

Chesapeake Sailing Club

Annapolis, Maryland

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January 2010

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Calendar at a Glance

Jan 16 - Winter party - Italian Night, 4 P.M., Margie and Joe Powers host

Feb 14 - Winter Valentines party - Susan and Glenn Whaley host

Mar 21 - Winter party - Dona and Jim Force host, 3 P.M., Talk by Richard

and Leslie about their summer cruise North

See the detailed [Cruise Schedule](#)

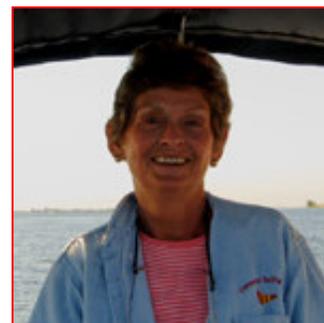
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Vice Commodore's Report

Liz Cingel, *Southern Lady*

Margie and Joe Powers will host the January 16th party. Note the time change to 4 PM. It's Italian night and they will prepare lasagna so let them know what you want to bring. I will send out directions to their house later.



Dues

Susan Whaley, *Bay GyPSy*

CSC Treasurer

Happy New Year to all, and welcome to the pre-dawn of the 2010 sailing season! Although it's a little early to start uncovering the boats and breaking out the sails, it isn't too early for the first step in launching the new season: Paying your CSC dues! Yes! Here's your chance to support The Club in a really meaningful way. It is a mere \$20/year, you certainly can't hardly beat that. How can you not sign up for a deal like this?!

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So please send in your dues to the Secretary/Treasurer - made out to CSC.

(No cracks, please, about your Secretary/Treasurer living on Wayward Drive) [?]

Susan Whaley

566 Wayward Drive

Annapolis, MD 21401.

CSC December Extravaganza

Glenn Whaley, Bay GyPSy

Once again, the CSC social network did itself proud! On December 5th, a very snowy and wintry Saturday, we converged at the safe harbor of Frank and VC Liz Cingel's home in Severna Park for our annual Christmas/Hanukkah/New Years party. The season was right, the weather was fitting (even if it was a couple weeks before the winter solstice), and the fellowship was bright. We had a great time!

The buffet was a glorious affair with standard holiday food a bunch, more of it than reasonable people should eat. But we're sailors, so 'reasonable' wasn't a problem we worried much about. We had ham (thanks, Liz!) and lots of great fixin's, and everybody brought something special to share. We ate well and we ate lots. And we talked and laughed well and lots, too.

Because of the lousy sailing weather - the first snow of the season was fully upon us that day - some who had intended to come had navigational problems. Or maybe propulsion problems? Whatever. The weather was an issue so our crowd was some diminished from typical numbers. However, the voyage was definitely worth it for those who were able to make it. Besides the Cingels (who live there, and therefore don't get cruising credit for making a bad weather trip), the winter raft-up was made up of Commodore Tom and Gina Muha, Gonna-Be-Commodore Dave and Janet Ewing, Frank and Judy Lyman, Fred and Irene Weinfeld, Joe and Margie Powers, and Glenn Whaley (his Susan being in transit from Texas that weekend). So that was thirteen intrepid souls. Certainly not an unlucky number for a grand evening of friendship and fun!

We're looking forward to the winter parties coming up, too. There are two parties in January: January 16th at Joe and Margie's, and January 25th at Tom and Gina's condo in Florida for those stuck in the

Southland for the winter. And another on February 27th hosted by the Whaleys. We look forward to seeing everyone there! Feel free to bring a friend or two.

Members Corner-

Contest

Dave and Lois Nance, *Ariel*

To help pass the winter blues, how about a contest for "The Worst Anchoring Experience".

Stories to be submitted for the February newsletter. Members vote during February. Award in March newsletter.

Prize is they will never have to be the raft boat (unless they want to, but it may be that no one will want to raft to them).

[Submit stories to the webmaster]

Members Corner-

Adventure in the Southern Caribbean

Warren and Ann Brown, *Aqua Vite*

In years past we have chartered in the Virgin Islands and St. Martin, and sailed our own Wauquiez 40 Aqua Vite from Hampton Virginia to Tortola. Over Thanksgiving, we tried a new type of sailing adventure in the Southern Caribbean: with only 27,000 square ft of sails, 613 feet in length, and about 165 in the crew, our cruise on the Windstar line's [Windsurf](#) offered a new perspective on how to enjoy sailing without stress or effort. We chose this cruise primarily because of the destinations: Barbados, Bequia, Mayreau in the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Dominica, and Tobago: all places we had never visited. A great deal on early season outings helped confirm that we could not afford to stay at home.

