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Check out our website for
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Upper Bay Boating

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Publisher: Dave Bielecki
Editor & Graphic Designer: Hutch
Feature Editor: Wendy Gilbert

Photography: Donna Bedell, Bill Ross, Leo Heppner

On the Cover: Tidewater Marina

We are members of the Baltimore Co. Marine Trades
Association & Upper Bay Marine Trades Association



Upper Bay Boating, published by TLC Services, Inc., is published 7 times a
year, and distributed around the waterfront of the upper bay, along with Pasadena,
Kent Island, N. Delaware, and SE Pennsylvania.

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Get out!

Make time to get out on the water, and encourage your friends to take the plunge.

Boating and time spent on the waterfront offers fun, relaxation, and adventure. Lasting memories are made every day on the beautiful waters of the upper bay. Some of my fondest memories while growing up were of time spent on the Bush and Gunpowder rivers and of those years spent with my own family on the water.

Life seems so crazy these days, and with everyday life getting in the way, we all are guilty of forgetting to make time to enjoy some of our favorite pastimes. You all take time to schedule meetings, appointments, and of course need to take care of those 9-5 responsibilities of earning a living. You need to make time for you and your families, and create some new memories of great times out on the bay. If you allow yourself to get wrapped up in the fast pace of today's world without including some relaxation thrown in the mix, what kind of memories can you share in the future? Don't wake up some day wondering where all the time went.

One of my favorite songs is Cat's in the Cradle, a 1974 folk rock song by Harry Chapin. The father was too busy earning a living without including time for his son. Once retired and ready to do some of those father-son things, the son was too busy for dad. We all remember the line: "and as I hung up the phone it occurred to me, he'd grown up just like me. My boy was just like me". Folks, don't let this happen to you. Take time to make those lasting memories now. While you're at it, why not introduce some friends or neighbors to the boating world? They will thank you for helping to take some of the stress out of everyday life, and creating some lasting

Dave & Molly



thoughts of happy times spent on the bay. You owe it to yourself, your family, and friends.

Now is a perfect time to get back out on the upper bay. There are still some great bargains on the dealers and brokers lots and slips. Great financing rates are available. Some new boat packages are available for only \$200 a month! And most of the marine salespeople on the upper bay are great folks that truly want you to enjoy life a little more. Are you new to boating? You will find boat salespeople so much more pleasant to work with, than dealing with the typical used car guy. Most are boaters, and want to share their love of THE Chesapeake with you.

So for those readers that took a little time to read our May edition of UBB, here is your assignment: Walk away from the electronic world we all are guilty of devoting so much time to for just a day or two on the water. Close those lap tops, turn off the smart phones, leave those video games at home, and spend the weekend on the boat. Or take a few hours to go fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding; it doesn't matter- JUST DO IT! Plan a fun time for you, the family, or friends- you'll be glad you did!

Happy Boating,
Dave

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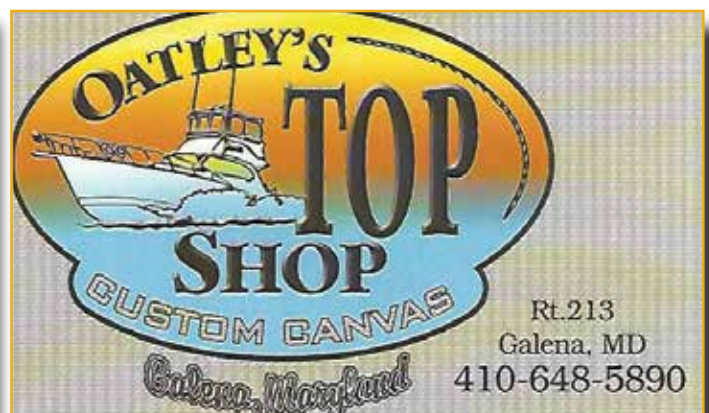


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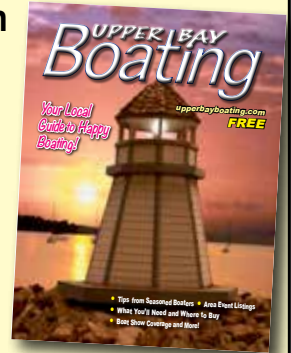
Upper Bay Boating Business Announcements

Please join **Sea Tow** on **May 22nd** (5 to 7pm) at The **Granary Restaurant and Sassafras Grill** for our **'Welcome to Summer Celebration'**. Together we kick off the season by offering specially priced drinks and appetizers. Receive a \$20 Gift Card to The Granary when you join or renew your Sea Tow Gold Card Membership (reg \$169 yr) at this event! We hope to see you there! The Granary is located on the Sassafras River at 100 George St., Georgetown Md 410-275-1603 www.granary.biz.

Correction: the information in the coupon in prior Great Oak Landing ads should have read- **25% off dockage on NEW 2015 & 2016 slip holder contracts.**

Upper Bay Boating Magazine

needs help with distribution of the magazines. We are looking for a person whom lives in S.E. Pennsylvania or Anne Arundel County to deliver magazines to various businesses and marinas. Pay per stop. Interested?



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Finding The Next Generation Of Boaters...



Nick Doetsch (far right) seen here being sworn in as Treasurer of the Patapsco River Power Squadron.

If you are involved in boating and boating organizations you have probably noticed a more pronounced “graying” of the member base. There is also a large age gap in the marine technician field where the next generation has yet to fill the needs for the future. Ask your boating friends about a good outboard or stern drive mechanic and you might hear the same responses over and over again, “Good luck finding one.”, “I got a guy, but he ain’t cheap,” or worse yet “I had a great guy but he retired or moved I think...” This seems to be the new normal in the industry. Fewer younger boaters and fewer millennials getting involved in the industry revolved around boats.

So the next natural question is to ask if this was an industry that saw its heyday with lower gas prices and more affordable boats in the 70’s and 80’s, compared to today’s generation who would rather play a video game with boats before cruising the Chesapeake Bay in one.

For the founders of Pasadena Boat Works, they found that in practice this did not appear to be the case. When you actually expose a young person to boating almost every person finds an aspect they love. From setting a crab line with your uncle to having a picnic lunch on Solomon’s Island with the whole family, almost anyone can find something they love about life on the water.

So instead of continuing to ask the question of who will bring about the next generation of boaters, the young crew at Pasadena Boat Works decided to start a full service marine center that could begin to fill the gaps.

The group started as a Carolina Skiff boat dealer and is now selling Sea Chasers as well. Once they were able to convince Carolina Skiff of their vision they locked in Suzuki as their outboard motor line and the service center fell right into place. They also have a marine ship store and are looking to eventually build in a parts department and maybe one day a marine technician school. “With youth and ignorance, we think the sky’s the limit.”, operations manager Nick Doetsch joked.

“At Pasadena Boat Works we believe that every walk of life should be able to have access to the water, not just a privileged few. Our shop keeps in mind how times have changed and that affordable boating is the only way a younger generation can begin boating at an age when it becomes part of their life and not just a dream.” – Pasadena Boat Works.

The group at Pasadena Boat Works is only one small group trying to bring about a shift to the next generation of boaters, but it is a welcome start.

Pasadena Boat Works is located at **4425 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122**. They are open 7 days a week and can be reached at **443-858-2400**.

You can find out more about their business at www.PasadenaBoatWorks.com.



Riley, Joe and Nick out in front of their new shop.



At 19 years old, Riley DiGennaro is a marine mechanic apprentice. Seen here servicing a new 4 Stroke Suzuki outboard, he will soon be doing full repowerings.

Don't Have Your Own Boat Yet? Don't Worry

By **Wendy Gilbert**- Features Editor

If you've worn out your welcome aboard your friend's boat (bring more beer next time) there are a myriad of ways to experience the Upper Chesapeake until you're ready to buy your own boat.

If you are ready to buy a boat, be sure and read the article in this issue that will help remove some of anxiety from the process.

Go Sailing

Yes. It's not everyone's idea of the perfect way to get around, but the sailing community here is probably bigger and more deeply established than you think.

Sailing is not only a kinder, less environmentally damaging than power-boating, it's also more physically and intellectually challenging. And who doesn't want a good challenge now and then? Perhaps I've read one too many articles about how things like that stave off old-age problems. Hmm.

