

SEPTEMBER 2025

UPPER BAY *Boating* MAGAZINE

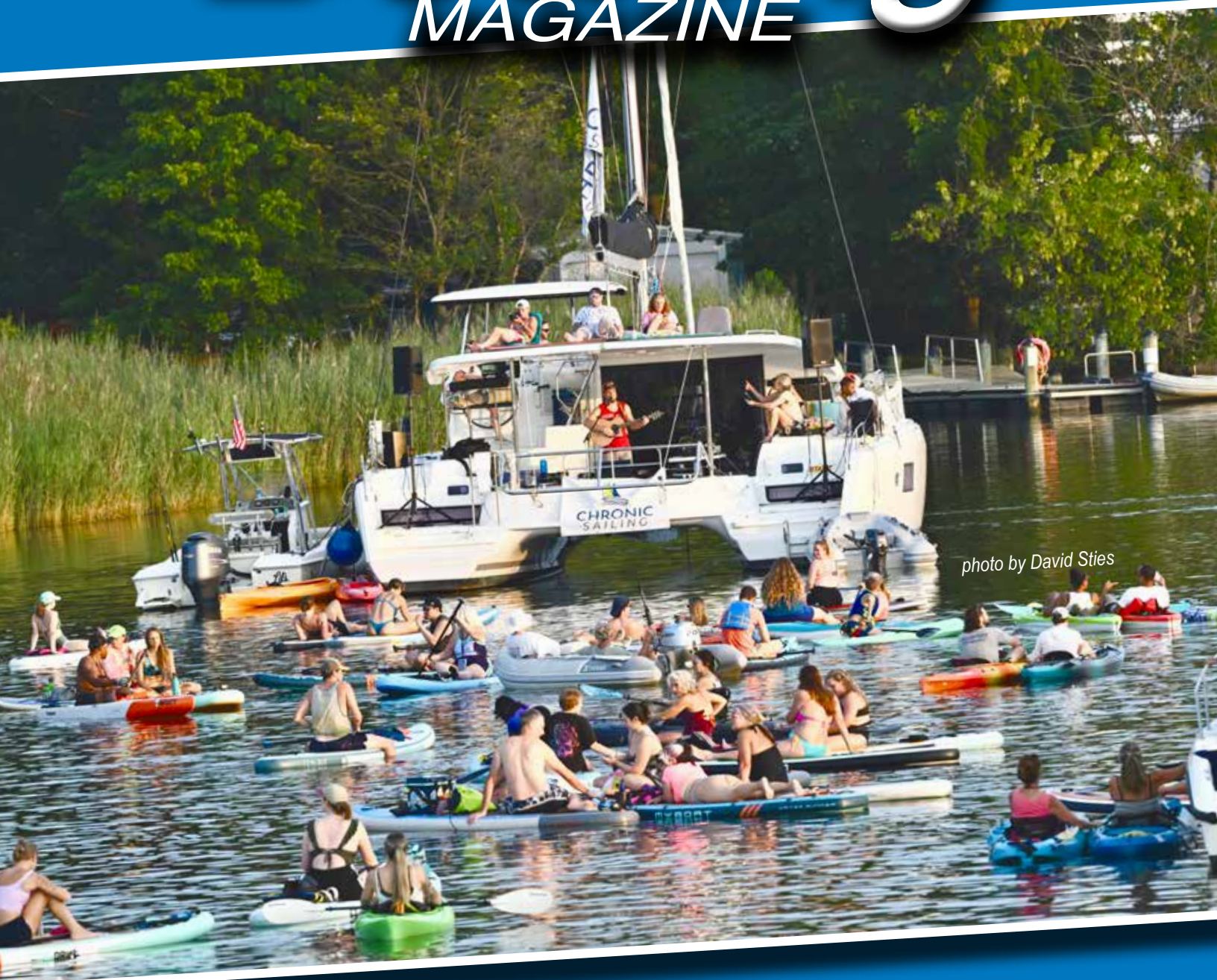


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UPPER BAY Boating MAGAZINE



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Marinating with Jim High

Welcome, Pussers Landing, now in Baltimore at Lighthouse Point, less than one year after leaving Annapolis.

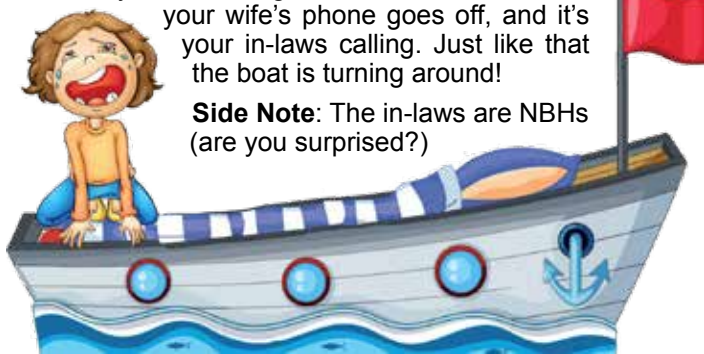


The Sublime Boating Moment Gone Wrong

The family is all together! The boat fires up just fine! The coolers are full, the subs are safe, and the chips are crisp! The water is calm, and the weather is 85 degrees. You are heading down the Bohemia River for a cruise up the C and D Canal... when you hear the loudest sound ever, coming from the stern of the boat!!! You recognize it immediately... not an alarm... not a bilge fire... not a blown engine or hole in the power head! Nope, it's your six-year-old daughter screaming because she had forgotten her IPAD! When she says it, another issue injects! And you soon discover that

your son forgot his Android! And then your wife's phone goes off, and it's your in-laws calling. Just like that the boat is turning around!

Side Note: The in-laws are NBHs (are you surprised?)



Captain Jimmy's Nautical Suggestion for September Never forget Red, Right, Returning. Here's a better way to think about it: Red is on your right whenever you are going upstream.

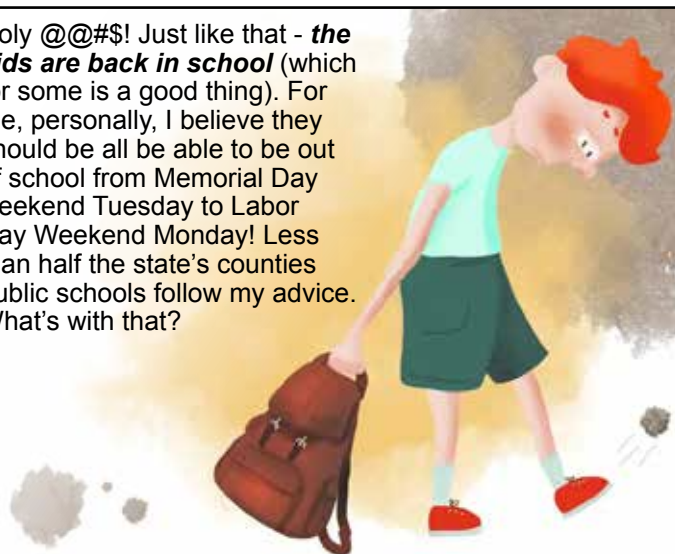
When going upstream, the numbers count up. When going downstream, the numbers count down. If your marker is 1 or 2,

you have just entered a new upstream river, creek, canal, etc.



