

CHESAPEAKE BRISTOL CLUB

September, 1974

NOTICE: CBC CRUISE & RAFT-UP SET FOR SEPT. 27-28: Skippers and their families attending the August 24th cruise to Queenstown have decided to cruise to and raft-up in Leeds Creek, across the Miles River from St. Michaels harbor on Saturday evening, Sept. 27. This could possibly be the last organized cruise of the season - although not by any means the last social event or other club activity this Fall and Winter.

Bristol yacht owners are urged to attend this raft-up to help plan future activities as well as to enjoy the fellowship, scuttlebutt and exchange ideas and information that our association offers. Those who have joined the last two cruises will confirm that similar ownership and experiences adds a tremendous dimension to our activities.

As usual, the raft-up is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on the 27th. Club Treasurer Bill Birely, skipper of a Bristol 30, #68, and flying the Bristol pennant, will serve as the official greeter, meeting you as you arrive. Look for him; he and first mate Janet will be waiting for you! Special events will be held for the children - young and old!

Participants in the Annapolis area (and all others from nearby who so desire) are advised that a pre-cruise rendezvous is set for 10:00 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 27th at the Severn River Spider for those who would like to cruise together to Leeds Creek. While there will be no "official start" it is suspected that some may "square off" to determine who arrives at Leeds Creek in the most efficient manner!

AN EDITORIAL

At the recent meeting of the club leadership, concern was expressed about possible overemphasis of racing as a club activity. One officer commented that a potential member felt the announcements contained more information about racing preparations than other news.

The Club Leadership wants to assure all current and potential members that the Club was and is organized to offer as broad an appeal to the total Bristol Yacht ownership as is humanly possible. Cruising and social activities for individuals and families alike has always been the heart of the Club's organizational purpose. In fact, only a small part of the 20 participants in the first rendezvous (July 20) took part in the race from Annapolis, while less than half of the Aug. 24th raft-up raced from Baltimore Light.

Because information for an organized race does take some explanation, the previous newsletters devoted the necessary space to those events. However, as CBC social, cruising, educational and youth activities become better organized and increase, it will be evident that CBC is

dedicated and devoted to a well-balanced program for all who support it. Those among us who enjoy the learning opportunities and excitement of an organized race to the raft-ups should have that opportunity as long as it in no way diminishes the participation and enjoyment of others. In our book, non-racers share equal billing if not more-so in the goals and purposes of the club. To assure ourselves and others, we have analysed the "interest in activities" section of the current members' application forms and find that of the 44 families and individuals who have joined so far, 29 have indicated an interest in both cruising and racing; 14 indicated a desire only for cruising and one expressed no interest in either (?).

In the recent informal races to the rendezvous, participants included those who have had previous racing experience and others who have had none. A novice won! All indicated that they learned a great deal from the races about themselves, their boats (and crews?), which they could have learned in no other way - win or lose. It is hoped that those who have never tried racing will join their Club friends and participate for the experience and enjoyment it offers. It's all in good fun and adds an exciting element to the cruise. On the other hand, those who wish to come at a more leisurely pace will find the raft-up equally informative and entertaining.

We have a great thing going in CBC and the variety of our personalities, experience and equipment makes the Chesapeake Bristol Club one of the unique organizations on the Bay!

Ken Ketcham
Editor

CBC MEMBERSHIP SURGES: Nearly 50 Bristol Yacht owners have joined the Club in the few short weeks since the first announcement was made in July! This excellent response testifies to the desire of Bristol owners and their families to have an organization of their "own". The intense interest in the Club has placed a welcome "strain" on the leadership to organize social, educational and youth committees to meet the desires expressed by the members in their applications.

While a detailed Membership Directory will be prepared in the near future, permitting our members to communicate with each other, we thought you'd like a brief list of our current members as we go to press. You'll find it attached. We welcome you into CBC and look forward to meeting each of you and members of your family!

HELP BUILD CBC: Current members of CBC are urged to help the club expand its membership and communications by providing the names and addresses of other Bristol Yacht owners in their area or acquaintanceship. Send the names to Club Secretary Ed Roberts, 795E, Severn House, Annapolis, Md. Ed will communicate with them.

Those of you who are receiving this newsletter, but haven't joined yet are cordially invited to do so. We are sure you will enjoy the fellowship and the many other growing advantages which membership offers.

