by intercollegiate racing. I stumbled upon PRSA, just a few miles from DC. I was able to borrow a boat and get out on the river in November. The first few weekends were as high in participation as they were low in wind. In the early season, the fleet consistently drew 15 or more sailors, but

the wind never broke 10 knots. Nonetheless, everyone pitched in on the committee boat to get 20 fantastic races on books in that span.

The first two weeks after the holidays brought a change in the weather and two grueling but fun Sundays. The weekend after Christmas provided 40-knot gusts and three-foot chop. Multiple races were partially abandoned due to the heavy breeze and almost everyone capsized once or more.

The following Sunday saw nearly half the wind but air temperatures below freezing. Mainsheets froze, and the racers bundled up. While the sailors handled the cold and breeze with grace, some of the boats were less fortunate; the mast step on my borrowed boat gave out during the final race.



Since that race to the time of this writing, the fleet has been stuck on land due to ice and other adverse circumstances, but we can't wait to get back to racing.

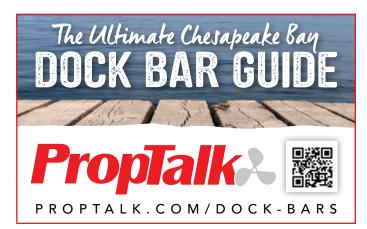
PRSA frostbites in ILCA dinghies every Sunday from mid-November through the end of March out of the Washington Sailing Marina. For those wishing to join, visit potomacriversailing.org.

Contact us for more details. commodore@belvedereyachtclub.org











CBYRA High Point Standings (Part 2) and Awards 2024

he Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association (CBYRA) announced its High Point standings for 2024 to recognize excellence among its members racing on the Chesapeake. Last month, we reported the Cruising One Design (COD) and Junior standings. This month, we cover the standings for handicap racers (and one remaining COD class) and special awards as announced by CBYRA.

If a class or region is missing from the list below, there were insufficient qualifiers for an award in 2024 or the class had not yet reported its tallies.

The 2024 CBYRA Special Awards: John and Kevin White on Country Squire (ORC Open Class) won the Lady Anne Arundel Trophy and the Labrot Trophy. Jordan Tacchetti on Split Decision (PHRF A) was awarded the Decker Magothy Memorial Trophy. The J. F. Healy Memorial Trophy went to Ray Wulff on the J/105 *Patriot*.

Congratulations to all 2024 CBYRA High Point qualifiers and winners! We look forward to following your on-the-water scores in 2025. Learn more and become a member at cbvra.org.









CBYRA High Point Standings (Part 2) and Awards 2024



Shown here at the Race to Baltimore, Jordan

Memorial Trophy. Photo by Ted Morgan

Tacchetti's Split Decision won the Decker Magothy

2. Ben Capuco, Zuul

Barney Harris, Gale Warning
 Gregory Jordan, (no name)
 Lloyd Leonard, Penelope

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For all you want to know including, current scratch sheet, race announcement, ON-LINE registration, shoreside activities, and more:

YACHT SCORING SBRW 2024 LINK https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=16993

SBRW Chairperson: Bettyrene Pope • **Principal Race Officer:** Brian Deibler

Snipe Snowbirding Adventures

A By Arthur Blodgett

his winter, while much of the Chesapeake Bay sailing community was hibernating or self-flagellating through the Sunday Frostbites, nine local Snipe Class Sailboats headed South to race in sunny Florida. The Snowbirding excursion by Annapolis Snipe Fleet 532 was spearheaded by power-couple Alex and Lisa Pline, local snipe gurus who are the Snipe national secretary and Severn Sailing Association (SSA) vice-commodore respectively.

As summery sailing conditions turned to winter storms in Annapolis, they distributed a Google doc and paired interested local sailors off on two or three boat trailers for southward migration. In all, Annapolis-based boat owners the Plines, Greg Virgin, Eric Reinke, Bradley Adam, Arthur Blodgett, Rob Ramirez, Preston Senior, Carter Cameron, and Robert Vann would send their boats south.

The first two events of the winter took place in Miami around New Year's: Snipes competed in the Open Orange Bowl Regatta and annual Under 30 Miami Snipe Invite. In the Open Orange Bowl new Snipe owner Charlie Anderson was first to finish in both heavy air races sailing with Kate Shermock, borrowing Preston Senior's boat for this event (loaning boats when the owner can not sail the event is another way the Fleet has collaborated to get more sailors racing!).

