

A close-up photograph of a brown dog, likely a Weimaraner, sitting on the white deck of a boat. The dog is looking out over a body of blue water, holding a thick, black rope in its mouth. The background shows a marina with several boats docked at a pier under a clear blue sky. The text 'UPPER BAY Boating MAGAZINE' is overlaid on the top half of the image, and 'MAY 2026' is centered below it.

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MAY 2026

Photo by
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UPPER BAY Boating MAGAZINE

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Marinating with Captain Jim High

HAPPY
250TH
America

Hi Y'all! Boating Season is in full swing, and it's time to hit the throttle! The coal is in the furnace, and we are FULL STEAM AHEAD! You never know how many Summers we'll all get, so make sure to make it count! This Summer is going to be WILD! The 250th birthday of our country is going to bring some amazing activities around. The Blue Angels are flying to different cities, SAIL250 is coming to Baltimore, and the Middle River Fireworks are

going to be the highest in the state... and I do mean Highest!

The BLUE ANGELS are flying on May 20th on the Severn River for the USNA graduation and again on the Patapsco in Baltimore Harbor on June 27th and 28th. This is in conjunction with Baltimore's Sail 250. Thinking about Baltimore, when I was a bit younger, I would head down to the cobblestoned ship area known as Fells Point. In a great maritime bar known

as the Cats Eye, while sipping Guinness Drafts (yes, years ago I still sipped) occasionally, a tap dancer would walk in. The very old, very wrinkled black gentleman with the big smile would tap out a dance or two for tips. I would always hand him a dollar or two, but looking back... I wish I had taken more time to talk to him and learn more about his life. He was a beautiful person, and his sincerity and smile were infectious.

Two Presidents... One a Boating President and the other... A NON-BOATING President! Both with the same last name.

Now George H W Bush was one bad ass powerboater! On his 18th birthday, he enlisted in the United States Navy as a naval aviator. After a period of training, he was commissioned as an ensign in the Naval Reserve at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on June 9, 1943, becoming one of the youngest pilots in the Navy. Over the years, George H.W. Bush owned a slew of powerboats, all named Fidelity. He fished and power boated with Reggie Fountain, Don Aronow, and world leaders. H.W. is also in the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame.



He fished offshore, inshore, on small boats, large boats, and even flat-bottom Bonefish Boats down in the Florida Keys!

And then there is his son... George W. Bush... holding the line but not the rod. And wearing a Texas Rangers

baseball jacket. He is not a boating human in the sense that he owns boats and loves boating. W lives on a ranch far from the water and prefers horses. One horse at a time. His dad's last Fountain Powerboat had 600 Horsepower!



So... I had a rental car a few weeks ago down in Florida. The GMC Terrian featured a safety mechanism that, each time I changed lanes, a device would warn me. Even if you just got close to the line, the device would warn you... Now this device caused my seat to VIBRATE! I know that it was installed for safety purposes, but there I was... On I-75, swerving from lane to lane, line to line, lane to lane. I think that poor vibrating seat might have overheated!



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By Wendy Gilbert
Contributing Editor

Quick Safety Tips For Your First Trip Out

When operating a power boat in the Upper Bay and its tributaries, it is always important to pay specific attention to shifting tides, narrow channels, and heavy commercial traffic. Here are a few quick safety tips to make your return to pleasure boating as pleasurable as possible:

ESSENTIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Maryland and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) laws require specific gear based on your vessel's size. **FOR MOST POWER BOATS 16' TO 26':**

- Life Jackets (PFDs): One wearable, USCG-approved life jacket for every person on board.
- CHILDREN: Kids under 13 must wear a life jacket at all times on vessels under 21 feet while underway.
- Throwable Flotation: One Type IV throwable device (cushion or ring) is required for boats 16' and longer.
- Fire Extinguisher: At least one B-1 (or 5-B) type portable extinguisher, readily accessible.
- Sound Device: A horn or whistle capable of a 4-second blast audible for half a mile.
- Visual Distress Signals: Three current-dated flares or one USCG-approved electronic SOS light.
- Engine Cut-Off Switch (ECOS): Operators of power boats under 26' must use the ECOS link (lanyard or wireless) when on plane.



NAVIGATING THE UPPER BAY & RIVERS

The Upper Chesapeake is known for its "thin" water and busy shipping lanes.

- "Red Right Return": When heading upriver toward North East or Elkton (returning from the open Bay), keep red markers on your right side to stay in deep water.
- Watch the Wake: In Maryland, you are legally responsible for any damage or injury caused by your boat's wake. Always obey "6-Knot/No Wake" signs near marinas and bridges.
- Shipping Channels: Large commercial ships in the Bay cannot stop or turn quickly. Stay clear of the main channels whenever possible; if you must cross, do so at a 90-degree angle.
- River Hazards: Be mindful of shoals, floating debris, and "strainers" (fallen trees) in the rivers, which can shift after heavy rains.

BEST PRACTICES FOR THE CAPTAIN

- The 1/3 Rule for Fuel: Use 1/3 of your fuel to go out, 1/3 to get back, and keep 1/3 in reserve.
- Check the Weather: Storms typically arrive from the West. Use a VHF radio or app to monitor for sudden squalls, which are common on the Bay.
- Float Plan: Always let someone on shore know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Sober Operation: Alcohol's effects are tripled on the water due to sun, wind, and motion. Never operate a vessel under the influence.

