



# SEMAPHORE

September 2011

37° 12 ' 20" N. 76° 26' 11"W

Volume 31 Number 9

**From the helm...** Sometimes I think of the Seaford Yacht Club as a wonderful cruise ship designed and built in the dockyards to provide nautical enjoyment for its passengers. When it was constructed, its designers built it to last, and to safely navigate the seas of the future; through calms and storms. They knew to attract passengers the ship would have to be kept in the best of shape. On each voyage the cast of passengers would change of course, but the ship itself would live on as a vessel attracting attention and passengers from all ports of call.

On March 26, 1979, Seaford Yacht Club was incorporated with 21 Charter members in the 'dockyards' of Mill's Marina. This was an organization designed to grow. In the intervening years, it *has* grown in membership, facilities, and finances. However our passenger list is dwindling. We currently have 123 resident members, down from a high (and limit) of 135 in 2004. We are losing members faster than we recruit new ones, mostly because of our aging membership. Thus, a major issue for your Board of Trustees and the past several Boards has become the declining-to-flat membership since 2004.

The Board and its committees believe the Club should do more to recruit new and active members. Among other things, this means that the Club should become better known in the community. The Board feels that we can still enjoy all the benefits of membership AND be a good community partner. As other yacht clubs are doing, we set ourselves as a good organizational role model when we offer to lend a hand when asked. This will build good public relations and attract more membership at the same time. Some of the things we try will work, and some won't. To do nothing is a risky option. I welcome your comments and opinions as always.



*Smooth Sailing, Bill*

REMAINDER OF AUGUST 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
FRI	26	6:00 p.m.	HAPPY HOUR
FRI	27		SINGLE HANDED RACE
SEPTEMBER 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
THR	1	7:00 p.m.	BRIDGE
FRI	2	6:00 p.m.	HAPPY HOUR
SAT-MON	3-5		LABOR DAY CRUISE/TIDES LODGE
THR	8	7:00 p.m.	BRIDGE
FRI	9	6:00 p.m.	HAPPY HOUR (SETUP FOR TERRY RENTAL)
SAT	10	10:00 a.m.	MEMBER RENTAL (TERRY)
TUE	13	7:00 p.m.	BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING
THR	15	7:00 p.m.	BRIDGE
FRI	16	6:00 p.m.	HAPPY HOUR
TUE	20	6:00 p.m.	MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
THR	22		DEADLINE FOR THE SEMAPHORE
		7:00 p.m.	BRIDGE
FRI	23	9:04 a.m.	FALL EQUINOX
		6:00 p.m.	HAPPY HOUR
SAT	24		TRANS BAY RACE
THR	29	7:00 p.m.	BRIDGE
FRI	30	6:00 p.m.	HAPPY HOUR

## SYC GATHERINGS AND DINNER MEETINGS

### *August 16, 2011 - Lamb Kabobs*

The August summer dinner hosted by Jandy and Randy Strickland featuring, the lamb kabob, orzo salad, steamed veggies and baklava dessert is the meal we look forward to every year and it was as usual delicious. Complimentary comments went around the table as everyone enjoyed this prize winning meal. Thanks go to the member helpers including: Mary and Toby Ommundsen, Carol and Mike Brower, Pat and Arnie Janot, Barbara and Paul Blais, Judy and Paul Garman, Marti Coffield, Nancy Mehegan, Alita Small, Chuck Trowbridge, and Donna Gilroy

The September 20<sup>th</sup> dinner will be hosted by Marian and Pat Phillips. The catered meal will consist of chicken, roasted potatoes, green beans, beverages and dessert. Be sure and make your reservation when the telephone committee calls. As everyone knows reservations are necessary to make sure sufficient food is provided for those attending.

See you in September.

