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AUGUST
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Photo by Paige Finley

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**UPPER BAY
Boating
MAGAZINE**

Happy **250TH**
America

THE PLAYBUOY

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410-404-3013 | www.upperbayboating.com

UPPER BAY BOATING CREW!

Publisher: Jim High

Publisher Emiritus: Dave Bielecki

Administration: Kisha Soth

Production & Graphic Design: Carol Pappas

Features Editor: Wendy Gilbert

Photography: David Sites, Thomas Bentz

Contributing Writers: Wendy Gilbert, Tim Sherman, Doug Dawson, Kimberly Ann, Mark Galasso, Montana Grant, Dale Plummer, Anne Sandbek, Wayne Miskewicz

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES:

Jim High 410-404-3013 TheViking38@gmail.com

Dave Bielecki 410-937-6866 DaveBielecki@aol.com

Katie Groom 410-382-4968 katiegroom@comcast.net

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Listings may be sent to the above address or emailed to: TheViking38@gmail.com

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Marinating with Captain Jim High

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!!!

Or better yet, the Chipmunks of Summer? Remember the Chipmunks as in ALVIN or better yet... AAALLLVVII-INNN !!!!! Or in this case AUGUST!!!! AAAAAUUUG-GGGUUSSSTTT!!! Holy Snikes... August already... Holy S#\$%^%!!! Not August

already?! Wow... I hope June and July were Rocking Fun and you burned some of the fuel... Or got a tremendous amount out of the sails. For the solar-powered boat, I sure as HECK hope those batteries stayed fully charged... I am talking Super Charged!!!



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When Things
Don't Go Right

When the batteries are low,
when the sun is above the
clouds, when the rain keeps
falling on your head at your
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waterfront fuel is a little high,
and when not all your friends
can make it to the docks
on Friday night... PLEASE
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REAL BOATERS VS. NRB'S NON-REAL BOATERS

Real Boaters are gonna keep their boats in the water clear to the Lighted Boat Parades on the Boh, C & D, Baltimore, Bear Creek, Pasadena, Kent Narrows, all the others I may have forgotten, and the BIG ONE -- Middle River. The NRBs are already worried that the season is ending and that it will soon be Labor Day. But... they are both right! You should be worried!!! Summer flies by, and my column is always about how much time exists and how time exits.

So, I read that people hate AI Data Centers in their neighborhood, and I wondered why? So, I asked "ALEXA" why people hate AI Data Centers so much... We own 5 Alexas. I wasn't satisfied with the answer, so I asked "GOOGLE" why people hate AI Data Centers... We own at least 6 or 7 Google Devices. So, I asked "GEMINI" on my smartphone, watched a few YouTube videos, and asked "CHAT GBT" to make me an "I hate AI Data Center"

sticker so I could upload it and have an AI Data Center print me some stickers. A lot of people ask why all the AI DATA CENTERS in my backyards while using a whole lot of AI Data. Transporting that much AI Data from the preferred off Asian companies, however, isn't quick on the return, and the people who want all that speed but don't expect the costs... Alphabet is raising \$80 billion by selling stock to invest in AI. I bet the other 24 letters are pi\$\$ed!



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By Wendy Gilbert
Contributing Editor

Beat the Heat in Style



The dog days of summer bring intense heat that drains your energy and strains your boat's engine. When the midday sun beats down, here are a few steps to keep everyone onboard safe, cool, and comfortable.

KEEP THE CREW COOL AND HYDRATED

- **DOUBLE YOUR WATER STASH:** The Water Safety Police suggest we pack one gallon of fresh water per person for a standard day trip.
- **COOL YOUR DRINKS BEFORE LOADING** them to save your ice supply.
- **SKIP MIDDAY ALCOHOL:** Save the alcoholic drinks for the dock, as alcohol accelerates dehydration. Plus, for those of a certain

age, it leads straight to a nap.

- **SWAP HEAVY FOAM VESTS** for lightweight, Coast Guard-approved inflatable PFDs.
- **CREATE A BREEZE:** Keep the boat moving or head into open water to catch natural airflow. Protect Your Engine from Overheating
- **LOOK FOR A STEADY STREAM OF WATER** exiting your outboard or sterndrive indicator.
- **CLEAR THE WATER INTAKES** immediately if you drive through thick summer weed beds.
- **MONITOR THE TEMPERATURE GAUGE:** Keep a close eye on your dashboard dials during long

idling periods.

- **INSPECT THE BELTS:** Tighten loose alternator and water pump belts before you leave the boat slip. Shield the Furbabies
- **TEST THE DECK FLOOR:** Touch the fiberglass deck with your bare foot to ensure it will not burn paws.
- **DEPLOY THE BIMINI:** Keep your shade canopy open all day to give pets a break from the sun.
- **WATCH FOR HEAVY PANTING:** Move your pup to the shade and wet their belly if they pant uncontrollably.
- **ANCHOR A WATER BOWL:** Use a weighted, spill-proof bowl to keep fresh drinking water available.

SPOT THE WARNING SIGNS OF HEAT ILLNESS

- **IDENTIFY HEAT EXHAUSTION:** Watch for dizziness, headaches, heavy sweating, and cool, clammy skin.
- **TREAT EXHAUSTION EARLY:** Move the passenger to shade, pour cool water over them, and give them sports drinks.

- **IDENTIFY DEADLY HEAT STROKE:** Look for hot, dry skin, confusion, vomiting, or a sudden lack of sweat.
- **CALL FOR EMERGENCY HELP:** Use VHF Channel 16 immediately to contact the Coast Guard if heat stroke occurs.

THE ESSENTIAL "DOG DAYS" PACKING CHECKLIST

Add these specific items to your standard safety gear to handle extreme summer heat.

Coolers and Hydration

- **GALLON WATER JUGS:** Pack one full gallon per person.
- **INSULATED SPORTS BOTTLES:** Keeps water icy cold all day.
- **ELECTROLYTE POWDER PACKETS:** Replaces salt lost from heavy sweating.
- **TWO EXTRA BAGS OF ICE:** One for drinks, one for emergency cooling.