Swimming in the Inner Harbor? This past July, there was a huge event going on in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. I've swum in the Inner Harbor. I dove in the Inner Harbor three times. Once for a pair of Ray Bans, again for a friend's Rolex, and a third time because I was stupid and fell in! The water at Baltimore's Inner Harbor is not swimmable for the most part. There's a lot of trash and soluble materials, but the visibility can be quite clear – sometimes up to 10 to 12 feet. The problem that never seems to be reported is that the second we have rain, a storm, or gully washer... THE WATER IS HORRIBLE! But that's okay because the PAIN KILLERS at PUSSERS are awesome!

Holy @@@\$! Just like that - **the kids are back in school** (which for some is a good thing). For me, personally, I believe they should be all be able to be out of school from Memorial Day weekend Tuesday to Labor Day Weekend Monday! Less than half the state's counties public schools follow my advice. What's with that?



WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT don't be scared... There is still plenty left to this year's boating season! Some of the very best boating, not too hot, not too cold, extra quiet time rafted up without all the big crowds. Now that Labor Day is over, all the amateurs are off the water. The boats are more local, and the tourists are gone! OKAY, who am I fooling? This **SUCKS!** I love Summer and I'm gonna miss the Summer of 2025, but I hope you all had a good one! I'm already planning my trips this winter to Florida.



SEASONAL BEAUTY, BOUNTY AND BASS AWAIT

By Wendy Gilbert Contributing Editor

For some, myself included, September and October are prime months for boating on the Upper Chesapeake Bay - cooler temps, less competition for prime spots, and stunning fall scenery are on the list. We do, however, need to stay sharp for a few shifts ahead:

SEASONAL HAZARDS & CONDITIONS

- **CHANGING WEATHER:** Autumn brings unpredictable winds and sudden cold fronts. Always check forecasts before heading out.
- **SHORTER DAYLIGHT HOURS:** Sunset creeps earlier each week - plan your return to avoid navigating in the dark.
- **FOG FORMATION:** Cooler mornings can bring dense fog, especially near river mouths. Use radar and sound signals when visibility drops.
- **DEBRIS FROM STORMS:** Fall storms may wash logs and branches into the Bay - stay alert, especially near tributaries.
- **WILDLIFE & FISHING ACTIVITY**
- **FALL MIGRATION:** Ex-

pect increased bird activity - ospreys, herons, and waterfowl are on the move.

- **STRIPED BASS SEASON:** Rockfish are active and legal to catch - watch for fishing boats and respect casting zones.

- **REDUCED JELLYFISH:** Sea nettles fade with cooler water, making swimming and anchoring more pleasant.

BOATING TRAFFIC & EVENTS

- **WATERFRONT FESTIVALS:** September and October are packed with events like seafood festivals and boat shows - expect crowded marinas and anchorages.
- **CHARTER ACTIVITY:** Many visitors book fall charters for sightseeing and fishing - give space to larger vessels and tour boats.
- **MILITARY ZONES:** Be aware of restricted areas near Aberdeen Proving Ground - check charts for no-go zones.
- **MAINTENANCE & PREP**
- **WINTERIZATION PLANNING:** Start prepping your boat for off-season storage - schedule haul-outs early to avoid the rush.

- **FUEL DOCK CLOSURES:** Some marinas reduce hours or shut down services after October - call ahead before refueling.

Now then, where to?

These anchorages offer a mix of solitude, natural beauty, and easy access to nearby towns and parks.

These anchorages offer a mix of solitude, natural beauty, and easy access to nearby towns and parks. *Anchorage locations and features:*

Hart-Miller Island:

Location: Near the mouth of Middle River, Baltimore County

Highlights: Sandy beach, birding, bike rentals, restrooms

Fishing Battery Island:

Location: Near Havre de Grace, at the mouth of the Susquehanna River

Highlights: Wildlife refuge, sandy bottom, walkable island

Still Pond:

Location: Eastern Shore, Sassafras River

Highlights: Deep water, protected cove, great for cruisers

Woodland Creek:

Location: Sassafras River

Highlights: Excellent holding, wind protection, quiet spot

Worton Creek:

Location: Eastern Shore

Highlights: Peaceful, great sunsets, avoid west wind

Dobbins Island:

Location: Magothy River

Highlights: Popular raft-up spot, sandy beach, 7-12 ft depth

Eagle's Cove:

Location: North side of Gibson Island, Magothy River

Highlights: Sheltered anchorage, 9-12 ft depth

Black Hole Creek:

Location: Magothy River

Highlights: Quiet anchorage, 7-10 ft depth

Bodkin Creek:

Location: Near Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay junction

Highlights: Easy access, 9 ft. depth

Stoney Creek:

Location: Off the Patapsco River

Highlights: Convenient Location, good shelter

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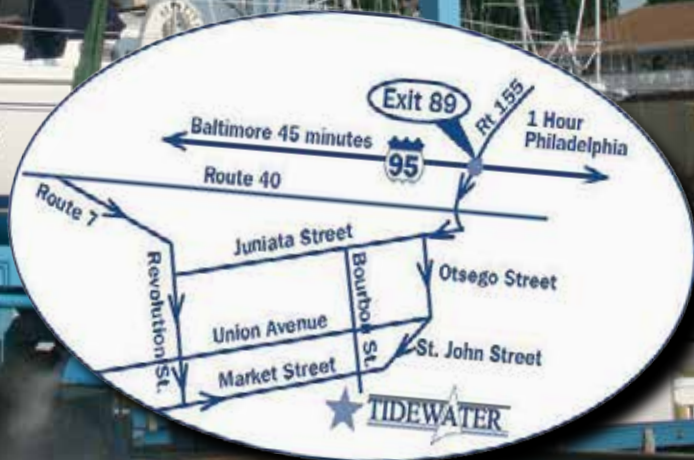
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CURIOSITY

Didn't Kill The Cats

By Wendy Gilbert

Perfect boating weather this summer often led to perfectly long waiting periods at the boat ramp. Not exactly helpful at this stage, I frequently wander the shoreline to wait it out. And it's there I find the carp carcasses, the blue crab claws (sans owner), and half-eaten catfish. They lie there amongst the rocks, rotting in the hot sun. Oh yum.

Ever the curious soul, I asked my new A.I. Guy, whom I call Professor So and So, just how long the myriad inhabitants of my beloved Chesapeake Bay

can expect to live before being permanently beached.

And then I wondered what predator "got" them. Anglers? Invasives? Lions? Oh, no, that's Denmark. I saw a bit on the news this morning about a zoo in that country proposing to feed near-death pet cats and dogs to the lions. I suppose that will cut down on vet bills... But I digress.