**Bon appétit**

*Janet Beilhart  
and  
Alita Small,  
Monthly Dinner  
Co-Chairs*



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES DRAFT MINUTES

*Meeting Date:* August 9, 2011

**I. Call to Order** - Officers and Trustees Present: Bill Small, Joan Edmonds, Cecil Adcox, Malcolm Burgess, Mike Webb, Al Cummins, Fran Butterfoss, Sandra Byrd, Mike Brower and Paul Blais. Absent: Tim Dube and Amber Travers. Bill Small called the meeting to order at 7:00.

A prior motion to change the order of the meeting enabled guests to talk to the Board prior to the remainder of the meeting. The guest speaker's items are included in Section IV, Committee Reports. Bill Edmonds,

Dockmaster, and Bill Willshire, House & Grounds Chair, also attended the meeting at Bill Small's invitation.

**II. Secretary's Report** - Minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting were presented and accepted by the Board.

**III. Treasurer's Report** - This month's report was presented in a different format than the usual. Tim's report presented the year to date amounts compared to the annual budget to show the percentage of income/expense that had been received/spent as compared to the annual budget. Overall, Income is on budget and Expenses are lower than budgeted. Barn expenditures through July are \$13,958. The cash balance as of the end of July was \$117,845. Our business loan balance was \$78,504. The Treasurer's Report was presented and accepted by the Board.

Al Cummins filled in for Tim Dube and reported that several members haven't paid their slip fees and dues that were due August 1st. This is not unusual and those members will be charged interest for late payments. Happily, Al reported that the interest rate did not go up on the Club's loan. Electric usage income is running over budget due to the heavy winter usage of boat heaters. The barn expenses budget still has funds left.

### **IV. Committee Reports:**

Fund Raising (Jeanette Webb) - Jeanette appeared at the meeting to explain her committee. She has attempted to offer a variety of prizes for the monthly drawings, including nautical items and donated items, 50-50 cash, clothing/merchandise from the Club "store" and monthly dinner tickets, as well as alcohol. A discussion on how to sell the clothing articles took place—perhaps including the offerings on the Club's website.

Ad-hoc Group on Enhanced Membership (Fran Butterfoss) - Looking at ways to enhance the Club's website—updating its appearance to make it more appealing. Fran will get proposal of costs to update it, as well as getting with Joe

Mitchell, the SYC Webmaster. We need to establish criteria of what we want--content is now good, looking for enhancement in appearance and functionality.

The Board discussed prospective members being able to contact the Membership Chair to inquire about becoming a member (via Club's website). They would be connected with a current member Sponsor if they do not know anyone in the Club. The remaining process for membership would be the same as it has been (attend two meetings and be approved by the BOT). Fran presented an overview of the task force recommendations—including offering different levels of membership. The Board will continue this discussion at the September meeting.

Kayak Storage Rack Planning (Sandy Byrd) - Sandy presented drawings of various racking as well as illustrations of racks and a trailer. A mobile 12-rack and trailer would cost \$3,088 if we assembled it ourselves. Another idea was to put kayaks on a rack on the pier for approximately \$2,000. Concern was expressed over placing a rack on the pier as it may be in the way of our boat owners, as well as be difficult to maneuver to the water. Discussion also included the purchases of slings needed for the racks, as well concern over whether the inside of the metal racks were galvanized. Perhaps the club buying a few kayaks for members' use would be an answer Mike Webb suggested putting a rack on each end of the existing dinghy shed—perhaps accommodating up to 6 kayaks easily and inexpensively. Discussion over whether or not there is a need for kayak storage took place—Sandy Byrd will put a notice in the Semaphore asking members if they would be interested in kayak storage.

Barn Construction (Malcolm Burgess) - It is expected that the electrical work, the siding and installation of a window will be done in August.

Club Rentals (Vikki Collier) -- There are no new rentals.

Commodore Bill received reports from the Chairs of the following committees: House & Ground, Entertainment, Membership Task Force, Fund Raising, Housekeeping, Membership, Publication, Rental, Semaphore, and the Webmaster.

#### V. *Old Business:*

Science Class Oyster Project - The Board approved this project. Bill Edmonds, Dockmaster, will get with Adrienne Richardson, Grafton High School Science teacher, to plan where the oyster floats will be located. A full description of this project was in the July Board of Trustees' minutes.

