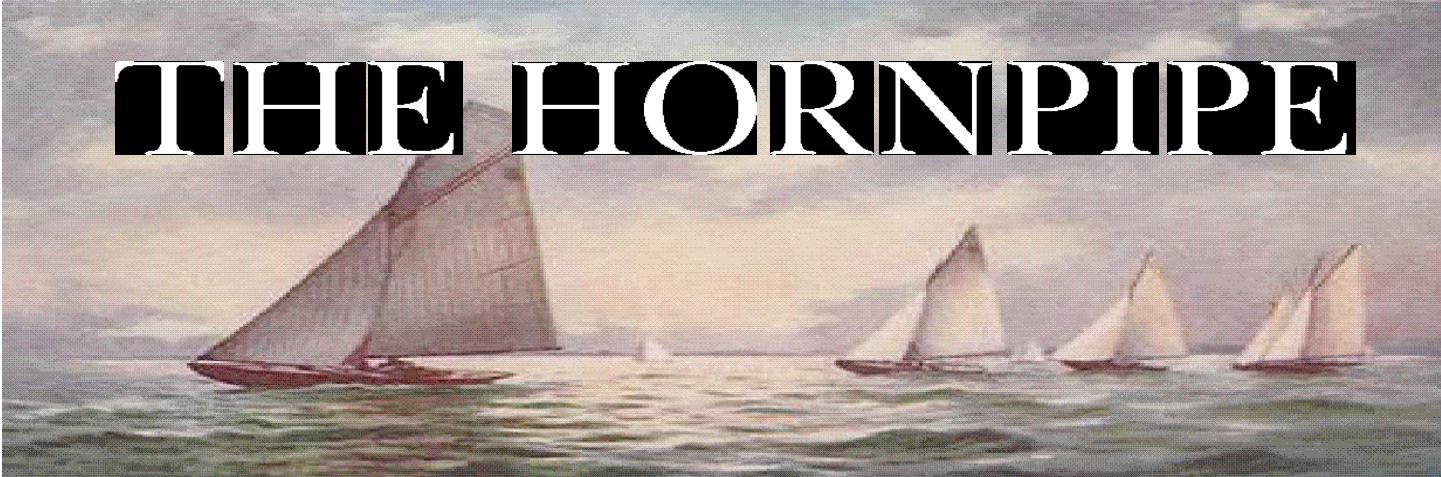


# THE HORNPIPE



**VOLUME 29, NO. 3**

**MARCH 2005**

## CCSC 2005 Board Members

Nan Shellabarger, Commodore	<a href="mailto:nshellab@earthlink.net">nshellab@earthlink.net</a>	301-589-7469
Dick Callis, Vice Commodore	<a href="mailto:olencz@comcast.net">olencz@comcast.net</a>	410-730-7590
Cynthia MacDonald, Secretary	<a href="mailto:DunMcDnld@aol.com">DunMcDnld@aol.com</a>	410 799-9517
Ed Sabin, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:sabin1@comcast.net">sabin1@comcast.net</a>	410-255-7362
Jenny Poniske, Membership	<a href="mailto:jennyp7@hotmail.com">jennyp7@hotmail.com</a>	412-963-6200
Usha & Andy Monjan, Social Chair	<a href="mailto:am39m@nih.gov">am39m@nih.gov</a>	410-531-3832
Judy & Steve Foland, Hornpipe Editor	<a href="mailto:Foland@aol.com">Foland@aol.com</a>	301-261-6613

## Commodore's Comments

March is half gone, and winter keeps dragging on in the most annoying way. A few teasing warm days, mostly on weekdays, are followed by snow. It feels like it has been several years since we've had such cold weather so late in the season. According to my records, my yard should be awash in the yellow of forsythia and daffodils by now — not alternating grays and browns occasionally topped by white snow. At the marina, the ice is gone, but there isn't much activity. The only noise I heard this weekend was when my rowdy dog had to warn the migrating ducks not to get too close to her part of the pier. At least the ducks, heading north, are an assurance that spring will actually arrive.