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In Maryland, anyone born on or after July 1, 1972, must carry a Certificate of Boating Safety Education to operate any motorized vessel.

1. Online Options (Self-Paced)

These are the most convenient for fitting into a busy schedule. Ensure the course is NASBLA approved.

- Boat-Ed: A popular, Maryland-approved course that provides your permanent card upon completion.
- BoatUS Foundation: Offers a free state-specific safety course recognized by the MD DNR.
- BOATERexam.com: Another delegated provider where you can print a temporary card immediately after passing.

2. Classroom & In-Person

For a more hands-on refresher with a live instructor:

- Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP): They offer an 8-hour "Basic Boating" course at various locations across the state. Check the DNR Classroom Schedule for upcoming dates in Cecil County.
- Chesapeake Boating Academy: Offers professional on-the-water powerboat training for those looking to improve docking and maneuvering skills

*Enjoy your springtime outings!
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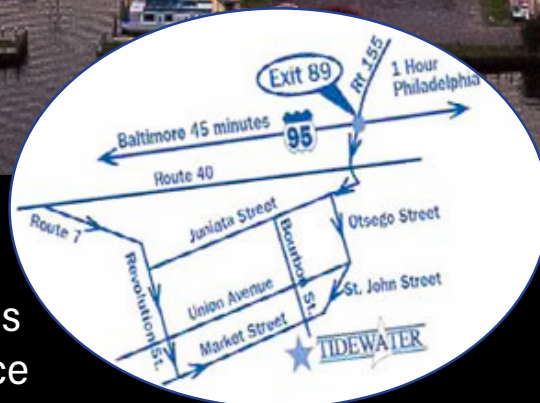
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Preparing for the Preakness Stakes with THE BLACK-EYED SUSAN

By Wendy Gilbert

This month's boozy focus is on another iconic Maryland cocktail. Similar to the Orange Crush, The Black-eyed Susan is fruity and delightful. Named after the Maryland state flower, it is the official drink of the Preakness Stakes. It's been a long time since I saw this horse race in person, but the first one I attended is burned into my long-term memory. Joining droves of my fellow Towson University students on the infield at Pimlico was as much a part of my education as any formal class on campus.

This year's race will be held in Laurel, gasp!

Much like the Orange Crush, the Black-Eyed Susan is famous for having no standard recipe. Because it is often tied to brand sponsorships for the Preakness, the ingredients change nearly every year, leading to a wide variety of versions served at dock bars across the Chesapeake Bay.

Common Spirits: Most versions use a combination

of vodka and bourbon. However, variations frequently swap or add light rum, spiced rum, tequila, or rye whiskey. Fruit Components: While orange juice is a staple, variations often include pineapple juice, sour mix, peach schnapps, mango juice, or even lime juice. Liqueurs: Some upscale versions use St. Germain (elderflower liqueur) or orange liqueur like Triple Sec or Grand Marnier.

Introduced in 1973, the drink was created to mimic the yellow-and-black color of Maryland's state flower, which is draped over the winning horse.

Spruce Eats follows this classic version:

- 1 oz Bourbon whiskey like Maker's Mark
- 1 oz Vodka
- 1 oz Peach schnapps
- 2 oz orange juice
- 2 oz Sour mix
- Garnish: Orange slice and a maraschino cherry.

PREPARATION:

- Fill a shaker with ice.
- Add all ingredients and

shake vigorously until the shaker is frosted.

- Strain into a highball glass over crushed ice.
- Garnish with an orange slice and a maraschino cherry.

Because the Black-eyed Susan is designed to showcase sponsor brands, the 2026 version will likely emphasize Diageo's premium portfolio. You can expect the following tweaks to the "official" recipe by Bulleit Bourbon and Ketel One Vodka this year.

• A **"TROPICAL"**

Shift: Recent official variations have leaned into more tropical notes by increasing pineapple juice or adding elderflower liqueur (like St. Germain) to create a fresher, "artisanal" profile.

• The **"READY-TO-DRINK"**

Influence: With the rise of canned cocktails, Preakness has introduced "pop-up cantinas" featuring canned versions of the signature drink. This year's version may be influenced by these pre-mixed profiles, which often use Ketel One Botanical for a lighter, more

floral flavor.

• Maryland Heritage Tributes: Despite the national sponsors, local dock bars often create their own versions using Sagamore Rye to maintain a **"MARYLAND-MADE"** feel, a trend that continues to grow among the local boating crowd. Black-eyed Susan: the modern official version featuring Bulleit and Ketel One, and a locally inspired Maryland Rye version that is a favorite at many Chesapeake dock bars.



*Many local establishments, including Sagamore Spirit in Baltimore, have created a **"BLACK-EYED RYE"** to honor Maryland's deep history with rye whiskey. This version is often spicier and less sweet than the official recipe.*

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ½ oz Sagamore Spirit Rye Whiskey
- ½ oz Fresh Lime Juice
- ¾ oz Blackberry Simple Syrup (mimics the "black eye" of the flower)
- 3 oz Ginger Beer
- Garnish: Fresh mint sprig and 3 skewered blackberries

PREPARATION:

- Shake the rye, lime juice, and blackberry syrup with ice.
- Strain into a Collins glass filled with ice.
- Top with ginger beer to add a refreshing fizz.
- Garnish with mint and berries.





