



CBGBOA NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of the
Chesapeake Bay Grand Banks Owners Association

February 2011

President's Message

Sam Nicholson – Dr. Nick

Well we have made it to February and with the ice sliding off of the roof I think that spring is around the corner. I hope that this news letter finds you and yours all hale, hearty, and getting ready for the boating season.

The *Dr. Nick* has remained ice free at her marina this winter, though the deicer has had to be beaten upon a couple of times to keep it so. Starting with some carried over 2010 items (procrastination?) the spring time work list is growing with teak varnishing heading the list, sigh. It never goes away, but the boat looks so good when finished. Speaking of work lists, I want to note that we now have three woodies in the CBGBOA fleet; Mike and Katy Cashman are new members with *Patriot* a classic 36, hull number 136.

I would also like to welcome other new members: Laurie and Claude Jones with *Madrugada* (Europa 42 # 1514); Rosemary and Kurt Petzold with *Finale* (Europa 41 #19); Jody and Wayne Shaner with *Kingfisher* (Eastbay 38); Margy and Gates Richards with *Wave Walker* (Motor Yacht 49 #109); and Chris Nielsen and Keith Raney with *La Familia* (Europa 42 #980). Note, we now have Europas in sizes from 36 to 47, is there a trend here?

With spring comes the annual brunch on March 20th and the mailing of our membership renewal forms. I certainly hope that there is a positive response to both! And, of course, I am making my final request for responses to my cruising survey (page 7) about which I will report on at the brunch.

Another item of note is that the other members of our board are in their final year of service. Though I can walk and chew gum at the same time, I am not so talented that I can carry out all the functions required to make this association a success. Thus this fall we will need folks to fill the capable shoes of:

Rocky Lowe – Treasurer
Anita Lowe – Membership
Carol Williamson – Secretary
Joe and Rosa Gibson – News Letter

If you are interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please discuss the job with the incumbent and if still interested please let me know. From the vast list of volunteers, I will select a slate of candidates to present to the membership at the Rendezvous in September.

Sharon and I look forward to seeing you all out on the Bay

2011 Pipeline

March 20th: Annual New Member Brunch – Anita Lowe. Our 2nd most popular event! Additional detail provided in a sidebar on page 3 & 6.

Survey: - Sam Nicholson. We are developing the full 2011 Cruise Schedule. Please contribute by completing the enclosed survey – page 7 & e-mail attachment.

Sept. 21-25 Fall Rendezvous – Roger Granum. Join us in Deltaville, Va. to visit the Wings and Wheels air & car show, a bus trip to Yorktown Battlefield, a Dinner Dance Saturday evening and Brunch on Sunday. Additional activities are planned.

CBGBOA Officers

President: ----- Sam Nicholson

Membership: ----- Anita Lowe

Secretary: ----- Carolyn Williams

Treasurer: ----- Rocky Lowe

DIRECTORS

Past President: ----- Pepper Holmes

Chair, 2011 Rendezvous: -- Roger Granum

Webmaster: ----- 'Willow Works' WEB Design

Newsletter Editors: ----- Joe & Rosa Gibson



Officer Reports

Membership:

Anita Lowe – High Noon

We ask new members to share experiences and information on their GB boats.

A Grand Banks Life

By Bill and Laura Lane Bender - *Kindred Spirit III*

Short of saying, “all our lives”, it would be equally factual to say that for years each of us dreamed of living aboard “a boat”. Neither Bill nor I had any specifics regarding kind, size, or other requirements as part of our dream but one thing of which we were certain, we wanted to someday abandon terra firma, the conventions of cultured society, the majority of our “stuff”, and become sea urchins living aboard a vessel of some sort---although not a sailboat.

Although Bill hails from upstate NY; and I, FL; we called upstate SC home for many decades. In the fall of 2005, a friend asked if we’d fly with him to Annapolis to help bring his Hatteras LRC home to Charleston. We jumped at the opportunity and traveled for two weeks on his trawler where we became certain that this was the life for us! So the chase ensued for our future home; still without the foggiest idea of the object of our quest. We read, quizzed boaters, researched the nuts and bolts: twin or single screw? Gas or diesel? Trawler or motor yacht? The proverbial “everybody” related tales of misadventures of their explorations warning us of over-rated ragged-out boats peddled by obnoxious



and over-bearing brokers.

Published four times per year. Sent by US Mail and e-mail to all CBGBOA Members. We seek articles of interest to other CBGBOA members. E-mail proposed articles to joe@joesboat.org or mail to 804 Pheasant Run Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Members who do not need printed copies should notify Joe Gibson at the above address.

