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# Dockline



Volume 6 Issue 3

Catalina 34 Fleet #12 Chesapeake Bay

July 1996

## FLEET CAPTAIN'S SIGNAL

**C**ap'n Dave's  
Miscellaneous  
Ramblings

If you notice that this Dockline is late, let it be known that Claire is not at fault, it's your old Captain, who can't get any inspiration. Claire is ready, able, and champing at the bit to get going.

I finally got the pictures developed that Duane took with De's camera at our first raft-up this summer. I took them into my office and we all looked at them. I saw the line of seven boats and said, "You see one and you've seen them all." But Rich said, "All these people get together and party all summer?" Eileen said, "That looks like fun," and Ira said, "That cove looks beautiful. Much nicer than any place on the Monongahela River."

I suddenly had a whole new appreciation of what our club is all about. Looking at the pictures reminded me of Rich and Maude's big remote control America's Cup model boat. We saw Lin and Corky even though their boat wasn't in the line up. We saw the two new boats whose owners had seen the notice in the Mainsheet and stopped by. And we saw 16 people in Claire and Duane's cockpit! Bill's Cuban cigar even smelled good!

Our next raft-up at Reed Creek with just three boats was wonderful in a different way.

Hank asked us how we met our mates. We learned of Ralph and Lynn's years of living in Paris. And De told of our wedding at the Lake Arthur Marina. With a small group it is nice to really get to know one another on a more



personal level.

Our skipjack ride and crab feast that Ron and Phyllis Hill so competently organized was another different experience. Bob and Jane were the only ones to sail over to the next cove. I think it was the Becks who drove them the last mile to the skipjack. The boat almost left without Ralph and Lynn. They said they got up to 90 miles an hour just to get there. It's always great to see the Southern Bay contingent, and I had a nice update on Art and Ann's retirement which includes lots of time on their boat. The Browns were there and Bill said his article will appear in the September or October issue of Chesapeake Bay magazine. We even were surprised to see Phil and Joan Davies who were there

even though they have sold their boat and their house in anticipation for their move to their new house in New Hampshire. Phil has done a lot of preparation for an East Coast National C-34 Cruise from Annapolis to St. Michaels to Rock Hall and return, for the latter part of June 1997. Hank and Susan Recla volunteered to continue the planning. They are looking for additional volunteers to help with the details. Our sail was calm and relaxing and Captain Heffernan even took the wheel for most of the trip, reminiscing about his own 30 foot skipjack of days gone by.

Our Swan Creek Mexican Fiesta will be history by the time you read this, but seeing as Bill Brown is the host and story teller, I'm sure he will write a most original epistle for our next Dockline.

Future events include our raft-up on September 14 in Ski Cove which is the unnamed cove to the north of Gibson Island. Don't forget Lin and Corky's Inner Harbor midnight hamburger run on October 5 and the boat show the next weekend. Finally, make time for the Fall meeting being planned by the Rupp's for November 9 in Lexington Park.

Till we see you again, remember to thank Claire for being so organized about putting this newsletter together and thank her for putting up with my procrastination.

Happy Sails!

## A Mexican Fiesta on Swan Creek?

Why not? Let's do it at the August 10 Fleet #12 raft-up (that is, if you've decided against shelling out \$75 per head for the Catalina Olympics)! Wear something Mexican, bring something Mexican to eat, bring your Latino musical and portable souvenirs. Suzanne and Bill will provide lots of guacamole and corn chips. Everyone will serve as judges in awarding the first annual Fleet #12 fiesta award for best Margueritas to Bill Beck or Suzanne Brown (other competitors are welcome, but you better be good!)

*Plaisir d'Amour* will be anchored in Swan Creek by mid-afternoon. We'll monitor channel 78 and be looking for you. Just in case the weather works against us, however, (as in too damn hot or too damn wet), please let us know ahead of time if you're planning to come, so we can let you know if postponement seems advisable. Call (717) 691-7580 or email us at [Wbrown4451@aol.com](mailto:Wbrown4451@aol.com) (snailmail address is in the Fleet #12 directory), and let us know how best to reach you on Friday, August 9 or the morning of the 10th.

