

HATTERAS CLASSIC CLUB

Fall 2015
Edition

From the President's Helm

Greetings,

I am happy to have the opportunity to serve as your president for the next two years and look forward to helping the club grow. It was a great experience for Bob and me to plan the 2015 Annual Rendezvous and we have received many encouraging messages from those who attended. The plans are already underway for the 2016 rendezvous to be held in Baltimore. I am also looking forward to the winter Florida rendezvous and plans are now being finalized.

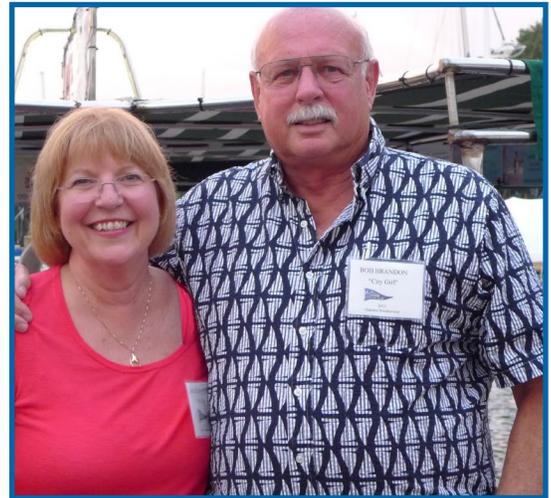
For those who haven't met me yet, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jacqueline Brandon, but everyone calls me Jackie. I am married to the love of my life, Bob Brandon. We will be celebrating our forty-fourth wedding anniversary this month and afterwards are embarking on a huge change in lifestyle. Bob and I own Tidewater Yacht Service in Baltimore City. After twenty-eight years, we are going to semi-retire and head south for the winter aboard our 1971 53' Hatteras, "City Girl." Our son, Billy, who works with us at the marina, and his wife, Vicki, who teaches at an elementary school nearby, will be looking after things while we are away.

We plan to spend Thanksgiving in Charleston, SC with our daughter, Laura, and then continue on to Florida. We really don't have a solid plan except that we want to be where the weather is warm. So, to our Florida friends, you may just get a call saying we are in the neighborhood, please stop by.

The Hatteras Classic Club is a fun group of folks who share a common interest. We all love our boats and enjoy doing things to them and going places on them. When Bob and I joined the club, I found each of you to be friendly and welcoming. It was fun for me to visit the boats and see the changes everyone was making. Owning a boat, especially an older one, is a constant challenge. Unlike your home on solid ground, there are so many moving parts and something is bound to wear out or break. But it is a labor of love, and you need only ask another HCC member and you will have all the advice and help you need.

I would encourage you all to join the HCC Facebook page and share photos and ideas. For those already on Facebook, please post your travels, adventures and projects. Perhaps, if you are going somewhere for the weekend, ask if anyone else is heading out; you may find a traveling partner or someone who may be able to meet for dinner. There are so many places on the Chesapeake to visit. I would love to get together more often with those members from the north - maybe some mini-cruises to Still Pond or up the Sassafras River or to Rock Hall. Also, for our friends in the south, you could do the same thing. Facebook is, after all, "social media" so take advantage of it! If you are not on Facebook, I will be happy to forward your plans by email. Please contact me with ideas to promote the HCC and its members. I will welcome your suggestions. Remember this is your club; let's make it a great one!

Regards,
Jackie Brandon, President



Jackie and Bob

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2015 National Rendezvous at Annapolis



The Hatteras Classic Club held its 15th National Rendezvous September 9 – 13 at Port Annapolis Marina on Back Creek in Annapolis, Maryland. Forty members attended, including new members David and Karen Rice, who arrived by boat, and Walt Nussbaum. Also in attendance were prospective members Bruce Mallinson and Debbie Coco, who came by boat, and have since joined the Club. There were ten boats at the docks.

The weather was not the best, with some serious rain, and lots of drizzle off and on. Some outdoor events had to be moved inside, but this group can have a good time regardless of the weather.

