



Broad Bay Banter

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BROAD BAY SAILING ASSOCIATION
1417 SHOVELLER AVENUE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA - 23454

May 2014

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Website link: [Broad Bay Sailing Association](#)

COMMODORE'S CORNER

Jim Currie, commodore@broadbaysailing.org

After a very relaxing 6 months in the sun I am back in Chesapeake and looking forward to meeting you all at ODU on Tuesday. BBSA never misses a beat and in my absence all our programs have been running along smoothly thanks in no small part to the committees. You can all look forward to a very exciting year.

Jim Currie

This month's membership meeting will be at the ODU Sailing Center, Tuesday, April 20th, 6:30pm
Fred Bashara will be talking about boat insurance so have you insurance questions ready.
Awards will be presented for the Cape Henry Cup.
Dinner is potluck.

RACING NEWS

Scott Almond, racing@broadbaysailing.org

PHRF Racing News:

Racing season is now in full swing and BBSA's first big race of the year, the Cape Henry Cup, is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th. **The \$25 entry fee is WAIVED for all BBSA members!** Registration is easy on our website: www.broadbaysailing.org . All members are urged to participate in this race which was first sailed in May 1974. Details and the notice of race are posted on the website and the sailing instructions will be posted at the lower right corner of the homepage early next week. There will be starts for all PHRF classes as well as a Cruising Class start. Awards will be presented at BBSA's infamous Potluck Dinner at the ODU Sailing Center on May 20th. The Cape Henry Cup is the 2nd race of the Southern Bay Distance Racing Series (SBDRS) <http://www.broadbaysailing.org/downloads/files/2014-Osouthernbaydistanceracingseriesnor.pdf> .

Also coming up at the end of the month is the area's premier racing competition of the year - Southern Bay Race Week. This regatta has lots to offer with 3 great days of racing, top-shelf race management (and other things you might find on the 'top shelf'), and 4 nights of parties! The Cruising Fleet will feature 2 days of racing for a reduced entry fee. All fleets will be sailing a middle distance race on Saturday, which was a huge hit last year. Details can be found at: <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=981> and in the flyer included in this Banter. Don't miss THE most competitive event of the racing season!

Upcoming dates of which to be aware:

<http://www.broadbaysailing.org/downloads/files/2014racingschedule.pdf>

17 May - Cape Henry Cup - CBYRA Event # 404, Race #2 in the SBDRS - www.broadbaysailing.org

20 May - Cape Henry Cup Awards Presentation at BBSA Meeting - ODU Sailing Center

23 May - Deadline for Southern Bay Race Week entries without late fee -

<http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=981>

23 May – 65th Down the Bay Race - <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=1042>

30 May - 1 June - Southern Bay Race Week - <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=981>

16-17 August - BBSA's Cape Charles Cup - www.CCCup.net

For questions on these or anything racing, please don't hesitate to contact me!

This year's Southern Bay Racing Schedule is posted on the lower right hand corner of our homepage: www.broadbaysailing.org .

Little Creek Sailing Association Wednesday Races – Randy Goodman:

lcsa@broadbaysailing.org

Join the Little Creek Sailing Association Facebook site at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/250807138384289/>

Date (Series/Race)	Spinnaker Winner	NS-1 Winner	NS-2 Winner
April 2 (1/1)	Shock Full O' Nuts	Virginia Lee	Coeur D' Alene
April 9 (1/2)	Shock Full O' Nuts	Black Widow	Voila
April 16 (1/3)	Race Cancelled		
April 23 (1/4)	Cymru	Black Widow	Coeur D' Alene
April 30 (1/5)	Race Cancelled		

Willoughby Racers Thursday Races – Rick Perkins:

willoughbyracers@broadbaysailing.org

Check our website <http://www.broadbaysailing.org/racing/willoughby.asp> and our Willoughby Racers Facebook page for updates and more information.