AS YOU MEET OTHER BRISTOL OWNERS ON THE BAY, HAIL THEM AND URGE THEM TO JOIN US!

ANCHORS AWEIGH AT QUEENSTOWN: We're almost too ashamed to tell this yarn, but let this be a lesson to all who yearn to raft-up, but don't yearn to break-up!

It's a classic case of some good news and some not-so-bad news. (The fact that we had thirteen yachts in the raft-up should have been the first tip-off!)

First the good news. The weather was fine on August 24th and a little more wind would have made it perfect. Six Bristols met at the Baltimore Light for the CBC race to Queenstown. Ken and Lila Ketcham won the race in their 32-foot Star Bright, with John and Jean McLaughlin (Lightfoot - 30) and Dave and Lucille Hultsch (Cille - 27) hot on their heels in that order. As the race finished, the Bristols began gathering in Queenstown Creek, rafting up for an evening of dinghy races, fun and profound conversation. As the evening wore on and the conversation wore out, skippers, mates and kids diminished from open decks to cozy bunks. By mid-night even Commodore Jerry Caswell had had enough and turned in. A dozen silent yachts swung quietly to the anchor boat in a light south-west breeze. You could see the starlight in the creek's surface.

And now the bad news. Some time during the night, the breeze crept on ghost's sneakers to the northeast. One skipper did remember Jupiter passing across his forehatch, but what's unusual about that? The raft gently settled on the new tack. At dawn the breeze picked up enough to rattle some halliards, but most crews slept soundly.

Suddenly the anchor boat skipper was awakened by his son who announced that the raft was heading downstream! The skipper confirmed this interesting bit of information and screamed "ALL HANDS ON DECK!" or something to that effect. Pandemonium was quickly organized. Skippers in their shorts (?); mates, their nightgowns flying titillatingly in the breeze, began sorting and segregating breast and spring lines. The rev-up of engines reminded one skipper of a recent cross-country motorcycle race. Someone else was heard to say: "God, I've never started my engine

without blowing the thing for at least five minutes!" whereupon he hit the starter. . . Downwind, directly in the path of the now-cruising raft-up, a solitary cruising skipper - obviously curious about the commotion, emerged from his hatch to see the damndest sight heading for him that one could possibly imagine! . . . But by this time, the group activity was having telling effect and boats began peeling off the ends of the raft like the plague. In fact, three of them were observed cruising upwind still tied together; one of them - in the middle - couldn't get his engine started!

Finally, the anchor boat's hook rejoined the bottom and turned what was left of the raft into the wind. The solitary skipper regained some color in his face and quietly disappeared below. Everyone else by this time had gone to anchor singly, or in pairs and triplets; their crews returned to their bunks safe and sound. Not a scratch was reported! The post-mortem revealed that the boats had swung so gently during the night that the anchor line crossed directly over the anchor without turning it. When the slight strain hit the line, it pried the anchor directly over its shank. With mud on its flukes, the anchor skidded along the bottom.

The moral? Commodore Caswell, you simply gotta tell them when it's time to break up into smaller groups!

SHORT SHEETS: Al Jacukiewicz, President of Atlantic Sailing Yachts, Inc., located at Spa Creek, Annapolis, and dealer for Bristol Yachts hereabouts, announces that as a benefit of Club membership, all members will receive a ten percent discount on purchases of yacht equipment and supplies. This is only one of the many contributions Al has made to the successful launching of CBC, which is greatly appreciated!

Work is underway to hold CBC's First Annual Meeting and Dinner tentatively set for Saturday, November 23rd, in a facility in the Annapolis area. This location was chosen by skippers and mates attending the Queenstown raft-up.

Plans are proceeding to purchase in quantity a club pennant. The pennant will feature three alternating blue and white vertical sections, with the white section in the center. On the center panel will be the Bristol diamond-shaped symbol, with the top triangle in blue and the bottom one in red.

Special club stationery letterhead, newsletter masthead and membership cards are being designed for future use. If you have any ideas or suggestions, send them to Ken Ketcham, address below.

You are encouraged to send in news for this newsletter. Send your activities, ideas, sailing and cruising tips, other scuttlebutt to: Ken Ketcham, 11404 Channing Drive, Silver Spring, Md. 20902. Don't worry about form. Just get it to me.

SEE YOU AT THE SEVERN SPIDER OR LEEDS CREEK SEP. 27