

# THE HORNPIPE

*VOLUME 41, NO. 3*

*March 2017*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Spring Picnic – May 20<sup>th</sup> Hammock Island – 1:00 PM**

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS    **John Kelleher    s/v *Imagine***

Spring seemed so close a week ago, with the sunny days and mild temperatures and then POOF a reminder that it is still winter with cold, wind and snow. Many thanks to Carville on developing the 2017 seasons cruise schedule. It looks to a great season for sailing to many great destinations around the bay.

As we get ready for the season we will find ourselves looking for various bit and parts to get our boats ship shape. As we dig through the various corners of our boats it is a good time to take an inventory of all our 'stuff'.

A few years ago, I built a spread sheet that identified the stuff, what hold in the boat it was located and what bin (yes, I have lots of bins) the item was located. I sort the list by the item name, print a copy, and then sort by location and print a second copy. Both copies are kept in a handy location to help find an item quickly.

Item	location	QTY	Boat location
Spare Sail ties	Bin #1		Port V Berth
Clamps	Bin #2		Port V Berth
Cotter Pins SS	Bin #2		Port V Berth
Paddle Locks - combo	Bin #2		Port V Berth
Spare Curtain Parts	Bin #2		Port V Berth

The sort by location is a great way to get started, when you open a hold this spring, just jot down everything in that location, enter it into a spreadsheet and you are on your way to knowing where everything is without having to memorize your inventory.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

## **2017 CRUISE SCHEDULE** Vice Commodore Carville Downes *s/v Waterwind*

Hopefully most of you have looked at the proposed cruise schedule for the 2017 sailing season and have started to mark your calendars with some of the cruises that appeal to you. My objectives for this cruise schedule were to try to keep the popular cruises and to add some fun cruises around special events that are scheduled for this summer.

I have requested good weather for all of these cruises so we should be good but there will certainly be times when changes will need to be made as the season progresses. I would also like to remind everyone that impromptu cruises all always welcome.

The season starts on May 20 with our spring picnic at Hammock Island. The following weekend is Memorial Day weekend and the plan is to start with a cruise to watch the Blue Angels perform over the Severn River on Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>. I plan to captain this first cruise and plan to sail down to White Hall Bay on Thursday to be sure we are there in time for the show on Friday. I'm not sure if we will stay in White Hall Bay to watch the show or move over to the Severn to get a better view. We plan to spend the night in White hall bay on Friday night.

On Saturday, the plan is to head over to St. Michaels and then head home on Monday. I plan to anchor somewhere in the area, depending on the wind conditions. If you are interested in this trip and would like a slip at the museum, then you may want to make reservations soon. We could make it a race to St. Michaels if there is any interest.

The next cruise (June 10-11) will be a new theme but to a location everyone loves – the Corsica River. The Centerville music festival is scheduled that weekend so it could be fun to head into Centerville for the festivities. This could also be an opportunity for folks to come by land and maybe meetup for dinner. Hank Zerhusen has offered to be cruise captain for this event.

The following weekend will be the traditional Sabin's Landing cruise to the Bodkin. Come by land or sea and look forward to a wonderful happy hour and a great breakfast. We normally would have skipped a week but this date works better for the hosts.

Then comes the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend which is always a popular cruise since it usually involves fireworks and an extra day off. I thought that Rock Hall (Swan Creek) would be a good location again since they have so much going on in town that weekend. There is a beach party on Saturday, the waterman's festival on Sunday, fireworks on Monday and then folks can still head somewhere else to watch more fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup>. I still need a cruise captain for this weekend and whoever picks it may want to do something different.

Last year Liz and I took a trip up the Chester River to watch the Log Canoe races and we thought it was great to watch. We have some friends who live in Chestertown and crew on one of the racing boats. I have to wonder about their sanity when they pull themselves out on a skinny board without any holds. I have not seen an official schedule for the races yet but if tradition holds, it should be the weekend of July 15-16. Again, we do not have a cruise captain for this weekend yet so these plans may change.



*Log Canoe under sail*

For the last weekend in July, Liz and I would like to host a cruise to our home on Stoney Creek. There is a nice sheltered anchorage in front of our home but folks can also come by land as well. We will host happy hour and breakfast for any who stay the night or come back in the morning. If you come by sea, you will have to go through the draw bridge which opens on the half hour during the weekends.

