

CSSM ANNUAL DINNER
TALBOT COUNTRY CLUB JANUARY 7, 2012

1900: DINNER

IRV HETHERINGTON

INVITE EVERYONE TO BE SEATED FOR DINNER

Please be seated. (Point out fire exits and rest rooms)

Welcome members and guests to the Cruising Sailors of St. Michaels Annual Dinner. You should have a little card with your name on it. That card indicates which meal you will be served. It's worth noting again that the first annual CSSM dinner was called the Winter Rendezvous and was held in February, 1975, here at the Talbot Country Club. Our organization really does have a LONG tradition of sailing and social activity.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, and remain standing for the invocation.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

INVOCATION

Now, if you'll please bow your heads for the invocation.

Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to meet here in fellowship among our CSSM members. We also thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed upon each of us.

We are grateful to all those who sacrificed so much to preserve the freedom that we enjoy, and we ask for your blessing for those who protect us even now.

Please guide us through the coming year.

Amen

ENJOY YOUR DINNER

2030: PROGRAM

IRV HETHERINGTON

WELCOME

Welcome once again. I hope you enjoyed your dinner. I would like to thank the club manager, Chris Wyles, the chef, and the entire staff of the Talbot Country Club for another fine job in helping us make this a successful event. (applause)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

We have several guests this evening that hopefully will be sailing with us this coming year.

Will Joe Day please introduce his guests who did make it to a few CSSM cruises last summer.. (David & Jackie Dianich).

Peirce Anderson, would you please introduce your guests? (Marian Brown and Doug Rollow)

And finally, Tod Engelskirchen, would you please introduce your guests? (Kate and Thom Vargish)

RECOGNIZE PAST COMMODORES

Now I would like to recognize the past Commodores who are in attendance:

Eddie Swallow (first female commodore of CSSM)

Bill Dunton

Les Anstey

Alex Collins

Ted Clark

Pat Koch

Terry Burke

Mike Gates

Dennis Sokso

Mike Epprecht

Joe Day

RECOGNIZE HONORARY MEMBERS

I would also like to recognize honorary members who are with us tonight. These are members who have completed, as active members, 15 or more years of cruising in CSSM.

Gloria and Les Anstey

Joan and Alex Collins

Barbara and Ernie Cox

Sally and Bill Dunton

Mary and Stan Hutchison

Pat Koch

Ellen and Norman Plummer

Now I would now like to turn the program over to Commodore Craig Kelting.

COMMODORE'S REMARKS – Craig Kelting

I would like to make a few brief remarks before passing the mantle to our new Commodore. I would first like to thank my fellow officers for their hard work and support during the past year. Irv, Lynn, and Stephanie have worked hard and I hope everyone appreciates their efforts. I also want to thank our Social Captains, Virginia Albert, Jane and Wally Jansen, and Anne Pilert for their efforts in arranging the January luncheon and the Horn Point Lab tour and lunch in March. Judy Tanczos again did a fine job of arranging the group outing to the Shorebirds game. I also want to thank all the cruise captains who worked hard to run our successful cruises this past season.

I want to again encourage all our active members to step up and run a cruise this coming season, and I hope we will all participate to make the coming year a successful one on the water as well as off. I know we have some guests here who are interested in joining us, and I encourage you to do so. Janie and I have benefited tremendously from our membership, and have made many great friends here.

At this time I would like to invite the new officers-elect to come forward.

Irv, I want to thank you for your hard work in arranging and running this great banquet, and for your help during the past year. I pass the Commodore's flag to you with my best wishes, and I know you will be successful in your new role. The job comes with a year's supply of Maalox, and I urge you to use it wisely.

Fritz, I congratulate you on your election to the position of Vice Commodore. I know you will be a great help to Irv and the team.

Lynn, I appreciate all your help during the year, and we are fortunate that you have agreed to serve for a second term.

Stephanie, I am grateful for all your efforts, and we are fortunate that you also have agreed to serve for a second term. I officially end my duties, confident that CSSM is in good hands and will flourish under your leadership.

PRESENTATION OF FLAGS TO NEW OFFICERS – Craig Kelting

Commodore – Irv Hetherington
Vice Commodore – Fritz Moritz
Flag Lieutenant - Stephanie Sokso
Purser - Lynn Gates

PRESENTATION OF "PAST COMMODORE" FLAG TO CRAIG KELTING – Hetherington

Craig, please come forward. (Present the flag)

Craig, I want to present to you this flag in recognition of your service as Vice Commodore and Commodore over the past two years.