Unfortunately, they were first across the start line (and prematurely for the start sequence) in one of the races, giving them an OCS to negate the victory. Annapolis offspring Lexi Pline took second overall sailing with Ivan Shestopalov, while Bradley Adam and Thomas Walker took third in the 22-boat fleet.

For the Miami Snipe Invite, Trevor Davis was the top Annapolis sailor, finishing fourth in the stacked 36-boat fleet of sailors ages 30 and under. The fleet featured multiple Collegiate National Champions and Women's College Sailors of the Year and was a showcase for young talent coming into the Snipe fleet.

A month later, the Annapolitans returned to their resting yachts for the 56th annual Commodore Rasco Regatta, an event that celebrates the Snipe sailing traditions brought by the Diaz Family (the legendary Augie Diaz and recently deceased "Old Man" Gonzalo Diaz) from Cuba to the United States.

Thirty-four boats competed with the SSA team of Arthur Blodgett/Grace Howie taking second place, five points behind World #2 ranked Ernesto Rodriguez/Taylor Schuerman, and a whopping 37 points ahead of the third-place team of Peter Commette and Bruno Mello.

While the Etchells and Stars luffed and languished on a light-air weekend, the Coconut Grove Sailing Club race committee hunted down stable patches of breeze for five quality races. After racing, sailors cavorted around the Grove to the Barracuda Bar Saturday and enjoyed a tradition of singing and champagne-chugging at the awards ceremony Sunday.

Annapolitan Flora Cole was by far the youngest skipper in the fleet, and Jeff Hayden of North Sails Annapolis was awarded the Aicardi Best Finish for a new Snipe Sailor.

The "Serious Fun" ramped up another notch the next weekend at the Snipe Midwinter Championship in Key Largo. The Upper Keys Sailing Club (UKSC) has done a phenomenal job reviving this Snipe trophy that dates back to the 1950s and ran nine great races over three days. Buttonwood Sound provided champagne conditions with winds from eight to 14 knots, flat water, blue skies, and temperatures in the 70s.

When it was discovered that one of the Sniper's Airbnbs featured a hot tub, pool, and firepit, the entire fleet was invited over for a cookout and party, with firespinning entertainment provided by Snipe super-crew Wilson Stout. The UKSC also hosted a great dinner with abundant cocktails. The flat water and shifty conditions meant that many teams had moments of brilliance over the weekend, with four teams in contention for the win during the last race.



In the end, Rodriguez and Schuerman blew a sizable lead with two UFD over-early starting penalties in the final two races, and San Diego's Doug Hart/ Efe Derman took the win by one and two points respectively over Arthur Blodgett/Laura Varela and defending Midwinter Champions Bradley Adam/ Thomas Walker. Still, with two teams on the podium, it was a great showing for the Annapolis Snipe Fleet, showing the benefit of our year-round training and fleet culture!

Up next: the Winter Circuit wraps up with the Ron Payne/Boomerang Regatta in Ft. Lauderdale, and Bacardi and Don Q Regattas in Coconut Grove. SSA hosts the June 1-2 Colonial Cup before the US Nationals in Atlanta June 4-7. The Snipe Fleet welcomes all newcomers with loaner-boat and lease-to-own programs and will sail every Tuesday and many weekends this summer in Annapolis! Learn more at severnsailing.org.









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What's New at Charleston Race Week?

he Charleston Race Week at Patriot Point (CRW) headquarters is humming as organizers prepare for the popular spring regatta April 10-13 in Charleston, SC.

Longtime event director Randy Draftz says, "The most significant change is our partnership with the South Carolina Ports Authority to provide a central location for launching and hauling directly across from the USS *Yorktown* Aircraft Carrier. There is still a cost, as we have to rent the cranes, but the plan is to keep the costs down (see charlestonraceweek.com for details)."

To provide better ORC Racing, CRW has brought back the offshore circle. Draft says, "If conditions are right, we will race them out to the offshore course and back,



starting and finishing inside the harbor to eliminate wasting time transiting out to the course."

On the circle with VXOnes, J/70s, and Melges 24s, CRW race committee will use Vakaros Race Sense to manage the starts and the finishes.

Draft adds, "Ed Baird (Quantum Racing) will return to provide daily debriefs and team up with Shea Gibson for the morning weather briefings. Ed does such a great job of sharing his observations. We

are also going to use his son Ty for the videography."

Mount Gay Rum will sponsor the event and provide red hats for the first time in about 19 years. "It's great to have them back," says Draftz.

