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DOCKLINE



Volume 12 Issue 3

Catalina 34 Fleet 12 Chesapeake Bay

July 2002

FLEET CAPTAIN'S SIGNAL

The summer sailing season is well underway. I really hope that each of you is taking time to enjoy some of the most spectacular summer weather I've seen in quite a while. The active raft-up schedule, ably managed by Dan and Maryann Brail, is also underway. Hank Recla hosted the season's first raft-up on a very wet, very windy and cold mid-May weekend. Hank toughed out an overnight stay alone on the Rhode River and was joined the next day by the bravest members of the fleet some of whom stayed over. Details of the season's first raft-up may be found in this edition of *Dockline*. The Memorial Day weekend raft-up was hampered by forecasts of "very" violent thunderstorms, tornadoes and floods.

As so often happens the weathermen got it wrong, at least for the Eastern Shore and I know that this was a factor in some of the Fleet 12 member's planning. Though the western shore was pounded by flood producing rains and high winds the weather on day one was absolutely glorious. We enjoyed a nice morning trip across the bay under full sail and a motor sail later in the afternoon as we went through Knapp's Narrows, occasionally looking over our shoulders for the foul weather that never materialized. *Ibis* (Rochlin), *Second Wind* (Thelen) and *Sea Rover* (Kaper) convoyed the whole way, spent the night on the hook in Trippe Creek and had a great time...one of the best, albeit small, raft-ups, I have attended.

All in all, the weather was stunningly perfect with moderate temperatures, low humidity, a nearly full moon, and an endless supply of Mudslides, Chardonnay and the Dutch Indonesian delicacy Bumi. The official raft-up day saw more of the same weather forecasts and another pounding of the western shore. Two and a half crews of the first day raft-up saw tours of local creeks and tributaries aboard *Second Wind* as other boats arrived for the

"official" raft-up day. In all, we had a total of six boats on the hook for cocktails and dinner that was really fun as we all jammed into *Ibis*' cockpit. Interesting how a boat, heavily loaded, will settle by the stern under the weight of company and a smorgasbord of food and drink. I know no one went away hungry or thirsty that night. We saw a storm in the distance, enjoyed the light show, and mindful of the severe thunderstorm warnings we broke up the raft for the night. The three original rafters stayed together and each of the others went solo. Well, the storm missed us though we had 15-20 knot winds for a part of the night a structure fire on the windward shore and a fish the size of Moby Dick leaping after food and making quite a racket.

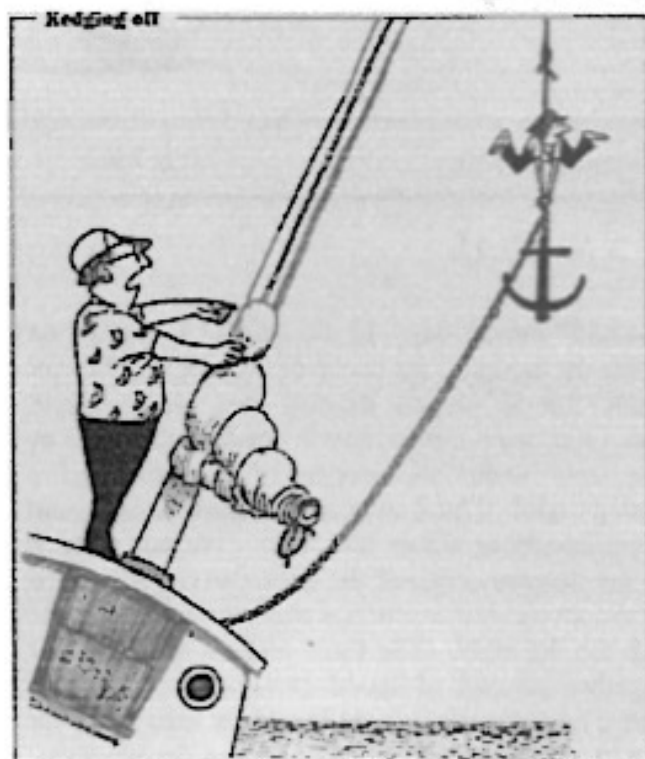
A 0700 departure the next morning was executed by the convoy group to avoid the storms forecast again for that afternoon the others not far behind. Big surprise, they didn't happen either though we had 30+ knot winds for part of the late afternoon. In all, six boats braved the daunting forecasts to rendezvous on Trippe Creek. Trippe Creek is large and fairly private. In a beautiful setting it's a nice place to drop the hook and I'll certainly be going back. These raft-ups are only the beginning of the season's adventures.

