



## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

### November 2008

November 8.....Fall Meeting.....Holland Point Community Center.....10:30 AM

## From the Helm

Ted Slotwinski, *Zalek*

Another sailing season is rapidly closing. Though there will remain many clear, cool days to race or cruise, the swimsuit weather normally associated with sailing is past. Our focus becomes that long list of deferred maintenance and improvement projects we hope to accomplish over the winter--if only the obstacles of time and money can be overcome.

I encourage you to attend our Fall General Meeting on November 8 at the Holland Point Community Center for the review of the past year, the election of new officers, and a fabulous chili lunch. As of press time, we have been unable to find a candidate for Rear Commodore Social. If you are interested, please attend the meeting and volunteer. Absent any viable candidate, the 2009 Board will jointly assume the duties of the Rear Commodore Social.

The Volvo 70 race around the world in segments receives much publicity, sponsorship, and interest. However, arguably the most demanding sailing race, the "Everest race of sailing" will commence on November 9 with the start of the sixth Vendee Globe. One sailor,

one 60-foot monohull, non-stop, without assistance--including no weather routing. The course is relatively simple: depart Les Sables d'Olonne, France on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, leave Cape Agulhas, Cape Leeuwin, and Cape Horn to port, finish at Les Sables d'Olonne. There are some arbitrary mid-ocean gates you must pass through in the Indian and South Pacific Oceans to prevent competitors from selecting the kamikaze course too far south through the Antarctic ice fields. Thirty sailors are registered, the most ever, including 17 French, seven English including two yachswomen (Dee Caffari and Sam Davies), two Swiss, one American (Rich Wilson, only the fourth American to participate), one Canadian, one Spaniard, and one Austrian.

The first Vendee Globe was run in 1989-1990. Thirteen boats started, Seven finished. It was won by Frenchman Titouan Lamazou in 109 d, 8 h, 48 m, 50 s. Two, including American Mike Plant, were

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eliminated-- i.e., completed the course but received assistance along the route. Four retired, including American Guy Bernardin.

The second Vendee Globe was run in 1992-1993. Fourteen boats started. Seven finished. It was won by Frenchman Alain Gautier in 110 d, 2 h, 22 m, 35 s. One was eliminated. Five retired. One, Englishman Nigel Burgess, was lost at sea in the Bay of Biscay early in the race.

The third Vendee Globe was run in 1996-1997. Sixteen boats started. Six finished. It was won by Frenchman Christophe Auguin in 105 d, 2 h, 31m. Six boats finished, including Frenchwoman Catherine Chabaud. Two were eliminated. Seven retired. One (Canadian Gerry Roufs) was lost.

The fourth Vendee Globe was run in 2000-2001. Twenty four boats started. Fifteen finished. It was won by Frenchman Michel Desjoyeaux in 93d, 3 h, 57m, 32s. Englishwoman Ellen MacArthur finished second. Three were eliminated. Six retired.

The fifth Vendee Globe was run in 2004-2005. Twenty boats started. Thirteen finished. It was won by Frenchman Vincent Riou in 87 d, 10 h, 47 m, 55 s less than seven hours ahead of second place. The third American to compete, Bruce Schwab, finished ninth. Seven retired.

As always, keep recruiting, see you on the water.

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## *Cruise News*

Tom McGarry, *Ventreil Magh*

As I write, the Halloween Cruise to St. Michaels is in the immediate offing, and I hope

to see you there. Should be great fun, especially if you arrive early enough to parade through the town in your costume.

This is the last sponsored cruise of the season - and a great season it was for those who were fortunate enough to participate. A few new destinations and new concepts generated some variety and change from last year.

I am preparing a report for the year for the Fall Membership Meeting. Please email me your thoughts or comments, at [tmcgarry@cox.net](mailto:tmcgarry@cox.net) or call me at 703-425-8727.

See you on the water!

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## *Social Corner*

Nina McGarry, *Ventreil Magh*

November is an exciting month! We begin the winter race series. Engage in waning cruises with exciting sunsets. Most importantly, we have our Fall Meeting and elect officers for the next year.

