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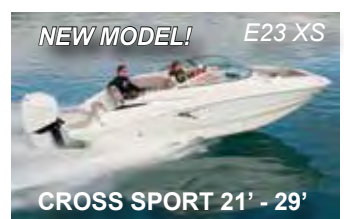
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Spring 2018

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Upper Bay Boating

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What a Long Strange Trip It's Been

The iconic band, Grateful Dead released an 18 track collection of their greatest hits from earlier year's way back in 1977. It was titled "What a Long Strange Trip It's Been". While I was having trouble "Truckin", recovering from knee surgery these past four plus months, I had plenty of time on my hands to think about a collection of my life's stories and memories. Thinking back to the mid 70's, that time in my life definitely was a bit strange. I still find it hard to believe that I started a business in the late 70's, got married, built a home, started a family, and now I'm an old geezer still wondering what the future holds. Thankfully, it includes publishing this magazine, and still hanging around boats all day.

Unfortunately for my parents' generation, there are few chances to create new memories. Many friends of my age are losing their parents. My next challenge is to figure out a way to help my 91-year-old mother realize she has to move into assisted living. We are trying to make the most of the years she has left. It's not easy, reminding her of the good times we all had in younger days helps for sure.

I am grateful that my family spent so much time on our boat together, and I did the same with my kids when they came along. It's a shame so many folks these days don't take the plunge like we did back in 1966 and buy a boat. I'm so thankful part of my journey has been out on the bay, and that three generations of my family have that bond together. Reminiscing about those great times sure makes life a bit easier during these tough times.

While I am in-between boats right now, I think back to all the boats I have owned. All seven of them brought me joy and the only time I was happy to sell any of them was when it had to be done to afford the next one. In this issue we have an article by Discover Boating titled "Get back on the Water". With so many different choices of boats both new and used out there, you should be able to do just that. Many entry level boats have monthly payment of less than the average car today. And several locations of Freedom Boat Club are on our part of the bay including one that opened last year in Middle River. That is a good option for folks that can't find time for the boat every weekend. Smaller crafts like kayaks and paddleboards are all you need to have to enjoy the water. Younger folks are finding ways to rent a boat, or just ride along on their parents' boat. So many choices are available to help you take the plunge. Just do it.

As I write this, it is time to turn the clocks forward an hour. One hour closer to boating season. I'll be happy to put all the terrible weather we had this winter behind me, ready to spring forward! Let's all have a safe and happy 2018 boating season folks. Make it part of your journey, part of your family's memories, part of your own Long Strange Trip.



Happy & Safe Boating in 2018 - Dave



The Captain and His Kid

By Wendy Gilbert, Features Editor

Up front. I am not a rabid Parrot Head, but I do listen and enjoy Jimmy Buffet's music. I play his boating, snorkeling, walking on the beach music all year 'round. They are just the ticket on a cold early spring evening when beaches, sand and sweat are out of reach.

Up until this winter, I didn't pay much attention to this particular song, but it often made me a little watery around the eyeballs.

He paints a wonderful tribute to his father and their relationship:

*I never used to miss the chance to climb up on his knee
And listen to the many tales of life upon the sea.
We'd go sailing back on Barkentines we'd talk of things he did
Tomorrow just a day away for the Captain and the kid
His world had gone from sailing ships to raking mom's backyard
He never could adjust to land although he tried so hard
We both were growing older then and wiser with the years
That's when I came to understand the course his heart still steers
He died about a month ago while winter filled the air
And though I cried I was so proud to love a man so rare
He's somewhere on the ocean now that's where he oughta be
With one hand on the starboard rail he's wavin' back at me
I never used to miss the chance to climb up on his knee
And listen to the many tales of life upon the sea
We'd go sailing back on Barkentines we'd talk of things he did
The world was just a day away for the Captain and the kid*

My dad passed this winter as well. He wasn't a sailing man, but a deeply devoted Episcopal priest with a fondness for trains. Instead of exotic ports of call, he criss-crossed the country, serving in little churches in little towns.

He too was a rare man. A man of deep integrity and one who served his churches with thoughtfulness, kindness and a few other virtues the modern world doesn't value as highly as it could.

Pop wasn't concerned about being cool or fashionable or popular. He was a joyful man.

It's quite a testament to his calling to remain joyful in a world so dark.

Pop was only depressed about being in the hospital because he'd missed the First Sunday in Advent for this first time in his entire life.

He didn't talk about his physical pain at all. Just how sad it was to be missing services.

My husband and I went down to South Carolina in January to visit. He'd been in a rehab facility for a week or so and was strengthening up for his return home. He was making great progress and eager to be getting back to church soon.

We took Mom out for lunch and out to visit Pop each day. Since my husband and I were in town, my brother decided to come by with his family on Sunday afternoon. The seven of us piled in to Pop's room and talked and laughed and laughed and talked all day.

I'd like to report that my last words to my father were something lovely or deep that would be worthy of a Jimmy Buffet song. Nope.

"Mom and I will see you tomorrow morning Pop!"

My father died from a massive heart attack late that night.

Jimmy Buffet is quite often a joyful man and perhaps he can work out a pop song for us, but for me, I'll think of my captain in church.

Wendy Gilbert



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A little shiver is good for the soul

By Wendy Gilbert, Features Editor

Following the first March wind storm, I asked a few of my neighbors how well they had weathered Riley. Our boating community was without power for 29.5 hours. Far shorter than our stint after Isabel or Sandy, but as it happened in the winter, it was worth a short conversation.

Most of my neighbors were happy to report that their generators fired right up and that they had plenty of fuel. Those extra blankets at the back of the closet got some use!

The hardest part for the future retirees like myself was getting home. Trees and power lines gave way and many bridges and roads were closed.

One of my neighbors said that she thought boaters can handle these things well.

True words.

Being cold and wet is quite often part of the boating experience – especially if you enjoy the cooler and quieter times at the beginning and end of the season.

I spent my younger years as a competitive swimmer and being cold and wet was part of the deal.

We didn't approach the blocks wearing nice dry track suits and shoes. And we certainly didn't toss our gear into baskets next to the starting blocks like modern day Olympians. Oh no. At the big events, we sat on metal folding chairs in our green and white



Speedos, dripping wet. We didn't even have flip flops on to protect our feet from rough cement floors, slippery tile or foot fungus.

I remember leaving an invitational in early March one season. I was one of the last on our team to compete and the gang was in a big hurry to get home. I rinsed off the chlorine as best I could, crammed my medals in my

bag and dashed out to the parking lot.

I swung my hair around as I threw myself into the van and heard an odd tinkling noise. It was the sound of my frozen hair. Not one to miss an opportunity. I quickly flicked a few of the frozen ends off. Thus eliminating at least a few split ends.

Early experiences like these set us up for what we enjoy later in life. Not that I enjoy having frozen hair or going without heat on winter days, but I do like not being a wimp about it.

There's a lot of great gear out there to make the cold and wet more bearable and I'm not above having them on board. Not at all. I appreciate dry bags, Gore-Tex and Coleman products. Often.

But every now and then, it's bracing and perhaps good for the soul, to feel a little sting on the cheeks and remember what it's like to shiver.

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Freedom Boat Club Welcomes Insightful New Team Member Kim Aubel

At their Baltimore Boating Center branch location, Freedom Boat Club is pleased to announce the addition of Maryland local Kim Aubel to their team in January 2018.

Born and raised in Perry Hall, Aubel brings years of Bay-area knowledge to her new position with the recreational boating association. As an account representative, Aubel is eager to welcome new members to Freedom Boat Club's growing marine community and encourage others to take part in what Middle River has to offer: boating education and recreation; one of a kind Bay eateries; water sports; and beautiful, winding inlets to explore.



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Get Back on the Water!

Boating is a way of life, a rich and storied tradition handed down from generation to generation, from parent to child. You probably have fond memories of sitting on your mother's or father's lap the first time you took the helm. It's almost a given you captained your first solo voyage long before you could legally drive a car. And like all great family traditions, odds are good that you'll pass this one down to your children as well.

Are you in between boats? Not sure a boat is a good fit for your current situation or budget? Explore the various ways you can stay active on the water, whether it's through a boat club membership, and shared ownership with a trusted family member, or even an inexpensive option like a dinghy, small sailboat or aluminum boat. The vast pre-owned market is also a viable alternative, with many affordable choices.



Keep your passion for boating alive by examining your wants; needs and budget, and then narrow your list accordingly. Just because your father had a cruiser or pontoon boat doesn't mean that works for you. Explore the options available, and determine which best suits your lifestyle.

