



The Id Man

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association

October 2005



Photos by Mike Bonham

A Perfect Labor Day Cruise

By Beth Vanfossen, Cruise Leader

It was just about the best sailing weather – ever, ever, ever! Both going and returning! There were winds 10-14 on the beam going over to the Chester River, accompanied by clear skies and temperatures in the high 70s. As we turned north into the main body of the Chester, the wind shifted so that we could sail a close reach/haul all the way up to the Can "1" entrance to Gray's Inn Creek.

By the time the weekend of the 2005 Labor Day Cruise was over, Gray's Inn Creek had welcomed *Corret, Flying Low, Frequent Flyer, Jazz, Merlin, Min Van IV, My Fair Lady, Paradox, Royal Salute, Snow Bird, Seahawk, and Zephyr*. No serious groundings occurred, no draggings, no damage -- and by the end of the 3-day vacation, there were many refreshed spirits.

Saturday afternoon's hors d'oeuvres session was hosted by the Kirkendall's, and was spread out over the five boats rafted to *Flying Low*. We welcomed new MRSA members John and Judy Bonano and their children David and Julia, and lifted our glasses in a toast to the retirement of Kent Schaeffer. We commiserated the fates of the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Later, we proceeded through the usual stages of merriment.

The winds were light over night and there was no dragging. Sunday arrived with even cooler weather which magnified the beauty of the area. Some used their kayaks or dinghys to explore the creek. At 1100, we gathered by dinghy onto *Jazz* and the attached *Frequent Flyer* and *Min Van IV* for brunch. The menu consisted of German Farmer Breakfast as the main dish provided by Beth Vanfossen and the Stamps, and accompanied by sausages contributed by Loura Bonham, and fruit and breakfast rolls of various kinds brought by others. We dedicated the Sunday brunch to Phil and Elaine Haskell, who are

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Commodore John Lund



HONEY Photo by Mike Bonham

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Commodores Comments

Fall Sailing! Was Labor Day weekend great or what? We could sell tickets for that kind of weather. Perfect days, low humidity, cool nights and great wind. We only needed the engine to keep the batteries charged. Hopefully, October will bring more of the same.

I don't know if fuel prices are to blame, but there seems to be fewer power boats on the bay. More good news with three cruises and another series of racing coming up in October. Technically, it's possible to participate in all three cruises and still get to the boat show. The cruise to Rhode River is the first weekend of the month followed by the boat show October 6 thru 10 and the Goose Cruise the 15th and 16th. You can even get a weekend off before the Frostbite cruise to the Cheshire Crab. This last event is usually attended by many coming by land for a great meal and is combined with a membership meeting.

With the end of the years activities in site, it's also time thank the members of the BOG for providing a great season of activities on the water. We need to start lining up volunteers for next years BOG. This involves many positions that are not all elected. Whether racing or cruising is your interest, please consider giving some of your time to insure another season of great programs being available to all. Several of the positions can be shared by more than one person. If you would like to participate please call me or send an email to commodore@magothysailing.com.

Please remember to volunteer to work on the club's entry in the Parade of Lights. If interested, contact Steve Gardner. I believe the planning stages are complete and now its time to build!!

Classifieds

Sails for sale

West Marine Headsail bag, large. 1 yr old, cost \$170. \$100.

Genoa, Scott sail. Bi-radial, 5.1 oz., dacron, hanks. Good condition. Luff-40'6" Leech-39'3" Foot-22'.

Nylon drifter, North sail, half oz. Luff-40'7" Leech-37'5" Foot-24'5".

Best offers for sails. (I've gone to roller furling).

Call Mike, 410-255-2639; e-mail mprucnal@erols.com

Breathe Easy

Bauer Junior II G - SCUBA Air Compressor with Honda 5.5 hp 4 stroke engine. Purchased Jan. 2001. In very good condition, used less than 40 hours. Comes with manuals and nine (9) replacement purification filters. A \$4000 value, asking price \$2500. Call Steve Gardner at 410-647-1653. Seafan35@safe-mail.net .

House for Sale

2100 sq ft, 4 br, 3 bath home, .57 acre on Milburn Circle, Pasadena. 60 second walk to the community pool, park and marina on Cornfield Creek. House has had a major refit of all systems since we bought it 2 years ago. hardwood floors. fireplace.finished basement. Corner lot w/gardens. 22' above sea level. Available end-Sept. Work and family are pulling us back to NJ. Call Peg and Jim Jarvis @ 410 439 8443.

