



The Old Man

<September 2008>

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magothy River Sailing Association

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om
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2008

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 13-14: Cruise to Church Creek
September 26: The Baseball (And More!) Baltimore Cruise
October 2: General Membership Meeting
October 4-5: Mill Creek Caper, and Naval Academy Nature Center
October 5: Beginning of Hallie Rice Fall Race Series.
October 8: End of Season Trophy Party
October 16: Photo Op at Chesapeake Great Schooner Race
October 18-19: Goose Cruise
November 11-12: Frostbite Cruise



Breaking News

[Go South for the Fall! September 13-14.](#)

By Rich Hughes

The cruise for September 13 and 14 September will be to Church Creek on the north shore of the South River. Plan to arrive by 1700 hours to enjoy happy hour ashore at the Wilelinor Community beachfront. Bring a hors d'oeuvres to share. In case of inclement weather, happy hour will be in the community pavilion adjacent to the marina and beach area. Sunday morning, **Rich and Toni** will host an omelette brunch and open house at their home. If you can't come by boat, plan to arrive by land yacht and enjoy a weekend on the South River.

Local Knowledge for Church Creek on the South River.

Once you enter the South River continue to day marker Red 14. The entrance to Church Creek will be at a heading of 340 from R14. Begin a sweeping right turn toward the speed marker at the entrance to the creek. You should be in 12 -14 feet of water. As you approach the speed marker, the better water is to the right side. Once inside the marker, stay to the center of the creek. You will see a community pier on the right. Continue up the creek.

On the right side just beyond the second pier you will see a wooden bulkhead. Be sure that you are at least two boat lengths off the bulkhead. Beyond the bulkhead on the left will be a speed marker on the left side, along the shore with marsh grass behind the marker. There is a shoal extending two to three boat lengths from the speed marker, stay to the right of the creek as you pass the speed marker. Once past the speed marker stay in the middle of the creek.

Beyond the speed marker continue in the center of the creek. Looking ahead, you will see a house with bright yellow awnings. The community marina is on the point to the right of the house with the yellow awnings. Off the point, the creek narrows past a speed marker on a piling. Anchor in the creek before the speed marker. There are pilings about 20 yards off the shore in front of the community area. The floating dingy dock is inside the pilings.

Continued on Page 2

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OF THE
MRSA

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Commodore's Comments



It hardly seems possible that September is here. We have had a wonderful summer. Junior Training, Cruising, Racing and Picnics have filled the MRSA summer with plenty to do.

The Wednesday night racers have had to contend with unbelievably fluky weather. The weather gods seem to know when Wednesday comes around. There must be a big red circle on the calendar! Our Race Committee crews have had their work cut out for them this year, and we are so grateful to all of them for all that they have done. Special thanks go to **Craig Coltharp, Angelo Guarino**, and the team that makes sure the racing program goes off without a hitch. **Roger Bartholomee** keeps the race marks out in the river, **Mike and Annette Mullarky** make sure the scores are posted; **Mark Walker** ensures that the race gear gets from one race committee to the next. And if there is a protest, we rely on **Drew Dowling** who adjudicates the differences of opinion. Thanks to all.

On Mondays from the 7th of July thru 11th of August, the junior sailors had a lot of fun racing thanks to **Dan Prucnal** and help from assorted parents. With all that the kids learned at junior training, I'm betting there was some pretty competitive racing outside of Black Hole Creek. Thanks Dan and team for making that happen! Our Junior Training program was very successful this year. Fleet Captain **Rich Hughes**, with **Joe Tierney** assisting, organized a terrific program at the Grachur Club right after school ended. **Jessica Lund**, our returning head instructor and her able assistants, gave the campers a wonderful, safe, educational, and FUN experience on the water. Special thanks to Rich, Joe, Dan, Jessica, and to lots of hardworking parents within MRSA and the Grachur Club for a very successful Junior Training program.

Plenty of cruises, both long and short have kept our cruisers busy and happy all summer long. If you haven't been able to participate, don't worry, there are wonderful fall cruises still to come. Check the website for our fall schedule of cruises, parties and meetings. We have so much on the calendar, there is sure to be something that you would like to do. I hope to see you soon - on the water or at one of our coming dinner meetings and parties.