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A New Chapter for HOPKINS CREEK HARBOR

By Kimberly Ann

Tucked along a well-known stretch of waterfront in Essex, Hopkins Creek Harbor is beginning an exciting new chapter under the ownership of Chad Levin and Christina Lawson, who recently purchased the former Hopkins Creek Marina adjacent to the old Crazy Tuna Bar and Grill. Now newly renamed and revitalized, the marina at 202 Nanticoke Road is positioning itself as a welcoming long-term home for boaters who appreciate comfort, convenience, and easy access to some of the Middle River area's favorite waterfront destinations.

Set where Hopkins Creek flows into the Middle River, the marina enjoys a location that feels both protected and connected to one of the region's most active boating communities. Rather than catering to overnight traffic, Hopkins Creek Harbor is focused entirely on long-term rentals, with no transient slips. That approach gives the marina a more residential, close-knit feel, ideal for boaters looking for a dependable place to keep their vessel for the season and beyond.

One of the marina's standout features is its impressive covered slip offering.

Hopkins Creek Harbor is home to nine covered slips that can accommodate boats up to 55 feet, making it one of the area's most notable covered-slip marinas. In addition, the facility offers bulkhead slips for boats up to 28 feet, along with a dedicated jet ski docking area, broadening its appeal to a range of recreational boaters. Practical amenities also matter here, and slip holders benefit from electric hookups as well as a parking lot reserved exclusively for marina tenants.

Levin and Lawson have already completed many renovations, and the upgrades are easy to appreciate. Among the most inviting improvements are the beautiful bathhouses, which include showers and laundry facilities designed to make time at the marina more comfortable for slip holders and their guests. These updates reflect an ownership team that clearly understands what today's boaters want: clean facilities, thoughtful infrastructure, and a marina that feels cared for. The marina also has the advantage of being within walking distance of LoonASea and the highly anticipated restaurant Raw & Refined, expected

to open soon. That means a day on the water can easily transition into dinner, drinks, or a casual evening by the creek without ever moving the car.

Looking ahead, Hopkins Creek Harbor is also searching for a marine-related tenant for the vacant building on the property. The space could be an excellent fit for a boat shop or service-oriented marine business, adding even more value for slip holders and helping build out the marina as a true waterfront hub. There is also a fun personal touch behind the new ownership story. One of Chad Levin's favorite purchases is his 1950s hydroplane, a piece many Baltimoreans may recognize from Bertha's Mussels, where it famously hung from the ceiling for roughly 50 years. Chad bought the hydroplane when the restaurant was closing. He even managed to take it out for one quick run, making it back to shore just before it sank. These days, the vintage craft has been retired from active duty and now hangs safely from the ceiling of his own basement bar.

For slip inquiries or business interest, Hopkins Creek Harbor can be reached at hopkinscreekharbor@gmail.com.




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LET THE GOLDEN HOLE GAMES BEGIN

By Montana Grant



Anglers must become skilled casters to catch fish. Distance, accuracy, and presentation are key to making a perfect cast into the Golden Hole. Whether casting from a boat, dock, or shore, casting matters. Using a fun target, like the Golden Hole, helps anglers improve their casting skills.

Anglers have crazy names for their fishing Hot Spots, Honey Holes, Sweet Spots, or Golden Holes. These hot spots are often secret and not shared with others.

The Golden Hole needs to be “stocked” to motivate most casters. Whether you are an experienced caster or not, the odds are in favor of those who take a chance.

For a fun holiday activity, stock the Golden Hole with prizes. Try a \$50 or \$100 bill, candy bars, or other rewards. Place the bowl about 15 yards away. For an easier cast, use a smaller hole. For experts, use a larger hole at a greater distance.

8–10-pound test fishing line works well on a spinning rod. Use a basic 6.5-foot spinning rod with a matched reel. Average gear will do. Gear is often sold as a combo already loaded with fishing line. I prefer colored lines that are gold/yellow or bright green.

For a lure, you don't want any hooks. An old plug with hooks removed will do. Paint it bright orange. It should weigh around half an ounce for this outfit. A swivel attached will minimize line twists and tangles. I also stretch the line out for 20 yards and smooth out any memory loops or coils before rewinding and starting the casting competition. A line conditioner helps to minimize loops and tangles.

Lures can be made from a wooden dial with an eye hook screwed into one end. Paint it orange and add a swivel. You can also teach knot tying and other rod skills, so the casters learn to master the Golden Hole.

Casters can use any cast that they

choose. Underhanded, over the head, standing, sitting, or side armed. The lure needs to plunk into the Golden Hole without bouncing. Only the distance needs to stay the same.

If you are in a boat, float a small metal bowl in or on a float. A piece of Styrofoam will keep the Golden Hole afloat. Tie a line from the float as an anchor. A tire weight, fishing sinker, or decoy anchor will do.