Nevertheless, it's time to get ready to get out on the water. I'm studying up on boat paint to be prepared to take advantage of the seasonal sales, which are starting now in spite of the snow. Practical Sailor rated **54** different bottom paints this year — I've got a lot of studying to do! One of the advantages of our club is having an opportunity to share advice and experience with fellow club members. I'll be looking for some tips at our next

social event — our **Restaurant Cruise** scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Saturday night, March 19, in a private room at Bertha's Restaurant & Bar, 734 S. Broadway, Fells Point, Baltimore, Maryland 21231, phone 410-327-5795. I haven't yet decided if I can go sock-less under my snow boots by then, or if I'll have to stay bundled up from head to toe until winter has truly fled.

Dick Callis has pulled together a great draft of the club cruise schedule, and I'll be aiming to have my spring chores all complete in time to make the first cruise in mid-May. We'll be looking for volunteers to captain each cruise. Just to review for everyone, the cruise captain responsibilities are not terribly onerous. As a cruise captain, you will be expected to declare a theme for the cruise, determine the exact location for the raft-up, solicit interest from among the club members, make a final go/no-go weather call on the day of the cruise, and be at the destination in time to welcome in the club members. All cruise participants should plan to bring appetizers to share during a cocktail hour that is likely to distinguish itself with outstanding conversation, and that has a good chance of stretching to cover the dinner hour as well. Cruises

are the heart of our club, and I look forward to seeing you on them.

**Nan Shellabarger**

### **Greetings from *In Like Flynn***

During the summer of 2004 we moved our boat from North Carolina back to the Magothy River and lived aboard from May until the end of July. It was while we were living on the boat fulltime that we decided we really didn't want to continue to live in North Carolina, but we also knew we didn't want to live aboard fulltime either. Our compromise was to sell the house in Edenton, buy an RV, and divide our time between boating, RVing, and traveling.

We sold the house and decided to wait until after the 2005 boating season to get the RV. So we're traveling around visiting friends and family and doing a fair amount of tent camping until we come back to live aboard in the spring.

In January, we went to Central America, Guatemala, and Belize for almost a month. We've been to Belize a number of times, but Guatemala was new and turned out to be a really nice country to visit.

We started out flying into Guatemala City, a typically large and crowded city, and with traffic that would scare even a beltway driver. We caught a shuttle down to the colonial city of Antigua and spent five days exploring the city (about 50,000 in size) and a little of the surrounding area. Antigua has all cobblestone streets, a wide assortment of old churches and convents, several museums, and great restaurants and coffee shops. After a day of walking the cobblestones, your feet can be quite sore, but the city is worth exploring. We also went on a tour of a nearby coffee plantation and an organic macadamia nut farm. The coffee plantation is very interesting and the macadamia farm is worth a trip. I got a macadamia oil facial while we were there and was supposed to look 15 years younger (15 years was a little aggressive).

From Antigua, we arranged transportation to the lake region, about three hours southwest, and spent several days on Lake Atitlan, a bottomless lake surrounded by three volcanoes. Sunsets over the lake were amazing, and we spent each evening

at a restaurant called "Sunsets" watching the sun set and having a snack and glass of wine. We also visited, on foot, a local nature preserve and had a great time exploring the jungle and being entertained by the spider monkeys.

We moved to the other side of the lake via local "launcha" (about a 20-foot open boat) that we hired for the trip. We were in a lovely stone cottage in Santiago Atitlan, complete with fireplace that we used each night and morning. Yes, we were in the mountains, and it was cool, but not cold. We did some exploring on the south side of the lake as well, mostly on foot. One of our most interesting discoveries was the brightly painted crypts in the graveyard.

It was also fascinating to see the local Maya fishermen in their log canoes that appeared to be very unstable and far from pretty. The fishermen hold their canoe in place with a paddle in one hand and fish, holding just a line and hook, in the other hand. While the men fish, the women do laundry on the shoreline and wash their hair, and an occasional kid. Much different than anything you see around the Chesapeake!

We left Santiago Atitlan on a very windy day and had a rather amazing ride back across the lake. There were times when we wondered *if* we would get back across the lake. We did, though, and caught another van back to Guatemala City, a long ride the way they drive down there. Once back to the city, we spent the night and caught an early flight over to Belize and familiar territory.

