

May 2003



I am reminded of the founding of Blue Marsh Sailing Association each year as the lake level begins to rise to the summer level. When the BMSA was organized we envisioned having fun sailing with friends on the newly created Blue Marsh Lake. We envisioned racing and socializing, and getting new sailors interested in our activities. We have realized our goals and then some. Today our activities have expanded. Our sailing now includes sailing at other Pennsylvania lakes and we now have a good number of members with their boats on the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. We have lead charter sailing trips to the Caribbean and other distant places something that was not even a thought in the early days of the club.

In the early days we had great days sailing on the lake with as many as 35 boats on the beach during a race day. Many of these boats were

catamarans with their multi colored sails luffing in the warm summer breezes. We had very large turnouts for our meetings at the Blue Marsh Inn. And it wasn't unusual for our Annual Commodores Ball to draw enough attendees to fill the hall at the Blue Marsh Inn. On our first Spring Cruise we chartered 6 boats in the Northern Chesapeake and sailed the Bohemia River, Havre de Grace, and Stillpond. The first day of the cruise was a race down the bay to see who could be first into the anchorage. This for many of us was the first time on a big boat for some it was the first time on the expansive waters of the bay.

This year we have many activities planned and for some it will be your first experience of all the fun sailing can offer. This year we got rained out for the Annual Blue Marsh Lake cleanup, although a lot of other folks picked up trash in the steady rain. Our

annual training day will be May 3rd at the Dry Brooks Day Use area. Consider coming out and brushing up on your sailing knowledge. Unfortunately, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge walk has been canceled for security reasons, but we will still be sailing under the bridge for the May 4th daysail. At our May General Meeting we will learn about racing as Sean Hollis talks about how to get your boat into the most effective position to round the buoys. Later in May we have several members headed off to Antigua for a week at the Sunsail beach resort complete with many water activities. We wrap up the month of May as our Spring Cruise sails the central Bay from the Magothy River to St Michaels via Annapolis.

*Dave Miller
Commodore*

Inside this issue:

April Minutes	2
Learn to Sail	2
May Program	2
Kick off Race	2
From the Nav Station	3
Regatta	3
Spring Cruise	4
June Vagabond	4
Membership	5

Events For May

- Saturday 5/3:
Training Day.
- Sunday 5/4:
Bay Bridge Sail.
- Thursday 5/8:
General Meeting.
- Saturday 5/10:
Race #1 Kick-off.
- Monday 5/12:
Board Meeting.
- Saturday 5/17:
Day Sail.
- Thursday 5/29-6/1:
Spring Cruise.

Smooth Web Sailing

For New Homes, Pre-Owned Homes, Schools or Municipality Info At

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

April 14, 2003

Attending:

Dave Miller, Kristel and Mike Adair, Joan Whan, Jan Dougherty, Sally Koch, Sean Hollis, Joanne Solarek, and Bob Hartwich.

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Dave Miller at 7:40 pm. March Board Minutes were accepted as printed in the Tell Tale.

Treasurer:

Bob reported the current balance is \$3233.12.

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

CBYCA:

Russ sent a report that the next meeting will be Saturday, April 19, 2003.

Chaplain:

Nothing new to report

Equipment:

The boat is now stored at Mr. Peffley's. Rick spleen donated a cover. If we have volunteers to participate in the Lake Clean Up Day Saturday, April 26, we will make sure the boat is delivered to the lake.

Program:

Our program at the May meeting will feature Sean Hollis who will offer racing strategies. Those not interested in racing will also find the program of interest in situations where speed is important, i.e. arriving at an anchorage 5 minutes before the storm rather than 5 minutes after it starts or getting from one point to another as expeditiously as possible.

Vagabond:

The combination Bridge Walk/Sail Under the Bridge will be May 4th. Walkers should call Sally Koch and meet at AC Moore at 7:00; boaters should notify Sean and be at Boscov's East at 7:00.

Training:

Training Day will be May 3. Kristel has 5 newcomers signed up so far.

Racing:

The Regatta Picnic was discussed. Tickets will be sold in advance for \$5.00. Cost at the door will be \$7.00.

New Business:

Guest participation and associated fees to participate in Club activities was discussed. Waivers should be signed by each guest, and a committee to determine wording to the By-Laws was created. Kristel will chair with Mike Adair as committee person.