Fiberglass dinghy

8'x 42", Ash oars and all sailing gear w/new sail. \$499. Call Geoff at, 410 255 0699 or cell - 410 852 7632.

Labor Day Cruise(continued from Page 1)

selling *My Fair Lady*. 20 people participated in this brunch, which ended only after the strong sunlight brought out reapplications of tanning lotion.

Late afternoon on Sunday, we took our dinghys to a nearby landing spot arranged by George and Carolyn Stamps—the dock of waterman Collison Kelly, who had been kind enough to grant us permission to land, and he even had mowed the tall invasive reed grass (*Phragmites australis*) that had grown between the dock and the nearby Route 445 so that we could walk up to his house with ease! We presented him with an MRSA cap in thanks, and Carolyn will mail him some “cookies” later in additional appreciation. At the house, Lewis Neisner met us and took some people in his car to the ice cream shop in Rock Hall, while others began (and some finished) the two-mile walk from Kelly’s place to the center of Rock Hall. Lewis made the round trip four times, picking up stragglers each time. Ice cream was so-o-o good, and some people bought a couple of things in nearby shops. We made our way down the hill to the Waterman’s Crabhouse Restaurant. The staff there treated us royally, closing the air-conditioned lounge to others so that the 20 MRSAers could sit at the four tables there in peace. Terrific food, very good service. After dinner, we boarded the Rock Hall trolley (summoned on VHF by Mike Bonham) around 1100 and listened to the good humor of the driver, who took us back to Kelly’s land and dock.

The weather for the trip back home on Monday made another completely perfect sailing day. Winds were a little light going down wind down the Chester, but many made it through under sail anyway. Upon entering the Bay, the winds picked up, again from the NE and in the perfect range of 10-15 knots. What a difference it makes not having to motor, and being able to feel the wind on the cheeks, hear the sounds of the water, and note the forward surge of the boat as a puff hits the sails. Those we talked to later seemed exhilarated by the experience. A perfect ending to a perfect cruise.

August Cruise *Debbie Lund*

The Lunds, Kirkendalls and Brauns decided to "brave the heat" and cruise on the Chesapeake in August. The key to August Cruising is to do short sails and spend more time in the water. The jelly fish pool is a great invention.

The Lunds and Kirkendalls participated in the Corsica River festivities on Saturday and on Sunday went through the Kent Island Narrows to Shaw Bay on the Wye River. On Monday, the plan was to go to Waterhole Cove on Harris Creek. This was the first of four days of engine problems for the Lunds. We had an unexpected sail to St. Michaels. The problem with St. Michaels is there is no place to buy engine parts. The closest marina with parts is in Oxford. Luckily for us, Kate and Jeff Fones have moved to St. Michaels and Kate was able to transport John to Oxford to buy a filter. Ask John how he got back to St. Michaels! By 3:00 the motor ran again and the 2 boats were off to Waterhole Cove. Tuesday morning the engine died again but after bleeding the diesel we had no other fuel problems. The Brauns joined us on Tuesday in Oxford and the three boats spent the week on the Choptank. We went to LaTrappe Creek, Leadenham Creek, and Trippe Creek. The Lunds had more engine problems (water hose broke, alternator problems and "funny noise") but we were able to make every destination. Luckily we brought 2 tool bags and we decided to keep the tools handy so by the end of the week it was hard to negotiate the ladder.

We could not have gone through a week's cruise without a thunderstorm. We had a storm in Trippe Creek with significant wind and lightening. We spent the last uneventful night in Galesville. Despite the problems, we had a great cruise in August.

No Moon "Cruise" *Mike and Laura Bonham, Frequent Flyer*

Wouldn't ya know it, plan a full moon "cruise" and out come the clouds. Oh well, we'll try again next year.

The full weekend schedule for our Cruise, Magothy Madness, and annual picnic crunched some of our schedules, so the cruise was directed to Bonham's front porch, in view of Eagle's Cove.

Mike and Annette Mullarky aboard *Betelgeux* weathered the earlier evening elements from Rock Creek to Cornfield Creek. Others in attendance on "land cruisers" were Al, Sue, and Andy Kirkendall, Beth Vanfossen and Lewis Neisner, Myron and Sigrid Dorf, Jim and Peggy Jarvis, Joe and Diane Jackins, Tony and Dee Torres, and Mike and Laura Bonham. Sailing friends of the Bonhams, Bill and Mary Ann Emenecker, aboard *Owaso*, and Marty and Connie Cook joined us for an evening of great food, drinks and conversation which continued until nearly midnight. The Madness continued at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning with the upcoming trip to Kent and Nancy Shaffer's dock.

