

THE HORNPIPE

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Commodore's Comments

Mark your calendar for the **Spring Picnic at Hammock Island, on Saturday, May 17, 12-5 p.m.** The Durrs have graciously agreed to forward our e-mail invitation, in which we ask fellow Hammock Island slip holders to visit with us and to share in the food, drink, and camaraderie at the picnic. We plan to make a serious effort to interest a few of them in joining our membership rolls, so please put on your usual friendly faces and bring a bit extra when you put together a dish to share. The MacDonalds will bring the hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Those of us who keep our boats at Hammock Island are encouraged to fly the burgee and open our boats for tours and boat talk as part of the event.

As we usually do, we will be calling on our vice commodore, Matt Coyle, to sign up cruise captains for this year's outstanding cruise schedule. Plan ahead to take part in the usually fine weather in late May and early June, as our season starts in earnest with the May 24-26 Memorial Day Cruise, and the mid-week (optionally extending into the week-end) cruise on June 5-8.

By the way, your \$600/\$1200 rebate checks should be in the mail shortly, from your federal government. Putting aside for the moment whether that is good economic policy, what do you plan to do with it? Spend it, on the boat, of course! But for what? A new outboard for the dinghy? A new dinghy? A slightly used cruising spinnaker from Bacon's? A flat panel TV? It's not often that we get to treat ourselves (and our boats) and feel patriotic at the same time.

See you on the 17th!

George Alberts

Cruise Report—Commodore's Cruise, May 3-4

The weather forecast was mildly worrisome (scattered or isolated thunderstorms overnight), but I bravely challenged the northerly breezes and bright sun, fighting my way a mile or so up Bodkin Creek early on the afternoon of May 3. By about 2:15 p.m., I had set *Breezing Up's* anchor within shouting distance of the lovely waterfront home of Robbie and Ed Sabin. I was pleasantly surprised to find about eight feet of water and lots of swinging

room. Shortly after 3:00 p.m. *Mutima* pulled up alongside, after Nan Shellabarger and Jenny Poniske had enjoyed a brisk two-hour(!) reach back and forth across the bay. Barbara and Matt Coyle arrived a bit later, aboard *Nancy Ann*.



First raftup of the season

Ed Sabin ferried his first passenger of the day, Adrian Flynn, out to the raftup for quick hellos before we all headed ashore to enjoy hors d'oeuvres on their lovely patio. Jack and Joanne (friends of the Sabins) arrived in short order by boat, to join us, and Admiral Jutta eventually found her way by land to the Sabin's. An incredible table of goodies miraculously appeared, and we enjoyed fine food and drink, and excellent company, in the beautiful surroundings. At one point Adrian fetched Tom from his shift at West Marine in Annapolis and rejoined the group. Tom filled us in on the resolution of last year's battery/refrigeration headache (ask him some time — it's a simple answer that we all overlooked).

As darkness approached, the Coyles headed back home (Matt had a business trip the next day), and Ed ferried Nan and Jenny back to the raftup while Jutta and I dinghied back. Jutta and I had dinner on board (although we didn't need it), and both boats enjoyed a surprisingly restful night at anchor (with just a short rain shower at one point). Sunday morning Ed rowed out to invite us ashore for waffles and coffee.



Ed, is that a robe we see you in?

Nan and Jenny had to get going, but Jutta and I went ashore and were treated to Eduardo's culinary delights, in the company of Cliff Jackson, who had intended to come by boat the day before but had had some mechanical problems. Jutta then headed home, and I dinghied back to *Breezing Up* and very slowly got underway on a lovely but breezy Sunday morning. I was back in my slip by 11:00 a.m., and took my sweet time putting the boat away for a couple of weeks. I drove home with pictures in my mind of the truly delightful setting the Sabins enjoy in the upper reaches of Bodkin Creek. I think the Commodore's Cruise has officially become an outstanding CCSC tradition.

George Alberts

Bodkin Point Lighthouse

Jack Streb often fishes near the rock pile less than a quarter mile off Bodkin Point, just behind **G5**. The rock pile is actually the remains of Bodkin Point Lighthouse and Island, which over the years have gradually eroded to below the surface of the water, but not so much that a boat can safely travel over it. Jack told participants at the Commodore's Cruise on May 3 that he has seen more than one boat pile up on those rocks. The last time that happened, Jack stood up in his boat and swung both arms across his head at the boat which was fast approaching danger. Jack said people on the boat waved back but continued on to crunch their boat. New boaters are tempted to cut the corner of Bodkin Point, possibly because the green markers appear to be rather far offshore.

Bodkin Point Lighthouse was the first of many lighthouses built along the Maryland shores of the Chesapeake Bay. It was built in 1822 to guide ships into Baltimore Harbor. It was a 35-foot tall, masonry structure (check Wikipedia for a photo) which stood on a 19-acre island. The lighthouse was deactivated in 1855, when it was replaced by the Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse. According to an article in the Summer 2008 issue of Waterfront Living, a severe storm in 1914 brought down the crumbling structure of the lighthouse. Locals carted blocks of stone away to build bulkheads on the mainland. At that point, erosion had carved Bodkin Island down to just seven acres.

Ed Sabin

Thanks to Bank of America, Thunder Hill Branch

I met with Paula Reeves-Koonce at the Thunder Hill Branch of Bank of America on April 16. I asked her to waive the \$13-a-month maintenance fee for the club's checking account. She graciously agreed to do so, as the bank has done each year for the past several years. Because we are a low budget operation, getting free checking is helpful.

We have 16 paid memberships for 2008. As Commodore Alberts wrote last month, if you haven't re-upped, now is the time. Send your dues

to me at 1639 Lakewood Road, Pasadena, MD 21122.

Thanks.

Ed Sabin

Captain a 2008 Cruise

The 2008 cruise schedule is attached, and we're looking for captains [**WEBNOTE: See schedule on the website instead**]. Note: Tom and Adrian Flynn will be leading a mid-week cruise after Labor Day that does not yet appear on this schedule. Additional details will be forthcoming. Please contact me at matthew247@aol.com or at the Spring Picnic this Saturday, May 17, to volunteer for one of this season's cruises.

Matt Coyle