Committee chairpersons are encouraged to furnish reports on their committee activities to Dave if they are not able to attend the Club meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Dougherty
Secretary



Learn to Sail Training Day

Who: Beginning sailors or those wanting to brush up on basics.

When: Saturday May 3rd, 9AM

Where: Dry Brooks side of the lake (beach side), at one of the pavilions

What: Classroom style training with hands-on practice rigging of a boat

What to Bring: Pen/pencil for taking notes, a piece of line for learning knots

We're planning on about 4 hours. If you have any questions or want to sign up, call or email me ASAP.

Kristel Adair
Training

May Program

Ralph Bibbus has asked me to put together a program on Racing for the May General Membership Meeting and I have agreed. The topic will be on formulating a race strategy. I know that many of you are thinking that you will probably never participate in racing, but before you decide to write this one off ask yourself this question. Would I rather reach my cruising destination and have the hook down five minutes before a forecasted squall passes through or just as the squall is at its peak intensity. If your answer is five minutes before then make sure you don't miss this one because many of the same principles that racers use in getting around the course in the quickest time possible you can use to get to your cruising destinations quicker.

Sean Hollis

Kick Off Race- May 10

The first race of the season is coming up fast so let's get those boats ready. There are only five races scheduled over the whole sailing season so don't miss these opportunities to sail on Blue Marsh with your fellow club members. These races are intended to be fun and are for all skill levels. The hardest part is having your boat in the water ready to sail by 10:30. That is when we have the skipper's meeting and explain everything you need to know. The first race is 11:00 sharp and we're usually done by 2:30.

Don't forget the cookout at the Stoner house immediately after the race for participants and their guests. I would like to hear from you regarding your participation, crewing needs, or suggestions regarding the racing program. Please e-mail me at tjstoner@msn.com or call me at 678-0683.

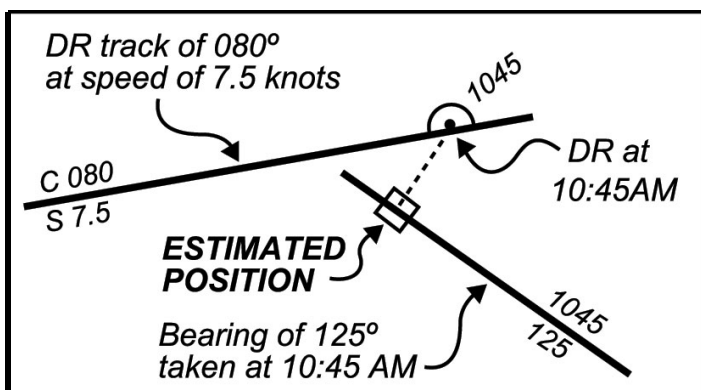
Tom Stoner
Racing

From the Nav Station

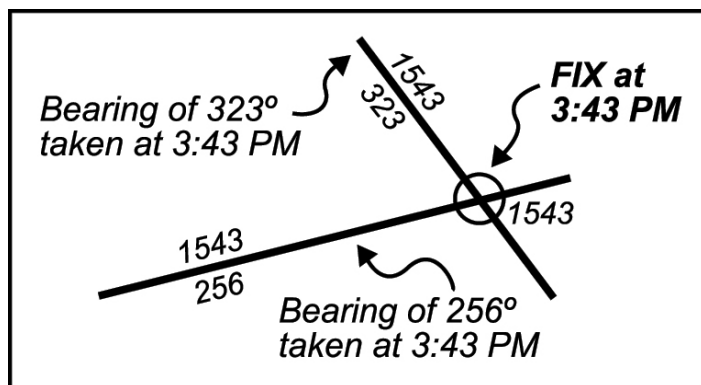
This is the fifth in a series of articles coving the various aspects of safe and effective coastal piloting.

To this point, I have mentioned that determining your position on the water can be achieved by several methods with varying degrees of precision. The dead reckoning (DR) derives your position by a simple formula of speed, time, and distance ($60D = S \times T$), and while useful is the least precise. To be more accurate, you need to make use of bearings as discussed in last month's article.

A bearing establishes a line of position (LOP) for the vessel. If you draw a line on the chart that shows the angle of your bearing, you are creating a line of position: your vessel is definitely located somewhere along that line. Combining this LOP with your DR gives you a more exact position than just the DR alone. This is called an estimated position (EP). The estimated position is located at a point on the LOP that is the shortest distance from the DR.