Rhode River Cruise *Sheryl McNair*

October can be a wonderful month for sailing—dry air, lots of breeze, cool nights, colorful trees on the river banks—and we’re kicking off the month with a cruise to the Rhode River on October 1st. The proposed anchorage has lots of tree-lined banks, so the scenery should be gorgeous and really get us feeling in a “fall” mood. The plan is to expand our happy hour into a full pot-luck dinner, perhaps followed by s’mores for dessert. For pot-luck, everyone should bring their favorite, easy to prepare, cruising dish. The music will also be pot-luck—bring your favorite artist, hopefully there will be time to listen to a wide variety of our favorites.. If you plan to go, please notify Sheryl or Wes McNair at 410-437-8998 or mcnair4@comcast.net. That way, if we have any last minute changes, you will be notified.

The Rhode River is 2 rivers down from the Magothy, on the western shore—go past the Severn, and the South River, giving yourself a nice view of Thomas Point Light, and then into the entrance the West River and Rhode River share, and turn right at the Rhode River red #2 (4 second light). You will have already gone past the West River red #2, which isn’t necessary to honor (but you don’t want to go aground on the bar there, either). Once in the Rhode River proper (turning to starboard after the 4 second red), turn to port after the green mark #7, and the anchorage will be between the bank and High Island. High Island is a misnomer—it’s pretty low, and since we haven’t been there for a while, I don’t even know how visible it is.

For those who like to investigate their surroundings, this area of the Rhode River resembles a small lake, with islands in the middle, and I have always enjoyed paddling my kayak around it. For those who do bring kayaks, dinghies or other small craft, Wes may be convinced to lead a tour of the area Sunday morning.

Frostbite Cruise to Cheshire Crab *Lewis Neisner*

The cruise to Cheshire Crab at Pleasure Cove Marina will take place this year October 29-30. Come by either car or boat for dinner at 6:30 or earlier to enjoy a drink or two at the bar. Please notify Lewis Neisner, cruise leader by Oct. 25 if you plan to attend. 410-647-0694 or lneisner@rhsmith.umd.edu. Last year over 30 MRSA members attended and a good time was had by all. The November membership meeting will take place after the dinner Sat. night.

The Ship’s Store will be at the cruise with a supply of its new fleece vests and all sizes of its popular long sleeve blue denim shirts.

Directions by car: Take Rt. 100 to Magothy Bridge Rd. Turn north on Magothy Bridge Rd. The road changes its name to Hog Neck Rd. as you cross Mountain Rd. (Rt. 177). Follow Hog Neck Rd. to the end and turn right on Ft. Smallwood Rd. (Rt. 173). Go several miles and turn right on Bayside Beach Rd., then right on Belhaven Ave. and left on Poplar Ridge Rd. Follow the signs to the restaurant and marina, 1701 Poplar Ridge Rd.

Directions by boat: Carefully follow the marks across Bodkin Shoal to the entrance of Bodkin Creek. Follow the daymarks to the south branch of the creek and around Spit Point. There are no transient slips, but you’re welcome to tie up at the pier or anchor out and call for the marina’s water taxi on channel 69 or phone 410-6600 (marina) or 410-360-2220 (restaurant). Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

JUNIOR TRAINING 2005 *Susan Kirkendall*

As the sun rises over the Magothy the quiet is broken by the enthusiastic voices of 39 young people eagerly rigging boats for another day of fun and learning on the water. Junior training was successfully completed on July 1 at the Grachur Club. John Taylor had the boats ready in tip top shape. Rich Hughes had organized the applications/duties, and the instructors were prepared to share their passion for sailing with young people who had never experienced the thrill of skippering a boat.

The two weeks of camp found the students practicing knots, rigging boats, watching weather, and devising ways to stay cool on a windless day. Skills were tested during an all day regatta with lunch aboard each boat and a day sail to Cape Arthur the second week of camp. Camp concluded with the entire camp to the McNairs to store the boats and enjoy a picnic and awards. Certificates were presented and superlative awards were given by the instructors for the performances of the student in various areas.

Thank you to the Grachur Club for sharing their facility with the Junior Training program, the Purcnals for storing the prams, and our gratitude to the McNairs for storing the boats all year and providing their yard for the picnic.