The event started Wednesday afternoon with a cocktail party under the open pavilion at the marina. Afterwards, everybody made their own dinner plans. The planned activities began on Thursday and most members attended "Boater's University" under the pavilion. The first speaker was a little different for the HCC. Rachael Moyer, director of a foundation advocating wide-spread defibrillator access, led a class on CPR and the use of defibrillators, which included practice on dummies. Everyone enjoyed her presentation and learned some very useful information since we are all getting older. With the next speaker, it was back to boating. John Adey from ABYC spoke on ABYC standards and included some insightful demonstrations on

wiring. He was followed by a speaker from Marinalife on their services. After lunch, which was provided by the café at Port Annapolis Marina, a class on tracking, scheduling, and performing boat maintenance was presented by Vessel Vanguard.

In the afternoon, a group traveled the 10 minutes to Annapolis for a guided walking tour of the historic city. It was an interesting tour, but that group really earned it. Sometime during the tour the heavens opened and the rain came down in buckets. Fortunately, they were able to run into a nearby souvenir shop to buy some thin plastic ponchos that kept some of the rain off. Back at the marina, the rest of the members simply holed up on the boats. Dinner Thursday night was on your own, but most members ended up at Sam's Waterfront Café, a restaurant at a marina a half mile down the road and those with cars provided shuttle service. We had a delicious meal, a good time and over dessert, sang Happy Birthday to Amir Al'Naimi.

Friday, all boarded a school bus to be transported to the Naval Academy for a morning walking tour that was very impressive and interesting. The Academy certainly is a facility that we can all be quite proud of. Friday afternoon, as usual, half of the boats were open for touring. Members spread out all over the city that night for dinner.

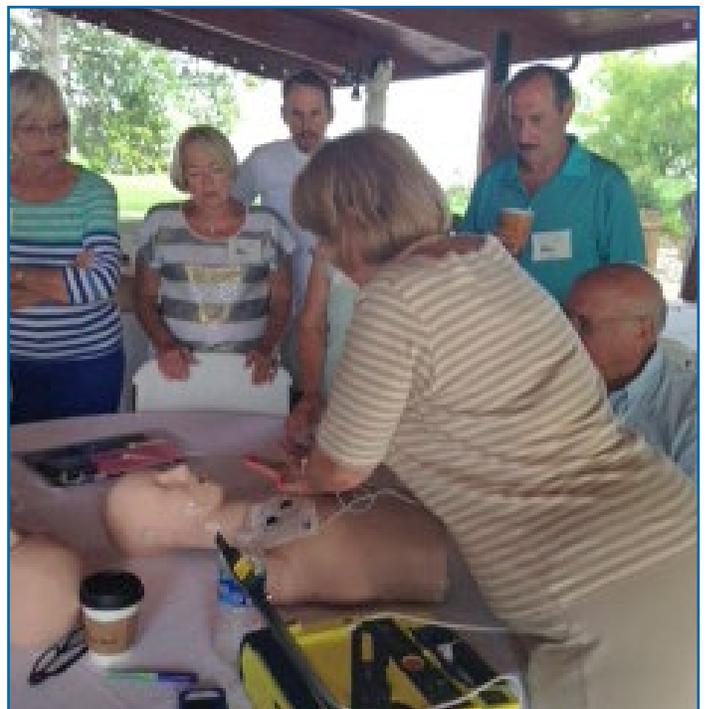
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Saturday morning the annual business meeting was held and 2015-17 officers were elected. The marina graciously allowed the club to use a meeting room at no cost, since it was too rainy to use the pavilion. That afternoon, the remaining boats were open for tours and the prospective members even opened their 61' motor yacht.

For dinner Saturday night, the Brandons arranged a dinner cruise up the Severn River aboard "Lady Sarah," a 65' catamaran. Once again the weather interfered; the tide was too high for the large tour boat to dock at the marina.

Water taxis were arranged to take the group to the adjacent marina where all could board easily. The evening was a lot of fun and the food outstanding.

Members left Sunday morning by various means of transportation. Many thanks go to Bob and Jackie Brandon for a great rendezvous in Annapolis. Also many thanks to Port Annapolis Marina and the helpful staff who went out of their way to accommodate the club and the boats, even closing the travel lift fairway for two days to provide side-to dockage for six boats.