Dredging Survey (Mike Webb) - We will get a professional to do a survey. In January, 2011, the Board approved \$2,500 for dredging. The current cost is \$3,400. It can be done in approximately three weeks. The contractor that we will hire is approved by the State of VA. The Board approved this expenditure unanimously. Bill Edmonds, Dockmaster, will notify the contractor of our decision and request that they send a contract to the SYC.

Trailer Parking Status (Al Cummins) - Last month, Al reported that we didn't have authorization to allow parking of trailers. Al met with a representative from York County and was told that the Club would have to present a plan to York County Board of Supervisors and it would involve us having to have a 36 X 80 feet gravel area as well as enlarging the driveway. We would also have to have a BMP (best management practice) plan. VDOT did say that our current turning lane is sufficient as is. The area in question has been used for spoils from dredging (and will be again in the future). The Board decided that it is not practical to go forward with this plan and voted to terminate the trailer policy currently in force.

Special Programs (Cecil Adcox) - There is nothing to report.

Safety (Mike Brower) - Request that circuit breakers in the dock area be labeled. Mike is working on safety plans.

Jr Sailing (Al Cummins) - Last of six sessions currently being held. The revenue is slightly under budget due to one class not being filled. The expenses are slightly under budget; but there will be additional costs for repairs and maintenance at the end of the season. The season's sessions have been quite successful. Red, sail instructor, has two assistants, Sarah (paid) and Glenn (volunteer). Al will send the parents a survey which will include asking what the current students would be interested in next year.

**VI. New Business:**

Proposed New Rental Cost for Slip #4 - Changed to \$64. Dockmaster requested change to accommodate slip holder who moved to #4 as he was compromised by additional dinghy docks in area of prior slip. The Board approved this change.

Ping Pong Table - has been repaired and returned to donor. Thanks to Bill Willshire for fixing the ping pong table.

W&M Sailing Club Contact - Isaac Clark contacted us expressing interest in our Club's sailing (maybe a SYC member needs crew?). The W&M club's link has been put on our website under Links.

Upcoming SYC Monthly Events Summary - Bill Small reviewed upcoming events.

New Membership (Sharon Kline) - There is a membership application on the bulletin board in the Barnacle.

Suggested Committees to Report to the Board in August are as follows:

- Monthly Dinners (Alita Small & Janet Beilhart)
- Rental (Vikki Collier)

SYC Sign - Briefly discussed the sign on Goodwin Neck—will be put on next month's agenda.

Grass Cutting - Currently, our contract includes mowing only. \$2,880 is the annual budget and it is done on an "as needed" basis (dinners, parties or as needed). It does not include trimming or edging. The Landscaping Committee is currently responsible for edging and trimming. Discussion took place as to whether or not we should include edging and trimming as part of our contracted services in the future.

**VII. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Joan Edmonds*



**CHANGES TO MEMBERS' INFO**

**Ilonka & Bobby D'Azevedo**—new home phone number for calling: (757) 880-2985

**Ilonka D'Azevedo**—new email: [raregirl@hotmail.com](mailto:raregirl@hotmail.com)

**Bobby D'Azevedo**—new email:

[dazevedor@hotmail.com](mailto:dazevedor@hotmail.com)

**CALLING ALL BRIDGE PLAYERS**

**Grab a partner and join our SYC Bridge club as we start a new season on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. We are a "non-threatening" group who just enjoy the fellowship of getting together each week for a fun evening.**

**Call either Bob Stallings (898-5705) or Donna Gilroy (766-1584) and let us know you can join us. We can fill you in on the details at that time.**

**Donna Gilroy  
Bob Stallings**

### Thanks for the Ping Pong Table:

Last year John and Sarah Bryant donated a brand new collapsible Ping Pong table to the Seaford Yacht Club. It was a noble experiment; and I for one, and others thought it would get a lot of use. I guess we can't predict human nature that well; and the ping pong table actually was used relatively little. The Board recently decided to ask the Bryant's if they wanted the table returned since it was used so seldom. John and Sarah said they could find a new home for it at their children's home at the beach. I know you will all join with me in thanking them for thinking of the Yacht Club.