Here's what Professor So and So and the Big Book of They had to say on the subject:

BLUE CRAB

Scientific Name: Callinectes sapidus

Local Name: Chesapeake Blue Crab

Average Life Expectancy: 3–4 years

Major Predators: Humans, striped bass, red drum

EASTERN OYSTER

SN: Crassostrea virginica

LN: Bay Oyster

ALE: 10–20 years

MP: Humans, oyster drills, starfish

STRIPED BASS

SN: Morone saxatilis

LN: Rockfish

ALE: 10–30 years

MP: Sharks, humans, seals

ATLANTIC MENHADEN

SN: Brevoortia tyrannus

LN: Bunker, Pogy

ALE: 3–5 years

MP: Ospreys, bluefish, humans

WHITE PERCH

SN: Morone americana

LN: Perch

ALE: 6–10 years

MP: Striped bass, herons, humans

AMERICAN EEL

SN: Anguilla rostrata

LN: Eel

ALE: 15–20 years

MP: Herons, humans, larger fish

SPOT

SN: Leiostomus xanthurus

LN: Norfolk Spot

ALE: 3–5 years

MP: Bluefish, humans, seabirds

ATLANTIC CROAKER

SN: Micropogonias undulatus

LN: Croaker

ALE: 4–8 years

MP: Sharks, humans, larger fish

BLUEFISH

SN: Pomatomus saltatrix

LN: Snapper

ALE: 9–12 years

MP: Sharks, humans, larger bluefish

SUMMER FLOUNDER

SN: Paralichthys dentatus

LN: Fluke

ALE: 12–15 years

MP: Sharks, humans, larger fish

BAY ANCHOVY

SN: Anchoa mitchilli

LN: Anchovy

ALE: 1–2 years

MP: Striped bass, bluefish, seabirds

CHANNEL CATFISH

SN: Ictalurus punctatus

LN: Catfish

ALE: 6–20 years

MP: Humans, otters, larger fish

HOGCHOKER

SN: Trinectes maculatus

LN: Mud Flounder

ALE: 5–7 years

MP: Blue crabs, larger fish, birds

ATLANTIC STURGEON

SN: Acipenser oxyrinchus

LN: Sturgeon

ALE: 60+ years

MP: Humans, sharks (juveniles)

DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN

SN: Malaclemys terrapin

LN: Terrapin

ALE: 25–40 years

MP: Raccoons, humans, foxes

MUMMICHOG

SN: Fundulus heteroclitus

LN: Killifish

ALE: 2–3 years

MP: Birds, larger fish, crabs

SHEEPSHEAD MINNOW

SN: Cyprinodon variegatus

LN: Minnow

ALE: 1–2 years

MP: Birds, larger fish, crabs

HORSESHOE CRAB

SN: Limulus polyphemus

LN: King Crab

ALE: 20–40 years

MP: Sharks, humans, sea turtles

SOFTSHELL CLAM

SN: Mya arenaria

LN: Steamer Clam

ALE: 10–12 years

MP: Humans, crabs, rays

HARD CLAM

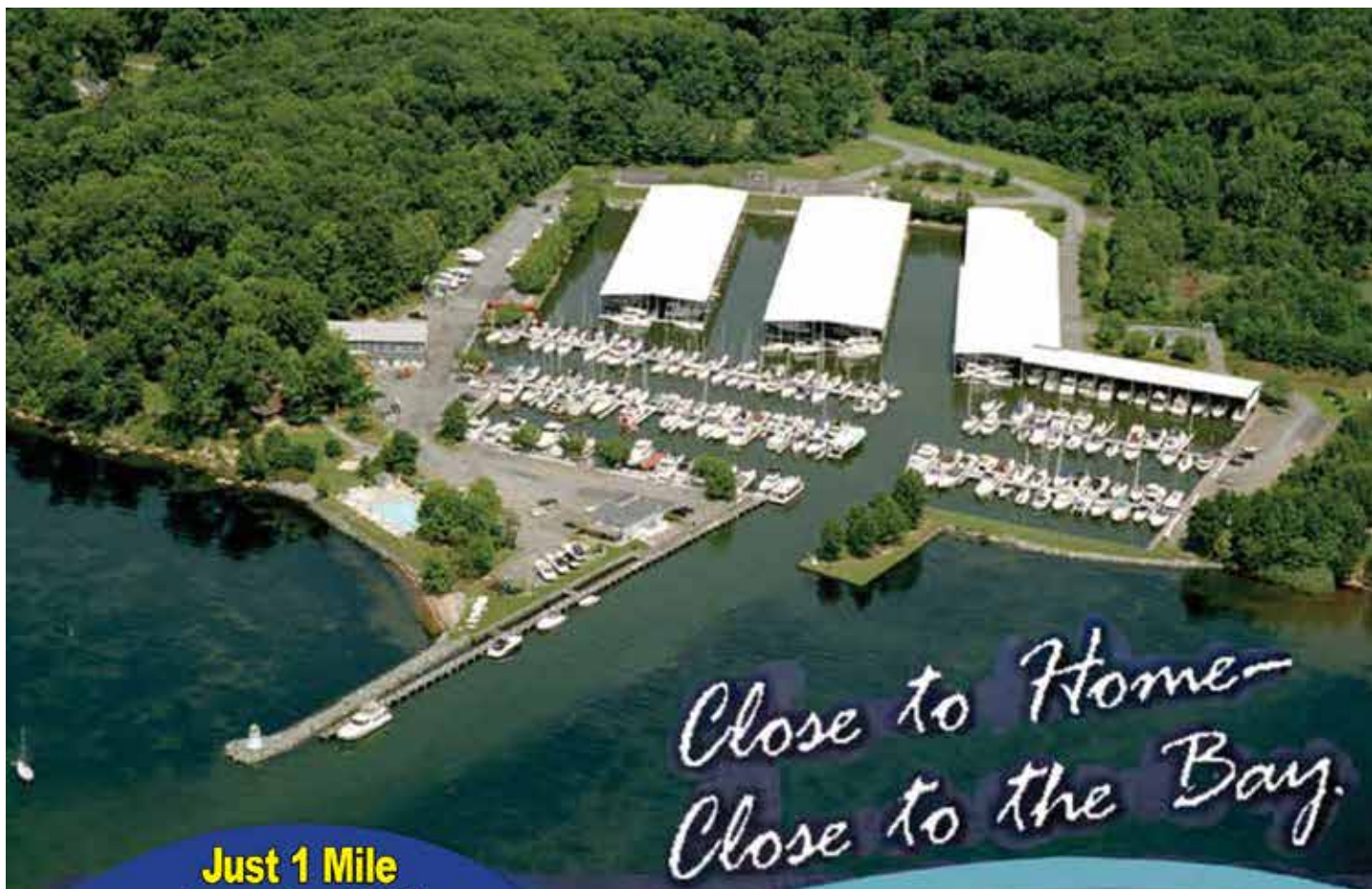
SN: Mercenaria mercenaria

LN: Quahog

ALE: 30–40 years

MP: Humans, crabs, starfish





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Whether in Montana, or the Chesapeake Bay, the Boat Break In process is the same. My fishing buddy “Meatstick” and “Handy Randy” just bought new Lund fishing boats. They were used and in relatively great shape. Together we are figuring out how they work.

