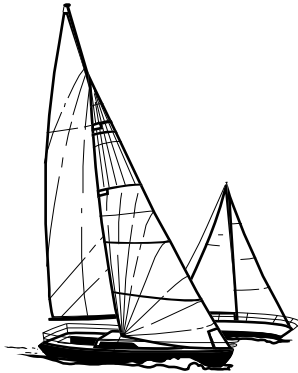


# The CAT Tales

April 1999

Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club  
International Catalina 30 Association Fleet 11



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Treasurer:	Joan Savage	301-762-6752
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## View from the Bridge

**Bill Weeks  
Commodore**

Well since my last missive, I have returned home from the sunshine of Hawaii and am sitting here watching the Virginia snow fall. I finished up my Business Income Tax and will mail it today. Doing one's income tax is a proper activity for a snowy day, not writing for a sailing newsletter.

Club activities are beginning to line up nicely for the spring. The Flag Raising Brunch arrangements are final, as you may know, we will be at the Topsider Inn in Galesville. Pete Denholm has arranged for a great speaker, William H. Shellenberger, author of "Cruising the Chesapeake". See the article below for further details.

The Ice Breaker will be changed this year. We are going to meet at Cantler's Restaurant on Whitehall Creek for our gathering. Sue and Walt Dennison will be the anchor boat, just up the creek from Cantler's. We will have plenty of water transportation to and from the raft to the festivities for those of you who come by boat.

Sharon and I will be the Raft Captains for the Memorial Day Cruise. We will be in the Wye River.

I have not scoped out the exact locations yet, as they say on the evening TV news, "standby for more".

We still need a couple of Raft Captains for this year's events. We are short for the "All Catalina Rendezvous" in Solomon's, June 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. We also need Raft Captains for the "Wahine Cruise" in July and the Halloween Cruise in October.

I have loaded up Pete Denholm this year because my business travel seems to preclude me from attending all the winter meetings. I want to publicly thank Pete for his efforts. So Thanks Pete, I could not have done this without you. I will try to be as much help to you next year as you are to me this year.

We have had some success with new members, thanks to Mike Davis and his efforts to get notices in local publications. We have had three new members from an article in the Spin Sheet. Thanks Mike. I can't say enough about Mike and his efforts with the newsletter. I know it is a tough job, probably the toughest in the club. I don't help much, being late with my input. We all owe Mike a round of thanks for his efforts.

Well, that's about it for this month. The snow is still coming down and will continue all day. I got my boat-fix yesterday, even though it was cold and windy. I need to go to the storage yard and open up

Fortnight, and dream of the water; I wish I were sailing again.

See everyone at the flag raiser. ☞

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## Flag Raising Brunch April 17<sup>th</sup>

Bill and Sharon Weeks  
*Fortnight III*



The annual Spring Flag Raising Brunch will be held at the Topsider Inn in Galesville, MD this year. The date is April 17<sup>th</sup> and will begin at 8:30 AM with an eye-opener and breakfast will be served at 9:00. The Topsider has prepared a special menu for us. The menu has been simplified from the regular menu and the prices are better. The food choices range from traditional sausage and eggs through Eggs Benedict. I am sure that anyone with special requests can be accommodated. The cost will be about \$7.50 per person, depending on what is ordered. We should be finished by 11:00, leaving plenty of time for spring outfitting.

We have a wonderful speaker lined up for the event, William H. Shellenberger, author of "*Cruising the Chesapeake*". This is a super book for those of us who enjoy seeing new anchorages on the bay. I have spent many a cold winter's evening reading and dreaming with "*A Gunkholer's Guide*". I am bringing my copy for an autograph.

The Topsider Inn is a quaint little restaurant in Galesville with good food. The view is of the West River and Pirates Cove Marina. We will not have window seating, as we will be in the meeting room, behind the bar.

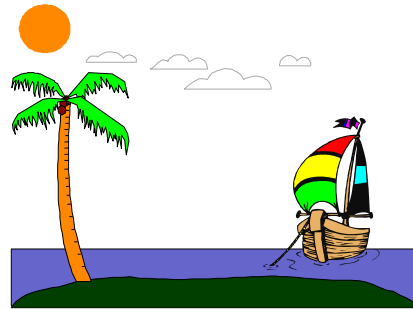
Directions are:

From Annapolis, MD, take MD Route 2 south about 10 miles to Route 255. Turn left onto Route 255 and continue all the way to Galesville. The Topsider is on the left at the end of the road.

