



SUMMER 2013



FOUR WINDS

By the time you read this the sailing season will be about half over.

The wet spring that seemed to put a damper on the early season has morphed into a wet summer that has added daily thunderstorms to your weather watch. I was very gratified with the turnout and enthusiasm for both the Seafood party and Chicken and Ribs. Party Chair, Mike Rasmussen, put his culinary skills to good effect preparing the clams, mussels, and flounder consumed at the seafood party.



A good showing of Windjammers braved the unknown condition of the Inter coastal water way and made safe passage to and from Beach Haven enjoying a cool but sunny experience on this perennial club event. A week later, Vice Chair, Richard Gard, served up the largest group of Windjammers and guests in recent years at the annual Chicken and Ribs party. It's good to see so many people out (in excess of 55) for any Windjammer event as we are a social club, and the larger a group of members and guests the more we can interact with our fellow sailors. The following morning, about a dozen members met again on the dock to share left over deserts, bagels, pastries provided by a couple of generous members. Special thanks to both Cliff Simpson and Justin Pasca for making a morning "road trip" to provide for the breakfast on the dock.

At the end of June, two boats departed Cedar Creek on the first cruise of the season heading for Cape May. Cruise Chair, Bob Fahey, will fill in the details of that adventure. As the other cruiser on this trip, both Bob and myself were heartened by the greetings we received upon leaving the cool, but turbulent, Atlantic for the warm (very warm!) embrace of seven of our fellow Windjammers at Myer's hole near the Barnegat lighthouse. Several boats had cruised the bay over the course of the 4th of July holidays, taking in the fireworks display in the Toms River before greeting our return from Cape May.

As I write this, the Ladies Helms Race and the Iron Woman Feast has yet to happen. I'm sure if its anything like past races, it will have some interesting stories to share at a later function!

The calendar for the rest of July and August has several parties and one more Big Cruise. Please take the time to review the Windjammer's website, noting in particular the up coming events listed on the home page. We are now very much using electronic media and communications so please keep us informed of your (changing?) email address and use the website to stay abreast of up coming events and changes to the schedule when event dictate.

Again I hope your sailing season is going as you hoped. I look forward to seeing you at an up coming event and please contact me or any of the officers you see or via the website, with questions. Also both our hard working Webmaster, Chip Hitchens and newsletter publisher/editor Adam Getzel request stories and photos for up coming publication and the website photo Album. See you around the dock!

Commodore Windjammers Sailing Club

Donald Kozak





FOUR WINDS

WindJammer Cruising News

Memorial Day Cruise – Beach Haven



Our first cruise of the season was a trip to Beach Haven on Memorial Day weekend.

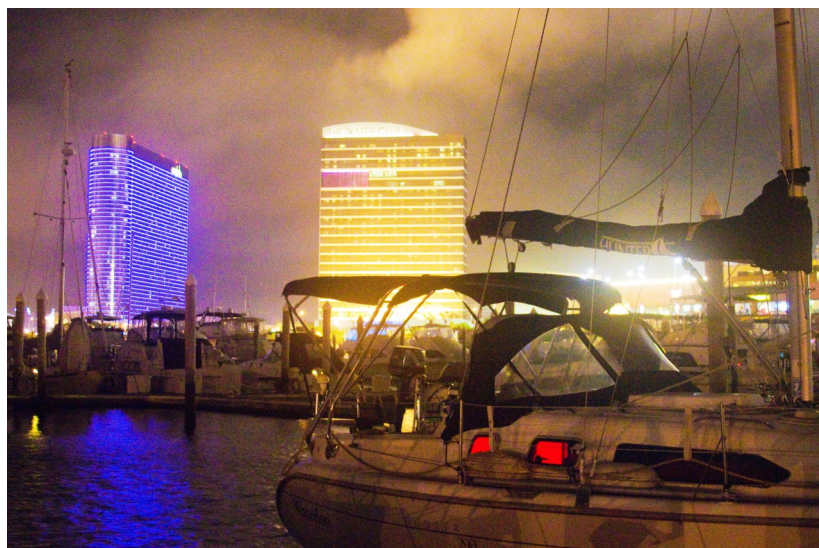
7 boats attended: Sashay, Stormy, Tiki, Providence II, Arpeggio, Stormy Petrel and Waterloo. On Saturday there was a gale warning, and all prudent sailors heeded that warning and decided to depart the following day. Sunday was marginally better with winds still blowing 30-35 knots and gusts to 40 knots. It was the coldest Memorial Day I recall with the temperature in the 40's upon departure. We wished we had winter coats and hats on Waterloo, and had put on 4 layers of fleece and sweatshirts to try to keep warm. I'm certain those with full enclosures will tell us all they were in shorts. We all had concerns about the condition of the channels after Superstorm Sandy. There were a few bumps on the bottom on the way through the channel, but surprisingly it was for the most part clear. Upon