Ed Poe, Commodore



(Continued from Page 1)

[Cruise to Church Creek](#)

Directions by land yacht to the Church Creek Cruise:

Take Ritchie Highway south to Route 50 West. Follow Route 50 west to the exit for Aris Allen Boulevard (Route 665). Exit Route 665 at Solomon's Island Road (Route 2). From the exit ramp continue straight across Route 2 into the community of Wilelinor. As you are facing Christ Church, turn right. Proceed to the stop sign. Turn left on to Wilelinor Drive. Follow Wilelinor Drive until it curves to the left. As Wilelinor Drive turns to the right continue onto Carvel Circle. The tan house with red shutters on the left (11 Carvel Circle) is the Hughes'. Park at the Hughes' house and walk down Wilelinor Drive to the end (one long block) to reach the marina.



Race Gear

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Membership Activities

[MRSA Summer Picnic](#)

By Toni Hughes

August 17th brought warm breezes to the Milbur community. It was the location of the MRSA summer picnic. A BIG thank you to **Myron and Sigrid Dorf**, for the picnic location reservation. Past Commodore **Rich Hughes** had grill detail and was fabulous at flipping hamburgers and hotdogs. (Only a couple hit the dirt.) Many different chocolate desserts were a terrific end to the meal. The pool was inviting and used by some of the younger picnic attendees.

There were a few items for sale at our annual "used boat parts sale". Dave Gendell was looking for a few good buys. The afternoon was a good venue for relaxing and visiting with new and old friends.



Photos by Gabriella Belli

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"Mary Ann further emphasized the importance of assigning tasks to each person aboard so that each person can contribute. Something as simple as reading the boat speed from an instrument or the GPS will give each person a feeling of contributing."



[September Membership Meeting Features Womanship Lecture](#)

The September general membership meeting was held on September 4th at the West End Grill in Annapolis. Twenty-two members were present for a great meal and a very well received presentation from Womanship. Womanship was founded by **Suzanne Rogell** in 1984 as the first sailing school for women. The goal of the organization is to bring together women of all ages from diverse backgrounds, from every part of the world, in harmonious collaboration and in a conducive learning environment, to take part in a sailing journey of self discovery, self fulfillment and the acquisition of real skills, real strengths, the ability to team and to lead, in harmony with nature.

The presentation by founder, Suzanne Rogell, and Instructor, Captain **Mary Ann DeGraw** focused on techniques to make guests comfortable when they come aboard a sailboat for the first time. The motto of Womanship is "Nobody Yells". Both Suzanne and Mary Ann discussed the techniques that are used by Womanship to make students comfortable and confident when they come aboard a sailboat boat for instruction. The techniques that are used by Womanship can be used by any skipper when new guests come aboard for a pleasant day of sailing. Mary Ann emphasized the importance of taking the time at the start of the cruise to fully explain where all important items are located on the boat and how to use items such as PFD's, GPS and the VHF radio. Using a chart to describe where the cruise will go and point out land marks and navigation aids will provide a context for the new sailor to understand where they are throughout the trip. Mary Ann further emphasized the importance of assigning tasks to each person aboard so that each person can contribute. Something as simple as reading the boat speed from an instrument or the GPS will give each person a feeling of contributing. Several questions from the audience followed the presentation.

Womanship has offered a 10% discount to MRSA members who book a cruise anytime in September. See more about Womanship on their website located at www.womanship.com.



Photos by Gabriella Belli (1-4) and Rich Hughes (5-6)



Upcoming Cruises

[Mill Creek Caper - October 4th and 5th](#)

By Jon Mullarky

With dreams of a new sailboat in your head or plans for all the gadgets and equipment you can pick up at the show, there is much planning and plotting prior to the 2008 Annapolis Boat Show. There is no better way to spend the weekend before the show than to be with sailing experts, bouncing your ideas and blue sky thoughts off your friends.

On October 4th and 5th, it's the Mill Creek Caper. Sail to Mill creek off of Whitehall Bay with Cruise Leader **Jon Mullarky** on *Betelgeux*. Anchoring is planned off the south shore of Mill Creek, between Possum Point and Providence Cove. Jon has planned a busy weekend with arrangements made to visit the Naval Academy's Greenbury Point Nature Center, a short dinghy ride and walk from our intended anchorage. The Center will be available for our group from 1:30 to 3:30pm on Saturday, October 4th. After the visit to the Nature Center, there will, of course, be the usual gathering aboard *Betelgeux* to discuss the visit and the Boat Show, and all other topics of universal or individual interest. An optional dinner at Cantler's Riverside Inn is an available option, if anyone actually has room for dinner after our notoriously filling and delicious happy hour snacks! Please email Jon Mullarky at betelgeux@frien.ly.net or call 410-604-3502 to confirm your cruise participation.