If the tradition of boating is important to you, make the time for it. Designate the weekends or days you'll commit to get out on the water as a family, and be open to the activities your kids enjoy. Teach them to water ski, find a secluded cove and cast your line, anchor out and snorkel an interesting underwater location, or just explore a coastline. Consider inviting your children's friends to spend the occasional day with your family on the boat. Your kids will probably be more enthusiastic to spend the day on the water and you'll help create bonds—and memories—that will last long after you leave the water.

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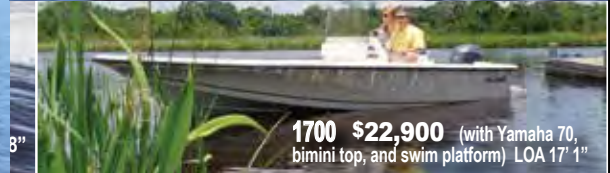
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Happier Than A Piggie In...

by L.Alan Keene

Would you be terribly offended if I spent the next 800 or so words talking about my feet? Or more specifically, would you find it too unpleasant to spend the next five or ten minutes reading about what makes mine happy? If so, my apologies, but I feel a need to share my story.

"But this is supposed to be a BOATING column," you're thinking. "He should be writing about boating stuff, like sailing and the upper Bay and boat shows and things. Not his feet!"

Well, you're right, but it's still 40 degrees outside, don't forget (as if you could!). Your boat is still high and dry at some marina, or on the trailer in the driveway, and you haven't been out on the water since last October. It's too cold to go boating and it'll be another month or so before you can crank up that motor or hoist the main. Stinks, doesn't it? Which brings me back to my feet.

While my feet are probably not a whole lot different than most, they do have that one identifying feature that sets them apart....they really do STINK! So much so, in fact, that Peg has threatened to leave me more than once, if I didn't soak them in Lysol or have them surgically removed....or both. If it weren't for a highly inferior olfactory system, she tells me, I wouldn't be able to stay in the same room with them. (God does work in mysterious ways, doesn't he?)

But why me? Why are my little piggies so offensive? Well, we've known the answer to that question for a long time. It's not the little piggies that are the problem.....it's where they live. It's where they're happiest. It's their piggie STY. I can scrub and scrub and soak and soak, but when the "one who ate roast beef" finds his way back into those FIFTEEN YEAR OLD BOAT SHOES, forget about it. It's all over but the smellin'!

But knowing the problem isn't the same as fixing it. Just ask Peg. She's pleaded with me for years to get rid of those old worn out leather "Topsiders", but I just can't bring myself to part with them. Decades ago I gave in to her pleadings and threw out an old pair of Sperrys that I miss to this very day. They were molded to my feet and slipped on and off so easily that I could hop on and off those boat-show boats without missing a step. If it weren't for her pleadings, and the green bottom paint splattered across the toes, I'd still be wearing them today.

What most wives fail to understand is that a boat shoe isn't really a boat shoe until it's spent four or five hot summers walking the decks and soaking up all there is to soak up.....adrenaline and heat driven perspiration being a large part of that mix. The first two seasons the shoes are stiff and hard to get on and off, but by the third they're beginning to feel like they belong out there on the water. The heels have collapsed a little and the tongue cooperates by getting up and out of the way.

But most of all, they're beginning to LOOK the part. The toes are scuffed from encounters with anchors and cleats. The rubber soles are nicked from battles with winches and blocks.



The stitching that use to be white has turned a yellowish brown, and those stiff leather laces have succumbed to the elements, hanging loosely in a bow. They don't scream out "nautical novice" anymore. They've become, to all who see them, the shoes of an old salt.

So, in her desire to continue to live in the same house with me, Peg has tried every deodorizing product known to woman. She's tried foot powders sprayed inside. She's tried foot powders sprinkled inside. She's tried foot powders dumped inside. In fact, those old shoes have been exposed to so much powder that a white cloud appears every morning when my foot slips in. There have even been days when I've seen powder shoot out through the stitching with every step.

Lately I've been noticing a faint hint of her expensive perfume whenever my nose gets within a foot or two. And a hint to me, with my weak sense of smell, is probably twenty-five or thirty dollars worth. Her latest attempt, though, involves those Bounce dryer sheets that are designed to add an "outdoor fresh scent" to the laundry as it tumbles in the dryer. She's been stuffing them in my shoes over night, like the tooth fairy on her midnight ride.

As I recall, "the problem" didn't become so all consuming until I retired back in 2002. Up to that point I wore dress shoes with socks out the door every Monday through Friday and my Topsiders, sans socks, only during the evenings and on week-ends. These days, though, outside of an occasional round of golf or church service, they're on my feet almost all the time. Their aroma has evolved, according to Peg, into one that makes the mushroom houses of southern Pennsylvania smell like fields of lavender.

I've made a conscious effort to try and break in a new pair or two over the past several years, but with little success. It seems that the ones I've tried are designed more for yuppies than for boaters. Their suede leathers and designer soles (not to mention their \$100+ price tags) make me a little hesitant to hop aboard and kick the mud off the anchor.

So, at the risk of doing further damage to my 49 year marriage, I plan on wearing those "old smelly things" for yet another season. At least, Peg concedes, I'll be out of the house most of the time. And besides, why shouldn't I wear them? When the one who "went to market" and the one who "stayed home" are happy, then I'm happy. What more can an old salt ask for?



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Know the Rules and Handle Striped Bass with Care by Tim Campbell

Striped bass are the most sought after fish in the Chesapeake Bay. Countless recreational anglers spend an inordinate amount of time and money chasing these beautiful fish up and down the bay. Boat dealers, marinas and tackle shops are just a few of the businesses that benefit from striped bass anglers. So significant are these fish to the state's economy that striped bass were designated as the Maryland State Fish way back in 1965. In fact, the iconic fish is so important to the state it seems every year the Maryland Department of Natural Resources updates the rules to make sure the striped bass population remains viable. Therefore, to stay within the law, and most importantly to help protect the resource, it is recommended anglers familiarize themselves with any new regulations.

The best of the Susquehanna Flats Striped Bass Catch and Release season is here. According to the DNR Maryland Guide to Fishing, it is open until May 3, 2018. There are special rules for this unique upper bay fishery. For instance, barbless hooks are required if trolling and no stinger hooks are allowed. Eels are not permitted to be used as bait during the catch and release season. River herring cannot be used as bait at any time anymore since Maryland placed a moratorium on herring in December 2011. American and Hickory shad may not be used as bait either. Maryland has had a ban on keeping shad since 1980. Bloodworms and bunker are okay, but non-offset circle hooks must be used whenever bait-fishing. Casting and retrieving artificial, single barbless hook lures using light tackle rods and reels is the way to go; ask any avid catch and release striper angler. Of course, fly rod anglers also consider it a high honor to catch and release a big striper. In the world of conservation minded anglers, no sight is more satisfying than watching the wide tail of a female striper swimming healthily away to spawn.

Take note, the season is closed for striped bass fishing from May 4 to May 15, 2018 and reopens on May 16, 2018. Then, fishing the Flats from May 16 to May 31, anglers may keep one striped bass per person, per day measuring 20 to 26 inches. By that time, the striped bass have spawned and most if not all of the big females are well on their way to the ocean. However, for the protection of the breeders, know that the MD DNR Police will be out enforcing the law during the catch and release season, during the brief May closure and at other times. Also

understand there are two separate violations cited in the Code of Maryland Regulations abbreviated as COMAR, which are germane to this special catch and release season. The first regulation is for keeping a striped bass out of the water too long. To some it may not seem as a serious infraction, but it is a serious violation because these fish are in the upper bay to spawn. The second regulation is for striped bass fishing outside of the catch and release area during the Susquehanna Flats fishery. Each violation carries a fine of \$250. Even though DNR officers have some discretion, be mindful of these regulations, don't take any chances and save yourself a day in court.

Unfortunately, in the spring of 2017, a few careless anglers were cited and fined for keeping striped bass out of the water too long and others for striper fishing above the demarcation line. They were observed by DNR officers passing a big striped bass around for several minutes



Ange Harclerode holding a 40-inch striper just prior to releasing it.

Photo by Tim Campbell

taking pictures. It is okay to take a picture, but the best way is to have someone ready with a camera, keep the fish in the water, take a quick photo and release it. If you must take the fish out of the water, a good rule of thumb is to keep it out only as long as you can hold your breath. Let us appreciate this extraordinary opportunity to catch these exceptional fish and always handle striped bass with care.