This year, we are combining the Fall Membership Meeting and the first annual Allen Wright Invitational Chili Cook-Off. Allen Wright is a long time, active Herrington Harbour Sailing Association member. He, along with his daughter, Beverly, host cruises as well as participate in the race events. Never ceasing to be creative, Allen recommended we combine our Fall Meeting with a social event including chili. Hence, the first annual "Allen Wright Invitational Chili Cook-Off".

Allen, along with a panel of judges selected by Allen, will graciously test each chili selecting par excellence amongst the offerings. Here's your chance to demonstrate that sailors – racers and cruisers – know how to cook!

Decide whether you would like to contribute either a pot of chili or a tray of cornbread. Confirm your choice by emailing ([nmcgarry@gwu.edu](mailto:nmcgarry@gwu.edu)) or calling (703-425-8727) Nina McGarry with your selection. Please remember to bring a ladle for serving your chili or a basket for cornbread, if that is your choice.

The fees for this event are minimal. The fees for an adult is \$10 and for a child \$5. These fees cover the rental costs of the Civic Center. The Association will provide a keg of beer for adults and assorted soft drinks for children along with paper products (bowls, spoons, napkins) as well as dessert.

This event is hosted at the Holland Point Civic Center located at 919 Walnut Avenue, Holland Point, MD. The Civic Center is down the street from Herrington Harbour South on the way to Chesapeake Beach.

In addition to sampling chili specialties, the Fall Meeting is also the event where the current board reports on this year's events. You will hear from the Commodore Ted Slotwinski, Treasuere/Secretary, Maris Eshelman, Vice Commodores Membership (Carl Schafer), Communication (Keith Morgenstern), Newsletter (Joe Howell), Racing (Bruce Artman), Cruising (Tom McGarry), and Social (Nina McGarry) on the state of the Association. This is also the venue when officers for the upcoming year are nominated and voted upon. Finally, a representative from Herrington Harbour will present to discuss harbor plans. Come and engage in making your association better as well as enjoying chili.

The agenda for the Fall Meeting is for the board meeting to begin at 9:00 followed by the General Meeting at 10:30. Chili sampling occurs immediately following the General Meeting.

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## Communications

Keith Morgenstern, *Beyond the Sea*

Just when we thought things were getting slow around here, things get interesting again: Frostbiting! Yea! ....and that means I will have to get back into a regular habit of updating the racing results pages!

As fall and winter approach, you may start thinking about what you want to fix or upgrade for next year. Inevitably, you will have questions. And inevitably, someone else in the club has dealt with it before. What better way to benefit from their experience, than to post your question on our forums. We have established a new forum for this purpose, the "General Discussions / How-to" forum.

And as always, please shoot suggestions on what you would like to see on the website my way.

See you on the water.

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## Nominations

Joe Howell *Carolina Blue*

It is that time of year again—time to elect our leaders for the 2009 year. Fortunately we are lucky to have a superb slate of officers who have agreed to stand for election except for one very important position—Rear Commodore for Social Activities. This may be your opportunity to contribute to the club and have a good time doing it. Barbara Locke and Nina McGarry, who held this position in 2007 and 2008 respectively, can fill you in on what is

involved. Please give it your most serious consideration. Let Stefan Leader know if you are interested or just show up and volunteer.

Brief bios of most of the candidates are included below. We are especially fortunate to have several returning officers from 2008—Ted Slotwinski as Commodore, Maris Eshleman as Secretary Treasurer, Bruce Artman as Rear Commodore for Racing, and Keith Morgenstern as Rear Commodore for Communications. Tom McGarry will move from Rear Commodore for Cruising to Vice Commodore. New nominees are Al Del Negro for Cruising and, bless her heart, Ellen Harris who will take on the most coveted position of all—the newsletter.

### **Ted Slotwinski, Commodore**

I have the pleasure (I think) of being nominated for a second year as Commodore. First I must apologize for not devoting as much time to HHSA as the Commodore should during 2008 due to family commitments. I promise 2009 will be better.

I joined HHSA in 1989. I have owned four boats over that period, a 1976 C&C 24, a 1975 Nicholson 33 3/4-ton, a 1984 Taylor 38, and currently a 1998 Lavranos 38 custom aluminum ocean capable (even though the skipper is not) performance cruiser. Most of my sailing has been HHSA racing, some CBYRA racing mostly when I owned the Nicholson, and day sailing. My cruising has been limited to once or twice a season. I retired from the federal government as an engineer in January 2007. So theoretically, I have time available for sailing.