2016 Florida Rendezvous

Jeanne Dixon and Stuart Esack have planned a HCC Florida Rendezvous in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on February 11 – 15, 2016, the weekend of the Miami Boat Show. The rendezvous schedule and price have not yet been finalized, but will probably include a visit to the boat show for those interested.

If you haven't already made hotel reservations, do so immediately while rooms are still available. 5 rooms are reserved at the Bahia Mar Hotel in the name of Jeanne Dixon or Andrew Dixon. The hotel phone number is 954-764-2233. The room rate is \$269/ night or \$279/ night for a water view. Cancellations can be made as late as February 1. There are also several other hotels in the area.

A previously discussed cruise to Bimini did not work out; the ferry is very old and the price is very high. More details of the February rendezvous will follow as plans are finalized. For more information, call Jeanne Dixon at 301-751-6213.



Dolphin Encounter

Andy and I were at Harbor Island in the Bahamas this summer where we met seven other boats from our Florida cruising club, the Neptune Florida Yacht Club. Harbor Island is one of our favorite places. It has a beautiful 3 mile long pink sand beach, a village and other marinas where we can go shopping and to restaurants. We spend several weeks there every summer. There are also great snorkeling areas and small islands with beautiful beaches you can visit in your dingy.

We went with another couple in our dingy to a beach on the north east end of Eleuthera. We go swimming there quite often. It's about a mile long and usually no one else is there. I was walking in waist-deep water along the beach to get some exercise when I heard some noise and turned to see 11 or 12 dolphins swimming very close to me. They were rolling around each other and looked like they were having a wonderful time. I tried to call to let others see, but I was too far away. The dolphins were about 50 feet from me and I stood watching them for 20 – 25 minutes. They then headed up the beach toward the dingy. I walked along watching them and



as they got closer, the others saw them. The dolphins stopped right where we were like they were putting on a show. Four or five of them swam off, but eight stayed close by. A snorkeling guide came by in his boat taking pictures. He said the dolphins were mating and it was rare and exciting to see this. Another boat of friends came by to join us swimming and the dolphins really put on a show. We got closer, about chest high, and 15 feet away. Two of us put on masks and snorkels and were able to watch them under water. It was so amazing! We all stood there with smiles on our faces watching for close to an hour. We got as close as 8 or 10 feet and could have gone closer, but didn't want to disturb them. I took quite a few pictures, but because of the glare of the sun and the fact that I didn't have my glasses, most of them did not come out. This is something we will always remember. We had seen them at Sea World, or from the boat and been just as close, but it was amazing to be in their environment!

Jeanne Dixon
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New HCC Officers for 2016-2017



At the September 10, 2015 Annual Meeting at Port Annapolis Marina in Annapolis, MD the Hatteras Classic Club elected new officers for 2016-17. Jackie Brandon volunteered to serve as the new president and Cheryl Holt will serve as vice president. Brad Price will continue as treasurer and Betty Miles as secretary. Tom Madonna will be the new webmaster. Ed Miles will remain as membership secretary with Ed and Betty continuing as newsletter editors. Congratulations and thanks to all for agreeing to serve and continue the HCC legacy of information sharing, education and camaraderie.



Fleet Captains Tom and Phyllis Earnest



Mark your calendars now for a fabulous Hatteras Classic Club Rendezvous next September, in Baltimore, Maryland.



Plan 2016 Annual Rendezvous



With the help of new members, Bruce Mallinson and Debbie Coco, we are planning the HCC 2016 National Rendezvous in the Fell's Point section of Baltimore at Henderson's Wharf Marina Wednesday, September 7th through Sunday, September 11th.

Fells Point is the historic shipping center of Baltimore, named for the Englishmen who founded a ship-building company here in 1726 that would go on to produce the famous "Baltimore Schooners." Fell's Point is a spirited waterfront community in perpetual celebration of its nautical roots. What could be a more appropriate place for a group of "classic" boat owners to assemble for an annual rendezvous?