Each caster gets 10 casts at the Golden Hole. If the lure goes directly in, you will hear the metal “thunk”. The Golden Hole prize is theirs!

I have seen clubs raise money using their version of the Golden Hole. It will cost a \$10 bill to win \$100 dollar bill. A sawbuck will buy you 5 or 10 casts. I have also seen the money go into the Golden Hole until someone wins. You can try as often as you want for a \$10 stocking fee.

At 15 yards, into a 6–8-inch Golden Hole is tough for an experienced

See **GOLDEN HOLE** Page 36

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Poppers & Spooks

In the world of fishing, the most visible presentation for anglers is using surface lures. Poppers and surface walking baits – the class commonly referred to as spooks – are mainstay lures in many bass tackle boxes. Some think that they have taken a back seat to floating frog lures. However, poppers and spooks still get the job done.

For those unfamiliar with these lures, let me break them down for you. Both are floating lures. Most are weighted so they sit slightly tail-down to help impart the action. Poppers have a concave front that will make a popping sound and splash water forward when you twitch your rod after the cast.

The original Heddon Zara Spook, for which the class of lure is named, is a cigar-shaped lure. Most modern-day walking lures have a more natural fish shape. The line tie is low on the face of the lure. The bait will saunter side to side, much like an injured baitfish, with each twitch of the rod. The more modern baits walk side to side with ease and can be overworked if twitched too hard.

I've been a big fan of poppers for as long as I can remember. To me, it's the visual and audible splash

and pop of the bait that draws both my attention and the attention of the bass. It's not too early now to cast them. I focus on emerging grass beds in tidal rivers and creeks. Popping and pausing as I work passed each clump. I prefer flashy and baitfish pattern poppers around grass.

The grass pattern is obvious, yet I will definitely cast poppers under trees on a shaded shoreline. Bugs that fall off the limbs and leaves bring in blue gills and sunfish that pop and splash the surface for an easy meal. They, in turn, draw in the bass. You can bet that I am casting blue gill and sunfish patterns here. My rod and reel combo is a 6-foot 6-inch medium power, moderate action baitcasting rod. My reel is spooled with 10 or 12-pound test copolymer line. The flexibility of the rod and minimal stretch of the line allow me to pin the hooks inside the bass's mouth.

Andrew Donohue, guide with 40 East Fishing, is a big fan of surface-walking spook baits. A frog is a huge part of his approach to catching bass and snakeheads, but he knows there is a time and place for the spook when it comes to bass.

Donohue relies on the Heddon Super Spook and the Junior model. He casts the smaller Spook Junior in tight areas. He'll work them in narrow creeks and around fallen wood. The bigger Super Spook is worked along weed lines and over flooded grass. He relies on bone and baby bass colors for both sizes. Andrew's topwater setup is a 7-foot, medium/heavy baitcasting rod with a reel spooled with 30 to 50-pound test. He realizes that it is a heavy line, but it gives him confidence that he and his clients will get a bass back to the boat. Avid bass angler Chris Malczewski uses both popper and spooks. He began using them in Middle River and Dundee Creek in his formative fishing years. He'll start casting the Super Spook earlier in the year than most would imagine, usually in mid-April. He targets bass along rock cover and bulkheads where water warms first in the shallows. As the season progresses, like Donohue, he will work around submerged vegetation. Malczewski casts a black Super Spook on cloudy days. He will change to bone or translucent colors as sky and water conditions become clearer. He flings the spook with a medium/

heavy baitcasting rod, and reel spooled with 30-pound-test braided line.

While Chris uses the large spook, he prefers small poppers. He believes small poppers draw attention from bass of all sizes. He chooses natural baitfish colors. When the bite is on, it's truly a fun day. A lite lure means a scaled-down rod and line. Chris uses a medium/lite bait casting rod and a reel spooled with 10-pound-test monofilament. He and I both agree on the grass pattern for poppers.

Chris recognizes that a big popper draws a bigger class of bass. Numbers of bass are fun on the small bait, but in this case, he'll sacrifice size for numbers. He will upgrade to a medium power rod and 12 to 14-pound-test line to accommodate the upsized popper.

Andrew, Chris, and I all agree on one thing -- keep a topwater lure moving if a bass blows up on it and misses. The aggressive bass will keep tracking it. If there is more than one bass in the area, there will be competition to see who will bite the injured baitfish imitator first. Now is the time to start looking for the surface bite from bass. Popper and spooks are the lures of choice.

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Betterton Beach

Maryland's Underrated Bayfront Escape

By Kimberly Ann



Tucked into Kent County, MD, Betterton Beach is the kind of place that feels like a secret you almost do not want to share. This one-square-mile town on the upper Chesapeake Bay offers a quieter, gentler alternative to the ocean, with wide-open views, calmer water, and a laid-back charm that makes it an ideal summer escape. Where the Sassafras River meets the Susquehanna River, the waters help form the upper Chesapeake Bay, creating a scenic backdrop that feels both peaceful and distinctly Maryland.

For beachgoers, one of Betterton's biggest draws is simple: no jellyfish. Anyone who has endured painful stings during a Bay swim knows how rare and valuable that can be. Here, visitors can wade, float, and

relax without that familiar worry in the back of their minds. The surf is typically much calmer than the ocean, making it perfect for families, casual swimmers, and anyone who wants to sit back in an inner tube and drift the afternoon away.

