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THE HORNPIPE

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Commodore's Comments

The dog days of August are again upon us. I'm sure that many of us have preferred having our happy hours in the comfort of our air-conditioned homes. However, during the cooler part of early August, the Zerhusens led an eight-day cruise up to the upper bay and went through the narrow channel to Havre de Grace. Read about their adventures in this issue of the Hornpipe.

Our next club event is imminent: the CCSC Summer Picnic at Hammock Island; details below. We also have scheduled two other key cruises: the Best Wine Cruise, on the weekend of August 21, and the Labor Day Cruise, starting September 5. Let the cruise captains, George Alberts and Tom Flynn, respectively, know if you plan to attend either in whole or in part.

Also, it is not too early to start thinking about becoming an officer of the club and joining our board. We will be having our annual elections during the Halloween potluck supper at the McDonald's home on Saturday, October 31. So come dressed as a candidate for one of our board positions. Please let me know of any interests before I have to start hunting down a slate of officers.

Andy Monjan

ATTENTION

DON'T MISS THE PICNIC THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, AT NOON ON HAMMOCK ISLAND. BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE.

**Best Wine Cruise
August 21-23, 2009**

Jutta and I are the cruise captains for the Best Wine Cruise, August 21-23. The schedule calls for spending Friday night on the Corsica River and Saturday night on Langford Creek. We plan to stick to that schedule unless there is a very good (weather) reason to change.

The best wine competition will be on Saturday. The usual rules apply: i.e., each wine submitted must cost less than \$10. In keeping with recent rulings, we will allow wines that cost less than \$10 before tax, to discourage driving out of state for the wine. Depending on the number of wines submitted, one or more prizes will be awarded.

Breezing Up will be anchored on the Corsica River by 4:00 p.m. Friday and on Langford Creek by 2:00 p.m. Saturday. We will monitor channel 16, and we will have our cell phone turned on (410-303-8528).

George Alberts

September Week-long Cruise September 5 – 13, 2009

The September week-long cruise has new cruise captains: Adrian and Tom Flynn. The tentative schedule is below.

A few things to note:

Both weekends are in nearby areas. We hope the working members of our club can join us for one or both weekends.

There will be a full moon on Friday night, September 4. We are not available that night, but if anyone would like to captain that night, let us know and we'll add it to the final schedule.

We will be hosting breakfast on our boat on Sunday morning, September 6, in Broad Creek. BYOC (coffee).

During the week-long cruise, there will be many opportunities for groceries, meals on land, ice, fuel, etc.

If you plan to attend any or all of the cruises, or if you have any questions, you can contact us at: 443-812-8010 (Adrian), 443-812-6483 (Tom), or tomandadrian@tomandadrian.com

SEPTEMBER SOUTHERN CRUISE

Sat., 9/5 — Broad Creek on the Magothy

Sun., 9/6 — Rhode River

Mon., 9/7 — Little Choptank River

Tues., 9/8 — Solomons

Wed., 9/9 — St. Mary's River, Potomac

Thurs. 9/10 — Smith Creek, Potomac

Fri., 9/11 — Solomons

Sat., 9/12 — Galesville, West River

Land/Sea cruise, dinner on land

Sun., 9/13 — Home

Adrian Flynn

Best Beer Cruise to Annapolis and Little Round Bay — July 17 - 19, 2009

I guess we should have known this cruise was not meant to be when we only had one response. In the hope that more club members would show up, we planned to have two prizes for the best and worst beer.

Barb and Dick Callis aboard *Windsong* planned to meet us in Annapolis on Friday shortly after noon, and we'd each take a mooring. After Hank and I had left Bodkin Creek Friday morning in hot, humid, and cloudy weather, NOAA put out a severe thunderstorm watch that would last until 5:00 p.m. We decided to return to our slip and to try again on Saturday. Dick reached us by cell and agreed, so we rescheduled for Saturday to meet in Annapolis and to forget about Little Round Bay.

Saturday we were off again and, after clearing Bodkin channel **G1** in 17 knots of wind, our steering cable broke. In short order, we attached the emergency tiller, started the engine, and doused the main. Steering was a little stiff, but the tiller worked very well! We called Barb and Dick again. They decided to continue on to Annapolis and thereby won the best beer prize through default!

I put out a *securité* announcement for traveling through the Bodkin channel using emergency steering. Several boats called on the radio or motored close to see if we needed help.

We put *Octavia* right back in her slip just like pros. It sure was nice to be out on the end of the pier with a straight run into the slip. We spent the rest of the day tearing apart the binnacle, removing the cables, etc. Hank will be able to repair or replace all the parts as needed. By the time you read this, all should be repaired, better than ever.

So what did we learn this weekend? One, that Arundel Seafood had jumbo crabs, yummy, on Friday night. Two, that you should check out your emergency tiller before you need to use it!

Jan Zerhusen

Best Beer Cruise from Another Point of View

On Friday, July 17, Barbara and I left Magothy Marina at about 10:30 a.m. aboard *Windsong*, heading for Annapolis under power. When we were about halfway down the river, I got a call from Jan Zerhusen aboard *Octavia*. She said that there were severe storm warnings predicted for the area and that she and Hank were going back to their slip. I turned on the NOAA weather channel

and confirmed the dire warnings, so we too went back to our slip. We spent the night aboard *Windsong* waiting for the storms that never came.

