

HARBOUR LIGHT



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FROM THE COMMODORE... Ted Slotwinski, S/V ZALEK

The 2009 season has arrived. By the time you read this, the first cruise and first races will be history. Hopefully, few of you remain land bound. Participation in the various Spring shore events has been great. I hope the enthusiasm continues throughout the season of racing and cruising.

New memberships are trickling in; not a flood, but encouraging. Please consider participating in one of Tom McGarry's numerous recruiting

initiatives. Also, if you have not renewed your membership, please do so promptly. If you do not plan to renew, let us know. That will help us finalize our tight budget for this season, and facilitate updating the membership directory.

See my separate article regarding the New Members breakfast and cruise.

On a sad note, this month will see the departure of Bill and Jodi Weinbecker

and their children Allison and Will as they head to their new home in New Orleans. True sailors, they are moving themselves via sea in their own boat MY MOJO. They joined HHSA in late 2005. In their three plus seasons with us they have unselfishly shared their enthusiasm for sailing and for life, participated in many club activities, and shown their stern to most of the racers. Lets wish them fair winds and following seas on their sortie South.

ABOUT THE NEW MEMBERS CRUISE

TED SLOTWINSKI, S/V ZALEK

Due to an early Memorial Day observation this year (May 23-25) and the HHSA Spring Regatta scheduled for Saturday May 16, the New Members breakfast and cruise is scheduled for the May 30-31 weekend. On the plus side, the air and Bay temperatures should be warmer to make the events more pleasant. The breakfast will be between 9:00 and 11:00 AM

on Saturday May 30 at Herrington Harbour South at the East-side tent (old tennis courts). Coffee, tea, juice and condiments will be provided by HHSA. Old members should bring some favorite breakfast pastries, bagels, fruits, etc. to share. New members just bring themselves and their families. Even if you are not going on the cruise, please join us at breakfast so old and new members can associate faces with names, learn who

are new dock mates, and make friends.

ZALEK and I will lead the New Members cruise immediately after the breakfast. The destination will not be finalized until a few days before the event, but will likely go to either the South River, Rhode River, or Shaw Bay depending on the weather forecast.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Travis Brown Alexandria, VA
Catalina 27 - Silent Running -
O-12 HHN

Lyle Krehbiel & Terry LaRocco
Pacific Seacraft 31 - Bella Luna HHN

Steven & Marguerite McGill
Herndon, VA
Catalina 34 MK I - Clarity
D-14 Shipwright

Kenneth & Vicki Rasmussen
Westsail 32
Legend - Tee of O HHN

Gail & David Stamm
Springfield, VA
Crew on XARIS

Larry & Pam Brown
Chesapeake Beach, MD
Gemini 105Mc IDYLL OURS
HHN H-46

Chris & Beth Cowie - Washington, DC
Rhodes 22 OPUS - HHN L-12

Mark Leffers - Bethesda, MD
Endeavour 38 - HHS O-11

Stephen & Debra Annand
Columbia, MD - Beneteau 47.3
CARPE VENTUS - HHS K-23

Gary Martin - Gainesville, VA
Shannon 32 NATALIE ANN - HHN
G-27

Kenneth & Cece Proper
North Beach, MD
CSY 44 ketch FLYING CRANE
HHS H-3

Jeffrey & Mary Bowen
Friendship, MD
Pearson 30 PACHANGA - HHN

Mark Goodale
Burke, VA
Hunter 28.5—HHN

Gerald & Joan Kadonoff -
McLean, VA
Beneteau 440
EMERALD DREAM - HHS H-8

Marsha Reich -
Associate member -
Silver Spring, MD
Crew on CANTATA

Keith Murphy -
Associate member -
Alexandria, VA
Crew on ZALEK

SEVEN BOATS BRAVE HARSH CONDITIONS FOR APRIL FOOLS CRUISE

LINDA AND MARIS ESHLEMAN—CRUISE CAPTAINS

Seven intrepid boats braved temperatures in the 90's, bright sun and cool breezes to suffer through a challenging first cruise of the season. The crew of Sweet Liberty kicked off the "Summer of Nine" cruising season with their April Fools Cruise on April 25-26 in Oxford offering Painkillers at Happy Hour to chase away the remaining pain of the worst winter in years.

HHSA Member foolish boats attending the Fools Cruise included *Cantata*, *Diva II*, *Exhibit A*, *Tabasco*, *Ventrel Magh*, and new members Steve and Debra Annand on *Carpe Ventus*. Foolish cruisers

gathered on the host boat in summer-like conditions to enjoy great hors d'oeuvres with y'ar Pusser's Painkillers. After rounds of foolish pleasures the foolish cruisers had a relaxing and foolishly pleasant dinner at the Oxford eatery "Latitude 38" so-named because of the proximity to the 38th parallel and not to be confused with the San Francisco sailing magazine of the same name.

Intended as an early season outing for daring cruisers, the April Fools Cruise celebrated the new sailing season and the dauntless revelers were rewarded this year with the best weekend

weather of the year so far. The only bad weather blew through overnight with tropical storm force winds but came on us fast and left us fast.

While the wind for sailing was a little light at times both days, the sheer beauty of the weather and the chance for this early season escape more than off-set the downside. Everyone enjoyed the weather, the drinks and the company.

If you missed this cruise there will be many more to follow. Hope to see you at one soon.