Bill & Suzanne Brown



## Schedule of Events

Aug 9-11 – All Catalina party at Harbor View Marina, Baltimore  
Hosted by Backyard Boats/Catalina. See advertisement page 6.

Aug 10 – Raft-up in Swan Creek (near Rock Hall)  
Hosted by Bill & Suzanne Brown

Sept 14 – Raft-up near Dobbins Island, Magohy River  
Hosted by De Winchel/Dave Ewing

Oct. 5 – Baltimore Inner Harbor  
Hosted by Corky & Lin Dalton

Cruise Captains will provide details about their cruises in *DOCKLINE* or will send mailings in advance of their cruises. Cruise captains and participants should start monitoring Channel 78 at 1200 on Saturday.

How about a theme for your cruise? Food-Drink-Dinghy Race-Best Hat-Best T Shirt-Charades-Treasure Hunt-Fleet12 Trivia-Karaoke-Fastest Bowline-Food-Drink!

Cruise Captains are requested to write an article about their cruises for the newsletter.

Corky Dalton  
*WINDY LIND*  
Upper Bay Cruise Coordinator

## STATUS OF THE FLEET

The club is healthy with 29 active members after our annual spring turnover. The treasury is in adequate shape. A welcome to new members Warren and Susan Cook aboard *Starburst*. To continue to grow, please introduce yourself to the new Catalina 34 owner who just moved into your marina and sell him/her a membership in the best fleet of the best boats Catalina makes. If past is prologue, we will lose several of our 1996 members due to changing interests, sale of boat (I know of another one), moves to new areas, etc., etc., etc. To keep our Fleet healthy and active (not to mention wealthy enough) and if you need sales help in pitching the fleet, please send me any Catalina 34 owners' names you run across (NOT INTO) during your summer sailing. I have found the club newsletter sells the Fleet. I will mail an invitation, newsletters, and a membership application to each.

Bob Bierly  
Secretary/Treasurer  
CMON WIND #913

**Ridout Creek Raft-up  
May 18**

The weather was fine, sunny and warm during the day, cool and calm in the evening. We anchored in one of our favorite spots, Ridout Creek off Whitehall Creek. This year our anchor worked just fine. We had a good turnout, 8 boats (including new members Warren and Susan Cook (who are lucky enough to live only a few minutes away from their boat which they keep at Whitehall Marina).

Rich and Maude Williams actually brought 2 boats: *Enchantress* and also a 6 foot remote controlled sailboat. Rich had that little boat moving quite nicely around our raftup and got some looks from passing boats. He also cut Lynn Dalton off while she was in her dinghy (but I guess he had the right of way as he was under sail).

Lots of tasty food was brought including a huge pot of chile (made by De Winchell) which rounded out our meal.

Sunday was another beautiful day. We broke up around 10:30. Duane and I then sailed/motored to our new home for Whiskers, Herrington Harbor North. We're quite happy at the marina.

Claire Maher  
*Whiskers*

**Catalina National Association  
EAST COAST RENDEZVOUS  
JUNE 1997**

The committee to investigate sponsoring a Catalina 34 National Regatta on the east coast in 1997 has developed a proposed theme and agenda as follows:

THEME: East Coast Chesapeake Cruising

AGENDA:

- |          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| Thursday | Evening assemble at Backyard Boats for meet and greet<br>Registration<br>View display boats  | Barbecue/pig roast<br>Early arrivals tour Annapolis |
| Friday   | Race to St. Michaels<br>Rendezvous overnight at Maritime Museum<br>Catered dinner (chicken/barbecue) on museum grounds<br>Talk by Catalina management if available |   |
| Saturday | Race to Rock Hall<br>Rendezvous at Haven Harbor at Osprey Point<br>Band and Crab Feast   |   |
| Sunday   | Round the bouys race off Rock Hall<br>Return to Annapolis  |   |