If you don’t own your own boat, having Boat Buddies is the way to go. Help in any way you can and be a good crewmember. This

will lead to many trips and fun days on the water, without spending a boatload of money, and time repairing, storing, and cleaning the watercraft.

The other day, Meatstick wanted to hit our local lake and try out his new Lund. It’s only 2 years old and has all kinds of gizmos, gadgets, and goodies on board. Since Meatstick is an early riser, this meant I had to get up before sunrise. When we hit the boat ramp, no one else was even awake yet.

We removed the boat cover, added our gear, and unstrapped the boat. My job was to back the boat down the ramp, with him onboard. I am experienced at the backing up, but Meatstick had yet to practice the launch. He told me where and how deep to back into the slip and used a manual bow release to disconnect

the bow hook. Nothing happened. The boat was running but not sliding off the trailer. He told me to go back deeper when I noticed that the boat, and trailer, were floating. Fortunately, there were no spectators.

Meatstick had forgotten to detach the stern straps.

There was one on each side holding the boat onto the trailer. I drove out of the water and unhooked the straps. Now we were ready for launch test #2. Meatstick smoothly backed the boat off the trailer, and I used the 4wd setting to easily drive off the slippery ramp so I could park the rig.

Everything, new or not, is new to learn. We put our heads together and gradually figured out the electronics, electric motor, trolling kicker, and rod holders. Everything on a new boat from the cover clips, beverage holders,

to the anchor line has a trick to it. You can read directions all day long, watch YouTube videos until your eyes pop out but until it becomes hands on, your new learning will not sink in.

We were prepared to fish but figuring out how to use the electric motor and kicker required some investigation. We put our heads together and gradually figured out the steps needed to troll.

Many of us have owned boats but modern electronics, clips, and controls have dramatically changed. Having a mentor that is experienced with technology, fishery, or rules can be priceless and save time. No one wants to be a Goggin on the water so do your homework before you launch.

**Anchors aweigh!
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GREAT FR^{OGS} Winery

By Kimberly Ann

This month we are going to hop on over (see what I did there ?), to Great Frogs Winery located at 3218 Harness Creek Road in Annapolis. The vineyard is situated on a peninsula surrounded by Harness Creek, Aberdeen Creek, and the South River. And the grounds and views are spectacular.

Originally founded by Don and Barbara Segal and currently owned by Nathanael and Andrea O'Sullivan, the winery is very hands-on in the approach to winemaking. The Segals were recognized for their quality red wines, including "Meritage" and "Powatinika". And the winery has continued this award-winning tradition with many of their wines winning awards over the years.

The "Powatinika" is a dry red blend grown right on the premises and is named after the Red Cross summer camp that was located behind the vineyard. The "Meritage" is a smoky blend with leathery aromas of blackberry and plum, and would go great with a great steak. The "Share the Love Rose" and "Share the Love White" were excellent. The rose has a dry fruity taste, and the white is a crisp white blend. Plus, the

names are awesome. The "All Hands on Deck" and "Full Sail" dessert wines also had cool names and tasted good, too. My chardonnay companion loved the "Estate Chardonnay Reserve".

Great Frogs enjoyed great success in the early days, but a terrible tornado in 2020 almost forced the closure of this great winery. They lost about 400 vines, furniture was destroyed and thrown about, and a corner of the old barn was taken off.

Luckily for us, Great Frogs not only survived but are back to producing their very tasty local wines and thriving.

You can enjoy your tasting inside or outside on the patio; however, for inside seating, reservations are strongly encouraged. Tastings are self-guided, and most guests stay about 2 hours. Cheese, charcuterie, crackers, and non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. If you are going to be seated on the patio, you can bring outside food, but no outside beverages, please.

The patio area is open for guests who wish to enjoy a tasting, a bottle, or a glass of wine. There are different events listed on their website at: www.greatfrogs.com/events.

Imagine an evening on the patio listening to great music, sipping great wine, relaxing, or playing corn hole with some friends. Sounds like heaven to me.

A premium tasting runs \$35 per person with 8 decanted wines followed by a glass of your favorite. These are only offered indoors, so get your reservation in. The En Plein Air Tastings are four 3-oz samples of wine per person and cost \$60/per couple.

If you fall in love after your visit, you can become part of the wine club. There are two different levels to the club, but both enjoy wines quarterly, discounts on all purchases, admission to a premium tasting (for 2 people), and admission for two to club parties (4 per year), along with many other benefits. Check it out on their website. You can also find information and event schedules on their Facebook page: Great Frogs Winery.

So, whether you call ahead and make a reservation for indoor seating or just pop on over to the patio for a night out remember to tell them that your friends at **Upper Bay Boating Magazine** sent you.





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Fall Striper LURES

By Tim Sherman

Later this month, fall will be rolling in. This is by far my favorite time of year to chase stripers. With each passing day, air temps become cooler and fish move shallow. Admittedly, I am a target-oriented fisherman, casting to shorelines and shallow submerged structure and cover. I run from spot to spot, deploy the trolling motor, and cast to the areas that I know consistently have stripers.

Knowing where they are is just one part of the puzzle. You have to know what is going to entice them into biting. Through my years of chasing stripers, I have come to rely on a concise set of lures for fishing the shallows – shallow being 10 feet or less, and 10 feet is stretching it. Within this set of lures, there is a variety of colors, and sizes. And in some cases, how you rig a lure or how you tie it on makes a difference.

Let's start with soft plastic baits. I carry both paddle tail swim baits and straight and forked tail flukes (or soft jerkbaits). For the swimbaits, I use several sizes and two body shapes. My choice is predicated on the food source. My paddle tails range in the 3 to 4 ½-inch range. I use both slender and broad profile bodies. Skinny baits such as Zman Minnowz and Lunker City Swimfish resemble silversides and bay anchovies. Wide-body baits such as the original Sassy Shad and Lunker City Shaker, portray shad and perch.

The standard rigging for swim baits is to thread them on a jig head. However, the longer of the slender body lures

– Diesel Minnowz and Swimfish – can be rigged on a weighed widegap worm hook or swing head rig. The lures will have a more natural swimming action when used this way. It's difficult, if not impossible, to rig the broad profile lures this way.

Soft plastic jerkbaits also come into play. I use sizes from 3 ½ to 5 inches. Most often, these are rigged on a jig head and jigged or swum along the bottom. Let's not forget about rigging them as they were originally designed. The larger sizes rigged weightless on a widegap worm hook gives them a slow, injured presentation for an easy meal.

When it comes to colors for soft baits, I keep it simple. Standard hues like albino shad, chartreuse/white, and milky chartreuse are must-have colors. These three will likely catch stripers anywhere in the bay. I will also stock shad pattern baits and pearl with gold and/or silver glitter. It's a matter of which color works on any given day.

