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SEPTEMBER 2024



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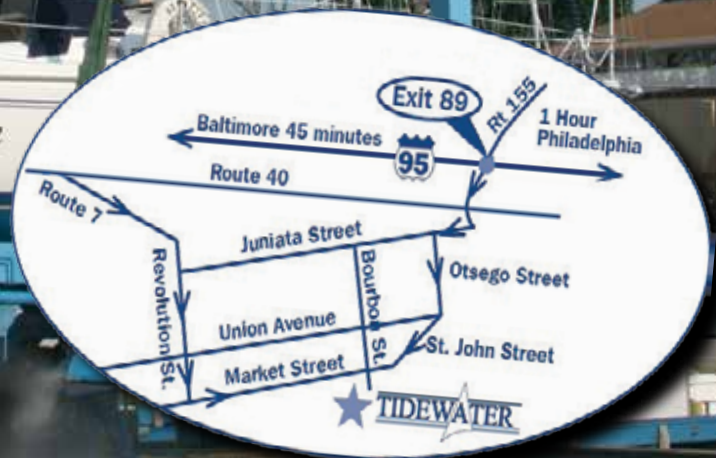
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UPPER BAY **Boating** MAGAZINE

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Marinating with Jim High

WELCOME TO SEPTEMBER and hopefully some of the best weather of the year! Great boating weather, decent long days, cool evenings, light winds, and lots of sunshine! Fear not, there is still a lot of beautiful boating still to come! I do love this time of year. Make sure you get those boat rides in. Make sure you get down to the docks. The investment of time and money for our recreational boating passions. Oh yeah... I wish the kids didn't have to go back to school so soon. I wish they could go back at least after Labor Day weekend. Summers for them are way too short and go by way too quickly. The teachers should feel the same way.



Have you ever invited your friends and family to the house for a Bar-B-Que? So, some of your friends come by boat, bring you a nice bottle, and stay late into the evening drinking that bottle with you by the fire. Other family members show up with amazing dishes including your favorite family heirloom recipes. Others arrive with a package of Great Value cookies.

And then the last guest...

The Non-Boating Human who also happens to be a Vegetarian!!! That's right, an NBH Vegan who comes to the Bar-B-Que and demands you make their vegan food on the grill. But only after it is cleaned, sanitized, and scrubbed of any animal matter. And then they pull out a pint of mushrooms and a zucchini! DO NOT let them do it! If they come to the Bar-B-Que at my place, they are going to have to eat ribs and burgers (nothing with the words Beyond or Impossible written on the package). No sir, they'll be enjoying great big all-beef tube steaks and a variety of fabulous pork sausages! Please remember... Thanksgiving is a few months away so enjoy that Turkey with some bacon!

I see signs all the time that say, "YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR WAKE" And yes, I try to always be caring and considerate... ALWAYS! But I keep asking myself "I say self, am I really responsible for my wake?" I have realized that of course I am, just like ducks are responsible for their little wakes, and dolphins, skates, and fish breaching the surface are also responsible

for their wakes. But even though I am responsible for my wake am I also ACCOUNTABLE? Do I have accountability for my wake? Say, for instance a very young person is sitting at the beach close to the shipping channel. He is swept into the Bay by a ship's wave and stung by a jellyfish. Is it the Jelly Fish's fault for being there and his responsibility or is the ship's captain accountable? Asking for a friend.

My neighbor stopped over at my garage bar the other night at 4 a.m. Fortunately, I was still up playing my new electric guitar. He asked if "I could have a little respect, please" I told him I don't normally play Aretha Franklin, but I would give it my best and this one's for you!"



I was on a beach in the Carolinas the other week. Some signs said "NO NIGHTTIME LIGHTS, NESTING TURTLES" in the community we were staying in. When I realized, if we put signs up where we want the turtles to nest maybe they wouldn't do it in the communities. Kind of like the deer crossing signs along the highway that tell the deer where they should cross. If this works, the way I think it should we can do something similar down in Florida. Put up signs warning the Manatees that they are approaching a heavily traffic area of powerboats!!! What do you think?



By Wendy Gilbert
Contributing Editor



The Best Boating Weather Is Yet To Come

Happy September!

Having traversed the Atlantic Coastline from Florida to Maine this summer, I'm ready to stay in the Upper Bay this month and enjoy every minute.

We were in St. Augustine for a family reunion in May. It was my first time in this historic city and I assure you, it will not be my last. What a great place for water-loving folks! We saw some spectacular boats, and enjoyed walks on the beach and the beauty of the Atlantic nearly everywhere we went. What a great place to watch (and listen) to people! As much fun as

weddings are and as meaningful as funerals can be, it was so lovely to travel this summer and see our dear ones just for fun. No pressure, not too much drama, and lots of great memories.

We headed up to Deer Isle, Maine for the 4th of July week to visit my Aunt Linda and Uncle Don. This was also a great place for water-loving folks. We saw some colorful and unusual (at least to me) boats, stunning sunsets and you guessed it – people. The contrast between St. Augustine and Deer Isle cannot be understated, but I'd be hard-pressed to choose

between them. On my way home, I thought that if I were to work my way up the Atlantic Coastline as I grew up. I'd start in Florida as a kid and end my life's journey in Maine. I met so many people there who were aging with such grace and strength. Who knew?

We had a great time this summer, but man oh man, it's time to toss the anchor for a beat.

I'm ready to drink in the delights of the Upper Bay while it's still warm and bright. I hope you have enjoyed beautiful cruises this season. Fortunately for us, the turn of this page brings on some of the

most comfortable and pleasurable weeks to enjoy sailing, power boating, paddling, and floating.

For some, September is the time to haul the boat and wrap it up. Got to get those kiddies out of the water and into those Back-to-School outfits. Lord knows we need more photos of those First Day of School scenes at the front door and the bus stop.

Sometimes I can convince myself that time flies slower on a boat and even more slowly in September. That's what I'm shooting for.

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A Search That Never Ends

By Wendy Gilbert

The first time I saw Beach Glass art was years ago in a little shop in Rock Hall. The bits of Coca-Cola green glass were beautifully and naturally etched. The artist combined wire-wrapped pieces with simple freshwater pearls to make jewelry. The wind chimes were constructed with drilled beach glass, driftwood, and shells.

The necklaces reminded me of something a mermaid might wear and who doesn't want that? The wind chimes were better suited to my back deck. The shop's prices were certainly fair, but my wallet contained just enough cash for lunch at Waterman's and not a penny more.

At the time, I enjoyed stringing beads and was not opposed to learning how to wrap some wire. How difficult could it be? As it turns out, like so many things, learning to wrap beach glass required patience and repetition. The difficulty was acquiring some good raw materials. Beach glass, also known as sea glass, isn't as easy to find as I'd hoped.

I scoured the beaches for weeks afterward. Sure, I found a few pieces near the Elk and the Northeast Rivers, but the Budweiser brown bits and Heineken green shards were hardly the stuff of my dreams. I think I was doing more of a clean-up action than an artistic raw materials collection. Nonetheless, I eventually had a few pieces for my Mason jar.

To this day, every time I walk a beach, I'm looking for treasure. Yesterday, I was at Triton Marina, and although there were natural treasures to be found, there was no glass.