SUN AND HEAT PROTECTION

- **BIMINI TOP EXTENSION STRAPS:** Secures your shade canopy against sudden gusts.
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Daiquiris to Flaming Punch

RUM TO THE RESCUE

By Wendy Gilbert

The other day I found myself ruminating on rum. The quintessential sailor's beverage, I find rum fascinating. Also, delicious, but mostly fascinating. A bit of research revealed more than I'd bargained for. This rummy world is as vast and varied as the oceans its early traders crossed. Unlike other spirits regulated by strict geographic rules, rum is produced in over 80 countries, each utilizing unique methods of

fermentation, distillation, and aging. Understanding rum requires categorization not just by color, but by body, character, and production style. Breaking the spirit down into light, medium, strong, and spiced categories reveal how each style serves a distinct purpose in mixology and culinary arts. That's drinking and eating for you who might be a beverage or two in at the moment.

LIGHT RUM:

THE CRISP FOUNDATION

Light rum, often labeled as white, silver, or Blanco, is the backbone of high-volume cocktail bars worldwide. Primarily produced in Spanish-speaking regions like Cuba and Puerto Rico, light rum undergoes a short fermentation process and is distilled in modern column stills. This industrial process strips away heavy congeners, resulting in a clean, subtle spirit with delicate notes of sugar cane, vanilla, and citrus.

Even when aged in oak barrels to smooth out sharp edges, producers charcoal-filter the final liquid to remove any color. Because light rum possesses a neutral profile, it does not dominate a drink. Instead, it acts as a canvas for fresh fruits and acids.

WHEN TO USE IT:

- **Classic Cocktails:**

This is the definitive choice for a Daiquiri, Mojito, or Cuba Libre.

- **Highballs:** Pair it with simple mixers like club soda, tonic, or ginger ale.

- **Culinary:** Use it for flambéing bananas or macerating berries without altering the fruit's natural color.

MEDIUM RUM:

THE GOLDEN BALANCE

Medium rums, frequently

sold as gold, amber, or aged rums, offer a bridge between refreshing neutrality and heavy complexity. These spirits are typical of places like Barbados and parts of Central America. Producers often blend column-distilled light rums with rich, pot-distilled rums, aging the final blend in charred white oak barrels for several years.

The barrel aging introduces wood sugars, imparting deep hues and rich flavors of caramel, toasted coconut, baking spices, and tobacco. Medium rums retain enough brightness to mix smoothly while possessing enough inherent character to be enjoyed on their own.

WHEN TO USE IT:

- **Elevated Mixology:**

Upgrade your cocktails by using medium rum in a Mai Tai or El Presidente.

- **Spirit-Forward Drinks:**

Substitute it for whiskey in an Old Fashioned or Manhattan variant.

- **Sipping:** Enjoy it neat or over a single large ice cube to appreciate the wood-aged nuances.

STRONG RUM

STRONG RUM ENCOMPASSES TWO DISTINCT HIGH-PROOF CATEGORIES: *overproof rums* and traditional *heavy pot-still rums*, most notably Jamaican "funk" (or hogo).

While standard rum sits at 40 percent Alcohol by Volume (ABV), strong rums regularly push past 50 percent, with overproof variants reaching a whopping 75.5 percent ABV. Ah, hem.

Jamaican heavy rums rely on wild yeasts and extended fermentation times, sometimes utilizing an acidic bacterial starter called "dunder." This process creates a massive concentration of esters, resulting in pungent, unforgettable aromas of overripe banana, pineapple, leather, and diesel. These rums are intense, unapologetic, and cut through any mixer.

WHEN TO USE IT:

- **Tiki Drinks:** Essential for complex tropical builds like the Zombie or Painkiller, where the rum must cut through heavy layers of juice and syrups.

- **Floater:** Layer a half-ounce of overproof rum on top of a finished cocktail for a dramatic aromatic punch.

- **Culinary Arts:** Ideal for baking rum cakes or creating intense pastry creams where the alcohol cooks off but the concentrated flavor remains.

Spiced Rum: The Botanical Infusion Spiced rum represents the oldest tradition of altering spirits to

improve flavor or preserve botanical medicine. Modern spiced rums begin with a light or medium rum base, which is then infused with natural spices, herbs, and occasionally caramel coloring for sweetness. Common botanicals include vanilla, cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, rosemary, and orange peel. Can you smell the Captain Morgan yet?

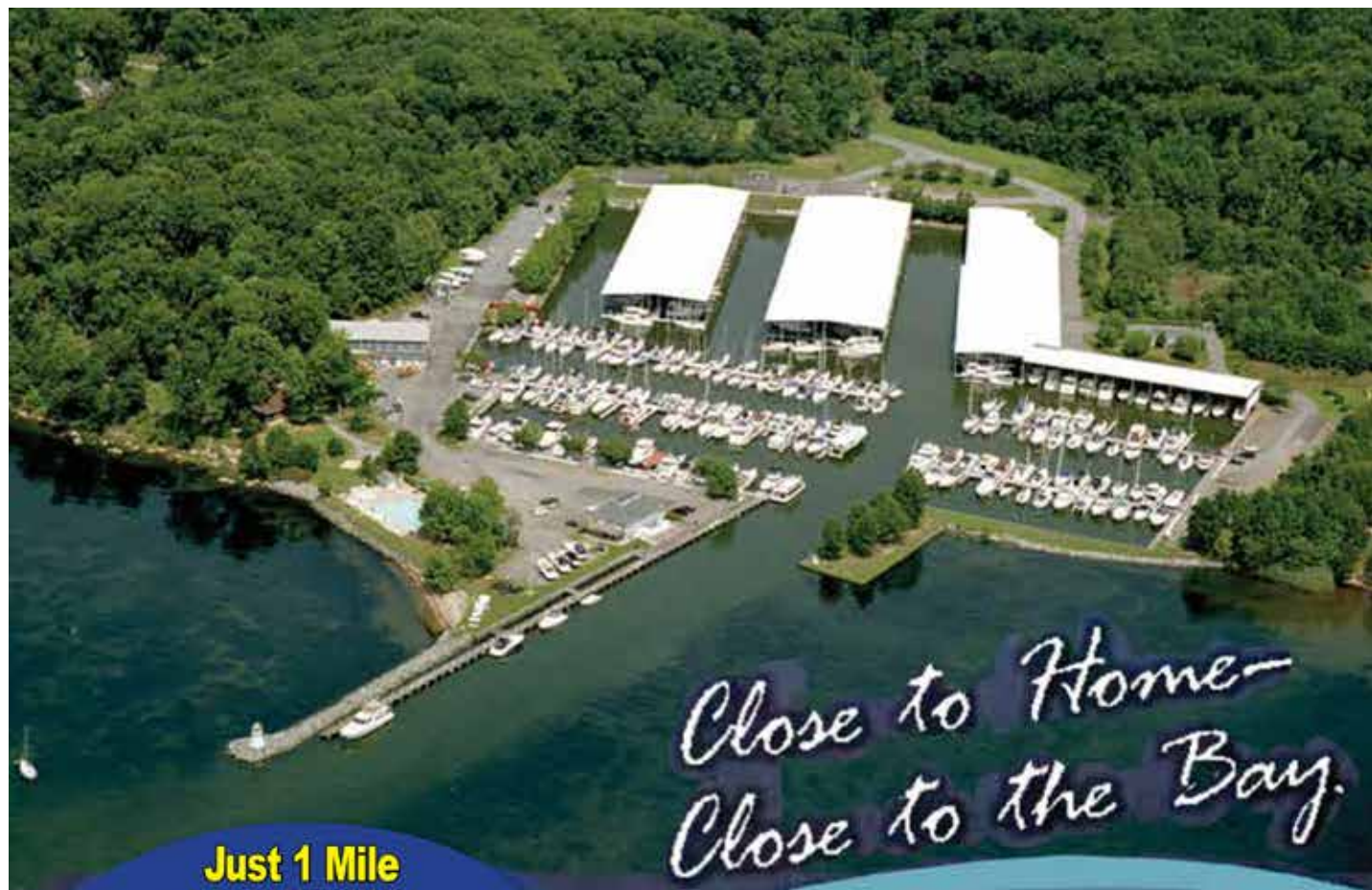
While purists occasionally dismiss spiced rum due to the potential for artificial additives, high-quality craft producers use genuine botanicals to create highly comforting, dessert-like flavor profiles. The sweetness and warm baking spice notes make it incredibly approachable for casual drinkers.