I have previously served as the Rear Commodore Racing (three times), as the Secretary/Treasurer, and as the Vice Commodore--perhaps a plus in HHSA experience, perhaps a minus in being part of the establishment.

Considering the small size of HHSA, less than 110 members, our racing and cruising programs are quite viable. Our social program has struggled for several years. Our biggest problem remains how to recruit new members-

- a nation-wide problem for sailing, which struggles to compete with faster, less time/education intensive, and cheaper recreational activities especially for modern, busy families with children. HHSA has been good to me, and I'd like to return the favor.

### **Tom McGarry, Vice Commodore**

I have been sailing with our boat, the *Ventrel Magh*, a 1997 Ericson 380, for five seasons now. Prior to that, I sailed sporadically on charters, including a one-week charter in the Chesapeake Bay. During the first three of the past five seasons, I sailed almost every weekend, mostly on overnight cruises, in the Bay. In 2004, I did a Round DelMarVa 400 with two other crew, which consisted of a sail to Hampton Roads on the first leg and a sail from Hampton Roads to Annapolis via the Atlantic Ocean, Delaware Bay and the canal.

The past two seasons, I similarly sailed about every other weekend. In 2006, I did a solo nine day extended Southern Bay Cruise in the Bay. Just this past September, I did a separate solo nine day Southern Bay Cruise, this time to Norfolk and then back, with some interesting and mildly challenging conditions.

I was Rear Commodore for Cruising this year and have enjoyed my participation on the board in that capacity.

### **Keith Morgenstern, Rear Commodore, Communications**

I have been a member of HHSA since 2003. Since then I have been an active racer, both as crew and now as a skipper, and have participated in a few cruises with my wife, Meghan, and our little boy, Sean. I have also had the pleasure of serving as the Rear Commodore for Communications for the last year and would be honored to continue serving HHSA in that capacity for the 2009 sailing season.

### **Maris Eshleman, Rear Commodore, Secretary Treasurer**

Well, I would be right pleased to be yar Pusser for this here fine Sailing Association for another yar. Me fine mate and me continue to enjoy the pleasures of the Bay every chance we get. Why we are just back from playin' in a gale on our way to the Halloween Cruise to test the courage of our fearless ship, and she held up well.

For them among ya that don't much know me, we hole up in Reston, VA when we be on land having just moved there from Ashburn, VA so we could be closer to the boat. In the yars b'fur sailing I spent many of 'em in the Army learnin to pillage and plunder. These days when we not be sailing I work for a fine firm called Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc. in McLean, VA as an IT project manager. Yar Pusser is eminently qualified with a BA, MS and JD degrees.

Yar Pusser looks forward greatly to seein all hands in the next yar and reporting on the gold in Pusser's chest.

### **Al Del Negro, Rear Commodore, Cruising**

Trish Creevy and I have kept our boat, *Solace*, a 1985 Sabre 32, at Herrington Harbour South since 1989. We joined **HHSA** in 2000 and at first we only attended the gala dinners at the conclusion of the season. But soon thereafter we started cruising with HHSA, and we became so enthusiastic about cruising that we attended nearly every cruise. Trish became Rear Commodore-Social and occupied that position for three years. Following that, she became Commodore, and all the monthly board meetings were held at our home in DC. My role at that time was to provide dinner for everyone. I would rush home after work on Tuesdays on the evenings of the meetings in order to start preparing dinner for 7-9 hungry friends. I never had more fun cooking in my life.

We have greatly enjoyed cruising with HHSA. In the 2007 cruising year in addition to sponsoring the Pirate Cruise, we sponsored

three or four pick-up cruises. This past season, we hosted the Pirate Cruise, the Red Neck Cruise and one pick-up cruise.

I would love to continue contributing to the cruising life of HHSA and to play a major role by being elected Rear Commodore-Cruising. To enhance the cruising experience, I would provide assistance to the cruising captains in selecting venues for cruising and providing guidance for novice cruisers. This year, several cruises conflicted with the racing schedule as there was little coordination between the two schedules. Before the start of the next cruising and racing season, I would work with Rear Commodore-Racing to assure as little conflict as possible between these two vibrant schedules. This would allow those racers who like to cruise the opportunity to do both. I believe Social, Racing and Cruising would benefit from a greater degree of coordination. Finally, I would support and work to reinstate the Cruise-Race sailing event which we greatly enjoyed in past seasons.