arrival in Beach Haven, the winds were kicking up to 40 knots, making for some tricky docking. The Beach Haven Yacht Club staff were very attentive on the docks to help us all in safely, and all made it without incident. Happily the weather was wonderful the rest of the weekend, and we all had a great time in Beach Haven!

4th of July Cruise – Long Island (turned into Cape May)

The original plan for the 1-week cruise over 4th of July was to go northwards to Long Island Sound. Due to unfavorable currents, lift times of bridges and uncertainty of the state of potential anchorages in Raritan Bay we decided instead to go southward. Only the Kozak's (Lorelei) and the Fahey's (Waterloo) were able to make this trip, and we had a great time despite the weather!

As you may recall, the winds had been blowing out of the south and southwest for weeks, with daily rain-squalls and large ocean swells. We decided to go down to Atlantic City on the "inside" to avoid the sloppy conditions in the ocean. There is a channel from Barnegat Bay to Absecon Inlet in which it is sufficient depth and bridge clearance. We encountered a few shallow spots and a lot of dredging, clearing the way from the mess left by Hurricane Sandy. The most notable adventure in this passage was in the channel as we passed Little Egg Inlet, marker 128A. While in the middle of the channel and the depth sounder reading 12+ feet, Waterloo ran around on a hard gravel ledge but was able to get off. I would like to think of it as us just polishing the barnacles off the bottom of our keel, but it was a nasty grinding sound.





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We arrived in Atlantic City in a very heavy cold downpour, which made for entertaining conversation once in our slips. We had a peasant stay at the Golden Nugget, although daily showers & thunderstorms did persist. One day Rachel Kozak joined us by car, and we enjoyed “land cruising” to Renault Winery in Egg Harbor City. We learned that a prominent French winemaker from the Champagne region of France founded the winery. The winery has had a sordid history since then with links to Al Capone and the mob during prohibition. But that was just for church wine, wink wink nudge nudge. While we had use monton, the Blueberry Capital of the World. week, there were still many blueberry feasts chocolate-covered blueberries. (The Wind-champagne, however.) We were socked in wind and seas, and made the best of it in the cart track. Who knew that some rain on a drifters?

The trip to Cape May in the ocean started have radar to see our way through that for were the 3-4 foot swells that built through-feet. The swells ran straight down the Cape with the incoming flood. There were a few fuel filters and an engine running hot, but fortobable, ride to Cape May, and we had a

The weather while in Cape May was noth-As is the best way to see Cape May, we rode May, out to Sunset Beach and all points in in another vineyard, Willow Creek, (I think you see the theme of this cruise!)