WHEN TO USE IT:

- **Winter Warmers:** Perfect for hot beverages like Hot Toddlies, Hot Buttered Rum, or spiked eggnog. My personal favorite is from a line from "It's a Wonderful Life" when Clarence ponders a flaming rum punch. I've never had it, but it's a favorite nonetheless.

- **Two-Ingredient Mixers:** Pair it directly with cola, ginger beer, or apple cider.

- **Baking:** Use it to soak raisins for oatmeal cookies or to flavor bread puddings and pumpkin pies.



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TROUPE'S TREATS

THE ICE CREAM BOAT KID

By Brian Troupe - Owner of Troupe's Treats



Somewhere along the Bohemia River, long before most people see him, they hear the music first.

Then comes the shouting.

"Ahoy, matey!"

Children wave from anchored boats. Adults point across the water. Dogs bark excitedly from swim platforms as a small 11-foot Jon boat slowly moves through the summer boating traffic, carrying a chest freezer full of frozen treats with a teenager at the helm. For many local boaters, spotting Troupe's Treats has quietly become part of summer itself.

The floating business is operated by 16-year-old Brian Troupe, a Delaware student pursuing an engineering and technology career pathway while simultaneously building one of the more unusual small businesses on the Upper Chesapeake. Using a small

electric-powered boat, Brian travels from anchored group to anchored group selling packaged frozen treats directly to boaters.

The idea began casually during a conversation with a neighbor. With access to a private pier along the Bohemia River, what started as a simple thought about selling ice cream to boaters gradually became a summer business.

Brian chose ice cream deliberately. Unlike drinks or snacks that boaters often pack for themselves, frozen treats are harder to keep cold on the water, making them a product people are happy to buy when he comes along. He also chose prepackaged frozen novelties rather than prepared food, avoiding the added complexity of cooking, serving, food preparation inspections, and the operational concerns that come with handling

open food.

Even the licensing process produced a memorable moment. After inspecting the operation, a Cecil County Health Department inspector reportedly remarked that Brian's little ice cream boat was likely the smallest mobile food unit the department had ever certified.

All frozen treats are priced at \$3, enabling quick transactions between boats while keeping the products affordable for families.

What makes the concept especially interesting is how simple it is. There is no storefront. No elaborate infrastructure. No fleet of employees. The business instead relies on mobility, personality, and direct interaction with the boating community.

In an era dominated by apps and automated transactions, Troupe's Treats feels

refreshingly personal.

After observing the popularity of Troupe's Treats among local boaters, Matt Jones, General Manager at Bohemia Manor Farm, recently invited Brian to expand the concept ashore. Plans now include participation in music festivals and other special events at the winery. "Brian's already become really popular out on the water, and we're excited to have him here on our property serving our visitors as well," Jones said.

Brian recently competed in the Entrepreneur of Impact competition, advancing to the top 16 out of an estimated 45,000 participants nationwide. Brian hopes to eventually become a roller coaster engineer. For now, though, most people along the Bohemia River simply know him as the ice cream boat kid.

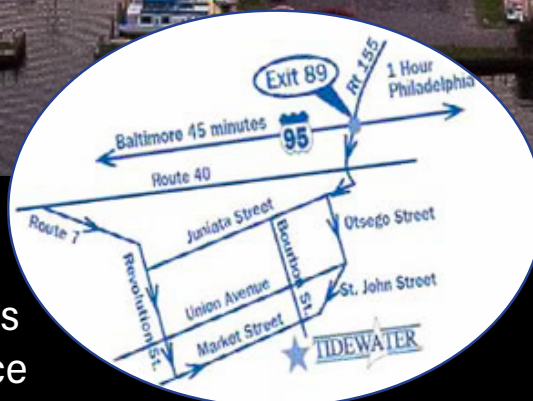
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GOING BANANAS

By Captain Mark Galasso



It started out like any other morning. It was 7 a.m. and I had everything ready for my charter. The livewell was full of Spot, and they looked pretty lively. Just a slight breeze was rustling the palm trees at the Big Owls Tiki Bar where I keep the boat. Obviously, the resident Great Blue Heron had a nice breakfast since white and purple stains were scattered up and down the pier. For the life of me, I don't know what they eat that's purple. Surely no fish I'm aware of. The resident Narrows Mallards were resting on one of the floating docks. I'm sure they contributed to the stains that were everywhere. A couple of Terrapins were sitting on top of our bait-holding pens trying to figure out how to get in and gorge themselves. So, I took in the scenery and waited.