A lipless crankbait, or rattle trap as the class of lure is commonly known, is next on my list. I use two sizes and couple of different brands. I've been victim to being outfished by a partner with a ¼-ounce bait when all I had were ½-ouncers. You know I now have both sizes.

There are differences across the brands of rattle traps. Some are slimmer than others. Some have a tinny sound, while others have a thud or knocking sound. The original Rat-L-

Trap is slim and has more of a rattle, while the Booyah Bait Co. One knocker is a bit wider and has a deeper tone. You may have to find which trap works best with size, shape, and rattle. When it comes to colors, I cast natural shad and perch hues. In stained water and/or overcast skies, I cast these same patterns with more of a dulled-down finish.

I never pass up casting topwater lures for stripers in fall. I'll cast them to current-flushed shorelines where stripers lie in ambush. Of course, I also cast them into a feeding melee. I keep two styles on hand, popper, and walkers. Poppers cause more of a commotion as their concave lip throws water as they lurch forward with the twitch of the rod. Surface walking lures work side to side, giving an injured baitfish presentation.

My sizes are 3 to 4 ½-inches. Even aggressive fish can be keyed in on the size of the baitfish and reject a lure that doesn't match the size. Like the rattle traps, I cast mostly natural pattern surface lures. On an overcast outing, I'll likely cast a dull chartreuse color.

Day by day, shallow water striper fishing will improve on the upper bay. Over the years, I have learned to simplify my lure selection. Every day is different, and you may have to find the right size, shape, and color that draws the strike. Once you are dialed in, you'll have an awesome day in the shallows.

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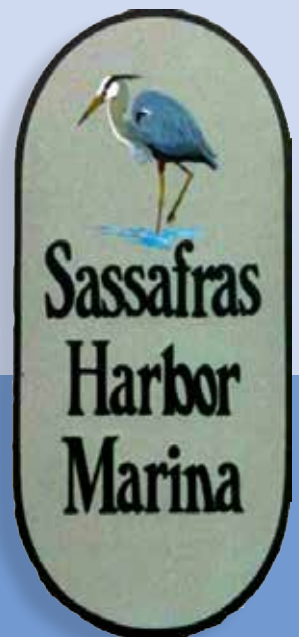
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Bet It Ain't Bait

By Anne Sandbek



Tired of reeling in the big ones? Boat docked for repairs? Is your favorite dock packed? It's time for a new challenge! Trade out the traditional rod and reel for a smaller set of gear and head out to a creek or stream instead.

What's the smallest fish you've ever caught? Not the normal question, but a new twist on the oldest game around. From identifying the species to racking up a life list, microfishing is gaining momentum. This quirky spin on fishing originated in Japan and targets fish that are 4-6 inches, like sculpins or minnows. Although some folks in Japan specialize in Tanago fishing and try to catch fish no bigger than a coin, coming in at only $\frac{3}{4}$ inches! Despite that tiny measuring stick, small fish create a whole new challenge for anglers.

According to a survey conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in May 2025, out of the 921 responses, 25 percent of people

actively microfish. Unsurprisingly, a large majority of respondents want to support conservation efforts with an emphasis on native fish diversity. When the waves are too choppy to take the boat out, micro-fishing is a fun way to explore the diversity of Maryland's small creeks and streams instead.

Rods can be home-made, or you can use a cane pole or a fly rod you already have in the garage. Plus, reels are optional, making it a low-stakes new hobby. As with any hobby, you can get as much gear as you'd like! Tiny hooks (in the 20 to 30 range) and 2-lb test or less line are typically used. Inside tip -- buy pre-threaded hooks! That way, this fishing trip is enjoyable and not filled with knots too tiny to see.

It's advisable to use the most transparent line possible since the little guys can be a bit jumpy! Stealth and gentle casts are key to not spooking them. Fluorocarbon line is a great choice in clear, slow-moving water.

So, what do you use to bait the "bait"? Microbaits, of course! Maggots, wax worms, and even dough are some popular choices. Other tiny gear you may want includes small scissors, needle-nose pliers, and a photo tank. The small pliers make catch and release of the tiny fish easier, and a small photo tank, like a fish tank breeder isolation box, is a good idea to make sure the little guy survives your impromptu photo session.

A few widespread species to get your new "life-list" going are the Blue Ridge Sculpin (*Cottus caeruleomentum*), Blue spotted Sunfish (*Enneacanthus gloriosus*), and Tessellated Darter (*Etheostoma olmstedii*).

Interested in getting started? Check out microfishing.com for tips and leads on tackle. A Maryland fishing license can be purchased at mdoutdoors.maryland.gov. Proceeds of which support the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' conservation programs.





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CHESTER RIVER PACKET COMPANY

By Kimberly Ann



If you are like me, you are probably thinking, just what is a river packet company? Well, the River Packet is a 65-foot classic yacht that offers charter cruises on the scenic Chester River. The River Packet can carry between 35 and 50 guests in a climate-controlled salon, open air forward bow, and upper deck. There is limited seating both indoors and out on the decks.

So, what is a packet boat? These boats were used to transport mail, passengers, and freight up and down smaller rivers across Europe and North America during the 18th and 19th centuries. As they were typically powered by sail or steam, they could navigate the smaller and shallower rivers. This River Packet is not 100 percent representative of all packet boats or this type of vessel, but it is a nice tribute to the era and that class of boats.

The River Packet was built by Scara-no Boat Builders, located in New York.

The vessel actually debuted as the Seneca Chief, navigating the waters of Seneca Lake in upstate New York, then moved to the Florida Keys, South Carolina, and is now located in Chestertown. Once moved to Chestertown, the River Packet was completely refurbished by local craftsmen.

The River Packet provides public cruises from April to November, usually on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. If there are no private cruises scheduled, they may run Saturday/Sunday afternoon public cruises. For an evening cruise, you will spend two hours traveling along the Chester River while enjoying spectacular sunsets over the banks. Food is included in your ticket price, and there is a cash bar available. Saturday afternoon cruises are a 90-minute cruise up and down the Chester River with beverages and a cash bar available. There is a Sunday brunch cruise that is two hours

long, and includes a hearty brunch menu with a cash bar available.

You can check out their website at <https://chesterriverpacketco.com/public-cruises/> for the schedule and to purchase tickets. The cruises are family-friendly, and children's tickets are available. Your cruise will depart from the foot of High Street, and boarding generally begins 15 minutes before sail time.

Looking for a great venue to host a reception or your next corporate meeting? Check out the details of their private cruises. Getting married? The River Packet makes a perfect venue for the ceremony and reception. What could be more beautiful than a wedding cruising along the Chester River?

Whether you book your wedding, a corporate event, a private cruise, or a public cruise, be sure to tell them that your friends at **UPPER BAY BOATING MAGAZINE** sent you.