Several years ago, while at Rodanthe (OBX) I happened upon a group of ladies who showed me the best places to look. Alas, even a twice-daily walk on the beach to "the" piers proved close to fruitless. Only a few pieces were added to the jar.

One summer I took the ferry from Lewes to Cape May. I was ecstatic to have stumbled upon a Sea Glass show and festival. As I queued in line to get into the show, the folks standing beside me gave me an impromptu tutorial. There's quite a market for etched glass beads and I was warned that most of what was available for sale inside was artificially created.

Sure enough, strands and strands of etched glass beads were for sale in every color imaginable including the rare cobalt blues and reds that were so coveted.

I couldn't help myself and handed over quite a few Jacksons for these beautiful "fakes". Most of them are right where I left them 10 years ago – in the mermaid craft storage box.

And then came this summer. On the 4th of July, I was having dinner with some very new friends in Stonington, Maine. I glanced up at

their fireplace mantle and beheld a large clear cylinder full of beach glass. Gorgeous! When I admired the collection, one of our hosts introduced me to Liz. She is the woman who had acquired all of these pieces and was visiting from New York City. Liz told me her two favorite spots to hunt and we decided to go out together to visit her favorite the next day.

What fun! The beach situation in Maine is significantly different from here. The tides, seaweed, rocks and lobstering debris created a hazardous environment for which I had come completely unprepared. In addition to finding bits of glass, our main focus was to remain upright. This was easier said than done and I am pleased to report that although I did not finish unscathed, I did not fall.

By the time the tide was returning, we had a bag full. We'd found more pieces on that single excursion than I'd found in 20 years! Lots of Budweiser brown, Heineken Green and Coca-Cola green of course, but I also found two pieces of lavender and Liz, my hero, found a piece of cobalt blue!

What a triumph!

Lessons learned?

Keep looking, and always be open to making new friends and learning new skills. Your inner mermaid is calling.



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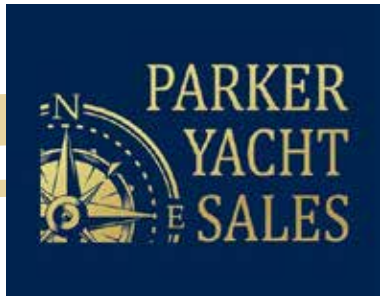
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MARYLAND'S OSPREYS

By Captain Mark Galasso



Some of the true enjoyments we as boaters experience are the wonders Mother Nature provides. Whether that is the many amazing sunrises and sunsets we encounter or the shifting moods of the waters around our boats depending on our unpredictable weather. Perhaps none is more mesmerizing than watching the interactions of the creatures that depend on the aquatic environment where we spend our time.

I recently had the opportunity to learn a lot more about the birds of prey that rely on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, in particular the Osprey or Fish Hawk as it's also known. Unlike 60 years ago when the commercial pesticide DDT decimated the population Osprey numbers have skyrocketed and this majestic symbol of Maryland now is thriving in our region. So, I got to thinking about what I recently learned from reading and from Judy Wink and crew at CBEC (Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center) and what I'm privileged to see every day and give you a little more information so you can

appreciate the Osprey.

First, let's look at a little history of the species. Osprey population numbers were probably off the charts when Captain Smith arrived in the New World. Fish were plentiful and predators were few. The First Nations people revered the birds and they weren't hunted in any numbers. This trend continued until the late 1960s when industrial pesticides were sprayed on crops to prevent insect infestations. Though Ospreys feed exclusively on fish these pesticides migrated into waterways and were taken up by all kinds of things including the fish that the Ospreys fed on. This in turn got into the Ospreys and inhibited their ability to fix Calcium, essential in the production of egg shells. The eggs became brittle and many broke well before hatching. In 1972 commercial use of DDT was banned and the Ospreys rebounded.

Ospreys are a large raptor (bird of prey). Unlike most raptors, they feed on fish almost exclusively. And in the Chesapeake, most of those fish are Menhaden -- oily fish

rich in amino fatty acids. Females and males generally look identical however the females have a darker brown necklace. They both have white heads with a white and brown feathery crown. They are large with a 5 to 6-foot wingspan. However, they weigh only a few pounds. In flight, they sometimes are confused with their big cousin the Bald Eagle, but the eagles have snow white heads when they are mature and can reach a size of 6 to 14 pounds with a wingspan of almost 7 feet.

Another interesting fact separating Eagles from Ospreys is how they hunt as well as the prey itself. Eagles can be bullies as well as scavengers, looking for feeding opportunities, using their keen eyesight. Eagles can be found feeding on roadside kills of deer or other game while you will rarely see an Osprey in that position. Ospreys feed also with keen eyesight however their eyes have adapted to see motion. Ironically if an Osprey drops its prey it may not be able to see it for a second try. Ospreys unlike the Eagles also have

reversible outer toes so they can grasp their prey with 2 toes in front and 2 toes in back. If you ever see an Osprey dive down and catch a fish you will notice that it will come up and flutter for a few seconds after it becomes airborne. It's regripping its prey to fly back to the nest with the fish's head forward for a more aerodynamic flight. Ospreys also have barbed pads to help them hold on to slippery fish. This accounts for how the birds have almost a 50 percent success rate in their fishing. I Sure wish I had that as a charter boat Captain!

