

April 2003



It is Spring at long last, the long Winter is finally over, the ice has melted, and day light savings time will soon be here. Even more important its time to go sailing, get yourself out of the house, get your boat out of storage and be ready to go. We have some great things planned for this year so put them on your calendar. This month we have our annual GPS rally it's a chance to learn or practice your navigation with a GPS and to have a good time with your fellow sailors.

For another way to get out of the house why not come out and volunteer to clean-up the lake on April 26 at Blue Marsh Lake's annual clean-up day.

This is also the month that the floating docks at the launch ramp go back in the water. Remember if you're out sailing early in the season the water is still mighty cold so don't forget your wet suit and pfd.

This year the entrance fee for the lake has increased \$3 but there is a yearlong pass available at the lake office. The pass will give you a considerable discount if you are planning on being a regular visitor to the lake.

Once again we will be getting together to sail on Wednesday nights throughout the summer. We have Saturday races scheduled for you to participate in and Cruises, Vaga-

bonds and picnics. Remember you don't need a scheduled event to go sailing with a fellow Blue Marsh sailor. All you need is your Log-Book to decide own might like to go sailing. Just pick up the phone and give a fellow sailor a call and offer to take then out sailing. Come on out to our next meeting to pick-up your LogBook.

Dave Miller
Commodore

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Events For April

- Saturday 4/5:
GPS Rally.
- Thursday 4/10:
General Meeting.
- Monday 4/14:
Board Meeting.
- Saturday 4/26:
Lake Clean-up.

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www.ConradVanino.com

Century 21 Park Road 610 372 5633 Extension 3111

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

Minutes of the Board Meeting

March 17, 2003

Attending: Dave Miller, Kristel and Mike Adair, John Hackman,, Alex and Joan Whan, Jan and Mike Dougherty, Sally Koch, Sean Hollis, Heidi Moser, Joanne Solarek, and Bob Hartwich.

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Dave Miller at 7:38 pm. February Board Minutes were accepted as printed in the Tell Tale.

Treasurer: Bob reported the current balance is \$2357.24. There was much discussion on how to reduce our expenses. Cuts in some areas will need to be made to bring the total in balance. Last year at this time our balance was \$4,251.79.

Committee Reports: (any committees not listed below had no report.)

CBYCA: Russ sent a report that the last meeting was snowed out.

Chaplain: Dawn Bibbus's father passed away. Roger Clary's sister in England passed away. The club extends its sympathy to both our members.

Equipment: The snow has melted and the boat can now be moved to Mr. Peffley's. Alex will store the motor at his house. Ralph Bibbus has offered a replacement propeller (if it fits).

Fleet: The Spring Cruise currently has 5 or 6 boats interested in participating. It is recommended that those interested contact Ray Hemphill for coordination.

Membership: 125 members have renewed so far. Last year's highest membership was 170.

Program: Scott Morrison presented an excellent program on boat construction.

Publicity: The Website is up. The program at Penn State went over well and seemed to generate a lot of interest.

Safety: Joanne reported that BMSA will donate glasses toward the door prize. Subject of the program will be a "Man Overboard" drill. The Club is interested in finding volunteers to be the rescuers and the person in distress.

Social: The Annual GPS Rally will be April 5th. Those participating should meet at Kenhorst at the Dollar Store end of the parking lot at 12:45 pm.

Tell Tale: Century 21 Park Road, Conrad Vanino will be placing an ad as will Health-South. Approximately 30 households have elected to receive the Tell Tale electronically.

Stores: The Board discussed the next order, and the possibility of having a few items on hand for "thank you" gifts for program presenters.

Training: Training Day will be May 3. Some of the Penn State program attendees have expressed an interest in attending.

Vagabond: The first Day Trip will be the Bridge Walk/Day Sail. Boats will probably launch on the Magothy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Dougherty
Secretary

Outdoor Expo Recap

On Sunday March 16, BMSA attended the Outdoor Expo at Penn State, Berks Campus. The Berks County Community Hiking Club organized the expo and a large number of groups engaging in outdoor activities were in attendance. Local hiker and adventurer Cindy Ross presented a multimedia presentation titled, "Scraping Heaven- A Family's Journey Along the Continental Divide". Organizations present included Buck Hollow Llamas, Blue Mt. Eagle Climbing Club, Bowers Photo, Keystone Canoe Club, Mengle Natural History Society, Baird Ornithological Society, Berks Amateur Astronomers, Zephyr Adventures, Berks Mineralogical Society, Blue Marsh Lake, Nolde E.E. Center, Reading Roc, Monocacy Hill Conservancy, Sierra Club, Boy Scouts Eagle Scout & Ventures Programs, and the Pagoda Pacers.