The first time I was asked to take the rudder on a small sailboat on the Elk River, I was terrified. I was certain I was going to send us straight into the shipping channel and get swamped by a container ship heading for the C & D Canal.

We didn't even see a container ship (just a tug boat and some bass boats) and although my tacking skills were a bit jerky (my captain assured me that most beginners are) we managed to sail, if somewhat inelegantly to our destination, which thank goodness included a good lunch. I wasn't too thrilled about making the return trip, but by the time we got to shore, I was absolutely thrilled with my adventure. Things might have been a bit smoother if I'd gone to Sail Camp at the North East River Yacht Club!

Wendy Gilbert



Go Fishing

The Upper Bay Charter Captain Association website can help you locate a skipper near you or near your destination.

Not only can you be assured of a great fishing experience, you can enjoy the fun of a boating trip without any of the preparation or work!

Don't Skip the Skipjacks

These historic vessels are the state's official boat for a reason and there's nothing quite like a sail on one of these magnificent skipjacks. The first one I ever boarded was the Rebecca T Rurark and we had a picture perfect day for our sail. The wind was gentle, the captain was really funny and I learned a lot. A good story-teller is something a writer can appreciate.

You can find more information on individual skipjacks by searching their names. HM Krentz, Martha Lewis, Stanley Norman, Nathan, etc. Also, take a look at skipjack.org and oystercatcher.com

Rent

Visit Gunpowder State Park to rent various boats. Other parks have rentals, but not up this far. If you are traveling and looking for park information, consider downloading the DNR app for your smart phone. The app will guide you to boat ramps, campgrounds and much more.

Go Small

In addition to small boat rentals at the park, many large marinas and boating facilities offer this option. A visit to a boat show can help you navigate toward the venue that suits you best.

If canoes, kayaks and the like intrigue you, visit the Chesapeake Bay Paddlers Association website for potential places to start your next adventure.

Hope you enjoy your adventures!



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THE MARINE SURVEY

and Selecting a Surveyor

A marine survey is a professional opinion of the condition and value of a vessel.

It has been said that a marine survey is a snapshot look at a vessel at a specific point in time. It is typically a nondestructive investigation or review of a vessel.

Surveys are done for a variety of reasons; the primary of which are pre-purchase and insurance. When you are buying a new or used vessel the insurance company is interested in the condition of the vessel. They need to determine that the boat is an acceptable risk. Additionally if bank financing is involved in a boat purchase the bank needs to know that the value is there.

Where to start:

There are several professional associations of surveyors in United States. SAMS and NAMS seem to be the two most widely recognized professional organizations in the marine survey world. SAMS is the acronym for Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors. NAMS is the acronym for National Association of Marine Surveyors. Each of these organizations has a very helpful website that is easily found.

Marinas and brokers usually keep a short list of surveyors who work in their geographic area. A Boat buyer can work from such a list in addition to looking at the lists available from SAMS and NAMS. We usually suggest that a prospective buyer call several marine surveyors as part of his/her selection process. Ask the surveyor about his/her particular specialty or area of interest such as power versus sail, performance versus cruising, and experience or number of years in the profession. A typical interview or conversation with a surveyor should cover topics like the surveyors familiarity with the brand or model of the subject boat. One could ask about typical problems with that brand. It is also a good idea to look at a sample report that many surveyors will provide upon request. Look at the format of the report. Decide whether that particular format will give you the information that you would like to have.



It is a good idea to know what to expect on the day of the survey. Ask the surveyor what a typical survey day involves. What time of the day is the usual start time, how long does it take, is a sea trial included, how long does the sea trial last?

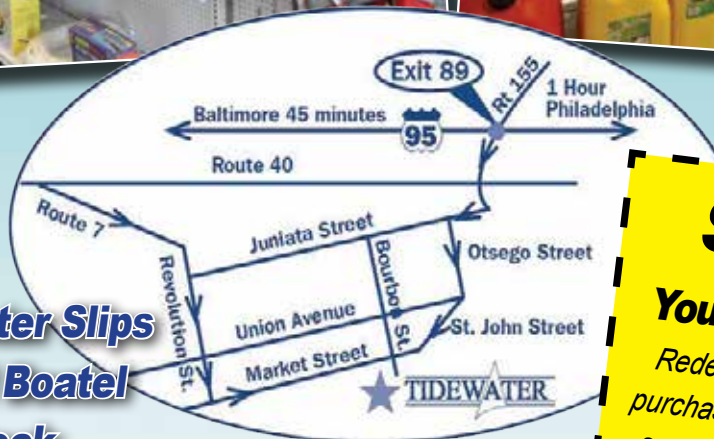
After wending your way through most of the steps outlined above you will probably be ready to make your selection. You will develop a level of comfort with one or more of your candidates. Boat buyers over the years have told us that it is easier to make a selection after several interviews or conversations with prospective surveyors. It seems to be an important part of the process.

Best wishes for a great boating/sailing season.

Paul Matrangola
Tidewater Marina

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Be wary, not bewildered when buying your first boat.

By Wendy Gilbert, Features Editor

Buying your first boat can be an exasperating and also exhilarating experience. Before you plunk down your hard-earned savings or sign the bottom line of a financing contract, consider the following:

Used or new?

Like the answers to so many questions, the first words are – it depends.

Prior to the information explosion (aka The Internet) most new boat buyers were told to buy a used boat. The theory was that the first boat is never the “right” boat, so why pony up for a new boat if you’re going to be selling this one in a year or two anyway. I don’t know about you, but our first boat was and is a used boat. My family has a hard time parting with anything, so keep your “hoarding” personalities in mind as well.

Now that thousands upon thousands of YouTube and other video sources are at our fingertips, the chance that we might happen upon the perfect new boat has never been more possible.

Surveys conducted by the folks at Boattest.com indicate that about a third of new boat buyers prefer a new boat. If you are considering a used boat, look for one in great condition with low hours.

Sea Trial

In addition to a survey of the boat you are considering, you also need to evaluate the boat while underway. Run your vessel at wide-open throttle for a time. It’s a good overall indicator of the condition of the engine. You or your surveyor should test the boat’s steering, propulsion, navigation systems, etc. Make sure you run the vessel in the conditions you expect to boat in.

Money Matters

In addition to the cost of the boat, consider the cost of the trailer, slip, storage and operation fees, fuel, insurance and other operation costs

A good broker will be able to help you accurately estimate what those additional expenses might be.

Some surveyors estimate that in the first year of ownership, buyers should be prepared to spend 10 to 20 percent of the purchase price for repairs and updates. Allow anywhere from \$50 to \$250 per foot, per year, for annual maintenance and repairs.

That’s quite a swing, but there’s a lot of different boats available and some owners do a lot of work themselves. Plus, storing your boat at home or at a commercial facility can really impact your annual costs.

Partner in the Purchase

Whatever type of boat you decide to purchase, be sure and bring your partner in with you.

Are you raiding a mutual savings account to fund the dream? Even if you aren’t, there will be expenditures of time spent not only enjoying the boat, but taking care of said vessel. Be sure you and your partner are aware of current and future costs. A good warranty can lead to invaluable peace of mind.

Water Woes

Although some won’t admit it, a lack of enthusiasm for boating, can be directly linked to one’s ability or inability to swim well. The summer camp test – swim across a 25-ft pool, is not enough for the Chesapeake Bay.

Far too many boaters and their passengers drown each season. If you need a refresher, consider taking a few private swim lessons. Contact your local YMCA for certified instruction.

A final tip, Watch the booze. No one swims well under the influence. Be safe.

Wendy

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Do Unto Others

by L. Alan Keene

With the summer boating season right around the corner, it won't be long before the Upper Bay will come alive with recreational boats of every size and description. From the C&D Canal to the Inner Harbor, there'll be fishing boats and kayaks, powerboats and day sailors, personal watercraft and trawlers, inflatables and cruisers..... all with captains who are out to enjoy this beautiful body of water in their own special way.

For all of us to have the great time that we're seeking, it's important that we understand how our boat can affect the enjoyment of others. It's the Golden Rule of the seas. Be courteous and considerate. Here are a few areas that every captain needs to keep in mind.