The beach itself is compact but inviting, with a 300-foot sandy beach, 700 feet of shoreline access, and a 500-foot boardwalk that adds to its easygoing appeal. There are lifeguards on duty, along with ADA-accessible facilities, public restrooms, and grills for a full day by the water. Even better, there is no entry fee, which only adds to Betterton's reputation as an affordable and underrated getaway.

Beyond the sand, the setting encourages visitors to settle in and stay awhile.

A grassy area shaded by trees is ideal for picnicking, while a picnic pavilion with eight tables and a grill is available on a first-come basis. You can spend the morning fishing off the jetty, join a game of beach volleyball, or launch a kayak or stand-up paddleboard to explore the shoreline at your own pace. It is the kind of beach town where the day unfolds slowly and pleasantly, without the crowds and chaos of bigger destinations.

That said, Betterton's popularity is growing, and locals know one important tip: parking can get crazy, so go early and stay late. Arrive in the morning, claim your spot, and linger through sunset for the full experience.

Betterton also has a story to tell. It was once a fishing

village, then evolved into a shipping hub, and later became a summer retreat for visitors arriving by steamboat from Baltimore, especially in the years following World War II. That layered history still gives the town character today, blending working-waterfront roots with old-fashioned vacation nostalgia.

For those who fall in love with the area, there are condo rentals for longer stays, along with historic cottages and inns that make it easy to turn a beach day into a weekend retreat. In a region filled with better-known destinations, Betterton Beach remains a rare find: scenic, easygoing, and wonderfully unspoiled. It is not flashy, and that is exactly the point.



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Hit the Airwaves for Waterway Safety



by Captain Dale Plummer

Increasingly the Chesapeake Bay boating community has replaced the traditional VHF radio with a smart phone. Here's why using both when there is an emergency is the best strategy for a complete safety system.

Two seasons ago our crew here at TowBoatUS was reminded just how important VHF radio communication is in an emergency. While out on a call, one of our Captains broke his leg. It was a compound fracture. The customers at the other end of the tow rope used their VHF radio to hail a Mayday which initiated the following actions:

1. Our dispatcher heard the radio Mayday and quickly used her phone to notify me and our nearby tow boats to head to the area.
2. Nearby Good Samaritans heard the initial report and USCG broadcast, headed to the scene, and volunteered to lend a hand.
3. The Coast Guard used both cellular comms and VHF channels to mobilize local fire, marine police and DNR responses. They all arrived with the Coast Guard for an all-hands-on-deck response to transport our injured captain to an ambulance at the closest port.

Our Captain has fully recovered but the lesson is clear: Every boat needs a working VHF radio. VHF (Very High Frequency) radios enable instant communication with the Coast Guard, nearby vessels, and marinas for distress alerts. Unlike phones which alert land-based emergency response systems, VHF radios broadcast to everyone on the water to get help faster. VHF radios work beyond cellular range, are

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Channel 9 is used for pleasure craft hailing and nonemergency hailing such as drawbridges and marinas and radio checks

Channel 22A (157.1 MHz) is the primary channel for USCG broadcasts and marine information.

Channel 13 is used for bridge-to-bridge communication and navigation safety.

Channel WX - access 24/7 marine weather broadcast

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waterproof, and are powered by the boat's more reliable battery. Also, emergency responders can continue to effectively communicate with everyone involved – no cell phone number required.

Cell phones absolutely play a role in emergency response but the initial alert on the VHF is the key to involving all emergency resources and getting help quickly. You don't need a license to operate a VHF radio. Learn the VHF rules and etiquette, turn it on, and become a safe and aware boater. When you need a tow, TowBoatU.S. monitors VHF 16 or call 410-255-8700. As always, happy to help.

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Eastern Yacht Club

Where Chesapeake Bay
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By Kimberly Ann

Some wedding days feel beautiful. Others feel cinematic.

At Eastern Yacht Club, the celebration begins at the water's edge, where the Chesapeake Bay stretches wide and shimmering behind the ceremony, and every detail feels touched by light, breeze, and timeless romance. For the bride who has always imagined a wedding that is equal parts polished, picturesque, and deeply memorable, this Essex, Maryland destination, located at 2330 Seneca Road, offers an experience that feels luxurious without losing its warmth.

Established in 1956, Eastern Yacht Club has long been a landmark of waterfront charm, and today it offers couples a setting that effortlessly blends heritage, natural beauty, and modern comfort. The completely renovated Big House creates an inviting indoor retreat for elegant receptions, while outside, spectacular bay views set the stage for vows, photographs, cocktails, and quiet just-married moments that feel lifted from a bridal editorial.

Picture rows of gorgeous white chairs facing the bay, a graceful gazebo, and the soft glow of the shoreline creating a ceremony backdrop no designer could improve upon. It is the kind of setting that captures the essence of a destination wedding, yet remains wonderfully

close to home. Think all the romance of a getaway celebration, but with no passport required.