I didn't have to wait long, and I could see my crew pulling into the parking lot. Ten minutes later, they were walking down the pier. Still nothing out of the ordinary. Six people, a couple of coolers, and plenty of chatter. They jumped on the boat, and I went through my

safety spiel. First question was "does the bathroom work?" "Yup, but if you have something pressing, I suggest you use the one at the head of the dock before we leave. It's a lot nicer than mine," I said. What I didn't say was I don't have to clean that one!

We headed for the place I caught fish the previous day. I asked, in what I thought was a nice way, how experienced they were. Almost unanimously, they said, "Not very." Now, whenever I get that response, I feel I need to stop and do a little talk on how we do things. So, as we drifted along, I went through my speech on Effective Live Lining. You know, hook your Spot through the upper lip. Get plenty of bone so it doesn't slip off. Don't cast. Let your line out until you're close to the bottom and for the most important item. **THESE ARE CIRCLE HOOKS. LET HIM EAT IT AND DON'T SET THE HOOK, JUST REEL.** Pretty straightforward. So, for the next hour I watched. And coached. And sacrificed twenty Spot with not a Rockfish to show for it. My

frustration level was rapidly increasing. But I kept coaching, and they kept listening, and finally we caught one. The fact is, the fisherman put the rod in the holder and went to get a drink, and Rodney Rod Holder caught the fish. But it was a step in the right direction.

Then the tide went wrong, and we couldn't get a bite. It was story time. Everyone started to relax and tell stories, and fishing became secondary to enjoying a beautiful day on the water. One of the anglers saw my NO BANANAS sticker and asked me about it. I told her it was just an old wives' tale, but fishermen, especially charter captains, tend to be a little superstitious. And besides, it's nice to have an excuse if the fishing is poor other than the fish "Just aren't biting." I told them I've caught fish with and without bananas, but it's fun to make up stories. One of the anglers proceeded to pull two bananas out of their cooler and lay them up on my sink. They informed me that maybe there was something to bad-luck bananas and what we should do. I shrugged.

Next thing I knew, we were having this discussion about whether they should quickly gobble them down or just throw them away. Should they go in the trash or throw the peels over? One of the anglers started to say, "Well maybe we should....." Before he finished his sentence, I picked them up and launched them as far as I could. Everyone was stunned. My frustration level was subsiding, and we got back to fishing. We finished up with our limit about thirty minutes later.

I've heard stories about Captains turning the boat around or screaming at the poor soul who they discover brought Bananas on board. There was an episode on Wicked Tuna where someone, as a joke, hid bananas on a competi-

tor's boat. I heard one story where the guy who owned fruit of the Loom underwear actually removed bananas from the fruit cornucopia that adorns his products. I've been meaning to check that out, but as of yet I haven't. Didn't think it was a good idea to go to the men's clothing store and look, or better yet ask the clerk to look!

So basically, I've heard two stories that kind of make sense. The first one was about the Wandering Spider, a fast, deadly, poisonous Tarantula. They like to hide in Banana bunches and would get on old sailing vessels that took on Bananas for the sailors to eat to help ward off scurvy and other ailments. In the old sailing days, when ships would be out at sea for months, and you were unlucky enough to be bitten by one, you probably got to enjoy a burial at sea. Yours.

The other story that kind of makes sense is about the banana's propensity to rot and give off a gas that rots all the other fruits it comes in contact with. Once again in old sailing times when most things were either salted or dried for preservation bananas could be an issue. Since refrigeration wasn't an option, bananas were hard to store and either had to be dried or eaten fairly early in the voyage. I'm sure many were missed as the ship's quartermaster took inventory. And it only takes one bad one to ruin the whole batch. I guess that's what they say about apples too.

So just a little word of advice to all the fishermen out there. Either don't bring Bananas on the boat or keep them well hidden from the captain. The last thing anyone wants to see is the captain, who, by the way, is the one responsible for getting you safely back to shore: "Go Bananas!"

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Hobo-Style Drift “BOATS”

By Montana Grant



This recipe is a great way to serve a wonderful meal on the water, at camp, or on the deck. Since I live in Montana, and my main boat is a Drifter, I call these meals “Drift Boats”, rather than “Hobo Shrimp Boats”.

Back in the day, we used to call these style meals a “Hobo” dinner. As Boy Scouts, we used a foil pouch meal or aluminum container. This dish meant quick preparation, easy cooking, and no washing. A foil-wrapped Shore Lunch with fresh fish is also a common way to cook like a Hobo! Baltimore TV was famous for the Hobo TV character that did the “Lorenzo Stomp”.

Now I know that using the word “Hobo” may offend some folks. Sorry. I am not sure which pronoun would best serve this style of dinner. I have heard this dish called Hillbilly, Outback, Homeless, and Poor Man dinners. No matter what you call them, they are a fun and tasty way to make friends and family fat and happy.

Drift Boats can be built ahead of time and kept in a cooler until ready for launch.

You will need several aluminum cooking vessels. Chefs often use these foil boats to bake bread. We use them to hold a single portioned meal. You can certainly use these foil boats for many variations. They usually come with a

lid and are sized to fit a small loaf of bread. If you don't have foil containers, just make a double-thick aluminum foil wrapped meal.

Place a cleaned cob of corn in the boat. You can cut it in half if preferred.

Melt a stick of butter, or as much butter as you need. Once the butter is melted, whisk in Old Bay seasoning to taste. Place minced garlic in the butter and mix. Fresh pieces of Garlic also add great flavor. You can add whatever other spices you prefer. The Old Bay blend has a great mixture of tasty seafood flavors.

You can add a little liquid on the boat's bottom. Beer can also be a nice addition. Just enough to cover the bottom. Take a large link sausage and cut into coins. I prefer Polish sausage, but there are many choices. In a pinch, I have used brats, hot dogs, and sliced Spam and Vienna sausages. Don't mock me; it was all we had at the camp. Distribute the sausage around the corn cobs. Some boaters like their Drift Boats spicy and add hot sauce or other spicy ingredients.

Cut up potatoes and spread the chunks around the corn. Usually an inch cubed, skinned Tates will cook easily and quickly. Small red or colored Tates also work well in this recipe.