[Sail to the Bay Bridge! --Watch the start of ... The Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race!](#)

by George Stamps

Thursday, October 16, 2008 -- Special Photo Cruise

The schooners are coming! It will soon be mid-October, with the gathering of schooners for the sail from Baltimore to Portsmouth, Virginia. Do you like to see beautiful sailboats? Is it exciting to see the Pride of Baltimore sail by as you sail on the bay in your own boat? Would it be special to see fifty schooners sailing together from Baltimore to the Bay Bridge for the start of the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race? Would you enjoy seeing five large schooners sailing together, the Pride sailing with the Virginia, Lady Maryland, Mystic Whaler, the Amistad, all over 100 feet in length, fifteen 15 other schooners over 50 feet long?

Can you take Thursday off! If so, sail out to see the schooners start their race. What a spectacle! It is a beautiful sight! (Last year it made the cover of *Smithsonian Magazine*.) The big race to Portsmouth starts at the Bay Bridge at 1pm on Thursday. It's a beautiful time of year to take an afternoon off. **Please call to coordinate... Ed and Peggy Poe**, in *Ravenous*, will leave their pier at 1000 hours to lead a daysail cruise from the Magothy. Join them, or invite some friends to sail on your boat for a beautiful and unusually interesting day on the water! Let us know if you will be sailing your own boat or if you would prefer to sail with the Poes. Bring lunch and nibbles to share. Call Peggy at 410-296-6428 to coordinate, or email peggypoe@aol.com.

Race Start - 1300 Hours - The race begins just south of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge near Annapolis as the magnificent gathering of schooner-rigged vessels begin their adventure down the Chesapeake. Schooner Race Website: <http://www.schoonerrace.org>. List of Entrants: <http://schoonerrace.org/fleet08>.

(Artwork: *Massachusetts and Malabar*, original artwork donated by **Pam Pahl**.)



".. visit the
Naval
Academy's
Greenbury
Point Nature
Center..."

". . . beautiful
sailboats,
Pride of
Baltimore, 50
schooners,
over 100 feet
long."



FLYER!!

Come one! Come all!

The Baseball (and More) Baltimore Cruise
Friday, Sept. 26 -- Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008
Inner Harbor East Marina

Come Enjoy a Weekend of Fun and Games
Friday and Saturday Cocktail Hours on H Dock (BYOB and an appetizer to share)
Friday Dinner at James Joyce Irish Pub & Restaurant

Saturday night offerings:

Orioles v. Toronto Baseball at Camden Yards
The Matchmaker at Centerstage
Shows at the Comedy Factory
Vaccaro's Italian Pastry Shop—For the best ice cream in Baltimore!

"Sunday Best" Brunch.

This is a formal event: Clean T-shirts required
Bring your own boat ware and a brunch dish to share
Cruise Leader Paul Kavanaugh will be serving his "Best Waffles Ever"

You'll find all the details in your Weekend Welcome Packet when you check-in.

Don't Wait! Make Your Reservations Today!

1. Slip Space on H Dock, Inner Harbor Marina.

Contact: Millie Auer, 410-625-1700, **no later than Sept. 17.**

Be sure and ask for slip space with the Chesapeake Bristol Club on H Dock.

2. Friday Dinner at James Joyce's Inn & Pub, 7 p.m.

Reserve with Tom Finnin, 301-926-3589

3. Saturday Fun and Games (Pick one!)

Baseball—Orioles vs. Toronto Bluejays, 7 p.m. 888-848-BIRD

CenterStage Theater—The Matchmaker, 8 p.m. 410-332-0033

Comedy Factory—Shows at 7, 9 & 11 p.m., 410-547-7798

Cruise leader, Paul Kavanaugh with the able assistance of Prue Clopp, Ted Reinhold and MRSA members, Toni and Rich Hughes

*. . . Orioles,
theatre,
comedy show,
ice cream,
brunch,
cruise,
cocktails,
dinner . . .*

!!!



Racing

[Notes of Note from the Magothy Racing Scene ...](#)

By Ed Poe



Sagacious and Crew Driving to Windward—Great Photo!

Coming up October 8th, Wednesday at 6 pm – **End of Season Trophy Party**. Come celebrate our racers and their accomplishments. Gibson Island Boathouse. Soft drinks, beer, and wine provided. Bring some good hors d'oeuvres or finger foods to share. It's always a good time for racers, winners, competitors, and well-wishers and cruisers who like a good party

Governor's Cup Winners in August: Special Congratulations to the following Magothy sailors who took honors in the 2008 Governor's Cup Race from Annapolis to St. Mary's. Great congratulations are in order for...