With the weather finally breaking and being pleasant, we decided to spend an extra day in Cape May and do a long run back from there to Barnegat Inlet in a long 12-hour day. Early on the morning of our departure around 5am we ran into a fellow Windjammer at Utsch's, Dave Hellmuth, who was helping a friend deliver a new Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 37 up to Forked River. With the wind and following seas behind us, Lorelei and Waterloo set boom preventers and surfed back to our home waters. Coming from the 60 degree ocean into 90+ degree Barnegat Bay was like arriving in a blast furnace, it was amazing the temperature difference we experienced. And what a surprise to be met at Myers Hole by so many fellow Windjammers! Callisto, Stormy, Sashay, April Star, Providence II, Tiki, and Mystique.

July 20 – Moonlight Cruise

Have you ever sailed at night? This past July the WindJammers participated in a moonlight sail cruise on Saturday, July 20. This is always a fun event in which you get to practice and hone your skills in night navigation and sailing, while staying in our familiar home waters. I still find it amazing how different everything looks at night on the water, and judging of distance at night takes some practice. We left after the dock party and sailed northward to Toms River and anchored out overnight. The skies were somewhat clear and the nearly full moon helped to see marks and land.

July 28~August 11 – Cruise to Block Island, Newport, Mystic

I want to make sure to draw attention to the 2-week cruise coming up soon, from July 28 through August 11. We're planning on a cruise northwards, including such destinations as Block Island, Newport, Mystic, and other great spots. So far I've heard interest from 5 boats, maybe more, which is a great turnout! Weather permitting, we may do an offshore passage from Barnegat Inlet to Block Island. The captain's meeting will be held on Sunday, July 21, in which we'll discuss the specifics of this trip. If you're interested in attending this cruise, be sure to let me know.

Do you have ideas for other cruises? I'd love to hear them!! Please send me an email to: cruising@windjammersailing.com.

Yours in Cruising,

Bob Fahey,
Cruising Chair



of a car we also spent some time in Ham-While we missed the blueberry festival by 1 to enjoy such as blueberry milkshakes and jammers crew weren't fans of blueberry an extra day in AC because of foul weather, casinos, on the boardwalk and on the go-go-cart track turns those little buggers into

with thick fog, and we were thankful to 4 hours. The winds were on our nose as out the day to eventually 30 knots and 6-8 May inlet, which made it interesting even minor mishaps along the way like clogged all in all it was an uneventful, albeit uncom-great stay at Utsch's.

ing short of splendid, with a lot of sunshine. bikes to the Lighthouse, through Old Cape between. There was even a bike ride layover



FOUR WINDS

WindJammer Cruising News

A Trip to The Thousand Islands Region

By Jim & Kathy Nowicki

This summer we decided to take a week and explore the Thousand Islands region of New York and Ontario Canada. Our decision was made in part because we've always heard how wonderful the scenery is there, and in part as an excuse to visit our Daughter who is spending her summer at McMaster University in Ontario. While this was a driving tour, as you read on you will see that there was plenty of time spent boating. We won't recount everything, but just touch on the highlights.

Our first highlight would be the weekend we spent touring Toronto with our Daughter Lauren. Toronto is a wonderful modern city with beautiful museums, good restaurants, and plenty of activities to choose from. On a Sunday afternoon we took a ferry ride from the city dock across the harbor to Toronto Island Park, which affords spectacular views of the city skyline, and a plethora of paths and sidewalks to stroll around the park island. Upon our return to the city center we took in an excellent meal and view of the city from above by traveling up into the CN Tower. This tower is the tallest in the world (in an ever growing battle with a tower in Dubai, and one in Shanghai). The restaurant in the Tower revolves around every 90 minutes as you eat and serves French cuisine that was surprisingly good. Part of the benefit of having a dinner reservation in the tower is that you avoid a 30 minute line for tickets, and another 30 minute line to enter the elevator that takes you up to the observation deck.



