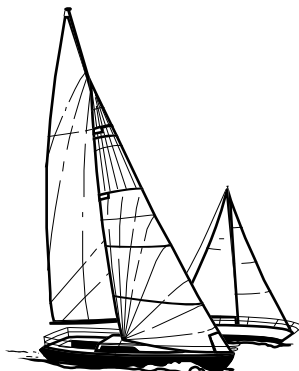


The CAT Tales

Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club

July 2000



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|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
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View from the Bridge

Pete Denholm
Commodore

This has been a fun year so far. Ok, so Memorial weekend was a little wet, but the Forth of July was sunny. At least the 4th was not as hot as last year. As the year presses on into the hot Bay summer, I am reminded about CCYC's annual August ritual: the Crab Feast. Having grown up on the Bay, I never miss an opportunity to eat Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs. For more information about the crab feast refer to the next article.

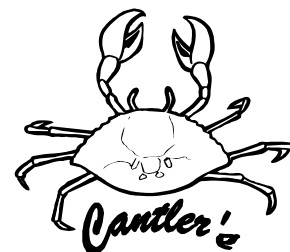
After the crab feast in August, we are having a weeklong Labor Day cruise. The raft captain will be some of our newer members, Irv and Barbara Schaffer of *Irwin's Ark III*. This cruise will take you to the Magothy River, Baltimore Inner Harbor, and the Chester River. Keep your binoculars focused for more information about this wonderful cruise.

During the last couple of years, many of you have been complaining about the shoaling in Knapps Narrows. Well, I have good news for all of you non-shoal draft boats. They (whoever they are) are dredging the Narrows. On our way home from San Domingo Creek during the Forth of July weekend, we noticed the depth was much deeper. As we passed through the Narrows to the Bay, it became apparent why our depth alarm was not going off. We

saw a very big dredging barge moving mud by the tons. This thing was so big I swear I thought we were passing the Kevin Costner's Waterworld city. It looks like it could handle the job. By now I am sure the job is finished. I wonder just how deep they are planning to dredge.

See you at the crab feast! 🦀

Crab Feast
August 5-6
Cantler's Restaurant
Mill Creek



Bill and Liz Wesley
True Blew

The annual CCYC Crab Feast will be at Cantler's Restaurant on August 5th. Bill and Liz Wesley have agreed to let **True Blew** be the anchor boat for the raft-up and will set up in Mill Creek or Burley Creek near Cantler's. People can also come by car.

By boat: Enter Whitehall Bay, just north of Annapolis, giving Hackett Point a wide berth to the south and west. Once abeam red marker "2", arc to the west and head for the entrance to Mill Creek, marked by another red marker "2". The dogleg entrance channel is well marked and looks trickier than it is. Swing wide after passing the last marker

“10” and make your way up the creek. You will pass Burley Creek to starboard and to port, a small cove and then larger Martin’s Cove. Cantler’s is just past Martin’s Cove.

By car: From Annapolis, heading East on Route 50, take Exit 28 at Old Mill Bottom Road and Bay Dale Drive, which is where the Red, Hot and Blue Restaurant is located. Follow the signs for Old Mill Bottom Road south to St. Margarets Road. Take a right and proceed until you see an old grocery store at a “Y” intersection, where Browns Wood Road joins St. Margarets. Make a sharp left turn onto Browns Wood Road. Take the first road on your right, Forest Beach Road, to the end and you’ll be at Cantler’s Riverside Restaurant.

Cantler's does not take reservations and is usually pretty crowded so we plan to meet at the restaurant at 5 PM so we have plenty of time to get served and eat, etc. then get back to the boats. This will probably mean that we will not have the usual happy hour on the boats.

There is a 6 mile per hour speed limit in front of the restaurant area so anchoring in the area should be OK. We will probably break into smaller rafts at dark or before as weather dictates. ☞

**4th of July
Cruise and Raft-up
July 1-4**

Pete and Karen Denholm
Scimitar



This year the 4th of July weekend was NOT anywhere near as hot as last year. We enjoyed warm weather, but the threat of multiple 100-degree days was a distant memory. Karen and I got an earlier than normal start on Saturday morning despite problems procuring the right ice provisions. During our usual visit to the Herrington Harbor North self-service ice bin, we discovered that they only had cubed ice. It was not supposed to be too hot, but we Catalina 30s really need block ice for our icebox. Is there a shortage of block ice on the Bay? No problem...we found block ice in Deale.

In my article last month describing the 4th of July raft-up, I neglected to request that those who plan to join the raft-up should call me and let me know. So, as a result, no one called and Karen and I were not sure if anyone would be meeting us during the weekend. With our early start (which means we left the dock about 9 AM) Karen and I headed out towards Hudson Creek on the Little Choptank River. The winds were “variable” (translation: ZERO!). So we motored all the way to the anchorage. It sure is easier to find Hudson Creek on a clear day with the proper charts on board. For those of you not aware: On the CCYC Memorial weekend raft-up it rained the whole day and our new set of charts were missing the pages covering the central Bay. Missing charts for your sailing area could happen to anyone...Right Ray?

