

HARBOUR LIGHT



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday
Evening Series 1,
Races 2–5.

Spring Regatta,
Sunday, May 16

Cruise led by
Diva II
May 15-16

New Members
Breakfast,
Saturday, May 22

FROM THE COMMODORE

RICH GRINER, COYOTE

Coyote is back in the water. Oh what a feeling. Driving through the yard and first spotting your boat is nice but it's not the same as walking down the dock and taking that first glance. You can enjoy a beer sitting in your cockpit while your on the hard. That same beer tastes so much better once you're back in the water. The motion of the boat as it sits in her slip and the occasional sounds of water against the hull just change the experience completely.

At the end of the season I noticed that the water coming out of the exhaust was not the same. It was still flowing but not at the same levels. I wanted to see how the new impeller was working and make sure the engine was running good in general. Engine started right up but for the first 30 seconds you have to deal with that open exhaust sound that none of us like to hear. Suddenly the pitch changes as the impeller primes the system and water finally enters the exhaust. A few seconds later and the splash of winter antifreeze exits the

exhaust. The pitch drops again and the water exists in a familiar pattern. Oh it's great to be back in the water.

Normally we are transferring the boat from HHN to HHS, but now that we keep Coyote at HHN there is no need for me to transfer the boat. Every year I look forward to this first trip. There is only a light breeze and the sun should be out for another hour, so I decide to take Coyote out for a spin. It's not a long trip. I have enough time to finish a beer but I am back in the channel before I can get to that 2nd beer. Oh it's great to be back in the water.

By the time you are reading this the club will have already had it's first cruise "April Fools Cruise" and the Wednesday Night racing program has started. The club has several activities planned for May that will be discussed in more detail in this newsletter, but I would like to call out two events I will be participating in. May 22 is the new members breakfast which is followed by the New Members Cruise which I will lead this year. The breakfast is a great way for new members to

meet the club. Also gives existing members a chance to catch up with friends. We kick off at 9:00 Saturday May 22nd and will finish up around 11:00 so we have time to clean up, get to our boats, and go cruising. You don't have to go on the cruise to participate in the breakfast. We encourage everyone, cruiser and racer to come out for breakfast. Just bring a breakfast item to share.

The other event in May I am excited about is not a HHSA sponsored event but 5 HHSA boats are planning on participating in it. Coyote, Diva II, Lady Grey, Mazol Tov, and Serefe will be competing in the Virginia Cruising Cup, a race that starts in Annapolis and finishes 123 miles later off of Hampton Virginia. Greg Coffey and I did this last year double handed in the Non-Spin class and we came up second. This is my favorite race and I look forward to sharing stories with the rest of the HHSA boats down at the finish.

See you on the water.

Rich

RACING

R/C RACING ARNE FLIFLET/ MAZAL TOV

HHS A May Racing Wednesday Evening races:

1850 Spinnaker Warning signal. Post-race gathering and scoring at the Fabulous Brew.

Spring Regatta: Up to three Windward/Leeward races. Rendezvous at HHS A at 1000, 1055 Warning. Informal gathering at a local restaurant after the regatta.

The HHS A racing season moves into high gear in May with four Wednesday Evening Races (Series 1, Races 2-5) and the Spring Regatta on Sunday May 16. Details about these races are given in the HHS A Sailing Instructions. In addition, several HHS A racers will be competing the Down the Bay Race over the Memorial Day weekend. By now all racers should have a valid PHRF rating or have had one assigned by the Competition Committee (first year racers only). Please contact me (racing@hhsa.org) if there will be a delay in obtaining a rating. All racers should have signed up for Race Committee duty. Keith Mayes made an excellent presentation at the Race Management Seminar and I am reprinting his post-seminar email here:

The PowerPoint presentation has been posted on the Racing page on the website, as well as a pdf version. For those who did not attend I want to stress a couple of the points we covered:

- 1) *The RC serves to provide a fair and appropriate (for the conditions) race setup, with a line square to the wind and of proper length.*

For Wednesday races always have an inflatable mark for the pin end of the starting line and be prepared to ask another boat to set it in position for you.

2) Be predictable, communicate often over Channel 68, and don't make the racers guess what you are doing.

3) Seek advice from experienced racers if you are in doubt about the line and/or the course.

4) If you make a mistake, it's OK. But know how to fix it ... with the AP (Postpone) flag to stop the starting sequence or the 1st Substitute (General Recall) flag to restart after the race has started.