DATE: Third weekend in June 1997

NOTE: Phil Davies has put the concept together, but like all our activities, success depends upon volunteers and participation. Phil has agreed to continue as committee head if he can get four volunteers to each arrange and be responsible for a part of the agenda such as catering at the maritime museum or events at Backyard Boats. This is a plea for Fleet 12 to step forward. Please call Phil or me as soon as you can but not later than end of September. If there are no volunteers by then, we'll report to the National Association that East Coast is out.

Bob Bixby

**September 14th Raftup**

WHERE: Ski Cove (opposite horse farm, but before Gibson Island)

HOSTED BY: Dave & De

THEME: Favorite Color (wear it) and Favorite Quotes (speak it)

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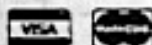
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## Cat Tails

Well, I can now report that at least one Maine Coon cat can swim, if she needs to. We just had a great weekend on the Bay with our 3 sailing kitties, who go out with us every weekend, and who really like the boat because it is their only chance to be OUTSIDE, especially at night.

The biggest problem with sailing, though, is the dreaded car ride, which they all hate with a vengeance. As a consequence, they don't want to leave the boat at the end of the weekend, but want to stay on board.

This weekend, we had unloaded everything else, and were down to two cats on board, so I grabbed them, and put the little witch, "Nauticoons Siren of the Seas" on the dock in the cart. Normally, she rides the cart back to the car quietly and without fuss. However, this time she decided to get back on the boat,

by making a great leap from the dock. I saw what was happening, but was not quick enough to stop her as she made her leap to the stern of the boat, and MISSED!

SPLASH! into the water. CAT OVERBOARD! My first reaction was to remember all of the stories about cats being able to climb a rope back on board, and to wonder where the nearest free line was. However, I quickly realized that this was not the time to experiment, so I went down the stern ladder to try to grab her. I could hear her around the side, but did not see her for about 3 seconds, but then she hove into sight, swimming strongly toward the shore, about 150 yards(!) away under LOTS of docks. She was riding quite high in the water, with lots of freeboard and her tail streaming behind like a rudder, doing a cat-paddle and making about 1 knot.

It was lucky for me that she was

a Maine Coon with a long tail, because I was just able to grab the tail, pull her back to the ladder, and lift her out of the water.

She was NOT happy, but was certainly a lot cooler than she had been. We wrapped her in a big towel, and she just sat in my wife's lap for the whole trip home. Interestingly enough, she was not very soaked. That water proof Maine Coon coat really shed the water, and her head was quite dry, even though she must have gone all the way in on the fall (3 feet).

So, I now have direct observation evidence that Maine Coons can swim, and am looking for volunteers to test some theories about how well and how fast they can swim, as well as how well they can climb ropes that are dangling in the water.

Ralph Caruso  
*On Y Va*



## June Raft-up Reed Creek

**T**he June raftup in Reed Creek proved, for the third time, to be a test of our intrepid mariners and their sense of ingenuity. The anchor boat, "On y va", left the Magothy at 8:25, and motored across the bay in a flat calm. After picking its way through a fishing fleet estimated to be in the hundreds, the wind picked up, and the sail up the Chester was quite pleasant. On y va arrived at the mouth of Reed Creek with plenty of time to spare, but when it came time to start the engine to motor in, the push on the starter button produced only a "starter engaged" alarm, but no click from the solenoid. Lynn then proceeded to "mill-about smartly" under sail, while Ralph descended into the engine room. He quickly discovered that the yellow-red wire to the solenoid had failed at the fuse holder, probably due to fatigue. A quick splice with the crisper put everything together again, and On y va was soon ready to receive visitors.

