

Another Great Rendezvous in Baltimore



The Hatteras Classic Club held its 17th National Rendezvous once again at Harbor East Marina in Baltimore with hotel accommodations and conference facilities at the Hilton Garden Inn just a few blocks away. As usual, the gathering began with a cocktail party Wednesday night, but with the windy conditions, it was moved from the dock to the Marina office where it was cool and calm and the snacks, drinks, and company were just as great.

Seminars began Thursday morning. The first speaker was Bill Brandon, a certified ABYC marine electrician, from Tidewater Yacht Service. Bill spoke about ELCI (electric leakage current interrupter) which is now required on new marina shore power pedestals, but should also be installed on boats to prevent current leakage into the water. He reviewed isolation transformers and MMSI and DSC calling systems and gave a very knowledgeable and informative presentation. There were many questions about installing these new systems on Hatteras 53's.

The morning's second speaker was particularly interesting. George Dunigan, of Pettit Paint, worked for the competition for years and was well aware of the pros and cons of all marine paints. He spoke about bottom paints, topside paints, barrier coats, caulk and a new product called "Prop Coat Barnacle Barrier," a product similar to Prop Speed. He emphasized the key factors in selecting paint were the type of boat, its location and speed, frequency of use and the budget.

The topic shifted to electronics with the third speaker, John Murch of Garmin. Marine electronic technology changes so fast that it is always interesting to hear about

the latest and greatest. Not only are the products better, but most all readouts can be shown on one screen and for less cost. CHIRP, Clear Vu and Side Vu Sonar systems as well as Fantom Radar with Doppler were demonstrated via power point and he stressed that if you are happy with your current equipment, there is no need to change systems.

At 3:00 members boarded two 53' classics, "City Girl" and "Size Matters," for a short cruise to Tidewater Yacht Service. Capable captains, Bob Brandon and Ben Fishel, gave everyone an enjoyable ride and a rare opportunity to be a guest aboard a 53' Hatteras. Along the way, "Size Matters" even hosted a Coast Guard boarding crew for a brief and successful inspection!

After docking at the fine facilities of TYS, the group walked to the adjacent new Sagamore Distillery for an interesting guided tour which included a tasting of their rye whiskeys.

Returning next door to the beautiful, lush picnic area of TYS, members were provided beer and wine and a wonderful picnic supper on a perfect September afternoon. The food was compliments of Jackie and Bob Brandon. Chef Bob, along with his great TYS crew, prepared delicious grilled chicken, bratwurst, fresh-picked corn and other yummy picnic accompaniments. It was hard to tear ourselves away for the twilight ride back to Harbor East.

Friday morning, the Hatteras senior customer care representative from the New Bern factory, Paul Hall, was the featured speaker. Paul had a power point presentation of the history of Hatteras Yachts with

many great old pictures. Needless to say, he took several questions about Hatteras in general and questions about member's individual boats. It was an invaluable morning with a very knowledgeable source. To date, he said the most popular and successful boat Hatteras ever made was the 53' Motor Yacht!

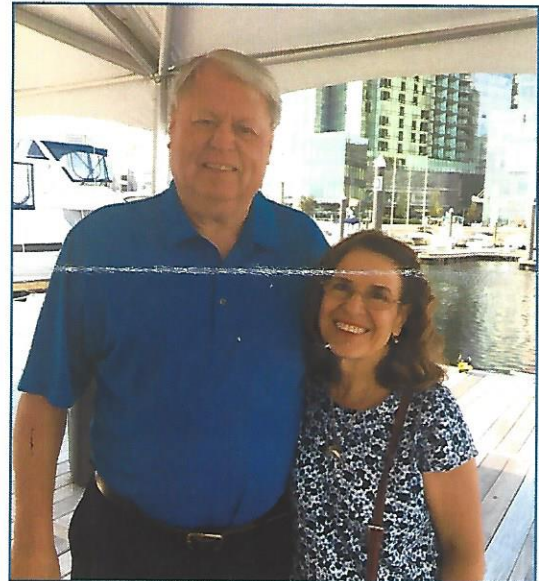
During this session, some attendees, mostly ladies with one loyal husband, chose to go across the harbor to the American Visual Arts Museum. This museum houses an eclectic collection of varied art pieces by self-taught artists using a wide variety of colorful media. Everyone reported enjoying the museum, its gift shop and its restaurant, The Starving Artist Café.