For regulations go to: www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/striper-bass/

For catch and release tips go to: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/catch-and-release.aspx



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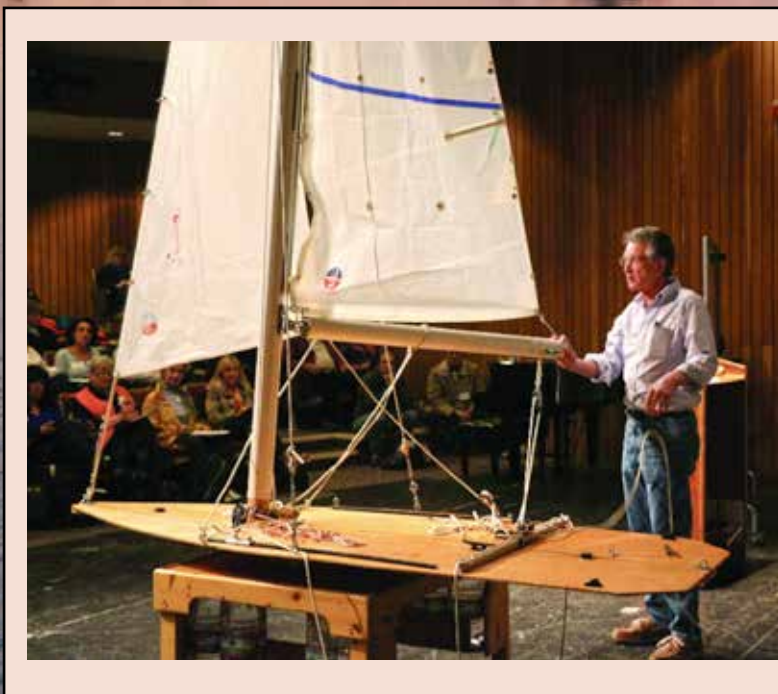
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Sailing Orientation Day

The "Lunch 'n Learn" Sailing Orientation Day will be held on Saturday, April 21st, 11:30am - 5:30pm, at the Kiwanis Club, Edgewater, MD. The Seminar will focus on basic skills including a guide to provisioning & clothing, basics of sailing & navigation, sailing & rafting etiquette, etc. "Lunch 'n Learn" is open to all; Singles On Sailboat (SOS) Members (\$15) and Non-Members (\$20); including lunch, beverage, seminar. Sponsored by SOS; signup online at www.singlesonsailboats.com, then click on April 21 "Lunch 'n Learn" link. Following the Seminar, there is a Meet & Greet" Happy Hour gathering after 5:30 at the Pier 7 restaurant & bar in Edgewater, MD. Please contact Janet Gonski at 443-223-6139 for questions or inquiries.

THROW ME A LINE !!!

By Montana Grant



Safety on the ice, or in a boat, is essential. There are times when throwing someone a line is required. I am not talking about a cute joke or phrase, I am suggesting an actual line. If someone has gone overboard, or has fallen through the ice, quick decisions will determine survival.

Years ago, I was drifting down the Yellowstone with some clients. The young fisherman in the rear seat was having a bad day. Every strike he had was missed. Finally, he set the hook and hit meat! The fight was on. Not only did he hit meat, he was so excited he stepped out the back of the boat! Here we were in the middle of the Yellowstone River with a man overboard.

I quickly grabbed my homemade juggled safety rope. After fitting my hand into the loop, I threw the line toward the wet fisherman. He grabbed the jug and held on while keeping his rod bent as best he could. Once hooked up, I towed him to shore and jumped from the boat to check on my wet angler. He was still fighting his first fish of the day. After netting a 20-inch cutthroat, I then grabbed some towels, and an old pair of overalls, to keep my happy fisherman warm.

That silly juggled throw rope saved the day and the fish. Making this throw rope is easy. Once you have an empty milk jug, tie one end of a 20-30-foot rope to the jug handle. Stuff the rope into the jug mouth. Tie a loop big enough to fit around

your hand at the other end. The rope will play out smoothly and be protected by the plastic jug.

Practice throwing this rig before putting it into your boat, or ice fishing sled. The weight of the rope, and jug, will allow you to throw a length of safety line to a victim. If you add water to the jug, it will add weight to your throw. Reloading the rope into the jug is quick and easy, with practice.

Ice fishermen should also carry this simple rescue rig. If someone goes through the ice, you need a lifeline to throw to them. Make sure that your rope is small, but thick enough to smoothly pack into the milk jug. I use a smooth braided nylon 3/8-inch rope for the best results. Coarse, or cotton rope is too absorbent, and rough, for this application. You want to throw out the whole line. This Safety Throw rig is cheap, and light. Hopefully, you will never need it but...

If you must, you can also use it as a clothesline to dry out the wet clothes. Maybe it will also serve as the ultimate stringer for a great day of fishing. Either way, it is better to be prepared, than helpless when an emergency happens.

Tight Lines!

For more Montana Grant, visit his website at www.montanagrantsfishing.com.



Montana Grant

As a retired Educator, Consultant, Naturalist, Guide, and Freelance Writer, Montana Grant spends much of his life sharing secrets, tips, and stories about the great outdoors. His roots are from Western Maryland's Appalachian Mountains but reach to Montana's Great Rockies. Montana Grant is an award-winning educator in public schools and universities. As an outdoor writer, Scoutmaster, hunting and fishing guide, or just a friend that shares his love of the outdoors, Montana Grant is dedicated to teaching others how to appreciate, respect, and enjoy nature. His blog can be followed at www.montanagrantsfishing.com.



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Boaters Prepare for Spring

By Captain Dale Plummer

April is here and that means early season boating on the Chesapeake. I'm looking forward to another successful and safe season. The reality is that you create your own success or failure on the water by being prepared.

Each season before the boat goes in the water complete your regularly scheduled maintenance and check your major systems. Your boat has been idle for 3-4 months so don't expect it to run flawlessly without attention. Electrical system, engine, propulsion, navigation lights and electronics all should be tested. Radio checks should be performed on channel 9. Call out to TowBoatUS on 16 then switch to channel 9 to perform the radio check. Inventory extra bulbs, fuses, and other emergency repair tools to be sure nothing has gone missing or was used and not replaced last season.

Check and upgrade emergency equipment such as flares, life jackets and fire extinguishers. Kidde Fire Extinguishers had a huge recall last season. Did you check to see if your boat's fire extinguisher was included? Recall info can be found at <http://www.kidde.com/home-safety/en/us/support/product-alerts/recall-kidde-fire-extinguisher/>. Don't forget to refresh the basics in your first aid kit as well. Life jackets should be easy to access and comfortable. A good Captain should insist that his crew wears them whenever on board. A good way to stay safe every time you and your family are on-board is to create a safety check list and get in the habit of reviewing it with everyone, each time you go out. Does everybody know where the fire extinguisher and the first aid kit are stowed? What is the emergency channel on the VHF or how do you put the boat in neutral?

I also encourage you to upgrade your boat to add new hand grips and railings, refresh the non-slip on the deck, declutter and organize to eliminate trip hazards, and to consider upgrading to brighter LED navigation lights so that when you are out at night you can see and be seen. By adding a boarding ladder or portable swim ladder to your boat you can quickly take control of a man overboard scenario. If you have a little bit of technical savvy investigate

the new man overboard systems that are available or simply invest in wearable light/sound beacons for Captain and crew.

And, while it is too early for some of you to get out on the water, I recommend using your time wisely to add to your boating and safety knowledge. Take a first responder class and refresh your first aid skills. BoatUS also offers an extensive menu of free online courses which include how to handle crew overboard situations, reading the weather, understanding the effects of alcohol, navigation rules, and marine communications. Accessing your current GPS lat/long is critical in an emergency. Learn how to use your navigation and other marine electronics. To make it even easier download the BoatUS towing app from your phone app store. Your current lat/long is displayed on the main screen and the data is shared with the TowBoatUS dispatcher if you contact us for assistance.

Last but certainly not least, make sure your insurance and towing service plan is intact and ready to go for the season. We hear so many times that boater's think they have a towing membership only to find it has expired just before the start of the season. What you prepare for before you hit the water really does make a difference. I hope these easy reminders help to make your season safe and enjoyable.



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Spring Projects

by James Bedell

Every year the plan is the same. Complete a long list of work on the boat, prep it for spring, and get it in the water by April. And every year the projects take longer than expected, costs more than expected, and delays my launch until the beginning of June. All this makes the first launch a high-priority, high-stress situation. But not this year. This year I've got a new plan.

Step one of the plan- PLAN. It may sound simple; after all, we all have a list of items to get done on the boat. Without fail we start a project only to realize that we can't get it done in time, or another project should have been done first. To avoid this, I took a new approach to my spring boat list this year. I listed every job I want to do and then went at it like a true professional. It's not hard to do and could save you a lot of money and frustration in the long run. I worked up an estimate for each job including timing, tools, and materials so that you can fully understand the scope of the work before you jump into it. Then I revisited the list and see if there are any jobs that can be combined to save some time. If you need to bleed your helm pump for instance, consider putting in that new stereo when you've already got the dash apart instead for coming back for that later. From my time working in parts and service at marinas I've come to understand that with careful planning, you can get almost any job done without getting in the way of precious time on the water.