We are working with the management of the Inn at Henderson's Wharf to provide meeting rooms and to house members who arrive by land or air. The Admiral Fell Inn, which is on the National Registry of Historic Places, is also nearby. Fell's Point is a lively venue with restaurants, bars, music and museums all within walking distance of the marina. Of course, Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Little Italy, Fort McHenry, Camden Yards and other attractions are only a water taxi ride away. In fact, there is so much to do we are planning to start the event on Wednesday rather

than the traditional Thursday with optional activities for those who can arrive earlier!

Currently scheduled:

A presentation on Middle Ground Lighthouse conversion to a family get-a-way; A class on diesel engines by member Bruce Mallinson.

Other things under consideration:

Additional boat related speakers; Tours of Fort McHenry, Baltimore Train and Round House Museum, Baltimore Industrial Museum, Historic Fell's Point; A visit to WW II Liberty Ship "John W. Brown," site where Ft. McHenry flag was made.

Look for an article in the spring HCC newsletter soliciting your help in identifying which tours might be of the most interest. Please email any additional ideas to Tom Earnest at tomrealest@aol.com

Until then, we wish you good health, calm seas and sunny days.

Tom and Phyllis Earnest
"Sea 21"



Bringing Ariel Home



Breathe... "Ariel" Continues North

Historic Beaufort, NC, located on the Intracoastal Waterway was a scenic old town peppered with picturesque Victorian and pre Civil War homes. Helene and I welcomed the opportunity to investigate these historic beauties of yesteryear with a long walk, while admiring each and every one of them.

The next morning, Captain Bob woke us with his unusual wake up siren, our twin 8-71TI Detroit diesel engines revving up. Catapulting from our master stateroom, we assumed our customary places as Ariel slowly pulled away from the dock to greet a beautifully bright, sunny morning. We progressed no further than forty yards when THUMP! Something happened to Ariel. She stopped! Captain Bob fretted that we lost the starboard transmission. Well, our fine Captain Bob, who was going to teach me how to maneuver into the Charleston docks on one engine, lapsed into panic mode, calling for a tow from the marina in order to get back to the forty-yard distant dock. Eventually, the marina sent a small flat bottomed boat equipped with an outboard engine to save us.

Captain Bob immediately insisted on summoning a diver to check the boat bottom. While we waited for the diver's arrival, we checked the engine rooms for problems.

We opened the starboard engine room door--oil had sprayed everywhere! A quick clean-up was imperative before we could begin to find the source of the problem. Captain Bob still mired in a state of panic was convinced we had blown the side out of the transmission and was already talking about how many days we might be there while waiting for repairs. His panic was a predictable reaction that we observed multiple times during our journey.

Oil removed, we began our inspection and discovered a frustrating source of the problem. The boat's purchasing survey noted a small leak on a pressure fitting for the starboard transmission, so we had it repaired before we departed on our voyage north. This time it was not a small leak. The complete fitting had given away. The repair was made with the wrong fitting that could not take the 250 pound plus pressure of the twin disk transmission. Fortunately, it wasn't a blown transmission case, but the question was whether the transmission was damaged due to the loss of oil. Captain Bob wanted to call a marine mechanic to assess the situation. From my point of view, unless he removed the transmission, all the mechanic could do was fix the fitting, fill it with oil and test it. I decided I could do that and headed for the marine store to find a fitting. I did not find one there but the local

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NAPA dealer had one. I installed the fitting, replaced the oil and fired up the engine. The transmission tested ok at the dock, but the question remained, would it be ok for the rest of the trip?

The marina assured us that sand bars were all that could have impeded our progress and that we probably bottomed out on a sand bar. Captain Bob still felt that we should have a diver check out the shafts and props. With the long distance remaining ahead of us, this sounded like a reasonable idea.

We awaited the expert diver who showed up in a beat up pick-up truck with a dog in the back, but missing any and all diving equipment. Out jumped a physically fit man, in his 30's, who identified himself as the diver we had called, in an almost incomprehensible southern drawl. We explained our situation and asked him to check for damage to the bottom of the boat as well as the shafts and props. He pulled off his shirt, dove off of the dock into the muddied water and disappeared. With clients like him, a diving gear shop would be quickly bankrupt. Apparently, goggles, tanks, mask, flippers and snorkel are considered unnecessary accoutrements in the Beaufort area. He arrived and disappeared so fast we did not have time to react.