Mark and Marty Walker and crew of *Bumble Bee*, who won 1st place of approximately 30 boats in the large Non-Spinnaker fleet.

Ed Tracey and crew of *Incommunicado*, who finished 2nd in the tough A-3 Division

Warren Richter, the Richter family, and crew in *Mini Pressure Drop*, who finished 4th in A-2 Division

The Governor's Cup, a 70-mile all-weather race, is one of the largest and most challenging races on the Bay and on the east coast. In most years our Magothy sailors generally are well represented on the winners' podium. This year was no exception. As representatives of Magothy sailing, their great races make all of us look good!



[Bumble Bee's Story](#)

[*Editor's Note:* Mark Walker emailed this story to friends about the Governor's Cup race. Thought you might be interested. BV]

Bumble Bee and her FANTASTIC CREW: Marty, **Bryant, Ralph, Roger, Sue, Richard and I**, pulled off an absolute great race! We started out feeling really good, we were leaving everyone in our class behind as we worked on the southerly winds and beat all the way down the bay. We were passing many of the C/D and some B spinnaker fleet also. This was expected since we outrate them and they were beating up wind also. The winds were just what BB loves, up wind beating at about 5-15 knots. But we hit a dead spot at about 3am, so dead that we floated sideways for one hour and 15 minutes, plus lost 1.25 nmiles (per

“. . . we thought we had no chance for anything.”

the GPS) as the tide was against us (even with all of Roger's attempts to get BB straight). Then the wind picked up again right where it had left off with about 8-13 knots from the SW. We were heading up the St. Mary's River, really enjoying life and the competition with the C/D and B fleeters (still on a broad reach) when we got hit by a small but intense rain/thunder storm (mostly rain, not much lightening fortunately). We finished the race wing-on-wing for the last 1/2 mile which was the only time that we could have done dual jibes but decided it was not worth the effort for that short of a leg. This was fun with the two spinnaker classes next to us through the finish line.

When they started to announce the winners for our class, we were hoping for 4th or 5th at best since we had such a dead time and had lost so much distance. When the announcer got to 3rd place and said he was starting to have trouble pronouncing the names (Bumble Bee is easy :-), we thought we had no chance for anything. But then came the great

moment when # 1 was announced: **"Bumble Bee!!"** You can imagine our excitement and joy!! I cannot tell you how happy we were!!!

Email by Mark Walker



Junior Training



Rigging the Boats



Graduation Day, Junior Training 2008

The Monday Night Junior Racing Program was a big success this summer with lots of fun and plenty of racing. Our young racers showed quick improvement with everything from boat handling to race management. Three to five races per night consisting of short starting lines and mostly windward-leeward courses provided ample opportunity for all of our racers to practice what they learned during our brief onshore instruction. The onshore instruction was provided by **Dave Prucnal** who deftly drew racing diagrams in the sandy beach. Gentle instruction was given on the water between and sometimes during races and this really helped bring the racers up to speed! We had the pleasure of meeting up with the juniors of PSA, lead by **Jim Gary**, on more than one occasion and enjoyed the comradeship on the race course. Let's grow the program next year! Remember, all students who have at one time participated in the MRSA Junior Training program or equivalent and are age 9 through 18 are eligible. I would like to give big thanks for all the parents and students who helped make this a very successful season, especially **Wes McNair, Dan Andrew, Dave Forsyth, Cathy Dougan, and Dave Prucnal**.

By Dan Prucnal, Junior Racing



CRUISE TO DOUG'S

By George Stamps

Edesville, Kent County--Saturday, June 14, and some of MRSA's best and brightest were headed--by land and sea, to a convergence at the country retreat of our good friend **Doug Price**. Despite the arrival of the season's first heat wave and the temporary (we hope!) unavailability of that delightful swimming pool (a victim of the ravages of winter), all were anticipating a pleasant, relaxing afternoon and evening on the grounds at Eagle Point. Besides our host, awaiting our arrival were his pier guests cousin **Robbin and PC Roger Seal** and newest canine family member Lucy, aboard SEA Robbin--just arrived from their Florida digs at Punta Gorda Isles.