The Pirates and Wenches weekend is scheduled for the weekend of August 12-13 in Rock Hall. This could be a fun destination and could opt for slips in a marina if it is too hot for anchoring in Swan Creek. Plan to dress up in costumes and have a great time. I do not have a cruise captain for this weekend yet so these plans may change. This is also an event that folks could come by land if they want to join us.

The next cruise is not scheduled until Labor Day so this would be a great time for the social committee to schedule the Summer Picnic and we could also throw in a midweek cruise to somewhere fun if anyone wants to take that on. The Barretts have agreed to captain the Labor Day cruise and are planning to go north to Worton Creek and then on to Still Pond.

The traditional Coyle's Landing cruise to the Magothy River is scheduled for Sept 16-17. Come by land or sea for this fun time. The best wine cruise is planned for Sept 30 and will be captained by the Sabins. I believe they plan on going to Worton Creek. I hope that George will host his traditional Oktoberfest cruise again this year so that is tentatively scheduled for mid-October.

I threw in the Sultana Downrigging festival in as a possible final cruise for the season but Chestertown is probably too far to go this late in the season. Liz and I went to this festival last year by land and we had a great time. I don't have anyone to captain this weekend yet so whoever takes this one on can think of something fun to do.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the picnic in May and out on the water for many fun filled cruises this season.

## **CRUISING OUTSIDE OF THE CHESAPEAKE**

### **Royal Caribbean from Baltimore** *Jan And Hank Zerhusen*

Hank and I have just returned from a 9-night cruise on Royal Caribbean from Baltimore to points south.

We visited Charleston, Port Canaveral, Miami and Freeport, Bahamas. Our last stop was cancelled by the captain as 25-30 knots of wind with low tides would have made it unsafe to ferry us ashore from the anchored ship. It was so odd to sit on our balcony while in port and look down on a sail boat's mast.

We were fully pampered with good meals, a competent room attendant and a very friendly staff.

When planning this trip, we'd hoped to escape the cold winter weather at home. As I write this it is snowing and cold again.

You just never know with Maryland!



## **Downes' Aruba Trip**

*Liz Downes*

Carville and I spent a wonderful and relaxing week in Aruba with our daughter Noel Feb 13-20. Aruba is 20 miles off the coast of Venezuela, at the tip of South America. The island is approximately 19 miles long by 7 miles wide and is very unusual in that it only gets 18 inches of rainfall per year, and is considered a desert island.

The South side of the island, where all the resorts and hotels are located, has miles of beautiful white sandy beaches with the amazing Caribbean blue water and is very calm, with virtually no waves. The North side of the island looks like a different world. The coast is rugged and jagged with lava flow and limestone rocks, huge cactus, and very rough surf with waves crashing on the rocks. Most of this side of the island is part of a national park and is uninhabitable.



*View from our balcony*



*Panoramic of the beach – resorts on the left, beach huts on the right*

The weather is the same 365 days per year, 85 degrees with 15-25 mph winds from the east, hence the rough seas on the north side and calm seas on the south side. We saw some spectacular sunsets, relaxing with wine glass in hand on the beach in front of Marriott's Surf Club Resort.





We spent 6 hours on a snorkel trip on a large 65-foot catamaran, with 3 snorkel spots, including a wreck – saw lots of beautiful fish and coral, but wish there had been fewer people! The snorkeling wasn't as good as we've experienced in Florida or Hawaii, but we've heard the diving is much better a little further out.

We also did an off-road adventure to the back side (north side) of the island to see the California Lighthouse on the northern tip of the island, the Alto Vista Chapel on the top of a small mountain where people light candles to pray for healing and feel close to God because of the height of the mountain. This trip also took us along the coast where we saw a Natural Bridge and millions of wishing stones – small piles of rocks that people have gathered and stacked. This trip was like a roller coaster ride, with jeeps racing each other to be in the lead so as not to eat each other's dust! It was very exciting and showed us quite a bit of the north side of the island. It ended at a Natural Pool where we stopped to swim and snorkel.





*Noel and huge cactus*



*Wishing Stones*

The main industry on the island is tourism with over 100,000 visitors per month! The official population is 120,000 (locals) plus an estimated 100,000 beach bums! The island is a Dutch colony, has a governor appointed by the king and 12 members of parliament who are elected by the citizens of Aruba.