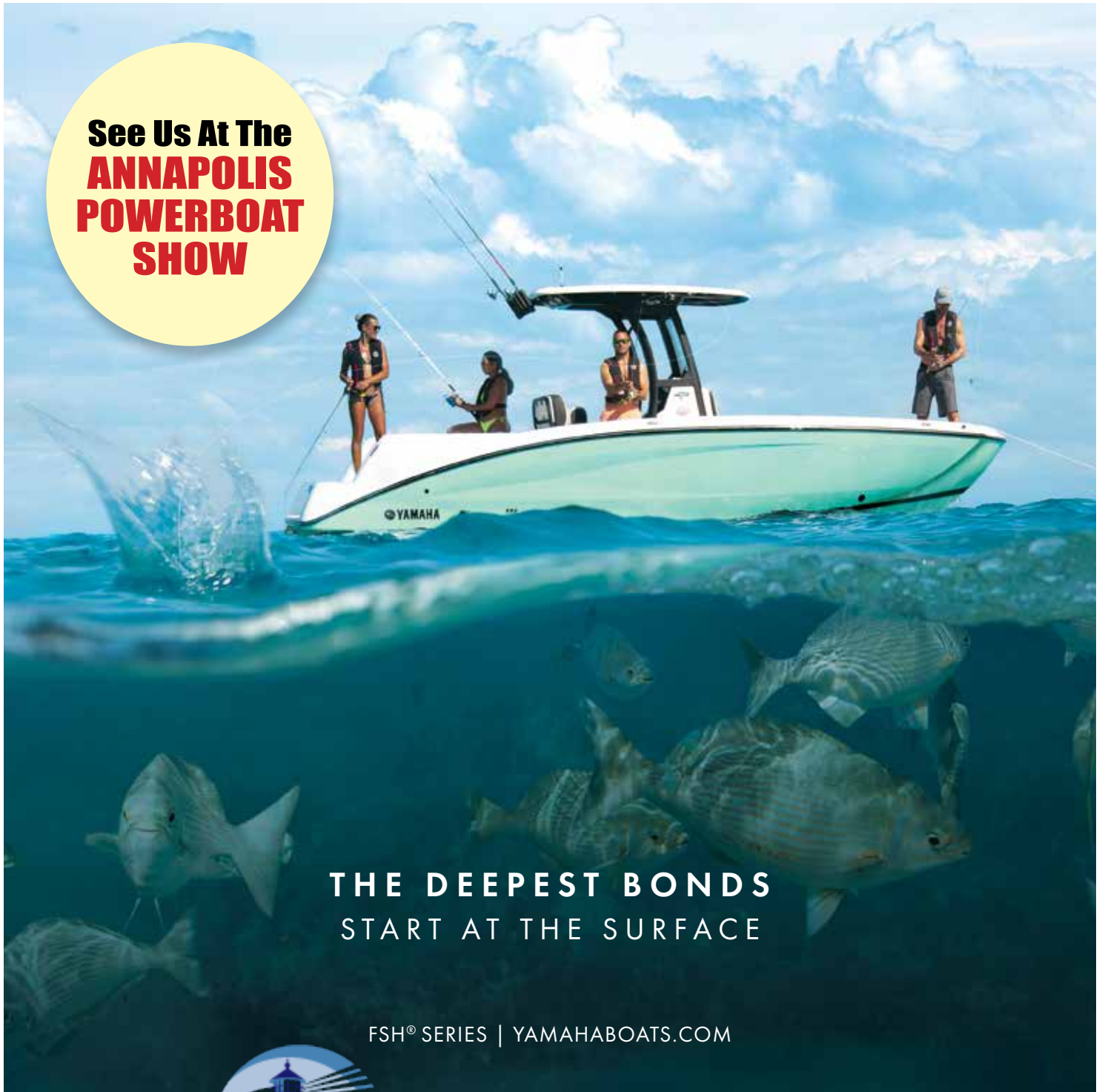
Like most birds of prey, Ospreys generally migrate. And I say generally because some birds on the Gulf Coast and southern U.S. coast don't migrate whereas one bird was tracked and found to migrate from French Guiana, South America to Martha's Vineyard almost 2,700 miles in less than 2 weeks. It has been found that highly migratory Ospreys can travel over 160,000 miles in their lifetime, from 15 to 20 years.

The Chesapeake Bay is a thriving nursery for the Osprey. What

Jump to MD Ospreys, P. 30

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For a tasty change of pace **Try Upper Bay Kebobs**

By Montana Grant

Boating along the Upper Bay quickly works up an appetite.

A bag of chips, or snack food just does not cut it. Sometimes sailors need a more filling and creative feast to keep their boats afloat. Fun and filling foods can really make the float more fun.

When I guide anglers down rivers, or on the Bay, I am responsible for lunch. Sometimes I make sandwiches with sides. Hand food is quick and easy, but the best tips happen when I cook for my angling clients. This takes more effort and time but makes for an even more memorable day.

One of my favorite float foods are Kabobs. Making kabobs (also called kebabs) can be time-consuming if you cook everything separately, and then assemble them. That is why I prepare and precook the vegetables, mushrooms, and meat ahead of time. To pair with the kabobs, I make

slaw or potato salad.

Shish Kabobs are a traditional naval food. Turkish and Middle Eastern sailors would prepare lamb or other meats on ticks over a small fire. This was also a common street food. In Turkish, "Shish" means skewer and "Kabob" means roasted meat. Turkish soldiers would cook their meals stacked on swords or bayonets. Native people used sharp sticks to roast meat over a fire. Root vegetables and fruits would be placed onto the sticks to complete the meals.

The most important key to grilling kabobs is to make sure that they are not raw or undercooked. This often happens since everything on the Kabob cooks at a different speed. The meat takes the longest and the vegetables cook in minutes.

To avoid this, I precook all the vegetables and meats. I then

add them into zip bags or airtight containers, with a little marinate. When it is time to grill, I only need to load up my skewers and heat up the meal. Sticks or skewers allow you to rotate the kabobs for a quick 3–5-minute cook.

You can use a variety of meats to make a Bay kabob. Fish and seafood are excellent choices. Select fish with a firm texture such as tuna, rockfish, halibut, or drum. Beef, pork, sausages, lamb, or

chicken all make wonderful meals. Shrimp and scallops can also be fun.

Vegetables add color and flavor to the kabobs. Use what is in season and cut into 2-inch pieces/bite-sized. Consider different Add-ons like Brussels sprouts, beets, peppers, mushrooms, zucchini, or asparagus. Take a can of pineapple cubes to add on or grill a pineapple ring to serve as a side.



Here is my favorite, simple, **Upper Bay Kabob** recipe. This recipe has been enjoyed aboard my boats from the Susquehanna headwaters to the Madison River in Montana.

MARINADE:

2/3 cup of Soy Sauce

1/3 cup of honey

½ cup olive oil. Infused oils add intense flavors. Try the Blood Orange flavor. You can also squeeze lemon or citrus on the meal.

½ tsp of Old Bay seasoning (because you are on the Bay)

Salt, pepper, to taste. Other aromatic spices add to the presentation.

Place the cubed fish, seafood, or meat into a zip bag and seal. Save some marinade to baste when cooking. Soak for at least an hour.

Separate the vegetables and soak in a few tsp. of the marinade.

GRILLING

I grill my meat ahead of time. A thermometer will make sure that it is cooked properly. Fish, shrimp, and scallops cook fast, and can be cooked with vegetables at the same time.

Chicken meats, sausages, etc. can be precooked. Once cooked, place them back into the marinade.

Onboard grills are common add-ons. They clamp onto a boat rail or fit into a rod holder. Just consider where the fuel and motor are. If you have a galley, you are set to go. The small propane box-style grills fit on top of the fish box. A small Weber charcoal grill will also work. Just keep safety in mind. Also, have an oven mitt on hand to manage the hot kabobs.

For the skewers, you can use sticks that you purchase or cut your own. Willow works well. Clean off the bark and sharpen one end. Use a pencil

thick skewer and soak them in water before cooking. Metal skewers, wire, or long iron nail will work. I often assembly my kabobs before the trip and drizzle a little marinate over top. They can be stored in zip bags or a plastic container and kept cool in the ice chest or galley fridge.

When it is time to grill, I put on rubber gloves and load my skewers. You can take requests. Not every sailor wants everything. When the grill is hot, add the loaded kabobs with the ends facing the front of the grill. Leave a few inches sticking out so you can close the grill lid. After 3 minutes, rotate the kabobs and baste. Allow another 3 minutes and baste again. The Bay Kabobs are now ready to go!

This is a minimum cleanup meal. No dishes to wash, just fingers to lick. Enjoy your Upper Bay Boating KaBoppers!

KABOB COOK TIMES		
BEEF	12-15 MINUTES	to 140°F
PORK	12-15 MINUTES	to 140°F
CHICKEN	10-12 MINUTES	to 165°F
SHRIMP	5-6 MINUTES	to 120°F
FISH	4-5 MINUTES	to 130°F
SCALLOPS	4-5 MINUTES	to 120°F
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FISHING TICKETS!