NEW COMMODORE'S REMARKS – Irv Hetherington

I am honored to have this opportunity to give back something to our cruising group. Jayne and I, along with our Springer Spaniel crew - Baxter and Maggie, have enjoyed many wonderful days of cruising on the Bay as members of this club. We are grateful for the many good friends we have made in CSSM.

Coming from a sailboat racing tradition in Chicago, we were not only new to the Chesapeake Bay, but to the cruising lifestyle - anchoring in particular. To prepare us for retirement and cruising, my racing crew in Chicago gave us the movie "Captain Ron", which I have encouraged many of you to view.

For example, there is a scene in the dark of night, with the wind and the rain pounding the crew who are very unsure as to their position. Captain Ron says "I know exactly where we are, I put just enough fuel in to get us to our destination and we just ran out!" Somehow that movie really didn't prepare us for cruising. Fortunately, CSSM members took us under their wings and taught us much.

In keeping with that spirit, I hope we can all continue to be helpful and strive to instill a light-hearted, inclusive, fun-based cruising fellowship as we go forward this year. And let's not forget to include those members and dear friends that, for one reason or another, have seen it necessary to switch from sail boat to power boat.

I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge and thank Lynn and Stephanie for continuing on as Purser and Secretary, respectively. They have been a pleasure to work with, and we all owe them out thanks. I also want to thank our new Vice Commodore, Fritz Moritz, for stepping up and volunteering to serve. Thanks also go to Virginia Albert, Jane and Wally Jansen, and Anne Pilert for volunteering to be our Social Captains again this year.

Although he is not with us this evening, I would like to acknowledge the work Dave Lovelady does for our organization in maintaining and providing our club web site at no charge.

Your officers will all do our best, but when we stumble please give us feedback. Open communication is important to any organization, and I encourage everyone to contact me or any of the officers with any concerns or suggestions.

Please take note on your programs of the upcoming events currently scheduled for this year.

Thanks to Virginia Albert, we will have a lunch presentation regarding the Marine Biology of the Chesapeake by two prominent marine biologists on Wednesday, January 18 at the Miles River Yacht Club. Virginia will be sending more details to you via email shortly.

The 2012 Cruise Planning meeting (lead by our fearless Vice Commodore Fritz Moritz) is fast approaching on February 11 at the St. Michaels Library. If you haven't already done so, please submit a cruise plan to Fritz before that meeting and try to attend to help work out the schedule.

I encourage you to lead a 2 or 4 day cruise or possibly a longer one, whatever suits your comfort level. Remember that cruising in company is what we are all about, and the best way to go on a cruise that you would really enjoy is to pick your preferred time and destination. Let's make 2012 a great year for CSSM Cruises!

Watch your email for notice of all our upcoming activities. The web site calendar will be updated throughout the year, and once the cruising schedule is put together the planned cruises will be posted as well. So be sure to check out the web site periodically.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

And now at last, it's time for the much anticipated awards presentations! The awards this year are a combination of some traditional awards, a relatively new award and some new ones that are being given out for the first time. The people presenting the new awards have also been responsible for creating the actual awards, and I want to thank all the presenters for their contributions.

ONE AND ONLY AWARD (UNO EN ISO): (Presented by Irv Hetherington)

Awarded to the outgoing Commodore by the incoming Commodore.

Craig, please come forward.

Craig, in recognition for your service and for surviving the year I present you this magnificent award. This is traditionally given to the outgoing Commodore, and I know you are thrilled to receive it.

GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD: (Presented by Irv Hetherington)

Awarded to the member or members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide aid to a fellow sailor in need. To be given out only if merited by exceptional service.

Two of our members had a frightening experience on the water this summer. When Pam and Jim McCloud were dismasted last May, they were sailing south on the bay with Jim and Linda Montague. Jim McCloud provides this description:

Rejoice was about a mile ahead of Gypsea and so didn't see the actual dismasting. When called on their cell phone to let them know what had happened and that Gypsea was waiting anxiously for a tow to Hartge's in the West River, Jim and Linda immediately came back to make sure we were OK, that Gypsea's hull was intact and to stand by in case any additional help was needed.

They then put in at Pirate Cove marina in the West River so they could be nearby to provide moral support and any other help we might need. They joined us for dinner that evening and provided much needed good cheer. For all their efforts on our behalf, poor Linda was rewarded after dinner with a bad fall when she tripped on the dock at Pirates Cove and broke her shoulder.

The next morning, we hitched a ride back to St. Michaels with Jim and Linda on Rejoice. We really appreciated their kindness and care during our disaster at sea and for that, I nominate them as Good Samaritans of the year.