Guatemala is really worth seeing, and we will definitely go back. Probably the most incredible thing about the trip was the shopping. You can truly "shop till you drop." That and the coffee... WOW!

***The Flynns***

### **Robert de Gast Photography Exhibit at Maritime Museum**

In St. Michaels, Maryland, on Friday, April 1, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) will open a temporary exhibition of photographs by Robert de Gast. The exhibit is a selection of black-and-white images from his solo sailing trip circumnavigating the Delmarva Peninsula in May

1974. The exhibit captures, in de Gast's images and words, his sense of this place as viewed from the water.

De Gast made his journey in a twenty-two foot sailing sloop called *Slick Ca'm*, completing the trip in twenty-four days. In addition to taking pictures, he kept a narrative log of the voyage, which, with his photographs, was published in 1975 by Johns Hopkins University Press as the book *Western Wind, Eastern Shore*.

In his introduction to the book, de Gast spelled out his plan for the trip, saying, "It was my intention to sail as close to the land as my shallow-draft boat could get, whenever possible weaving inside the cuts and channels, to poke up as many rivers and creeks as I had time for, and to photograph my environment as seen from the water."

The CBMM exhibit highlights memorable images from the journey, including scenes from the Pocomoke River, Ocean City inlet, the Bay Bridge, Cape Charles, and the Delaware Bay. De Gast's photographs capture the beauty and diversity of the bay as well as the solitude and tranquility of its rivers, creeks, and coves.

In 2000, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum acquired de Gast's extensive body of work of more than 10,000 Chesapeake photographs, which include subjects from oystering and lighthouses, to boats and yacht yards, to his cruises on the bay. Among the cruising photographs in the collection are those images featured in *Western Wind, Eastern Shore*.

Robert de Gast was born in the Netherlands and is widely known as a freelance photographer and writer with a keen interest in maritime culture and landscapes. His other books on the bay include *The Oystermen of the Chesapeake*, *The Lighthouses of the Chesapeake*, and *Unreal Estate*. He has worked for prestigious publications, corporations, and institutions, like Sail, the Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic, Yachting, the New York Times, Oceans, Harper's, Travel & Leisure, Audubon, Xerox, the U.S. Naval Academy, Finair, IBM, Perdue Farms, and Johns Hopkins University. De Gast now lives in San Miguel de Allende, a picturesque colonial town in central Mexico that has inspired some of his latest publications.

The Robert de Gast photography exhibit at the CBMM will be open during regular spring hours, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The exhibit is included with admission to the Museum, which is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. CBMM members are admitted free. For more information, contact the Museum at 410-745-2916 or visit their website at [www.cbmm.org](http://www.cbmm.org).

**Jenny Poniske**

## **Wildlife Report from Upper Bodkin Creek**

In February, we saw (and Robbie identified) hooded mergansers fishing on the creek. It is a diving duck smaller than a mallard with a fairly sharp and thin bill used for catching small fish, frogs, crustaceans, and aquatic insects. Currently there are about eight or ten lesser scaups, another type of diving duck, fishing on the creek. They are a little larger than the merganser and have a broader shovel-like bill used for searching for plant seeds, snails, insects, and crustaceans, according to Robbie's bird book.

We were thrilled in February to get several views of a bald eagle apparently making the upper creek part of its range. Our initial views were from a distance in flight, but last week the eagle settled in a tree across the creek for a couple of minutes, and we got a good view with binoculars.

About two weeks ago, a pileated woodpecker settled on a tree near our home and started digging for tidbits. These are large woodpeckers (15 inches long) with a distinctive Woody Woodpecker-type red crest. They are shy and usually stay deep in the woods so it was a special treat to see one.

**Ed Sabin**

**THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS AND PAST ISSUES OF THE HORNPIPE. WE HAVE FOUND THESE STORIES MOST ENTERTAINING. WITHOUT YOUR STORIES AND INFORMATIVE ARTICLES, HOWEVER, WE WILL HAVE VERY LITTLE TO REPORT IN OUR UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS; SO PLEASE KEEP SENDING IN YOUR ARTICLES.**

**Judy Foland**