As the weekend came to and end we dropped Lauren off at McMaster (she had to work during the week) and



moved northward to the Canadian side of the Thousand Islands in Gananoque. This is a sleepy little town with a number of nice bed and breakfasts that are walking distance from a town dock with boat rides, and kayak rentals. We stayed at the Turtle Island B&B, with beautifully decorated rooms, and a positively sumptuous breakfast. In the morning we purchased a bag lunch at the local grocery store and rented a tandem ocean kayak from 1000 Islands Kayaking Company. They provided all the needed equipment, and waterproof maps for us to follow on our exploration. Off we went into the seaway for a day of paddling and island hopping. The Kayak rental includes a permit that allows you to land at any of the Canadian State Park docks. In the area around Gananoque there are quite a few parkland islands where you can dock and take hiking trails to explore, so we spent the entire day paddling from island to island and exploring their trails.



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We lunched on the western most Mermaid Island where we had the entire island to ourselves. After lunch we began our loop back to Gananoque town dock, exploring an entirely different set of islands on the return path of our voyage. The scenery was magnificent, the wildlife abundant, and the water and weather simply tranquil. This is simply an experience everyone should put on one's bucket list.



Next we moved on to the New York side of this waterway. In Alexandria Bay we took a lunch cruise on a large ferryboat that ended at Heart Island for a tour of the famous Boldt Castle. For the future I would skip the lunch part, and just take in the visit to the Castle. It is a huge stone building with six floors of over 100 rooms, and spectacular to see. Boldt was the billionaire hotel magnet that drew his fame from creating the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. In addition to the Castle, there is an equally impressive boat house that served the Castle, that contains a nice collection of restored power boats owned by the Boldt family.

Onward to a wonderful day spent at the antique boat museum in Clayton, New York. When we arrived, we were greeted by a fleet of old restored steam launches visiting the museum dock. The museum has an extensive collection of vintage wooden power boats. To cap our visit off, we took a 45 minute ride in the *Miss TI*, a replica of a 1930's triple-

cockpit Hacker-Craft. She's built of mahogany, is 30 feet long, about six feet wide, and three and a half tons displacement. She boasts a 454 V-8 engine that gently growls as you zip through the water at 45 knots! Everyone looks and waves at this boat. What a blast from the past.



The week was nearly over, but we still had one more maritime adventure in store. We returned to McMaster to pick Lauren up for the second weekend and drove down to Niagara, New York for Friday night fireworks over the falls. The next morning we took an early ride on the *Maid of the Mist* that carries you up to the foot of both the American Falls and the Horseshoe Falls



(Canadian). Everyone aboard gets completely soaked by the raining mist that is produced by the falls. A short 20 minute boat ride, but a must do when you visit the Niagara Falls.

It's just plain wet fun, and gives you the best vantage point to marvel at the sheer size and volume of the falls.

The Thousand Islands turned out to be a wonderful vacation, and I am sure we will return there to explore more of that area in the years to come.



FOUR WINDS

WindJammer Dock Parties

Surprise dock party & Awards Memorial Day Weekend

This past spring, on the eve of Memorial Day weekend, Mother Nature & Poseidon whipped up a gale from the south. This kept the WindJammer Sailing Club from departing for the annual Beach Haven cruise. The boats, with dock lines snug, spent one more night in their berths at Cedar Creek Sailing Center. The crews, anxious to leave with their boats fully provisioned, still needed something to do. Saturday of Memorial Day weekend we usually celebrate their successful voyage Beach Haven Yacht Club with a dock party there. Instead, we had a dock party at CCSC that turned in to a belated awards ceremony.



Past Commodore, Jim Nowicki, *just happened to have* the Ladies Helm Race Trophy, the Charles Rocknak & the The Running Aground & the Turkey Awards on hand. Jim went on to present awards to individuals that were unable to attend the Fall Dinner in front of nearly 50 Windjammers & friends.

Angela Getzel receives the Ladies Helm Race Trophy for her summer of 2012 victory.



This year's Turkey Award goes to Justin Pasca for running out of fuel with ever leaving the dock!