*Commodore Bill*

### Hello fellow kayakers!

The Board is considering the possibility of adding kayak storage racks to provide ease of access to the beautiful waterways surrounding our clubhouse. If any of you would be interested in storing your kayak at the club, please contact Sandy Byrd at 757-570-0858, or email her at [2byrdbsythebay@cox.net](mailto:2byrdbsythebay@cox.net). Once we have determined an elevated interest, the board will pursue the estimated cost and design of structure. Please respond as soon as possible with your input, ideas, thoughts, and suggestions. We will gladly entertain all opinions on this project in order to provide the best service to the members of our boating club.

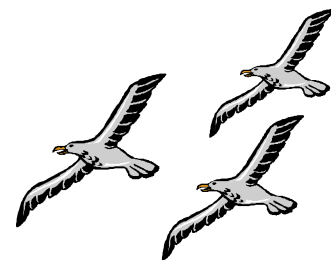
*Sandy Byrd, Past Commodore*

### **Raffle Items**

I want to thank all those who donated raffle items. I have heard so many good comments about the items. I take any new items that you would donate to the raffle. Please let me know what you would like to see on the raffle table.

*Jeanette Webb*  
*757-876-9852*

### THREE GULLS WITH NEWS



Carol and Gary Shulenburg's grandson Matt Thomas recently completed his first summer-sea-semester on board the training ship Empire State VI. The ship called at ports in Ireland, Croatia, and Spain before returning to New York Harbor on August 6th. Matt is majoring in Marine Engineering at State University of New York Maritime College at Throgg's Neck NY, and rows on the college's crew team when he's not busy studying Calculus, Physics, etc. Matt's family (Mom, Dad, and Brother Trevor) met him at the pier and Mom, Kirsten, took the picture.

Phil and Sandy Hopkins vacationed and visited friends in Ashtabula, Ohio on the shore of Lake Erie. The view from the coastline was breath taking. In addition to sightseeing they discovered covered bridges and lots of wineries. Plus the temperatures were cool - not like the 100 degree-plus temperatures in VA.

Nancy and Denny Mehegan's granddaughter Meredith, turned 13 on August 13<sup>th</sup> and Nancy gave her the pink and orange quilt she had made for her.

Mel and Peggy Anderson will visit Mel's 92-year-old cousin in Willman, MN next week. His cousin lives independently and still drives in her town!

Carol Collier has been entertaining her sister, Gere, from Phoenix, AZ.

Tom and Fran Butterfoss traveled to Farmville to celebrate Tom's dad's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is the oldest living Butterfoss and one year shy of the family's age record!

Winnie Feldhaus retired from NASA July 30<sup>th</sup>!

Sharon Kline spent a week in Florida keeping her brother's pets: Timex, Sayler and Rolex (watch dogs); Apache and Cherokee (Fox Terriers), and Boardwalk (a cat). They were so good and they all had a good time.

Doris and Elaine Benedict gave a send-off to their granddaughter, Kiersten, who leaves home at the precious age of 18 years to study at UNC, Wilmington, NC.

Al and Audrey Moore recently returned from a two-week trip to Alaska. They enjoyed a land tour for one week

exploring "the interior" where they visited Fairbanks, Denali, Anchorage and Seward. The weeklong cruise to Vancouver left from Seward. One of the highlights of the trip was spending a day with their nephew and his wife in Haines, AK. Their "personal tour" in Haines included observing many grizzly bears (up close) that were feeding on Salmon in the river and viewing some spectacular scenery and wilderness.