5) Be very familiar with the Race Committee Manual and the HHS A Racing Rules - they will demystify the experience for you.

If there is sufficient interest we will run another seminar to catch those who could not attend this weekend. Let us hear from you if you want this ... we serve at your pleasure.

We had a good turnout for the On the Water Clinic on Sunday, April 18. Twelve boats participated including *Coyote* (the Race Committee), *Serefe*, *Delirious*, *Cantata*, *Lady Grey*, *Beyond the Sea*, *T-Bone*, *Jubilee*, *Spirit*, *Sun Chaser*, *Sandpiper*, and *Mazal Tov*. In addition, several skippers of other boats attended the on-shore presentation by Jonathan Bartlett of North Sails and found rides. Jonathan made several points to keep in mind when starting: 1) Our boats are

relatively heavy and take some time to get moving. This means we need to be heading toward the starting line and picking up speed at least a minute before the gun. 2) Avoid barging, it's potentially dangerous and inevitably results in fouling another boat. When this happens the fouled boat should not hesitate to protest. Keep in mind that a protest doesn't have to result in a hearing. A protested boat can exonerate herself by doing a 720 and reporting it to the Race Committee. Although protests are relatively rare in HHS A racing, I believe we would benefit from more protesting. Unless one is very knowledgeable about the RRS, if one sails even moderately aggressively, it is practically impossible to avoid fouling another boat from time to time. 3) A couple of starting approaches that Jonathan covered include the timed start (Vanderbuilt start) and the approach on the port tack looking for a hole between the approaching starboard tack boats. It was fairly brutal getting to the HHS tent by 8:30 to hear the onshore presentation and it turned out the coldest part of the day was the session in the tent. Later on the water it was not so bad as the Spring Northwester was in its second day. Nevertheless, it was gusting up to 20 knots which made for some exhilarating sailing. Unsurprisingly, *Mazal Tov* missed the first few starts from having to make the trip down from HHN, a few sail issues, and it being the first

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SOCIAL TIDBITS

R/C SOCIAL KEITH MAYES, JUBILEE,

Finally! Slips are filling up and the yard is running hard to get boats launched. It's about time! Don't forget that the New Members Breakfast and Cruise will be held on Saturday May 22nd. We will gather at 9:00 AM for breakfast at the Herrington Harbour North Pavilion, near the pool. Standing members should bring something to share and new members should bring a smile. There will plenty

of hot coffee and juices provided. I can use some help, please, to get coffee pots brewing and the pavilion readied. Let me know if you can lend a hand. Looking ahead to June 5th, we have a new twist on the interclub visit from SMSA. This year their race to Herring Bay coincides with our Double Handed Race. We hope that many racers and cruising types will join in the fun, starting with a

race around the buoys and government marks in Herring Bay at 11:00 AM, followed by an informal BBQ at HHS with the SMSA folks later in the afternoon. We'll have blindfolded dinghy races on the beach on Sunday morning, June 6th. Don't forget to register for events on the website. Party On!



*Enjoying the
April Fools
Cruise,
April 23-24
To
Oxford, MD*

RACING (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 2)
time out this season. In any event it was great to be on the water and have a chance to practice starts. We were also happy to have

Allan Wright and the crew of *Tzatsky Too* aboard. Comments about your experiences on the race course are welcome. We plan to continue the practice

of getting bullet reports from the respective class winners.

Arne Fliflet
Mazal Tov

CRUISING NEWS

R/C CRUISING AL DEL NEGRO, *SOLACE*

It's May and the weather has had its yearly effect on us all with the longer days, the warming breezes, and the renewed urge to get on the water. An annual rite of spring for us sailors is the recommissioning of our boats and this household is no stranger to that. I had a week off in April and we spent it commuting from home to Herrington Harbour North where *Solace* rested on jackstands. It was interesting that on weekends very little happens at HHN despite the obvious mandate to get our boats ready for the coming season. Have you ever had your launching delayed because they were "backed-up with work"? We have and now I know why. We were set for launch the third week in April but no one had been aboard to do the prescribed work by the end of the second week of April. If it hadn't been for the work we ourselves did with varnish and wax, nothing would have been done of the work orders we placed. Oh yeah, I forgot - the bottom had been painted and the zincs were replaced on time.