1. Make Room For Each Other:

With hundreds of miles of open water, there's no reason for a sailboat to sail through the casting area of an anchored fishing boat or for a powerboat to cut off the nose of a sloop as it sails in open water. Snapped fishing lines and unnecessary wake don't need to happen. Be courteous. MAKE ROOM!

2. Use The Ramp or Fuel Dock Quickly:

Nothing is more discourteous than a chit chat party at the ramp or fuel dock on a Saturday morning. Launch your boat and go. If you plan your launch properly, it shouldn't take more than several minutes. Think of the people behind you. Be considerate. MOVE IT!

3. Don't Share Your Music: Anybody who's been out on the water more than once knows that sound travels much further over water than land. Chances are that your nautical neighbors, docked in the same cove, won't enjoy your taste in music. Think about them as you crank up the volume. Be thoughtful. HOLD IT DOWN!

4. Watch Your Wake: Every captain should know the size of his or her wake at varying speeds. The largest wake for most powerboats comes when "plowing", just before getting up on plane.

Unfortunately, some well-meaning power boaters slow to plowing speed when passing sailboats and other slower boats, thinking that they're doing the right thing. In reality, they're doing just the opposite. It's often best to stay up on plane and stay clear. Be courteous. KNOW YOUR WAKE!

5. Keep Your Halyards from Slapping:

Sail boaters owe it to overnighters and permanent residents of their marina to keep their halyards from slapping against their aluminum mast. If you've ever tried to sleep near a boat with loose halyards on a windy night, you've experienced mental torture of the nautical variety. Be considerate, sailors. BUNGIE THOSE HALYARDS!

6. Keep Your Slip Area Uncluttered:

When loading up the boat for a weekend out on the Bay, make sure you don't create obstacles for other slip holders on your pier to have to negotiate. Stay with your things until they're packed aboard. And while you're at it, take that dock cart back as soon as you're done. Be thoughtful. KEEP IT NEAT!

If we upper bay boaters spend a little more time this season considering how our actions impact the enjoyment of our fellow boaters, then it'll be a great summer for everybody! And while you're at it, acknowledge those courteous gestures with a friendly wave of the hand.

OPERATION "GET OUT ON THE WATER" has Begun!

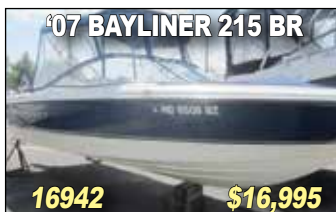
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I love boats. I love boating. I love working on boats. I have come to realize that as much as I love these things, one of my favorite things is the happiness I see when I tell someone their boat is done, and ready to go in the water.

As the season is just getting started, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on the boater/mechanic relationship. For many boaters, this is a great relationship, but for many others, this is a terrible, terrifying unknown. They feel the service shops are full of shady mechanics, waiting to take their money. For those people in the latter category, I'd like to try and attempt to take some of the terror out of this relationship.

The basis for any good relationship is trust. The bottom line is if you don't trust your mechanic, then its time to find a new one. They are out there. Good shops with excellent technical proficiency, AND ethics. Find someone you trust, and someone you can talk to. Here are some key points that can help make maintaining your boat a better experience.

Be proactive. They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Boating isn't cheap, but waiting until something breaks is more expensive than a proactive maintenance plan. A good mechanic, that you trust will help you with a plan that can maximize you maintenance dollars, and minimize the costly major repairs. A good customer will not call up a few days before the holiday weekend with a problem that they had at the end of last season.

Listen to what your boat is trying to tell you, and ask your mechanic what your boat is trying to tell you. A new noise, smell, or vibration could be the sign of trouble. Please don't ignore it, and hope it goes away. It may be nothing, but it may not. Talk to someone about it. So many people are afraid that the second they start asking questions, the clock starts running. This isn't the case, most shops would be more that happy to discuss your questions, and concerns. I'm always happy to talk with a boater about their boat. You can tell how important it is to them, and how much they enjoy it.

Listen to your mechanic. A good shop is not after your money. They want happy boaters. They build relationships with happy boaters. By being fair, they know you will be back again, and again.

Don't ask to cut corners. People will ask 'What is the minimum I have to do to get back on the water.' Once the quick fix breaks, they seem to forget that it was only a quick fix, and are sour that they are paying to have work done again.

The right relationship can make your total boating experience so much better. Where you know nothing about the care of your boat, and need help every step of the way, or you are comfortable with your own boat maintenance, and have the occasional question you need to bounce off someone.



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SETTIN' the HOOK

with Dave Kilby

Ahhhh, springtime on the Upper Chesapeake Bay! As anglers or boaters, there's no better place to be than right here!

We are presented fishing options at this time of year such as searching the flats for big stripers, cruising the shorelines for largemouth bass, or trolling the channels for bluefish, weakfish, etc.

One doesn't need to invest in two or three boats, however. Gaining in popularity among Upper Chesapeake anglers are the new breed of Center Consoles, commonly known as "Bay Boats" that will allow you to fish in shallow water, but are just as stable and efficient in deep, open water.

Another reason for their popularity is their price point. You won't find a more versatile boat for a reasonable cost.

The Robalo 206 Cayman, for instance, which can be found at Jackson Marine Sales in North East, MD, and at Sunset Harbor in Baltimore is a 20'6" boat with a 96" beam that boasts an incredible 10" shallow water draft! Rated for up to a 200 HP engine, the 206 Cayman operates just fine, thank you with a 115HP motor. This model has a 50 gallon fuel capacity and comfort features everywhere.

The 226 Cayman by Robalo is the big brother of the 206. It features a 102" beam and a 60 gallon fuel capacity. This model bay boat is at home roaming the flats or offshore so it makes perfect sense to include it in your Ocean City vacation plans. This model will astound with a 250HP engine.

The Robalo Cayman 206 has a starting price around \$30,500 while the larger 226 has a price starting at \$37,555.

This price even includes a trailer! Give call at Jackson Marine Sales at 410-287-9400, or Sunset Harbor at 410-687-7290

Also gaining popularity in the line-up of center console bay boats is the BayCharger from Charger Boats. Also available in two models, the BC2000 (20'3") and the BC2200 (22'2").

BayChargers feature a 100% composite rolled gunnel hull with a limited lifetime warranty. They are available from the factory with Mercury, Yamaha, Honda, Suzuki, or Evinrude outboards.

One unique feature of the BayCharger is that they are one of the only center console boats that can be ordered with a poliflake hull similar to a bass boat hull. Like the Robalo, BayChargers feature an abundance of room and a whole list of options to keep you in the loop with all of the latest electronics, propulsion, appearance, and comfort.

Your local dealer for BayChargers is Premier Marine at 114 Carroll Island Road in Middle River. Give Dave Macbride a call at 410-335-0000.

If you are a bass tournament guy, a serious striper angler, or even a diver or explorer with your family, you need to check out this versatile, yet affordable center console bay boats.



The author is the owner of **PAYCHECK Bass Tournament Series** and Regional Sales Manager for **Charger Boats**.



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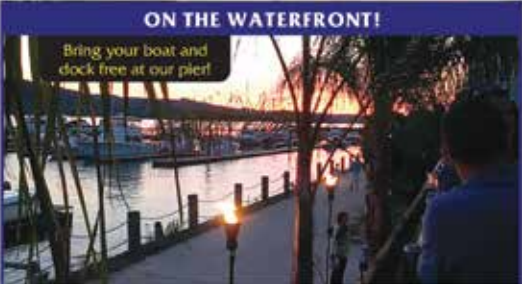
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Valuable Tip For New and Experienced Boaters

by Doug Dawson

Boating is a great escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It is a family recreation enjoyed by millions for family fun, entertaining, relaxing, exploring, fishing and just being on the water. Life truly is better on a boat. As with all activities, for example; golf, tennis, painting your house or even handling and docking a boat, you can fumble through on your own, learn from a friend OR be taught by a Pro. The results always tell the tale! On-lookers easily spot someone who has taken lessons from a pro or someone who hasn't.

Current Boater

If you are already enjoying boating, now may be a good time to invest in a lesson to improve your handling and docking skills. You may be comfortable with your docking ability; but, that doesn't mean there isn't a safer, better or easier way. Learning just one or two new techniques, could make the difference between your good docking and great dockings every time, which translates into a happier first mate and crew; thus, more fun on the water.