Most Upper Bay Boaters and anglers do not intentionally break the law. Many are simply not aware or ignorant about the laws, regulations, and rules. In today's fishing world, appropriate behavior is sometimes confusing and hard to tackle.

Currently, in Maryland waters, many of the fishing tickets, in Bay waters, are written for non-citizens/ illegal immigrants, non-residents, or people that do not seem to care. They rarely show up at the court to pay their fines.

Here are the most common fishing laws that get ticketed in Maryland waters.

No License Age means a license is required. Laws in various places require a license or permit. Kids can sometimes fish for free if their adult has a license. Check the laws in your fishing spot.

Too many rods can change seasonally. Ice anglers may be able to use 6 rods on the ice but only 2 rods may be used when there is no ice. There are also restrictions for the number of baits, hooks, or lures. Check the regs.

Over the limit If the limit is five, then that's the limit. There may also be a size limit. Once you have kept a legal limit, you are done fishing, for the day. You cannot swap fish off a stringer or from a live box in most states. Some areas have a catch limit. Others require all fish to be released.

Wrong size/ slot limits Too small or too big or not within the year class that is legal to keep. These seasons change with the weather. Rockfish are a prime example. Check regulations before you fish.

Using gamefish as bait/ goldfish No exotics allowed for bait. Small



gamefish are not legal baits. Only forage fish. Not all areas allow live bait. Only artificial flies or lures may be legal. Check the regs.

Collecting and transporting live fish or bait Bucket Biology has become a problem. People are contaminating fisheries with invasive species. Boat live wells don't help. If the fish are part of your limit, they must be dead when transporting them.

Wrong lures, hooks, barbless... Some areas only allow flies, spinners, or no bait. Circle hooks or barbless hooks may be required. Spinners may be used with only a single hook, no trebles.

Cleaning fish on the water Fish guts attract scavengers and bugs. They look awful. If you clean the fish on the water, how can the warden know how big or what kind of fish you have? Wait until you get to a cleaning station. Some state laws require the skin to be left on and a tail to be kept. Cellphone pictures before cleaning could help if you must clean on the water.

No Lead sinkers Lead is not allowed in many places, Yellowstone Park, for example, allows no lead weights. Some restricted waters and Catch and Release areas ban lead. A Tin based product is available.

Boating violations This means no PFD's, registrations, and other required equipment, lights, flares, etc.

Ignorance of the law is not defensible. You need to be a "student of the sport" and regulations. Getting a ticket is embarrassing and preventable.

Fish honestly and legally.

Montana Grant



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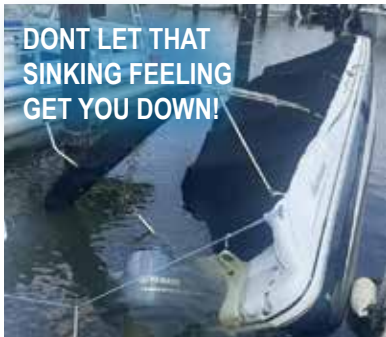
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Catching Up with Sons of Pirates

By Kimberly Ann



Anyone here like beachy party music? I am sure at least a few of our readers do. Have you ever gone to a performance by Sons of Pirates?

I had the extreme pleasure of speaking with Jeff Mullin this month and talking with him about his band Sons of Pirates. The band was formed 26 years ago. When the acoustic trio started, they had a couple of dates a month and enjoyed pretty quick success.

Current members are Jeff Mullin on drums, Jim Matteo on guitar, Ben Sherman (Hectic Red) on guitar, and last but not least Glenn Workman (Crack the Sky) on keyboard. The playlist consists of beach party music, reggae, modern country, some rock, really anything with a party feel including favorites like Cecelia, Boys of Summer, Dock of the Bay, Friends in Low Places, I Love This Bar, and many Jimmy Buffet favorites. There is some Bob Marley, Eagles, Johnny Cash, and Steppenwolf too.

The band has at times been billed as a Jimmy

Buffet tribute band and now has a "side band" that uses the same instrumentation and plays all Buffet. It is just like going to a Buffet concert according to Jeff who had the pleasure of meeting Jimmy Buffet in Key West. The band was there playing at Sloppy Joe's when Buffet showed up unscheduled at Margaritaville and started playing. After the set was over for Jeff, he and his wife wandered down to Margaritaville and listened to Buffet finish performing. Once he had completed his set and saw that Jimmy was sitting at the bar, Jeff went over to talk to him. Jeff said he couldn't have been nicer.

Sons of Pirates plays all over. They have gigs in Ocean City, Atlantic City, local marinas, yacht clubs, tiki bars, dock bars, festivals, and restaurants. You can catch them at Tiki Lee's, Schaefer's Canal House, Rehoboth Beach, and many more venues. Find them at the Maryland Seafood Festival this month.

When not playing with the band, Jeff works in

sales for audio and lighting products. He jokes that working 175 gigs per year keeps him from having too much downtime. However, when he does have downtime, he loves spending it with his wife and two daughters. They like to travel and, yes, they do love the beach.

Jeff told me that he loves their fan base. Sons of Pirates members feel they have the best fans and consider them friends, not just fans.

I put Jeff on the spot and asked what his favorite song on the current playlist was and his answer showed me just how he feels about his fans. He told me that his favorite song depends on the reaction from the crowd. He loves any song that the crowd is getting into and feeds off that energy.

You can head over to sonsofpirates.com to see the schedule and listen to a few tunes. When you go to their show remember to tell them you were sent by your friends at **Upper Bay Boating Magazine**.



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Jimmy Cantler's Riverside Inn

By Kimberly Ann

Everyone knows Maryland is famous for its steamed crabs. But have you ever been to Jimmy Cantler's Riverside Inn? The restaurant and crab house is located on the waters of Mill Creek just minutes from the Annapolis City Dock, at 458 Forest Beach Road.

Started by Jimmy and Linda Canter back in 1974, Cantler's offers fresh seafood daily. The Cantler family has worked in the seafood industry for five generations and Jimmy was a waterman. Daily local watermen will pull into the docks with their catches from April to December. In the winter months, crabs come from Louisiana and Texas. No matter what time of year it is once the crabs arrive, they are inspected for size and quality before making their way to your table.

O. K., so maybe picking crabs isn't your thing. Well, you are in luck. The full menu has a wide

variety of fresh dishes. There are rockfish bites, bacon-wrapped scallops, smoked fish dip, soup, salad, steamed dishes like shrimp and mussels, your staples of burgers and crab cake sandwiches, steak and prime rib, and even pizza and fried chicken. There is something for everyone. However, the signature crab dishes are beyond compare. The crab imperial and broiled crab cake platter were divine. And don't worry, they even have something for the kids.

