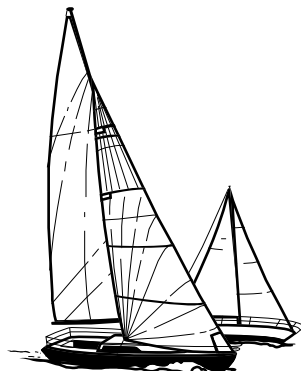


The CAT Tales

Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club

September 1999



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|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Commodore: | Bill Weeks | 703-561-9069 |
| Vice Commodore: | Pete Denholm | 703-313-0864 |
| Treasurer: | Joan Savage | 301-762-6752 |
| Historian: | Sue Dennison | 301-262-4985 |

Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/SailCCYC/>



View from the Bridge

Bill Weeks
Commodore

Well friends and sailors and according to me, we are entering the best sailing season. I love the fall; I am a fall kind of guy. The cooler days, steadier winds and blue skies make me glad that I am a Chesapeake Bay sailor. I grew up on the beaches of San Diego and we only had two seasons - summer and a cooler summer. Here in Virginia, we have a true four-season year. We have just enough summer to let one know there is something called summer and a winter that is just long enough to experience something called winter. The rest of the year consists of long springs and falls. I dearly love the changing of the leaves in the fall. California is ugly brown, except for a couple of weeks in the spring, after the rains, although this year it's black with all the fires they have had. I don't know why anyone would go to New England for the leaves, when this area is so pretty.

As we enter the final fall of the 20th century, big changes are also in store for the Weeks household. Sharon and I have sold our comfortable townhouse in Tyson's Corner and are living in a not-so-comfortable apartment out near Dulles. The construction of our retirement home on the northern neck will begin in a week or so. We should be moved in by next spring, good Lord willin' and the

creek (a.k.a. Coan River) don't rise. I will be moving *Fortnight* down to her new home sometime after September, when I can find a weekend with good weather and north winds. I plan to use her as a cabin on the bay, as I will be spending a lot of time in the northern neck, overseeing the construction of the house. I am planning on doing all the electrical wiring of the house, so that will take some time. All in all, this fall and winter will be a busy time for Sharon and me. We have appliances, lighting fixtures, bathroom fixtures, carpet, paint colors, and a few million other things to select and purchase.

Throughout September and October, I will be traveling quite a bit on business and fortunately Sharon will be able to join me on a couple of trips. So some of the time will be filled with pleasure. Whoever did the club cruising schedule and my business trips managed to use a lot of the same dates. I plan on making the Halloween cruise if *Fortnight* is still in the area. I will be at the November meeting and for sure the Christmas Party.

That time of the year has arrived when we have to think about officers for next year. I will be in the Washington area until March and can help with the planning for next year. I will be putting Pete Denholm up for Commodore, but we need to fill the other offices. I have talked Joan into staying on as treasurer and Mike Davis will again do the newsletter. So that only leaves the Vice Commodore. I need some help here with

recommendations on who will be willing to take on this chore.

So my activities with the CCYC will be winding down but I intend to remain a member so that I can keep in touch with all my wonderful friends and sailors. Also I will be retired, so maybe there will have more time for sailing and the gazillion other things I want to do.

Don't forget we have a couple of events coming up. Oktoberfest, which Joan and Wayne Savage will be the Raft Captains, will be October 2nd and 3rd in the Rhode Rive. I wish I could make it, as I like the Rhode. I intend to make the Halloween Cruise in Harness Creek on October 30th and 31st, with Ray Harris as Raft Captain. Let's have a big turnout for the final two events of the season. Boy has this year flown by; I'm beginning to think about winter lay-up.

Does anyone have any good ideas about what to wash cushions with in preparation for winter?

See ya on the water. 🍷



**October 2-3
Rhode River**

Wayne and Joan Savage
Jubilee

Can it be? Fall is here again, the sailing season is coming to an end, and we haven't seen much of the Bay this year! I am reminded of this as we prepare for the annual CCYC Oktoberfest raft-up in the Rhode River (off the West River) set for October 2-3. This year we will once again be the raft captains for these festivities.

We will bring the bier garten, Um-Pa-Pa music for atmosphere while we dine on bratwurst and drink Oktoberfest bier, our other favorite thirst quencher. The club will provide the Bratwurst and bier, while the partygoers bring German hors d'oeuvres and cuisine to taste and share.