The Running Aground Award went to Dawn & Juan for their work outside the channel on the way back from Beach Haven last Memorial Day.



Charles & Ruth Rocknak Award: Has typically been awarded for displaying good sailing skills while participating in Windjammers Sailing Club events. Over the last several years, this award has morphed into an award for the most improved sailor, or sailor who has pushed his or her limits. Adam Getzel accepts the award for the 2012 season.





FOUR WINDS



The Windjammer Sailing Club has a website, that can be found on the web at: <http://windjammersailing.com>. The website has up-to-date information about dock parties, cruises, seminars, races, and other events. If you have some pictures you'd like to include, send them to: web@windjammersailing.com, and we'll include them on the website. If you have a lot of pictures burn them to a disk & contact Bob Fahey.



FOUR WINDS

WindJammer Racing News

Racing Chair:
Pat Pezzano



BeachHaven Open MiniGolf Outing

Among the fun annual WindJammer events is the Beach Haven Open, a friendly mini golf tourney between sailors. For 2013 the venue was Mr. Tee's Shark Island. This year's winning team was Arpeggio lead by Richard Gard & individual low gross was Adam (Tiki) who shot a 44. Both Adam & Lori (both on Team Tiki) finished off their round with a holes in 1.



So far this season there have been two races. The first "Race Weekend" was in June and was followed by a SeaFood Fest. The second race of the season was the Ladies Helm Race and was followed by the Iron Women's Feast. Later this season is the Tall Oaks Challenge in September. The last race of the season is the Frost Bite in October.

On "Race Weekend" five boats participated in the competition. Dale Harman on Sunset got the bullet for being 1st to cross the finish line after a Jack Rabbit start. But the victory went to Adam Getzel & Rob 'the Lightning Rod' Cary on Tiki once the times were corrected.

The "Ladies Helm Race" tested the captains of five boat over a nearly 6mile course. Aria, Chianti, Restless, Stormy & Tiki dealt with lead changes & wind shifts, keeping it exciting. Angela Getzel with her crew on Tiki took the bullet followed by Chianti then Stormy. This is the year in a row Angela has won the Ladies Helm Race.



The handicap book in the club house was 20+ years old & is now missing. If you don't know your boats rating & would like to race, Please use the link below is for the Western Long Island PHRF ratings & corrections

<http://documents.clubexpress.com/documents.ashx?>

[key=rE501bdwzwYpp32V99jrN3kfOcPDnWfrz3AelakdUxRfKIgCly0xD7Uc8RqSLh6U](http://documents.clubexpress.com/documents.ashx?key=rE501bdwzwYpp32V99jrN3kfOcPDnWfrz3AelakdUxRfKIgCly0xD7Uc8RqSLh6U)

Please either request a PHRF rating from NJ PHRF or take a few moments & look up your boat & it's rating in the Long Island Sound online reference.



FOUR WINDS

Tips & Reviews

That brings us to another feature in *FourWinds* that we call "Tips & Reviews". In this section, anyone could (& should) offer their solutions for problems onboard, in the slip or when underway. Have you done all the research and purchased a new piece of equipment lately? Why not share your research and let everyone know if you love it or hate it? Please, everyone help out and contribute.

This Summer we're expanding the 'Tips' to include work that gets done in the galley, too! Whether just an afternoon sail or a cruise, Prep & provisioning make a huge difference in how happy the crew is during your adventure. This tasty Lentil & Black Bean Salad comes to the Windjammers from Audrey Rosenberg. If you've been to any of the dock parties this year, you've had the chance to sample it. Let's all thank Audrey while enjoying this home prep'able & yummy dish.

Lentil & Black Bean Salad

I make this salad often. It may stay in the fridge for 1-2 weeks. The longer, the more the dressing is absorbed. I'm trying to measure but I do most by taste. It's so easy and high in protein.