"Our trophies are incredible, made of chromatic glass by a local glass designer who also races a J/105. There will be more as we continue to work on making every year better than the year before."

Learn more at charlestonraceweek.com.

J/29 Chesapeake Bay One Design Revival

A By Liz Principe and Pat Seidel

he J/29 was one of Rod Johnstone's favorite designs. The boat was built to be an upwind rocket in both stability and speed. In the mid-80s and 90s the Chesapeake J/29 one-design class was populated with the "who's who" of Annapolis racers. As we have seen over the past 30-plus years, Chesapeake Yacht Racing Association (CBYRA) sanctioned classes come and go. The good news: there is a resurgence of J/29s on the Bay and a desire to see the class back on the racecourse.

The resurgence is being led by an Eastern Shore racer, Liz Principe, who is currently the commodore for the Eastern Shore Sailing Association. She had been racing a Capri 30 for the past several years and this past July, purchased a J/29 MHOB, *The Doghouse* (woof woof!!), and

brought it home to Cambridge. As she recently commented, "This boat is fast and fun!"

So, for 2025, a new sailing era has begun. The J/29 class is coming back to Bay life racing. As is her nature, Liz dove into the J/29 resurgence with 100-percent commitment. No namby-pamby whippy effort. With a little research she reached out to all 12 J/29 boats on the Chesapeake. The responses have been simply amazing. Positivity, excitement, and "let's do this" spirit.

Will Keyworth, a long time J/29 sailor and former class president, has come alongside to coach and advise. A wealth of knowledge and guidance, Will has been a strong champion of the resurgence of the class.

Besides excitement here on the Bay, there is strong interest in fleets ranging from Texas, Ohio and Massachusetts. Liz, working with CBYRA and the Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta (HHSW) staff, has built a 2025 Chesapeake Bay racing calendar that will be the jump start for the class. Starting in May, at the Annapolis equivalent of the Daytona 500, the HHSW May 2-4, the J/29s will have a one-design start. The other 2025 CBYRA-sanctioned races include the Annapolis Yacht Club (AYC) Annual Regatta (July 26 and 27) and the Annapolis to Cambridge (A2C) Lighthouse Challenge August 23.

The Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta is now open for registration. You will see Liz's *The Doghouse* already registered (sailingworld.com/regattaseries-annapolis; see the early bird discount). The J/29 class plans to host a J/29 shindig on Thursday evening, May 1, in Eastport.

The vision is to revive the National J/29 Class and host a National J/29 Championship in 2026. Here is to a fast start, growing momentum, and a great future. Time to get your hands on a J/29!

To learn more, visit the J/29 Facebook page.







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CRCA Introduces a Performance Class

A By David Dodson

he Chesapeake Racer Cruiser Association (CRCA) is pleased to welcome higher performance boats to compete in a new racing class for CBYRA weekend races starting in 2025

The new CRCA Performance Class was designed for boats with a higher performance potential than boats in the CRCA Cruiser and Racer Classes. CRCA has separate starts and scoring for dozens of CBYRA weekend races on the Bay and uses the "EZ" handicap system which factors in wind conditions and course design to provide fair scoring for all boats.

Fewer restrictions are placed on boats in the Performance Class, making it a more open class. Boats will use the EZ handicap system. Any boat meeting the Performance Class requirements may race in the class. The table below lists the five rules for the Performance Class.

CRCA Performance Class Rules:

- **1.** There are no requirements for the interior accommodations of a boat.
- **2.** The downwind sail-area-to-displacement ratio of a boat may not be higher than 75.
- **3.** Power winches and power winch handles are not allowed.
- 4. Autopilots may not be used.
- 5. A boat may be wet-sailed or dry-sailed

The first rule, which requires no interior accommodations, contrasts with our requirement of full cruising accommodations for our Cruiser and Racer Classes. The idea is to open CRCA up to boats that have a higher performance ability partly because they have little to no interior accommodations, making them weigh less. While CRCA took this step to expand CRCA, they didn't want a completely open class, hence the restriction placed on the Downwind



Sail Area to Displacement Ratio (DW SA/D ratio).

The upper limit is to keep out sport boats with greater planing ability that are harder to handicap. Although there is an upper limit to the DW SA/D ratio, there is no lower limit to its value.

Several Bay boats that could race in the Performance Class are the Farr 40, Class 40, Columbia 32, Farr 30, and Melges 24. Boats that previously raced in the Cruiser or Racer Class may now race in the Performance Class if they wish, because the EZ handicap system should compare them fairly.