Now add a bag of frozen or fresh

shrimp. I leave the tails and shells on for more flavor. Shrimp, with heads on, are really tasty but require some picking. Fish filets, lobster, and other sliced veggies also can crew the boats. Use what you have.

Baking can be done in several ways. The goal is to bake the meal at 375 degrees for 35 minutes. This can be done in a conventional oven. There is no need to cover the boats in the kitchen. A charcoal grill works well if you lay the hot coals to the side and bake the boats on the opposite side. Cover these boats with foil to make the heat consistent.

Propane grills also work well. Place the Boats on the end where a flame bar is turned off. Use the thermostat to know what the temp on the grill is.

Shrimp cooks fast. Corn will take the longest, so when they are done, everything else will be ready to eat.

In a pinch, you can cover the boats in foil and place them on a fire's coals. Put some hot coals on top of the foil and bake like a Dutch Oven.

You can eat from the Drift Boats, then properly dispose of the used foil boats when done.

Just cook up your Drift Boats the way a Hobo would do it and enjoy! It would also be fine to dance the Lorenzo Stomp!



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"Thers's nothing stonger than the heart of a volunteer" -James Doolittle

The above quotes are so true. Being a volunteer is a selfless act, to give of your free time, energy and skills for no reason other than to help others, communities or any cause to make the world a better place. There are no age requirements, skill base, or physical abilities to be a volunteer, just a desire to be make a difference.

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April cleanup at the Essex Park & Ride.
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WWTP Cleanup before & after. Group of
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Relax. Take it easy. The opening line to “Fooling Yourself” by Styx. In this hustle-and-bustle world in which we live, two short sentences could not hold more true. Even being retired for 5 years now, I have a hard time slowing down life. I’ve learned to kick back some on vacations and such. But what about fishing, my favorite pastime?

For the most part, my style of fishing entails hitting multiple spots per day and making what seems like thousands of casts. I am flinging lures to species from white perch to bass and stripers. I prefer the proactive style of fishing more so than any other approach. That being said, there are many other ways to catch fish.

While it is hard to slow down and adapt to bait fishing methods, I’ve started to warm up to it. As we know, blue catfish are an evasive nuisance to the Chesapeake’s ecosystem. I have caught several, and rather large ones, using lures; but to specifically target them, casting live and cut bait is the best method. I can truly say that I am always

willing to slow down for blue cats. Fishing for them gives me the greatest chance to catch the biggest fish of a lifetime here in the Chesapeake. This is relaxing with beefy tackle. Medium/heavy to heavy class rods, and reels spooled with at least 20 braided line are the way to go when you want to target the big blues. Circle hook sizes range from 5/0 to 8/0. Options for bait include shrimp, cut shad or eel, and live bull minnows and black salties. The “relax” part while holding the rod comes to an abrupt end when the fight from the blue catfish begins.

The “take it easy” part of my fishing is with white perch. Last year, I did find them to be a bit stressful last year, because I had a hard time finding them. Yet, when I do find them, it’s game on. My typical cast and wind approach with lures turns to drop and jig. True, it’s not the hold the rod and wait for a bite approach, but it is a fun way to target the aggressive little feeders. I prefer a tandem jig head rig tipped with soft plastic minnow imitators.

Others may substitute real minnows or pieces of worm. To me, white perch fishing is taking it easy and having a load of fun.

Another way for me to relax is to teach the basics. Bringing new anglers into the fold, whether young or old, allows me to share my knowledge and grow the sport. There are whys, hows, whens, and with whats that need clarification. Sometimes though, there are questions I get asked that make me reach deep. The old adage, “he’s forgotten more than he knows,” pops up, and it makes me think. The sharing of knowledge truly gets me to relax into my comfort zone.

It’s fair to say that just about every fisherman has done it, though it has been a long time for me. The most rudimentary form of fishing, bobber and bait, is fishing relaxation in its rawest form. Look at most signs stating that “a bad day of fishing is better than a good day at work.” They feature an angler stretched out in a stiff chair holding a cane pole, and a bobber floating

on the water next to the boat. Bobber and bait are the roots of introducing youth to fishing. Watching a bobber get pulled under as a bluegill or perch strikes the bait gives them a visual, along with feeling the tug on the line.

Don’t get it wrong. This style of fishing isn’t just for ponds and creeks. The float and bait tactic can be applied to fishing for sharks, stripers, redfish and numerous other species. The fishing world has tried to glamourize the rig by referring to the bobber as a strike indicator. It’s a distinction without a difference that really doesn’t need to be made.

Even while I am fishing my thousand casts, I still find ways to take in my surroundings. When cranking a rattle trap or swim bait, there are plenty of pleasant distractions. An osprey tending to its nest, a great blue heron patrolling the shoreline, and a classic boat sailing by: all take away the wonder of when the fish will strike. These world’s wonders that appear while I am fishing allow me to relax. Take it easy.

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SASSAFRAS RIVER DOCKING CONTEST AND RIVER DAYS RETURNS BIGGER THAN EVER!

By Kimberly Ann

On Saturday, August 22, 2026, Georgetown's waterfront will trade its usual quiet rhythm for the sound of cheering crowds, boat engines, live music, and friendly competition as the 3rd Annual Sassafras Docking Contest & River Days returns. Hosted at the IJK docks on the north end of Georgetown Yacht Haven, the 3rd Annual Sassafras Docking Contest & River Days promises a bigger, cooler, more competitive day on the river, all in support of the annual Georgetown Labor Day Fireworks.

What began in 2024 as a creative answer to a community need has quickly become one of the Sassafras River's signature summer gatherings. Austen Parish spearheaded the first docking contest and River Days with a simple goal: build a new support system to help bridge the fireworks funding gap. The response was immediate. Nearly 2,200 people showed up that first year, and the resulting fireworks show was remembered by many as the best yet. Now, in its third year, the event is coming back with a fresh layout, new contests, bigger awards, and more shade

for spectators looking to settle in and enjoy the day.

Boaters will find plenty to love, but this is far more than a docking contest. River Days blends the best parts of a waterfront festival with the personality of a true boating town. Competitors can test their skills in line throwing, anchor toss, axe throwing, dinghy races, and more, while spectators can enjoy the easygoing atmosphere, browse vendor tents, grab a cold drink, and cheer on friends, neighbors, and visiting mariners.