Arriving by sea were **Kent and Nancy Shaffer** aboard *Royal Salute*, **PC Al and Sue Kirkendall** aboard *Flying Low*, **Mike and Laura Bonham** aboard *Frequent Flyer*, and **Wes and PC Sheryl McNair** aboard *Merlin*, with guests David and son Eric. By land yacht came expatriate **Lewis Neisner** and **Philippe Masiee**, and Commodore **Ed and Lady Peggy Poe**. **PC George and Carolyn Stamps**, substituting for **PC Fred and Sue Betz**, had driven over earlier to help with the preparations. Within the shelter of that wonderful screened porch, drinks and hors d'ouvres were enjoyed by all. Those who were planning to fire up the grills for the evening meal, being seduced by the conviviality of the occasion, waited too long into the evening to begin cooking. Near dusk, a typical Chesapeake thunderstorm, heralded by vivid bolts of lightning and then driving rain, swept in to send all the mariners scurrying for their vessels, meat half-cooked. On the positive side, the squall brought welcome relief from the oppressive heat of the day, providing for a comfortable night at anchor.

" . . . Those who were planning to fire up the grills for the evening meal, being seduced by the conviviality of the occasion, waited too long into the evening to begin cooking. Near dusk, a typical Chesapeake thunderstorm . . ."



[GOT WIND!!](#)

Two Week Cruise, by Al and Sue Kirkendall

The two week July cruise commenced after a delightful Fourth of July in the company of *Min Van IV*, *Betelgeux*, *Quick Silver*, and *Flying Low*. After the fireworks in Oxford on the Fifth, Sunday saw *Min Van IV* departing for home at 0700 from the anchorage on Plaindealing Creek. The remaining boats took a leisurely cruise to Trippe Creek. After a rafting and a short swim, the weather quickly deteriorated requiring breaking the raft and dropping anchors with haste. It rained for several hours but afterwards the cooler air made very comfortable sleeping weather.

Monday found *Betelgeux*, *Quick Silver*, and *Flying Low* headed for Solomons Island flying the new cruise leaders burgee. A wind of about 10 knots gave an opportunity to turn off the "iron jenny" and enjoy the quiet, peaceful Bay and then motorsail the remainder of the trip south. *Quick Silver* offered a valuable find to *Betelgeux*, a 25 inch TV floating in the Bay. **John Mullarky** declined the offer because it was not HD. We arrived at Zahnieser in the early afternoon to a refreshing swim and capped the evening with dinner at the Dry Dock. Survey says that it was a delicious meal. Allowing for a second day in Solomons Island was a wise choice for trips to the grocery store, West Marine, and a few repairs. **George and Gail** invited everyone for dinner on their boat. Gail prepared great "Tacos a la Braun" and chicken with peppers. Gail's experience cruising for 7 months certainly resulted in a culinary delight for dinner. We took a short sail up the Patuxent to St. Leonard's Creek on Tuesday. **Al** and **George** joined the crew of *Betelgeux* to replace their water pump. The repair was successful! We took a quick dingy trip to check-out Vera's since it has changed owners. From the water we could readily see new docks and renovations of the restaurant.

Due to schedules, *Betelgeux* remained another night in the Solomons Island area before heading north to St. Michaels. After saying good bye to **John**, **Skip**, and **Mary**; *Quick Silver* and *Flying Low* headed to Crisfield with very favorable winds. At 10-15 knots, the winds held until we reached Kedges Strait. Boat speeds varied from 5-7 knots, an unusual event in July on the Chesapeake. The skyline of Crisfield has changed dramatically with the edition of condos at the city entrance. We did miss the Crisfield event of the ribbon cutting for the newly paved Main Street, free hot dogs and entertainment, by about an hour. Perhaps due to a reduced number of transients Somers Cove has a summer special of stay two nights and get the third free. With the weather warming a bit, it was nice to take advantage of the pool. After a bit of shopping, nightly ice cream, and lamenting over the decline of the hardware stores we headed for the Piankatank on Virginia's western shore. Again we had some favorable winds and motorsailed from Tangiers Island to Sting Ray point. We decided to anchor a bit above Fishing Bay for protection from possible storms. Gail and George took advantage of the opportunity to visit friends who live in Healy Creek.