In addition to the Performance Class rules, Performance boats must obey the

rules of CRCA that apply to all three classes. Find these rules and other information at <u>sailcrca.org</u>.

CRCA is excited to announce that the Eastport Yacht Club has given the Performance Class starts in five of their races: the Annapolis to Miles River Race (May 24), Maryland Cures Cancer Regatta (W/L course, June 24), Boomerang Race (June 27-28), CRAB Cup (August 16), and the Annapolis to Cambridge Race (August 23). CRCA hopes to get into more weekend races and that clubs using EZ for their weeknight races will use the Performance Class as well. Join CRCA for a fun season at sailcrca.org.

AYC Celebrates the Racing Community's Achievements

he Annapolis Yacht Club (AYC) celebrated the achievements of the sailing and racing community in 2024 at a memorable event emceed by Dave Gendell. Held in the Skipjack with more than 100 attendees, the evening reflected on a successful racing season and honored AYC members for their contributions in Race Management, Race Committees, Racing, and Coaching. Commodore Chris Bell kicked off his term by recognizing the achievements of these dedicated members.

The highlight of the evening was the Gary Jobson Sailor of the Year Award, which recognizes outstanding performance and leadership in sailing. Finalists Zeke Horowitz and Sandra Askew both had exceptional years. Zeke excelled as tactician in the J/70, J/24, and Melges 24 classes, and skippered in the Flying Scot class. Sandy led Cape 31 and Melges 24 campaigns in the UK and US. After a tough decision, the award was presented to Sandy for her dedication, perseverance, and success in 2024, making her a true ambassador for both the sport and the club.

The event also recognized individuals and committees vital to the sailing community. Race committee chairs Bruce Bingman and Dick Neville were applauded for their work managing races locally and nationally. The first J/105 Fleet Award went to Ray Wulff's *Patriot* team, and the AYC Fleet of the Year Award was given to vice commodore Ted Kaczmarski for his leadership in bringing the Sonar Fleet to AYC. More than 40 club members were recognized for their individual and team achievements.









The Attitude Is Gratitude

A By Kim Couranz

It might be a long slog when a sports injury crops up, but it's worth the work to get back on the racecourse.

was pushing the weight sled at the gym late last fall when my shoulder moved oddly, and pain shot down my arm. I push myself hard in my gym sessions with my trainer, but we already had been babying my shoulder for a few weeks because it was acting grumpy and causing pain during some (but thankfully not all) movements.

"Maybe you should get an MRI," he said quietly, as I stood up from the sled, shocked at the sensation that felt like maybe my shoulder had slipped out of its socket for a split second.

Yup, he was right. After a wacky few days of medical opportunities falling into place (my primary care actually had a cancellation slot the next day, so I got to see her for an MRI referral, and the MRI place had a 9 p.m. Friday availability; talk about a hot date night!), I learned that yes, I had a small tear in one of my rotator cuff muscles as well as a tear in my labrum. Nothing career-ending but definitely verifying that the pain I was feeling was real. And that I needed to do something about it.

Finding an appointment with an orthopedic/sports doctor was more challenging. But knowing I had two Snipe regattas on the calendar in just two months, I wasn't willing to wait to start getting things right. I went back to the same physical therapy firm that had helped me with some hip issues that affected my running, and we started tackling my shoulder issues. Once I finally got to see an orthopedist a few weeks later, all they were able to do was to confirm the results of my MRI and suggest I go to PT! (With the caveat

that if it didn't get better, by all means come back to talk about surgery.)

With my eyes on the horizon, focusing on balancing my PT and gym sessions over the winter was my goal: gym sessions to keep everything that I could as strong as possible (essentially boiling down to no overhead exercises—fine for the Snipe!) and PT to first rebuild my shoulder flexibility and to strengthen key muscles to get the shoulder to sit properly. I usually did two PT sessions a week and daily at-home exercises.

I'm not going to lie; it was a long slog. I'm still working on it. But after about six weeks, I began to see glimmers of hope. I'd get on a weight machine at the gym and be frustrated that I couldn't lift a certain amount—and I'd realize that the previous week I couldn't even use that machine because it had hurt. I'd reach to grab something off a top shelf in my kitchen, and moments later, realize that I had done so without any pain. I was coming back.

