



# Chesapeake Sailing Club

Annapolis, Maryland

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November 2010

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### Commodore's Column

Dave Ewing, *Cherette*

Well the sailing is over for many of us but do not be afraid! There will be get togethers this winter. The first one will be at Dave and Janets house on December 4. That is Saturday night at about 5 o'clock. We are expecting everyone who is near these parts to come on over! We hope that our Pennsylvania contingent will come down also. If snow comes let it be known that we have two guest rooms for you to stay in until the snow melts!. We will provide meat or fowl and you all can bring veges, salad, desert, and appetizers. We are going to Florida and hopefully will find the internet there, but if not I would be very happy if Liz can keep track of who's coming and what they are bringing.



Starting in January Joe Powers is in charge of our on land get togethers and he is already planing. If you can volunteer your house please let him know. We will say hello to the southern contingent in November and look forward to seeing you in December.

### Vice Commodore's Report

Liz Cingel, *Southern Lady*

We will not have an Early Thanksgiving party in ~~November~~ since no one volunteered to host. The Holiday party on Saturday, December 4, at 5 PM will be held at Commodore Dave's and Janet's house.

They will provide the meat so call me and let me know if you are coming and what you want to bring - appetizer, sides, or dessert. I will send out a blast as we get closer to the date.



Check out the great pictures on the website taken at the Sailing Emporium party.

## **Member's Corner-**

### **Gunkholing Lives!**

Frank Cingel, *Southern Lady*

Before chart plotters, before GPS and Loran, gunkholing meant something on the Chesapeake. Finding that secluded, serene, anchorage, seldom frequented by other boaters because it is difficult to find or enter, is now much more difficult. I once gave the title of true gunkholer to Jim Luciano as he was good at getting into that 'place', his keel was his depth sounder. Staying in deep water without navigation aids meant comparing the land topography with the chart and going back and forth between shallow and deeper water.

I was in one of those spots that I found a couple years ago. A great location on Eastern Bay not frequented by boaters. A place where a chart plotter made it a lot easier to get to. It was not that protected though. Hard to fish the shore in the wind so I went looking for a quieter place, where predicted stiff South winds would be less of a problem.

Studied the chart for a while, checked the cruising guides. Of course if the guides say it's a good anchorage, that's where everyone else will be. Cross that off the list. Picked a spot I never been to (yes, there are still a few).

You won't find the location of this creek in this article where those other boaters in Eastern Bay can read it. Look for it in a CSC email.

So now here I sit, writing this, in a beautiful spot off boating-popular

Eastern Bay. It's a beautiful fall weekend, and not another boat in sight. One house about a quarter mile away, obviously a vacation home as no signs of life, and another about a half mile away. The shore overhangs the water here and the fishing is the best I've ever experienced. A fish with every other cast (not a fish story). I suppose it could be the time of year or that lure I always use but I've never known perch to think season.

With the fish come their hunters- a White Egret, an Eagle, and of course our own Blue Heron. Mentioned only because I never saw one before, a group of Black (headed) Vultures hung around on a small beach, including a farmers small fishing boat moored there, for a while. Can you imagine a vulture pooping on your boat. Ugh!

This is a location I wouldn't have considered before I got my chart plotter, especially during stiff winds as existed when I came in. Running aground when it's windy can ruin your day. I will admit the chart plotter has changed the way I sail. Allows me to navigate much more accurately than by chart and compass alone. I enjoy single handing and this allows considerably more freedom. Especially useful when conditions are a little rough and keeping the boat under control doesn't allow time to mess with a chart. A situation where one is otherwise left with their own senses to determine where they are and which way to go.

OK, so I left the above idyllic location and decided to check out Pickering Creek on the Wye East River. Another place I've never been. Also a creek without nav aids, where the deep water twists and turns, made easier to find with a chart plotter. This creek doesn't allow one to follow the nav rule - stay in the middle and give wide berth to points of land as they usually have a corresponding bar in the water. If you do, guess what! The creek is narrow and anchorages are a little hard to come by but it is lovely and well protected and worth the effort. There are only a few summer homes at the end. There are tall trees all along its bank, mostly backed by farmland and woods.

Like many trees along the Chesapeake, erosion is undercutting their root system; they will fall into the water before succumbing to old age. Where backed by farms it won't be long before that tree buffer is gone. Fishing is also pretty good here. On this late September day maybe it's good everywhere! What do I know. Another boat did come in to share this anchorage. Bummer - catamaran, good boat for places like

this.

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