Date (Series/Race)	Spinnaker Winner	NS-1 Winner	NS-2 Winner
April 3 (Spring/1)	Rebecca J	Melantho II	Oh Sheet
April 10 (Spring/2)	Jammin'	Puff Card	Irie
April 17 (Spring/3)	Special K	Puff Card	Oh Sheet
April 24 (Spring/4)	Special K	Blue Ghost	Oh Sheet
May 1 (Spring/5)	No Race		

PHRF and CBYRA News – Randy Pugh:

Sat. April 26 we had a very interesting meeting at the HYC. The president of CBYRA, Penny Zahn, came down as part of the reorganization that is going on within the organization. Approximately 25 people attended and had a great discussion on what needs to happen with CBYRA. The org. is 100 years old this year and was "Founded by Sailors for Sailors" and in recent years has not kept that motto or true meaning of what the org. was started for. CBYRA wants to be partner to all Sailors and not just an org. that sits in Annapolis and schedules big boat racing in the upper bay runs a Jr. program and gives out sail numbers. This is going to change. It will take some time but the Ex. Committee is working hard and with meetings of this type with input from the sailors, big boat, 1 Design, & juniors it will happen for racers & cruisers.



SOUTHERN BAY RACE WEEK FOR THE BLACK SEAL CUP

Racers' Updates and special SBRW Moolah \$\$\$ Savings:

- The SBRW 2014 fleet continues to build and you can see all the entries as well as a preliminary scratch sheet and more at YachtScoring.com. Just click on <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=981> and you are there!
- SBRW coincides with one of the best festivals on the east coast, the **Blackbeard Pirate Festival**. Lots of fun for family, friends, and swashbucklers, too. Click on <http://www.hampton.gov/index.aspx?nid=2008> for all the details.
- Boats and/or skippers returning from SBRW 2013 may take advantage of the **\$25 Loyalty Discount sponsored by OLD POINT NATIONAL BANK**. Just deduct it from your entry fee.
- **Additional \$SAVINGS\$:**
 - **SBRW Apparel and Gear is offered by CORAL REEF SAILING APPAREL**. You may deduct 10% off your order **IF** you order by May 12th. Click on <http://www.coralreefsailing.com/index.php/catalog/category/view/s/southern-bay-race-week-2014/id/1271/?store=sbrw> to shop and order.
 - **CROWNE PLAZA MARINA HOTEL** within easy walk of regatta headquarters offers SBRW racers a special \$119 base rate + taxes and fees per night along with FREE PARKING and Wi-Fi. Click on www.hamptonmarinahotel.com, enter Group Code SBR. Make your resses early as the rooms are going fast. The special rate expires after May 1, 2014. To make resses by phone - call Reservations Manager Jamie House at 757-727-8918.
 - Hampton Yacht Club, regatta headquarters host, will have **some slip and T-head space available at \$0.75 per ft for visiting competitor boats** – reservations for available slips will be on first come first served basis. Competitors who are doing the Down the Bay Race and staying to do SBRW will be given priority. Confirmation of a slip reservation will not be possible until HYC knows what slips will be available during the event. **Rafting (FREE) will be available**. For details and to get on the reservations request list, please contact HYC at (757) 722-0711 or Event Dockage Chairman, Phil Briggs at (757) 723-5477.

Y'ALL COME RACING!



SOUTHERN BAY RACE WEEK

May 30, May 31, & June 1, 2014

Hampton, Virginia



- **AS ALWAYS!** SBRW Southern Hospitality where the Racers are the Top Priority - 3 Days of Great Racing and 4 Nights of Great Parties!
- **BEST BANG ON THE BAY FOR YOUR RACING BUK\$!**
ENTRY - \$160 USSA members, \$165 non-USSA members, \$99 Cruising Fleet - Cruising racing on Saturday and Sunday only. **\$25 OLD POINT NATIONAL BANK LOYALTY DISCOUNT** for all returning SBRW 2013 boats.
- **NEW! ON-LINE ENTRY available at**
<http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=981> as well as paper entry form.
- Check-in and Welcome Party - Thursday evening, May 29th, at SBRW Regatta Headquarters, Hampton Yacht Club, Hampton, VA;
- **Racing on a different venue in a different format each day for PHRF Spinnaker Classes A, B, C, PHRF Non-Spin (double headsail allowed), One-Design classes, and Cruising;**
- Morning breakfast buffets and carry aboard lunches available at HYC;
- **PHOTOBOAT** will be on the course photographing the action;
- **SBRW gear - CORAL REEF SAILING APPAREL** on-line option means racers can order regatta gear in advance **ON-LINE** or purchase at the regatta; use **10% discount code EARLYSB** if ordering by May 12th.
- **BOAT of the DAY** recognition and daily fleet awards each night;
- **BLACK SEAL CUP** presented to overall winner of the regatta;
- Awards, entertainment, shirts, vendors, food, drink, and more each night;
- Reasonably priced food selections under the regatta tent or in HYC lounge