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Six old codgers in their 90s decide they are going to fish the White Marlin Open. They charter a 1968 38' Viking to take them out to the canyons. They pay their admission to the WMO, gather up all their gear, and head to the WMO a few weeks ago... NOT KNOWING how wrong it was going to GO! The first day out in the canyon, not even a nibble. The second day, not even a bite... Then on the third day of fishing, they land a rather large white marlin worth bringing to the scales. The Old Vi-

king 38 hobbles into Harbor Island Marina. They back up to the scales, and allow the officials to help them with the fish. It is hoisted up into the air, and the officials ask them to stand in front of the 101-pound fish. Finding out they had won the whole tournament, and with all the cameras on them, including the huge Live Cam and Television Cameras, all of a sudden, they look horrified and all six scramble out of sight!!! The MC and announcer states, "They are either very shy or having an affair." The whole incident goes VIRAL on Tik Tok! Come to find out they told their wives they were going to a Coldplay concert and promised they weren't going to go fishing!

UNLUCKY PARACHUTIST

A man is skydiving, enjoying his free-fall, when he realizes that he has reached the altitude where he must open his parachute. So, he pulls on the rip cord, but nothing happens.

"No problem," he says to himself, "I still have my emergency chute." So, he pulls the rip cord on his emergency parachute, and once again, nothing happens.

Now the man begins to panic. "What am I going to do?" he thinks, "I'm a goner!"

Just then, he sees a man flying up from the earth to-

ward him. He can't figure out where this man is coming from, or what he's doing, but he thinks to himself, "Maybe he can help me. If he can't, then I'm done for."

When the man gets close enough to him, the skydiver cups his hands and shouts down, "Hey, do you know anything about parachutes?"

The other man replies, "No! Do you know anything about fueling powerboats?"



An elderly couple walks into a boat dealership. They walk up to their salesperson and tell him they would like the boat they picked out earlier that day. They inform the person that they brought a check for \$75K. The salesman points to a very long-legged young lady across from them and tells the couple he sold it to her. The elderly man says, "but, but, but... that's the one we wanted. You said \$75 was your bottom line, and here is my check!" The salesman looks at the young lady and says, "Sorry folks... but you can't blame me!" The elderly man asks if she got a discount. The salesman says that he did take 10k off for her. Just then, the long-legged, long-haired Barbie-type blonde walks up to the three of them. She hands the elderly couple the boat keys and says, "I love you, Grandpa. Told you he'd fall for it."

A HUSBAND, WIFE, AND A BOAT!

The husband goes to the office of the local Marine Police to report to the sergeant that his wife is missing.

Husband: My wife is missing. She went out on the boat yesterday and has not come home.

Sergeant: What is her height?

Husband: Gee, I'm not sure. A little over five feet tall.

Sergeant: Weight?

Husband: Don't know. Not slim, not really plump.

Sergeant: Color of eyes?

Husband: Sort of brown, I think. Never really noticed.

Sergeant: Color of hair?

Husband: Changes a couple times a year. Maybe dark brown now. I can't remember.

Sergeant: What was she wearing?

Husband: Could have been pants, or maybe a skirt or shorts. I don't know exactly.

Sergeant: What kind of boat did she leave on?

Husband: She went on my boat.

Sergeant: What kind of boat was it?

Husband: Well, it's a 2024 40-foot Red Fountain with Twin Mercury 350's, stainless steel 21 pitch props, A full T Top with Garmin Radar, GPS, and the most up-to-date Simrad Fish Finder money could buy. It has red and yellow striped up-

holstery, Sea Dek decking pads, Windlass, red and gold rocket launchers. The Mercury engine cowlings are customized, and the giant name on the side of the boat is GOLD DIGGER. Oh yeah... and there is a small scratch on the starboard side toward the bow about 8 inches under the gunwale.

At this point the husband started choking up.

Sargeant: Don't worry, buddy. We'll find your boat.

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THE HISTORY OF RECREATIONAL BOATING ON THE BAY

Part 6

“SAVE THE BAY”



In 1608, Captain John Smith embarked on two voyages to explore the Chesapeake Bay. According to his journals, the water was remarkably clear. Observing the bay's bottom, he noted that oysters were "as thick as stones." It's estimated that, at that time, the oyster population could filter and clean the entire bay in just a few days.

By the late 19th century, overfishing had dramatically reduced the oyster population. Today, that population is estimated to be only about 1 percent of what it was in 1608.

As the Baby Boom generation came of age in the late 1960s, many embraced environmental causes - particularly the deteriorating health of the bay. In 1967, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation was formed. Their blue "Save the Bay" bumper sticker became a clarion call for action. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 1970, followed by the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972.

By the late 1970s, boaters began converting direct-discharge marine toilets to marine sanitation devices (MSDs), and marine facilities started installing holding tank pump-out systems.

In 1982, Maryland passed its Stormwater Management Law, requiring new develop-

ments to include retention ponds to collect runoff. Two years later, the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection Act was enacted. This law defines the Critical Area as all land within 1,000 feet of the mean high-water line. Commercial and residential properties within this zone must adhere to strict guidelines for any proposed changes.

Boaters and marinas have long held a vested interest in the health of the Chesapeake. Today, most marine facilities participate in the voluntary Clean Marina Program, which promotes the use of best management practices among marinas and their boating customers.

Despite these efforts, pollutants continue to flow into the bay's streams, creeks, and rivers - often originating far upstream in the expansive watershed. This is especially true of stormwater runoff from New York and Pennsylvania, which travels down the Susquehanna River to the Conowingo Dam. In 2011 Tropical Storm Lee, sent tons of debris over the dam, creating a silty plume throughout the bay.

Boaters and invested waterfront property owners remain committed to the ongoing fight to "Save the Bay."

Next: "Changing Tides"

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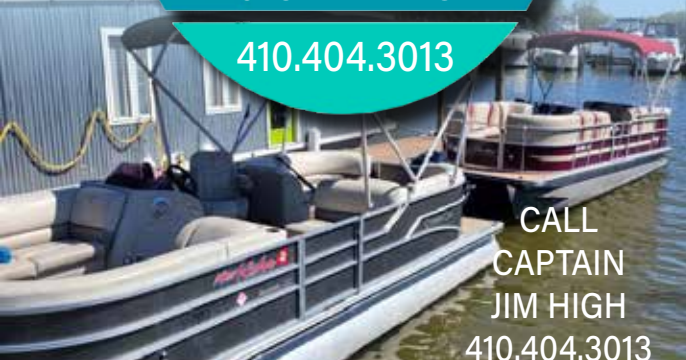
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Upper Bay Picking

Upper Bay Picking is a Maryland tradition.

Boaters are already attracted to the water and everything that's in and around our wonderful Chesapeake region. Native peoples also were drawn to the flavors and bounty of the Bay.

Maryland Blue Crabs are the prime attraction for feasting in the Bay region.

Some folks look at crabs as spiders or just gross, but true Bay Believers love this amazing marine decapod. The *Callinectes Sapidus* is hard-shelled, bound, and jointed, but also savory and tasty. Chesapeake Bay crabs are simply the BEST!