To get to the raft site off Big Island, enter the West River, keeping Red 2 to your starboard. The channel is narrow at that point with shoals on both sides, but with plenty of water. Proceed up the West River about a mile to where the Rhode River enters the West River on your starboard. Round a second Red 2 and head directly up the Rhode (about 348° M) to where it opens into a semicircular bay. Round Green 7 to port and proceed west to Big Island, which will not be hard to identify. *Jubilee* will be there about 3:00 PM, monitoring Channel 72 every half hour. Joan, Wayne and Winston will provide rafting assistance.

Please give Joan a call (301-762-6752) if you plan to join us this year so that we can ensure there is enough bier and wurst. It just won't do not to have enough for everyone.

This event is always a great time. We're looking forward to seeing everyone again. Come on by, have a good time! 🍷



**Halloween
Cruise
October 30-31**

Ray Harris
Aurora



What better cruising weather than October on the Chesapeake? What better fun than the Oktoberfest?? What is more satisfying than building a Jack-O-Lantern on your boat???

You are cordially invited to the first annual CCYC Halloween/Octoberfest cruise to Harness Creek on Saturday, October 30. Harness Creek is one of the premier anchorages on the Bay, and it should be delightfully empty this late in the year. Weather should be pleasantly cool and worthy of our last raft-up for the year. Let's make it the best!

Price of entry to the cruise is one pumpkin and one candle. After dinner and copious libations, you will be asked to carve the pumpkin with an appropriate nautical motif. I have a bottle of champagne for the

crew that is voted the most original carvers. Note: Please do not carve the pumpkin in advance - it's post-libation originality we are looking for! I hope to get a good photo of the candle-lit pumpkins and carvers for the fleet archives, and I will send a digital copy of it to all attendees.

I will supply real German beer, sauerkraut, and the best of the wurst for all who call me (703-893-1833 evenings, 703-293-9040 days) or send an e-mail (ray@metratek.net) on or before Thursday, October 28. Just bring appetizers and dessert. Others are still welcome, but please bring your own.

For those of you who hesitate to abandon your annual pumpkin patch vigil on Halloween, I am very pleased to announce, that after protracted negotiations, representatives of the Great Pumpkin have finally agreed to add Harness Creek to the list of pumpkin patches eligible for this year's worthiness assessment! See ya'll there!

Cruise Directions for Fair Weather:

Enter the South River and proceed to the second creek on the North shore. Turn North into Harness Creek just before FL R 2.5s 3M "10". Look for ***Aurora*** and prepare to party. We will monitor Channel 16 after 3 PM.

For you die-hard GPS-ers, set your "Go-To" to 38° 56.3'N, 76° 30.7'W and watch out for major landmasses between your slip and your target!

Cruise Directions for Foul Weather:

If the Washington Post shows a drawing of rain or thunderstorms on their weather page on Saturday morning, the cruise will move to my house near Tysons Corner, VA. From the Beltway at Tysons' Corner, take Route 7 towards Falls Church. Proceed 1 mile and turn right on Dominion Drive. Proceed to the circle at the top of the hill. 2279 Kings Garden Way is the fourth house off the left exit from the circle. (Set your GPS for 38° 54.25'N, 77° 12.46'W and watch out for the shoals on Route 7!) Park on the circle or on the street; all of the front-end-in parking spaces are reserved. Party starts at 7 PM. Don't make me drink all the beer by myself! ☞

Aqua-Lift Muffler Woes and Dangers

Ray Harris

Aurora

If you have a Catalina inboard, you probably have an aqua-lift muffler and it's probably going bad! And it could kill you!

This contraption is a fiberglass box about 1 foot on each side. On ***Aurora***, a C-320, the Perkins M-30 combines its used cooling water and exhaust gas and feeds them to the top of the aqua-lift muffler. The box outlet is fed from an interior tube that extends almost to the bottom of the box. The exhaust increases pressure in the box and blows the spent cooling water and exhaust fumes up the tube and out the hose to the outlet, which is above the water line on the port side, aft.

I first noticed a problem when the fleet was rafted up on Hunting Creek last summer. The bilge pump was intermittently spewing a 2-inch stream of water - I didn't think that the ice was melting THAT fast.

The aqua-lift muffler is made up from a 5-sided fiberglass box with the 6th side covered by a fiberglass top. The "top" is actually the bottom of the box as installed on the boat. The top is bonded to the rest of the box with three layers of fiberglass cloth and some goop inside that I couldn't identify. My box was leaking through these layers of fiberglass.