CBGBOA MEMBERS’ BRUNCH

March 20, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

Each year we enjoy this opportunity to meet with our friends and welcome new members to the association. We’ll convene at the Severn Inn which is located across the Severn River from the Naval Academy at 1993 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd. The Inn offers a



fantastic view of Annapolis and the Academy – preview it at <http://www.severninn.com>. On Sunday mornings it provides a bountiful spread of breakfast and luncheon entrées for customers and we have a reserved section where sea stories (some true) will be told and enjoyed. I’m told that the bottomless glasses of Bloody Mary’s or Champagne helped enhance the stories last year and the desert table (it’s a “work of art”) helped provide additional energy. No calories of course!

Top it all with the camaraderie of your fellow Grand Bankers. We will introduce the cruising agenda being planned for 2011 and you can begin to plan your boating season. This is an event “not to be missed”! Last year was a spectacular success and we expect this year’s brunch to use all of the 60 available seats. RSVP now to reserve yours.

In the Spring of 2006, we set up 16 appointments to see boats down the west coast of FL and up the east coast culminating at TrawlerFest in Stuart, consuming a week of vacation and all the energy we could muster. Each broker was well-versed and professionally exceptional. We zeroed in on 2 requirements—a centerline queen bed and



sufficient headroom for my 6’2” Bill. Subsequently, after checking off yet another boat...after boat, when we



returned home the end of that exhausting week, it was evident to both of us that a Grand Banks 42 Classic would be the perfect boat for our needs.

A very short month later, we found a boat in Satellite Beach, FL., FSBO. After conversing with the owner, his responses to questions were what we were hoping. Days later, we drove south to see the Grand Banks, made an offer, which was accepted, contingent on surveys. Owners wanted to be boat-free by May 1, 2006, so we arrived in Satellite Beach, had hull and engine surveys, closed on our new boat, and brought her home to Charleston, SC., all in one fell swoop.



Hauled for Survey

October 2006, was cause for celebration as we christened our trawler, *Kindred Spirit III*. We had a grand party for many friends as we went through the water, earth, and wine rituals to appease the gods of the seas, removed the existing name and mounted our new sign boards declaring her new name.



Christening *Kindred Spirit III*

My days of gainful employment closed as I retired as an oncology RN in an ambulatory chemotherapy infusion center. We sold our house to the first person who saw it June 2008 and had 30 days to move out. Our front door was open to charities and years of accumulations were hauled away save for a meager pile that would be

transferred to our boat. With no place to lay our heads, I moved 3 hours away to the boat in Charleston and Bill commuted 3 hours until his retirement from Michelin North America where he was employed for 30 years and 4 days until September 2008! (I married a younger man!!! 😊)

December 2008, we cast off our dock lines as we headed south and began our lives as full-time cruisers. We just celebrated 2 years of being houseless (but hot homeless) and it's far greater than we ever fathomed!!! The places we've visited, the experiences we've had, and the extraordinary people we've met have so enriched our lives. We continue to be thankful each day for the gift of this lifestyle.



Goodbye-Charleston Hello Full-Time Cruising

We learned early on that we can't have plans, only intentions. Being married to an engineer you can be sure we have an itinerary in spreadsheet form, but it is cast in Jello. It's indisputable that we can't predict a destination linked to a date. Mother Nature and Weather seem to get first dibs on that so we've learned to be patient and just hang out till it's safe to continue our journey. That's very stressless and guarantees that our knickers will not get knotted over what others refer to as plans.



October 2010, marked our first CBGBO Rendezvous in Cambridge, MD. We felt a nip in the air and the wanderlust to begin our cruise south toward warmer climes.

In November we had the pleasure of spending Thanksgiving with another Grand Banks owner, Bobbi Huck and her daughter, Kelli, in Merritt Island, FL. Her beautiful 49' *Sybaris*, is docked in her backyard.

Fort Myers was our home in December. We had a great time in that city, enjoying its history and the beauty of nearby Sanibel and Captiva Islands. In Legacy Harbour Marina we found our dock mates a very social group and the staff most professional and helpful.



Chilly Fort Myers Winter Evening

January finds us in Marathon, FL, where we'll remain for a couple of months before wending our way north to Stuart for the MTOA Rendezvous in mid-April, after which there will be a fleet of trawlers heading to the Bahamas for 2 months. Our northernmost port this year will probably be Charleston, SC, area in July till there's a chill in the air when we'll head south.



Our 1st Fishing Lesson (7 Mile Bridge to Key West in background)

Our land-locked friends ask, "Whatever do you **do** all day?" As an example, today we left on a 30 mile group bike ride at 0830. We had a late lunch of shrimp and sushi at an outdoor bar overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, ran a few errands, then it was time for Happy Hour at our marina. A very satisfying day and (aside from boat work days) pretty typical of our daily lives.



View from Keys Fisheries, Marathon, FL

Another oft-asked question is, "What do your children think of what you're doing?" Our offsprings number 6. They are scattered from CA, TX, AL, and SC, and have known our hearts' desire for many years. None of them gasped in surprise when we took the big step.