The event was well attended and we were able to speak to many people interested in sailing. This is likely to become an annual event and was a good promotional event for BMSA.

Thanks to Mike and Kristel Adair, Anna Grace, Jeff Weikel, and John Hackman for pulling together the materials and staffing the table during the expo.



Upcoming Programs 2003

For April we have scheduled Kim Richards from BaySail in Havre de Grace to speak. Kim will be talking about learning to sail through the American Sailing Association courses and what you should know when chartering a boat.

In May our very own Sean Hollis will be discussing sailboat racing tactics and how to drive the boat to be the first across the finish line.

During our summer break we will be having picnics as in years past.

Lastly, we are planning ahead to the Fall. In September we are planning on having a sail maker on hand to discuss sails and sail trim.

Ralph Bibbus
Program

GPS Rally

Hi everyone!

Mark your calendars for April 5th at 12:45PM for this year's GPS Rally! Expert navigators and those just learning the wonders of the GPS (Global Positioning System) will find this year's rally a really fun way to spend an afternoon with Blue Marsh friends! If you've never done one of our rallies before, let me explain how it works.

Participants' forms teams, one team per car, and are given a clue sheet. A course has been laid out of various landmarks, and each is identified on your clue sheet with the latitude and longitude coordinates. For each landmark, there is a question or two to be answered to prove that you have been there. When your team receives the clue sheet, you'll enter the latitude and longitude of each landmark as a waypoint, then use the GPS to find your way to each one. The team with the most right answers wins! In case of a tie, the team with the lowest mileage wins.

This is not a timed event, but we allow three hours before we ask you to be at the ending place (a restaurant) where we will share a bite to eat and announce the winners. In the event your team cannot complete the course in time, we provide an emergency envelope that will direct you to the ending place.

If you do not have a GPS or don't know how to use one, we'll team you up with someone who does. New folks - this is a great way to get to know some of your fellow club members, and educational in learning how the GPS works! All you need to do is sign up and we'll set up the teams.

The starting point is at the Dollar Tree Store next to Sears in the Kenhorst Shopping Plaza, or N40° 17.949', W75° 56.831'. The GPS will be the only reference tool allowed to navigate the course; no supplemental maps permitted.

Since we need to make a reservation at the restaurant, we ask you to sign up by Thursday, April 3rd. Call Social Chairman Sally Koch at 610-693-5613 or email her at salkoch@email.msn.com.

C'mon out and get jazzed for the sailing season with this great event! We'll see you there!

*Mike and Kristel Adair
GPS Rally Committee*

Social News

We started out the New Year with a trip to the Sovereign Center to watch the Reading Royals vs. Roanoke Express on Friday, February 28. The Royals lost, but we watched an exciting game right up to the final seconds. Cheering fans, power plays and battling hockey players throwing punches at each other... just another hockey game! Thanks to everyone who came out.

Bowling at Berks Lanes on March 15 was our next event. Our number was small, but our enthusiasm was big. We had rookies, seasoned vets, a half-pint (Conrad's grandson) and lots of fun. Congratulations to Conrad Vanino who captured first place and to Joan Whan, who scored three strikes in a row in her last game to take second place. My thanks to everyone who participated.

Our big social event in April will be the GPS Rally on Saturday, April 5. Plan to join us in a great afternoon of finding our way around Berks County with just navigational readings and lots of fun. Please contact me at 610-693-5613 or salkoch@email.msn.com if you plan to attend. We need to reserve space at the "final destination".

On May 4, we will car-pool down to Annapolis for our annual Bridge Walk. The Vagabonders will be sailing under the bridge while the Walkers will be strutting across. Plans are to meet at AC Moore in Shillington by 7:00 and caravan our way down to Maryland. Please call or email me if you are interested.

*Sally Koch
Social*

Membership

Thank You and welcome back to all our members who renewed their membership for 2003. Our numbers are down this year so consider bringing a friend to our next meeting and introduce them to sailing and all our fun events.

A warm welcome to our new members Nat Arndt, from Pennside and Deanne Sandt of Shillington we hope to see you at the next regular meeting and look forward to sailing with you.

LogBooks for 2003 are being completed. Please come to the next scheduled meeting to pick up your LogBook and membership card. Picking-up the Log will help keep the cost of mailing to a minimum and "hey you might meet someone new!"

*Jeff Weikel
Membership*

New publicity Materials for Blue Marsh Sailing

During the winter months several members assisted me in creating new promotional and publicity materials to promote and publicize Blue Marsh Sailing.