Y'ALL Come Racin'!

SBRW Event Chairman: Jack Pope, Principal Race Officer: John McCarthy
For info: Lin McCarthy, (757) 850-4225 mcbear@earthlink.net or www.yachtscoring.com

CRUISING NEWS

Bev Borberg, bevborberg@yahoo.com, or cruising@broadbaysailing.org, or 460 1051

Cinco de Mayo Kick off cruise was a great success. There were about 30 people at the party and Jim's Goombay Smash was a smashing success again. The weather was spectacular, so let the future cruising fun begin!

Our next fun cruise will be the following, please come and join in the festivities:

May 17 – 18 Cape Charles City Marina: Andy and Carmen Spittler will sponsor this.

Andrew.spittler@gmail.com, 757 581 2082 Bloody Marys/Crabby Blues Festival/Cape Charles Town Harbor Cruise.

A block of slips are being held in the name of BBSA for Saturday Evening, 17 May 2014. Please call the Harbor Office (757.331.2357) to make your own reservation. The only web link I found for Cape Charles Town Harbor was on Face Book. <https://www.facebook.com/capecharlestownharbor/>

Jack Mitchell made reservations for Friday and Saturday, if anyone wants to go up early and is looking for other BBSA members.

Saturday 17 May 2014 03:00-08:00 PM

The Crabby Blues Festival. <http://www.crabbyblues.com/>. There is an entry fee.

Saturday 17 May 2014, 05:00 PM

Let's try for a BYOB and snacks to share event prior to dinner.

Saturday 17 May 2014, 06:30 PM

Dinner at Kelly's Gingernut Pub. <http://kellysgingernutpub.com/>. Let me know if you are interested and I will call to see about reservations.

Sunday 18 May 2014, 09:00 AM

A pre-underway Bloody Mary bar will be provided by Coriolis. Perhaps we will follow up with a jaunt to the Cape Charles Coffee House <http://www.capecharlescoffeehouse.com/> for breakfast. Keep in mind you don't want to be in a hurry, they are packed Sunday mornings.

Sunday 18 May 2014, TBD

Underway

Andy and Carmen Spittler

s/v Coriolis

May 24 – 26, Memorial Day weekend – Bucky Harrison and Leslie, cell [757 630 5121](tel:7576305121).

Saturday we will go to Roy and Irene Weiset's dock. Their dock holds about four boats, but there is plenty of anchor room. Approximate coordinates for their place on the East River are 37 24.5 76 20.65.

There are two options for Saturday evening. One is to have cocktails on someone's boat or on the pier and then eat onboard.

The other option is to attend a Rondell performance at Donk's country and western venue in Matthews (See the flyer on page 11). Donk will pick us up and reserve seats, the price is \$15 per person. Hopefully depending probably how many people are going Donk will pick us up at the Weisert's dock. If not, we may possibly have to dingy to a close by pick up place. Bucky would like to know **by this Wednesday** if you plan to attend. We apologize for such short notice, but Bucky just found out about this. Some from fleet 30 will be attending.

Sunday we will have Happy Hour and then barbeque on their porch. Bring your drinks, main dish, a dish to share, plates, and silverware.

If anyone has any games or fun ideas for this week end, please bring them along.