**Columnists:**

**Audrey Moore,  
Marian Phillips,  
and Merle LaMal,  
(and Jim LaMal)**



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



**Jack and Nancy Kane**

Jack and Nancy Kane have been members of the Club since its very beginnings. They were part of the small group of boat owners who kept their boats at Mills Marina. That small group actually formed the Club in 1977-78. Jack has served as Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore, and Commodore. Later he served as Co-Membership Chair and as Dockmaster. He wrote the original Club by-Laws. Nancy served as a Trustee and Membership Chair.

Jack has been boating both sail and power since about 1944. He learned to sail on Narragansett Bay,

RI. Nancy took sailing classes at the Annapolis Sailing School 1970-1971. They did extensive sailing and cruising on the Chesapeake Bay, first in the Maryland area when they lived in West Chester, PA. They kept the boat at Worton's Creek, MD. Between 1971 to approximately 1995, they cruised the Chesapeake extensively in their Dickerson 35' ketch with 3 children and 2 dachshunds. Other favorite cruises were in the Caribbean, BVI's, St. Martin, Anguilla, and St. Barts. They also enjoy cruising from Newport, RI to Yorktown, VA and from Yorktown, VA to Port Everglades, FL.

After completing graduate studies at Virginia Tech, Jack had a career as an Engineering/Hydro geologist working for VDOT, several international engineering consulting firms, and finally in 1975 as President of Rusnow-Kane and Associates, Newport News, VA. He retired in 1996. He served 13 years on the York Co. Wetlands Board and was chairman twice. He served on the Va. Dept. of Health On-Site Sewage Disposal Board, on the Va. Governor's Boating Advisory Board, and on Governor's Appointed York River Basin Commission. Currently, he is a member of the York Kiwanis Club (served twice as President). Jack is a Past Commander of the Hampton Roads Power Squadron and has been active with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary since 1978. He has served as Commander of Flotilla 63 (Poquoson) and Commander of Division 6 (Peninsula) and as Training Officer of Fifth CG District Auxiliary (Southern Region). His current assignment is Chief Qualification Examiner for the 5<sup>th</sup> District (Southern Region covering MD, VA, and NC).

After moving to the area in 1975, Nancy went to work in the York County Circuit Court Clerk's Office and was appointed Clerk in 1989. She ran for the office in a special election later that same year and served as Clerk until retirement in 1999. Since that time Nancy has enjoyed various volunteer work at Bruton Parish Church, the Bargain Box, and Kiwanis Club of York. Most recently she is serving on the board of Colonial Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Since retiring one of Jack's favorite pastimes is shooting "sporting clays". He is a certified instructor and field judge and shoots in local tournaments. He continues to enjoy all boating and particularly kayaking. After a break of roughly 30 years, Nancy is

enjoying playing bridge again as well as knitting and gardening. Her favorite pastime is spending time with her family. They have three sons, Kent, Bob, and Evan, who are all grown and live in the area. They have two granddaughters, Amber (28) who is married, and Kate (19), and two grandsons Elisha (16) and Eric (12). They have one tuxedo cat named Chipper. As a kitten his purring was so loud that he sounded like a wood chipper.

*Carol Tolson,  
Columnist*



**BE A WINNER! SOLVE THE PUZZLE!**

Each month we will have a different type of puzzle or brain teaser for you to solve, answer, or whatever. Each member—email and snail mail—who gets the correct answer will be assigned a number. The numbers will then be placed in a fishbowl. On the deadline date, one number will be drawn from the fishbowl. The member whose number is drawn will win TWO TICKETS entitling the member to two free monthly dinners. This is a \$24 value.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Semaphore Winner</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">(Name)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">One free SYC monthly dinner (\$12 value)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Give this coupon to Check-in person on the night of the dinner you wish to attend. Good only for monthly dinners.</p>
--	---

**Last Month's Puzzle Winner—Sandy Hopkins**

The Shakespearean quote was "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? From Sonnet 18. Note that the sentence is a question and ends in a question mark. One person answered with the complete sonnet verse!

**September Puzzle: Below are three nautical phrases. Determine what they are by unscrambling the letters to form words. You must unscramble all three to be eligible to win.** Email, snail mail or phone your response to Noel Priseler at [npriseler@cox.net](mailto:npriseler@cox.net), 1828 Heron Run, Hayes, VA 23072, 804-642-1234. The drawing will be held on September 8.

