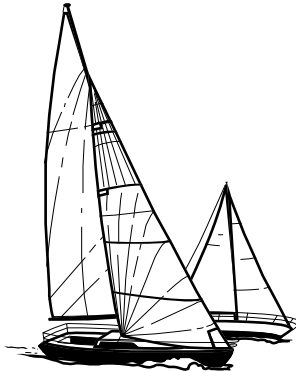


# The CAT Tales

October 2002

## Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club



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### View from the Bridge

**Richard Schatz  
Commodore**

The Crab Feast Raftup weekend was a perfect example of the joys of Fall sailing. We left on a brisk Friday afternoon that was supposed to be rainy. We had enough time to sail from Annapolis to the West River, get fuel, have a nice hot chili dinner and be snug in our bunks before the rain began. There's nothing like sleeping on a boat on rainy night. We beat the weather forecast for that day by a wide margin.

We awoke well rested to a morning with a nip in the air. There was a mist, but no rain as predicted. We turned on the heater to take the chill out, and had some warm, strong coffee. After a hearty breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausage, we motored out to what was supposed to be 15 knots of wind. Well, it was still early in the morning and perhaps the winds will pickup later. At least there were very few powerboats (They seem to hibernate after Labor Day weekend.) so, the motor across the bay was smooth and as it turned out, warm - over 70 degrees! What a glorious day!

Well, we really tried to sail, we even tried putting up the sails while motoring (...it sort of felt like sailing). There were wind shifts and puffs but the wind gods were not with us. We had to be satisfied

with cruising on the bay on a perfect Autumn Day. All in all not a bad thing to be doing.

As we passed through the Eastern Bay and turned North towards the Narrows, we got our 15 knots. Unfortunately the wind was right on our nose and if we wanted to make the Crab Feast before 9:30 p.m., tacking was not an option. Our weatherman had predicted NE winds all day and of course was wrong again.

We arrived in due time and had a great feast with 16 of our good friends. Afterwards, thanks to Don McBride's able navigating, we were able to nestle into Kirwan Creek for the night. The evening was cool and pleasant, Vicky and Al on "Laid Back" treated us to dessert and a nightcap. Very satisfying!

The next day was an Autumn dream for sailors. With the winds on our beam, we were able to have the sails up and pulling within a half-hour of leaving the raftup. We sailed with 9-10 knot winds through the length of Prospect Bay and when we turned into Eastern Bay the wind shifted slightly in our favor and gave us 15-21 knots close hauled through the bay.

When we finally reached the Chesapeake, the winds shifted again and under 10- 15 knots, we sailed on a single tack to Annapolis and home. The Bay was a playground for sailboats of all sizes and shapes. Everyone seemed to want to get that last perfect sailing day and they weren't disappointed. Cool

sailing under a warming sun, with great wind on a beautiful bay. It gives me chills just thinking about the feeling.

The final note to this writing is that we have the best of the best when it comes to sailing, no one has better. Autumn can be the most gratifying as we found out this weekend. There are few if any powerboaters, and no annoying jet skiers. The air is crisp and clean with no insects. So don't just blindly listen to the weatherman, stick your head out the window and if it looks good, "Go sailing!"

Seize the Bay! ☞

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### Member Meeting

**November 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM**

**Cantina D'Italia, Annapolis**

Ray VanHorn, *Scimitar*

The November Member Meeting will be November 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 7 PM, at the Cantina D'Italia restaurant in Annapolis.

Fred Wagner from West Marine will do a presentation on New Toys from West Marine so we can get ideas for "Christmas Gifts for Sailors".

We will also have the election of officers for 2003. Please send any nominations to Vice Commodore Ray VanHorn (rayvanhorn@comcast.net).

The evening will also include discussion of incredible raft-up possibilities for 2003.

To get to the restaurant: From Route 50 in Annapolis, take the MD-450 exit - exit number 23 - toward MD-178/ Parole. Take the MD-450 W ramp toward Crownsville. Turn slight right onto West St. Look for and turn left onto MD-450/Defense Hwy.

Cantina D'Italia will be on your right at 126 Defense Highway. If you need to call them, their phone number is 410-224-1330.

PS There will be a meeting of all officers beginning at 4:00 for Planning Purposes. ☞

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### Holiday Party

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM**

It's not too early to start planning your schedule for the Holidays. The weekends fill up fast and you don't want to miss out on the fun.

The annual CCYC Holiday Party will be at Rich Schatz and Diane Benyus' house in Annapolis this year on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Bring your singing voice or any other instrument you can play, as we will be singing songs of Christmas. Dress is informal.

The club will furnish a turkey or ham as well as wine and beer. Attendees should bring hors' d'oeuvres, a side dish or a dessert. In addition, each person should bring a wrapped gift. The gift should be boat-related but be no more than \$10 value. There is a gift exchange game we will play.

Please call Diane or Richard (443-482-9563) or send them an email r.schatz@att.net to coordinate the dish you plan to bring

You'll be receiving another notice about the party with directions and other details but we wanted to remind you of the date and location. ☞



Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club

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