Also attached on page ___ is a flyer for a Memorial Day Cruise that Fleet 30 is sponsoring and that Bucky Harrison wanted me to let you know about. They are also going to be anchoring in Mobjack Bay on Saturday. Part of the trip includes an evening at Donk's Theater in Mathews County that is having a concert featuring members of Bill Deal's original Rhondells. This involves transportation from shore to

the theater (that is firmly landlocked). If you would like to participate in this trip, please contact Bucky at sail420lat@yahoo.com or cell 757 630 5121 **by this Wednesday** so that transportation can be arranged.

Secretary's Note: In the flyer there is a picture with a description that says "beautiful downtown Mathews." Having been to Mathews I do not recall there being any hills or mountains. So while that maybe a picture of "beautiful downtown Mathews," I am pretty sure it is not the one we will be going to on the Memorial Day cruise.

May 31 – June 1 – Hampton Pirates' Festival raft up. Capt. John Scott will sponsor this. Hampton Pirates' Festival raft up. Sounds like fun; it will be a combined Old Point Comfort Yacht Club and BBSA cruise. Cocktails on Summer Wine at 5:00 and dinner at Marker 20. There are two dingy docks along the city docks, one by the bridge and one by the dock masters building. You can contact Capt. John by cell 757 729 1990 or on his boat Summer Wine or flyingblueeyes@hotmail.com

Details of the two week cruise are on pages 12 and 13.

Capt. John Scott has an alternate cruise for the two week cruise for those who can't take that much time off. **The cruise is from June 26 to July 5.** There will be sailors from Fleet 30, Old Point Comfort Yacht Club and BBSA. All will be meeting up with the two week cruise sailors at Good Luck Cellars Winery.

Leaving Little Creek June 26 th to Cape Charles	23 miles	http://www.capecharles.org/
June 27 th to Onancock	39 miles	http://www.onancock.org/
June 28 th to Crisfield	24 miles	http://www.cityofcrisfield-md.gov/
June 29 to Tangier Island	13 miles	http://www.tangierisland-va.com/
June 30 th ??	We can relax and stay an extra day at any of these towns	
July 1 st to Indian creek	20 miles.	Visit the Good Luck Cellars winery with BBSA
July 2 nd Indian creek	0 miles	Chesapeake boat basin http://www.kilmarnockva.com/
July 3	3 options	
	Fishing Bay with fleet 30	16 miles
	Sarah's Creek with OPCYC	39 miles
	or Cape Charles	33 miles
July 5 th /6 th	home	

Please let me know if anyone is interested in going with us because there is a RSVP for the winery. I will know soon how much it cost. Went a couple years ago with BBSA and they did a dinner spread (bbq) and a wine tasting and I want to say it cost about 15 dollars per person.

All those are interested in accompanying me I would like to plan a time to get together before hand and discuss the details and make any changes that we need and share info on things to do to make best of our time in each location Thank you and I look forward to spending time with everyone. I also want to thank BBSA, OPCYC and FLEET 30 for their cooperation and interest.

Capt John

Summer Wine

flyingblueeyes@hotmail.com 757-729-1990

July 12 – 13, Waterside: Tides baseball game, Capt. John Scott is sponsor

July 26 – 27, Cape Charles City Marina: John and Mary Bergman sponsors

August 9 – 10, Warwick Yacht Club: Frits and Sancy Isham sponsoring

August 16 – 17: Cape Charles race

August 30 – Sept 1: Susan and Jim Currie and Doug and Judy Rose will sponsor this. Details will follow.

Sept. 2 – 5, Dinner cruise: This will be going only to marinas and having dinner out. Sergio, Jim and Bev will coordinate this.

Sept. 6 – 7 Hampton Bay Days

Sept. 13 – 14, Back River: Ronda and Karl Shulenburg will sponsor a raft up.

Sept. 19 – 21, Yorktown: Lemoine and Chip Jones will sponsor.

October 3 – 4, Smithfield: Sergio Diehl will sponsor.

I have asked all sponsors to give me the information about their cruise so that it can be put in the Banter and then I would like a write up after the cruise to put in the Banter. I always want people to know what good times they are missing.

Thank you to the ones who came to the meeting, it was really fun. Let me know if I need to make any corrections to this information. I am writing this after the party and I have had plenty of good food and wine!