Each drive system requires different handling techniques; so, if you have traded your boat from a Single Sterndrive to a Twin Inboard, or a Single Outboard to a Twin Sterndrive for example, or any drive system change, your old docking methods will not work. Get instructions from a Docking Pro for your new drive system to avoid frustration and possible mutiny by your crew. It will be worth the investment.

New Boater

If you are new to boating, just purchased your first boat, or are looking to purchase one in the near future, we would strongly recommend that you shorten your learning curve. Learn "Right" from the start—how to handle and dock your new or "new-to-you" boat. Don't waste years with trial and error, or getting the wrong instruction.

How do you find the right Instructor?

As in all things, there is good and bad. Docking instruction is no different. Download "17 Questions to Ask before hiring a docking instructor".

This free document will arm you with the right questions to help you find the right instructor for both you and your boat.

About the author: Doug Dawson is a 5th generation Boating Industry Professional. He is author of docking and other "how-to" e-books found at www.boatingwithdawsons.com. Doug is well known for his docking and boat handling expertise--a boat docking expert.



photos by Dave Bielecki



Bay Bridge & Philly Boat Show Revue

The Philadelphia Boat Show was a big success. David always works hard for his exhibitors and attendees. I really enjoyed returning after a five year absence. Most boats had buyers on them throughout the show

After such a long period of cool cloudy weather, we had plenty of sunshine all weekend for the Bay Bridge Show. I forgot the sun block the first day. If you have to work on the weekend, you can't beat hanging around the waterfront on such beautiful site. Sure enjoyed the BBQ night on Friday, and the antique boat display.



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Upper Bay Boating Events

Area Boating and Waterfront Activities

Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron Safe Boating Course (4) Tuesday nights starting **May 5**, at 6pm. Held at the Rosedale West Marine \$39.50 or \$50 for two sharing text. 410-598-0833 seo@uspsdundalk.org

Rock Hall Car Cruise Night by Smilin' Jake's May 8 starts @ 5:30 on Main St. Jack 443-480-3615

Full Planting Moon Canoe Trip May 15 at 6:30 Marshy Point Nature Center 410-887-2817

Ultimate Watersports Paddlefest May 16 from 11-4 410-335-5352

Tomes Landing Open House & Demo Days May 16 & 17 Refreshments & Door Prizes 410-378-3343

McDaniel Yacht Basin OPEN HOUSE May 16th and 17th. We will have a Spring Clearance sale on boats and we will also have vendors here for the show. 410-287-8121

Marines Helping Marines Fishing Tournament - May 16. Check-in: 4:30 am Huge Party / BBQ / 1 pm Anchor Marina, North East, MD. www.woundedmarinefishing.com

Sea Tow's 'Welcome to Summer Celebration' May 22nd (5 to 7pm) at The Granary Restaurant and Sassafras Grill 100 George St., Georgetown Md 410-275-1603 www.granary.biz

Chestertown Tea Party Festival May 23 from 9-5 Downtown Chestertown 410-810-3890 chestertownteaparty.org

Sightseeing Boat Trip to Hart-Miller Island May 23 at noon Marshy Point Nature Center 410-887-2817

Beer, Wine Tasting and Raft Race May 24 12-4 at Wilmer Park Chestertown 410-810-3890

Middle River Landing Memorial Day Celebration May 24 from 2pm till 6pm. DJ, caricature artist and cookout, celebrating the beginning of the boating season! 410-686-0771

Bowleys Quarters VFC Safe Boating Course May 30 & 31 starts @ 9 am \$35. 410-800-8420

Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron Safe Boating Course (4) **Tuesday nights starting June 2**, at 6pm. Held at the Rosedale West Marine \$39.50 or \$50 for two sharing text. 410-598-0833 seo@uspsdundalk.org

Youth Fishing Derby June 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Turner's Creek Park, Turner's Creek Rd, Kennedyville, Md. Stacey Clough 410-778-1948

Maryland Waterman's Association Pro-Am Rockfish Tournament June 12-14 in Rock Hall 410-216-6610 info@marylandwatermen.com

Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat Inspections - FREE. June 13 -Get your boat safe for the season. Call Gary Parker at 410-287-9400 x 221 gparker@jacksonmarinesales.com

Rock Hall Car Cruise Night by Smilin' Jake's June 19 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Main Street, Rock Hall MD Jack Heffner 443-480-3615

Northern Chesapeake Bay Benefit Poker Run June 19 & 20 hosted by Lee's Landing Dock Bar in Port Deposit Benefits Ryans Hope & Pathfinders foe Autism Terry 717-578-3549

Bowleys Quarters VFC Safe Boating Course June 27 & 28 starts @ 9 am \$35. 410-800-8420

Mid-Atlantic Chevelle Car Show - June 27, 9-4 on the waterfront- North East Community Park, North East, MD 410-257-7124. www.mdchevelleclub.com

Space is provided free of charge to Advertisers, Clubs, Boat Courses, Fishing Tournaments, Waterfront Museums, and any Non-Profit Organizations. If you hold an event on the upper bay waterfront, or have any boat related activity, please send us the information. Events will be updated on our website each month. Visit www.upperbayboating.com or email dave@upperbayboating.com

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center-Spring Boating Events

The Anita C. Leight Estuary Center is the research and education facility of the Otter Point Creek component of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maryland. The Estuary Center and surrounding park are open to the public and offer many opportunities to explore and learn about the Chesapeake Bay.

Canoe Trips

Children under 13 must be with an adult. All trips meet at the Estuary Center unless otherwise noted. Wear shoes that can get wet. All equipment supplied.

Full Moon Paddle May 31 Let the full moon light your way | **Sunset Paddle May 15**

Kayak Trips

Children under 13 must be with an adult. All trips meet at the Estuary Center unless otherwise noted. Wear shoes that can get wet. All equipment supplied.

A Mother's Day Paddle May 9 Bird-tastic Scavenger Hunt Kayak May 16

Water Strider Pontoon Boat Rides

Children under 13 must be with an adult. Meet at the Estuary Center's Pontoon Pier parking lot on Rt. 40 just west of Otter Point Rd. unless otherwise noted.

Birding By Boat May 17 | Mother's Day Sunset Pontoon May 9 at the Center

Breakfast with the Birds Pontoon May 16 Binoculars and continental breakfast provided

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Scott's Top 10 Nautical Terms for the New Boater

Astern - The type of look your spouse gives you when you attempt to buy things for your new boat.

Bow - This is what you do in front of your banker when you are asking for more money to spend on your boat.

Compass - A navigational aid that accurately points to the largest metal object on your boat.

Deck - This is what your spouse will do to you after discovering how much money you have spent on the boat without first obtaining permission.

Hatch - A device similar in nature to a mousetrap, in that it will drop down on your head or hand without warning.

Keel - A stopping device for your boat. It works by contacting the bottom of the water body you are in, thus inhibiting forward motion.

Keys - These items are used for opening locks and lockers aboard your boat, starting the engine and things of that nature. Keys can usually be found in the water beneath your boat.

Line - What you feed your spouse in order to obtain funding for additional boat-related purchases.

Overboard - A term describing the final resting-place for anything expensive dropped while on board a boat.

Wake - Also what boaters participate in (their own) when they do not practice safe boating.

Why Choosy Parents Choose Boating

By Liz Walz of *Discover Boating*

Boating is in my blood. As I was growing up, I took advantage of any chance I could to spend time on the water with my friends and family. In fact, I represent the fifth generation of my family to spend time on the water, but I got away from boating as a young adult, and I might not have returned if it weren't for the birth of my two sons. Here are the reasons I would recommend the boating lifestyle to ANY family, whether boating is in your blood or not.

1. Fun for all. Do you and your kids love sports like swimming, fishing, tubing, waterskiing and wakeboarding? Great! But there are plenty of other ways to have fun on a boat. Just think of the art, science or music projects you can conduct on the water! The important part is that boating gets you out on the water together where there is no schedule, few distractions, just a focus on family time.

2. A chance to unplug. If there's one thing that thrills me about boating with the kids, it's that our boat doesn't have a screen. It's our opportunity to unplug as a family and focus on having fun outside together in the natural world.