From The Washington Beltway, Take MD exit 11, Route 4 south about 10 miles. Turn left at Waysons

Corners onto Route 408. About 4 miles later, 408 will intersect with Route 2. Take Route 2 North about 1.5 miles to Route 255. Take Route 255 into Galesville and the Topsider will be on your left.

RSVP: I need a tentative head count. Please give me a call (703) 848-1848. ☞



**Tales  
Of  
The  
South**

Charles and Freda Gandy  
*LUV IT*

March 8<sup>th</sup>

An ENE wind blows at 20-25 knots. As it passes through the rigging and around the sails, it hums tunes that rise and fall, ebb and flow, much as my congenitally deaf grandfather made while reading his newspaper. His humming was certainly not like you would hear from a hearing person, but was filled with humor and happiness, not a prearranged tune. There are clunk-clunks as the anchor line strains at its harness. *LUV IT* gently sways. Sleeping will be good tonight.

We lie at anchor for the first time since early December. We had to prove to ourselves and the other cruisers that *LUV IT* indeed hadn't become nailed to the dock since the last of our guests departed. So we thought of all the important things to do before leaving: watching Charles Osgood on CBS's Sunday Morning one more time while we still had cable, filled water and fuel tanks to the top, had dinner out with Cori and Ed one more time, dawdled late at the "sundowners" gathering at the marina's picnic tables, gave and received many hugs, then departed this morning (Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March). There are small craft warnings. According to the weather, we should have left yesterday. But we would move south down the Straits of Florida with the wind and waves coming from behind us, so the ride wouldn't be bad, then cross the Keys at a

bascule bridge at Snake Creek, and turn back north to traverse through Florida Bay and Everglades National Park. Though the wind would be in front of us, the waves wouldn't be so high, and we would find anchorage in the lee of the Keys. The wind has remained 20-25 knots, but the day has been enjoyable. We are anchored almost due west of the marina we left this morning and only a couple of miles from it, after having traveled 30 nautical miles to a location near an "island" of mangroves. It was filled with birds this afternoon.

Since we are between the Keys and southern mainland Florida, the water is quite shallow. The ICW passes from Miami to Key West through this body of water, but the controlling depth is much less than the remainder between here and Norfolk, VA. We traveled for a while in 8-10 feet of water, then passed through cuts through the shallow spots, clearly marked by ICW daymarks or flashers. By the time we reached anchor, I had a headache from hearing the depth alarm go off. We'll enjoy the new depth sounder with histogram when we get it adjusted correctly, and when we have moved out of the Florida Bay.

Tomorrow morning's breakfast will be fantastic, due to the generosity of the Gibsons. We'll have grapefruit and freshly-squeezed juice. When I was in Tampa, John picked from their trees 6 grocery bags of citrus fruit. Though we shared some with friends at the dock, we kept the lion's share for ourselves, and since we putting down anchor, I have squeezed orange and tangerine juice. Marmalade from their kumquats will be served on toast. We are definitely enjoying Florida's riches.

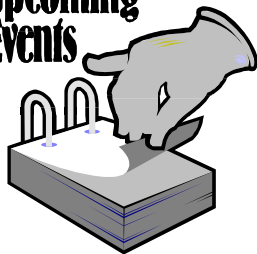
Mid-day tomorrow, the wind will clock around to ESE, and where we are now anchored will no longer be protected. So we'll move north about 9 miles to another place where we hope to see many birds (No alligators, please.) Over the next few days we'll move through Biscayne Bay to Miami. Have you noticed? We've begun the move toward home.

Slowly. ☞

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## Upcoming Events



April 17

Flag Raising Brunch  
Topsider Inn, Galesville, MD  
Raft Captain – Bill & Sharon Weeks, *Fortnight III*

May 8-9

Ice Breaker (By land or by sea)  
Cantler's Restaurant, Mill Creek  
Raft Captain – Sue & Walt Dennison, *Foxfire*

May 29-31

Memorial Day Cruise  
Wye River  
Raft Captain - Bill & Sharon Weeks, *Fortnight III*

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