Our next award is a new one,

A-FRAYED-KNOT AWARD:

Awarded to the Fearless (a.k.a. Afraid Not) Cruise Captain who leads his/her fleet into a situation that others question. (Created and Presented by Wally Jansen)

Cruise Captain: David Miller of the sloop "Grace"

For leading his chickens (should we say "Turkeys"?) from St. Michaels into the malaestrom of Chesapeake Bay and on to the Magothy River where upon some late starters became almost hopelessly oppressed by head winds of over 40 miles an hour, raging seas filled with the effluent of the Susquana River dumping at least half of all the resident's backyard debris from Binghamton to Havre de Grace through the fully opened gates of the Conowingo Dam .. a result of Hurricane Irene and named storm Lee.

The Trophy incorporates the bitter end of the jib sheet off of the participant sloop, Salty Dog. The line is from the roller reefed jib which tried to beat itself to death crossing from Love Point to the entrance to the Magothy. Starting out close hauled hard on the wind to the inlet, the subsequent course ultimately became "dead up wind" and the vessel was reduced to using its 31 year old trusty Westerbeke 4-108 diesel engine. Being unable to carry any top hamper, the Genoa Jib was neatly furled and survived the fury ... but alas the whipping on the jib sheet did not.

BEST COCKTAILS AWARD (a.k.a. COCKTAIL SHAKER AWARD):

Awarded to the member who serves the most outstanding cocktails at a cruise cocktail party. (Created and Presented by Anne Pilert)

We Cruising Sailors of St. Michaels love the sailing lifestyle. We enjoy casting off the dock or mooring lines, setting off for a new destination, playing with the wind and the tides—all in the company of like-minded mariners.

One of the key elements in our group sailing tradition is the arrival at our port of call and then dinghying over to the Cruise Captain's vessel for THE COCKTAIL PARTY! This is a time honored tradition of CSSM. Prior to the dinghying portion of the activity, a scurrying of hors d'oeuvre prep accompanied by a bagging of BYO supplies occurs. Upon arrival at the appointed destination the congenial rehashing of the day's sail and enjoyment of our tot of rum, jigger of gin or carafe of wine commences...This continues until all the alcohol and food has been consumed or sunset or 7:30 occurs.

The past summer of 2011, there was one such gathering that was so outstanding as to deserve special recognition:

What could be more perfect than being at anchor in a beautiful bay, on a lovely summer afternoon, listening to a wonderful concert, while being served the MOST MARVELOUS MARGARITAS—complete with parasols?!?!?

And so the COCKTAIL SHAKER AWARD goes to the crew of SALTSHAKER—Mike and Lynn Gates.

CRUISE OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Awarded to the Cruise Captain who develops and leads a cruise which is outstanding and meets one or more of several criteria including: most interesting destination, most fun, most participation, most adventurous, most interesting route, best planning to bring an exceptional experience to the cruisers or most out of the box thinking. (Presented by Joe Day)

AWARD CRITERIA:

- Outstanding Cruise
- Most Interesting Destination
- Most Fun
- Most Participation
- Most Adventurous
- Most Interesting Route
- Best Planning to Bring an Exceptional Experience to Participants
- Out-Of-The-Box Thinking

The winner of this award for the 2011 Cruise Season has met most of the above criteria, among them are:

- Outstanding: Yes, overall on a number of points – first of all it is an unusual concept. Certainly cruises have included yacht clubs in the past, but they typically are the nearby clubs; second, the inclusion of the difficult to access Gibson Island Yacht Club as well as the Maryland Yacht Club was quite unique and a real treat. Many of our members had not been to either before – reciprocity or not; third, each leg of the cruise was well planned and well organized. The cruise captains’ attention to detail was “outstanding” for sure.
- Interesting Destination: Yes, Gibson Island Yacht Club and Maryland Yacht Club.
- Fun: Boats participating in all or part of this cruise seemed to be having a wonderful time; perhaps it was the “most” fun. I will leave that to participants to decide.
- Most Participation: Yes, 9 boats, 28 boat nights
- Interesting Route: Not so much, but yes to Best Planning as noted above and Gibson Island at least, most would agree, an Exceptional Experience.
- Out-Of-The-Box Thinking: A big yes, to my knowledge nothing quite like it has been done before by our club.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CREW OF GRACE, JOANN AND DAVID MILLER FOR WINNING THIS PRESTEGIOUS AWARD. WELL DESERVED!