3. Get away without going far. You hear a lot these days about the benefits of the "stay-cation," especially how easy it is on the wallet. A great way to take a break without going far is to get out on a boat. No matter where you boat, there's something about being on the water that provides that much needed escape from the day-to-day routine, whether it's for an hour, an afternoon or an entire week.

4. A healthy choice. As a mom, I'm always looking for family fun that I can feel good about, and boating definitely fits the bill. When we're looking for a fun day away from it all, we'll pick a park we can boat to and bring along a picnic lunch, a soccer ball and our bathing suits. It's a great formula for bringing the family together, having fun, staying active and eating healthy.

5. A boat for every income. There are some people out there that are convinced that boating is a luxury that only rich people can afford. But it's simply not true. Many entry-level boats can be purchased for a monthly payment of around \$200. That's how much many of us spend per month on things like dinners out, movies and video games. I like those as much as the next person, but in today's economy, sometimes we have to choose. And as a mom, the choice is clear to me. When I think about the kind of life I want my kids to live and the memories I want them to have, a boat wins out, hands down.

P.S. Does your kids' world revolve around their friends? Boating is a golden opportunity for any parent to keep their teen or pre-teen close while getting to know their friends. We all want to be the "cool" parents, don't we? Trust me: A boat will add to your cool factor.

Discover Boating is a public awareness effort managed by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) on behalf of the North American recreational boating industry





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Three Boating Tips Just For Springtime

Across America at boat launch ramps, the familiar growl of boat motors waking up from their long winter nap heralds the start of the boating season. But what makes boating, fishing or sailing this time of year different from all others? When it comes to safety, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has three tips to answer that question:

The water is still cold. Darn cold. Even though the white stuff is gone and you're in a T-shirt and can feel the sun's warmth on your face, lurking beneath your boat's keel is water that could make breathing difficult or disable you in minutes after an accidental fall overboard. It's a good idea to wear a comfortable life jacket, and if solo, rig a self-boarding ladder that can be deployed while in the water.

Have backup plans. For a routine breakdown while underway, having an on water towing plan can help. However, most important is to leave a note, or "float plan," for friends or family members advising them of your expected return. That's because early in the season there are way-too-few boaters out there who could provide aid if something unexpected happened, and if no one knows where you are, you could be in a heap of trouble. A sample float plan can be found at: BoatUS.com/floatplan.

The number one reason why boats sink in the springtime is being in a hurry to get in the water. Check every engine hose and clamp. Remove leaves in scuppers and clear clogged cockpit drains. Check to see that freezing water didn't crack the sea strainer or seacock/valves. Go to BoatUS.com/springchecklist to get a copy of a Spring Fitting Out Safety Checklist.



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Boating early each season has its challenges. The harsh winter temperatures and buildup of ice on the bay has many channel markers out of place, or missing. Be mindful as you cruise around the bay and rivers. Observe your chart, compare it to landmarks around you, and watch your depth! Floating or partially submerged debris, such as logs or tires, can cause significant damage or leave you stranded on the water! Be aware of your surroundings, should you need local knowledge or assistance, your local SEA TOW Captain is available to help! Call us at 410-885-5044. Stay alert and allow extra time to get to your destination safely.

Sea Tow offers **FREE Automated Radio Checks on your VHF radio.** This service is available nationwide, but specifically in our area, we have towers in Annapolis, Fairlee Creek and North East on Channel 27, and in Oxford on Channel 26. Instantly receive feedback from a recorded version of your transmission.



VHF Channel 16 is for hailing and distress only! Always speak clearly and slowly when using the VHF. In an emergency, it's important to state the name of your vessel, your location, and the nature of your distress. Non-emergency conversations should be taken to another channel. Commercial traffic monitors Channel 13/16, and can be contacted on Channel 13. While most boaters today have cell phones, there is not always adequate cell coverage in many areas on the Bay. Knowing how to properly use your VHF to communicate as well as gain valuable weather information, can save your life.



Please join us **May 22nd** (5 to 7pm) at The Granary Restaurant and Sassafras Grill for our 'Welcome to Summer Celebration'. Together we kick off the season by offering specially priced drinks and appetizers. Receive a \$20 Gift Card to **The Granary** when you join or renew your **Sea Tow Gold Card Membership** (reg \$169 yr) at this event! We hope to see you there! **The Granary** is located on the Sassafras River at **100 George St., Georgetown Md.**
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On the Waterfront

with George Waters

“A View From the Back Side”

photo by Donna Bedell

I turned 50 this year, so I decided I should undergo that ol' humor columnist's gold mine of potential material, second only to the family dog—the colonoscopy.

“You never know what they might find,” a fellow 50-year-old said, causing me to contemplate the discovery, in my lower regions, of raccoons, possibly, or polecats.

So I slugged down the salty solution they give you to clear out the personal you-tubes, choosing, from a selection of fruity add-in powders, the pineapple. Not because I like the flavor, no. But I knew that after three hours of force-chugging, I would never want to taste that flavor again, ever, and I was right.

Sorry, pineapple, but it was you or cherry, and that's a no-brainer.

The next morning found me in a hospital gown, lying on a gurney under pre-heated blankets. It felt like a spa day, except the phone of the guy on the next gurney kept ringing every three minutes with a jaunty jungle beat which terminated in a chirp of monkeys.

Evidently it was out of his reach. For half an hour.

The lady on the other side of me was blabbing to the nurse how she was dating a toxic taxicab driver. I think. She had a heavy accent.

The sensation of rolling flat on my back on a gurney was strangely fun, though; I felt like an extra on “Grey's Anatomy.”

They rolled me into “The Room,” as the nurse called it, which sounded a little ominous. The lights were dimmed and I thought I heard Taylor Swift singing, but it

was apparently only the colonoscope warming up.

They hooked me up to the anesthetic, and I watched a little monitor screen next to my bed. As the drugs kicked in I went all woozy, the doc began to work, and I could have sworn the little TV had a show on about colons.

It was pretty graphic, but really boring. Just before I passed out I remember thinking, “I can't see that getting renewed.”

I woke up in the recovery room and the nurse told me the doc had performed a polypectomy, and I could call for the results in a week. (Students of history will also remember that Polypectomy was a decisive general in the Trojan Wars.)

The results? I am fine. The polyps were benign, and rather cute, truth be told. Not raccoon cute, but in the ballpark.

Now pardon me. My dog seems to be lobbying for my attention.

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Watch out for the Mega-Yachts.....

by Thomas C Valkenet



Watching big ships move up and down the Bay is a fun pastime for those of us who spend our time on the Bay fishing or sun bathing. Each large vessel you see is required, by law, to hire a licensed Chesapeake Bay Pilot. The cost of a Bay Pilot can be up to \$268/hour, with a two hour minimum. But the cost is well worth the benefit of avoiding an accident. The largest commercial ships can draw 47 feet in a 50 foot channel. Without the assistance of a licensed Chesapeake Bay Pilot the largest vessels might ground, or dump materials that would harm the Bay.

But the law also required large pleasure boats to engage a Bay Pilot. Any movement within the navigable waters of the Bay required a Bay Pilot, including a shift from a berth to a fueling pier. And as you might imagine, this cost has kept many large pleasure boats away from the Chesapeake region. "These vessels spend tens of thousands of dollars alone on one fuel bill, plus money on provisioning, local entertainment, tourism and repairs," said Jessie Bowling of Baltimore Marine Centers, which operates five marinas in the harbor, according to an April 16, 2015 article in the Baltimore Sun. Many speculated that the old law was an economic anchor to be cut away.

State Delegate Peter Hammen, of Baltimore's 46th District, which covers the entire waterfront for the Port of Baltimore, recently introduced an emergency bill to exempt large pleasure boats from the Bay Pilot requirement. Governor Hogan signed the measure into law on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

This means that certain large pleasure boats are no longer required to hire a Bay Pilot. Specifically, this exemption covers:

1. Recreational vessels less than 200 feet long, and those with less than a 12 foot draft.
2. If they possess a valid federally issued cruising license; and
3. If they are not engaged in commercial service; and
4. If they are not carrying passengers for hire.