We enjoyed a nice breeze on the deck while sampling their dishes last month. The atmosphere was wonderful, with a laid-back vibe. If eating outside and enjoying a beautiful breeze and water view is not your thing don't worry, they have an indoor area, as well. On the deck, families were eating and laughing and enjoying themselves. We started with our favorite crab pretzel and tried the sesame-seared ahi tuna. A

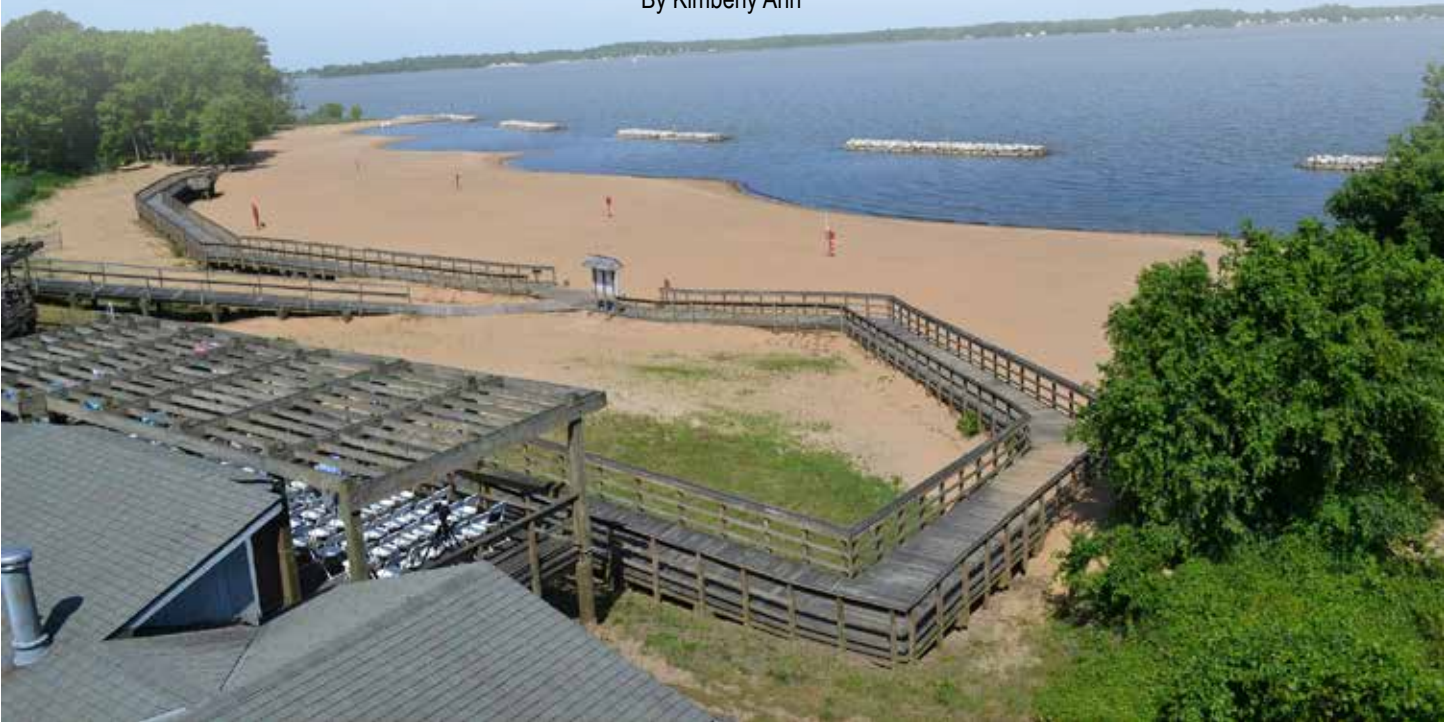
few in our group ordered mussels. The Drunk'N Mussels and Littleneck Clams were declared delicious. We then moved on to a dozen steamed crabs. We couldn't wait to dig in. After sampling a few crabs, I moved on and ordered the crab imperial for myself; however, everyone seemed to want a taste. The menu states it is made from an old family recipe and when I tell you there were huge lumps of crab meat in a creamy deliciousness I am not exaggerating. We also decided to take a crab cake platter to go for later and it was equally delicious, even re-heated.

So, whether you go by boat or by car just go. You will not be disappointed. And when you go tell them your friends at **Upper Bay Boating Magazine** sent you.



Ranger Robin of Hart Miller Island

By Kimberly Ann



This month I had the pleasure of speaking with Ranger Robin Reed who serves our community at both Hart Miller Island during the spring/summer season and North Point State Park during the off-season.

I asked Ranger Robin about her background and she shared with me that she became a school-teacher in May 1990 and taught in local public schools for 31 years. She was an art educator and then became a special educator for middle and high school students. She spent 10 years teaching in Carroll County and 21 years teaching in Baltimore City Public Schools. Once a teacher, always a teacher. She still loves educating today and it is evident in her knowledge of and joy in sharing with me about herself and Hart Miller Island.

I asked how she got into working for the parks and she told me she started in 1989 as a seasonal worker while in college. Then as a teacher, it was a very convenient

summer gig while school was not in session, so she continued working during summer breaks. She worked at Gunpowder because back then Hart Miller Island only had restrooms and trash cans. But over the years the island was built up using dredging materials and dykes. The island was then split into two cells: the North and South. The North Cell is currently closed to visitors and is being made into an upland habitat. The South Cell has been completed and is "back to nature", meaning it is self-sufficient and can support many different species of plants and animals. There are over 300 species of birds that have been spotted on the island. Common species include migrating and nesting, deer, fox and raccoons. Rarer to see there are squirrels, turkeys, and coyotes.

There are 8 miles of trails for hiking and biking. You can borrow one of their bikes for free while on

the island. These have been donated by the Friends of Hart Miller Island. You can also fish, swim, or just hang out on the beach. If you are more adventurous and want to stay overnight campsites run \$6 per night.

I asked Ranger Robin what her favorite part of the island was, and she said it was the island folklore that she hears. She loves the stories people tell. Legend has it that Joseph Hart had buried money on the original island.

But truthfully what she loves most about the island is sharing it with people. She loves talking about the island and interacting with visitors. She loves the Sunday Funday program, as well as the Maryland Environmental Services programs, and seeing the Baltimore Bird Club come out several times per year for bird counts.


As our call was concluding I asked Ranger Robin what she does when she is not Ranger

Robin and she told me she likes to travel, hike, bike, and visit other parks to get ideas. She told me that she had taken two months and drove across the country, when she was younger, camping along the way. I asked her if she boats in her free time, and she laughed. Her response to that question was a resounding no. She stated had spent her childhood helping her dad with their family boat and now is responsible for a fleet of boats through the park service and taking care of another boat is not how she wants to spend her free time.

The island is open for visitors Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can visit at other times but the amenities such as the camp store, bikes, and trails will not be available. And remember when you go let Ranger Robin know that her friends at **Upper Bay Boating Magazine** sent you.