That brings us to Step Two- WORK AROUND IT. Take a look at your list of projects. How many can be done with the boat in the water? How many can be done sitting at anchor at the beach? Use your boating time to get smaller projects done instead of trying to get everything done before launch. I used to insist on getting all of my projects


completed before launching, and every year, without fail, my launch was delayed because I hadn't finished the work. Many projects can be done during the season with minimal impact on your boating time. Take things in steps and don't be afraid to put down the tools, cover up the project and take the boat out. The project will be there when you get back to the dock. Of course, this doesn't apply to every project- this is where your list comes in. Make special note of anything that actually must be done before launch like replacing bilge pumps or exhaust hoses. Don't put yourself in a dangerous situation just to get out on the water a weekend early!



Step Three is one that we are all familiar with and may seem like a bit of a cop-out, but I believe it is very important to WAIT UNTIL THE FALL for some projects. Boating is all about enjoying yourself during the best and brightest months of the year. If you've got a big project to do and just can't get it done before launch, ask yourself how important it is. Can you get it done in a weekend at anchor? No? Maybe it should wait until the fall. This doesn't mean ignore it or forget about it. Keep your list and as fall approaches make a plan for finishing up any remaining items.

Remember that in both spring and fall, weather can interrupt even the best plans. Be prepared to cover or move projects that could be affected by wind or rain. If you have the indoor space to do projects, like a garage or workshop, take advantage of weekends washed out by spring showers to varnish bright work, program your

new GPS, inspect ground tackle, first aid kits, and flares. Once summer hits it's a good bet that your free time will be spent out on the boat, so don't delay! Get a pen and paper, make a list, and dig into those spring projects! It's that time of year again so don't let it get away from you. And if all else fails and you just can't launch in time for the first day of 70* and sunny, just do what I do. Put the project away, drop in the dinghy, and enjoy the bay; because in the end that's the goal of it all.



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***Sunset Harbor Marina's
New Owners***

In November 2017, SHM Properties LLC, owned by Barbara and John Polek, purchased the property currently leased by their business, Sunset Harbor Marina, 1651 Browns Road, Essex. The property had been owned by Jackson Marine Sales since 1971 when it was purchased from the Middle View Beach Club. In the past, it had been home to Paradise Yacht Club, Kelly's Bar and Grill, Boat Haven Marina and Browns Cove Marina. Jackson developed the property over the years as a full service marina and boat dealership.

In a 1994, Jackson entered into a long term lease with the Poleks for the marina property. Jackson further developed that property with the addition of a 180 rack indoor boatel in 2004. In 2017, the boatel operated near capacity.

Now the owners of all real estate known as SHM Properties and Sunset Harbor Marina, the Poleks have positioned Sunset Harbor Marina to be a desirable



home port for power boaters from Baltimore County and surrounding counties, as well as Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Contact us at **410-687-7290** or visit us at **1651 Browns Rd. in Essex.**

Last fall, when you put your boat to bed for the winter, you were diligent, planned ahead and you cleaned your canvas getting rid of all the bugs, dirt and mildew/mold. You also checked for any tears and holes in the canvas and vinyl and made an appointment with your canvas shop to do the necessary repairs over their less busy fall and winter months; so that your canvas would be ready to put back on you boat in the spring.

Oh, but that only happens in a perfect world and we all know that during the hectic time in the fall, things get missed. Quite often, it is the dirty and sometimes damaged canvas.

Canvas has many uses on different sizes and styles of boats including; bimini tops, convertible tops, cockpit covers, tonneau covers, dodgers and biminis and full camper enclosures.

Canvas repair

If you are facing canvas cleaning and/or repair this spring, it may not be too late. Your canvas shop may not be too busy to fit you in. But, be sure to call first before you drag all your canvas to the shop only to find out they are book for months. If they are too busy for a big job, they may still have enough time in the schedule to squeeze in a few rips, tears, broken zippers, missing snaps or other smaller job for you.

Cleaning Canvas

Canvas takes a beating throughout the boating season with wind, sun, salt spray, sea gulls, dampness causing mold and mildew, spiders and other insects leaving droppings and just plain dust and dirt from the air. Depending on where you boat, there could be local airborne dirt and/or dust. Cleaning would have been much easier in the fall before the weather turned cold. To clean canvas in the spring, wait for a few warm days when you can work outside with the garden hose. You don't want to do it indoors if you have mold because the spores may cause allergic reactions for your family members. Be sure to use a good quality face mask.

The top of a picnic table is a good size to work on, because you can spread the canvas out flat over the top of it. Use a firm dry scrub brush to remove most of the bugs, dirt, mold and mildew. This will release spores into the air so a calm day is best. You don't want the spores blowing into faces or buildings.

We have found that for the second stage of the cleaning, vacuuming up what is left using the hard brush tool works really well and contains the spores, dirt and dust. Just clean the vacuum thoroughly afterwards.

Washing the Canvas

Once you have removed as much of the dirt and mold as you can, the next step is to wash all the canvas pieces separately in a big tub outside. You could use the laundry tub inside but it isn't as easy.

There are many cleaners on the market to choose from. We recommend you consult with your canvas shop and follow their recommendations for the cleaner and follow the instructions carefully. They are the experts. The one they recommend will be suitable for your job, kill the mold and be friendly to the environment.

Be sure to warm up all your vinyl/isinglass window panels before unrolling to prevent cracking. Then wash one piece at a time. What worked best for us was to fill the tub with hot water and cleaner (follow instructions carefully). Then, roll the piece of canvas/vinyl so it will fit into the tub. Lower it into the tub and gently knead it in the tub to force the water through the fabric taking the dirt with it. You will see the water getting dirtier and dirtier.

When you think you have it clean, rinse thoroughly with the garden hose and repeat as necessary. You want to make sure all the cleaner is washed out. Hang the canvas over a deck rail, patio railing or something wide enough (not a clothes line) so the canvas/vinyl doesn't fold. Repeat with each piece and leave hanging until completely dry.

Waterproofing

Because the cleaner will remove the waterproofing as well as dirt, you will need to re-waterproof when you put the canvas back on your boat. Again, we recommend you consult with your canvas shop and have them recommend the product to use. Follow the instructions carefully.

Replacing Canvas

For boaters who will need to completely replace your canvas, you have a great opportunity. You don't have to have your new canvas the same as your old canvas. Consider some improvements. Take the spring and summer to do some research to design

your dream canvas. Take ideas from all the boats you see on your travels. Harbors are full of boats with canvas on. Wander the docks, talk to the boat owners about the great ideas they have in their canvas as well as what they don't like and would do differently if they had the opportunity. Ask permission to take pictures and take notes.



You will find ideas like:

- Where canvas is joined on the horizontal top with zippers, consider adding Velcro. It doubles the joint, improves the strength and reduces the chance of leaks.
- In the cleat openings for dock lines, consider flaps over the openings to keep out weather and bugs.
- Where side zippers meet top zippers, add a flap of extra material to keep the spray from entering your enclosure. A little Velcro will hold the flap down.

Dealers have outdoor display yards and Outdoor Boat Shows have boats with canvas on. Check them out early in the mornings before the canvas is removed by the sales staff for display purposes. Learn as much as you can.

You will find many ideas that you could incorporate into your new canvas. Take your ideas and pictures to your canvas shop. They will tell you if they can add these features and will no doubt have some ideas and suggestions as well. This way, you won't end up with a standard new canvas, you will end up with a fantastic new canvas with features and benefits to enjoy every day on the water.

Enjoy your Summer

With clean, repaired canvas, you can start your boating season with your boat looking great again and a smile on your face knowing that you won't have to deal with repairs and leaks. Instead, you'll be free to enjoy your summer.

Doug is the author of Buy a Boat With Confidence – 400 pages of valuable boat-buying information to save you money and buy the right boat. www.BuyABoatWithConfidence.com

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First Fishing Trips on the Upper Bay

By "Tacklebox Tim" Sherman

With the wind and rain, we endured this winter, I've had time to ponder my first fishing of the year. Yes, there are the diehards among us who make it a point to get out on the good weather days in winter ... and they do catch fish. There are plenty of opportunities to catch fish in early spring. You have the yellow perch, white perch, and shad spawning runs to the freshwater extents of our river system. There is the catch and release season for stripers on the Susquehanna and the trophy season on the main stem of the bay. Some of the best largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing can also be had at this time of year at the head of the bay. I have still yet to choose when and where my first trip will be this year.

Over the years, and as time permits year to year, I have participated in all of these early fisheries. Other times it is hard to get away from the daily grind for the early season runs. However, there are great memories from those first trips.