A "recreational vessel" is defined by federal law and means a vessel being manufactured or operated primarily for pleasure or leased, rented, or chartered to another for the latter's pleasure. "Commercial service" includes any type of trade or business involving the transportation of goods or individuals, except for service performed by a combatant vessel. "Passenger for hire" means a passenger for whom money is collected and paid to any person having an interest in the vessel. Federal cruising licenses exempt pleasure boats of certain countries from having to undergo formal entry and clearance procedures such as filing manifests and obtaining permits to proceed as well as from the payment of tonnage tax and entry and clearance fees at all but the first port of entry. These licenses can be obtained from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Port Director at the first port of arrival in the United States. Cruising licenses are normally valid for up to a year.

Now, for those of use spending our time on boats well under the 200 foot limits of this exemption, what does all this mean? It certainly means more traffic in the larger channels of the Bay. By lessening the cost to travel up the Chesapeake to Baltimore and Annapolis, the exemption may well generate additional gross revenues for those businesses servicing large vessels and their guests. We can certainly expect to see these large beauties in Baltimore and Annapolis. Whether they move further up the Bay may well depend on whether Delaware lifts its own restrictions on vessels using the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal.

It also means we must be much more aware of our surroundings while out on the open water of the Bay. If the new law has its intended effect, we will be joined by larger vessels moving without the assistance of trained Bay Pilots. These larger vessels will be in close proximity as we move in and around the Bay's larger harbors and shipping channels. We all remain responsible for our own safety, so keep a sharp lookout, and wave to our new visitors!

*Tom is a lawyer who has practiced maritime law and general litigation for 28 years.
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Friends of the Bohemia Participates in the Senior Environment Corps Training

The Friends of the Bohemia, a new watershed improvement association, is off to a great start! Friends is looking forward to acting as an advocate for the Bohemia River Watershed, offering ideas, suggestions and opportunities for actions interested folks can take to help improve their immediate environment. Improving the health of the river will enhance life along the Bohemia for all.

To that end, the Friends recently participated in Cecil County's Senior Environment Corps water sampling training program, offered by Nature Abounds.

In April, volunteers will begin sampling water quality of the river, and of streams and creeks feeding the river. The resulting data will be compiled over the course of the year to help establish the existing conditions within the Bohemia's watershed.

Visit (and "like") the Friends of the Bohemia on Facebook, (www.Facebook.com/FriendsoftheBohemia) for more information and photos of recent events, including the Friends of the Bohemia Project Clean Stream participation. On April 11th, 20 volunteers spent a beautiful morning having fun and gathering more than 660 pounds of trash from a four acre site along the river.

The Friends of the Bohemia hope all those interested in the health of the watershed will join the group by sending an email to: FriendsoftheBohemia@gmail.com. This will help keep people informed about events and happenings, and how they can get involved.



Friends take part in Senior Environment Corps training to learn water quality sampling techniques.



Friends of the Bohemia mobilized on April 11 for Project Clean Stream.

















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Anticipation for Boaters

by Captain Mark Galasso

In the last Edition of Upper Bay Boating we touched on the importance of Education. Education being not only your formal lessons in school or classrooms but on your life's experiences. Over the years this education makes your anticipations more realistic. As we get older and have more seasons under our belt we KNOW Spring is coming. As boaters with our basic knowledge of weather we know cold fronts generally bring windy days. And we know Nor'easters bring wind and rain for a few days.

Where many of us fall short as boaters is enough knowledge to anticipate what our fellow Boaters are doing and WHY. I have a friend who is a well-known fishing guide on the Bay. Many times I've heard him say "It's hard to get mad at someone who just doesn't know." Generally he's talking about the Go Fast Boat that just powered through a school of fish under a bird show while we're trying to fish. Or the sailboat that's coming right at us as we were anchored up over a rubble pile trying to catch a few Perch. But that is the Fisherman's perspective.

The same can be said for the sailboat on a windy day hard over on a starboard tack with a big cruiser on autopilot cutting over his bow. Hopefully each one trying to ANTICIPATE what the other is doing. Everyone should have an understanding of the basic Rules of the Road. Especially in the Chesapeake Bay where commercial traffic and Recreational boaters meet countless times. But I would

suggest that everyone try and develop a basic understanding of what your fellow boaters are doing. This would cut down on not only accidents but on those days ruined by simple frustration. It would also help you avoid situations where you are forced to make split second decisions.

Here are just a few examples. Most of us know that on April 18th Trophy Rockfish season started. Thousands of boats are trolling in the main stem of the Bay. (The only place they are allowed to troll.) Not the best time to plan a sailing regatta off Thomas Point. On the flip side, why would anyone plan a Poker Run that had a course that intersected a small boat sailing competition? Or, if you're going to drop anchor for a little fishing don't do it in the middle of a narrow barge canal like the one off Havre de Grace. If you see a bunch of small boats fishing under a flock of Seagulls go around. The extra time you get to spend on the water will far out way the gestures you and your crew might be subjected to. If you understand what the boats around you are doing and why you can anticipate and prepare. I guarantee this will eliminate ninety percent of your frustrations. And for the other ten percent. As my three year old Granddaughter would say.... Let it go... Let it gooooo.

Captain Mark Galasso

*Like us on Facebook at Tuna the Tide Charter Service
or Annapolis Boat Sales*

Scuttlebutt

The Chesapeake Bay Power Boat Association

needs your help. The annual **March of Dimes Great Bay Swim Event** is coming up fast; **June 14.**

If you've already registered as a sweep boat volunteer, thank you. If you haven't, please sign up today because we're going to need the help. If you've never been a member of the **Chesapeake Bay Power Boat Association**, or you have friends that want to join, you'll earn a free membership for your family (\$75 value). We need 65 boats again this year, all types and models to protect the swimmers as they cross the bay. The Race is starting at noon so we will need you on station at 11am. To sign up, send a message to dburke1284@gmail.com - Thanks in advance for your help.



BYC Commodore Wayne Penczek exchanges Club Burgees with the Commodore from the Harbor Lights Yacht Club Commodore

Baltimore Yacht Club

hosted 5 Land Cruises the last weekend of March; Kent Island Yacht Club, Miles River Yacht Club, Crescent Yacht Club, Middle River Yacht Club and Harbor Lights Yacht Club from Essington, PA on the Delaware River. A great time was had by all.

Colleen Smart photo

The Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron

offers basic boating classes – “ABC” (America’s Boating Course) are held at the **West Marine located at 8640 Pulaski Hwy. in Rosedale.** The class runs four consecutive Tuesday evenings starting at 6pm.

Successful completion of the course gets you the **Maryland Boating Certificate**, along with a six month Free Membership to the Squadron if desired.

The squadron’s general membership meetings are held at **BYC (Baltimore Yacht Club)** the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. All are welcome to attend. **Baltimore Yacht Club Rd., Essex, Md. 21221.** For more info, call 410-598-0833 or seo@uspsdundalk.org



The Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation

will hold its **16th annual Hospice Regatta on Saturday, June 6** at the **Concord Point Lighthouse in Havre de Grace.**

All proceeds from the event will benefit the **Senator Bob Hooper House**, the first assisted living facility specializing in hospice care in Harford County, and will support the programs and services they provide to residents in their final stages of life.

The Regatta will feature sailboats from the **Havre de Grace Yacht Club** that will race for the prized Regatta Cup. It is a premier event anticipated by both avid sailors and citizens alike who look forward to an evening on the shores of the Susquehanna River in historic Havre de Grace.

This year’s event will begin with a Sponsor Party at 5 p.m. followed by the Shore Party at 6p.m. At the shore event guests will watch the race, dance and dine under a giant tent next to the lighthouse on the promenade. A delicious dinner donated by **Texas Roadhouse of Fallston** awaits each guest, along with beer and soft drinks and a cash bar. Entertainment includes live music by Stolen Identity as well

as the popular gaming wheels and live and silent auctions. Individual tickets are \$75 (\$45 tax deductible).

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact **Donna Tower Lenzner** at **The Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation** at 443-643-3460 or dtlenzner@uchs.org.