To be the most accurate, take bearings on two different stationary objects simultaneously. Ideally, the objects should be between 60 and 120 degrees from each other to provide the best-defined triangulation. After converting the bearings to true, plot them on the chart. Where they intersect is the precise position of the vessel. This is called a fix. A known position, such as a buoy, is also considered a fix.



An LOP can be made by a bearing taken on a single object or a bearing taken from a range (a set of lighted marks, one taller than the other, that when viewed in line show one light above

the other). A circular LOP can be established by determining the distance off a mark such as a lighthouse by use of a sextant and tables. If the result of such a reading indicates, for example, that you are 2.0 nautical miles away from a light, you can draw the LOP on the chart using a compass to create an arc. You will know that your vessel is definitely on that LOP somewhere. Cross that LOP with another bearing LOP and you have a fix.

Everything we have learned so far about dead reckonings, bearings, estimated positions, and fixes, can be used to help you determine in the moment where you are, but is most helpful when plotted onto a chart as a record and reference of your passage. While most will not go to this trouble for day cruising within easy visual distance of land, it does become a usable skill on more open waters or in instances of poor visibility. Your GPS can fail and leave you with no other means of determining your position than these mechanical methods.

It would be beyond the scope of this column to cover plotting, with all the rules and tools that go with it. If it is your interest to attain these piloting skills, I strongly recommend a Piloting course through the U.S. Power Squadron or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

*Kristel Adair
Training*

Regatta - June 14

Our annual Regatta will be held this year on Saturday, June 14. By that time you will have participated in the Kick-off race, a day-sail, and the Spring Cruise so your boat will have been in the water and your sailing juices will be running. The format is the same: boats in the water ready to go before the skippers meeting at 10:30 with the first race at 11:00. Everything you need to know will be explained at the skippers meeting. Race committee is also needed. If you need crew or want to crew call me at 610-678-0683 or e-mail tjstoner@msn.com.

The Regatta party will be held at the Coast Guard starting at 5:30 and everyone is invited. There will be a \$5 charge to participants and non-participants alike to cover the cost of the chicken barbecue entrée and hall rental. Please bring a covered dish to share: A-G dessert and H-Z main course side dishes. Drinks must be purchased on site per LCB rules.

Plan on being there!

*Tom Stoner
Racing*

Spring Cruise

To date we have 7 boats planning to go on the Spring Cruise. I also expect one or two others since Henry Borneman and Tom Stoner may potentially join us with two more boats.

There is plenty of room for crew. One of the advantages of joining BMSA is the opportunity to crew especially for those new to sailing. This is one of those opportunities. The Cruise will be Thursday thru Sunday the weekend after Memorial Day. If you would like to join us this weekend now is the time to call me. There should be plenty of space.

Our plan is to anchor Thursday around 2/3 PM near Dobbins Island on the Magothy River. The Magothy has a narrow entrance and often there are many crab pots. It should be a pretty place. According to the charts, once through the main channel, there is plenty of room. Sillery Bay is to the north with forested Gibson Island to the east. Dobbins Island is a silhouette of trees atop caramel colored bluffs. To anchor we plan to sail around behind Dobbins Island. There should be plenty of room to anchor and I plan to set up a star system (stern to stern). If the Sillery Bay anchorage is full Tar Cove will be an good alternative. Tar Cove is a cove just north of Sillery Bay northwest of Gibson Island. Dobbins Island has good protection from the south and Tar Cove has good protection from the north.

Our anchorage at Annapolis will require some communication. We should arrive about noon on Friday. One choice to anchor is Spa Creek. The Spa Creek Bridge does not open on demand and is closed for rush hour at 7-9 AM and at 4-6 PM. There is a public boat launch at Truxtun Park. Another anchorage is in front of the Naval Academy. We still need to check if anchoring near the Naval Academy is allowed. This is only good if the wind is calm or from the north. Whitehall Bay is perhaps the best alternative if the Naval Academy is closed. It should have

little traffic, but is a 2 mile dingy ride or a 2 mile walk to Annapolis. The best anchorage appears to be Ride Out Creek at the Whitehall Yacht Yard or at the small cove to starboard just after entering Rideout Creek. According to the guidebook there are places to land a dinghy.