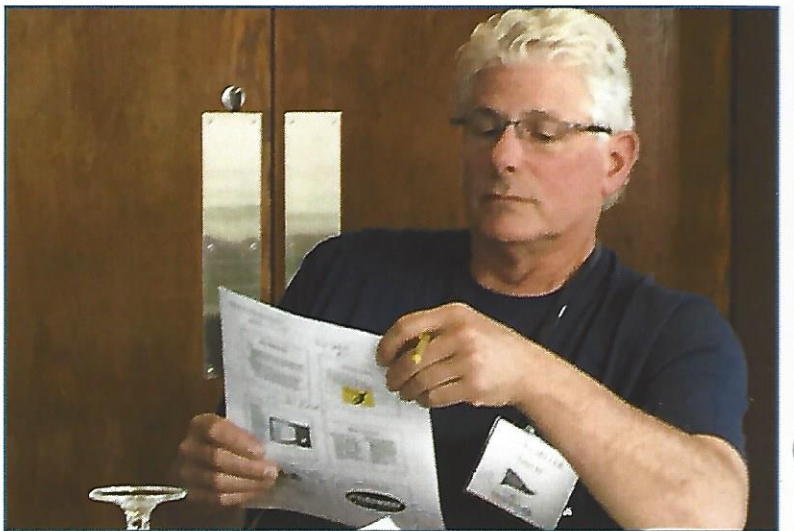
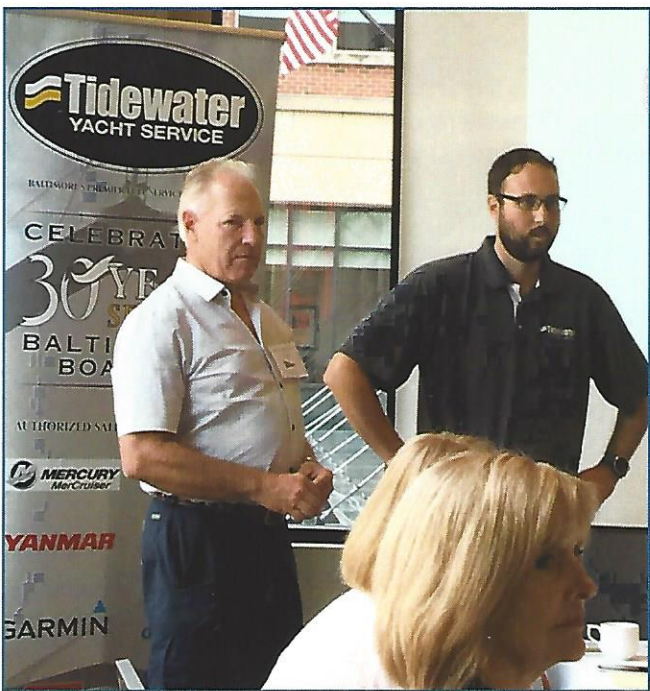
By 4:30 it was back to the dock for drinks, shrimp and snacks, with a steel drum performer providing music. Some stayed on into the evening, some left for a visit to the National Aquarium and others migrated to local restaurants.

Saturday morning started with the usual annual meeting and election of officers followed by lunch and an afternoon of visiting open boats, which never gets old. That night after the traditional group photo, a farewell dinner was again held at Roy's Asian Fusion Restaurant. A slide show of memorable moments of the weekend was produced by Ronnie Ervin and, along with the good food and service, greatly added to the festivities.