Cherrette was the next boat to arrive, and it limped in with a major casualty to its traveler. While sailing downwind, up the Chester, the screws attaching the main traveler to the port side support tower had pulled loose, and the upward force had pulled the steel backing plate up through the fiberglass on the starboard support tower. Dave and De had rigged preventers from their boom to the two halliard winches to keep the boom down, and were still able to use their headsail. It appeared that the screws fastening the traveler track to the port side tower were not quite long enough to engage the entire thickness of the steel reinforcing. It was also interesting to see that the screws in the plate on

the starboard side were not in the center of the plate, but offset considerably to one side.

Apparently, the steel plate shifted slightly as the fiberglass was laid up.

Bay Tripper was the third boat to arrive, and they announced their presence at the mouth of Reed Creek by radio at about 3:30, with an ETA of about 4:15. At 5:00, a second call came in, that they had run afoul of both Recla Reef and Hank's Humps near the infamous red nun. They eventually found the deep water, and joined the party, which continued into the night.

Reed Creek was a bit crowded that night, with several small, and one very large rafts. About 3:00AM, the sound of the wind whistling through the rigging woke the crew of On y va, as a cold front came across the bay, and the wind freshened and shifted from southwest to northwest. In anticipation of this event, and with the experience of last year's Reed Creek raftup, the anchor line included a 15 pound mushroom sentinel, so the anchor didn't drag a bit. Everyone slept late the next morning, and with a brisk northwest wind, the trip home was quite exhilarating.

As a note to other mariners, it appears that the Coast Guard has moved the infamous red nun, so that it now marks the right side of the channel as you enter, not the left side, which is the way the charts show the water depths. We found that if you stayed about two boat lengths to the east and south of the red nun, you had plenty of water (7-9 feet).

Ralph Caruso  
On Y Va

## WHY IS IT?

During our trips on the Chesapeake Bay, Phyllis and I have noted a few phenomenon that we'd like to share with you.

**ANCHORAGE:** We've noticed that when we're the first in the anchorage (maybe 1/2 mile across) the 2nd and 3rd boats arrive and throw out the hook within 50 feet of us! Invariably, they manage to anchor upwind and uncurrent from us so dragging is of some concern especially if a storm kicks up. Must be the herding instinct?!

**TV:** When reception is poor, we've noted that two channels always seem to come in clear—Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman and the Shopping Channel!

**SUNLIGHT IN THE CABIN:** Why is it that the boat swings to that sunlight streams through the companionway from the East in the morning as well as from the West in the afternoon?

**STEREO:** We always seem to have the best reception on the stations that play country music and the Bay Socks baseball games!

**WATER SKIERS AND PWCs:** With only two boats in the entire anchorage (ours and the guy that parked 30 feet from us) why do they always zoom around the anchored boats? Guess they need an audience?! If the skiers are unfamiliar with the area, one trick I've used is to ask them if they are aware of the submerged pilings shown on the chart "over there." Sometimes they leave as they don't have a chart to check!

Ron Hill  
APACHE



**LOWER CHESAPEAKE BAY  
CATALINA RENDEZVOUS '96**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**SATURDAY / AUGUST 31**



- 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Coffee & Pastries - Registration of Catalina Owners & Sailors
- 5:00 PM Welcome Aboard
- 6:00 PM Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres  
BBQ Dinner
- 8:00 PM-10:30 PM Music & Dancing

**SUNDAY / SEPTEMBER 1**

- 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Seminars & Lectures
- 12:00 - 1:30 PM Games & Races for Children  
BYO Picnic Lunch  
(refreshments & grills provided)
- 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Nautical Flea Market  
(bring your old gear to swap or sell)
- 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Games & Races for Adult Children
- 6:00 PM Pool & Sun Time
- 6:00 PM Door Prize Drawing
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres / Transportation to Local Restaurants for Dinner

Pool, Volleyball, Horseshoes and Badminton available both days. Ships Store Open.