We were comfortably on the hook in Hudson Creek by 2 PM. Whew! That early start really wore us out. So we went below for a mid-day nap. When we woke up a few hours later we were pleased to see that *Papillon* was anchored next us loaded down with crew: Earl, Lola, Sherry, and Peter (Earl and Lola’s grandson); and Mika and Sushi, Sherry’s Siamese cats. Karen and I pulled up anchor on *Scimitar* and rafted up to *Papillon*. During our happy hour we learned that *Papillon* recently had its mast replaced, had problems finding block ice at their marina (Hmmm, there really must be block ice shortage!?!), and began having problems with one of their house batteries (it would not hold a charge). We agreed we would find some block ice on the way to San Domingo Creek. Ah, isn’t sailing such a joy. After our pleasant happy hour, Karen and I decided to go for a short gunkholing trip up the creek.

At one of the quiet headwater areas, Karen and I turned off the dingy motor to watch a large number of ducks playing in a shallow pool of water. As Karen and I coasted in near the ducks, Karen mentioned to me that it’s hot out here and how she wished she had a frozen margarita, which is her favorite drink. Then out of nowhere, on the dock right near us a woman holding a drink shouted, “Hello, are you looking for treasure?” We replied, “Yes, do you have any?” To which she answered, “No, but you’re welcome to join me for a margarita”. Well, that was too tempting for Karen.

We tied up our dinghy to the dock and went inside for a margarita.

Inside the house we met Joyce and Burt. They are a nice couple from D.C. who drive two hours each weekend to their escape home. We also met their two very pretty and friendly birds: a parakeet and a macaw. The parakeet was eager to say hello to us by spending most of the visit hanging out on my shoulder playing with my ear or working his way down my arm to my watch to nibble on it. After a quick margarita we said goodbye to my new shoulder friend and Joyce and Burt and returned to our dinghy. As we headed back to the raft up, I wondered if Mika and Sushi would get along with my new shoulder friend.

No one else showed up to the raft-up that night so *Scimitar* and *Papillon* were the party! On Sunday morning, we decided to motor across the Little Choptank River to Madison Bay to purchase block ice for *Papillon* from a marina at the end of the bay. The charts showed the area to be too shallow for *Papillon*'s deep draft so *Scimitar* with its shoal draft was volunteered for duty. After feeling our way all the way to the marina, which appeared to cater to small powerboats, we discovered that block ice was a foreign term to the many people hanging out at the gas pump area. This problem with block ice just seems to keep popping up. Knowing *Papillon* would prefer any ice to no ice, we purchased a few bags of cubed ice.

After passing the bags to *Papillon* in the middle of the Little Choptank River (Oops, I forgot to pass over the change too. I think I still owe Earl about six bucks), we began motoring our way to San Domingo Creek. Again the winds were "variable". Along the way *Papillon*'s engine was losing power for no real reason and the battery was still not holding a charge. Earl decided to continue on to Oxford to find a slip to be sure they could get shore power for the night. Ah, the joys of sailing. No matter, the Bay schedule of fireworks assured them that they would still see fireworks that night at Oxford just like we would see the fireworks at St. Michaels. We said our good-byes via VHF and went our separate, but merry ways.

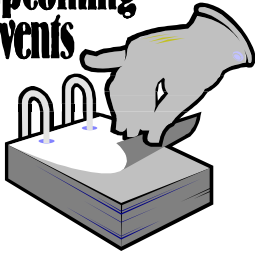
Now the big mystery: Who, if anyone, would join us tonight in San Domingo? Again we dropped the hook around 2 PM. We straightened up the boat a bit and caught up on some reading. After a couple of hours we started thinking we would be alone for the night. At about 5:30 PM we heard the friendly hailing call over the VHF, "Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club, Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club, this is *Wye Waite II*". Yeah, company is on the way. Rod Waite brought a friendly couple, Karen and Dick, who are more familiar to motor homes than sailing. Rod's wife, Pat, was fulfilling other family obligations, which freed Rod up for the weekend. Apparently, Karen and Dick have Rod to thank for introducing them to traveling via motor home. Now they might have Rod to thank for their new interest - sailing.

No one else hailed us on the VHF for the next couple of hours. So satisfied that this was our full crowd we set off in two dingys to St Michaels to watch the fireworks. The trip up San Domingo is a short mile to a dock used for some local workboats. While watching the fireworks from the maritime museum, I wondered how *Papillon* and her crew were doing. I learned later that Oxford, despite previous advertising, decided to change their fireworks display to Tuesday night. This was not *Papillon*'s weekend.

As we motored back in our dingys in the dark (I had both Karens with me) using a spotlight, we noticed another dingy rowing over near the shore. Turns out their motor would not start so we gave them a tow to their boat. It would have been a long mile for them if they ended up having to row all the way back to their boat. We were happy to help them out.

On Monday morning, *Wye Waite II* decided to shove off back towards Annapolis. The weather looked like it was again not going to cooperate and provide only "variable" winds. After breakfast, Karen and I decided to stay on the hook for the day and do some gunkholing and hang out in St Michaels. On Tuesday our motor back to Herrington was uneventful except that we noticed that Knapps Narrows is being dredged!!! ☹

Upcoming Events



August 5-6

Crab Feast Cruise and Raft-up
Cantler's Restaurant Mill Creek
Raft Captain: Bill and Liz Wesley, *True Blew*

September 2-10

Labor Day Cruise
Magothy, Baltimore, Chester
Raft Captain: Irv and Barbara Schaeffer, *Irwin's Ark III*



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