Fortunately, the Windsurf's advertising jingle is "180 degrees from the ordinary" and we agreed that it was a great difference from the big cruise ships. With about 300 passengers, the ship is not crowded, and seems to cater to folks who have their own boats: we met a lot of Canadians and Brits as well as Americans who had been on several previous Windstar cruises, but still enjoyed adventures on their own smaller boats back home.

To get ready for the adventure instead of multiple trips to West Marine and stocking in provisions, we booked a condo on Barbados for 5 days and enjoyed the friendly atmosphere, British traditions, and good food. Then on to the ship and a delightful cabin with unending fresh water for showers, a choice of 4 dining options each night and an irrepressibly enthusiastic crew. Instead of tying up at a big commercial dock, most days the ship that draws 16.5 feet anchored in the same area as lots of smaller cruising boats, with tenders taking us ashore for further explorations. Several other suspected "captains" were up early to supervise the anchoring, but the ship's crew seemed to be doing fine without us. Except when heading into port, the bridge was always open and we got to chat with the experts who were driving the ship, and controlling the huge sails on roller furlers with a twist of a knob.

Further challenges awaited as we had to navigate between pastries during the daily 4pm snack, as well as thoughtfully prepared breakfasts, lunches and dinners. A tour of the galley was a highlight, but Ann declined to offer chocolate lessons, and respected the advantages of being able to make everything fresh for a smaller complement of passengers - while the big ships have to prepare and freeze most of their meals.

Our shore expeditions were fun and interesting: Bequia has a proud tradition of boat building still being practiced in both models and full sized craft. A sea turtle rescue operation also provided a special opportunity to see newly hatched turtles up close, as well as mature ones awaiting a chance to be released back to the wild.

Dominica is renowned for being an ecological wonderland, and a quick tour with a licensed guide showed us raging rivers, lush tropical rainforests, waterfalls, and steaming hot springs. Not enough time to see them, but we were reminded that a remnant population of Carib Indians remains on a reservation on the northern side of the island.

We anchored in Rodney Bay on St. Lucia for a picnic ashore on the grounds of Pigeon Island National Park. We looked across the bay at Sandals resort, thinking that those folks were not really having any fun. A hike up to Fort Rodney provided stunning views of Martinique, and reminders of the 14 times that the island changed hands between British and French rule. Leaving St. Lucia, the ship passed within a few hundred

yards of the Pitons, steep peaks that seem to be on every post card of the island, and as the sun set the experience was delightful.

Our stop at the Grenadines was in as remote a spot as you could imagine for a 600 foot long ship, and we went on a catamaran snorkeling expedition with an exceptionally fun crew of locals. The Tobago Cays National Park was a crystal clear destination, with idyllic beaches: although the reefs were not in great condition the fish were plentiful and colorful. We got a real sailing experience as the winds were up to 25 kts and the 55 ft catamaran was flying. With all due respects to the Bahamas and the Virgin Islands, we also observed perhaps the most exotic shades of turquoise waters we ever seen.

On to Grenada where we followed the footsteps of the liberating US troops (we had a little trouble remembering and getting a consistent story about why the US "intervened" in Grenada after the prime minister and his cabinet had been assassinated during a coup,) but the locals were still happy to see us. A rather long bus tour included visits to a spice plantation and a lake filled volcanic crater. We missed lunch on the boat and had to resort to a pizza in the busy mall near the ship's berth in St. Georges.

For our last stop at Tobago the ship nestled in along with about a dozen other sailboats, and we went ashore to find a beachfront that reminded us of Jost Van Dyke about 30 years ago and a steel band playing to welcome us. Did not stay long ashore, instead trying out a kayak from the stern of our ship that drops down to offer a variety of water toys.

While underway at 10-12 knots, the ship hardly seems to be moving, but our last night on route back to Barbados we experience a few small bounces. Hopefully we did not get too used to being pampered under sail, and we will be ready to get back into the mode of adventuring on our own little craft in the Chesapeake next spring. However, no doubt Ann will be wondering why Raoul has not made up our cabin, stocked the mini-bar, and left a chocolate mint on the pillow.

Webmaster and Acting Editor
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