The next day, Saturday, we again left the marina at about 10:30 a.m. and had a nice downwind sail under genoa alone. As we entered the bay, I got another call from Jan saying they had lost steering on *Octavia*, were awaiting a tow back to their slip, and would not be joining us. So we were the only boat on the cruise and continued sailing on the genoa alone all the way to the Severn River. As we approached the mooring area at 1:30 p.m., we saw that there were only four moorings open, so we snagged one in an open area. Within a few minutes, the harbor police showed up to collect the \$30 fee.

We called friends in Annapolis, Anna and Warren Sylvester, who were CCSC members several years ago. We tried to get reservations at the new Hellpoint Restaurant at dockside, where Phillips Crab House used to be, but they were booked solid. We decided to meet for dinner at Carrol's Creek in Eastport. I was pleased to see that they had Anchor Steam Beer on tap, and after the first sip, I declared it the winner of the Best Beer Award.

I was introduced to Anchor Steam beer when I was traveling to the west coast during the late 1960's. The history of its resurrection, from a local San Francisco beer beginning in the late 1880's that had gone into near bankruptcy in the 1960's, involves a scion of the Maytag family, Fritz Maytag, who stepped in to save his favorite beer by buying the brewery. As the brewery expanded its production, the beer became available nationwide. For a very interesting history of Anchor Steam, Google anchorsteam.com and click on history, then click on the seven chapters in the left-hand column.

It's always fun to go to Annapolis by boat and watch all the action from a mooring. The water taxi makes it simple to get ashore for only \$2 per person.

I'm sorry that more boats could not join us. Even though we had to motor home, we enjoyed the cruise.

To quote the lyrics of a country and western song, "God is great, beer is good, and people are crazy." Amen.

Dick Callis

A Useful Sea Nettle Map

One of my favorite sailing-related web sites, especially during this time of the year, is at:

<http://155.206.18.162/seanettles/>

It is an interactive, experimental, regularly updated, and color-coded map of the Chesapeake that indicates the likelihood of encountering sea nettles at different locations on the bay. I check it out every time I plan a summer cruise to an anchorage where swimming might be a possibility. I've found it quite reliable, and I highly recommend it. Since I started using it, I haven't had a physical encounter with one of those nasty critters. I try to avoid anything but the two darkest blue-shaded areas on the map.

Among the interesting things I've learned is this: because nettles like a certain range of temperature and salinity, there are times during the summer (such as now) when they are heavily concentrated in the mid-bay and are largely absent in some of the warmer, saltier waters of the southern bay.

George Alberts

North Cruise August 1 – 8, 2009

On August 1, the cruise north started with a great little sail to Swan Creek. Coming from Bodkin Creek, the wind was on the nose (what else is new), but it still was a very pleasant ride.

With *Octavia* as anchor boat, we were joined by the MacDonalds aboard *Heather II*, the Bakers aboard *Courtney II*, the Coyles aboard *Nancy Ann*, and the Flynns aboard *In Like Flynn*. Dretta and Dick Peterson aboard *April Fool*, former long time club members, just happened to anchor nearby and were shanghaied into joining us for happy hour.

After a calm and restful night, the Coyles and Bakers departed for home and were caught in a terrific storm. The Bakers saw 27 knots of wind for about one-and-a-half hours. George Alberts aboard *Breezing Up* was on his way north to meet us in Still Pond when he saw his anemometer peg at 60

knots with heeling under bare poles for about 45 minutes.

The three of us who remained decided to stay put in Swan Creek for the day. We had only a little wind and rain. The MacDonalds treated us to a lovely summer-style lunch aboard their boat!

Monday was a motor trip to Still Pond. It was hot and sunny. The swimming was great, with cool, clean water and a chance to clean the prop again. To the original three boats, we added George Alberts and the Grotzes aboard *Lauren A.*

On Tuesday we motored to Havre de Grace. Tidewater Marina put four of us in the same area along a bulkhead. The Flynns took a mooring. Easy water and electric hookups, and clean and plentiful heads were all nearby. We enjoyed dinner out one night, a visit to the Decoy Museum, a visit to the Maritime Museum, walks around town, a pot luck dinner aboard *Octavia*, loafing, and a visit to the ice cream shop. It was very hot and sunny!

Breezing Up headed south towards home on Wednesday in the heat. The MacDonalds, Grotzes, and Zerhusens left on Thursday in a cool drizzle. The Flynns decided to stay another night and explore up-river by dinghy. This gave them a chance from their mooring to watch the Thursday night races, with about 50 boats on the river. Hank and I headed for Stony Creek and anchored off our daughter's home for a happy hour ashore — yeah! Then on to Hammock Island on Friday.

As there were no calls from any members about joining us in Jubb Cove on Bodkin Creek on Saturday, we decided to go home and stay cool.

Once again we thank all who participated in this cruise. We enjoyed your company!

Jan Zerhusen

Lazy Trip Up the Choptank River

During mid-September, after Robbie has settled into her fall teaching schedule and the hot weather has moderated somewhat, I'm planning to take a lazy, solo trip to explore the Choptank River up as far as I can go with a five-foot draft boat.

The trip will be lazy in the sense that when the current is too strong, I'll drop the anchor to enjoy the scenery and wait a few hours for slack tide. I also want to get off the boat every now and then with my folding bike (we have two) and explore the neighborhoods. I'll probably start with stops at Dun Cove, Oxford, Cambridge, etc. If this sounds appealing to other intrepid boaters, let me know.

Ed Sabin