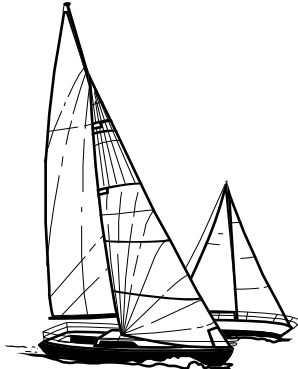


The CAT Tales

July 2001

Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club



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View from the Bridge

Ray Nieves
Commodore

Memorial Day Weekend Raft-up H₂O Weekend Report

Yes, Carolyn and I were the raft captains for the weekend of rain, storms, wind, lightning and a little sun. The 2000 Memorial Day Weekend report was exceeded only in 2001 by more rain and more severe storms.

Only the hearty souls of *Ayewash* departed home port on Saturday. Capt Mike, 1st mate and fleet physician Bev, crew Diana, Copper and guests Bill and Connie Clark braved the weather. The afternoon, evening and morning storms preceding the *Ayewash* crew's sail did not deter their enthusiasm. Off to St Michaels. *Ayewash* arrived and established a host boat position just off Perry's Landing.

The crew and guests aboard *Ayewash* spent Saturday evening on board, watching and listening to the effects of the weekend storm. Meanwhile, *Classie Chassie 2* remained at Parrish Creek with Ray and Carolyn and *Mugwamp 2* remained in Annapolis –

Philip, Elizabeth, Charlene and Charles opted to depart Sunday morning.

Saturday evening, the Nieves crew took the “iron living room on wheels”, aka car, and had a wonderful potluck dinner with the Padgets onboard *Mugwamp 2* (still at the dock).

Sunday morning brought some sun, with suspect weather subject to change. But at last, *Classie Chassie 2* and crew departed for a noon arrival at St Michaels. Thanks to *Ayewash*'s crew, we were greeted with a wonderful BBQ lunch. Later in the day, *Mugwamp 2* hailed the raft and joined the festivities.

Daunted by weather and changes, all in all the weekend went well. The stories are not as good as last year but we had fun. We even had fun when the marine police chased us out of our first spot and we had to set up as individually anchored vessels.

Mike, Bev, Carolyn, Bill and Connie decide to go ashore and share the experience of getting caught on land having to wait for an afternoon storm to pass. I guess we all have had those experiences by now. Later that afternoon, Joe and Camille Collins anchored next to us in *Windswept* (nee Padgetts' C36 *Elizabeth IV*)

After settling into a good night of uneventful sleep, Monday morning departures began about 0830. *Classie Chassie* lead the way, followed by *Mugwamp 2* and *Windswept*, and eventually *Ayewash*. Maybe next year we can have a different raft captain and thus different weather.

On a serious note, I want to bring up two events:

First, I hope some of you had the occasion to hear the call on Ch 16 Sunday, June 9th, when a 29' sailboat was hit and sunk by a 35' powerboat. Carolyn and I heard the whole thing as we were crossing the Bay about 8 miles south of the accident. Having been in emergency rescue for 30+ years, the incident still gave me a new outlook on safe sailing.

The person reporting the crash and sinking did a good job – his description and updates gave me goose bumps and nearly had Carolyn in tears.

During the emergency incident, people stopped all chatter on Ch 16 (thank goodness). And the events unfolded to a safe conclusion for the survivors. Unfortunately, the 29' sailboat sank in less than 5 minutes. The woman onboard was caught in the sail rigging and nearly drowned. There were 7 persons on the powerboat, reported to be at full speed at impact with the sailboat.

The lesson I learned from this tragic event is that I'm not as safe as I thought. I always made non-swimmers aboard our boat wear life preservers or PPPs when leaving the cockpit. Now, after witnessing the speed of this event and the circumstances as reported – I will always require PPPs on all non-swimmers when away from the dock!

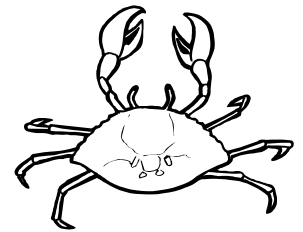
Second, my new feeling about PPPs was later more than reinforced. While at BoatUS, I heard the story of a sailor drowning after he was knocked overboard after his boat was rocked by a large wake.

The Bay is safe. Your boat is safe. We all have the required safety equipment, right?

I bring up these accidents because during my years of emergency services, I have seen hundreds of deaths and severe injuries caused by unexpected, unpredictable incidents. My hope is by sharing the information, all of us will review our safe boating practices. None of us can predict an accident; we can only be prepared to handle what gets thrown our way. Think safe, prepare well, and watch out for the other person or conditions. The Bay is not always a safe place to be.

Safe sailing! 🦀

Crab Feast
Aug 4th, 1:00 PM
Harris Crab House,
Kent Narrows



Mike and Bev Davis

Ayewash

The annual CCYC Crab Feast will be at Harris Crab House this year. We plan to meet there at 1:00 PM on Saturday, August 4th. As usual, you can come by boat or car.

By boat: *Ayewash* will serve as the anchor boat and will be anchored by 12:00 in Kirwan Creek. To get to Kirwan Creek, head for the green 1K mark on the south side of the narrows. From the mark, head NW and around Hog Island. *Ayewash* will be anchored at the mouth of the creek. We plan to dinghy to the crab house no later than 12:45.