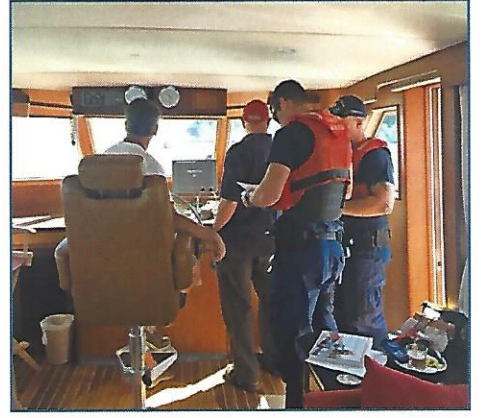
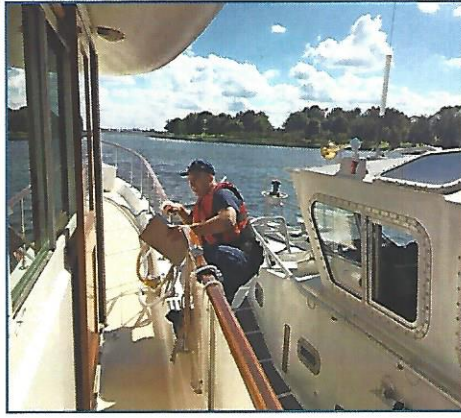
Goodbyes and bon voyages were said until all meet again at the upcoming winter rendezvous in Charleston, where HCC boating enthusiasts will gather and enjoy time together. Phyllis and I would like to thank everyone who helped make this rendezvous a success, with particular appreciation to Bruce Mallinson and Debbie Coco for help in securing speakers and Jackie and Bob Brandon for their kind hospitality at TYS. We hope to see everyone in March.

Tom and Phyllis Earnest
"Needs, Wants and Desires"





A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Picnic...



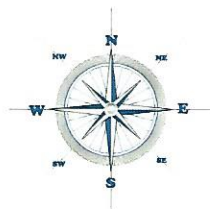
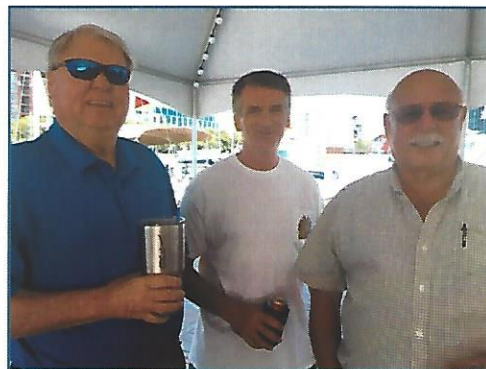
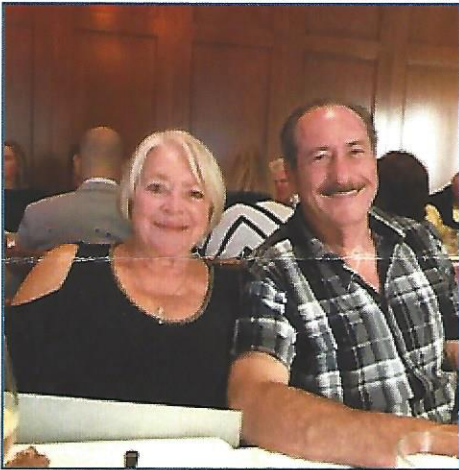
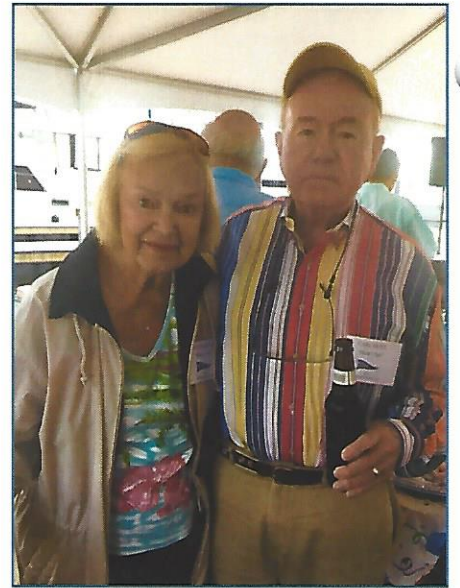
...at Tidewater



Sagamore Next Door



Couples and Friends



Farewell at Roy's



HCC ~ Boats, Friends and Comraderie