The food and drink lineup is built for a full day outside. Guests can expect favorites from Zach's Grill, The Hotdog Hideout, Elk River Brewing, Sassy Sips, and more. Sassy Sips will keep festivalgoers refreshed with iced coffees, smashed lemonades, loaded teas, dirty Red Bulls, and loaded waters.

Shopping and community vendors will add even more local flavor. The Weathered Dragonfly, Coastal Creations, LOKD UP Waterfowl, Blackway Boat Models, The Bay Gypsy, and Upper Chesapeake Boating School are among the tent vendors scheduled to take

part, giving visitors a chance to discover handmade goods, boating resources, coastal art, and river-inspired finds.

Because onsite parking will be limited, organizers are making transportation part of the plan. A Cecil County bus will run from Captain Ron's Bar & Restaurant to the event, with a stop at Cecilton Fire Department. A Kent County bus will depart from Toal Park, with an optional St. Dennis Church stop. Golf carts may use the loop along MD 213, George Street, and School House Lane from 9am to 5pm.

At its heart, the Sassafras Docking Contest & River Days is about more than contests and vendors. It is a family-friendly weekend built around boating, dining, shopping, music, and the charm of a river community that knows how to rally for a good cause. Come for the docking contest, stay for the food trucks and live music, and leave knowing you helped keep Georgetown's Labor Day fireworks shining. For sign-ups, sponsorship details, vendor registration, and the full schedule of events visit: sassafrasriverevents.com.



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SHARKS

Of The Chesapeake

By John Juzbasich

Are there sharks in the Chesapeake Bay? Of course. There are actually 12 species in the bay, and occasionally a fisherman will catch a shark. However, during prehistoric times when the bay was part of the ocean, the west shore of the Chesapeake was teeming with sharks. America's Boating Club—Valley Forge, ABC—VF (formerly the Main Line Sail and Power Squadron) spent a day in North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, and Breezy Point Beach hunting shark's teeth and learning about the sharks that inhabited the area during those prehistoric times. Of these prehistoric sharks, the megalodon was

the biggest and meanest of all, coming in around 80 feet long!

Every year ABC—VF has a cruise on the Chesapeake, and we visit four to five locations on the bay for a day or two. Our 2026 cruise began in Annapolis, then we visited the Bay Bridge Marina, Cambridge Marina, Herrington Harbour South, and concluded our journey at Haven Harbour Marina in Rock Hall. While we were at Herrington, a group of us headed to Breezy Point Beach to hunt shark's teeth, and we collected over 100 of them in less than two hours! On our way back to Herrington, we stopped at the Bayside History Museum in

North Beach to check out their collection of megalodon teeth and listen to paleontologist Dr. Stephen Godfrey talk about the megalodon. Stephen is a researcher and studies the megalodon in great detail; he has written several academic papers on the shark. The largest teeth found at Calvert Cliffs are over six inches long! Dr. Godfrey was on the team that helped the Maryland legislature appoint the megalodon as the state shark. We enjoyed a late lunch at Ketch 22, a North Beach restaurant, and returned to Herrington Harbour that afternoon, in time to enjoy their pool. The evening began with a boat crawl (a

cocktail party), followed by a catered dinner. Patty found the most shark teeth and was awarded the prize, a shark, at our dinner. Conversations continued into the night—a good time was had by all.

ABC—Valley Forge welcomes new members. Our monthly meetings are in person in Paoli, PA, and online via Zoom. In addition to our annual Chesapeake cruise, we have on- and off-the-water activities, and during the winter months we have dinner meetings. Visit us at <https://abcvalleyforge.org/> to learn more about us, and please consider joining our club.



Herrington Harbour South at Breezy Point Beach hunting shark's teeth



Patty found the most shark teeth and was awarded the prize, a shark

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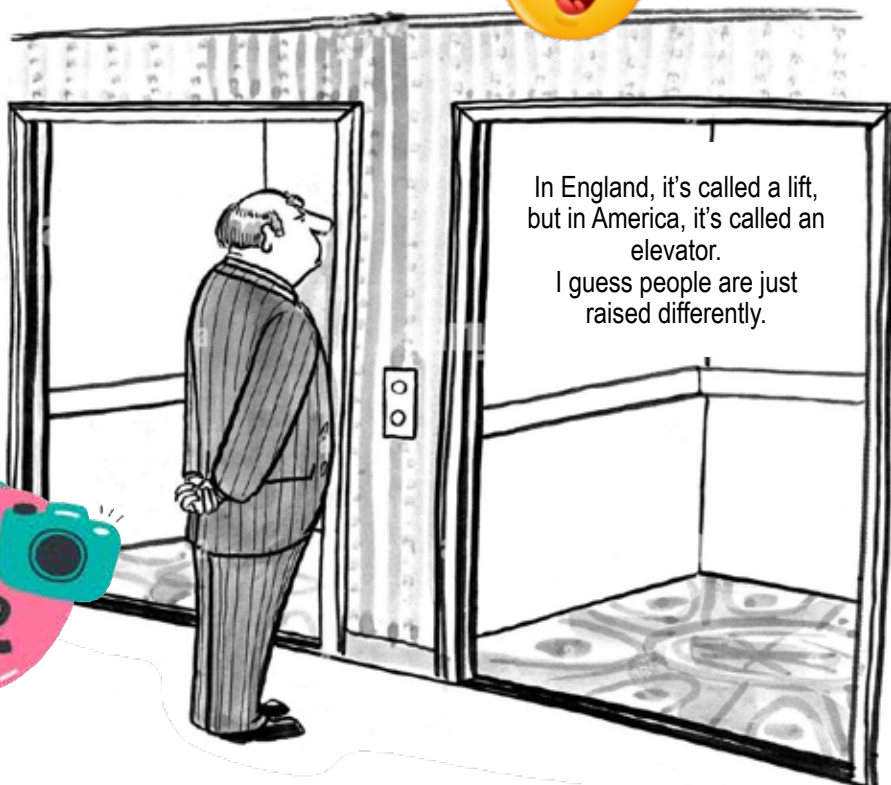
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All present in the court burst out laughing. Annoyed, the judge bangs his gavel and says, "Order! Order!" And the defendant says, "All right ... I'll have a bucket Natural Lights"



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Pooles Island

A Forbidden Landmark on the Upper Chesapeake

By Kimberly Ann

To boaters running the upper Chesapeake Bay, Pooles Island can feel like a place caught between chart and legend. This small uninhabited island lies in Harford County, southeast of the southern Gunpowder Neck. It is easy to spot from the water, especially because of its historic lighthouse, but this is one Chesapeake landmark best admired from a safe distance.