Walt and Janet Rupp will host our **Fall Meeting at St. Mary's College in Maryland on November 2, 2002**. A package with information will be mailed to everyone on our list soon!

All interested Catalina 34 owners are invited to attend our activities. For more information on how to join contact Mark Rochlin, Fleet Captain, at (410) 798-1123 (cane75@aol.com) or *Dockline* Editors Palmer and Carol Esau (703) 425-7501 (myopa@aol.com).

Fleet 12 Captain
Mark Rochlin, IBIS #1338

Joys of Gunk holing on the Bay



Now throw it as far as you can!

May 18th Raft-up

It was Friday afternoon and the forecast wasn't looking too pretty. Bob Ryan was reporting 20 -25 mile-n'-hour winds with high probability of thunderstorms late Friday evening into Saturday. The first mate was already looking at the prospect of attending a church activity that was to take place on Sunday.

What's a captain to do? Bag the very first raft-up of the season - Not. That would be a bad omen. Figure it out. That's it. Figure it out.

So I said to myself, "SELF", we'll go throw the hook before the bad weather comes in, sit through the bad weather and, if no one shows up, at least I can say that we had our first successful raft-up for FY-02.

Deciding to take Thursday off to get a few things done on the *Bay-Tripper*. I ran into Captain Denise, the new proud owner of *Point of Aires*, now berthed right next to me. "Are you coming to the raft-up?" I asked. "No", she responded. "Don't think I can handle the bad weather by myself. Besides, I have to be back home for Sunday." Putting two and two together, I quickly called the first mate. "Got a deal

for you." I said. "How about helping Denise bring *Point of Aires* to the raft-up on Saturday. She must be back for Sunday. Now you can come to the raft-up and attend your church function. "Sounds great" she responded. There's boat #1.

Friday morning, I headed over to the Rhodes River and threw the hook. At first, I thought the weatherman was off again. Around noon the front came rolling in. Boy did it roll in! Nothing like snuggling up to a good book in a nice warm cabin as you rock and roll to the beat of a good front. Slept like a baby all night long. Saturday morning, phone rang. MaryAnn and Dan were wondering if I was going to cancel the raft-up. "Heck no, can't cancel the first raft-up. I've been here all night", I said.

"You can't punt, you're the cruise directors." You know you have great cruise directors when they show up in their dinghy that they carted in their car to a nearby shore. There's boat #2. In the meantime, *Point of Aires* shows up. Monitoring channel 78, I hear Captain Ron. "*Bay-Tripper*, this is *Apache*". There's boat #3. Shortly thereafter, *Sea Rover* comes into view commandeered by Jaap and Ernestine Kaper. There's boat #4.

Nothing but the *Brave, Courageous and Bold!!!*

Hank and Susan Recla

Bay-Tripper #954



The pleasure of your company is hereby requested for the 6th annual three-day weekend of fun, festivities, and socializing with fellow Catalina owners and factory representatives at the 2002 East Coast Rendezvous!

AUGUST 2 - 4 Zahniser's Marina, Solomons Island. Register on line or call Catalina Yachts.



Keep Smiling. I Think He's Bringing Food!

Bob Bierly, our good friend, Captain of *C-38 C'Mon Wind*, has sent us the following information obtained from a friend he met on his Southern Cruise down to Florida.

The following announcement is for the 2nd Annual Cruiser's Reunion for ICW and Bahamas cruisers sail and power.