Memorial Day Weekend Cruise

Join us for the long weekend in Mobjack Bay. This will prove to be a memorable trip! Mi Vida will be Cruise Captain for this trip.

We have something special planned for Saturday night so be sure to be at the anchorage early.



Above you see a beautiful shot of downtown Mathews.

Saturday May 24

We anchor in the East River, and make sure that you have your dinghy motors ready because Arlene and Pat Connelly have arranged to have us picked up for a Saturday night show at Donk's. On Stage that night will be Bill Deal's original Rhondells. Tickets will be \$15 and we need to know how many people will be going so that transportation will be arranged. Please RSVP as soon as possible. You can let me know at ariel1@msn.com and I will collect the numbers.

Sunday May 25

We will check the winds and determine our next destination. Usually we go to The Severn River and either anchor or tie up at the Marina there. If that is our preference then we can hold a little party there and have appetizers and a dish to share. Let me know your preferences when you RSVP.

Monday May 26

We head home and of course the sun will always shine on Fleet 30 and the winds will be fair.



Stephen Lapinel
Mi Vida
Ariel1@msn.com

BBSA 2-Week Summer Cruise June 21 through July 6 – Sergio Diehl sergio.diehl@cox.net:

The weather is getting warmer and we are getting closer to the two week cruise. To date we have 14 Boats confirmed for at least some part of the cruise, which might be the most we have had in a long time and there are still others yet that might commit.

A few reminders:

1. I am attaching the latest schedule, which I believe you already have, and as a reminder for each individual Boat to call the marinas and make your individual reservations (with the exception of Indian River Yacht and Country Club which I will take care of). Please remember to tell each marina that you are part of the BBSA Group and they will endeavor to assign us slips as a group.
2. Please note that a Sailstice cruise has been organized in our area of which a few of us plan to participate, catching up with the cruise in Reedville or beyond. If you are also interested in joining this part of the cruise, please go to the Sailstice web site, www.summersailstice.com and sign up with the Hampton Yacht Club group, which also includes a contact e-mail for Mary at marygreblunas@yahoo.com who is the organizer.
3. In the schedule I have listed a number of restaurants for the nights that we are in a marina, and even some anchorages. I have not made any of these reservations yet and would welcome any comments or ideas for other locales, or whether you would prefer to just do a group BBQ or Picnic. If there is a volunteer within the group who would like to take on the responsibility for Restaurants I would very much appreciate it.

Time to get underway,

Sergio

S/V Modus Vivendi

MMSI #338115849

1417 Shoveller Ave

Virginia Beach, Va, 23454 [\(757\) 635-1846](tel:(757)635-1846)

The Cruise Schedule is as follows:

Day	Date	Day	Mileage	Where		Mooring	Contact	Phone #	Dinner	Miscellaneous	Reservation	
Summer Sailstice Option												
	18-Jun	Wednesday		Hampton Yacht Club								
	19-Jun	Thursday		??		Anchor			Progressive Dinner			
	20-Jun	Friday		Indian Creek	Indian Creek	Marina			ICY&CC			
	21-Jun	Saturday		Fleets Bay		Anchor			On the Beach	Bonfire on the Beach		
BBSA 2-Week Cruise												
1	21-Jun	Saturday	41	Jackson Creek		Anchor						
2	22-Jun	Sunday	22	Great Wicomico	Cockrell Creek	Anchor			Crazy Crab			
3	23-Jun	Monday	29	West Yecomico River		Port Kinsale Marina	Marina	Dory	(804) 472-2044	Moorings Restaurant	dnair@portkinsale.com	8
4	24-Jun	Tuesday	13	St Mary's River	Carthagenia Creek	Anchor					St. Mary's College & St Mary's City	
5	25-Jun	Wednesday	5	St Mary's River	Carthagenia Creek	Dennis Point Marina	Marina	Art	(301) 994-2288	BBQ		8
6	26-Jun	Thursday	23	Nomini Creek		Anchor						
7	27-Jun	Friday	7	St Clements Island		Anchor					There is a dock which the guide mentions you can tie up to.	
8	28-Jun	Saturday	10	Herring Creek	Tall Timbers Cove	Tall Timbers Marina	Marina	Rick	(301) 994-1508	Reluctant Navigator	Stay North of Center in the Channel/ Piney Pt. Lighthouse	8
9	29-Jun	Sunday	15	Glebe River	Vic Cherry Pt. Neck	Anchor						
10	30-Jun	Monday	31	Great Wicomico	Barrett Creek	Anchor			Horn Harbor		Some may want to tie up at the Restaurant	
11	1-Jul	Tuesday	18	Indian Creek	Kilmarnock	Chesapeake Boat Basin	Marina		(804) 436-1234	Dinner @ Winery	Good Luck Cellars	8
12	2-Jul	Wednesday	3	Indian Creek	Indian Creek	ICY&CC	Marina			ICY&CC		8
13	3-Jul	Thursday	36	Carters Creek	Irvington	Tides Inn	Marina	Stormy	(804) 438-4418			
14	4-Jul	Friday	0	Carters Creek	Irvington	Tides Inn	Marina					
15	5-Jul	Saturday	11	Broad Creek	Deltaville	Dozier's Regatta Point	Marina		(804) 776-6711	BBQ		8
16	6-Jul	Sunday	43	Home								

