

# the Tell-Tale

February 2002

Blue Marsh Sailing  
Association  
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At our January meeting, several members presented their favorite sailing memories. It's worth noting that most of the stories were not about boats, but people. Looking back on my years of sailing, a story stands out in my memory that perfectly illustrates how you count on sailors to respond when help is needed.

Several years ago we were sailing a 34-foot Irwin on the west coast of Florida behind Cayo Costa just north of Captiva, south of the Boca Grande Pass. We had heard about an anchorage that was supposed to be particularly lovely and we wanted to explore it.

The directions were tricky. They involved staying close to shore until reaching a certain stand of mangroves, then heading out into the sound before coming around a point of land, and into a cove surrounded by trees, an idyllic spot.

During this difficult process we went hard aground. There was no way that we could get off

the sand bar by ourselves, we could see no other boats and since we were sailing alone we thought we might be stuck for a long time.

Then, all of a sudden a fleet of dinghies raced out from around the point, alerted by our grinding motor that someone was in trouble. With a lot of good humor and cooperation the group dingyed our anchor off and dropped it in deep water. With their help, we were able to kedge the boat off the sand bar. We were led into the anchorage and got help tying up to a mangrove tree, which was how the locals anchored for the night.

That's the great thing about sailors – you can count on them to help out when there is a need. Our club is strong because of this spirit and the many committed volunteers who pitch in when something needs to be done.

*Joan Whan  
Commodore*

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

At our February General Meeting we will have a special wine and cheese party in honor of Valentine's Day. Come out and enjoy a program hosted by home wine-maker Patricia Carvalho. We will discuss how to choose the appropriate wine for your special occasion. Bring your favorite wine and cheese along to share and discuss.

Our March program will be a special presentation by a local lifelong sailor, Greg Myers. Greg spent most of his teenage years aboard a boat and has sailed all across the globe with his family. He will be discussing what it was like during this time and what effect it has had on his life.

Our April program will a discussion of Celestial Navigation presented by Tom Wolfinger. Tom is a former Air Force Captain and is active with the Boy Scouts. He will discuss the ideas behind navigating by using celestial objects.

*Joanne Solarek  
Program*

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### Events for February

- Thursday 2/14  
General Meeting featuring Winemaking.
- Monday 2/18  
Board Meeting.
- Saturday 2/23  
Reading Royals Hockey.

Visit our website at <http://hometown.aol.com/kristela/myhomepage/club.html>

Meetings are held at the Lower Heidelberg Fire Company  
the second THURSDAY of each month unless otherwise announced.  
(7:30 Social, 8:00 Meeting)