### **Ellen Harris, Rear Commodore, Newsletter**

I have been producing newsletters for professional organizations and non-profits since cutting and pasting actually involved scissors.

An enthusiastic cruiser, I began sailing as a passenger on a Sunfish owned by my husband and our attorney, called by the attorney's wife the "He-Man-Woman-Hater" boat.

Moving to Alexandria in 1998, Hooper and I bought a house that came with a bonus-- a 1965 Columbia Contender 24, which had a waterline inside the cabin from its last sinking, and a slip at Herrington North. This became the first *Good Ship Tabasco*.

The current *Good Ship Tabasco* lives on C Dock at Herrington North (a 1983 Hunter 34).

I feed my sailing habit by working as a network engineer (and newsletter editor) for a small government contractor in Fairfax. This is what happens when one has too many liberal

arts diplomas. I share a birthday with Al Del Negro.

### **Dream Job Awaiting You!**

Premier Sailing Association on Chesapeake Bay has high prestige position available for the right person to coordinate and plan social activities of the club. Great benefits, salary based on experience.

Contact Stefan Leader at 703-684-3616.

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## *Pirates' Cruise*

Al Del Negro *Solace*

Avast me hearties and learn the way o' the Pirate Lif'. We bin gatherin' aboard the galleon *Solace* on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. The gang dropped anchor at Leeds Creek off the Miles River opposite o' St. Michaels (thar be a tale there about the depths on the charts) and the raidin' began with grog and merriment aplenty. There bin wenches and liars aboard wid swords, knives and parrots as ye can see. The raiders attendin' were them from *Sweet Liberty* (Maris and Linda Eshelman), *Island Time* (John and Barbara Locke), *Skylark* (Jules and Sandy Rondepierre), *Diva II* (Stefan Leader and Andrea Heintzleman), *Phoebe II* (Ross and Estelle Bouchard), and others too many to name. As a picture is worth a thousand words, behold them what was ther'.

Prizes were awarded for the winner of the Pirate Lore and History Contest (hotly contested and decided by a "paper-rock-scissors" contest)) and for the Best Pirate and Best Wench outfits (The Eshlemans).

Followin' victuals, there was a reunion of sorts aboard *Solace* for the celebratory lemoncello (of Mediterranean pirate origin of course) and the general sharing of good fellowship and pirate lies!.

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## *Halloween Cruise*

John Locke *Solace*

The Halloween Cruise to St. Michaels on October 25<sup>th</sup> took place on a rainy, chilly, windy day, which lent a certain aura to the cobweb-encased *Island Time*. Attending were *Sweet Liberty*, *Gone Away*, *Mystic Traveler*, *Solace* (by car) and *Exhibit A* (also by car). (*Island Time*, *Gone Away* & *Mystic Traveler* all went to St. Michaels on Friday, when the weather was considerably better.) *Sweet Liberty* braved the poor weather and sailed over on Saturday in what turned out to be gale warnings. Hot cider and spiced rum were served by Joe and Kathy Burke, which warmed up everyone; and when hot appetizers were served, they were gone in a flash. Later, after the wind shifted and the rain increased, we were driven into the cozy cabin below. Prizes were awarded for costumes as follows: Men's; 1<sup>st</sup> place – Maris Eshleman; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tom McGarry; 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gary Pritchard; Women's; 1<sup>st</sup> place – Kathy Burke; 2<sup>nd</sup> – tie Trisha Creevy & Linda Eshleman; 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kathy Pritchard. Sunday dawned bright, sunny and warm, which made for a pleasant return to our home slips.

And now *Island Time* will head south down the ICW around November 5. We will join *Valhalla* and *Cecil* for part of the trip. *Island Time* is headed to the Keys to be joined by the crew of *Mystic Traveler* in February.



**Halloween and  
Pirates Cruises  
2008**

**Is this a scary  
crowd or what!**



**A great year  
for HHSA  
Cruising!**