We registered and created a new more informational website. The website went live on the internet March 12 and we are now working to get listed in search engines and web directories. The new site presents our activities and allows visitors to view past copies of the Tell Tale, read stories about some of our adventures and even download a membership application.

Our second piece of promotional material is a tri-fold brochure designed to quickly promote our group and point readers to our website or to contact our membership chairperson. We plan on placing our brochure at numerous locations likely to have potential new sailors. We would encourage members to obtain some brochures and distribute them to potential members. You may want to consider keeping some brochures in your car so there handy when your at the lake.

You can visit our new website at www.blumarshsailing.org. Please provide your feedback and tell your friends about the site. If anyone is interested in having some brochures to distribute, please contact me.

Thanks to everyone who helped me pull these items together!

John Hackman

Vagabonds & Day Sails

Now that we are into April it is time to start thinking of getting out on our boats again. With this in mind, we will be holding our first two daysails of the 2003 sailing season in the month of May. Read on below and be sure to mark these events on your calendar, as I am sure you will not want to miss out on them.

Sunday May 4th: On this day the State of Maryland will be closing the southern (eastbound) bridge of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge for its annual bridge walk. We will be sailing under the bridge for a Blessing of the Fleet and to also have arial photographs taken of our boats from the bridge. At this time Ingrid Hemphill has tentatively volunteered her talents and equipment to do the photography work. To avoid the impending traffic at the bridge we will be launching our boats from a marina near the mouth of the Magothy River. For those of you with larger boats that you keep on the Bay, we welcome you to join us as we look forward to your comradery. Those of you without boats or just not interested in sailing that day are welcome to go straight to Sandy Point to walk across the bridge. We will be meeting in the Parking Lot of Boscov's East for a 7:00 AM departure. Those planning on joining us can contact me at (610) 406-9320 to assure we get pictures of your boat.

Saturday May 17th: This trip will be a little less ambitious as we will just be enjoying a leisurely day sail from Elk Neck State Park. We will decide when we get there, based on currents, wind and wave conditions, whether we sail in the protected waters of the Bohemia River or venture out into the open Bay. Again we hope some of our large boat brethren will be able to join us. Departure will be from Boscov's East Parking Lot at 8:00 AM.

*Sean Hollis
Vagabonds*



Music of the Sea

*Behold, the sea itself, And, on its limitless, heaving breast, the ships;
See, where their white sails, bellying in the wind, speckle the green and blue,...
Today, a rude brief recitative,
Of ships sailing the seas, each with its special flag or ship-signal...
Of dashing spray, and the winds piping and blowing,
And out of these a chant for the sailors of all nations.*

Walt Whitman wrote these words, and many more, about the sea and the men and ships that sailed on it. Ralph Vaughan Williams set them to music in his sweeping choral masterpiece, "A Sea Symphony." And on April 26 at 8 PM the Reading Choral Society, joined by the West Chester University Concert Choir and Masterworks Choir, will perform this exciting work at the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

The 250-voice choir will be accompanied by a full symphonic orchestra, and the performance will feature soprano Debra Field and baritone Robert Barefield.

Reserved seat tickets for this spectacular concert can be purchased for \$15 from Evelyn Marker (610-678-5606) or by calling TICKETS (610-796-9001).

From the Nav Station

This is the fourth in a series of articles covering the various aspects of safe and effective coastal piloting.

Last month, I talked about using dead reckoning as one way of guesstimating your position on the water. This involved the mathematical $60D=S \times T$ formula using the factors of speed, time, and distance. Because this method does not take into account any other factors, it is the least accurate of all methods used by mariners, but still useful in the absence of any other information.

More accurate determinations are the estimated position and the fix, both of which employ the use of bearings. What is a bearing? It is the visual observance of the horizontal direction from one object, usually the boat, to another, eg. land based objects or aids to navigation such as buoys or lights.

The first rule about bearings is that they are always measured from the boat to the object, not from the object to the boat. If the object on which the bearing is taken is due east, for example, the bearing would be 090° , which is the direction from the boat to the object.

There are a number of instruments that mariners use to take bearings: the compass, of course, either stationary or hand held; a pylorus, radio direction finder, a sextant, and radar. For the purpose of this discussion, we'll focus on the ship's compass.