Bay Boaters often have more than one boat. One boat may be for family cruising, another for fishing, and a smaller one for crabbing. Running trot lines and pots is a summer tradition. Chicken necking off the pier is also a fun and fruitful way to gather crabs.

Once you have a steaming pot full of "Jimmies", it's time to get out the Old Bay and season away. Once the crabs are steamed, it's time to pick and feast on these Bay favorites.

Crab Feasts do not have to be on land. Here are some crab feasts and picking ideas.

Boat Feast If you have a boat with a large open deck, set up a table and gather around. The drinks can go into the boat cooler. If you have steamed the crabs ashore, you can keep them warm in an insulated box or ice chest. Spread picking paper and get out the hammers.

Corn adds to the Picking Party. This, too, can be kept warm in the same box as the crabs. A large industrial trash bag will help contain the mess.

Beach Picking Party You can also anchor near a beach and set up your Picking Party. On one trip, we had a small floating table that served as the picking platform. We stood in the water and picked away. Clean up was a breeze.

Shore Picking is also fun, but bugs can be a concern. The Thermo cell insect deterrent will keep the mosquitoes away while you pick. Or consider some sort of folding screened house or gazebo.

If you can't catch a potful in one day, build a storage container that floats by your pier. Add to the floating storage bin as you check a pot or catch

a few daily. It may take a week, but eventually, you will be steaming pot ready. Be sure to check for crabs that are about to become soft crabs. Keep them separate.

Pier Picking Some of my waterfront friends added a floating dock alongside their pier. This allowed them to place the picking feast on the dock so pickers could feast while standing in the water.

Fresh produce enhances the Picking party. Fresh cantaloupes, watermelons, and tomatoes go well with an Upper Bay Picking event.

If there are folks who simply do not like crabs, you can always make a boil that includes seafood that they prefer. Shrimp, mussels, clams, sausage, crayfish, or lobsters should meet everyone's needs.

Save dessert for last. Brownies and ice cream are always a hit. Snowballs made with a hand shaver can be a sweet ending to the picking party. Both are Maryland traditions.

No matter how you plan your Upper Bay Picking party, it will be memorable. The crabs will be sweeter, fresher, and tastier than anywhere else.

Pick the best seafood found in the Chesapeake Bay with your friends, family, and crew!

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MY BUDDY CHRIS

By Captain Mark Galasso

Photo Courtesy: Anne Arundel County Association of Realtors's post

I was leaving the following morning for a much-needed vacation in Florida for a week or so. It was late February, and this particular winter had seemed to drag on and on. I hadn't fished since early December and finally put the boat to bed after winterizing the motor and bilge, something I should have done months ago. I wasn't going to use it again until April and was just trying to finish off my winter checklist. I was actually starting to pack a suitcase when the phone rang. The caller ID let me know who it was, and I hesitated. But after a few rings, I picked up.

I hadn't talked to my buddy since fishing season ended, so I was a bit intrigued. Over the years we had not only fished together but also worked together. "What's up? He asked. "Not much I replied." "Just packing for Florida, I added." "Do you know anybody who has a boat up near Wye Landing

that's still in the water? He countered. "Nope was all I could come up with. Might be a few gill netters working up there. But I don't know them." I knew the yellow perch run was just starting, so maybe a few commercial guys were up there checking things out. He informed me that he knew the Perch was running and that's why he happened to be up there. He had grabbed a buddy and ran up the river in a 23-foot cat boat. It wouldn't have been any big deal except he hit a mud bar doing 20 knots and was hard aground.

I dreaded his next announcement/request. But it WAS my worst fear. "Can you come get me?" There isn't anyone at the Wye Landing ramp, so it's a piece of cake, he went on. He said he was a few miles upriver from the ramp. I told him I was on my way, but it was going to take me a couple hours. He laughed and told me they weren't going any-

where! So, I unwinterized the boat. Took off all the covers and threw a fishing rod and a couple weights on the boat and towed her to Wye Landing. The parking lot was empty except for his truck and trailer. So, I launched the boat and headed upriver, nice and slow, until I ran out of water. And there he was. Still fishing in about 10 inches of muddy water. One look at his waterline and anyone could tell he was hard aground.

I couldn't even get close enough to throw him a line. And neither one of us was going to duckwalk through 3 feet of mud to the other boat. I knew I brought the fishing rod for a reason. I tied on my heaviest weight and cast it over his boat. Pretty good cast if I do say so myself. Thank God my 5-ounce weight didn't hit them or the boat. He got out his anchor line and tied it to my line and I reeled it in. We were probably a hundred feet apart. I

made a quick bridle and tied it off on my stern. My boat was perpendicular to his, but I thought maybe I could spin his bow around. No dice. I could see the mud starting to build on his boat's side. It was hopeless. And the tide was still going out! And the sun was going down.

I heard a small boat heading our way. A few minutes later, a young fellow in a small Jon Boat came running up the small channel. He was well weighted down with a small box of gill net and some stakes and tubs. He was throwing a pretty good wake, and I could see some muddy waves rolling along the shoreline. I hailed him down. I think he was laughing, but I'm not really sure. It was obvious what was going on, and he asked if he could help. We devised a plan where he would create wakes, and I would pull at the same time and see if we could swing my buddy's boat around. It worked. With

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FROM PAGE 34

MY BUDDY CHRIS

each set of waves, I was able to swing that Cat a little until we were lined up. Once the Cat was free, I had to shorten the tow line so I wouldn't run aground on the other side.

Just as the sun disappeared, he was free, and I was exhausted. He thanked me and his buddy REALLY thanked me. But in typical fashion, his next statement floored me. "Hey, the tide's coming back in and I KNOW the perch are up there just around the corner. We're going to see if I'm right." I thought his buddy was going to jump into my boat. I put her in gear and headed towards the landing. I heard him yell. "We'll let you know how we do!" I thought to myself, I don't care. I'll be in Florida.

That evening, I talked to two friends who apparently, tried to call before me. They never answered their phones. They must have had the buddy filter that I didn't have. The story didn't surprise them one bit. If you think about it, we all have that buddy. He (or she) is the one who gets us in and out of trouble. They're also the ones that fuel our adventurous side and help us create memories that will last us a lifetime. Every fishing trip I've done with this individual, I can remember like it happened yesterday.

Like the time we were in Mexico just after a hurricane, and he wanted to go fishing. There was the time in Punta Cana when I promised my wife I wouldn't go fishing, but he had a Panga pick us up on the beach, only to almost get swamped by a 10-foot wave on the reef. Or probably my favorite when we took my 21 Parker 8 miles offshore a few days before Christmas in 25 knot winds to catch a few fish for his birthday! Only to release them before running back to Rudy Inlet in the dark and driving my boat and trailer all the way back to Kent Island. And what really defined my buddy was the fact that we had to stop in Salisbury at a Dairy Queen in the mall to get Blizzards at midnight. It was almost Christmas, for God's sake, and I was already freezing!