Sailing winter regattas down south is always a treat, but when it also means reuniting with your sailing family, it's extra special. Getting to a point where I could pack my bags (and carry them!) to head on down to Miami for the Snipe Comodoro Rosco Regatta the first weekend in February felt like a gift. The fact that the entire weekend was competed in only about five knots of breeze? Didn't matter. That we were OCS in the first race in a no-throwouts-regatta? So what. That it was a weekend filled with smiles and friends from far-flung places, sharing the joy of being on the water together, laughing at old memories and creating new ones? Absolutely priceless and filled with gratitude.

The bottom line is that hurdles come our way. Taking a deep breath, analyzing the situation, and determining the way to get from here to there are the first steps. Continuing with dedication to follow the plan to get there is

the long slog. And appreciating the achievement of getting there is sweet indeed.

I'm still being gentle with my shoulder in certain movements, but I'm ready to dive on into the 2025 sailing season. Doing so with gratitude makes it even sweeter: Huge thanks to my trainer, Rene Velado at Annapolis Athletic Club, who found terrific ways to have me keep pushing hard while working around my injury; my physician Dr. Jennifer Cuhran, who identified that this was indeed not just a sore shoulder and enabled me to get the MRI; and to Dr. Kristen Kohles, my rock star PT at Proformance Sports Rehab, whose knowledge and techniques have helped me get my shoulder back to close to being a normal shoulder again! I'm grateful to you all.

About the Author: Kim Couranz has earned several national and world titles in Laser Radials (ILCA 6), Snipes, and Lightnings. She has also raced J/22s, J/24s, and Ynglings on an international level.



Sailfaster Podcast: American Magic's Sara Stone

Sailfaster recently featured Sara Stone, a professional sailor with extensive racing experience including the TP52 Super Series and the America's Cup. Sara shared her approach to competitive sailing and her passion for advancing women in elite sailing—all while thriving in the high-pressure world of competitive racing. Hear the full episode on Apple Podcasts or Spotify or watch it on YouTube!

What drove you to be a professional sailor?

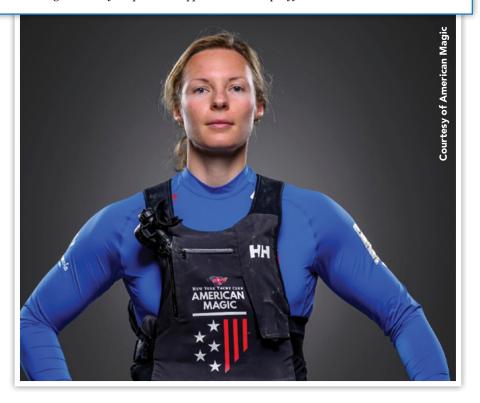
Sara: I didn't even know that was a thing you could do. I was working in public health, sitting at my desk, and I saw Team SCA in the Volvo Ocean Race. I thought, 'What the hell am I doing in Colorado sitting behind a desk when I could be doing that?' I used that as fuel and as a roadmap. I thought maybe that could be me.

How was the transition to foiling the American Magic AC40 in the Women's America's Cup?

Foiling an AC40 for the first time is pretty surreal! You don't really feel the speed; you focus on what you're doing. I had access to the simulator before getting on the boat, so I was familiar with the buttons and screens. And then you do it for real. On the AC40 you have this huge sail—I've never been on a boat where you are truly blind to half the course.

How did you manage communications and decision-making when you couldn't see the other boat!?

It's unique! We spent time talking through 'What are we going to say? What do we mean when we say it? How do we make it short and concise?' You're talking over headsets, and you're sailing really fast with closing speeds of 80 knots. You can't be having a conversation when you actually need to be doing something. So, we spent a lot of time working out how to build out those decision points. Ultimately, it's a game of trust.



You describe offshore racing as "the art of doing nothing perfectly"

Yeah, it's about managing everything all the time for a prolonged period. It's different from inshore racing when you have one role that you need to execute perfectly; offshore you can't always trim to 100 percent of potential boat speed because you have this other task that's a higher priority.

What's your favorite moment racing on Quantum Racing's TP52 in the Super Series?

I love the feeling on the TP52 of bearing away around the top mark, and you are absolutely ripping. Everything happened

exactly as it was supposed to. Everybody just did their jobs. The boat is quiet and fast. It all came together right in that moment. Maybe it lasts for one second or three seconds, but it's that sense of, 'Okay, this is it!' Sometimes that happens at a start: you accelerate across the line, and you've nailed it. I was on the line, I was over targets, I have the lane I want, the position I want, and I'm absolutely ripping. It's so good when that happens. If you can make those moments happen more, you'll be sailing better. You're probably going to get better results. There are moments for sure on every team where blood pressure goes up, but you're all striving for the same outcome.