At this juncture we should share that **George Braun** provided daily, sometimes hourly, weather reports. As we left the Piankatank a storm did arrive. George's predictions were accurate and enabled us to batten down the hatches before the heavy rains. Arriving at a rainy, foggy Rappahannock was certainly no prediction of what we found at the Corrotoman River. This river has abundant anchorages with lovely homes and at least on this Monday evening, very little boat traffic. Although there are homes here, there is an abundance of wildlife and gorgeous views. A quick dingy trip brought us to the cable ferry. It carries two cars and the captain shared with us that he had been doing this for 31 years. The ferry operates on demand and is free. A brief trip upriver had us landing at Urbanna on Tuesday. Both crews were highly motivated to visit Marshall's Drug Store for ice cream sodas. It was wonderful to enjoy our sodas on the spinning stools, just like **Cunninghams** in Michigan according to Gail. We visited the sights and shops, and even had an opportunity to meet a member of the city council.

Wednesday we once again found wind to sail to the Great Wicomico. After a few tacks we reached the vicinity of Reedville reinforced by the aroma of a menhaden boats. We chose to go northeast of Reedville and anchor in a small bight which reminded us of Shaw Bay. With an abundance of jellyfish we secured the nettle net and enjoyed a refreshing swim that

"Quick Silver offered a valuable find to Betelgeux, a 25 inch TV floating in the Bay. John Mullarky declined the offer because it was not HD."

relieved the heat. We investigated Reedville by dingy finding many workboats and derelict vessels. Upon leaving Reedville we encountered two dead sand sharks floating, probably caught in the menhaden nets. With forecasts from George indicating afternoon storms we had the pleasure to leave with the menhaden fleet on Wednesday morning. This was the only day we were not able to sail for some part of the day. We motored to the Potomac and the Coan River. After negotiating some pretty skinny water we found an anchorage in what the cruising guide says is "nettle free." We did find nettles so the nettle pool was deployed. Until this point the days had been warm, but not humid and it was comfortable with a breeze each night. It did begin to resemble a typical July on the Bay by Thursday.



George, Gail and Al cool off in Mill Creek.

The Screwpile Regatta persuaded us to avoid Solomons on Friday, but we did find anchorages off the Patuxent just above the bridge on Mill Creek. The entrance to the creek has plenty of water and the anchorage was surrounded by high tree lined banks. All was quiet with an afternoon swim. After a brief period, we realized that this was prime jet ski and waterskiing real estate. After the skiers left we enjoyed Italian night with spaghetti aboard *Quick Silver*. Consulting our meteorologist, George, both crews decided that we would head for the Magothy on Saturday. With a bit of wind in the afternoon we reached the Magothy at about 3 o'clock.

The two week cruise took us 364 miles and was certainly favored with wind and exceptionally good weather with cool evenings. It is a most enjoyable cruise when this can be shared with good friends. The shared meals, weather forecasts, and most importantly the company of *Betelgeux* (for the first week) and *Quick Silver* made this a memorable cruise.



MRSA Cruisers lined up in Plaindealing Creek of the Patuxent River. Photo by Sue Kirkendall.

"The two week cruise took us 364 miles and was certainly favored with wind and exceptionally good weather with cool evenings."



DOG DAY AFTERNOON

By Peggy Poe

It was blazing hot. AND it was July 19th, but the wind blew. I mean, it really blew! It blew enough to put the sails up and turn off the engine, and that is rare for July! *Ravenous* flew out of the river, then back in, and then coasted into Eagle Cove to anchor for the raft-up.

Aboard *Ravenous*, along with **Commodore Ed Poe** and **Peggy**, were **Roberta Smith** with daughter **Rachel** and son **Brady**, both Junior Training attendees, as well as **Dod Poe** and future Junior Training sailors, Poe granddaughters **Coleman**, 5 ½ and **Jane** 4 – out for their very first sail on *Ravenous*. Coleman was very excited when six boats joined in for the raft-up. "This is a party!" she declared.

Endless Summer had **Alan Weiss**, **Maggie** and **Nick**, **Kate** and **Jack Riggin** on board and all jumped in for a swim. *Blue Moon* with **Norm** and **Chris Poulson** had the best cockpit for the hors d'oeuvres and they graciously hosted most of the adults, while Commodore Ed cooked the hot dogs onboard *Ravenous*. **Tom Stringer** with kids, **Matthew**, **Danny**, **Kim** and **Jessica**, **Kathy** and **Bert Polk** on *Mary Louise*, **Jim** and **Verna Wilson** on *Locomotion* with friends **Earl** and **Ginny Coutts**, **Andrea Gillespie** and **Rich Wagner** on *Persistence*, and the **Kammanns** on *Renaissance* also joined the party. The cool water and the beautiful breeze helped us forget the 90 degree July day. **Ed Tracey** on *Soleil*, an Atlanta, GA boat sailed into Eagle Cove, and the kids on Ed's boat saved Ed Poe's cap. Thanks!