It would be impossible to enumerate the number of non-cruisers, who in the course of conversation, find that we have no real estate, and say, “Oh-h-h-h-h! That’s always been our dream and we hope to do that someday!” We never say but always think, “Take a number because you aren’t the 1st who have that ‘dream’”. This oftentimes catapults us into reminiscing on evenings we spent in our home, kicked back in our recliners, reading the periodicals *Living Aboard* and *PassageMaker*, as we **dreamed** of the day we’d yield to our aspiration and surrender our land-based ties to be one with the sea. This is such a simple life. There’s no pressure to “keep up” or concerns about what will “they” think. Who cares! We’ve been there and done that and at this point in our lives we have nothing to prove to anyone and what difference does it make what “they” think? If those had been concerning things, then we’d have never taken the plunge. One of our sons paid us a huge compliment by calling to say he just wanted to tell us “thank you for living life like it ought to be lived.”

Okeechobee Canal were portions of our route. We retraced our steps and have been as far north as Baltimore, MD. It is very rare that we spend more than a month in any one place. As much as we love our many ports-of -call, our wayfaring spirits awaken after a few weeks motivating us to move on to our next exploration. So many destinations. So little time.

We are often asked how long we intend to continue this bohemian lifestyle and where do we plan to settle once it’s over. Our response remains the same. We love so many places we’ve been but couldn’t choose one if our lives depended on it. Our intentions are to remain “bohemian” as long as we remain agile and healthy. Both of these endowments are never taken for granted!

If you yearn for an unencumbered life and have your sights set on the beautiful waterways, wait no longer. It’s later than you think!



A family of 3 manatees ‘hanging out” off our swim platform in Marathon

In our 2 years of cruising, we’ve unhurriedly wandered 7000 miles down FL’s east coast to Marathon; up the west coast to Punta Gorda. The Dismal Swamp and



CHESAPEAKE BAY GRAND BANKS OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
SPRING BRUNCH

Sunday, March 20, 2011

11:00 am

at

SEVERN INN

1993 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard

Annapolis, MD 21409

(410) 349-4000

www.severninn.com

Please join us for one of our most popular events. Cost is \$23 per person, payable to CBGBOA at the door. Enjoy spectacular views of the Naval Academy across the Severn River and a lavish spread complete with champagne and bloody Marys.

Space is limited, because of room size,
to the first 60 who sign up.

RSVP by Friday, March 11 by going to www.cbqboa.org to sign up, or email Anita Lowe at anitalowe8@gmail.com or call her at 757 221-7007



Chesapeake Bay Grand Banks Owners Association Membership Survey

Weekend Cruises – Annual Rendezvous

The purpose of this survey is to canvas the membership on their thoughts on both weekend cruises and the annual rendezvous as your board plans the events for 2011 and beyond. If you have questions while completing the survey, please contact Sam Nicholson at snicholson22@verizon.net or at the address below.

Weekend Cruises: These cruises have generally been small gatherings of boats/crews in anchorages or towns (marinas) planned around an event (Down rigging of the *Sultana*) or a place of interest (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center). They are generally no cost and require little planning.

1. Should these cruises be conducted only over weekends?
2. What activities or events would be of interest in conducting a cruise?
3. What locations are of interest for such cruises?
4. Should these be on a monthly basis or every 6 weeks or so?
5. Are you willing to lead a cruise?
6. Is there interest in a long cruise, say to Cape Charles, VA or Cape May, NJ?

Annual Rendezvous: These events are organized over a 4 day period in late September/early October with planned dinners, events, lectures/discussions, and some sort of boat training. The annual business meeting is conducted at these rendezvous. They generally take place in one location (marina) and an attendance fee is charged. There have been contributions by various GB and Bay vendors who have subsequently made presentations to the attendees.

1. Other than the business meeting, what could be the central focus or theme of a rendezvous?
2. What activities are desired for the rendezvous?
3. Are we conducting too many lectures/seminars/discussions? Or not enough?
4. What topics would you like to have discussed?
5. Is more free time desired for activities such as boat visits, informal discussions, meeting new/old members?
6. How many meals/cocktail parties should be provided?
7. Are vendor boat visits valuable (Engine vendors, maintenance vendors, etc.)?
8. Are the fees being charged excessive (rendezvous and marina)?
9. Should some of the CBGBOA general fund be used to defray the costs of the rendezvous?
10. Is a night at an anchorage desirable for part of a rendezvous?
11. Should the rendezvous involve the movement from one location to another?
12. What locations do you recommend for a rendezvous?
13. Are you willing to become the rendezvous chairman?

**Please take the time to complete this survey and return it to
Sam Nicholson at 2007 Westfield St., Alexandria, VA 22308.**



Articles should be submitted to Joseph P. Gibson at:

Chesapeake Bay Grand Banks Owners Association
804 Pheasant Run Drive
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