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Sergio Diehl, membership@broadbaysailing.org

Sunshine Chair News – Kathie Roberts, chassail@infoonline.net

As BBSA's Sunshine Chairman, my responsibility is to convey congratulations, sympathy, condolences, get-well wishes, etc. to members or their close relatives when the occasion arises. I am happy to do this, but I need the help of all the membership for this to be effective. So, if you hear of someone in need of any of the above, please let me know. You can reach me at (757) 497-5783 or e-mail chassail@infoonline.net. Many thanks for your assistance.

Ship's Store News – Bev Borberg, 757 460 1051, bevborberg@yahoo.com

I will have burgees with me at the next meeting. So do check and see if you need a new one. The price is \$20. If you want a cap or shirt with BBSA logo and ship's name embroidered on it, contact Sean Myers, kila2351@yahoo.com. Tell him Bev suggested it. He does a good job.

BoatU.S. Membership:

BBSA Membership Group ID for BoatU.S. Insurance: **GA81617S**

BBSA members who have their boat insurance with BoatU.S. should be sure they are getting the 50% annual BoatU.S membership discount by using the BBSA Group ID number, GA81617S. If you are not a BoatU.S. member but would like to obtain an application or find out the benefits of a BoatU.S. membership, you may contact Membership Services at 1-800-395-2628 or www.boatus.com for a BoatU.S. Membership application. Those joining for the first time can also receive a 50% discount by mentioning our Cooperating Group ID number GA81617S.

Boat for sale: Independence

Graham Field is selling his boat, Independence, for **\$14,000**. She is an Islander 36. More information appeared in the November and December banter. If you would like to see it again, please contact me (Karl Shulenburg) at the editor email address on the Membership page and I will send it to you. You can also contact Graham at lgrahamfield@gmail.com or 488-3931.

Boat for Sale:

1984 Catalina 25' with 2005 Yamaha 9.9 four stroke. Boat and motor in good condition. New mainsail in 2009. New toilet and holding tank installed in 2012. Cabin cushion reupholstered 2008. Garmin Chart Plotter. Really needs to be seen to be appreciated. \$7,000. Call Dave Miller 481-7249. Docked at Bay Point slip E-16.



Banter Submissions:

Email BBSA Secretary Karl Shulenburg at editor@broadbaysailing.org or karl.shulenburg@gmail.com, or call (757)374-6034.