- 1 Pkg of fresh lentils (cooked according to package)
- 1 large can of corn niblets
- 1 can of black beans drained (or cooked fresh black beans)
- ½ cup diced red onions
- ¼ cup cilantro or basil
- 2 cloves of crushed garlic (at least)

Mix all together.

DRESSING:

- ¼ cup wine vinegar
- ½ cup oil (canola)
- 1-2 tsp Dijon mustard (in a pinch I have used mustard powder)

Heat this mixture and pour over tossed salad. I like my salad more tart so I will use more vinegar...sometimes balsamic. Salt and Pepper to taste.



Hardening the Bimini – Part II

Rich Gard

In the first part of this story I described the challenges of trying to construct a bimini top in an area just a bit larger than the top itself, and then just barely getting it out of the cramped space, up the stairs (with the help of my daughter Syd). This article is about putting on the finish color coats of Awlgrip, mounting the solar panels to the top, and installing the bimini on the boat. In short, it is now functioning in the capacity for which it was designed; shelter and solar panel support.

After 3 coats of primer were put down on all surfaces of the bimini, I sanded it with 220 grit sand paper. The bottom side then got 2 coats of Awlgrip Mediterranean White and the top side received 4 coats of Dark Green (if I had used a dark primer, fewer coats of the Dark Green would have been needed. The important thing is the coverage (no light spots) and a good shine to the finish.

Before mounting the panels to the top I had to make the brackets to support the panels. Hotwire sold me z-brackets they said would adjust to the curvature of the top. However, they would not do at all. What worked was a mount design of my own. I combined 1.5"x4" aluminum angle bar purchased from Home-Depot in a 4 foot section, and 1.5"x4" aluminum hinge. These were cut from a blank 4' hinge purchased from Grainger. I needed a total of 8 pieces of each (4 each for each panel). I used the blank hinge so that I could drill my own holes for bolting. Each bracket hinge pair took 6 nuts and bolts and washers. The pictures below show the mounted panels and some hinge action.



FOUR WINDS

Tips & Reviews



After completing the 4th coat of Awlgrip Dark Green, and mounting the solar panels with the custom mounting brackets, she was ready to transport to the boat on the top of the bed-box of my pickup. I used two 2x4 studs on the top of the box front and back and 4" foam rubber on top of the bed walls, and cargo straps to hold her down.. It was a good thing she was secured well. She made the trip down to the marina (55 miles away) and back home 3 times. Finally with a little help from Ron and Kathy Minchin and another bystander, I got the boat turned-around (barnacles on the prop made it tough), lifted and placed on the frame end bows, then secured everything with straps. Finally!

The holes for the backstay where drilled with a 1 1/8th inch hole saw bit, at the same angle as the backstays, and just nicking the corners of the port light window support ledges. Then with a small hand saw, I cut a 1/4" slot in each corner for the backstay to slip through and into the center of the inch and one eighth hole.. After the brackets holding the frame to the top were attached (mounting the top the frame), the frame was secured (braced) to the stern rails in two places each side. These braces allowed us to make minor adjustments in pitch and yaw of top to keep the stays I the center of the holes.



The 1/4" Makrolon sight portpanel is mounted in the opening. I used clamps to hold down the "Lexan" to butyl tape and elastomeric caulk, on the fore end and weight on the aft end (tool bags in a plastic shopping bag). However, I did need to fashion SS hold-down brackets to keep the panel in the frame. The Lexan wanted to return to its flat state but the top was curved. The brackets held it in place. Each solar panel's leads were connected to y-junctions so that only one cable was run down each leg of the backstay and to the charge controller; BlueSky 2512i (25 amp, 12 volt). I also mounted a Victron BMV 602 battery monitor to keep track of the comings and goings of the electrons in the batteries.