The support of the BOG, parents, Grachur Club, and MRSA members make Junior Training successful each year. The opportunities for leadership and cooperation give these students valuable life skills as well as sailing experience. See you in June 2006 for another year of adventures at Junior Training.

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS *Steve & Jane Gardner*

Yes, it's only October, but MRSA's entry in the Annapolis Parade of Lighted Boats is well underway. The preliminary planning is just about complete. The display will include Santa coming down a 24' high chimney, arriving with a package to add to the piles under the Christmas tree and scattered around the boat. Now comes the fun, the work parties.

Yes, that's PARTIES. We will be building the frames, creating the packages, and stringing lights. It's easy work, and more social event than drudgery. We invite anyone interested to come join us, with a special invitation to our newer members. In the past, this has been a wonderful way to meet people and forge new friendships. The parties will start around 1900 or 1930 (7 or 7:30), mainly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Call Steve & Jane Gardner (410-647-1653) or Mike and Annette Mullarky (410-430-1556) to join the fun. Remember, if you work, you can ride aboard Sea Fan in the parade.

October 6 membership meeting at Bella Napoli *Diane Jackins*

Here's a hint about the program for the meeting. What is encased in a hard shell, found at the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay, is an integral part of Maryland's history, economy, and the object of much research? Answer: the indispensable and delectable Chesapeake Bay oyster.

Our speaker, Mathilde (Tilly) Egge, the Program Administrator for the Oyster Recovery Partnership will discuss what's happening with our favorite Bay shellfish at the October 6 meeting. Tilly has an undergraduate degree in biology and a masters degree in Natural Resource Management. She has a wide range of experience including teaching high school biology in the state of Virginia and the country of Switzerland and working with the EPA Chesapeake Bay program.

Here are the particulars about the meeting:

Date: Thursday, October 6

Time: 6:30

Place: Bella Napoli restaurant, Pasadena, MD

Cost: \$15 for pizza and salad

Contact: Diane Jackins by September 30, if possible

In order for the restaurant to have the appropriate wait staff on hand (not to mention enough pizzas) I need your reservations ASAP. Please call me a 410-544-3657, or email me vice_commodore@magothysailing.com.

November meeting to be held October 29 at the Cheshire Crab

We're combining the November meeting with the Saturday, October 29 Frostbite cruise to the Cheshire Crab restaurant in Pasadena, Maryland. To get everyone in the spirit, we'll have a representative from the (no kidding!) Maryland Ghost Hunters Association who will speak about apparitions on the Bay—especially sightings near certain lighthouses. Come for a howling good time. We'll order off the menu that evening. Please let the cruise leader, Lewis Neisner, know that you are coming.

Restaurants get cranky when we show up with too many or too few, so please help us by letting us know in advance that you are coming—even if it's the day of the meeting.

Boat U.S. Membership Savings! *John Lund*

For those who don't know, members of MRSA are entitled to a 50% discount off the regular annual membership dues to join or renew your membership with Boat U.S.! We have just renewed our Group membership agreement with them. When you send in your dues send half as much and be sure to include a reference to Magothy River Sailing Association group I.D. GA80366S.

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Past Commodore Tom Curtis *Joe Jackins*

It was with great sadness that we received the news that Tom Curtis had passed away after a long battle with cancer. But then again the word sadness and Tom Curtis do not fit in the same sentence. Tom was loud, hardworking, and passionate about everything he was involved in—especially sailing. Those who raced on the Magothy affectionately referred to Tom as the “Mouth of the Magothy.” His booming voice, (which could probably be heard within a two-mile radius of the boat), could blow the crew right off the deck. His voice also made him the only person who could hand out the Wednesday night racing awards and be heard above the noise of an unruly crowd.

A strong supporter of MRSA racing, Tom always looked out for the club’s best interest. His sailing interests, however, extended beyond the Magothy River. He was president of CBYRA in 1992, chairman of Annapolis Race Week from 1993 to 1996, and held many offices in MRSA including commodore in 1996. He was also member of the Annapolis Yacht Club, where he participated in the frostbite series every year from November to March. Tom was a respected skipper and racing competitor who will be missed by all who knew him.

On a personal note, I crewed for Tom for eighteen years and we became close friends over those years. I will always remember the great times we had on Wednesday nights on the Magothy and frostbite racing during the winters in Annapolis.

THE OLD MAN

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photo by Bill Paul