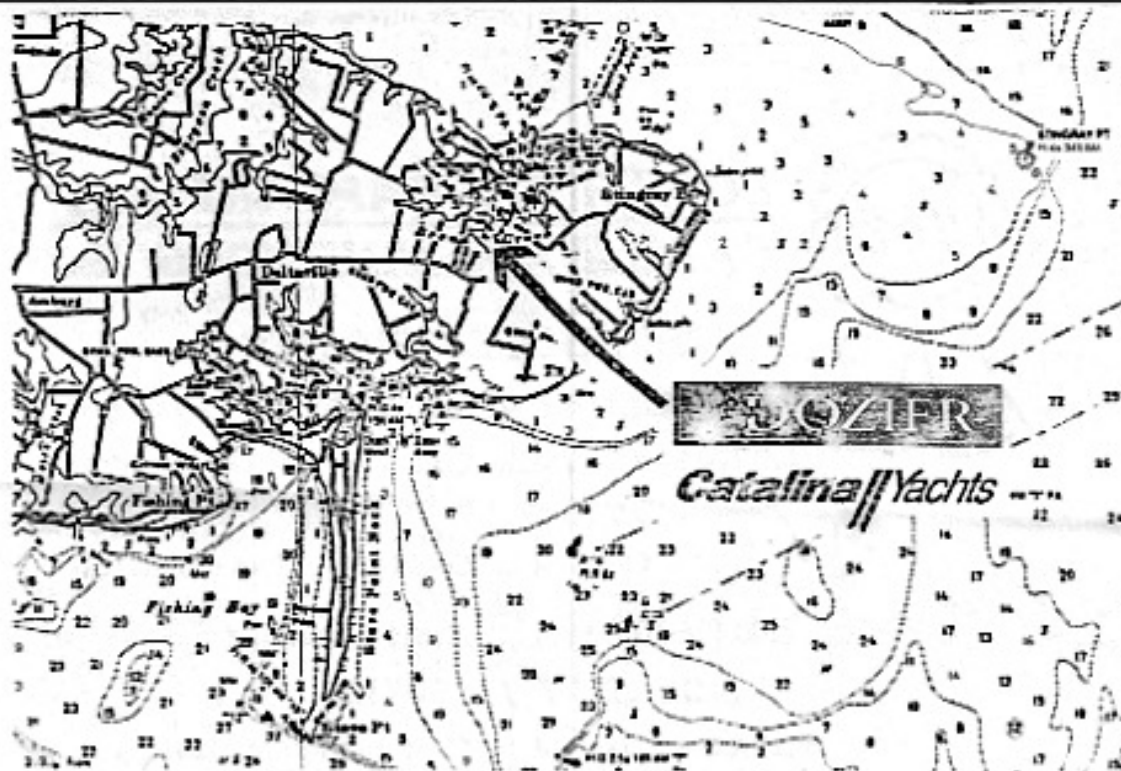
**MONDAY / SEPTEMBER 2**



- 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - On Smooth Sailing Home  
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

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### LOWER CHESAPEAKE BAY / CATALINA RENDEZVOUS '96

## REGISTRATION & RESERVATION

Please provide the following information with your deposit. Mail or FAX (804-776-6995) to DOZIER'S YACHTING CENTER, Box 388, Deltaville, VA 23043. If you are paying by credit card please indicate the type, your card number and the expiration date. Make checks payable to Dozier's Deltaville Yachting Center. We will call and confirm the reservation. A non-refundable deposit (50% of registration fee) is due by August 15th, 1996. Thank you.

#### RENDEZVOUS RATES:

\_\_\_ Adults x \$45 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Children (12 & under) x \$20 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Dockage (\$.75 per foot) x per night = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Power (\$4 per day) x per day = \_\_\_\_\_

Final Total Due = \_\_\_\_\_

50% of Final Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type  VISA  MasterCard  Discover

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### PARTY INFORMATION:

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Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Departure \_\_\_\_\_

#### CATALINA INFORMATION:

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_