If you don't plan to spend the night, Harris has 5 slips available while you eat, but you need to call ahead (410-827-9500).

By car: Take Route 50 East from Annapolis and cross the Bay Bridge. Take exit 42 at Kent Narrows East and follow the signs to Harris Crab House.

We will order from a menu, so if you don't care to crack crab, there will be plenty of alternatives. I need to have a head count, so if you plan to come, call me

by July 30th. I am going to be out of town July 21-29, but please call and leave a message at 703-802-0355 or email me at SailCCYC@aol.com. If you have any questions, you can send me an email as I will be checking my email while I'm gone and I can get back to you. ☞



**Icebreaker
May 12-13
Truxton State Park,
Annapolis**

Richard Schatz and Diane Benyus

Aire Borne

The Icebreaker was set this year at Truxton State Park in Annapolis, which is a nicely protected area beyond the Annapolis Bridge on Spa Creek. Diane and I got there around noon to try to get a pavilion but it was already too late. So, we grabbed a location with a table under a flowering tree, set our chairs and enjoyed the view while waiting for the first boat to arrive.

The weather was nice but a little unsettled. It didn't know whether to rain or not. The rain was our main concern at not having shelter, but, as luck would have it, one of the groups that had staked out a pavilion left and we immediately took it over.

We were resting comfortably when *Classie Chassie* arrived. They pulled up to Paula's landing and were promptly greeted by a very animated Paula. Paula, who surprised us with her presence, was even more surprised by ours. Apparently through some lapse in communication, Paula wasn't expecting the Club to join her that day. But, after getting over the initial surprise, she told Ray and Carolyn that it would be fine to tie up there.

Ayewash was the next to arrive with Mike Davis singlehandedly her, bringing his precious cargo of homemade chili. We're really glad he came! Bev and Diana arrived by land later.

Joan Savage came by land also, to deliver drinks and snacks and was joined later by Wayne. We had to talk Wayne in by cell phone, but he made it, after flying in just for the get together. What dedication!

A number of us gathered under the flowering tree, talking, and enjoying the sights and sounds of Spa Creek and a distant view of the State Capitol. We were joined by Bill Wesley who was on "Grandpa Duty" and managed to escape for a while, and, Jim and Wanda Sawyer. Suddenly, the weather made up its mind and started to rain and get windy. We all scrambled to grab food, chairs, plates or whatever, and headed uphill to the pavilion, which turned out to be quite cozy.

We set out the food, decidedly ahead of the scheduled time and chowed down on roasted chicken, Buffalo wings, and Mike's fabulous chili. Max Munger and Sherma stopped by for dinner and added to the lively conversation. Bev and Diana brought Copper who together with Winston had their own "icebreaker"

The latecomers arrived and were greeted and fed well. We stayed until dark, chatting, munching and drinking. All in all, it was a fine gathering of friends. ☞

**4th of July
La Trappe Creek**

Mike and Bev Davis

Ayewash

With the 4th of July on a Wednesday this year, there were no fireworks displays on the weekend in cities near the Bay. So we held our 4th of July raft-up on the 1st of July in La Trappe Creek.

The weather finally cooperated and *Ayewash* had a very nice sail from Herrington Harbour to La Trappe Creek. A pleasant surprise after we decided to try going through Knapps Narrows; we had at least 8' of water on both sides of the bridge. The landfill operations for Poplar Island had started to fill the

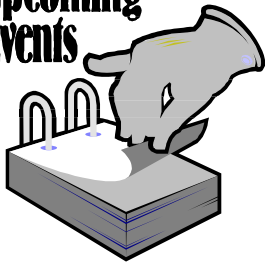
approaches last year but they must have dredged and it's no problem now.

Ayewash set the hook in La Trappe Creek and was soon joined by *Classie Chassie 2* with Commodore Ray Nieves and Carolyn, and special crew Vice Commodore Richard Schatz and Diane Benyus. After we secured *Classie Chassie 2* alongside, Ray Harris and guest crew Catherine arrived aboard *Reverie* and then new members Ray and Lynne VanHorn aboard *Scimitar* joined us. You might recognize the boat's name as Ray and Lynne bought

Scimitar from Pete and Karen Denholm. So we got to see an old friend again in *Scimitar* and meet some new friends in Ray and Lynne. (If you've been counting, you noticed we had 3 Rays.)

After Happy Hour aboard *Ayewash*, everyone returned to their boats for dinner and were treated to a spectacular sunset. We haven't seen too many sunsets at CCYC raft-ups this year, so it was a nice finish to the evening. Let's hope this is the start of a trend. ☞

Upcoming Events



Aug 4-5

Crab Feast, 1:00 PM

Harris Crab House, Kent Narrows, MD

Raft Captain – Mike and Bev Davis, *Ayewash*

Sep 1-3

LaborDay Cruise/Raft-up

Mill Creek, Solomans Island and St. Leonard Creek

Raft Captain – TBD

Sep 29-30

Oktoberfest Cruise/Raft-up

Rhode River

Raft Captain – Wayne and Joan Savage, *Jubilee*



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