Please send your club or organization news to: dave@upperbayboating.com

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The Soothsayer of North East, Maryland

by Dick Greenwood

I've known Tom Sassaman for 10 years now—we first met at the Annapolis Boat Show—and while I've never bought a boat from him, he's the first guy I'd go to if I were to buy one tomorrow. Of course, I'd have to get around the problem that he isn't in sales any more but is now the Service Manager for McDaniel Yacht Sales in Northeast, Maryland. Still, nearly 10 years after moving from sales into service, his more than 30 years of experience in boating and his downright honesty draw me to him for a candid conversation about boat ownership in 2015.



A conversation with Tom is a train of interruptions

“Come down on a weekend, and you'll find far fewer boats out on the river. People buy their boats and use them like weekend cottages. It follows that marina services are more important; people are more inclined to go with an upscale, resort marina. They aren't looking for a place to tie up during the night; they want a place where they can tie up and stay for a while.”

“Is it going to change?” I ask.

“Most marinas are experiencing 50 to 60 percent occupancy, nowadays,” Tom tells me, “but that just means people have more choices.”

I reflect on the problems I had when I bought my boat back in 2005 and know that what he's saying is accurate. Finding a slip in the marina you wanted was often a dicey proposition. “And choice is even more important to today's boater, because the way boats are used has changed radically since the heyday.”

“What do you mean?” I ask.



This line of boats is only a small part of McDaniel's inventory

Implying that this might be the new normal, Tom looks me in the eye and says, “Who knows. Your guess is as good as mine.” With a big grin, he adds, “My soothsaying capabilities are shot in the butt.”

“We know that about 30% of the yacht brokers on the east coast have closed their doors,” he continues. “We know that the big, over 40-foot boats that were so popular before the crunch in 2007-2008 are no longer what new boaters are looking for. And we know that gasoline prices discourage people from cruising like they did in the past.”

About this time, Tom can tell I'm about to do my Chicken Little imitation and declare that the sky is falling, so he moderates his tone a bit. “The up side on this is that boat prices are way down,” he says. “And when things start to turn around, the value of a boat will be high.”

I look puzzled at the last statement, so Tom helps me out. “When things get bad, boat manufacturers cut back on production; that means there are fewer boats to buy. So when things start to improve, there's a shortage of available boats. That's good news for someone who already has a boat.”

It makes sense to me. And if Tom Sassaman says it, I believe it.

Dick Greenwood divides his interests between boating, writing, and photography. He'll be regularly featured here highlighting people who make the Chesapeake Bay interesting and enjoyable.

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Live Aboard

by Don Elwell

Artful Living Aboard (and a call to artists)

One of the differences between a boat as a leisure device and a boat as a home is the whole issue of embellishment. For most folks who only go boating on the weekends, the boat is a tool to enjoy the water and one another's company. To us, the boat itself is an environment.

So one of the things we try to do is to make our surroundings beautiful, to live an artful life aboard. Since both of us are artists, it rather comes naturally. That extends from decorating the interior with *Objet d'Arte* to embellishment of the exterior. In our case this includes Gypsy Vardo-type decorations on the foredeck. We've even added a vertical garden for herbs and flowers for this spring, both of us being serious cooks.

Then, too, there is the not small matter of MAKING art while afloat. Some things, like 2D artwork and Gail's making of hand-bound books, are naturals for small spaces and serve as a great creative outlet as well as an income source.

Over the winter, the spar varnish we had used on the sides of the shanty boat failed to do its job, necessitating our painting the sides of the vessel this spring, so we've decided to turn the entire outside of Floating Empire into artwork.

So consider this a "call to artists" for the project. Note the above shot of the exterior of the shanty boat. See how it's divided into a series of "frames"? We would love to have different local artists come and fill those frames with beauty. See thefloatingempire.com for details.

Along those same lines, we have a new shipboard studio assistant. With the demise of our beloved Siamese cat shipmate Kallisti, we were unable to face being cat less on the water. Enter Magellan, an amazing seven year old rescue who has stepped into the role with aplomb, energy, and flying fur.

We love living on our boat, have we mentioned that?

Gail and Don Elwell, aboard the shanty boat *Floating Empire*. Follow his blog at www.floatingempire.blogspot.com



Floating Empire, a blank slate for art.



Painting the foredeck, Gypsy Vardo style.



Gail at her studio in the aft of the boat.



Magellan, our new shipmate.



Handmade books.



Just because it's a boat, doesn't mean you can't have artwork.



www.facebook.com/Ryanshopeorg

www.ryanshopeorg.com



Ryan's Hope Mission

Ryan's Hope is a non-profit 501C-3, charitable foundation dedicated to conquering childhood cancer and enhancing the lives of pediatric cancer patients and their families affected by Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (*DPIG).

Ryan's Hope will work to increase awareness of pediatric brain tumors specifically DPIG and provide help, hope, care, and support to children

and their families touched by pediatric cancer. We will raise funds to assist with cutting-edge cancer research, programs, and services that help children and their families cope with the many physical, emotional, and financial challenges associated with this disease.

All of the programs we fund will directly benefit children diagnosed with cancer, the families who support them, and the medical community who compassionately care for those touched by pediatric cancer.

Proceeds from the **Northern Chesapeake Bay Poker Run** will benefit this great cause - see ad below for more info

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Classic Corner



There were lots of cool classics at the Bay Bridge Boat Show; a '57 Chevy Nomad towing a fifties Chris Craft showed up with his friend who was also hauling wood with an early Ford pick-up and a matching cap to boot!



1950 PlastiCraft

Made in Trenton, N.J. by Winner Mfg. This was the first small boat company in the U.S. to use the newly developed "fiberglass" technique.



Fishing with Kids

by Tim Campbell

Fishing is a family tradition. Many parents realize the importance of spending time outdoors together. Fishing helps to strengthen the family and bond relationships. One of the first fishing trips I remember is catching perch and rockfish with my Dad under the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. To be fishing on a big boat on the open bay with my father was an awesome adventure for a ten-year-old boy. Little did I know then but I was already hooked on fishing.

Catching a fish is a thrill for one of any age. Whether it is from a pier, the shore or in a boat, opportunities to wet a line in Maryland abound. Observing the wonder of nature is an enriching experience. Getting youngsters interested in fishing and developing an appreciation for the outdoors takes some effort but it's worth the time. What better gift to give your child? Parents who take their children fishing have a connection to share with them for years.

Many clubs and organizations promote fishing with kids. The Maryland Saltwater Sport-fishing Association sponsors the MSSA Youth Angler Club. It is open to the public for youth ages 6 to 16. Free fishing seminars and family oriented events highlight the program. <http://mssa.net/youthanglerclub>

There are numerous other free and nominal fee fishing events around the state. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service promotes the Maryland Youth Fishing Club. It is free to join and open to kids' age 5 to 15. Each young person gets

a nifty Maryland Youth Fishing Club patch with their membership. One of the great features of the club is access to fishing information, fishing tips and when and where special youth events are occurring.

The DNR also has Hooked on Fishing Summer Clinics for boys and girls age 8 to 15. The goal is to teach fishing skills and encourage a passion for the outdoors. The five day clinics are held in four Maryland counties. No experience is necessary. DNR provides all of the tackle. This program requires a small registration fee.

There is also a Hooked on Fishing Day Program. This program is free and lasts from 2 to 3 hours. The Maryland DNR and the Future Fisherman Foundation team up to help young anglers learn the basics of fishing. The size of the group is limited to 20 young people 8 to 15 years old. It's a great opportunity for beginners.

Last year there were over 100 fishing derbies, youth fishing rodeos and other family style fishing events throughout the state. In 2015 there are many fishing related events for youth. The DNR selects a youngster for the annual Diamond Jim contest at many of these events. Check out the DNR website for more information. <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/>

About the author: Tim Campbell, a native Marylander, has been fishing over 50 years, works full-time for the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, and is a member of the Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Association.



Jonas LaVina holding a nice white perch he caught off of my Uncle's pier on Kent Island

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Safe Boating Tip

While you are preparing your boat to take to the water and enjoy the summer, remember to check your life jackets. Make sure that they are not ripped or torn and that the straps are in good condition. Dirty life jackets will still save your life, but may not be pleasant to wear. They can normally be cleaned with warm water and a mild soap. Be sure to rinse them in clean, fresh water and allow them to dry thoroughly. Don't forget to make sure that the life jackets your kids could wear last summer still fit. Finally, don't forget the most important thing about life jackets – they only save lives when they are worn. Wear yours when you take to the water.