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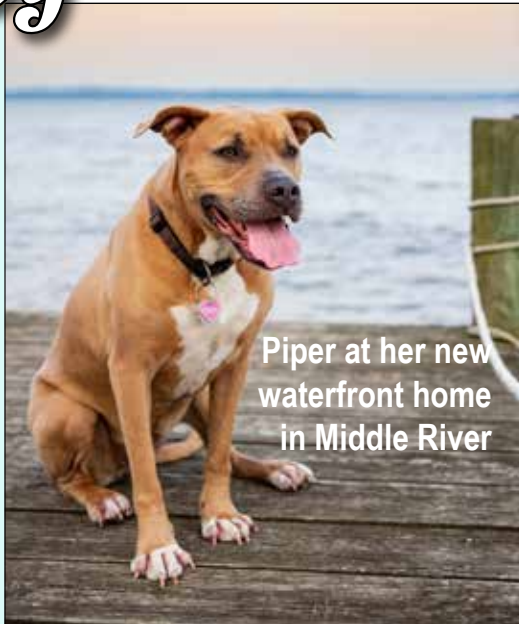
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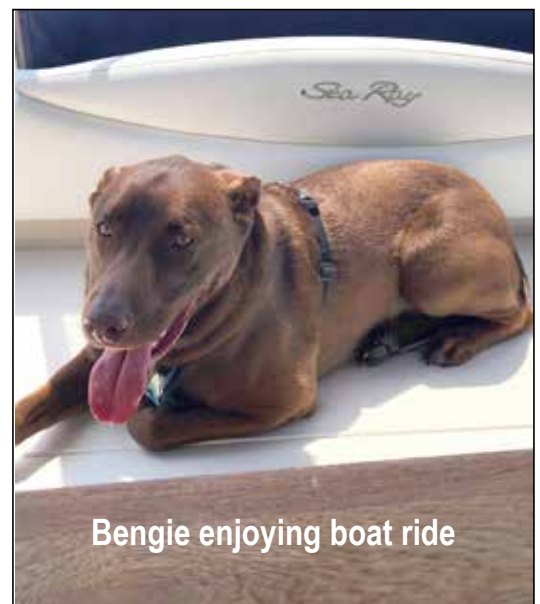
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SET THE HOOK FOR SHALLOW STRIPERS



By: Tim Sherman

September is a fickle month. We get constant reminders with warm days that it is still summer. On other days we get a tease of the cool autumn days that are to come. There is one thing for certain. The start of the shallow striper bite is here, and is coming hard. Stripers in shallow water appeal to me like a kid in a candy store ... or a Tim in a tackle shop! Give me a current-washed point, rip rap, a jetty, a rock pile, a grass line, or all of the above. My home waters on the Upper Bay have plenty of these forms of cover.

Early in the month, the best bites usually are in the low light hours of morning and evening. If you are fortunate enough to have those current-washed points you can target those throughout the day. I can't stress enough that having strong currents for finding shallow stripers is key. Whether it's first light or dusk on your low light favorite cover, or a point at midday; you need to fish those locations on favorable tides. Don't merely pay attention to the time of the tides; but also, the duration and how high the tide rises, or how low it falls. The last few elements will help you determine the strength of the tidal flow.

No matter what type of cover you are fishing, you should always look for the sweet spots. It might be for that specific day, or from your years of learning the spot. Stripers will help you dial it in. Are your bites coming from the eddy be-

hind the point or jetty, or are they coming out in the current? Are the stripers on the sides of the sunken rock pile, one side and not the other, or on one particular end of it? Are the bites coming from all along the weed line, or from the pockets points? Paying attention to where the strikes are coming from will help you develop the pattern on that outing on that type of cover.

At dawn or dusk, I will likely start with a top-water lure to arouse the interest of aggressive fish. A popper is my favorite to give a noisy injured presentation. Yet, I won't hesitate to cast a walking bait. If there is no interest in a surface bait, I'll move on to a lure with which I can cover water.

Paddle tail swim baits in the 3 ½ to 4 ½-inch sizes are a great choice. These are best rigged on 1/8-ounce or ¼-ounce jig heads for fishing open, skinny water. Make sure these jig heads have a stout hook and a big enough gap to accommodate both the plastic and the striper's mouth. Panfish-grade jig heads will not do. The longer paddle tails can also be rigged on light, weighted widegap hooks for fishing near submerged grasses and snag-prone cover.

Let's not forget about the fluke-style soft jerk bait. When rigged on a light jig head, the fluke is a slower and lower way the fan casts an area. Jigging or swimming it along the bottom often catches stripers that won't strike the swim bait. The fluke can also be rigged weightless on a

wide gap hook, its original intent, is to imitate a dying or struggling baitfish.

As September moves on, the weather trend is such that days will be shorter, and air temperatures will start to diminish. This also starts a downward trend in water temps. The shallow water striper business is sure to pick up longer in the day.

When we see a slow but steady decline in water temperatures, the shallow topwater isn't relegated to low light hours. I don't give up on it until the bites stop coming. This doesn't mean that stripers have left, but they're just not as aggressive. It's time to go through the progression of other lures.

If I have dialed on the positional pattern, I will start with the weightless fluke. Stripers may still have the aggressive edge to strike an injured baitfish imitator, but not on the surface. From there I will cast the swim bait and jig head fluke. I'll even add a rattle trap into the mix to give stripers a different lure profile, vibration, and sound.

For me, there isn't a more pleasurable way to catch stripers than in shallow water. Now that September is here, I'm charged up for the opportunities that await. Remember, hook sets are free. If something feels different at the end of the line, set the hook.

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From MD Ospreys, P. 12

Maryland's Ospreys

observe when the birds arrive in late March and early April is all about creating the next generation of Ospreys. Ospreys mate for life. However, if one dies the other will find a new mate. There is a nesting hierarchy. Older more experienced birds get the prime nesting sites and they start with the nest they occupied last season. In most cases, it needs to be rebuilt after the winter storms have broken it down. The nests are constructed of branches and twigs and whatever the parents deem usable and when they arrive in early spring. The male is generally responsible for acquiring nest materials while the female does most of the building.

Once the nest is ready and conditions are right the female will lay 2 to 4 eggs. Most of the time

it takes to incubate the eggs it's the female's responsibility to sit on the nest though she will take some time to hunt and stretch her wings while the male takes a turn at the nest. The eggs must be protected from a few wily predators like crows and the proper temperatures must be maintained. It takes between 36 and 42 days for the eggs to hatch. Once the eggs hatch the female does most of the sitting and the male does most of the hunting. The female will pick apart the fish brought to the nest by the male and feed the hatchlings. The hatchlings also have a hierarchy. The Firstborn generally gets the most food and becomes stronger quicker. There may be up to 5 days difference in the age of hatchlings. Sometimes when food is scarce only one or two chicks will survive. Nests that are generally constructed close to feeding sources usually are the most successful like those we see on channel day markers or those set up close to pound nets in open water. Females generally start seriously hunting about 6 weeks after they hatch their young. By this time the young can fend off any predators.

I've seen Bald Eagles try and steal fish from

Ospreys. Once the eggs hatch and only a single individual is hunting, the Eagles generally win out and sometimes the osprey will just drop its prey and move on. When a pair of Ospreys are working together they can generally fend off the Eagle but this is early in the season when food is less plentiful and there are no hatchlings or eggs to worry about. I've also seen Ospreys grab a fish that is too large to get out of the water. Remember an Osprey only weigh a few pounds. When they grab a 10-pound carp, as I saw happen in the pond next to my house, they sometimes get pulled under and drown. They have an easy time holding onto something but a difficult time letting go.