**Romf tem sot rstne**

**Lahf asse rove**

**Toughbr pu thors**

**RACING NEWS**

***Admiral's Cup, August 6, 2011***

Admiral's Cup Results:

Steve Bowen's Dream On, representing the York River Yacht Club, won a closely contested Admiral's Cup. Nine boats competed in three classes conditions with winds of about 12 knots at the 1pm start which built to over 20 knots by the race finish.

boats had finished making for some great heavy weather sailing! Results: PHRF A/B/C (3 boats):1st Steve Bowen, Dream On. PHRF Non-spin (3 boats):1st Chuck Eldred, Gail Force. Cruising: (3 boats):1st Bill Small, Cleo.

in the 15th annual running the Admiral's Cup held off The forecasted rain storms held off until most of the Seaford. Competitors faced uncertain weather

Special thanks go to the race committee on Tom Feldhaus' /Temptation/. The weather gave a rough ride to the anchored committee boat and resulted in serious problems for anchor retrieval. The rough seas caused damage to the bow roller system and ended up breaking the anchor.

***Chuck Eldred, Race sponsor.***

***Single Handed Race, August 27, 2011***

The Single Handed Race is a special racing category that includes racing non-stop around the world. That's pretty extreme. Our around the buoys race is still a challenge for shippers that normally carry several crew. Send entries to Al Moore, who is the sponsor for the Single Handed Race. See the race instructions for details. Please note the special safety rules for this race

**Trans Bay Race, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Trans Bay Race will take place on Saturday, September 24th.

September has always been a good sailing month. We encourage all SYC sailors to take part in this race. Art Dister is the race committee sponsor for this race.



***Tom Feldhaus,  
Race Committee Chair***

### **William and Mary Sailing Team**

The Seaford Yacht Club has been contacted by the William and Mary Sailing Team. They are an active organization and are looking to make connections and gain supporters in the big boat community. They are a club team that practices 5 days a week and sends teams out to regattas every weekend. They are looking for opportunities to sail on bigger boats to learn and establish Southern Bay connections so that when they graduate they can easily keep sailing. If you are interested in possible crew members for your boat or other information, you can contact Isaac Clark, Commodore of the W&M Sailing team at [ihclark@email.wm.edu](mailto:ihclark@email.wm.edu). You can also look up their great website via the "Links" page on our SYC website.

### **Commodore Bill**

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: In September I'll be back at my computer so send your news and articles to [npriseler@cox.net](mailto:npriseler@cox.net).**

## **A SPECIAL MOBJACK SAIL**

On returning from a recent overnight to Mobjack Bay (Aug 15-16), I found myself asking what was most special about this mini-cruise. Was it possibly the spectacular thunderstorm late the first afternoon? Or was it that rare appearance of two flocks of Great Blue Heron (one group of 6 followed by a group of 13) that soared over my anchored Caper II shortly after the storm? Maybe it was really the rapid sailing leg up Mobjack and a similar leg back down the next morning, both equally beautiful and exciting sailing in just three (3) hours each way. It never ceases to amaze me that there's always a story to tell when on the Bay, no matter what the day.

I had left SYC early in the afternoon and knew I faced an outgoing tide on my way up Mobjack. NOAA had forecast light NW winds, which would have been right on the nose. And NOAA forecast "isolated" T-Storms. In typical forecasting fashion, there were no NW winds, but an increasing flow from the southwest. This gave me a good close-hauled run straight up Mobjack. When I was between the East River and the Severn River, I began to notice the growing cloud formations to the northwest. There was a spectacular thunderhead dead-center above the dense line of dark gray rain clouds. As I approached the Severn, the clouds darkened even more and you could begin to clearly make out the line of showers in the far distance. Probably within the hour, I'd be right smack dab in the middle of that black mess of growing turbulence. I decided to get my sails down and make a run for the nearest cove off the southwest branch of the Severn River. I found my spot just beyond "R-2" and set the hook solidly in about 8 ft. of water. I put out lots of line, more than a 5-1 ratio of rod length to depth. Good thing. When the first winds hit, they were blowing a strong 25 mph plus. I watched the storm come on with its darkest center like an inverted pyramid pointed to earth and a rain line extending miles in either direction. Surely I would get something. And I did get a good washing, but not a