The second rule about bearings is that they can be measured with different reference points, and it is important to understand those differences:

True bearings (TB) are measured from true north
 Magnetic bearings (MB) are measured from magnetic north
 Compass bearings (CB) are measured from compass north
 Relative bearings (RB) are measured clockwise from the ship's bow

"Holy cow!" you say. Well now, it's not as bad as you think. You'll remember a couple months ago when we talked about variation and deviation, those factors that quantify the differences between true north and magnetic north (variation) and magnetic north and compass north (deviation). It's the same thing with taking bearings. So if you take a bearing using your ship's compass, you'll need to use the old TVMDC formula to convert your reading from compass to magnetic to true by including the numeric effects of deviation and variation. Remember to add westerly and subtract easterly variations/deviations when working from true to compass, and the opposite when working from compass to true.

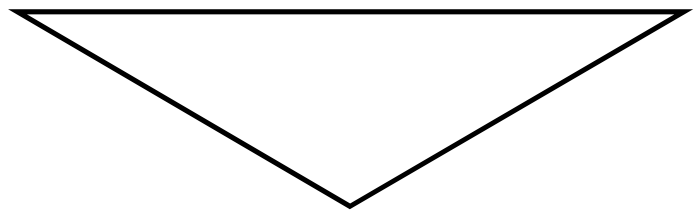
That brings us to the third rule about bearings. When calculating the deviation for a bearing you have taken, you must use the deviation that relates to the heading of boat, or the direction the boat is traveling, NOT the direction of the bearing. Eg. if your boat is on a heading of 050° and you take a bearing on a tower at 135° , when you look up the deviation in the boat's deviation

table, which do you use? You use the heading of 050° . Why? Because deviation is defined as those magnetic influences on a boat that affect the compass and these influences change depending on the heading of the boat. If there is one thing that will trip you up in this process, this is it!

The relative bearing (RB) is simply a bearing that uses the bow of the boat as its reference. Therefore, a starboard beam bearing would be 090° measured clockwise from the bow. What would a port beam bearing be? Right, 270° as measured clockwise from the bow. Can you plot a relative bearing on the chart? No, because it is only a bearing in relationship to the boat, not to the environment. How do we make that relative bearing something we can plot on the chart? Add it to the boat's heading, and convert to whole mess to true.

Eg. Your boat's heading is 220° compass. You take a starboard beam bearing of 090° . Adding the two together gives you a compass bearing of 310° . Convert the compass bearing to a true bearing using the TVMDC formula and now you have something you can plot.

*Kristel Adair
 Training*



Questions from the Nav Station

Ready to give it a whirl? Try these out; the answers are given on page 7 with an explanation of how they are derived. For these questions, use a variation of 15° West, and the following deviation table:

Magnetic	Deviation	Compass
000°	5°E	355°
015°	2°E	013°
045°	3°W	048°
090°	7°W	097°

1. Your boat is on a heading of 045° true and a bearing on a lighthouse is sighted over the ship's compass at 090° . What is the true bearing?
2. Your vessel is on a true heading of 015° . You take a relative bearing on a water tank ashore at 030° . What is the true bearing?
3. Your ship's compass indicates your heading as 355° . Directly on the port beam is green can #3. What is the true bearing of GC 3?

Spring Cruising

The first warm spring days give just a hint of the late May warm days which will be heard soon. Although the weather has been mild enough Caleche still sleeps - decommissioned - in the mud which will become the grass of Hances Point Yacht Club. Before our first cruise there is a ritual Ingrid and I must follow, a ritual known as spring commissioning. This is an important and enjoyable part of the boating season. So when a few balmy days arrive Ingrid and I answer the call.

We have finished some of the simple chores - the wash down of the deck. Then came a tough job - teak cleanup. Caleche will get a new coat of paint for the hull. \$35 will paint the hull and will be much superior to wax. Then the boot strip and a new layer of bottom paint.

The engine comes next. I have already used the hand crank and have determined that it is ready for newly charged batteries and a double check of all the contacts. A new impeller will be installed. Soon I will "crank her up". Water bucket for cooling, full choke I will hit the starter button and she will grind and grind. I will hit the starter button again and with a couple of pops this 1961 Atomic 4 engine will start to rumble. I will ease off the choke and back off the throttle.

Around May 15 we will launch. The agony of watching the lift groaning as 15,000 pounds of boat starts swinging is always a cause for a pit in one's stomach. The next weekend will be devoted to loading all the cruising gear on board.

Finally with a rush the first cruising weekend of the season will be upon us. The weekend after Memorial Day will mark the start of the cruising season. Ingrid and I will make numerous trips to the grocery store. We will have books, sun hats, sunscreen lotion, etc.

Finally the day will arrive and Ingrid and I will lock the house and head down for Hances Point. We plan to spend Tuesday night at our mooring. We will leave on Wednesday afternoon May 28 for Still Pond. In the morning we will be crossing the bay, jib sheeted in, as she leans into the waves. On Thursday May 29 we will join the rest of the BMSA group at Gibson Island on the Magothy. Rounding the entrance buoys we will spot our selected anchorage to starboard.