I'd like to thank Judy Wink and Vicki Paulus of CBEC for their help in a little Osprey Biology. They have incredible nature programs at their facility in Grasonville and bird watching is a specialty. Visit their website at Bayrestoration.org. Also, a special thanks to Jennifer Donnelly for the awesome pictures. Visit her website at www.jennsphotography.com

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BARNACLES

Five Fun Facts That Might Make Them Grow on You

By James Duffy



My love for boating here in the Upper Chesapeake stems from a fascination I have had with aquatic life from a young age. From catching white perch to watching ospreys build their nests, my formative memories of the Bay center around the wildlife I could observe from my grandfather's pier. I imagine you have similar connections in your relationship with this wonderful region. In fact, I guarantee you've observed one specific animal on your pier, the docks at your local marina, the jetties at Hart-Miller Island, or the underside of any vessel you left afloat for the summer. However, this ubiquitous bay animal often gets forgotten, and the few memories it occasionally does inhabit are often negative. As I have learned more about these unique creatures myself, I hoped to share some interesting facts about them in this article. Here are five things you may not know about barnacles:

BARNACLES ARE CRUSTACEANS

Who would have thought that the tiny, round shells attached to the hull of our boats more closely relate to crabs than to mussels and oysters? When we look closely at a barnacle, we see a Cheerio-shaped shell made of calcium carbonate. Take a closer look, and you'll see that each consists of a six-sided, cone-like outer shell surrounding a four-plated, interior door. Throw on your snorkel and you just might see the strange little arthropod hiding out inside. When submerged in water, the inner door opens to reveal six curly legs that extend like tiny feather dusters into the water to snag plankton and other floating particles, pulling each back into its mouth (in fact, the subclass name for barnacles, Cirripedia, comes from the Latin words for "curly" and "feet"). When the tide goes out, the door closes to hold water to allow the little animal to continue to uptake oxygen. On beached vessels or driftwood, only the shells will remain.

BARNACLES SPEND THEIR WHOLE LIFE UPSIDE-DOWN

Biologist Louis Agassiz described a barnacle as "a little shrimp-like animal standing on its head in a limestone house[.]" From their antennae, the barnacle secretes a natural cement that allows it to adhere quite powerfully to pilings, rocks, and, as many readers of this magazine likely know, the hull of your boat. This means that inside each living barnacle shell, the six-legged crustacean rests with its head on the wall and its legs ready to kick out and retrieve its next meal.

BARNACLES HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR OVER 300 MILLION YEARS

Fossil records show that barnacles, as we know them today, have stuck around since before the dinosaurs. Scientists have been fascinated with these weird little animals for centuries, and we continue to learn more about them each year. In fact, after spending countless hours studying their biology, the famous Charles Darwin is claimed to have said that he "hate[d] a barnacle as no man ever did before." Clearly, these weird animals can perplex even the smartest of us.

BARNACLES MAY IMPROVE HUMAN MEDICINE

A 2021 study by MIT researchers revealed interesting, potentially life-saving applications of barnacle research to human medicine. Capitalizing on the barnacle's specialty of adhering to wet and contaminated surfaces, these researchers created a blood coagulant that allowed them to stop intense bleeding from human tissues in less than fifteen seconds! The same properties that make barnacles your boating nightmare just might save lives someday.

YOU CAN FIND TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF BARNACLES IN THE UPPER BAY

While four different species of barnacle may be found throughout the Chesapeake, our brackish region commonly hosts two: the bay barnacle (*Amphibalanus improvisus*) and the white barnacle (*Amphibalanus subalbidus*). The two look quite similar upon casual observation, but field guides indicate that the bay barnacle grows more abundantly in saltier waters than the white barnacle, which prefers less saline waters.



While these strange little crustaceans often get overlooked or maligned for their potential to impede boating activities, I must admit: the more I learn about them, the more they grow on me. By learning about even the smallest members of our Upper Bay ecosystem, us boaters can better appreciate the fascinating, ancient aquatic world right under our feet (or piers).

James Duffy is a lifelong resident of the Essex-Middle River watershed and an avid recreational boater. He welcomes inquiries, comments, and ideas for further environmental coverage to jduffy1026@gmail.com.

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JAKE'S JOKES

TIME TO CATCH UP WITH
JAKE THE WATER PERSON...

I was happy to run into Jake during the Pirates and Wenches Weekend in Rock Hall. Jake is doing well and catching a lot of crabs this season. Some big heavies, lots of Jimmys and said he's been steaming a ton of them for friends and neighbors! Jake has now been around this Upper Bay for quite a long time. I met him three or four years ago at the Chesapeake Bay Boat Show. Jake then told me a great couple of jokes!

An Englishman, an American, and a Japanese guy are on a boat, moments away from plunging over a waterfall to their doom...

Suddenly a genie appears. The genie explains that he has limited power. He cannot prevent their inevitable deaths, but he can grant each man one wish before he dies.

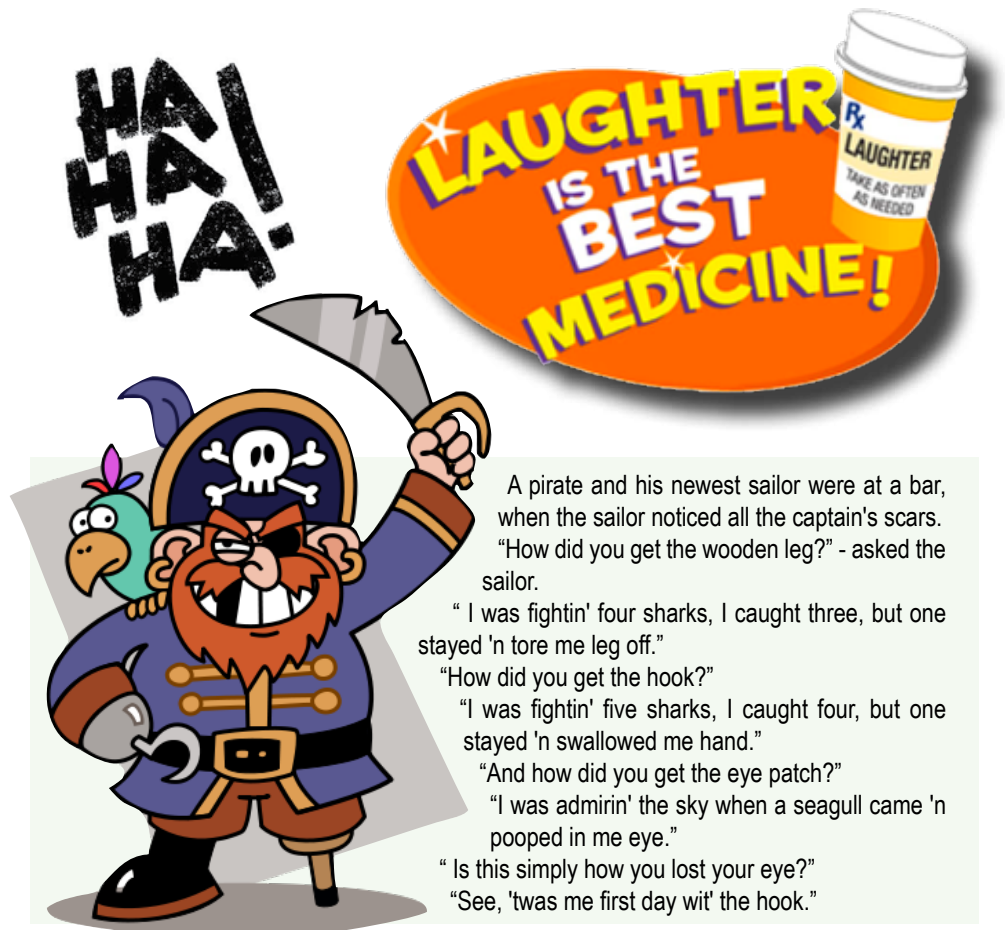
The American steps up first. 'I love my country. Before I die, I want to sing my national anthem one last time. The full version. Give my friends lyrics sheets, so they can join in. I want a full backing orchestra. A gospel choir. When we reach the crescendo, I want to fire an AR15 into the air, to celebrate our God-given rights to bear arms.'