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Getting Off on the Right Foot Jump Start Your Sailing Season

A By David Flynn of Quantum Sails

s you read this, you are already probably behind the curve in terms of getting ready for next season. Like many other sports what you do in the off season is critical to how well you do in the next. No matter what your goals and expectations—getting out for weekday beer can races or winning a world championship—you need planning and preparation if you are going to be successful. At all levels here are some common themes that all happy and successful teams share.

Put your team together

It is all about the team. For professional or quasi-professional programs, it is simple. Find the best players you can afford and pay them. For the rest of us, it is a more subtle game. Of all the best amateur or mixed teams I have sailed on, there is a common denominator: respect and loyalty to the payer of the bills. The best make it easy and are a pleasure to sail with. They take good care of their team. Crew can count on a well-prepared boat with good equipment, good food, travel expenses, nice housing, and maybe even some cool gear.

Start with a team dinner in the offseason or some fun social event to get everyone together with plenty of time to talk about the upcoming season with no pressure. Most importantly, have fun and begin the bonding process. If you have sailed together previously, it is easy, but it is even more worth the effort if you are just starting out. This will also be a chance to get a sense of where you have solid players and where you will need to step up efforts to recruit.

Set realistic goals

It may be as simple as sailing in every Wednesday night race and having fun or as challenging as winning a major championship event. It pays to let the team know what you are after. Finishing in the top three or the top 10 in the season's events or just not finishing last! These are all realistic and perfectly acceptable goals. If your goal is to win a major distance race, be careful. Putting all your marbles on a longer race with tons of variables, and let's face it, a significant luck factor, is probably not realistic. How about we do the Mackinac Race or Bermuda Race and sail well? Note that while the gods

may have conspired against us, we still won our neighborhood.

Racing schedule

It sounds simple, but one of the most important things you can do in the off season is to get your team the schedule as soon as possible. Make sure it is reasonable. Particularly with mixed teams, you can't expect people to be available every weekend and Wednesday night of the season. Unless they sail for a living, folks have jobs and families they need to prioritize. On the other hand, letting the team know early is a two-way street. If you commit in March, we are going to count on you unless something extraordinary comes up. It is a great way to measure how serious potential team members are and allows you to plan ahead. Don't wait until a month before the event to get commitment.

Schedule a practice

At the beginning of the season you need to get the team together and get out for a sail without the pressure of having to go racing, even if you will only sail in evening beer can races. This should be a day or a weekend that cannot be missed by anyone who plans to sail with you. This will be a chance to shake out the kinks and choreograph the ballet of sets, gybes, and douses. It will allow you to work a bit on straight-line speed and see what is going to break.

This is the time to hire a coach. They are worth every dime. Don't try to steer



Racer's Edge

or play owner and run a practice session. You need to do your job. If you can find a one-design partner or close handicap buddy, even better. A coach boat with marks puts this over the edge! Remember, this practice should be mandatory.

The boat

There are way too many uncontrollable variables in our sport. It is what makes it so frustrating. Boat preparation is something you can control. Start with a diet. For one-design boats this is usually not an issue, but for handicap boats, particularly racer/cruisers, this is cheap speed. You don't have to buy anything. Just take everything off and put back only what you need to race. Keep your cruising gear separate and put it on just to cruise.

Every dollar you spend on your bottom and foils is a dollar (or many dollars) well spent. There is a whole cottage industry aimed at taking what are ostensibly one-design boats and making them better by fairing, shaping, and smoothing bottom and blades. Can you imagine if you took half this effort on your racer/cruiser?

This is self-serving (as a sailmaker) but no less the truth: there is no substitute for fresh, well-designed sails. No matter what your favorite flavor is, newer is better. That is why at the top end of the sport sail life is measured in hours regardless of how magical the materials and construction type. At a club level, we have to be real in terms of budget implications, but the most successful teams still program in a sail or two a year (assuming they started with a good set). Have your sailmaker onboard for an evaluation sooner rather than later.

Make sure the systems on the boat work. If you can't get enough mainsheet tension without having a guerrilla pull on it, or if the traveler won't go up or down easily, you are never going to sail well. Put



some thought into what works and what doesn't. Get some help to ensure that it does.

Upgrade your lines. Smaller diameter, lower stretch lines are better in all respects. Take advantage of modern technology.