There will be the brief flurry of rafting up and setting spring lines. Perhaps we will splash our new sunburns in the cool green water. Afterwards comes the cockpit time to swap stories, have some wine and beer and enjoy being together with our friends from BMSA. Then as the air turns chilly, comes the hot meal and soon a snug berth.

The scenario I have related



April 2003 Birthday's

Lets wish the following folks a Happy Birthday.

Pat Page	3
Carolyn Clary	5
Kristel Adair	6
Henry Borneman	8
Andrei Grecu	19
Will Moser	21
Dale Seward	28
Joe Fleming	28
Tom Stoner	29



Happy Birthday to all Members Celebrating April Birthdays

is not a new one. We have replayed it - or ones like it - for many years. There will be other variations as we head to Annapolis (Spa Creek) on Friday and to St. Michaels on Saturday. The group will include Armando, The Bukowski's with the Adairs, Henry Borneman, Dennis and Kathy Arentz, John Hackman, Tom Stoner?, Alex and Joan Whan? and and the Hemphill's (7 boats). The hassle of spring commissioning will be long forgotten as though it had never happened. And ahead of us awaits the pleasure, the adventure, the magic of cruising the Bay.

*Ray Hemphill
Fleet Captain*

Ad Space in the Tell Tale

Advertising space is available in the Tell Tale. A noncommercial ad of business card size is free to any member and \$5 for non-members. We also accept business card or banner sized commercial ads!

Our website needs sponsors too! We have space for clickable links available on our home page. Proceeds from the ads will be used to offset printing and publicity costs.

Please contact John Hackman at 610-678-4437 or jlhack@yahoo.com for more information.

Events Schedule for 2003

APRIL

5	Saturday	GPS Rally
10	Thursday	General Meeting
14	Monday	Board Meeting
26	Saturday	Lake Clean-up

MAY

3	Saturday	Training Day
4	Sunday	Day sail under Bay Bridge / Bridge Walk
8	Thursday	General Meeting
10	Saturday	Race #1 Kickoff
12	Monday	Board Meeting
17	Saturday	Day Sail
17-24	Sat-Sat	Antigua Trip
29-31	Thurs-Sun	Spring Cruise

JUNE

1	Sunday	Spring Cruise
8	Sunday	Water Safety Festival
12	Thursday	Picnic—CANCELLED
14	Saturday	Regatta / Picnic USCGA
16	Monday	Board Meeting
27-28	Sat-Sun	Vagabond #1

JULY

10	Thursday	Picnic USCGA
12-13	Sat-Sun	Vagabond #2
14	Monday	Board Meeting
26	Saturday	Race #3

AUGUST

11	Monday	Board Meeting
14	Thursday	Picnic USCGA
16-17	Sat-Sun	Vagabond #3
23	Saturday	Race #4

SEPTEMBER

6	Saturday	DaySail / Social
11	Thursday	General Meeting
15	Monday	Board Meeting
25-28	Thurs-Sun	Fall Cruise Annapolis

OCTOBER

2-5	Saturday	Annapolis Boat Show
9	Thursday	General Meeting Photo Contest
13	Monday	Board Meeting
25	Saturday	Social

NOVEMBER

1	Saturday	Turkey Race
8	Saturday	Commodore's Ball Chef Alan's West Reading
10	Monday	Transition Board Meeting

DECEMBER

5	Friday	Holiday Party
6	Saturday	Baltimore Boat Parade
8	Monday	New Board Meeting
13	Saturday	Annapolis Boat Parade

From the Nav Station Answers

Answers:

1. 072°. Did you remember to use the deviation for the heading of the boat?

T = True Bearing	072°
V = Variation	15°W
M = Magnetic Bearing	087°
D = Deviation	3°W
C = Compass Bearing	090°

2. 045°. Since your heading was already given as true, there is no variation or deviation to consider. Simply add the relative bearing of 030° from the bow of the boat and add it to your true heading.

3. 255°. First, let's find the true heading of the vessel:

T	345°
V	15°W
M	000°
D	5°E
C	355°

True heading of the vessel is 345°. A port beam bearing is a relative bearing of 270°. Add the two to get the true bearing of 255° (you'll go to 360° on the compass dial, then start counting from zero again). You can also calculate this problem by adding the relative bearing to the compass heading, then converting that to true; it will yield the same result.

2003

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CBYCA ALTERNATE	Conrad Vanino	610-777-2599
CHAPLAIN	Joanne Solarek	610-779-4516
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