Jane and I went to the first one last year, and it was great for anyone planning to do the ICW and or the Bahamas any time soon. The list of seminars is given by folks who know their part of the total package. In addition, it's worth the trip just to meet folks who have done this trip before (in some cases many times). For new cruisers like us, it even meant we knew some folks we would encounter and depend upon along the way. And best of all, it is essentially free **except for slip fees**. Last year, and I expect this year as well, the Anchorage offered three nights for the price of two, and I think the two were at \$1.25 a foot a night.

What 2002 Cruiser's Reunion

Where Anchorage Marina Baltimore 1-410-522-

7200 E-mail: @anchagemarina.com (O)

When September 10, 11, & 12

Details

Free Seminars Each Day

Door Prizes

Discounted Slips During Event

Special Discounts At Local Restaurants

Free Power Squadron Boat Inspections

Fire Extinguisher Inspection & Re-Certification

All Boaters Welcome

For Slip rental contact Anchorage Marina

Mention 2002 Cruiser's Reunion

For Further Reunion information contact Bob Peters aboard *Island Way* @ Robertp727@AOL.com

Free Seminars

Zora & David Adkins - Good Boat Keeping

Skipper Bob's Books - Bahamas Bound

Dr Richard Lavy MD - On Board First Aid, Medical Supplies For A First Aid Kit, Awareness & Prevention, Emergency Communications

Dr David Zeyher DDS - Dental Emergencies while Cruising Offshore

Larry Berlin - Diesel Engine Care & Maintenance

Dr. John Gregory - SSB E-Mail, Weather Fax, Grounding Systems, Electrolysis,

Diver Dan - Emergency Medical Evacuations

It is important to help maintain the membership level of our Fleet. Please talk with Catalina 34 owners that you meet on the Bay and encourage them to try one of our raft-ups or come to the Fall meeting. Carrying an extra copy or two of the *Dockline* and leaving one on a Catalina 34 that you see on the Bay can also alert non-members to our organization.



You Think Those Clouds Mean Wind and Rain?

Ridout Creek, June 8 and 9

Thanks to Bill and Dot Beck on *Prosit* we did make it a 2-boat Fleet 12 raft. Its size surely didn't overwhelm lovely Ridout Creek, although that particular night the creek enjoyed more than the usual attention from other anchoring sailing yachts. Nevertheless the next morning I was still able to do some Heron watching and shoot a picture of one fishing in between the driftwood (see attached photo). In a way these 2-boat rafts are really quite

enjoyable as it gives you the opportunity to get to know individual Fleet 12 members a little better. So, we had a chance to hear about Bill and Dot's first years in retirement, about their travels last year on the barge trip in France and other experiences they shared with us. Bill showed me some of his recently improved electrical systems on *Prosit*, which were impressive indeed. No more suffering from 95F temperatures in slips with the A/C system he put in. On June 8/9 we had a very nice cool evening however, which could be enjoyed with plenty of food, margaritas and wine. Ernestine had prepared "Bami" (fried noodles) for 8, but 2 boats that had indicated they'd join us did not show. Tough luck folks! The only problem with the weekend was the winds. Coming up Saturday June 8 there was essentially none, and since I wanted to be at anchor at 14:00 we motored up. Sunday a nice 10-knot breeze was promised. Instead there was 15-20 knots right on the nose out of the South. In combination with the powerboat wakes this whipped up 3-4 ft waves, so getting out of Whitehall Bay was not exactly a pleasure. It induced me to plan not to be in the Annapolis waters any longer on weekends.

Jaap & Ernestine Kaper

Sea Rover #1409

June 22nd Raft-Up at the Brails

This year the Magothy River Raft-Up hosted by Maryann and Dan Brail was moved from Eagles Nest Cove to the Brail's home. They live on Deep Creek off the Magothy River and have a small community dock behind their house. Arrangements were made with the community and a neighbor to use their docks for slips needed for the 34 group.

In addition to the Brail's boat (*Boomer*), four other Catalina 34's made the trip to Deep Creek. The boats were *Stardust* (Sue and Warren Cook), second *Second Wind* (Carol and David Thelen), *Sea Rover* (Ernestine and Jaap Kaper) and *Prosit* (Dot and Bill Beck). The boats and crews were listed by arrival time. Since the women were on the foredeck and have the hard task of handling the dock lines and gruppeling hooks, they get priority.