Back in my younger days, I would wade the banks of Dundee and Saltpeter Creeks. I'd carry a bunch of different lures that would appeal to white perch, yellow perch, and bass. On one of my "first fish" wading outings, I didn't catch a fish until I tied on a ¼-ounce rattle trap. I was hoping to entice largemouth bass. Instead, I found a voracious pack of white perch schooled in the 9 ½- to 11-inch size range. At the time it seemed like an hour of catching one after another, but for sure, the flurry lasted about 10 minutes.

Not too many years into the established Susquehanna catch and release striper season, Walter Ross invited me out on the flats for a day of topwater fishing. As we talked about the trip, he also mentioned that we could go up into the Susquehanna River to catch white perch. Great, a two-fer!

We fished on a perfect cool and overcast morning. Walt told me to bring spooks and chug bugs. There was a bit of a chop and there wasn't much action on the spook. We switched to the chug bug. The stripers were able to hone in on the rattle and splash of the popper. We landed and released numerous stripers before heading upriver for the perch. Walt meandered his fiberglass bass boat carefully over and around the rocks. We cast tandem grub rigs up current and let them swing into the calm water behind the rocks. Here, they were met by hungry schools of white perch.

Captain Dan Kardash called me for what was my first trip in 2011. Dan had already been out several times and was on bass. Air temp at launch on that early April day was



in the mid-30s and the river temperature was in the mid-40s. He didn't let a little cold snap deter us. We cast spinnerbaits to jetties and fallen trees and landed quite a few bass. From there we met quite a lull. After not catching, Dan suggested we make a pass or two along a Furnace Bay shoreline with square bill crankbaits. With a few minutes to spare, his rod loaded up with the biggest bass I have ever seen – a 7-pound, 14-ounce behemoth that was barely hooked. He led her alongside and I snatched her into the boat before she could shake the hook.

Last year Randy Yarnall and I hit the Susquehanna Flats and river for bass. As I often do, I brought with us a human high-pressure system. It was supposed to be a nice day; but the sky was high and clear, and the wind was gusting to 20 mph northwest. Needless to say, the fishing was tough. It was the rattle trap that bailed us out. We only landed a few bass, but that old-school-color trap put both largemouth and smallmouth bass in the boat along Garrett Island. From our catch, Randy was also able to determine that different areas along the Island were holding bass than in years past. That's a detail he can bank for future trips.

First trips of the year can have lasting memories. It matters not if the catch was big in size or number, a few fish or small fish, I'll always remember the fishing partner and the location. Our upper bay waters have provided me with many memorable first trips of the year.

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*Scenes from
Winter 2017*

Winter scenes on the Susquehanna River - Ice jams on Lake Clark and Sunken boats in Havre de Grace. Signs of one of the coldest winters in recent times on the river..



A sign of Spring...Diane found someone using old derelict boats as planters at the Philadelphia Flower Show.



Upper Bay Boating

Spring Boat Show on Kent Island to Exhibit More Than 400 Boats



More than 400 boats, up to 75 feet in length, are coming to the Bay Bridge Boat Show: April 27-29, 2018 in Stevensville, Maryland at the Bay Bridge Marina.

As one of the largest spring shows north of Florida, this exciting springtime in-water boat show traditionally marks the beginning of the boating season on Chesapeake Bay and is eagerly anticipated by fisherman and family boaters alike throughout the region.

"If you dream of summer boating and can't wait to escape with your family, or if you love fishing on the Chesapeake, then the Bay Bridge Boat Show is designed just for you," said Paul Jacobs, president and general manager of the Annapolis Boat Shows.

This year visitors will shop from 35 manufacturers of fishing boats and compare more than 100 center console fishing boats side by side. They will have the opportunity to board and inspect most new models on the market, make side-by-side comparisons, and talk to industry experts about all aspects of buying and owning a boat.

"There is nothing like a boat show to shop for a new or previously-owned boat," said Jacobs. "We work hard to create a vast mix of boat sizes and styles in the show to appeal to every boater, whether well-seasoned or a soon-to-be boater."

In addition to fishing boats, the Bay Bridge Boat Show will display center consoles, trawlers, express cruisers, pontoon boats, luxury cruisers, jet skis, jet boats, ski boats, bowriders, bass boats, inflatables, kayaks, SUPs, and canoes.

This year over a dozen exhibitors will offer demo rides and sea trials on many styles of boats from the docks inside the show. Boat and exhibitor lists are available at AnnapolisBoatShows.com.

Boat show goers can explore scores of on-land exhibits and browse the latest in navigational equipment, high-tech electronics, inflatables, boating accessories, clothing, gear,

and related services such as boating clubs, charter companies, insurance firms, and lending institutions.

Industry experts offer six free seminars daily. Rod building lessons are available all weekend.

An interactive children's area with a moon bounce, face painting, drink stations, an expanded food court, and a pool bar make this a fun family event.

Plenty of on-site parking will be available. A \$3.00 donation will support the Kent Island High School Athletic Boosters.

Boat Show Details

Bay Bridge Boat Show
Bay Bridge Marina, Stevensville, Maryland

Friday, April 27, 2018

10am - 6pm

Saturday, April 28, 2018

10am - 6pm

Sunday, April 29, 2018

10am - 5pm

TICKET PRICES

Adult One Day - \$12

Adult Two Day Combo - \$19

Children - 12 & under FREE

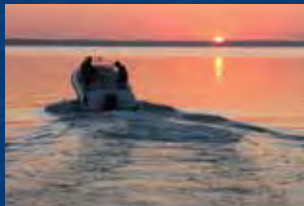
About the Annapolis Boat Shows: A premier event management company that produces four grand in-water boat shows each year.



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April 27-29, 2018

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Snow Owls on Hart Miller Island

Story & photo by Karen Wynn

Many of us know the Chesapeake Bay is full of nature and reveals some of the most amazing sights during the summer. As we go through the winter it's easy to believe that everything is in hibernation until spring. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, even though some of our migratory visitors head south, like the Osprey, we pick up a couple like Tundra Swans and Snowy Owls. Snowy Owls are rare visitors to the Chesapeake Bay that are amazingly beautiful with snow white feathers, with brown dots lines.

By about January 5th every year, I start looking for things to do that don't involve a remote or a power cord. This year, deep drops in cold brought our friends the Snowy Owl back into the Chesapeake Bay region. So, Christine, my wife, Kim Bountress and I set off on a mission to look for these raptors. I applied some of my best fishing prowess to find them, determine the habitat they like, the food source they want, and most importantly contact your network of friends who may know where they are.

To that end a little research showed us they like to hang around marine habitat and have been caught eating a duck or two as well as fish (Chesapeake Bay Program). We had heard rumors of one in Baltimore County, and reached out to our friends at Back River Restoration Committee (BRRC) who verified that a couple of them had made their way to Hart-Miller Island (HMI) (See Side Bar). Hart-Miller Island being closed for the winter, we sought out a plan B, Assateague Island State Park.

Our first trip out to find them was a dreary rainy day in January. We started walking the dunes at Assateague State Park and happened upon a Ranger who told us where to find a scientist from Project Snow Storm. We found Steve Huy, with Sinepuxent, a large female who he had trapped using a pigeon. He was measuring, observing, tagging her and she was released none the worse for the wear. Since that day, Sinepuxent has left the area and checked in to several PA towns on her way back up to the Artic Circle.

Albeit fun to see this amazing bird in brief captivity, we still wanted to catch one in the wild. Our friends at BRRC were able to connect us with the Maryland Park Service and Brett Pochazka, a ranger on HMI. We took a tour of the island and about ¾ of the way around on the North East corner we found two snowy owls in an



area where they could see through the marshes on a higher perch, but were still protected from the winds off the bay by a couple of dunes. The lake, being built in the middle of the island, seems to be a perfect winter roost for many water fowl and raptors. Ranger Pochazka also told us of the fox, deer, and even coyotes that have made their way to the island. These two perched owls seemed to notice us right away, but cautiously hung out as we explored the area on foot. They moved from perch to perch, as they tried to maintain a safe distance from us but allowed us to grab some awesome shots of them.

After our photo-shoot we continued around the island. It was amazing how much life we saw. Tundra Swans, blue bill ducks, geese, blue heron, and many more birds. Looking out south of the island we could see the front marker of the Craig Hill Channel range finder, the old Craig Hill Channel Lighthouse. Just to the east of that we could see a cloud of birds, presumably Bluebills feasting on the bounty of Man O'War Shoal. Almost back to the starting point, we saw an old local, a mature bald eagle, perched in a tree. Stopping to admire, he moved along and we were able to capture a couple of beautiful shots of him perched on a larger hill, presumably there to keep a sharp eye on us.

January and February can present some of Maryland's most amazing sights and the Chesapeake Bay really comes alive with many different visitors, some rare and some as familiar as any. These visits also highlighted the great work being done throughout the state, by many, on habitat restoration, data collection, and cleaning our water ways. This work is not only rewarding in that it directly helps our resource, but also allows for some amazing interactions with our estuarian system and its many inhabitants.