As the sun set on Eagle Cove, the raft broke up and the sailors headed home with happy thoughts of hot dogs and cannonball dives, and of the beautiful sail they had on Dog Day Afternoon.



Photos by Kathy Polk. The kids are our granddaughters Coleman and Jane Poe with our son, Dod Poe



Chris Poulson and Brady Smith fixing some "Dogs"



Aboard the Poulsons "Blue Moon"



“The same thunderstorm traveled down the river to Easton so the town had to postpone their fireworks to Saturday night. This meant that St. Michaels had to cancel their fireworks on Saturday night because they use the same fireworks company. Oxford continued to have fireworks on Saturday.”

[JULY 4TH CRUISE FOLLOW-UP](#)

By Debbie Lund

The weather prediction for July 4th weekend was thunderstorms for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. **John and Debbie Lund** on *Min Van IV* were joined by the MRSA week-long cruise participants **Sue and Al Kirkendall** on *Flying Low*, **George and Gail Braun** on *Quicksilver* and **Jon, Skip and Mary** on *Betelgeux*.

On July 4th, instead of fireworks in Waterhole Creek, there were the natural fireworks--a thunderstorm. The same thunderstorm traveled down the river to Easton so the town had to postpone their fireworks to Saturday night. This meant that St. Michaels had to cancel their fireworks on Saturday night because they use the same fireworks company. Oxford continued to have fireworks on Saturday. The group changed their destination and went to Plaindealing Creek (across from Oxford on the Tred Avon) for Saturday night. For better viewing, the Lunds and Kirkendall's went in their inflatables to view the fireworks in the Tred Avon. They were great! On Sunday, *Min Van IV* was the only boat that had to return to the Magothy--the others started their one to two week cruise on the Chesapeake.



[AUGUST/WORTON CREEK CRUISE](#)

By Debbie Lund

The August Worton Cruise changed cruise leaders and destination. The **Lunds** decided to lead the group and seven other boats decided to sail/motor to Swan Creek. Rock Hall was having a "Pirates Weekend" so Swan Creek was a little crowded. It was also a little shallow for the boats drawing over 6 feet.

Joining the Lunds were **Bob Krapfel** and **Gabriella Belli**, **George and Gail Braun**, **Marianne and Dick Kammann**, **Rich and Toni Hughes**, **Loura and Mike Bonham**, **Sigi and Myron Dorf**, and **Al and Sue Kirkendall**. Bob decided to hold his gear shift in his hand when rafting to the group. **Roger and Robbin Seal** came by car to Rock Hall and joined us for Happy Hour.

Sunday's weather forecast was for winds variable to 20 knots and thunderstorms. Most of the people left fairly early to avoid the storms.

Next year MRSA may need to think about attending the Pirates Weekend in Rock Hall.



[BURMEISTER CRUISE SUMMER 08](#)

By Walt Burmeister

We left the Magothy late morning on Saturday June 28. The crew on this leg included MRSA members **Wes McNair** and **Mark Pliskin**. (Part of the "Blackhole Creek Gang") We had intended to stop at Chesapeake City in the C&D and go ashore for dinner, however it was "Canal Day" and with the multitude of party goers in the basin we decided to keep going. We had great weather going up the Bay, through the C&D, and even down the Delaware Bay which can be a horrible trip if the tide and wind oppose. By midday on Sunday we pulled into Atlantic City and docked at Gardiners Basin which is adjacent to the Aquarium and to several good restaurants. I recommend this marina to anyone stopping at Atlantic City. **Sheryl McNair** met us in Atlantic City to pick up Wes who had to return to work the next day.

"Block island Sound was fogged in and we had to make the last twenty miles . . . on the radar. When the chart plotter and the radar indicated that we were a quarter mile from the jetty I . . . aimed for where I thought the channel was by the sound of the fog horns on the boats coming out. Suddenly the fog lifted and we cruised through the entry channel in bright sunlight."

On Monday Mark and I set out on the long overnight leg from AC to Block Island. Again we had great weather and arrived at Block mid-morning on Tuesday, July 1. As usual for this time of year Block island Sound was fogged in and we had to make the last twenty miles with Mark at the helm and me on the radar. When the chart plotter and the radar indicated that we were a quarter mile from the jetty I took the wheel and aimed for where I thought the channel was by the sound of the fog horns on the boats coming out. Suddenly the fog lifted and we cruised through the entry channel in bright sunlight. Unfortunately, the harbor was full in anticipation of July 4th and there were no moorings available. My previous experience with the poor anchoring conditions led me to request a slip at Champlain's and they accommodated by letting us remain overnight at the fuel dock. They had power boats rafted up four abreast and a huge party in progress. We walked around the old harbor and had a great dinner at the Oar Restaurant.