The Last Installment of the Currie's Caribbean Adventure

The most used piece of equipment when cruising the islands is the dinghy or dink and there lies many stories. Our dinghy is relatively small and can be rolled up and stowed in the forward deck locker for the offshore journeys. However, it appears that nowadays bigger is better, notwithstanding the fact that dinghy docks remain the same size. The center console ribs are the biggest menace as they take up all the space at the docks and when they want a space they just fire up the engines and scatter the dinghies already tied up. Even worse is the waves they produce when they are careering around the anchorage. You would think the Queen Mary had arrived by the size of the waves and swell they produce. On a couple of occasions our dinghy has attempted to join us in the cockpit during cocktail hour. Just recently we were dinghying in from Caneel Bay to Cruz Bay in St John's when a rib going in the opposite direction and making no attempt to slow down almost swamped us. We had to sit out in the sun for quite a while to dry our clothes before we could go shopping for supplies.

In St John's the National Park Service installed white floats around certain beaches to restrict boats from coming too close to swimmers. But what is a boat? Ribs that can seat 6 passengers and are at least 20 feet in length behave as if they are dinghies and proceed into the restricted zone. Small motor cruisers also do the same.

There is also a peculiar mentality that affects some sailors when they are approaching a mooring field. We usually progress in at a reasonable speed but every man and his dog must overtake us in an attempt to grab the best location. It is just as well that most of them are not real sailors as they are mentally challenged when identifying the best locations as they take no cognizance of the direction of swell, what time the high speed ferries start and stop and where the breeze is best. When we were approaching Sopers Hole on Tortola, which is always crowded and few mooring balls available, a sail boat under power decided that he was going to beat us in no matter what. Firstly a small sailing dinghy capsized in front of us and I took avoiding action. The other boat, going at about 7 kts did not change course and gave the dinghy sailor quite a scare. Next a yacht under sail was going to cross our path, again I took avoiding action but the other boat keep going and narrowly missed the bow of the sailing yacht. At this point I slowed right down and when I arrived in harbour the other yacht was still trying to find a free mooring buoy. I took a quick look around and decided to proceed to another less crowded bay.

Whatever became of common decency?

Although we were disappointed not to go further south in our travels we took the opportunity of walking all the paths in St John's. Susan "the mountain goat" as she is affectionally known is up for any adventure and conquered all that St John' had to offer.

The weather for late February and March was spectacular. No high winds and no rain to speak of. This has meant no restrictions on where we can sail but we had already made the decision to limit our travels to the confines of the Virgin Islands. Rather than go from one location to another we decided to stay longer in one location and do some day sails. This meant we sailed to areas we did not know and see areas we knew from a different perspective. Time was now running out and we sailed to Crown Bay Marina in St Thomas to start the journey home. Susan flew back to Norfolk and the crew arrived to assist me take the boat back.

The plan was to sail to Georgetown in Great Exuma and then north to Norfolk. The first part of the plan worked well. The wind was generally from the East at around 20-25 kts which meant a broad reach. Four and a half days later and over 700 nm we sailed into Georgetown. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and a violent thunderstorm coincided with our arrival. It was Easter Sunday and the fuel dock was closed and the store was only opened in the morning. We anchored and then when the sun

appeared went ashore to a local beach bar. The next day we planned to go into the town dock for fuel and supplies but it was Bank Holiday Monday and everything was closed. I should have known better coming from the UK. The wind was now coming from the NW exactly the direction we wanted to go. The fuel dock at the Sandals resort at Emerald Bay was open but it was 8 miles to the north. Motoring against the head wind it took us 3 hrs to the destination and a further 1 hr to fuel up. We now decided to head for West End in Grand Bahamas and then join the Gulf Stream up past Florida. The distance was 120nm and we had to motor all the way against the wind. We past through Exuma Sound up to the Douglas Channel the next morning which is a shallow area littered with coral heads. The visibility was great and the coral heads were easily observed in the green turquoise water and for the next 3 hrs we zig zagged across the channel avoiding the coral. Just after this I witnessed a fish dance. A Ballyhoo appeared beside the boat and raised out of the water and using its tail it danced backwards for quite a distance. This appears to be quite a common sight but this is the first and only one I have ever observed. The wind slowly increased and we had to put the engine under full power to make reasonable progress. The next morning I mentioned that it was about time we topped-up the main fuel tank from the 4 x 5 gal containers on deck. This warning went unheeded and 1 hr later the engine spluttered to a halt. After bleeding some air and adding more fuel we sailed on to our destination. It was evident however that we were not going to reach West End before nightfall and therefore the fuel dock would be closed. We decided to try a closer destination Knowles Marina. The inlet was very narrow between coral heads and a breakwater and although the chart showed 6 feet we ran aground at one of the first channel markers. The depths in front of us looked very shallow and discretion being the better part of valor we decided to give it a miss. We finally fueled at Lucaya Marina further down the coast. We headed towards Florida first passing what is described as cruise ship alley. The number of cruise ships was unimaginable with all their lights giving the impression of numerous inhabited islands. Trying to figure out their navigation lights and which direction they were traveling was a mystery.