direct hit, except for one lightning bolt that snapped and thundered at the same moment right over Caper II. What a jolt! But that was the worst of it. I had folded up and tied down my new Bimini for fear a ferocious gust might tear a seam.

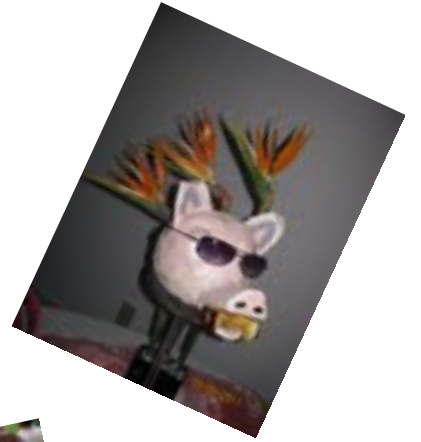
The flock of Great Blue Heron was something I have never experienced. Maybe I've seen a couple in flight, but never 19 right overhead. They were headed west towards land. Generally, I think of an individual Great Blue working his section of the shore or pond. They are pretty territorial so it's rare to see two working the same feeding ground. I mentioned the fly-over to Randy Strickland and he suggested they might all be coming from or going to a local rookery or nesting area. Then I remembered how I had viewed a rookery on an isolated, heavily shrubbed island near the Gulf coast in Florida. There must have been dozens of heron pairs nesting all over the trees. But again, I've never seen such a flying flock.

The sailing up and down Mobjack was super. A pleasant reach on moderate winds going through Swash channel and up Mobjack to the Severn's entrance. Coming back the following morning started slowly in the lee of the Severn shoreline, but picked up when I turned down the Bay, giving me steady 5 plus knots on a wing-on-wing run. But the real hoot was getting 15-20 mph winds from the northwest on a reach going through Swash channel, averaging over 6 knots, and then hitting an even stronger flow crossing the York River past Tue point and several times looking at 7.0 to 7.3 knots. For me, that's flying! As I neared the Back Creek channel entrance, I had to reef in the Jenny to maintain better control and 'heel' balance. But that was the kind of finish you live for.

There was one other remarkable occurrence during this mini-cruise which I just realized I've been suppressing because it could have ended badly. Who enjoys talking about 'bad' happenings? Not many, but such experiences can be instructive. Here's what almost went wrong when I was making a slight adjustment to my main sheet. I was just turning away from the cleat and was about to grab the railing over the pedestal to steady myself, when I felt my hand brush something, and like a sling shot it flew past me towards a cockpit bench. I quickly realized my arm had caught the top edge of my GPS (hand-held model) that I kept in a rubber cup holder clipped to the top of the pedestal railing. That contact launched the GPS out of the cup. I heard it take a couple of bounces. I looked all over the cockpit and couldn't find it. After a few minutes expanding my search, I located my hand-held GPS on the outer deck right up against the gunwale. An inch or two more and my one year old GPS would have been overboard and gone forever. Learning: Keep the wrist strap wrapped around the base of the rubber cup holder so the instrument cannot get launched from its position so easily, or spend the several hundred extra dollars to get a unit firmly fixed to the railing!

David S. Benedict

# Summer Party Snapshots



SYC Semaphore-9



**HEALTH MESSAGE:**

1. If walking/cycling is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.
2. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water and is fat.
3. A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years.
4. A tortoise doesn't run, does nothing ...yet lives for 450 years.

**AND YOU TELL ME TO EXERCISE!**

**I'm retired, go around me !!!**



**PO Box 1885  
Yorktown, VA 23692**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**