Well, now we are in the water and ready to go. By the time you read these words, Maris and Linda Eshleman will have conducted their annual second cruise of the season (their land cruise in February was the first). Huddled against the April winds and chill, several hearty sailors will join up in Oxford at Mears Marina for the April Fools Cruise. Although some of us will travel by land, HHSA will be well represented aboard *Sweet Liberty* for the social hour, thereafter travelling to Latitude 38 for dinner. This

always is a great start to the sailing season. I'll let Maris report on the weather and dinner menu in his recap of the cruise.

On April 10, following the Race Management Seminar at HHS, we conducted a Cruising Seminar. After a few introductory remarks, I handed the proceedings over to Ardell Hoveskeland whose presentation about going down the ICW and cruising the Exumas and the Bahamas was exciting and informative. His powerpoint slides in PDF format are posted on the HHSA website. The talk also included details of the Del-MarVa peninsula circumnavigation for which Ardell is the Cruise Captain. This HHSA cruise is scheduled for June 19 - 27 and already several members have signed up to participate. If you are interested in joining this cruise, please contact Ardell directly at ardell.hoveskeland@verizon.net as he needs to have a list of participants and know the details of your boat for our overnights in marinas on the D & C Canal and on Chincoteague Island. The deadline for joining the cruise is June 1.

HHSA's next scheduled cruise is on May 15 - 16 as Stefan Leader and Andrea Heintzelman lead "Diva's Cruise". The following weekend, May 22 - 23, is the "New Members Breakfast and Cruise" led by Commodore Rich Griner. This annual event will be at Herrington Harbour North at the swimming pool pavilion. Members are asked to bring a breakfast offering to share and HHSA will pro-

vide coffee, tea, and soft drinks but new members just show up. The New members will be introduced and after breakfast and clean-up, we will all repair to our boats for a cruise. The destination will be set by Rich Griner and announced at the breakfast (and no doubt on the HHSA website, <http://www.hhsa.org>). This year, as last, we are encouraging cruise leaders to select cruising destinations determined by whichever weather/wind provides the best sailing.

May 29 - 31 is Memorial Day and as yet we have no takers for a Memorial Day cruise. If no one steps up to lead a cruise that three day weekend, that will be the first pick-up cruise of the season. This will be an exciting year for us cruisers. Future cruises include the Race Cruise on June 12 - 13 and the (Nearly) Full Moon Cruise in July as well as a repeat of last year's pick up cruise to the Wye River for a crab fest. Check the HHSA website for information about cruising as well as all the other aspects of HHSA activities. We look forward to seeing all of our cruising friends again this summer as we enjoy the beauty and expanse of the Chesapeake Bay.

See you on the water.

Albert Del Negro
HHSA R/C Cruising
s/v *Solace*
HHS, N 14



APRIL FOOLS CRUISE

MARIS AND LINDA ESHLEMAN, *SWEET LIBERTY*

The first cruise of the 2010 sailing season began under sunshine, blue skies and balmy tropical breezes – April Fools. Despite forecasts of gloom and doom 19 foolhardy sailors rallied with *Sweet Liberty* in Oxford on the weekend of April 24 for the threepeat of the April Fools Cruise. Contrary to the ominous forecasts of storms and miserable weather the only rain to fall came during Saturday night and did not interfere with the sailing or the Foolish Hour. The only detrimental aspect of the weather was the lack of constant sailing wind. Fools from 6 boats attended the Cruise by sail-

ing and 4 boats came by car. *Carpe Ventus*, *Diva II*, *Eagle*, *Freedom* and *Valhalla* joined *Sweet Liberty* for fooling in the Choptank. *Audrey Marie*, *Island Time*, *Mystic Traveler* and *Solace* made the trip to Oxford to join the revelry by car because their boats weren't yet ready.

The cruisers congregated in the cockpit of *Sweet Liberty* and the dock to enjoy y'ar Pusser's Painkillers to remediate the pain of the long miserable season out of the water along with other tropical treats. Happy Hour was followed by a casual and delightful meal at Latitude 38 where

all the fools commiserated in their foolishness. Offering cruisers an early chance to enjoy the season, the April Fool's Cruise features the prospect of good spring sailing, an excellent dinner and the chance to get out on the Bay when few other boats are out congesting traffic. The fools that braved the forecasts were aptly rewarded with a very pleasant evening in good company kicking off another fine season of sailing here in the land of pleasant living.



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Sailing Association**

We're on the Web!
<http://www.hhsa.org>



The April Fools Cruisers at Latitude 38 Restaurant, Oxford, MD