We hit the Gulf Stream at around 12:00AM on Thursday the 24th and there was no wind and glassy seas but our speed increased from 4 kts to around 6 kts. We also saw many dolphins and a pilot whale. By the 25th the wind increased to 20-25 kts from the SSW and we were averaging 9 kts. Our top speed was just over 11 kts. Time was of the essence as we knew a storm was heading for Hatteras on the Saturday night and we were hoping to reach Beaufort before that time. On Saturday morning our luck ran out as did the wind. We now had a northerly in our face at around 20 kts and our speed was about 2 kts. Wilmington now looked a better option. Then our luck changed. The wind veered to the NE and we could now sail to Wrightsville Beach on what was a perfectly nice spring day. It was now late Saturday afternoon and unbeknown to us

tornados were beginning to cause widespread destruction on the NE coast of North Carolina. We were not particularly worried when we saw a very dark cloud approach us as we had already experienced thunder and lightning storms the previous night. However as it approached a waterspout suddenly appeared and headed in the general direction of the yacht but fell apart after 2 mins. Then one appeared behind the boat much closer and more menacing. As we watched this one a very large one come from the opposite direction barreling towards us. We tried to take evasive action and only when it was about 100 yds from the boat did it change direction and fell apart. I have no idea what damage a waterspout can inflict on a boat but I am very happy not to have found out. A close shave. We made it into Wrightsville at dusk and docked at the marina fuel dock.

The intention was to continue up the ICW on the Sunday to Beaufort and then head out around Hatteras if the weather permitted. The main stumbling block was the height of Sea Doc's mast. It was recorded as 64ft and the bridges on the ICW have a height of 65 ft with one bridge at 64 ft. I had reviewed all the

data provided by the boat manufacturer and converting all the metric measurements to imperial had come to the conclusion that the mast was 63 ft with a tricolor light on top of about 9ins. There is also an antenna of approx 3 feet on top. This does not provide much margin for error. We decided to give it a try. The first fixed bridge we met was showing about 64 ft 9 ins height because of the water level. We approached the bridge with trepidation as we had no idea if we would be stuck under it if the measurements were out by even the smallest margin. As we motored under it there was a load rat-a-tat-tat as the antenna rattled the girders supporting the roadway, but we were through. The next bridge showed a height of 65 ft 6ins and we motored under it without any mishap. We approached the 3rd bridge (Morehead City/Atlantic Beach) only to find a torrent of tide running under the bridge and a height of 62 feet. This was a no brainer. We anchored in front of the bridge and waited till midnight for low tide. Using a spot light we approached the bridge in the dark to find a height of 65 ft 6ins and breezed on under it to the Beaufort City Docks. The weather forecast for the next week negated an outside passage so I parted company with the crew and waited for Susan to come down and help me take the boat up the remainder of the ICW. The last major obstacle was the 64 ft bridge at Wilkerson Creek which we had planned to negotiate at low tide. In this part of the ICW tide plays no significant role and wind blown water is the major contributor. As we approached the bridge which showed a height of 64 ft we asked all other boats to give us free passage to ensure no waves. The antenna struck the bridge with a loud thud but we emerged the other side unscathed and no damage. Apart from hitting some underwater logs and overhead branches in the Dismal Swamp canal the remainder of the journey was relaxing and uneventful. We had a great 3 days bringing the boat back to Norfolk and returning safely to the same slip we left 6 months previously. A very rewarding 6 months in the sun.

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