FOUR WINDS

Attention seafaring men and women of the world:

The Coast Guard has made a plea—and it's an important one. When someone happens upon an unmanned boat (or kayak, canoe or stand up paddle board), the Coast Guard launches a full-blown search for missing people—always. Which is great, right? If you're adrift somewhere in the water, you just have to tread, assured that the Coast Guard is on its way—complete with a squad, local search and rescue teams, boats, helicopters, bells, whistles, you name it. But the unfortunate reality is that a majority of the time, no one is distressed in the water. Instead, the empty craft is simply adrift thanks to a poorly tied knot or a big wave that sent it floating sans-captain over the horizon. And the Coast Guard (et al.) has spent time and money—and risked the wellbeing of its crew—to, in the end, find you watching reruns of "The Bachelor" on your couch. To avoid this embarrassment (and save the CG a lot of hassle), follow three simple steps.

- Stop watching reruns of "The Bachelor." (Seriously.)
- Pick up a free(!) weatherproof, reflective sticker, like the one pictured below, and fill that sucker out.

- Slap the information-complete tag on each one of your venerable vessels.

And now, instead of a search party, you'll get a call. And you'll probably get your boat back, to boot. Good for the Coast Guard—good for you. To get a sticker—or to get more information about the Coast Guard's recently launched initiative, Operation Paddle Smart, which helps small craft owners stay safe in the water and is pushing the "If Found" label—[contact your local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla or Coast Guard Station](#).

In the past the WindJammers Sailing Club has offered a wide range of seminars on weekend mornings on everything from small engine maintenance to racing. We will continue these exchanges of helpful information because it builds lasting relationships between members. If you have an expertise and would like to give a seminar, or have an idea for a topic or know a willing speaker, please contact Kelley Fahey our Seminar Chairs or Don our Commodore.



FOUR WINDS



COURSE OFFERINGS

ASA 101 - Basic Keelboat Sailing Certification

This introduction to sailing is designed to give the beginner the skills and confidence needed to sail a 22-24 foot boat. Instruction includes nautical nomenclature, rules of the road, points of sail, proper tacking procedures, rigging, sail trim, and anchoring.
 Class Size: Maximum 4 students
 Schedule: (2) 7 hour days.

ASA 103 - Basic Coastal Cruising Certification

This more advanced course is designed to take the confident keelboat sailor and make them a competent skipper able to handle a 30-foot sailboat in coastal waters. Instruction includes boat handling, seamanship, reefing, weather and navigation.
 Class Size: Maximum 4 students
 Schedule: (2) 7 hour days

NJ Safe Boating Certification

This course is designed to meet the mandatory New Jersey Safe Boating requirements for all operators of sailboats, powerboats, and wave runners.
 Class size: Maximum 25 students
 Schedule: (1) 8 hour day



BARNEGAT BAY SAILING

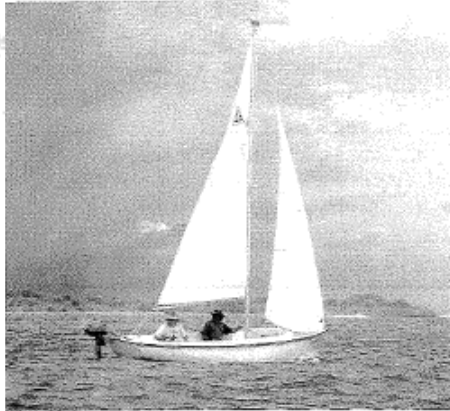


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Practice sailing sessions with a certified instructor are available Monday - Friday aboard a 19-23 foot sailboat for all ASA 101 graduates.

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These private sailing lessons are designed specifically for the boat owner who needs a little refresher or advanced skills training on their specific boat.





FOUR WINDS

CEDAR CREEK SAILING CENTER/MARINA A SAILORS MARINA

Tom Wright / Liz Barto
Owners Operators

100 Harbor Inn Rd.
Bayville, NJ 08721

Phone 732-269-1351
Fax 732-237-9225
Cell 732-674-1205
Email:ccsc@comcast.net



Whether you've broken an old piece of gear or would like to upgrade something on your sailboat, be sure to ask the Ship's Tailor & the pros @ Cedar Creek Sailing Centers/Marina Store .