Vow to get to the racecourse early

The best teams share another common denominator: they are almost always the first ones off the dock and out to the racecourse. Factor this into your schedule and dock times. I know it is hard on Wednesday nights with everyone dashing from work, but even then, an extra half-hour makes a difference. Sailboat racing is a sport. You just can't grab a driver, walk up to the tee, and pound out a perfect drive. Or pick up your racquet, step onto the court, and start serving. You have to warm up.

In our sport you need to get to the starting area at least an hour early. This is not a time to kick back. There's so much to do. Dial in rig tuning and upwind trim settings. Set, gybe, and douse (assuming you have a spinnaker), all in racing mode with the same intensity. Time for sorting out the right outfit was back at the dock. Tacticians need to gather the data that will be needed to make the best guesses on which way to go: compass headings to monitor wind direction, current checks, course checks if marks are in the water,

course confirmation. Sail the course in miniature if using government marks to determine which sail to use. Figure out the starting line.

It is a good idea to have a team meeting at the dock or on the way out to go over race details from the circular, rules for the day, weather, current, etc. The whole team should be informed and on the same page so that you are ready to swing into action when you get to the racing area. If you are really on your game, you will even have 10 minutes or so to chill out before the start!

Practice starts

Let's face it: starting is the hardest part of the game and the one that takes the most practice. Commit this season to spending time in the starting area practicing and doing timed runs. Know how long it takes to get from one end of the line to the other. Know where the lay lines are by practicing a couple of tacks to see where you end up. Make a couple of timed runs at whatever your chosen starting spot is to get a feel for speed, time, and distance. In the pre-start you want to always be sailing as if you were racing.

Have fun

Most of us don't do this sport for a living, so winning or losing a race is not the end of the world. Keep this in mind, and don't flip out when things go wrong. They will. Even on professional programs where winning is the only thing, teams that have chemistry do better. Teams that like each other, respect each other, and have their teammates backs win. Don't get down on each other. That will guarantee poor performance. Remember the old saying, "A bad day out on the water is still better than a good day almost anywhere else."



——— Questions? ——— Email <u>dflynn@quantumsails.com</u>

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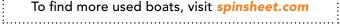
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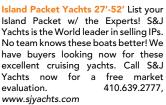
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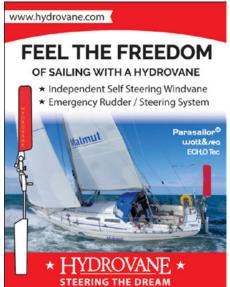
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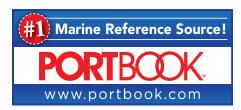


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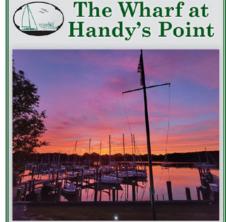


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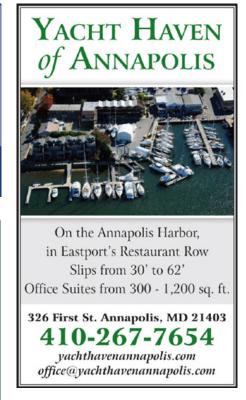
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Exclusive Mid-Atlantic Dealer

David Walters Yachts (DWY) announces its appointment as the exclusive dealer for Grand Soleil Yachts in the Mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. East Coast and as an authorized sales representative for the Great Lakes. This partnership marks a new chapter for both companies, combining decades of expertise, craftsmanship, and passion for sailing. Founded in 1973, Grand Soleil Yachts is synonymous with Italian design and engineering excellence. Today, the company offers three distinct lines, each designed to meet the needs of different sailing enthusiasts. The Long Cruise Line is created for bluewater cruising and focuses on comfort and safety for extended voyages, with spacious interiors and user-friendly handling. The Performance Line is built for those who seek agility and speed and is designed with cutting-edge hull technology and optimized performance features for racing and performanceoriented cruising. The Plus Line represents Grand Soleil's flagship models and includes yachts over 60 feet, designed for those who demand both top-tier performance and luxury. These yachts offer expansive, elegant interiors alongside competitive sailing capabilities, making them ideal for extended offshore adventures. The Grand Soleil Blue is a forwardthinking 33-foot daysailer that redefines sustainability by embracing a new approach focused on the boat's life cycle. Designed and built with eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient solutions, and end-of-life recyclability, it sets a new standard for greener, more responsible sailing.

