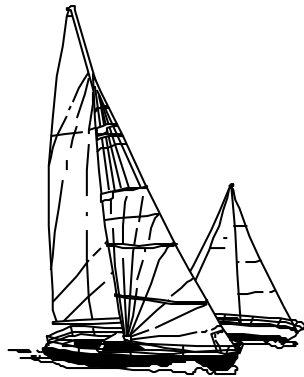


The CAT Tales

Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club

February 2003



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View from the Bridge

Ray VanHorn
Commodore

As we approach another year on the Chesapeake, we continue to improve on our popular schedule of activities. Each year the job becomes more challenging. Your Board met this month and incorporated many of your suggestions to make 2003 another great year on the Bay. (*Ed. – See enclosed schedule.*)

This year's schedule features more scheduled events, activities associated with events and focuses on improving our skills. In addition, if those of you willing to serve as a Captain step forward, we can expand some of the raft-ups to 3, 4 & + day events – perhaps even a CCYC-hosted event during the Annapolis Boat Show.

We have increased the number of events from 10 to 15. We have addressed the request you made to have more events in the spring and fall. We understand that no matter how well we plan, conflicts still arise which prevent us from attending every CCYC gathering. We hope that by scheduling more events we are addressing this issue, and that you will have more opportunities to sail with CCYC.

Many of you have requested that where possible, we combine activities with the raft-up, which adds another incentive to attend. You will see that efforts have been made to schedule events in conjunction

with the Baltimore Waterfront Festival, Chestertown Tea Party, Tilghman Island Seafood Festival, Annapolis Fireworks, Golf in Cambridge, Crab house at Kent Narrows, St. Michaels, Sail Boat Show Annapolis and the Annapolis Parade of Lights.

In an effort to further improve our sailing skills and boat preparedness knowledge, we will continue this tradition for our member meetings and Icebreaker, and add training where possible to raft-ups when no other activity is scheduled. Again, Captains will drive these inter-club activities, i.e. boat safety, man overboard drill, anchoring techniques, inter-club races and male and female boat trips.

As you can see there is a lot on the docket for 2003. You will also observe from the schedule that Captains are the key to the success of our sailing season. Not only will they help us with the raft-up activities, but they will be an important beacon for approaching sailors to reach the event. We encourage interested Captains to contact CCYC officers or our Cruise Director, Jennifer Davis.

We also encourage you to put the member meeting on **Sunday, March 23rd** on your calendar. You will have an opportunity to approve the 2003 schedule as well as gain some helpful tips on commissioning.

Here's to a great 2003 cruising the Chesapeake! ⚓

March Member Meeting

Rich Miller, *Exploring the Blue*

Please make it a date to attend the March CCYC member meeting which will be held at the Cantina D'Italia in Annapolis on Sunday, March 23rd, beginning at 3:00 PM. The focus for this month's meeting will be the planning of the club's raft-up events and activities for the coming year. Come and get reacquainted with your fellow CCYC members and share your ideas about the proposed schedule of events for the upcoming sailing season. Based on your comments to us, we have made it our goal this year to plan for a mix of education and fun in some of the most interesting sailing destinations up and down the bay. Your contributions are vital to making this a great season for CCYC!

The speaker for this month's meeting will be Garrett Pensell, formerly the service manager and currently the president of Tidewater Marina in Havre de Grace, Maryland. If you attended last year's Catalina Rendezvous in Solomons Island, you may remember Garrett's excellent presentation on sailboat maintenance. He is an extremely knowledgeable and entertaining speaker when it comes to the care, maintenance and enhancement of Catalina sailboats. He will be talking to us about getting our boats ready for the summer season, and he will share with us some ideas about the practical additions we may want to consider installing before the hull hits the water.

The meeting will begin at 3:00 PM with drinks and discussion of the event schedule. Our speaker will begin his presentation at 4:00 PM, and we will conclude with dinner. If you plan on attending, please make sure to give us a quick confirmation by contacting either Cruise Director Jennifer Davis, any CCYC officer or by email at SailCCYC@aol.com. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

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. ☞

CCYC Photo Calendar

Rich Miller, *Exploring the Blue*

If you are like me, you take a lot of pictures over the course of the sailing season. You work hard to capture that perfect sunrise or sunset, the natural beauty of some cruising destination or anchorage, or the smiles on the faces of family and friends. What happens to those pictures after sailing season ends? How would you like to have your picture become part of CCYC history and folklore? Well, it can. This year, we will be accepting submissions of your photographic masterpieces for inclusion in a 2004 CCYC Sailing Calendar. At the end of the season, we will publish the submissions on the CCYC web site, and you will have an opportunity to vote for your favorites. The twelve photographs that receive the most votes will be packaged into a calendar that you will be able to use for marking the dates of all of your favorite 2004 CCYC events. The calendars will be available for sale at the end of the year.

Here is your chance to show off your pictures and share your sailing memories with friends and family. It will also help us to create a product that we can use to promote our club and its activities to sailors all over the Chesapeake Bay. Pictures may be of any tasteful subject and can be digital photographs or prints, which we will scan and return to you. So join in the fun and submit your pictures to any CCYC officer!

(Ed – Besides the calendar pictures, please send any CCYC-related picture to me so I can include it on the web site. This applies all year. For hard copy pictures, I will scan and return all pictures.) ☞

Children and PFDs

In the last newsletter, there was an article about children and PFDs when boating in Maryland waters. Here is some additional information if you're boating in Virginia waters (south of Smith Island).



Skippers in the Virginia end of the Chesapeake Bay better beware; the Coast Guard has started enforcing the new federal life jacket law for children. The law, which applies to Virginia but not Maryland (which has its own law in effect), requires that children under 13 wear Coast Guard approved life jackets when under way on recreational boats unless they

are in enclosed cabins or below decks. Violations could cost boaters fines as high as \$ 1,100, though Coast Guard spokesperson Steven Phillips of Newport News said most fines would be in the \$50 to \$250 range.

The regulation took effect January 1 in Virginia and other states that have no child life jacket laws of their own (in Maryland, only children under 7 on boats under 21 feet in length are required to wear life jackets).

Because life jacket laws vary widely from state to state, the Coast Guard wrestled for months with the federal morass its own under-13 rule presented. Initially, the Coasties proposed deferring to individual states' age requirements, but not to other conditions, such as Maryland's boat-length provision. But that got too confusing. Coast Guard crews would be enforcing one set of requirements and state authorities another. As a result, the Coast Guard decided to recognize any state child life jacket law, regardless of how much it differs from federal rules.

But Virginia boaters should stay tuned. The new federal rule could spur the state's General Assembly to now enact a child life jacket law of its own. Last year, the legislators deferred action on this issue until this year.

The Coast Guard concedes that the number of children who have drowned in boating accidents in recent years-14 each in 1998 and 1999 and 7 in 2000-is "relatively small," but says those deaths

were avoidable. The new rule should reduce the number further. ☞

Rich Miller, Exploring the Blue

In an effort to keep you updated on upcoming learning opportunities that may be of interest to you, I am passing along this information about an upcoming seminar at Tidewater Marina in Havre de Grace, MD on Saturday, March 1, 2003.

Sailboat Electrical Systems

Saturday, March 1, 2003

Two Sessions

10 am - 1 pm & 1 pm to 4 pm

Make your reservations today!

800-960-TIDE ext. 3

\$25 course fee

Includes a \$20 Gift Certificate for Tidewater Marine Supply

For contact information and directions, please see <http://www.tidewatermarina.com>

Tidewater Marina

100 Bourbon Street

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