Dave and Dee Ewing and their daughters came by truck. Hank Recla came by land. Hank planned to come by boat, but his boat started to overheat.

We had a pleasant evening sitting on the deck overlooking Deep Creek while we consumed refreshments and several quarts of wine. Maryann's brother, Al, and sister-in-law, Janet, joined our group. Al provided some wonderful Italian meatballs, sausage, pasta and salad. The neighbors enjoyed seeing the large Catalinas docked at the marina and added to the atmosphere with their own beach party Saturday evening. The boats left the following morning after bagels and coffee and the promise of good wind.

A Reminder

Corsica River Raft-Up - July 27 - 28

Blue grass band. Chicken and corn-on-the-cob Barbecue. And the venue is spectacular -- on Conquest Beach on the North side of Spaniards Neck between the Corsica and Chester Rivers. The event is hosted by the Corsica River Yacht Club at their pavilion on the beach. The event is part of a race from the Baltimore Lighthouse or a leisurely cruise across the Bay for cruisers.

The Blue Grass Band starts at 1645. Dinner is at 1730. The cost of the dinner barbecue is a bargain \$13. Ice tea is provided, beer is extra. You need to notify Dan Brail in advance. The club needs to plan for food.

We anchor in a little cove off Conquest Beach on the Chester River. The anchorage is 0.4 miles Southeast of N20" (bearing 120 degrees) on the Chester River. You can either dinghy ashore or use the tender service which is available Saturday night and Sunday morning.

If you are interested in racing (optional) in an informal cruising race, you can sail from the Baltimore Lighthouse. The cruising class starts at 1045. This is nonspinnaker and a PHRF rating can be unofficially assigned to you.

For those unable to sail, you can drive. From Rt 50, go north on Rt 213. Just after passing through Centreville turn left on to Spaniard Neck Road. At 3.5 miles bear left at the fork and follow the signs to Conquest Beach. At 5.5 miles turn right, proceed through the gate and follow the gravel road to the water.

If you are interested in attending the raft-up and the dinner, please contact Dan and Maryann Brail by July 24th at dan_brail@compuserve.com or 410-757-2938.

Dan and Maryann Brail

Boomer #1233

SUMMER CRUISING SCHEDULE - 2002

Please contact individual cruise leaders for more details. Cruise leaders will monitor VHF Channel 78.
If you plan to attend, please notify the cruise leaders in case there is a change in plans.

| DATE | CRUISE LEADERS | DESTINATION |
|------------|--|---|
| July 27-28 | Brail, Dan & Maryann Boomer dan_brail@compuserve.com 410-757-2938 (H) 410-903-4864 (C) | Corsica River on the Chester River. Chicken Barbecue on Conquest Beach hosted by the Corsica River Yacht Club at 5:30 PM Saturday. Please contact Brails so we can provide club a head count of people attending. Cost approximately \$13 per person. |
| August 2-4 | Catalina Yachts | Catalina Rendezvous - Solomons Island, Maryland See http://www.catalinayachts.com/events.phtml for details |
| Sept 14-15 | Rochlin, Mark & Evelyn Ibis Cane75@aol.com 410-798-1123 | Quiet Waters Park, South River |
| October ? | Caruso, Ralph & Lynn On Y Va 304-535-2783 (H) Rxc@nrc.gov | To be announced. |

Fall Meeting at St. Mary's College in Maryland on November 2, 2002.

1:30 pm -- 9 pm Dinner served 5 - 6 pm!

More information will be sent by flyer!

Contact Walt or Janet Rupp 301-863-0175 jrupp@chesapeake.net

WANTED NEW DOCKLINE EDITORS

YOUR DOCKLINE EDITORS WISH TO RETIRE LATER THIS YEAR AFTER PREPARING THE OCTOBER 2002 ISSUE.

PLEASE CONTACT US BEFORE OR AT THE FALL MEETING, IF YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS FUN AND INTERESTING POSITION! THANK YOU!!

**To Volunteer: Call or send email to:
Palmer & Carol Esau
703-425-7501 Myopa@aol.com**