

2016 National Rendezvous in Baltimore



The Hatteras Classic Club held its 16th National Rendezvous September 7 – 11 at Harbor East Marina in Baltimore with hotel accommodations and conference facilities at the nearby Courtyard by Marriott. Fleet Captains Tom and Phyllis Earnest, with the help of new members Bruce Mallinson and Debbie Coco, headed a very enjoyable and informative event. The weather was hot for September, but fortunately there was no rain. 46 members and guests attended and 8 boats were at the docks. As usual, the event started with drinks on the dock, this year BYOB. Tom and Phyllis provided mixers and light hors d'oeuvres, all graciously sponsored by long-time friend of the HCC, Chuck Meyer, of Bluewater Yacht Sales.

Thursday morning a completely different class was offered: a stretching and yoga session led by Bruce Mallinson. Held in one of the hotel meeting rooms before other seminars began, it was so well attended and enjoyed that everyone asked for another session the next morning. Bruce was happy to accommodate! Continuing with the health theme at the 10 o'clock seminar, Pamela Stephens gave a presentation on the "Bemer", biotechnology that enhances blood flow. 10 minutes on the Bemer mat twice a day was promoted as a way to dramatically improve energy levels and healing. Several members took advantage of a chance to try one of the two mats that were provided.

Back to boating, long-time members Andy and Jeanne Dixon, who have been going to the Bahamas for the last 13 winters, gave a comprehensive presentation on what the trip involves. They covered such areas as cost, preparation, communications, destinations, clearing

customs, navigation, tipping, and the general hassles of making the trip. "Well worth it," say Andy and Jeanne.

That afternoon many members ventured to the Museum of Industry either by water taxi or Uber. Uber was cheaper, involved much less walking and impressed many who were unfamiliar with it. The museum mostly consisted of a collection of some fascinating old production machinery and tools used in local Baltimore industries such as oystering, textiles, and printing. It was a very informative tour with a knowledgeable guide. At 5 o'clock everyone again gathered for "docktails" followed by dinner at Bertha's Mussels, an old Fells Point restaurant featuring shellfish.

Friday morning after early yoga, HCC member, Bruce Mallinson, owner of Pittsburgh Power, gave a detailed presentation on diesel engine maintenance and repair. He provided many engine parts which served as visual aids and also distributed some helpful literature. Afterwards, the club got a special treat as Bob and Joan Gonsoulin and Dan and Jackie Billingsley, co-owners of Middle Ground Lighthouse in the Norfolk Harbor, gave an engaging power point presentation on their ten-year restoration of the lighthouse. All their efforts, a true family project, turned the 1891 lighthouse into a unique vacation home.

Friday afternoon another treat was in store as members were given a tour of the new Institute for Marine Environmental Technology by the director himself, Dr. Russell Hill. The institute researches marine environmental problems related to commercial interest. That evening, there was a group dinner at Gordon Biersch Brewery, a short walk from the hotel and marina.

Baltimore Rendezvous continued

The speaker Saturday morning was Art Johnson, a marine surveyor, who spoke about trends in the brokerage business and the sales potential of various boats. The annual membership meeting followed (see minutes in this newsletter). An outstanding farewell dinner Saturday night was held at Roy's Asian Fusion Restaurant, a block away. The food and service were wonderful and the entire evening was an enjoyable finale for the event.

Members headed home Sunday morning after four fun-filled days in Baltimore. Many thanks go to Tom and Phyllis for planning and running a very enjoyable rendezvous and also to Bruce and Debbie for their help in arranging several seminars and classes.

Mark your calendars now for the next HCC National Rendezvous in Baltimore the weekend after Labor Day, 2017.