Long before European sails appeared on the Bay, Pooles Island was known to Native Americans, including the Susquehannock Indians. Its recorded European history began in 1608, when Captain John Smith explored the Chesapeake. The island was first called Powell's Island, after Nathaniel Powell, a member of Smith's exploring party, but over time the name evolved into Pooles Island, possibly inspired by the island's many spring-fed pools. Like much of the Chesapeake, Pooles Island has worn many identities. In 1771, it was purchased by John Bordley, and during the Revolutionary War, a gunpowder factory operated there. In 1808, Peregrine Wethered bought the island and ran it as a slave plantation, growing wheat in its fields.

During the War of 1812, the British Navy occupied Pooles Island, using it as a base for attacks on both the Eastern and Western shores. After the war, the island faded from public attention until the 1870s, when George Merrett purchased it and planted his famous peach trees.

For mariners, the island's most recognizable feature is the Pooles Island Lighthouse. Construction began in 1825 under John Donahoo, one of Maryland's best-known lighthouse builders. The light became an important aid to navigation, and its keepers once lived full lives on the island, maintaining outbuildings, tending farms, raising livestock, and fishing the surrounding waters. It is now considered the fourth oldest lighthouse in the Chesapeake Bay area.

Life on the Chesapeake could sometimes be dangerous, and during one storm in 1855, two watermen, Captain Elijah and James Williams, were lost in a storm. The lighthouse keeper found the body of Elijah and buried him on the island; however, James was never found, adding one

more haunting story to the island's long maritime past.

Pooles Island changed forever in 1917, when the War Department acquired it and made it a part of Aberdeen Proving Grounds. From 1918 through the early 1960s, the island was used for military practice. The final lighthouse keeper was removed in 1918 because of the danger from the artillery fire. That same year, the lighthouse was automated and then decommissioned in 1939. The tower was recommissioned in 2011 with a solar-powered light. Thirty-two of Stephen Cohee's descendants were on hand for the lighting. Cohee was keeper from 1893-1925, and the father of eight took keeping so seriously he would teach his sons how to keep the light lit if he had to be away from the island.

Today, Pooles Island remains off-limits because of unexploded ordnance. Erosion has reduced it to less than 200 acres, but its isolation has created a sanctuary for eagles, osprey, deer, and other wildlife. For boaters, Pooles Island is a reminder that the Chesapeake's quietest places often hold the deepest stories.



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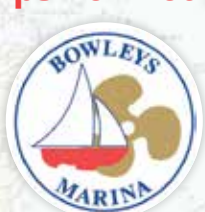


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Ask Cap'n Drew

Dear Cap'n Drew: We have become friendly with the couple who are docked next to us in our marina. They are nice in every way, except for the fact that they always try to mooch food from us. Whenever my husband and I start barbecuing on the dock, they stroll over and sit down on our boat. We feel obligated to offer them something to eat. This wouldn't be a problem; however, they have never once even offered us as much as a single potato chip. It's really starting to get on our nerves. How can we put a stop to this?

-Kelly from the "Keys"

Dear Kelly: I have two words for you- Hot Pepper. Next time these deadbeats stop by to mooch some dinner, spike their burgers with huge amounts of hot pepper and/or Tabasco sauce. Tell them that you

and your husband wanted to add spice to your lives (literally) and that this is the way you intend to prepare your food from now on. Of course, you don't need to ruin your own food, just pretend that you have (i.e.-fan your mouth or puff your cheeks). This should keep them at an arms length the next time you fire up the grill. Also, be sure to keep the hot spices on hand in case they decide to make a surprise visit sometime in the future.

Dear Cap'n Drew: I just bought my first boat and I need to get an anchor for it. I went to a marine store the other day and noticed that they carried several different kinds of anchors. Some of these were pretty expensive. Does it really matter what kind of anchor I use? What if I just tie a hunk of metal to a rope, wouldn't that accomplish the same thing? How important is an anchor, anyway?

-New to Boating in Southern Cal

Dear NYB: In all truth, using the correct anchor is only important if you don't want to drift away. If standing still doesn't have any appeal for you, you really don't need an anchor at all. However, most of us feel that being stationary from time to time is a good thing. I would recommend that you



take a Coast Guard or Power Squadron course on boating and pay extra attention during "anchor hour."

Dear Cap'n Drew: My wife and I are inviting all of our friends out on our twenty-two footer for an autumn cruise. What type of food should we serve?

-Confused in Dutchess

Dear Confused: If all of your friends fit on a twenty-two-footer, your problem isn't simply a matter of social etiquette. Try joining a social group and buying a few rounds once in a while.

THIRD
ANNUAL

Sassafras River Day

AUG. 22
2026

& DOCKING
CONTESTS



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All proceeds from the event will be used to pay for the Sassafras River Fireworks on Labor Day.

Food and drink vendors will serve a delicious variety of food and drinks. Twenty or more local businesses will participate and display their services and products. A DJ will provide music and announce the events. See our website [sassafrasriver-events.com](https://www.sassafrasriver-events.com) or facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/sassafras-river-docking-contes/894107683452384/> for more info, our sponsors and event schedule.

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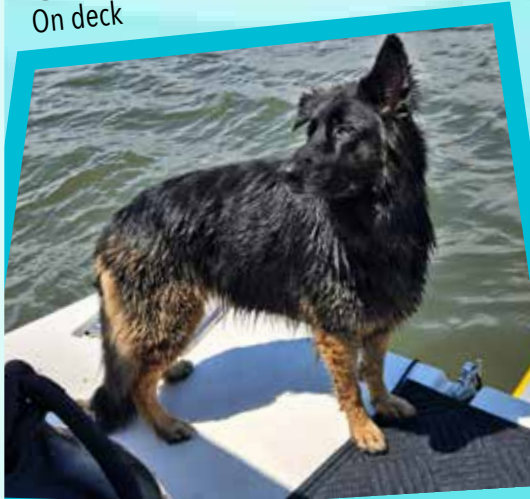


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Palm trees shading tables on the beach and patio create a tropical island groove, and a firepit sets a relaxed tone. The newly renovated restaurant combines stone, rich wood beams, and pale seafoam-green walls to create a lovely nautical décor in the dining room. A blue fishtank, stone fireplace, and driftwood art offer attractive finishing touches.