Above left: *Tabasco* cap'n Hooper Harris demonstrates poor sunblock use results. Above right: Lil and Hank Chalkley enjoy happy hour aboard *Sweet Liberty*. Lower Right: Love was in the air in Oxford for Stefan Leader and Andrea Heintzelman. Lower Left: Lil Chalkley and Maris Eshleman wait for dinner. Center, clockwise: John Harris, Sr., Ellen Harris, Steve Annand, Hank and Lil Chalkley, Maris Eshleman, Hooper Harris, John Harris, Jr., and Tom McGarry. Photos by Linda Eshleman

CRUISING REPORT

BY AL DEL NEGRO

REAR COMMODORE CRUISING S/V *SOLACE* HHS N-14

As I write this, I am huddled in my study at home in DC awaiting the real onset of warm weather. Winter has lingered longer than usual this year and as the days have lengthened, we can see some of the promises of spring. The robin on our front lawn, the buds on our pink dogwood tree, the stirring and “yellowing” of the forsythia all pay testimony to the fact that the calendar says it is almost the month of May. I see the proof of the promise of warm weather but the temperature huddles around 45 – 55 degrees and this deepens my despair.

But wait! As I check the HHS website, I can see that there is a cruise to Oxford on April 25 and 26! Yes, it's that famous pirate, Blue Beard Eshleman and he's recruiting a fleet of HHS sailors to join him and his first mate, Linda aboard Sweet Liberty, for a raid on Mears Marina in Oxford! What fun! At last, it really must be spring and the sailing season is truly upon us. Thank heaven; I thought winter would never end!

In point of fact, there have been a few warm and lovely days clustered around weekends (as well as several cold and rainy ones) which gave ample opportunity to re-commission our boats for the coming sailing season. The cruise to Oxford, billed as the April

Fools Cruise, was the first on water function of the Cruising year, and the weather was spectacularly beautiful and warm. This was preceded by the Cruising Seminar held on the weekend of April 18 at the Herrington Harbour South clubhouse adjacent to Mangoes. The seminar started immediately after the Race Management Seminar led by HHS RC, Racing Bruce Artman and attracted 27 participants for two hours of information on weather and navigation (presented by Hooper Harris), anchoring techniques and equipment (presented by Stefan Leader), and cruising etiquette and rafting techniques (presented by yours truly, Al Del Negro, HHS RC, Cruising). Among the audience there were even some racers!

The presentations for this seminar are in Power Point format and downloadable from the HHS website. There was sufficient enthusiasm to make this a yearly event. Additional potential seminars this season are “Cruising the ICW” and “Offshore Cruising to the Bahamas”. These two additional seminars are the invention of Ardell Hoveskeland and, if there is sufficient interest, their timing will be announced in the future this season.

This Cruising Seminar and the cruise to Oxford are the kick-off events of the cruising season even before the upcoming New Members Cruise on May 30-31 led by HHS Commodore Ted Slotwinski. This year's breakfast will be at Herrington Harbour South at the east side tent (near the old tennis courts) starting at 9:00 AM. Attendees are asked to bring a

breakfast to share and meet the new members who will be introduced at the breakfast. Following the breakfast, Commodore Ted Slotwinski (*Zalek*) will lead a cruise to a pre-determined destination. As always, check the website for additional details and information.

Memorial Day is fast approaching and this year as in the past, a three day cruise is scheduled on May 23 – 25. The cruise captains for this cruise are Stefan Leader and Andrea Heintzelman, who plan to lead us to Hudson Creek on the first night and then to Grace Creek off the Choptank River on the second night of the weekend. Stef reported seeing a pod of dolphin in Hudson Creek on a Memorial Day cruise two years ago. This promises to be a wonderful holiday event.

That about sums up cruising events in April and May. Just wait until you see the cruising schedule for June! Check the website, <http://www.HHS.org> for more information and participation in forums. See you on the water.



Above, Stefan Leader and below, Keith Mayes, share their experience in cruising and racing with the seminar participants at HHS in April.



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LABEL HERE



**Herrington Harbour
Sailing Association**

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

COMMUNICATIONS

KEITH MORGENSTERN
S/V BEYOND THE SEA

I hope that everyone made the transition from the old Yahoo email lists to the newer website ones with little problem. I also hope that everyone found the Cruising Seminars posted online easily enough.

BRUCE ARTMAN
S/V T-BONE

RACING

We are set to have a great season this year on Herring Bay. Attendance at the recent Race Committee seminar was well attended by skippers and crew alike. If the quality of the questions is any indication, we can expect bang-up RC work for the entire year. If you have any questions about RC duty, or if you haven't yet signed up, please contact Bruce Artman as soon as possible.

The next event for the year will be the OTW Tune-Up, sponsored by North Sails. On May 3rd, plan on bringing out your crew for one of the best loved events of the year. Imagine, a whole season's worth of starts in one day! Sign up online now, and pay your registration via credit card to make this as

easy as possible to plan. There are a lot of activities coming up, but put the weekend of August 15th on your calendar now. Plan on spending the weekend on Herring Bay for our Adopt-a-Cruiser-Summer-BBQ-Blind-folded-Dingy-Race-SMSA-Welcome Extravaganza (we're still working on a better name). In short there will be a ton of fun events for cruisers, racers and family on Saturday and Sunday. Perhaps getting a room at the HHS Motel now would be a good idea? More details will follow!

Racing finally is starting!

Racers: Take a few minutes to make sure your inboxes are ready to get the most important email you will get all week: **RACING RESULTS!** It will come from "RESULTS@HHSA.ORG". Make sure your inboxes don't filter it out!

Cruisers: Although the April Fool's Cruise has officially opened the Summer Cruising season (land cruises notwithstanding), you will no doubt see a lot more email traffic regarding upcoming cruises throughout the summer. Make sure your inboxes don't filter out "cruise_announcements@hhsa.org".

And as always, if you have comments or questions send them my way!