Josh McLean, President of David Walters Yachts, shared his enthusiasm about the collaboration: "Partnering with Grand Soleil Yachts reflects our ongoing commitment to providing clients with the finest sailing experiences. Their innovation and craftsmanship perfectly complement the values of David Walters Yachts." DWY senior broker Erik Haaland will oversee sales for the Grand Soleil brand in the Mid-Atlantic region. Erik, a seasoned expert with years of experience in yacht sales, is eager to introduce clients to the luxury, performance, and versatility that Grand Soleil Yachts offers. davidwaltersyachts.com



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New Model

Aspen Power Catamarans introduces its new C128 with outboard power. The distinctive proa-cat uses Aspen's patented, award-winning hull design that maximizes efficiency while delivering a smooth stable ride. Powered by Twin Suzuki 300-hp DF300BMB four-Stroke/4.4 Liter V6 outboards with dual four blade stainless steel counter rotating props, the newest Aspen is designed to cruise at 18-20 knots with a top speed of 26-28 knots. Fuel economy is expected to be 17 gph at 16 knots, 50-60 percent less than competitive boats. This incredible fuel economy should provide a cruising range of more than 270 miles. The Aspen C128 redefines what is possible in a 44-foot outboard-powered catamaran. With its innovative design and thoughtful features, this flagship model delivers unparalleled efficiency, comfort, and performance. True to Aspen's awardwinning design, the C128 maximizes fuel efficiency with its patented asymmetrical hull. Owners can enjoy the perks of all Aspen catamarans-smooth, quiet operation, exceptional stability, and reduced fuel costs-while experiencing the added versatility of outboard propulsion. "The new C128 is the flagship of our outboard line, and it is a real standout," says Larry Graf, Aspen's founder and chief engineer. "This 44-foot flybridge combines quiet, efficient outboards with great speed and handling, plus plenty of space and comfort for extended cruising." The first Aspen C128 is currently in production and should be completed late in the spring of 2025. aspenpowercatamarans.com

Scholarship Opportunity

The application period is now open for the 2025 National Marine Representatives Association (NMRA) Marine Trades Scholarship program. The deadline for receipt of applications is April 15. Since 2008, NMRA has actively contributed to the future of the marine industry by offering scholarships to students pursuing education in the marine trades. In 2024, four NMRA Scholarships of \$1000 each were awarded to students attending Northwood Technical College, Great Lakes Boat Building School, Lake Careers and Technical Center, and IYRS School of Technology and Trades. To request an application for a 2025 NMRA Marine Trades Scholarship, email info@nmraonline.org with 2025 Scholarship Application in the subject line. nmraonline.org

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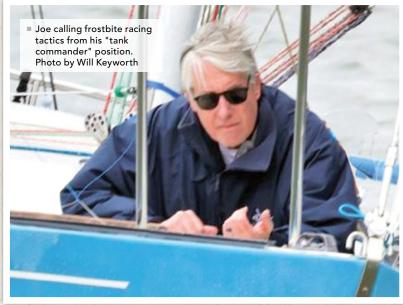
ince its inception, SpinSheet has relied on friends for support with articles, photography, and artwork. The Dock Talk section has been a monthly section of the magazine since the beginning. In our March 1996 issue, we thanked Annapolis sailor Joe Krolak for designing the new logo for the section.

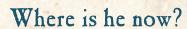
We reached out to Joe to hear about the inspiration behind his design:

Joe writes, "These were some of a series of sketches/artwork I provided to Dave Gendell back in the day. I think he saw one of my 'custom' T-shirt designs that I used to make for boats I crewed on over the years and asked me to conjure something up. All were provided free of charge (perhaps a beer). I looked through my files and found a few of those SpinSheet items (including the original pen and ink DockTalk design).

"For Dock Talk I was trying to convey the still essential use of 'sailing karate' by sailors to describe racing situations: I was crossing; then, they tacked' or a similar scenario. I am not sure if I drew the person hearing the sea story purposely looking askance to the SpinSheet readers (à la "can you believe this guy's story?") or not. I'll take credit for being so perceptive years later."

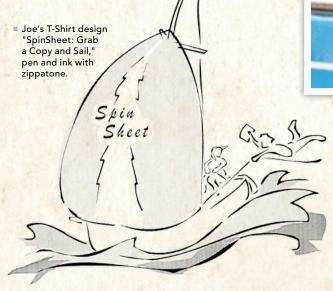






"While not churning out drawings as much as I used to, I still have a need for a creative outlet, and artwork is still one means to accomplish that," Joe says. "Last summer I created and gave books to each of the crew/friends of my blue J/29. When they opened up the book, all pages were blank. Of course they're blank! We're still making memories!"

Joe still owns his first copy of SpinSheet.





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