If you would like to learn more about safe boating practices or participate in a Coast Guard approved Safe Boating Class, contact Nancy at 302-697-6188 or by email at nalaot@aol.com.



Tech Tip:

How often do you need to thoroughly clean Sunbrella?

The best way to keep Sunbrella brand fabrics looking good is to simply clean them as needed. Rinse off dust and dirt, wipe spills as soon as they occur, or spot cleaning soon after stains occur. Removable cushion-covers may be machine washed in cold water with mild laundry soap and air-dried. For more stubborn stains, Sunbrella fabrics are bleach cleanable.

Article supplied by **Canvas Plus**, located in North East, Md.



Our old friend Tom sent in this beautiful view of Baltimore. With all the recent ugly scenes of vandalism in the city, this is a reminder of how nice Charm City and The Inner Harbor really is. Our prayers are with the innocent residents of the city.

Photo by
THOMAS C. SCILIPOTI

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Sassafras River

In the last issue I wrote about Betterton, Maryland's history and suggested some paddle routes. Betterton, however, is only one of several places along the Sassafras River where a kayak can be launched from. In this issue three other areas east of Betterton are described. They make for equally interesting and educational day and weekend paddles.

Upper Sassafras River: Kayaks are ideal for peeking and poking. No where accentuates this more than does the upper section of the Sassafras. The put-in is a sandy beach located at the end of Fox Hole road. Fox Hole landing is public; has limited road-side parking, and no amenities. In short, it's secluded.

Directly across from the landing, you can see numerous large nests. These form a highly populated blue heron rookery. Beside the rookery lies Duffy Creek. If you choose to explore here, be careful not to get caught up-creek by an ebbing tide. My preference is to paddle here in the fall or early winter when the wild rice growing along the shoreline attracts migrating bird populations. Earlier in the year, tickseed sunflower add color along the banks.

The upper section is protected from wind and offers abundant opportunity for wildlife viewing all year round.

Downstream from Fox Hole landing lies Jacobs Creek, Hen Island, and Hen Island Creek. I've not ventured beyond this point, but Swantown Creek and Mill Creek appear to offer great opportunities for new exploration. All in all, the upper Sassafras offers solitude and quiet day paddles far away from the heavier boat traffic downstream.

Middle Sassafras River: Six miles west of Fox Hole lie the sister towns of Fredericktown and Georgetown. The waters here are much more active than those found upstream. Fredericktown lies on the north side of the Sassafras, while Georgetown (no, not the DC suburb normally referred to when conversations stray to the watering holes frequented by Washingtonians) lies on the south side. The two towns are connected via the MD 213 drawbridge. Together, they form the boundaries of a large river basin.

Fredericktown and Georgetown have intertwined histories that date back to the 1700's. The most popular historical note occurred in May 1813, shortly after British forces began the first upper Chesapeake Campaign of the 1812 War. In April, the Brits made a successful raid



on Frenchtown, then attempted to take Fort Defiance. The latter was not successful. British forces began putting into effect a plan that called for burning towns and properties along the waterline to put pressure on all property owners. On May 6, 1813, under command of Rear Admiral George Cockburn, troops floated their barges up the Sassafras to burn Fredericktown and Georgetown. They encountered little resistance, as most of the men in the area were manning forts elsewhere. Setting fire to Fredericktown, they crossed to the south bank where two brick houses stood. Approaching, the soldiers were met by a steadfast woman who refused to leave one of the homes. She was said to be "a tall and graceful woman." Her name was Catherine "Kitty" Knight. The other house was occupied by an elderly woman who was too sick to defend herself and too weak to leave. Miss "Kitty" pleaded with the men, and reports state she may have stamped out several fires before Admiral Cockburn told his men to leave the houses intact and return only with provisions. No one knows exactly what convinced Admiral Cockburn. Perhaps it was Kitty's cries of "burn this house, burn me!" A local newspaper wrote in Miss Kitty's obituary, "... by her heroism at the burning of Georgetown ... she saved several families from being made homeless and friendless by the fire and sword. Her appeal so moved the commodore that he ordered the troops to their barges and left unburned a church and several houses standing there as monuments to her memory for this noble and hazardous act."

Miss Kitty later purchased both homes. They have since been combined and remodeled. Today they are collectively known as the Knight House Inn and Restaurant. You may wish to plan a weekend series of paddles around a stay at this elegant inn. Who knows? You may also get a visit from Miss Kitty. It has been suggested that she still resides in Room #4 of this old Inn. I cannot confirm this, but rumors have it she closes doors, makes phone calls to the front desk, and has even been known to rock in her favorite chair. The Inn fills up quickly in the summer, so book your stay early.

There are two public launch sites in the middle section. The Fredericktown boat launch is located between marinas and boat traffic on weekends can be heavy. From Knight's Inn, cross the drawbridge and turn left onto George street. Look for the boat ramp sign on your left. This is Sassafras Street, which dead-ends at the boat ramp. Also, Kent County maintains a canoe/kayak put-in at the end of Gregg Neck Road. Gregg Neck Road is accessed via MD 290. Both launch sites have very limited parking.

Turner's Creek Landing and the Sassafras NMRA: During the Revolutionary War, wheat shipped from this landing fed George Washington's troops in Valley Forge. The granary now sitting on the landing is not the original one, but was built over the site where the original once stood. Today the landing is most noted for providing easy access to the fields of American Lotus that lie within Turner's Creek.

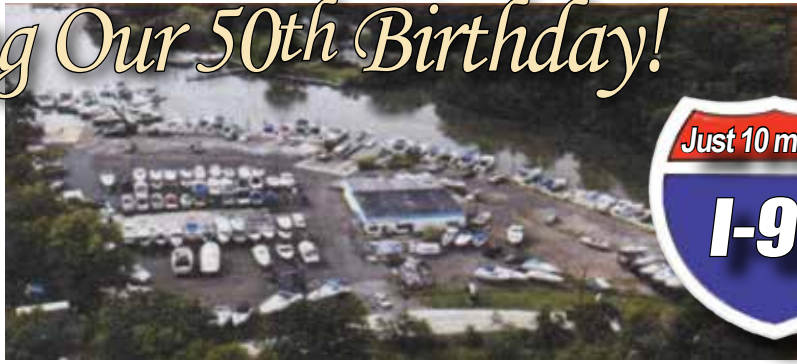
In late July and early August, coves along Turner's creek come into color with blossoms of the largest native flower in North America; the American Lotus. These 10-inch flowers bloom for one day, close for the night, reopen the next day, then lose their petals and drop their seed pods. Their leaves do not float on the water's surface like pond lilies. Rather, they fan out horizontally, above the water at low tide, to catch the summer sun's rays. More than one kayaker has become disoriented and lost in a Lotus stand.

American Lotus was a staple for the native Indians. The seed, stems, leaves, and roots are all edible. I have not sampled the American variety, but do like the root of the Asian variety sliced and marinated in rice wine, sugar, soy sauce and chopped scallions before par boiled. They go great with a side of wild rice.

Between Turner's Creek Landing and Betterton, the river is bounded by high cliffs. The red clay rises above the river and provides homes for swallows and other creatures which swoop over you during an evening paddle. At water's edge, the beaches are usually sandy or pebbled. On hot summer weekends you may find dozens of power boater anchored behind the barrier islands that guard the entrance to Lloyd's Creek. The shallow, sandy river bottom found here makes for a great place to cool off and relax.

Putting it all together, all of the areas noted make great day trips. If you are looking for a weekend outing, try setting up a shuttled paddle beginning at Fox Hole and ending at Still Pond. This will require an evening layover at Turner's Creek. This paddle is known as the Sassafras River Water Trail. From Fox Hole to Turner's Creek landing is 10 miles; a distance easily doable in a single day. You will need to obtain permission in advance to primitive camp in the Sassafras Natural Resource Management Area. It's probably best to drop off your gear at the campsite as you set your shuttle. Otherwise, you will have to pack the required porta-potty. This is a managed campsite. While in the Sassafras NRMA be sure to visit Knock's Folly. The next day, Still Pond lies 10 miles downstream and around Howell Point. It's a great paddle.

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