What sets Eastern Yacht Club apart is not simply its scenery, though the views are undeniably breathtaking. It is the way the venue makes the entire day feel seamless. Couples and guests can move easily from waterfront ceremony to stylish reception, enjoying both open-air beauty and indoor comfort without compromise. A beautiful stone patio adds another thoughtful touch, allowing guests to mingle outdoors with ease and elegance, free from the inconvenience of uneven grass or sinking heels.

For the bride, the experience is especially considered. A private Bride's Room is available for all-day use, offering a calm and comfortable space to prepare, gather, and savor the anticipation of the occasion. The venue's banquet facilities can accommodate up to 200 guests, making it equally suited for a chic, intimate affair or a full-scale celebration filled with family, friends, and a packed dance floor. Receptions are typically four hours, with several bar service packages available and a variety of preferred caterers dedicated to helping each couple shape a wedding that feels personal, polished, and beautifully

executed.

Practical luxury matters, too, and Eastern Yacht Club delivers it gracefully. With ample parking and handicap accessibility, the venue ensures that every guest can enjoy the day with comfort and ease. Available as a year-round rental, it offers a rare seasonal versatility. A spring wedding here feels fresh and airy, summer is radiant and nautical, autumn brings rich color and crisp coastal charm, and winter lends the bay an unexpectedly dramatic elegance.

And then there are the unscripted moments that make a place unforgettable. A glint of evening light on the water. The hush before the ceremony begins. Perhaps even the sight of a bald eagle soaring overhead, as if nature itself had arrived to witness the occasion.

Eastern Yacht Club is for couples who want more than a venue. It is for those who want atmosphere, grace, and a setting that transforms a wedding into an experience. It is where childhood dreams meet grown-up sophistication, where waterfront beauty meets effortless hospitality, and where one of life's most remarkable days unfolds with all the style and splendor it deserves.

Brides-to-be should contact the venue via their website: www.eaternyachtclub.com/venue or call 410-686-3555 for all the details.

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| SUN. 5/3 Heavy Soul 1-5pm | FRI. 5/22 Cool Change 6-9pm |
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| WED. 5/6 Jim Lewis 6-9pm | Joe and Travis 6-10pm |
| THURS. 5/7 Patrick Donovan 6-9pm | SUN. 5/24 The GGs 1-5pm |
| FRI. 5/8 Good Noizz 6-9pm | WED. 5/27 Stephen Henson 6-9pm |
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| Ashley Marie Music 6-10pm | FRI. 5/29 SILENT TALE 6-9pm |
| SUN. 5/10 A52 Unplugged 1-5pm | SAT. 5/30 Brody Wingatte 1-5pm |
| WED. 5/13 Jason Jackson 6-9pm | Moonstone 6-10pm |
| THURS. 5/14 Anthony Broccolina 6-9pm | SUN. 5/31 Michael Waskey 1-5pm |
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KING OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Returns to Celebrate Tradition, Camaraderie, and Community

By Kimberly Ann



The Kings celebrating at the last Opening of 2024 - RIP John Vernon Scarcella King of Chesapeake 2023 and all other Kings no longer with us... Jim High

For more than three decades, one of the Chesapeake boating community's most beloved traditions has brought laughter, pageantry, and friendship to yacht clubs across the region. Sponsored by Marley Boat Club, the King of the Chesapeake contest has been a cherished event since its founding in 1992, uniting members through humor, fellowship, and a shared love of club life. This year's competition will take place on September 25 at Red Eye Yacht Club, where another chapter will be added to the event's colorful history. You truly cannot appreciate this contest until you have experienced it live.

Now celebrating its 32nd King, the contest continues to thrive as both a spirited competition and a symbol of goodwill among local yacht clubs. The current titleholder, Joey Adamski of Crescent Yacht Club, represents the lighthearted but meaningful role the King

plays throughout the year. The "King" is a Goodwill Ambassador who appears at parties during the year of his reign "blessing" his subjects with sheets of toilet paper. The "King's" costume is something to see as each "King" from the year before adds something to it. The "King" is well respected because it takes a lot of courage for a fellow to get up for the entertainment of his yacht club friends."

Contestants compete in a series of crowd-pleasing categories designed to showcase personality as much as presence. Participants are judged on talent and costume, swimsuit, and a question-and-answer session, giving each applicant the chance to entertain, engage, and connect with both judges and audience members. The judging panel consists of three judges, including the Past King and two additional judges who have no affiliation with a contestant's

yacht club, ensuring fairness in the selection process.

Applicants must meet a few important qualifications. To enter, candidates must be male and a member in good standing of a yacht club. Those interested can find applications online or obtain them by contacting Marley Boat Club directly. Organizers remind prospective contestants that applications are due by the end of August, so early submission is encouraged.

While the competition itself is full of fun and flair, the responsibilities of the King extend well beyond the night of the event. The reigning King serves as a visible ambassador for the yacht club community, attending club functions and promoting goodwill throughout the region. Wearing his robe and crown, he becomes a familiar and welcome presence at openings, balls, and other celebrations. In fact, at many yacht club events,

it is not unusual to see eight to twelve past Kings in attendance, continuing to support the community and uphold the tradition they once represented. The Past Kings are truly a brotherhood.