I cleaned out the layers with a Dremel tool and epoxied the joint, but it failed in 5 minutes. Seems high heat and pressures are a no-no for epoxy. I then sawed the top off the box and found that my box had been leaking through the layers of fiberglass on all four sides. (I always wondered why I slept so good on the boat - the aft cabin HAD to have high concentrations of lethal carbon monoxide gas!)


Catalina was no help - they sent me drawings for how they build the box on every boat BUT the C-320. I have also corresponded with at least ten Catalina owners on the WWWeb who had the same problem - including several who were on the way home from the dealer's with a brand-new boat! This

could be a big deal and subject to Coast Guard safety recalls.

I patched my box with Marine-Tex and it has held for about 6 hours so far. A new box is reported to cost about \$125 from Catalina (vs \$16 for Marine-Tex that may fail at any moment). The problem with the new box is that they may have the inlets and outlets in different places and the exhaust hoses have imbedded metal wires that are a bear to work with, so it is a big deal to re-pipe the box.

So, if you have symptoms of a lot of water in the bilge, check around the aqua-lift muffler. It will leak only when the engine is running.

By the way, any C-320 owners who are having troubles with water in the bilge, give me a call or an e-mail and I'll fill you in on the factory position on this. (703-893-1633 or ray@metratek.net). ☞

 **The Nation's Oldest and Largest Sailboat Show Annapolis City Dock**

The Annapolis Sailboat Show is just around the corner. Make your plans now for attending.

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|----------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 10/7 (VIP Day) | 1000-1800 | \$25/person |
| 10/8-10/10 | 1000-1900 | \$12/adult, \$6/child |
| 10/11 | 1000-1800 | \$12/adult, \$6/child |

If you order your tickets early, they are \$10.50/adult and \$5/child (12 and under). You can order tickets by (1) sending a check (no credit card orders) made out to BOAT SHOWS to Boat Shows, PO Box 3183, Annapolis, MD 21403, (2) calling 410-267-6711 or (3) via the Boat Show web site at <http://www.usboat.com/>. ☞

Sailor in distress

CCYC received the following email from a fellow Catalina owner. Is there anyone in the Club with information that can help this lady and her family get back on the Bay? You can contact Ms Fohs directly or send me the information and I will forward it.

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Jennifer Fohs, jlwfohs@erols.com, 410-439-9640

I am looking for some help with a Catalina 30 (I believe it is a 1976). This boat was my father's boat and he has passed away. We all love the boat and still enjoy using it, however, recently we have run across numerous problems with the boat and have had no luck finding someone capable of fixing it.

My father kept the boat in excellent condition (he loved the boat), unfortunately, after he died, we hired someone to do the routine maintenance on the boat and in retrospect; I think the guy just completely ripped us off on a regular basis. In fact, some of the work he said he did, doesn't seem to have been done.

The problems are: only some of the lights work (we have had them fixed and now the problem seems to be back), we also have problems with the engine (Atomic 4), it always overheats. We want to continue to use the boat but at this point feel like we really need someone, reliable, to help us get it in GOOD working order.

The boat is kept in Rock Creek just off the Patapsco (right across from the Maryland Yacht club and White Rocks).

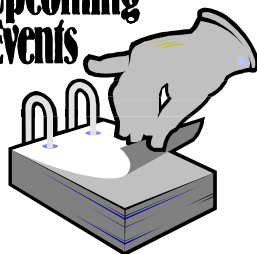
My question to you is: could you recommend anyone or anyplace in the Baltimore/Annapolis area who is familiar with Catalinas and may be able to help us revive the boat that has meant so much to our father and us?

Our problem is, we can find people with power boat experience but don't seem comfortable working on sailboats or we find someone and they say they will do the work and then they never show up. It is so frustrating because we really want to use the boat and we can't. We aren't asking for free work but we have had no luck finding anyone.

Please let me know if you can offer any advise or help. Thanks for your help and any assistance would be GREATLY appreciated! ☞



Upcoming Events



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| Oct 2-3 | Oktoberfest Rhode River Raft Captain – Wayne and Joan Savage, <i>Jubilee</i> |
| Oct 30-31 | Halloween Cruise Harness Creek Raft Captain – Ray Harris, <i>Aurora</i> |
| Nov 19 | Winter meeting Fleet Reserve Club, Annapolis |
| Dec 4 | Holiday Party Host - Mike and Bev Davis |

Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club
 Michael E. Davis, Editor
 7030 Balmoral Forest Road
 Clifton, VA 20124-1539
 Email: SailCCYC@aol.com