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Sail & Canvas Repairs - Sail Covers - Screens - Bimini -Dodgers

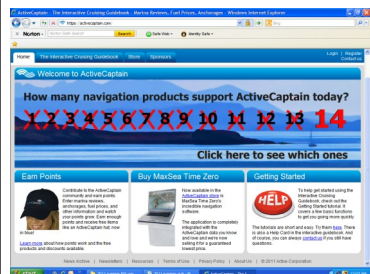


The WindJammer Sailing Club sincerely thanks Cedar Creek Sailing Center for the use of the clubhouse & all you do for us !!!

Check out these interesting websites:

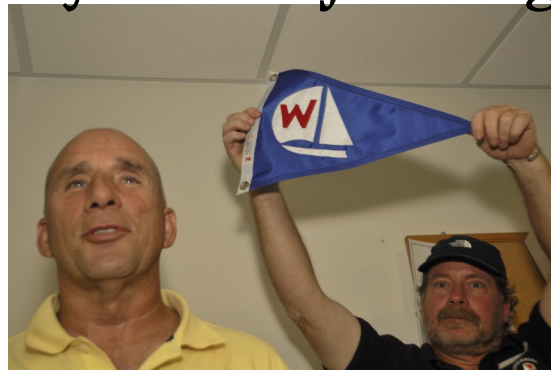
WWW.ACTIVECAPTAIN.COM & WW.LIVESKIPPER.COM

The 1st is an interactive trip planner with NOAA chart & local knowledge, the other is a racing simulator with day long races or round the world races in real time with current weather.



Cliff & Richard said

“Get your WindJammer gear.”





Final Thoughts

Tranquility Interruptus

Let's face it , I am married to a guy who loves to test himself. He's always looking forward to doing things that will be exciting. He is always on the go and ready to move at a moment's notice. Wow how have we been married for 24 years?

You may be asking yourselves "What's the big deal?" Well, I am a planner, I like to plan for every eventuality and planning takes time. I also like to relax a little, not be running at full steam all of the time. The best part of this is that I am like other women, doing what our husbands love to do. So I plan and pack enough for an army each weekend . Inevitably Rich just shakes his head as the bags wait by the back door..

Sailing is not my calling. Although I must say that I am getting more into it. I can understand the need to unwind in the wind and to feel the stress drain from your body as you heel and glide in a beam reach. All too soon you hear the dreaded words "Tack" break through the enjoyable tranquility .Since Rich is the helmsman that leaves me as crew. Up I jump to winch in the jibsheet, adjust the halyard and trim the main. Oh how much relaxing can one woman take?

Sailing is only relaxing when you are on a straight run. Then I take out the sodas, or waters and lunch or snacks. Inevitably something interrupts the quiet..... a powerboat racing by, leaving a huge wake. As the fruit and cheese slide off of the tray and things below are flying about, I have to think "just stay in the moment. We'll cleanup later." (Do you know anyone who can successfully do this?) Okay, okay, after you pick up the cheese and fruit and get it below into the trash bag, and wipe up the spills on the cockpit floor(okay so we let the dog take care of the spills) you hear the words "We need to tack". So on and so forth.

Can you imagine, sailing is not what is portrayed in *Failure to Launch* (although if Matthew McConaughey was the captain I may reconsider. Sorry Rich.). The romantic view of sailing is not the reality. If I knocked my husband off of the boat by failing to yell "Jibe Ho" , I don't think it would be met with slight reproach and he with dolphins. Who does the brightwork on that boat anyway?

Would I give up the time spent with my husband, family and friends? No. They're priceless.

Our Windjammer community is special. We are friends and we are family, and best of all we are bound by this sailing thing. Thanks for all of your help and best of all, your friendship.

Val Gard