The true goal of the King of the Chesapeake is not simply to crown a winner, but to bring clubs together and foster camaraderie among members who share common bonds on and off the water. It is a celebration of personality, tradition, and the lasting friendships that define the yacht club culture. For updates, applications, and more information, interested readers are encouraged to check out the Marley Boat Club Facebook page or the King of the Chesapeake Facebook page. With another memorable evening on the horizon, this year's contest promises the same cheer, laughter, and community spirit that have made it a favorite for generations.

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President Trump was approached by a woman after a political speech. "If you were my husband, I would poison your tea," she said. Trump replied, "If you were my wife, I'd gladly drink it."

I told my wife, Kisha, that she drew her eyebrows too high. She seemed surprised.



A ninety-five-year-old man was asked, "Why do you still call your wife 'darling', 'sweetie', or 'honey' at this age? What's the secret?" He said, "I forgot her name about 10 years ago, and now I'm just scared to ask!"

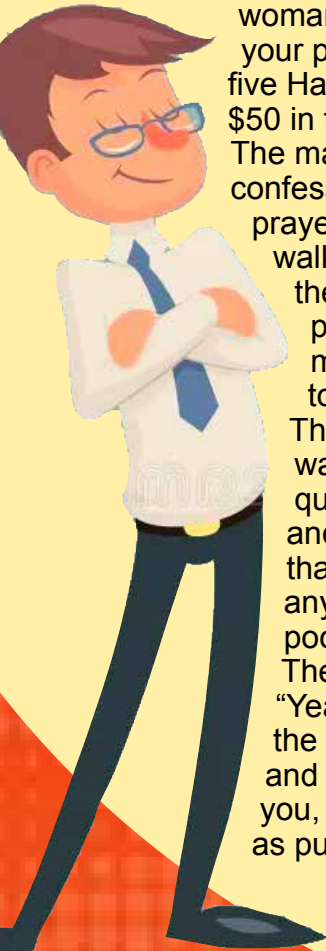


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At school, Little Johnny's classmate tells him that most adults are hiding at least one dark secret, so it's very easy to blackmail them by saying, "I know the whole truth." Little Johnny decides to go home and try it out. Johnny's mother greets him at home, and he tells her, "I know the whole truth." His mother quickly hands him \$20 and says, "Just don't tell your father." Quite pleased, the boy waits for his father to get home from work and greets him with, "I know the whole truth." The father promptly hands him \$40 and says, "Please don't say a word to your mother." Very pleased, the boy is on his way to school the next day when he sees the mailman at his front door. The boy greets him by saying, "I know the whole truth." The mailman immediately drops the mail, opens his arms, and says, "Then come give your Daddy a great big hug!"

A man went into the confessional and said to his priest, "I almost had an affair with another woman." The priest asked, "What do you mean, almost?" The man replied, "Well, we got undressed and rubbed together, but then I stopped!" The priest said, "Rubbing together is the same as putting it in. You're not to see that woman again. For your penance, say five Hail Marys and put \$50 in the poor box." The man left the confessional, said his prayers, and then walked over to the poor box. He paused for a moment and started to leave. The priest, who was watching, quickly ran over and said, "I saw that! You didn't put any money in the poor box!" The man replied, "Yeah, but I rubbed the \$50 on the box, and according to you, that's the same as putting it in!"



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PILLAGING

Some Notes On Marine Recycling



The boat came in under tow one afternoon and got lashed into one of the temporary slips. The deck looked a bit sloppy, but other than that it looked in fine shape. It was certainly newer than the boat we sail, and likely in better shape in a lot of ways. I asked the marina owner about her, and was basically told to take anything we wanted off of her. The boat was headed for the crusher.

I often feel like apologizing to these poor vessels. This happens way too often.

It's not hard to understand how this happens. We live aboard and have for years, but for most people, a boat is a luxury item. Something they have for fun. But then something happens: the kid needs braces, you get laid off, the car dies. . .maybe one of the boat engines blows, and there's no money to

fix it, but the slip fees just keep coming. Most everyone waits too long to do anything about it, hoping the situation will somehow resolve itself. Ultimately, you reluctantly put the boat on the market, only to learn that no matter how much you've put into the thing over the years, nobody is going to pay \$14,000 for your thirty year old cruiser with one dead engine.

So people walk away. The marina is now stuck with the thing: an unattended, slowly deteriorating, half functioning boat. In order to sell it, they've got to get title, which can be expensive and complicated. Some places strip the boats, cutting out the engines to sell for parts and pulling some of the rigging, but that takes time and someone to sell the stuff. For many, it just isn't worth the expense. So in comes a roll-off and a backhoe and the boat is cut up and the

marina pays the dump fees to dispose of it.

Rather sad, really.

So a couple of us marina denizens went a-pillaging. One of my slip mates has some new running gear, which is nice. I have a new bimini now, and a box of disposable trash bags, and a winch handle as a spare, and that's fine, But a once-fine boat will soon be in pieces, something somebody loved once, and me, being sentimental I guess, find that painful.

Kudos, at least, to marinas who keep the vessels from being just waste. I'll lift a glass to the dear departed vessel when next we're out. At least its memory—and my cockpit shade—lives on.