HANG-ING-EST IN THERE SAILOR AWARD:

Awarded to a member who sticks with it or "hangs in there" for one reason or another after most of us would give up. (Presented by Dick Tanczos)

KARAYA and FISCAL STRAY decided to sail through EASTERN BAY while we aboard ESPERANZA had elected to pass through the Narrows. We left the slip at Higgins with high hopes of reaching the Narrows Bridge tender within minutes of the normal passage time and his opening schedule.

WE DID IT! Everything was working fine as we arrived within 10 minutes of an opening! No waiting....(just wish the bridge guy would answer our calls on channel 13)....anyway just slow down and do one or two lazy eights and finally we get the signal (doesn't mince words that guy). BANG ...up goes the bridge and the bridge guy says we're clear to enter on go...nobody is coming down....so WOW, this is great.....

Yup...line upgoose the throttlewatch the masthead and bow at the same time (white knuckles time) ZING, we're through - boy this hull really moves through nicely.

Now comes the first white knuckles event...we're entering the DREADED Kent Narrows Channel.....will we bump? NOPE, not at all; they've re-routed the channel with temporary channel day marks! Excellent...no sweat!

Now comes all that floating mess from the Susquehannawhole trees with leafs still on the branches floating by ...half submerged logs

bobbing over and below the water surface....WHOOOPS, here come some black crab pots....great...now more logs...WOW.... when will we get out of the Chester River? About then Virginia's cell phone rings – it's SALTY DOG, indicating that since they've gotten a late start and also hear that conditions are really very poor out on the Bay, their plan is to have lunch and hole up in SHAW BAY.

Just then, here comes some air...Yea....Virginia says: up go the sails... but there're still more logs, tires, a toilet and a shipping pallet ...stuff everywhere...but we slug on enjoying a WONDERFUL sail across the Bay, but we sure are glad it's daytime!

All of a sudden we are here, at the entrance marks in to the Magothy YEA ! We made it...thought we saw some sails coming up along the shoreline... maybe it's the rest of the fleet. We've cleared the entrance day marks....we're having a nice sail up behind Gibson Island now....really quiet back here....

Around the corner we go...yup there're the horses to port grazing on the beautiful meadow....here comes the Yacht Club mooring field and now the SLIPS! ...need to slow up....don't want to crawl up on TRYST's stern....lots of help at the docks ...we're in...HOORAY !

We have a great fun afternoon.... Boy, the Bay is a MESS ! We're all here safe and sound and enjoying relaxing.... but we miss Wally and Jane's Salty Dog – we'll see them tomorrow.

Shortly before dinner two Gibson Island residents in a minivan come to the docks to tell us that their friends, the Jansens, have arranged for them to transport us to the yacht club and they will be back later to pick us up....how great not to have to slog up the hill and a little over a mile to the dining room after our day of trial. Sure enough, they bring both their cars back later and we then learn that SALTY DOG didn't want to miss the party so they are pressing on... across the wild Chesapeake hoping to meet us at Gibson Island, although not in time for dinner. WHEW ! Now it's getting dark and really windy...

Dinner is delightful but we still have concern for SALTY DOG crossing the Bay in the dark. It continues until our rides return to take us back to the marina and we learn that their Pearson is now safely anchored behind Purdy Point, with a tired, exhausted and safe crew aboard.... they're in....Hooray!

As we leave the next morning we all have a chance to see Jane and Wally hanging out at anchor, with plans to spend a quiet day visiting our minivan friends..... before joining the cruise again the following day.

For all your efforts at Gibson Island to help our "Yacht Club Crawl" cruisers have a memorable experience, and for your extreme effort to be there too, I am now pleased to present the Hanging In There Award to SALTY DOG – you two really outdid yourselves, and us, by crossing the Bay that night, just so we could all be "together".

CRUISINGEST SAILOR AWARD: (Presented by Irv Hetherington)

Awarded to the member who has logged the most number of nights on sanctioned cruises for the year.

This past year we had 36 cruise nights with 131 boat nights. There was close competition between the top two boats.

As Mike Epprecht pointed out last year, this is one of the most cherished of all CSSM awards. Its beauty and simplicity defy description. I'm devastated that in losing this award I will now have a huge empty space on the shelf in my garage.

In any case, this year's winners, in a close race, are JoAnn and David Miller on GRACE. JoAnn and David, will you please come forward to receive your award?

ADJOURN

Now, if you find a tiny CSSM burgee under the front edge of your seat you are the lucky winner of your table's center piece. Jayne has plastic bags available if you need one to help transport your center piece home.

This concludes the evening's festivities. We hope you have enjoyed yourselves and we look forward to seeing you on the water this coming season.

Please drive safely on your way home.