

Chesapeake Sailing Club

Annapolis, Maryland

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December 2012

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Calendar at a Glance

Dec 8 - Winter party - Jim and Dona host

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Vice Commodore's Report

Joe Powers, *Aquavit*

This is the last VC report for this year and my last for my term in office. I've enjoyed the opportunity to help plan our get-togethers for the last two years. It also provided me with more time to get to know the members of the club and understand what they are looking for in social events. I hope I have helped to provide some of the glue that keeps a club together.



I will be succeeded by Glenn Whaley. Glenn is no stranger to these pages. His prolific writing on raft ups and other events has been one of the more informative parts of the Scuttlebutt. I'm sure he will do a great job as Vice Commodore. Be sure to let him know if you have any ideas on how to spice up our on-shore events.

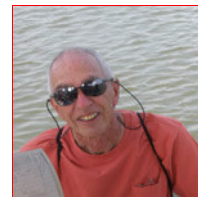
Since this is the last month of the year, we will have one more dinner party for the holidays. Jim and Dona Force have volunteered to host this event. It is scheduled for December 8th at four o'clock. The hosts will provide spiral ham, condiments, rolls, drinks and one side dish. We should plan on bringing a side dish, appetizers, and dessert.

We hope everyone has a joyful holiday and a wonderful new year.

Fleet Captain's Report

Dave Nance, *Ariel*

Besides sailing the Hawk Channel off the Florida Keys, the next best winter sailing is dreaming of past sailing adventures. I wrote about this previously and one of these dreaming adventures is included on our web site "club" page.



But this year I read Ellen MacArthur's book Taking On The World for a vicarious sailing adventure. The book as a whole is just OK. What is so dramatic and suspenseful is her descriptions of sailing her Open 60 boat Kingfisher alone in the Southern Ocean during the Vendee Globe race of 2000-2001.

A quote from her book.....*"With a surge of adrenalin I was out of the hatch. As I swung to look around I saw a very melted but still 40-foot-high berg slide past us. It had missed us by feet and luckily we had passed on its windward side where there were no growlers. I felt quite sick and shaken inside, and for hours I seemed to be waiting for the splitting, thudding sound as we drove into yet more ice. We were surfing regularly at over 20 knots, and a collision at that speed did not bear thinking about."*

Did you know that icebergs do not reflect on radar?

Farther on in her book,*"By this stage we had two reefs in the main and the staysail up and were hitting speeds of over 30 knots...wow! It was amazing, as we just picked up a wave and accelerated, getting faster and faster with a speed that seemed to just keep going. The motion was violent and the noise overpowering as we shuddered to a stop after plowing into the wave in front....."*

Just maybe I will not include in my bucket list sailing in the Southern Ocean.

After ninety-four days alone at sea, she writes about the finish*"Our sole objective for over ninety days had been to cross the line as quickly as possible, and now it was less than a mile away. We 'd sailed 26,000 miles, but I wish we still had 26,000 more to go.*

Although I was desperate to see everyone again and to cross the line before we had more problems, I still wasn't ready for the race to end. "

In addition to the adventure, her descriptions of repairing the carbon fiber hull under sail, climbing the ninety foot mast in 30 knot winds and twelve foot seas to repair a broken and jammed batten, replacing the forestay in heavy seas and removing and repairing a slick graphite daggerboard in rough seas, in my book, makes her one tough twenty-three year old woman.

Read it and see what you think. This 2002 book is still available from Penguin Books.

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