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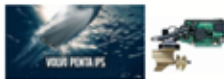
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MILLERS ISLAND LAND FISHING INVITATIONAL

2ND ANNUAL

MILLERS ISLAND LAND FISHING INVITATIONAL

HOSTED BY DOCK OF THE BAY

APRIL 18, 2026

Anglers Pre Meeting on Thursday April 18, 2026 at 6:30pm at Dock of the Bay

Adult Registration \$100
Youth Registration \$75

*Each registered angler receives entry to the after party hosted by Dock of the Bay for complimentary life fare, beer, wine and soda. Additional guests may attend for additional cost of \$25.00 per person.

GUARANTEED PRIZES

ADULT DIVISION	YOUTH DIVISION
1st Prize - \$3,500	1st Prize - \$250
2nd Prize - \$2,000	2nd Prize - \$100
3rd Prize - \$500	3rd Prize - \$50

*Gift Certificates to Edgemere Bait & Tackle

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PROCEEDS AFTER BRRC'S COST INVOLVED WITH THIS EVENT WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE 2026 EDMERE BAIT AND TACKLE KIDS CHRISTMAS FISHING ROD GIVEAWAY AND THE SPECIES PROGRAM AT SPHS.



John 3:16

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This is Tucker our 10 year old Basset Hound. He loves boating with his parents Bob & Tracy



You talkin' to me?



This guy is Tank Peddicord!



Nala!



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GOLDEN HOLE GAMES

By Montana Grant

angler. If the "Experts" have been drinking, the challenge can earn plenty of cash. Luck is also needed.

I remember watching Lefty Kreh use a spinning rod, drop a sinker into a metal coffee camp cup at 15 yards, 6 out of 10 attempts. He missed a few attempts, since he had drunk a couple of beers. Lefty was the best caster that I have ever known.

An experienced angler needs to be on board to help with any line loops that may/will arise. Loops happen just as the caster begins the rewind. It is easy to fix loops when they first form. You can also challenge more

expert anglers by requiring them to use their opposite casting hand. If they are right-handed, they must cast as a lefty. Longer or shorter fishing rods can create more competition.

You can have semi-finals and finals. Each level must be earned, and the challenge changes. A floating Golden Hole can become a challenge in rough waters. We once lined up the casters and floated a Golden Hole downstream. The target was always on the move.

For rookies and kids, you can make bigger, closer Golden Holes. A Golden Bucket will work. When

I taught school, I used a 5-gallon bucket and stocked it with candy bars. The kids could form a 15-yard circle around the bucket and cast away. I had a classroom set of basic casting rods. Stay behind the casters for safety. A kid once nailed me in the Golden Nuts at 15 yards. Fortunately, there were no treble hooks on the practice lure. Make all the casters wear sunglasses and fishing hats for fun.

Casting is a learned skill. The more you practice, the better you will become. Operating the reel, using a rod/lever, manipulating line, aiming, and launching are all learned from repetition.

No cheating and no participation trophies. You either cast into the Golden Hole, or you don't. That's the difference between fishing and catching.

Teasing casters is allowed. The judge must see the lure entering the Golden Hole. Waving money around and teasing are allowed. Only one caster at a time when Big Bucks are involved. Setting up a video camera will allow for any replays or confirmation memories.

A fish fry is a fun reward for all anglers after challenging the Golden Hole. Mastering the Golden Hole will make you a better angler. Git yer limit and catch a biggun!

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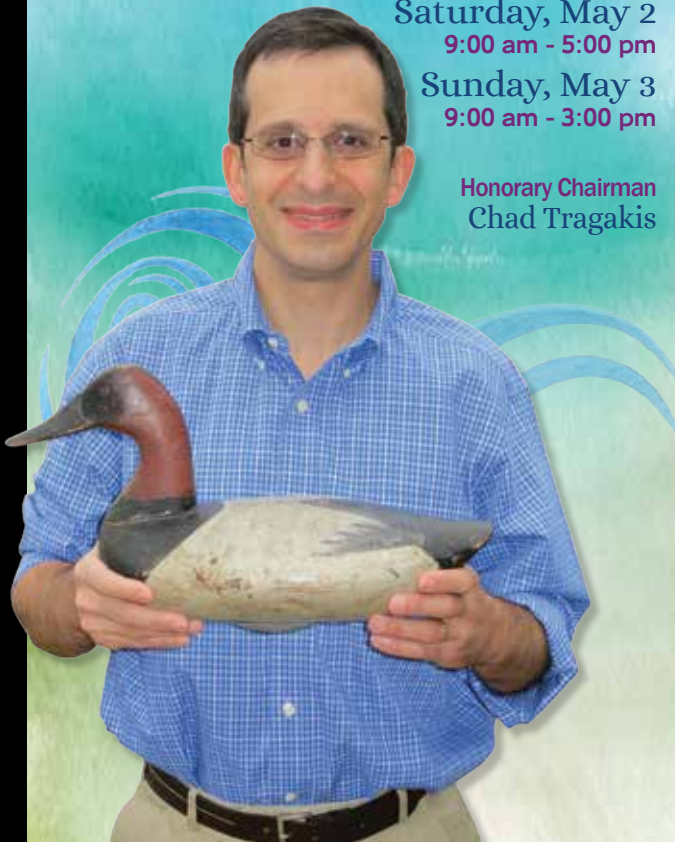
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