The menu showcases local seafood with dishes ranging from softshell and crab cake sandwiches to fish and chips and pan-fried lemon flounder. Shrimp and fried rice in a grilled pineapple boat gives a nod to the tropical island theme. Meaty dishes such as flank steak tacos, ham and pulled

pork Cubano sandwiches, burgers, and blackened Baja chicken wrap offer savory edible options. A kids' menu satisfies the young crowd and a long cocktail list is guaranteed to quench your thirst.

For a full day of regional entertainment, finish your dessert in time to catch a movie at nearby Bengies Drive-In Theatre. Since 1956, film fans have watched shows in their cars under the stars here. It's named after the 23rd U.S. President Benjamin Harrison, because "Bengie" was his nickname, and he was beloved in this area.

Contact Info

800 Chester Road, Middle River, MD 21220
(410) 335-8613, www.bowleysonthebay.com

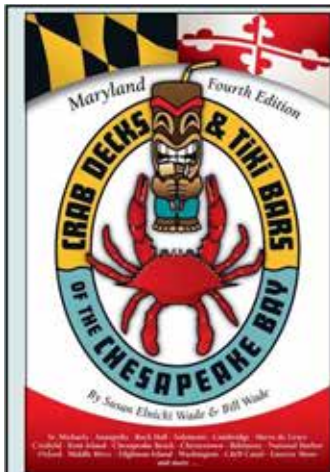
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UnWined at the Cut Bringing Fresh Flavor to Fairlee Creek

By Kimberly Ann

There is a new reason for boaters to point their bow toward Fairlee Creek this summer. UnWined at the Cut, located at Safe Harbor Great Oak Landing, 22170 Great Oak Landing Road in Chestertown, officially opened July 3, bringing a fresh wave of energy, hospitality, and waterfront flavor to one of the Upper Bay's favorite marina destinations.

The new food and beverage operation for the restaurant and beach bar is led by John Bragg and Megan Gollehan, two familiar names in the local hospitality scene. John and Megan also operate UnWined on the Water, Admirals Beach Bar, Ark & Dove Restaurant, and Passages Bar & Grill in Rock Hall, and they are bringing that same passion for exceptional service and memorable guest experiences to Great Oak Landing.

For boaters, UnWined at the Cut is exactly the kind of stop that makes a summer day on the Chesapeake

feel complete. Whether you are cruising for lunch, meeting friends for dockside drinks, or winding down after a day on the water, the setting delivers everything you want from a waterfront destination. The newly painted tiki bar is ready, fresh outdoor furniture is in place, and yes, the swings were installed. It is the kind of place where you can kick back with a craft beverage, enjoy the creekside breeze, and settle into that unmistakable boating-season rhythm.

While the menu has not been released at the time of publication, guests can expect UnWined's signature upscale-casual waterfront dining, with some overlapping favorites from its sister properties. That means boaters and marina guests can look forward to approachable, well-executed food, refreshing drinks, and the kind of service that turns a quick stop into an afternoon stay. The team is focused on creating a live-

ly, family-friendly atmosphere where everyone feels welcome, from weekend cruisers and slip holders to local families and first-time visitors.

Live music is expected to start soon, adding another reason to make UnWined at the Cut part of your summer cruising plans. But there is no need to wait. The food, drinks, setting, and atmosphere are ready now, and the team is already working to continue to improve the experience week by week.

So, the next time your plans take you along Fairlee Creek, head on over to UnWined at the Cut, at Safe Harbor Great Oak Landing. Come for the swings, stay for the drinks and great food, and watch as John, Megan, and their team continue to build something special on the waterfront.

And, as always, when you get there, be sure to let them know your friends at Upper Bay Boating Magazine sent you.



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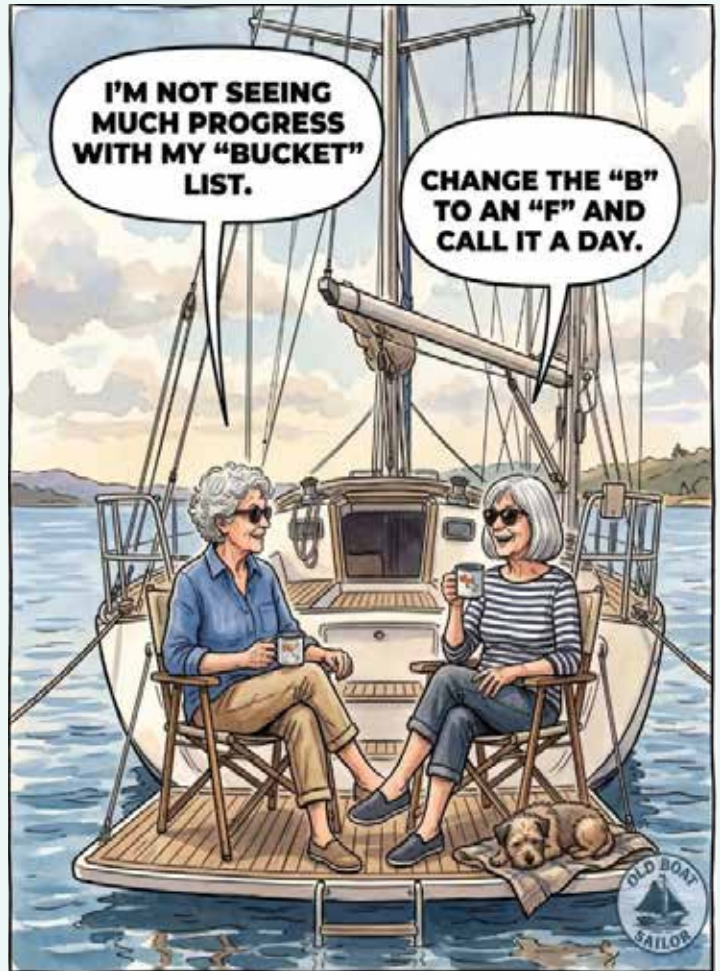


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The Wild Child - photo by David Sites



JP Henry with the Outlaw Lasso!



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