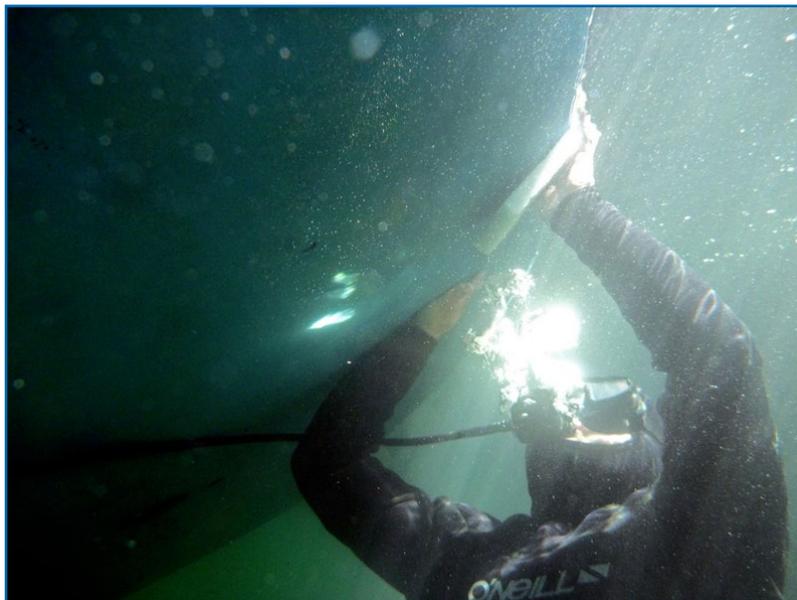
As the seconds ticked away, more people gradually assembled on the dock, all scanning the muddy water, anxiously awaiting signs of life. The still water refused

to reveal its secret as seconds turned into minutes. We began looking at each other revealing our fear and then back at the dock master who did not look concerned. Obviously the revealing question remained, is he all right? Minute melded into minute and still the water did not reveal its secret, elevating our concern: is he alive or will he suffer brain damage? Suddenly, he popped out of the water, grabbed another breath, and vanished under the boat again. We all looked at each other in astonishment. This time he was under water for so long that I began wondering how we would extract the body. He finally popped out of the water again and climbed up on the dock, pronouncing, as he put his shirt back on his wet body, everything under the boat in fine shape.

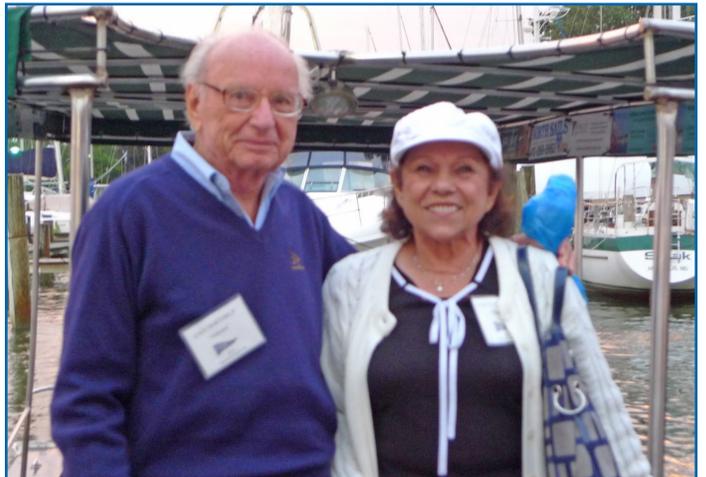
As I handed him his \$50, I told him he had alarmed us and asked him how on earth he was able to stay under the water so long. With a wry smile on his face, he said there were pockets of air under a boat and as a kid he had learned to take advantage of them. He patted his dog on the head, jumped into his truck and left. The dock master just shrugged and said, "that's the way he does it".

That certainly was our entertainment for the day. The next day was uneventful; our transmission worked fine for the rest of the trip and still does.

Don Butte,
"Ariel"



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