Our trip to St. Michael's will require an early start and about 5 hours of sailing. St. Michael's is a charming town on the Eastern Shore at Miles River. I have reserved 3 slips at the Miles River Yacht Club, but plan to release them since everyone now plans to anchor out. There are several historic homes open to the public and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum on 18 acres is one of the best on the bay. Here you can see the eight barreled killer rowboat described by James Mitchner. It could bring down 3 dozen geese in one pull of the trigger, with the best goose going to the Game Warden. The Hooper Straight lighthouse is on the grounds and is similar to Thomas Point light. The outside observation deck is a perfect place to check out the scenery.

There is a small anchorage close to the town and room for 100 boats just outside the harbor. If the weather turns stormy we could anchor in the Miles River. We plan to eat out in St. Michael's and there are 10 good restaurants that would all be good, most located on Talbot Street. Also an after dinner cone at an Ice Cream parlor might be a good idea with a walk to St. Mary's square. Ingrid and I are really looking forward to having the chance to revisit St. Michael's. Shopping, the culinary experience and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum make this one of the best spots on 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.

June Vagabond

June 28-29th

Our first weekend Vagabond of the season is scheduled for the last weekend of June and I am planning a trip to the Miles River where the Miles River Yacht Club, in the St. Michaels area, will be hosting the first race of the 2003 Log Canoe Racing Series. Look for more information in the June Tell-Tale. Anyone interested in joining up for this trip can indicate that interest by either calling me at (610) 406-9320 or e-mailing me at rhodescaptain@att.net.

Sean Hollis
Vagabond

Events Schedule for 2003

May 2003 Birthday's

Lets wish the following folks a Happy Birthday.

MAY

3	Saturday	Training Day
4	Sunday	Day sail under Bay Bridge
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

Heidi R. Moser	2
Kathy Arentz	3
Gene Paris	3
Pat Shalter	4
John Huntley, Jr.	7
Mary Stajkowski	13
Phyllis Didyoung	16
Conrad Vanino	16
Evelyn H. Marker	18
Connie Martin	19
Ruth Gent	22
Blaine Steensland	22
Betty N. Brown	23
Janet Hartwich	23
Larry S. Bortz	30



**Happy Birthday to all Members
Celebrating May Birthdays**

Membership

Welcome to returning members Bob and Alison Shimer. Bob is presently out sailing on the Atlantic. Traveling from Bermuda to Gibraltar via the Azores Islands. Fair Winds and a safe journey Bob!

Below are the details to add to your LogBook:

Robert & Alison Shimer
1225 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533

610-926-4278
dator@epix.net

Jeff Weikel
Membership

2003

BLUE MARSH SAILING ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

COMMODORE	Dave Miller	610-678-7121
VICE COMMODORE	Mike Adair	610-775-2438
SECRETARY	Jan Dougherty	610-926-5581
TREASURER	Bob Hartwich	610-779-4520
REAR COMMODORE	Joan Whan	610-396-1416

COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS

CBYCA DELEGATE	Russ Witzke	610-775-9704
CBYCA ALTERNATE	Conrad Vanino	610-777-2599
CHAPLAIN	Joanne Solarek	610-779-4516
EQUIPMENT	Alex Whan	610-396-1416
FLEET CAPTAIN	Ray Hemphill	610-678-6754
HISTORIAN	Jan Stoner	610-678-0683
HOUSE	Dave Miller	610-678-7121
LIBRARIAN	Will Moser	610-779-5582
MEMBERSHIP	Jeff Weikel	610-370-0272
PROGRAM	Ralph Bibbus	610-779-6702
PUBLICITY	Jeff Weikel	610-370-0272
RACING	Tom Stoner	610-678-0683
SAFETY	Heidi Moser	610-779-5582
SOCIAL	Sally Koch	610-693-5613
STORES	Anna Grace	610-678-8709
TELL TALE	John L. Hackman	610-678-4437
TRAINING	Kristel Adair	610-775-2438
VAGABOND	Sean Hollis	610-406-9320

Contact the Tell Tale Editor John L. Hackman
Home: 610-678-4437 Mobile: 610-334-8668
E-Mail: jhack@yahoo.com

Smooth Web Sailing

For New Homes, Pre-Owned Homes, Schools or Municipality Info At
www.ConradVanino.com

Century 21 Park Road 610 372 5633 Ext. 3111

THE TELL-TALE 5-03
c/o John Hackman, editor
101 Delta Court
Wernersville, PA 19565