"It will be done," says the genie

The Japanese guy goes next. "I love my country too. Nothing represents it better than our wonderful cuisine. Please let me taste, one more time, the delicacies of my village. I want fermented sticky soybeans, fresh sea urchins, raw horse meat, pickled seaweed, and sugared omelets. And please provide enough so I can share the meal with my friends."

"It will be done," says the genie

The Englishman quietly approaches the genie, and whispers in his ear, "Just kill me before the food and that bloody song".



A pirate and his newest sailor were at a bar, when the sailor noticed all the captain's scars. "How did you get the wooden leg?" - asked the sailor.

"I was fightin' four sharks, I caught three, but one stayed 'n tore me leg off."

"How did you get the hook?"

"I was fightin' five sharks, I caught four, but one stayed 'n swallowed me hand."

"And how did you get the eye patch?"

"I was admirin' the sky when a seagull came 'n pooped in me eye."

"Is this simply how you lost your eye?"

"See, 'twas me first day wit' the hook."

An old man pulls into the local Corvette Dealership

He knows that he's towards the end of his life and wants to have a little bit of fun before he goes.

The old man buys the newest, fastest, red Corvette convertible on the lot.

He speeds off the lot, and zips down the street, and onto the highway, where he sees a sign that says:

SPEED LIMIT 55

The old man has always followed the speed limit but decided to have some fun on this nice summer day.

He speeds up to 60, 65, 70 mph.

The wind runs through what's left of his hair, with the sun shining on his face. "I haven't felt this good in years!"

In his moment of nostalgia, he didn't see the State Trooper hiding on the side of the highway. The cop zips out after him - lights flashing and siren blaring.

"Let's have some fun," he thinks and instead of pulling over, he hits the gas -- 75, 80, 85, 90 mph.

He could have easily evaded the officer, but af-

ter a few minutes, decided he had enough fun. He slowed the brand-new Corvette and pulled to the side of the road. The State Trooper catches up with him and comes to a stop behind the old man. The officer gets out, and slowly walks up to the old man's vehicle.

"Sir, I'll be honest with you," the officer says. "I have every authority to arrest you, impound your vehicle, and take you down to the station, but it's currently 4:57 p.m., and my shift ends in 3 minutes. If I arrest you, I won't get home until at least 9p.m., so if you can give a good reason as to why you were going so fast, and evading me, I let you go."

The old man sits there for a minute, furrows his brow, and replies:

"20 years ago, my wife left me for a New York State Trooper, I thought you were him bringing her back to me."

"Have a nice day sir."



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SAILING ONE DAY AT A TIME

By L. Alan Keene

Let's be honest. Daysailing, not cruising the Caribbean or racing solo round-the-world, is what most of us sailors do. Be it on diminutive Stockton Lake in southwest Missouri, on our own Chesapeake Bay with its 11,000 miles of shoreline, or on the chilly waters of Puget Sound, most of us do our sailing one day at a time. While we love reading about the adventures of the "sail off into the sunset" crowd, the reality is that most of us will never see that proverbial sunset more than a few miles from our home port.

But before we start feeling sorry for ourselves, let's count our nautical blessings and see what we can do to enhance them. Aside from the inherent fun of our sport, daysailing, unlike its more exotic siblings, offers us a unique escape

from the pressures of everyday life in the real world. When that morning staff meeting goes awry or the backup on the beltway is a little more maddening than usual, many of us can be out on the water within an hour. No weeks of planning or preparation are necessary...just the desire for the wind and the waves to work their magic in time for dinner.

When old friends drop by for a weekend visit, a Saturday sail offers us the opportunity to catch up on each other's lives while enjoying the views from our floating patio, leaving Sunday for more shore bound activities. And on those welcome occasions when there's nobody to entertain, that Sunday sail is a fitting reward for a Saturday spent mowing, weeding, and trimming.

As a daysailor for over 40 years, I've learned a few secrets along the way that make my day afloat a little more enjoyable. Some of these may work for you, too.

1) Forget about the "destination"

Somewhere ingrained in the American psyche is the belief that, for an activity to be worthwhile, it needs to have a goal...a target...a destination. But why? To me, the beauty of daysailing is that I'm unconstrained. I can sail wherever the wind and water allow me, with no need to force a tack or pinch to hold one. And if we want to stop for lunch or a swim, we drop the hook wherever we find ourselves. That freedom and lack of structure is our "destination".

2) Cap the knot meter

After years of watching our speed and tweaking to maximize it, I discovered that sailing became a lot more fun after our knot meter went on the fritz a few years back. Those mini adjustments that kept me hopping all those years didn't seem so important anymore. And my irritation with the fluky Chesapeake Bay winds, when our speed would drop below 3 knots, all but disappeared. I didn't know, so I didn't care.

3) Keep planning to a minimum

When Peg, my first mate, and I decide to go for a daysail, we make sure that our schedule is open for the rest of the day. And if it's not, we open it. There are few things more exasperating for a daysailor than to chase the wind all day and then have it strengthen just as you're dropping your sails to head in for a Lion's Club meeting that evening (no offense to the Lions). On the Chesapeake, the wind seems to know when it's been outranked and it doesn't like it much.

4) Leave the boss behind

With the limited amount of move-around space

on a sailboat, you can't just hide or take a walk to get away from your guests. Therefore, it's paramount that you know who you're inviting aboard and what their "idiosyncrasies" are. If you want to avoid a blood-curdling scream mid-sail, make sure that your guests understand these two facts: 1) that sailboats heel (sometimes dramatically) and 2) that spiders stow-away in the rigging and can make surprise entrances (also, sometimes dramatically). As for your boss, if you don't want to spend the entire day trying to impress, leave him or her on the dock with the arachnophobes.

5) Insist that electronic devices are turned off... except for the VHF, of course

Like the saloon-keeper did back in the old west, make your guests "leave 'em at the door"! Along with that blood-curdling scream, a ringtone aboard makes my skin crawl. A sailing friend told me recently that he asks his guests to put their phones in the chart table until they're back on dry land. "Some don't...most do," he shared. If a guest can't be incommunicado for a few hours in a day, then maybe an invitation to go sailing isn't one he should accept.

6) Realize how lucky you are

One of the true joys of daysailing for me is the solitude it provides. Within an hour a daysailor in Boston or Chicago, San Diego or San Francisco, Miami or Minneapolis, Baltimore or Seattle, can go from the controlled chaos of urban life to the peacefulness that communing with nature brings. We're very lucky to be daysailors, you know. We have the best of both worlds!



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