On the Waterfront

with George Waters

photo by Donna Bedell

Details of the Top Secret iPhone XX Revealed!

Apple came out with its iPhone X last fall, to much fanfare (Slogan: "Now with 30 percent more price tag.") Do not ask Apple why they went from the iPhone 8 to the 10 without a 9. It's Apple Math. Start flipping beads on that particular abacus and you will find, upon visiting your closet, that all your shirts have inexplicably turned into black turtlenecks.

It turns out it was all just misdirection, anyway, to keep us from discovering Apple's secret project, the iPhone XX. I cannot tell you how I came to possess the plans for this amazing product; if I did, I wouldn't have to kill you, I'd just have to explain how humor columns work.

iPhone XX (Slogan: "One X short of a very, very different product")

Manufacturer: Keebler (yes, they made space in the tree)

Compatibility: GSM, IMHO, BFD, AAA & IHOP

Size: .275 cubits x .170 cubits (basically like half a panini)

Weight: .0026 Brads (fractions of Pitts)

Operating system: iOS 24.7.365

CPU: PU is right! C? Light a match

The iPhone XX (Code name: "Samsung Galaxy XX") is the next generation of smart phone, so secret that Apple has told the employees working on it that they are actually building boats. Smart little boats, which can hold more music than

the entire Library of Congress. When the more suspicious employees ask where the rudder goes, they are sent to Google for "reeducation."

The XX is the first smart phone to have the patented XX port, affectionately known as the "Dos Equis" port. Just plug in the external iTap, twist the spigot and fill your mug with a frosty brew. In the mood for something European? There's an app for that.

The XX is available in three colors—gold, silver and '70's refrigerator green. This is apparently an inside joke.


Facial recognition, a major element of the iPhone X, takes a step further in the XX with French ID™. Just passionately make out with your XX's screen and your unique style—you know, the one you learned freshman year—will instantly identify you.

Wireless charging with the XX is also next-gen, requiring only to be in the presence of a celebrity, even, like, a Kirk Cameron level one, to completely refresh.

In short, the iPhone XX (Slogan: "Please don't show this column to Kirk Cameron") is the most advanced piece of technology you will ever own, assuming, of course, you aren't Elon Musk.



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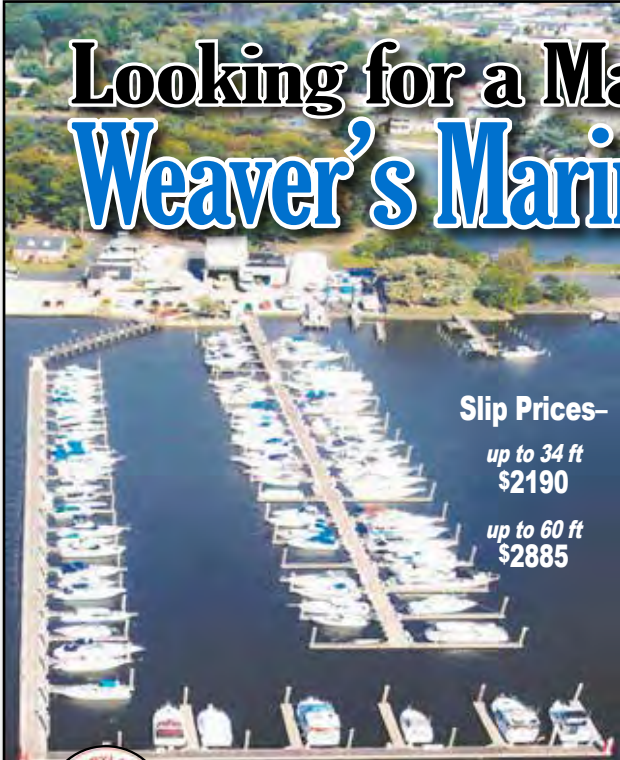


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Come On Spring Time!

By Captain Mark Galasso

*Tuna the Tide Charter Service
Grasonville, Maryland*

The official start to Maryland's recreational Striped Bass season will kick off April 21st this year. And for many of us it marks the beginning of the new boating season. Among the excitement every boater in the Chesapeake Bay will face a few challenges this year whether you are a fisherman or not.

Generally as the snow melts north of us and the April/May showers get ramped up millions of gallons of fresh water will flow into the head of the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Susquehanna River. The Conowingo Dam can only hold back so much of the logs and debris trapped behind it. A recent photograph I saw looks like a picture of a massive landfill, with lawn furniture, whole trees and all sorts of large ominous looking things ready to head our way. Unfortunately this is nothing new. But be advised, like icebergs, sometimes you can only see a fraction of what's under the water.

I remember the first time I set foot in the marina at Penns Beach in Havre de Grace years ago. In the middle of the parking lot was a small mountain of lower units. A monument to the dangers of running too fast around the Susquehanna Flats. It was a lesson I learned by other people's mistakes. The fact is I still hit things. Just not as hard!

Generally, if the Conowingo flows more than 20 gates a new fresh set of obstacles enters the Bay. Considering the recent snows up north there will be a lot of flow this spring. Time will tell.

South of the Brewerton Channel is where the trolling fleet will be fishing. North of that channel, the east west shipping lane into Baltimore, there is no fishing for Rockfish allowed. So boats cruising between there and Turkey Point will only have to contend with debris and each other. Boats south of there down the Bay 50 miles will have to contend with the mass of fishing boats trolling up, down and all around the Bay. Remember, from when the trophy season starts until June 1st you can only keep fish caught in the main Bay. This tends to concentrate the boats in a smaller area. The other thing to consider is many of these fishing boats use planner boards to increase the spread of their lures. Some of the larger boats might have spreads



that stretch as much as 200 feet on either side of their boat effectively making them 400 feet wide. Avoiding them can be like avoiding the large ships coming and going up and down the Bay. From the mouth of the Choptank River north to the Brewerton Channel seems to be the most popular area for this type of fishing.

On the Eastern side of Chesapeake Bay, north of Tangier Sound the channel edges are quite steep. On the Western side there is a much more gradual drop off. Most boats trolling are fishing the channel edges in water from 30 to 100 feet. Chances are if your making a long run up or down the Bay if you run shallower than that you won't encounter many boats actively fishing. And during the trophy season there aren't the usual crab pots in those waters. This also helps avoid the barges and large ships that are also trying to avoid the fishing fleet even though they have the right of way. I can't imagine what runs through a Bay Pilots mind when he looks at the ships radar screen as they approach the anchorage off Thomas Point on opening day!

If you read a manual for a new auto pilot every other page warns you to post a lookout. The moral to this article is it is imperative that boaters keep a sharp eye on what is going on around them all the time. But especially in the spring. A tee shirt I saw recently summed it up in a picture. A gentleman in a power boat is heading into a knot of 100 or more sailboats. He describes his predicament in just 2 words. The first one is Oh *%^#! Come to think of it that's probably what the Bay Pilot is thinking!

Boat safe- Capt' Mark



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A portion of the proceeds from the class will benefit the Junior Firefighters program at the Bowleys Quarters Volunteer Fire Company. The classes will be presented at the firehouse, 900 Bowleys Quarters Road, 21220 according to the following schedule:

- April 7 & 8, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am to 1:30 pm
- April 22, Sunday and April 29 Sunday, 9 am to 1:30 pm
- May 8 & 10, Tuesday and Thursday , 6 pm to 10 pm
- May 26 & 27, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am to 1:30 pm
- June 9 & 10, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am to 1:30 pm
- June 23 & 24, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am to 1:30 pm
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Project Clean Stream Day is **April 7** -And cleanups take place all Spring through June 9th twolfe@allianceforthebay.org or call 443-949-0575 The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Bush River Yacht Club Car Show & Open House **April 21** 11-3, RD 4/22; Event located at 4001 E Baker Avenue Abingdon, MD, 21009 Reg \$12. Dave Pearce 443-686-0200

The Lower Susquehanna Greenway River Sweep **April 21** from 9-12 a volunteer shoreline and roadside clean-up in honor of Earth Day. The cleanup will take place in Havre de Grace, Conowingo, Perryville, Port Deposit, and Garrett Island. brigitte@upperbaytrails.com 410-457-2482

Betterton Beach Clean-up **April 21** from 9-12 RD 4/22 410-778-2082 www.kentparksandrec.org

Bay Bridge Boat Show **April 27-29** at the Bay Bridge Marina in Stevensville, 410-268-8828 info@annapolisboatshows.com For more info see ad in this issue

Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival **May 4-6** Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, 215 Giles St Havre de Grace, MD 21078 410-939-3739

35th Annual MSSA Spring Fishing Tournament **May 4-6** www.mssa.net

SGT. Marvin T Haw IV Boating Safety Day **June 2** from 11-4 Wilson Pt. Park 950 Beech Dr, Middle River, Maryland 21220 See special section in our next issue

2018 Fishing Events

The Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association has 14 Chapters. Please go to www.mssa.net for meeting dates, locations, and times. Essex / Middle River MSSA Chapter monthly meetings held the **3rd Tuesday** of the month featuring expert speakers. Free and open to the public. Meeting starts 7:30 pm. Commodore Hall - 1909 Old Eastern Ave., Essex, MD 21221. Doors open early. Food is available for sale.