My Buddy, Chris Coile, passed away recently from complications due to Parkinson's. In his 80 years on this earth, he accomplished more than most people could if they lived to be twice that age. He was an accomplished musician, rancher, fly fisherman, real estate professional, and developer. He started numerous enterprises, all of which were wildly successful. In his first year alone in real estate, he did over a million dollars in sales. That was 57 years ago when he was only 23! He will be sorely missed. I can only imagine the stories he's telling his buddies in heaven. And the fact is, they're all probably TRUE.

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Trawler Fest 2025

By Kimberly Ann



You might be asking what is Trawler Fest? Well, Trawler Fest is Passage-maker's stand-alone series of boat shows designed for cruising enthusiasts. This year Trawler Fest will cruise into Baltimore's Inner Harbor from September 23 through September 27.

Trawler Fest is an exciting experience for newcomers and avid cruisers alike. It is a series of events/shows that make a stop here in Baltimore, which focuses on education. There will be over 20 different seminars that boat enthusiasts can attend that are hosted by industry professionals. These seminars are open to anyone preparing for a future boat purchase, beginning their boating adventure, and even those who have been cruising for years. There is something for everyone in these seminars. You can check out the schedule and sign up at: www.passagemaker.com/event-new/trawlerfest-baltimore/trawlerfest-baltimore-2025-tickets-on-sale-now/.

Some topics covered include "The Other Loop: The Down East Circle,"

discussing scenic waterways of the Down East Loop and practical information for planning this trip. Another seminar offered is "All Paws on Deck" for those who love to boat with their four-legged companions. Safety and pet first aid will be discussed, as well as great accessories to have onboard to make cruising easier for you and your pet. There are seminars on engine care, navigating and charts, weather forecasts and weather apps, anchoring, and so much more.

There are on-the-water seminars as well, such as "Boat Handling on the Water" and its prerequisite course "Docking & Close Quarters Boat Handling". These courses help you develop skills in close-quarters maneuvering and docking.

The In-Water Boat Show is on Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The shows are hosted at Harbor East Marina located at 40 International Drive. You can contact Ryan Davidson at ryan.davidson@firecrown.com for information on being

an exhibitor or a sponsor. There will be a great selection of in-water new and pre-owned cruising powerboats that are available to board and purchase or simply to board and dream.

And don't miss out on the Trawlers at Twilight Party on Friday evening. You can mingle with fellow boaters and share your experiences and knowledge. It is a great way to meet other boaters and is a relaxed and fun experience.

Trawler Fest is a short walking distance from the Inner Harbor and boasts upscale dining, historic sites, and the National Aquarium. You can explore Fell's Point and take in the maritime history of Baltimore through the area's seafood restaurants, boutiques, art galleries, and historic neighborhoods.

So, head on over to the website and grab your tickets, and while you are learning at a seminar, viewing the boats, or mingling at the Twilight Party, remember to tell everyone that you heard about Trawler Fest from your friends at **Upper Bay Boating Magazine**.

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“Neighbors Coming Together on National Night Out”



Neighborhoods across the country held block parties, cookouts or other events to build community camaraderie and enhance relationships between residents, local businesses, organizations and law enforcement. The event is held the first Tuesday of August each year and is a great way for everyone to get together, have a good time, while building respect and relationships with one another. Maryland Waterways Foundation participated with the Hawthorne community in southeast Baltimore County again this year. MWF enjoys participating with various neighborhoods to get to know community members and have an opportunity for outreach to promote clean waterways and simple ways we can all get involved and make a difference to promote a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

We have our cleanup trailer on display for all to see that we can organize a cleanup anywhere needed and supply all the necessary tools and supplies for volunteers to pitch in and lend a hand to cleanup shorelines, parks or wherever is needed to prevent litter from polluting our waterways. MWF had giveaways such as different types of reusable straws to take and try, wildflower seeds to promote pollinator gardens and crafts for the kids.

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The Discrete Charm of the CHESAPEAKE DOCK BAR

Shall I sing the praises of the Chesapeake dock bar? A magical place for the end of a long sail, or a day of working on the wayward starboard engine, or just lunch, or the cap-off to a lovely day of day drinking -- the dock bar is an institution in the sailing community. Seedy or elegant, streamlined or wonderfully ramshackle, it has the power to transform the scruffiest deckhand to landed (or shipped) gentry and your slightly warm Bud Light with lime into a glass of Chateau Neuf du Pape '55, at least, for the moment.

In an age when places of grace and beauty, especially for the common man, are few and far between, the dock bar is a standout, and we are fortunate here on the Chesapeake to be blessed with a number of the very best.

So, what is it that generates this magical aura? There are a bunch of elements to look for in a great dock bar. First of all:

THE VIEW OR LACK THEREOF

One of the great complaints of novice sailors is that there simply aren't enough windows in the cabin. The water is beautiful, one argues, so why can't we see it from inside the cabin? This sensibility lasts until the first really long overwater voyage, when the lack of any place in their overglazed galley to get away from, well, the water, becomes apparent. Hours on watch in the endless water and sun take their toll, and a quiet place away from the rollers and the baking heat becomes a necessity. A great dock bar gives you both: a wonderful relaxing space with a great view of the water and its comings and goings, and a bar sufficiently cave-like and sequestered to provide you with a retreat from five days in the weather.

LIBATIONS

Here's a matter of taste, but let's be clear: If you can't afford the bar, you won't go there, and if the drinks be swill, you'll find another port. At the very least, there needs to be things on

the drink menu that lie somewhere between "I may need to sell the car to afford a second" and "I got a headache the minute she opened that bottle."

THE CREW

The patrons of a dock bar are also a matter of taste. We've all been to the well with a bunch of "Adults with no Inside Voices" dominating the room. I, myself, tend toward the quieter places, but to each their own. A good set of regular local patrons always helps set the tone. You'll know when you walk in the door.

THE BARKEEP

And of all the elements regulating a great dock bar, the being behind that bar is perhaps the most important. A great bartender knows your name -- or can convince you they do, even if you've never set foot in the door before -- can flirt, can chat, can deal with drunks gently and quickly, and all while being unflappably efficient. It's a profession with the combined talents, of a chemist, a politician, a tight rope walker, and a used car salesman. Far underrated and underpaid if you ask me, and having been a restaurateur, I know that the person behind that counter can make or break your establishment.

SO, WHERE ARE THEY?

We on the Chesapeake are gifted with a plethora of rivers and streams, inlets and bays, in which to explore, and each of those is a wondrous opportunity for someone to have turned a mundane dockage into a destination worthy of your time and money. From the Sassafras to the Susquehanna, from the Middle River to Rock Hall, just boot up any decent map program and bring up the bars and restaurants. The choices are almost endless. Each reflects their clientele, and the spirit of that particular port in a storm.

It's summer. Time to go exploring. You'll know the moment you walk in the door if you've found a new home port for the afternoon.



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A good dock bar can lend magic to a simple libation

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