

2012 Portsmouth Rendezvous

A small, but dedicated group of members attended the twelfth annual Hatteras 1510 Club National Rendezvous in Portsmouth, Virginia. In spite of, or maybe because of, the small number of attendees, we all bonded and had a great time. Charlie Lamb, fleet captain and new grandfather of twins, arranged events, classes and meals for the 3-day event.

The rendezvous began Thursday evening with a cocktail party on the second floor balcony of the Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel. Even though there were some wonderful hors d'oeuvres with drinks, we all went to dinner afterwards at Still, a tapas restaurant 4 blocks away.

Friday, there was a choice. Some attended a boat certification class taught by the fleet captain. This class is now required by most states and we will all soon need these certificates. Some rode the ferry across the Elizabeth River to Norfolk to visit Nauticus Maritime Museum and the Battle Ship Wisconsin, which was very interesting. After free time in the afternoon, we all rode the ferry back to Norfolk for a harbor tour aboard the three-masted schooner, American Rover. I have taken this tour 4 times and this is the first time the boat actually sailed. Generally, they put the sails up for looks but use the engine for propulsion. The wind must have been just right. Because of our small number, it was not practical to have a catered dinner on board, so we all went to dinner in Norfolk after the cruise. We were late finishing dinner and just managed to catch the next to the last ferry back to Portsmouth. Had we been fifteen minutes later, I don't know how we would have gotten back.

Saturday early, the students finished the certification class and everyone passed the test (probably bribed the instructor!). The class was then followed by the annual meeting. Fortunately, since there was no quorum, officers did not need to be elected. They had been elected to 2-year terms in 2011. Saturday afternoon, there was the usual open boat, and since there were only 4 boats in attendance, members were able to spend a lot of time on each. These boats were all different – a classic, an extended deckhouse, a yachtfish, and a 54 motoryacht.

The cocktail party and dinner the final night were very enjoyable and a little different. Since there was such a small group, Charlie had everyone tell a boat story in order to receive their commemorative gift. Because most boat stories are about "screw-ups," we heard some very funny ones! Everyone there had a great time.

Ed Miles