On Tuesday we left Block, again in heavy fog, and sailed to Greenport, Long Island, using the radar most of the way. We docked at Mitchell Marina in Greenport which is a very nice municipal facility next to a park in downtown Greenport. Mark and I then drove back to Pasadena and left the boat in Greenport.

On Saturday July 12 I returned to Greenport to meet two non-MRSA crew members for the return trip. We left Sunday morning and had a great sail down Long Island Sound to Port Jefferson where we moored for the night and had a gourmet Italian dinner on board.

On Monday we sailed to Manhasset which positioned us for the run through Hell Gate the next morning. We were lucky to find a free town mooring with a launch service that took us to Louie's Shore Restaurant in Port Washington. Both Port Jefferson and Manhasset are protected harbors with plenty of mooring and anchorage space and good shore facilities. I recommend them both if cruising on Long Island Sound.



Tuesday was the highlight of the cruise. We left Manhasset around 7AM and hit Hell Gate at slack tide. The East River then began to flow south and by the time we were at the Battery at the south tip of Manhattan we were running at over 9 knots. The weather was perfect with a bright sun lighting Manhattan. Traffic in the East River, boats, barges, ships, helicopters, and sea planes combined to keep this leg interesting. I was at the wheel dodging traffic while my two crew were busy snapping pictures.

“...by the time we were at the Battery at the south tip of Manhattan we were running at over 9 knots.”



From New York harbor we sailed to Atlantic Highlands, NJ, and moored at the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club which is in a protected harbor behind Sandy Hook. The Yacht Club has a free launch service for their mooring field and there are many good restaurants within walking distance. Again a good destination for cruisers.

On Wednesday we sailed to Atlantic City, docked at Gardiners, and had a great dinner ashore. On Thursday we left AC intending to go straight through to the Magothy. We had great wind and made such good time that we were in the C&D by 9 PM and decided to anchor in the Chesapeake City basin until daylight. By then the party goers had cleared out and there were only two boats anchored in the basin.

On Friday July 18 we cruised back down the Bay and arrived back at Blackhole Creek early in the afternoon. The end of a great cruise with good weather, great food, even better libation, and wonderful sailing companions. I have enclosed a few pictures and more can be found on my web site: <http://home.comcast.net/~wburmeister>.



Labor Day Cruise

by Peggy Poe

Should we actually be working on Labor Day? NAH!!! We sailed on Labor Day weekend. Well, we did some sailing and some motoring, because Mother Nature didn't actually give us a lot of wind to travel into the Chester River and to Gray's Inn Creek. There were seven boats rafted on Saturday night for the traditional MRSA get-together. The party boat was a familiar sight for long-time members. **Roger and Robin Seal** won the "came the longest way" award having traveled from Punta Gorda, FL to host the raft-up on Saturday evening on Sea Robin. **Kirkendalls, Seiferts, Lunds, Kammanns, Poes and Polks** enjoyed the delicious hors d'oeuvres and libations. After eating everything that wasn't nailed down, everyone decided to break the raft because of the forecasted thunderstorm.

Thunder and lightning happened in the distance, but no storm materialized on Saturday night, but a beautiful brunch caused four of the intrepid cruisers to gather for a group brunch. The **Kammanns, Poes and Lunds** found that breakfast on *Flying Low* was a beautiful thing! After a lazy afternoon of chores, sleeping, and reading, the Seals picked up the cruisers via land yacht and transported us to Rock Hall for a delicious dinner. Just as we were leaving for dinner in Rock Hall, two more MRSA boats arrived in the creek. **Jock, Carol and Cameron Mclees** and **Andrea Gillespie** and **Rich Wagner** sailed in looking for the MRSA raft-up. They formed a mini-raft of two and enjoyed a delicious seafood dinner prepared by Andrea.

Monday morning found us all returning to the Magothy on a beautiful blue sky day.



Photo by Kathy Polk



Other and Miscellaneous



Raft Work (Gabriella as Figurehead, Guarding the Ship)



Also Guarding the Ship (Swan Creek 2008)



Basic Work at Swan Creek



Moving, Swan Creek, 2008

The Old Man

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Picture by Bill Paul