Pasadena Sportfishing Group monthly meetings held the **2nd Monday** of the month featuring expert guest speakers. Meeting starts 7:30 pm. Free and Open to the public. Doors open one hour early. Food is available for sale. Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Hall 161 Ritchie Hwy. Severna Park, MD 21146 - www.pasadenasportfishing.com

2018 CCA-MD Fishing Tournaments

June 2, 2018 - CCA-MD Kent Narrows Fly & Light Tackle Tournament

Sept. 28, 29 and 30th 2018 - RedTrout Tournament - Crisfield, MD.

2018 CCA-MD Baltimore Rocktober Cup and BRR Harbor Trash Tour (October 2018 date to be determined) 2018 MSSA Fishing Tournaments www.mssa.net for more info.

May 4, 5 and 6, 2018 - 35th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament

June 15, 16 and 17, 2018 - MSSA Tunament

August 25, 2018 MSSA - Summer Classic Rockfish Contest

Sept 15, 16 and 17, 2018 - MSSA Mid-Atlantic Flounder Contest

Nov 16, 17 and 18, 2018 - 24th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament

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Antique Boat Festival

Wooden and fiberglass classics, vintage racers, and other antique and Chesapeake Bay-related boats are coming to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum June 15-17 for the 31st annual Antique & Classic Boat Festival and the Arts at Navy Point in St. Michaels, Maryland. Hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society, this Father's Day weekend event brings a sense of nostalgia to the Miles River and CBMM's docks and campus, drawing some of the area's finest classic boats, nautical and maritime treasures, entertainment, food, and libations to this waterfront festival.

This year's show will be featuring ski boats and water skiing memorabilia with some of the earliest ski boats manufactured scheduled to be on display. This water skiing theme compliments the CBMM's largest permanent At Play on the Bay exhibit housed in a two-story exhibition building on campus which includes a 30-foot Owens cruiser as well as over 400 historical artifacts, photographs and video footage.

Festival hours are Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Father's Day, Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The festival includes two-day admission to all of CBMM's special and permanent exhibitions, including the 1879 Hooper Strait Lighthouse, where guests can climb to the top for views of the Miles River and St. Michaels harbor. The event is \$5 for CBMM adult members, or \$18 for adults; \$15 for seniors and students with ID; and \$6 for children 6-17. For more information, visit bit.ly/oldboatscoolfun or call 410-745-2916.



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Classic Corner



*photos by
George Hazzard*



Spring is a time for paint and varnish at Wooden Boat Restoration. Shown here are the Chesapeake light craft, 1952 Chris Craft Kit boat and the 1939 Consolidated.

Freedom Boat Club Launches Major Franchise Expansion In Europe With Jeanneau



**Freedom Boat Club to Partner with
Jeanneau Dealerships as Part of New
European Boat Club Initiative**

Freedom Boat Club (FBC), the world's oldest and largest boat club with 150+ North American locations in 30 states and Canada, has just signed an alliance agreement with Jeanneau to cooperatively develop Freedom Boat Club franchises among its European dealer network.

According to FBC President and CEO John Giglio, the FBC franchise model is now being offered to Jeanneau retailers in Europe who have the opportunity to develop FBC locations in their local market using Jeanneau outboard-powered boats.

"Our Jeanneau European alliance grew out of a strong relationship with the Groupe Beneteau brands here in the U.S., as a growing number of our franchisees have placed Jeanneau, Four Winns and Glastron outboard boats in their fleets," said Giglio.

"We are very pleased to be working directly with Jeanneau in the launch of our successful boat club franchise throughout Europe," he added. "Jeanneau and its dealers clearly understand and embrace the benefits of the sharing economy, and the boat club model specifically."

Based on current interest and development activity, Giglio expects to announce multiple Freedom Boat Clubs operational in France this spring, with additional expansion elsewhere throughout Europe to follow. A group of Jeanneau dealers attending the Miami International Boat Show are confirmed to meet with Freedom Boat Club executives to tour a large Florida-based Freedom Boat Club franchise operation.

Giglio believes the new international expansion will be good for business, but also very good for the more than 30,000 Freedom Boat Club members throughout North America and those who will join abroad.

"One of the most exciting aspects of this international ex-



Freedom Boat Club and Groupe Bénéteau executives share a toast to celebrate their new FBC alliance. From left, Groupe Bénéteau Boat Division Business Development Director, François Rodrigues, Jeanneau CEO Jean Paul Chapeleau, FBC VP Business Development Barry Slade, FBC President/CEO John Giglio and Groupe Bénéteau CEO, Hervé Gastinel.

pansion is our exclusive membership benefit featuring reciprocity," he said. "Our Freedom Boat Club members around the world will enjoy full access to our fleet of boats wherever clubs exist, and that will now include international ports of call."

"The boat clubs are a real trend that our dealers are keen to develop," confirms Jean-Paul Chapeleau, Jeanneau CEO. "For Jeanneau dealers, it's a unique opportunity to benefit from an experienced partner while launching this new service to our customers."

For more information about FBC's North American and international franchise program and available markets, visit www.FreedomBoatClubFranchise.com. For more information about Freedom Boat Club, visit www.FreedomBoatClub.com

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Freedom Boat Club Donates \$46,000 to Benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of America



2017 National Charitable Campaign

Collage of photos taken during BBBS events. Pictures include some of the Bigs, Littles, and FBC staff that participated.

Freedom Boat Club, the nation's oldest and largest boat club with 16,000+ members in 29 states and Canada, recently concluded its second national cause-marketing partnership to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Total contributions among all participating clubs nationwide was \$46,000. Funds raised in each of the club locations throughout North America are returned to their local regions and BBBS affiliates.

The local FBC franchise raised and contributed \$725 and hosted a fun ALL ON DECK party for Bigs and Littles including lunch and free boat rides held at Fairwinds Marina in Annapolis, MD.

"We very much enjoyed participating with our local BBBS affiliate in Baltimore, MD this year and in raising funds to help young people throughout our community," said Freedom Boat Club franchise owner JoAnna Goldberg of Annapolis, MD. "We are very pleased to have been part of the national charitable campaign that benefits those directly in our community."

Participating franchises, including Freedom Boat Club of Maryland/DC, were recently honored at the National Freedom Boat

Club Franchise Conference with an award for their participation in the national campaign.

"We very much value and appreciate the strong FreedomBoat_ support of our franchisees that joined us in this national campaign to benefit Big Brothers and Big Sisters of FreedomBoat_ America and the families they represent," said Freedom Boat Club President and CEO John Giglio. "As an organization, we believe in giving back to the communities in which we operate and we're especially pleased to provide opportunities to introduce the fun of boating to young people."

Added Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Corporate CEO Pam Lorio, "Organizations like Freedom Boat Club that believe in our mission are key partners for Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliates across the country, both as generous fundraisers and as organizers for great events for our Littles. We appreciate their support."

For more information about the local Big Brothers Big Sisters effort in Baltimore, contact Lauri A. Petroy at lpetroy@freedomboatclub.com



Join the Back River Restoration Committee

by Karen Wynn

With a few sneak previews of warm sunny days, I think we are all ready for spring to arrive and to get our boats in the water. Back River Restoration Committee has been gearing up for spring and boating season also.

BRRRC has kept busy by breaking down abandoned boats retrieved from Back River this fall and doing Wednesday cleanups with a small crew of volunteers to pick up tires, mattresses and trash along the sides of the road. We have had two community cleanups in March, one at the Essex Park & Ride and the second in the wooded area near Walnut Grove that runs into Back River. Our cleanups have included BRRRC members, volunteers and Scouts from Venturing Crew 726 and Sea Scout Ship 7117. Just in this new year of 2018, our volunteers have picked up 83,180 pounds of trash that would have otherwise made its way into our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.



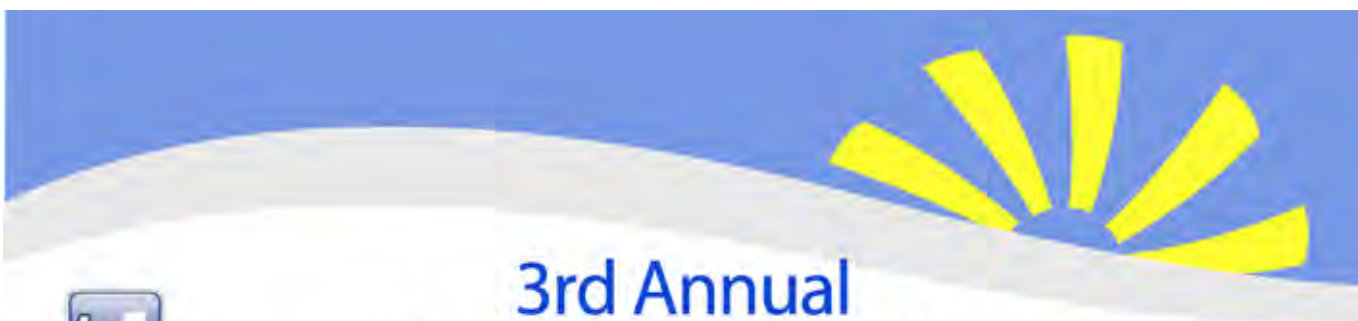
We are currently looking for some hardworking, environmental students for our summer internship program. If you or someone you know is an Environmental College student and would like to spend the summer on the water helping the Chesapeake Bay, contact Karen at savebackriver@gmail.com

Come out for our cleanup on Gray's Road in Sparrows Point sponsored by Key Brewing on April 14th. We could use many volunteers to cleanup this mile long stretch of storm drain ditches filled with dumped trash. You may even have a chance to sample some of the great beer from Key Brewing.



Please check our Facebook page for more upcoming cleanups and events such as our Golf Tournament in June, our Rockfish Tournament in September and Shrimp Feast in October. As always, thank you to our many volunteers for helping to protect the future of Back River and the Chesapeake Bay.





3rd Annual Sgt. Marvin T. Haw IV Boating Safety Day

Please join the Baltimore County Police Marine Unit along with the Essex Precinct, Natural Resources Police, the United States Coast Guard, and many other Agencies for our 3rd Annual Boating Safety Day!

Come witness and participate in water safety demonstrations. Enjoy fun in the sun, prizes, food from various local vendors and meet with local marine businesses. Learn and pass on the importance of Boater Safety!



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Live Aboard

by
Don and Gail
Elwell

Beware the Tides of March

Okay, so it's a terrible pun, but someone's got to do it. Last episode, I discussed some of the issues with inclement weather, but from our experiences this March, I thought I would do a bit more on the tidal issue.

I meet a lot of folks who think that the tides only matter in the oceans and in oddball circumstances like the Bay of Fundy. They think that rivers and lakes, estuaries and bays are somehow immune. Let me assure you, they aren't. Take a look at the two pictures below. One is a rain-driven high tide at our marina on the Middle River. You may note that the water is within a few inches of swamping the fixed piers. We've seen worse. A few years ago, a November high tide sent the docks a full ten inches under water, which made getting to one's car a bit . . . um . . . more entertaining than usual.

The second shot is from roughly the same vantage point in our wheelhouse, but this after two days of winds gusting from the NW at 60+ mph. What you are looking at is mud, and yes, the boat in the background is the same boat in the same slip. The disturbing part: This is HIGH tide.

My point is, you're never immune to the effects of tidal and wind driven water, nor of coastal flooding from rains upstream, and if you're wise, you'll plan for it. But how?

There are several tactics to deal with monster tides. The most common being the humble footstool, which is easy to keep on hand and has other uses....they also blow off the dock rather easily. If you'll look next to the dinghy in the low tide shot you'll see a sort of lump just behind it. That is the zebra-mussel encrusted stepstool we lost last year. Caveat. We also use a handy section cut from a discarded ladder to get both up onto dock and DOWN onto the dock. . . .depending. If you cruise, you'll find tide conditions different in every region in every port, from variances of inches to variances of tens of feet. Do your homework and you won't be stranded on the vessel begging people on the cell phone to come and throw you food.

This late winter has been one of multiple projects, most quite successful. Our enclosure of the wheelhouse with FlexOGlass continues to make for some lovely afternoons sitting in the sun, despite cool temperatures and wind. This month, we designed and added a urine separator to our simple composting toilet setup (for instructions, see www.thefloatingempire.com) which has made a HUGE difference in how often we must empty the waste (we're now getting ten days or so between having to dump the bin), so I recommend that highly.

The weather has been hugely erratic of late, but spring is only around the corner. Slip mates are popping up like crocuses to look at their boats on the hard with longing. The marina is doing repairs and making ready for the boating season. We can't wait.

Don and Gail Elwell, and first Cat Magellan Aboard the EV "Tesla's Revenge"

www.thefloatingempire.com lifearthwater.blogspot.com



The Low Tide. Who pulled the freaking plug?



The High Tide. A few more inches, and we wade



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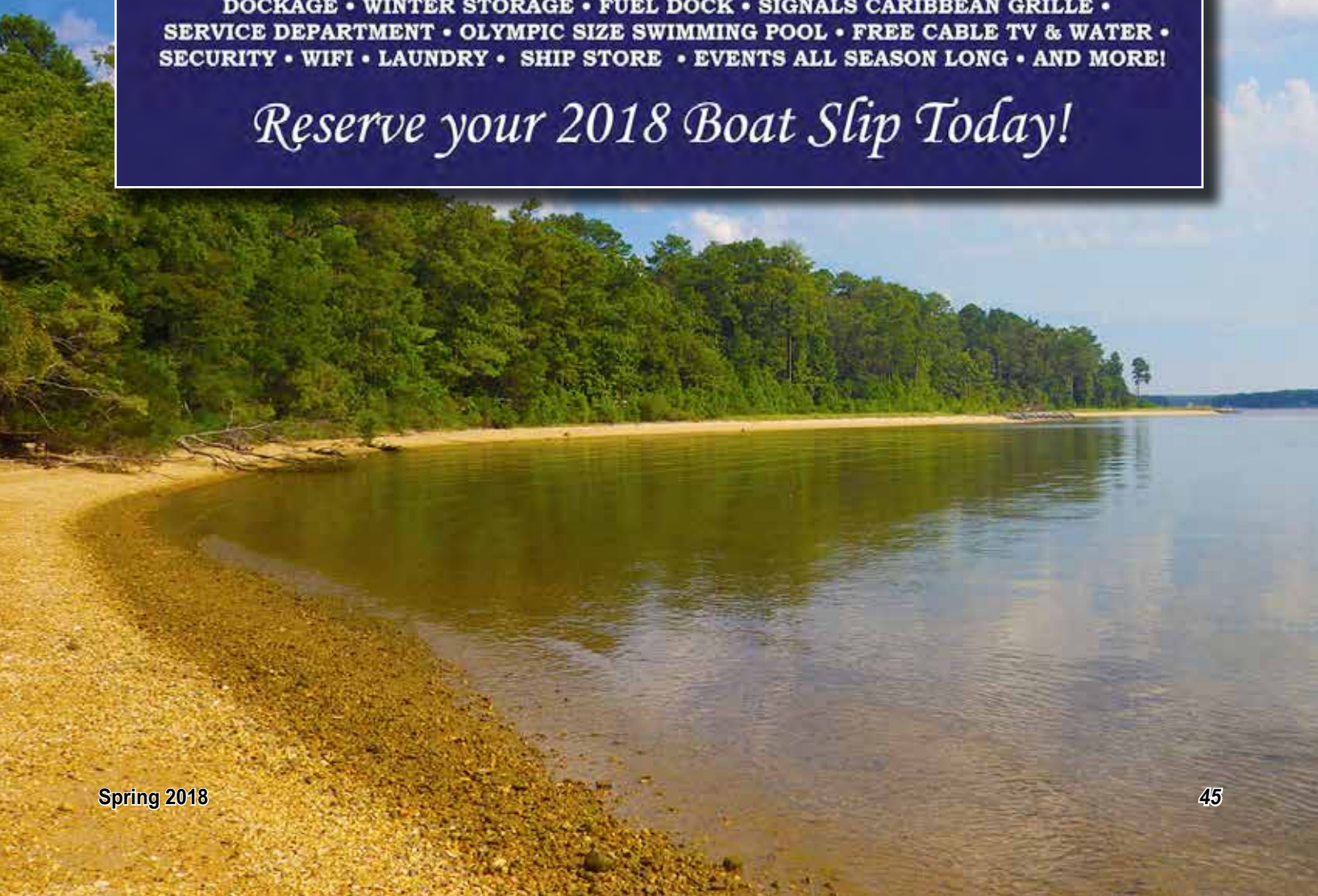


Photo Gallery

Michelle Sumrall



Bob Palsgrove- Elk River



David Sites

Please share your photos with us, like your favorite scene of the Upper Bay, or your Boat Dog!...

Email them to: dave@upperbayboating.com



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