With tourism being their main industry, the people are extremely open and friendly toward visitors, the island is very clean and they have a very low crime rate. Guns are illegal and possession of a weapon results in a prison sentence. The locals speak Papiamento with each other and in their homes. The children are immersed in Dutch in first grade, start learning English in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Spanish in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. They speak four languages when they graduate from high school!

This was our first trip to Aruba and we definitely plan to go back. The next time, we'll look into renting a car so that we can check out more of the island on our own, but there are plenty of taxis for hire to take you most anywhere. Southwest Airlines has a direct flight out of BWI which made the trip easier. On the return trip we went through Aruba and US customs at the Aruba airport so we didn't have to deal with customs at BWI.

Looking forward to seeing everyone out on the water soon! 😊

### ***TIP OF THE MONTH***

*(Jan mentioned the excellent service and workmanship on their sails at the January meeting. Here's the info:*

At North Sails, we dealt with Jeff Todd (service), and they are at 317 Chester Ave, Annapolis, 21403. The office is [410 269 5662](tel:4102695662) or [jeff.todd@northsails.com](mailto:jeff.todd@northsails.com).

### ***WHAT IS IT?***



The object in the photo is a standard part for a 1985 Catalina 30, and it is still available from the Catalina Parts Department.

So—what is it?

One clue—it is approximately one foot in length. Share your guesses with me at [gealberts@verizon.net](mailto:gealberts@verizon.net) -- I will acknowledge the best guess in the May Hornpipe.

Now let's get our boats ready for a fine season on the Bay!

*[Ed. Note: This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of Carol Durr's fascinating trip report from their October 2016 trip to France. They were based in the town of Narbonne. Part 1 appears in the December Hornpipe and Part 2 in the January Hornpipe.]*

## **ADVENTURES IN NARBONNE Part 3**

***Carol Durr***

We have spent parts of two days visiting Bezier, a nearby ancient city also with a Cathar history. The first day we cut short because it was just plain unpleasant weather-wise. The following day we set off again - experiencing much better weather.

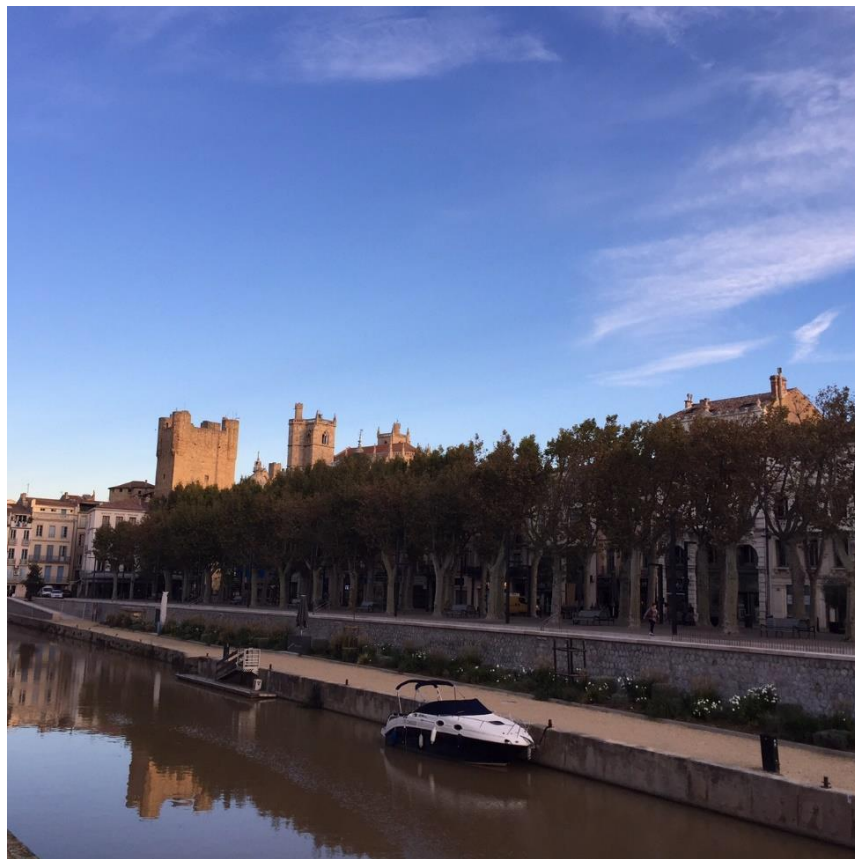


*Bezier Castle*

Bezier is barely 20 miles away, on the Canal du Midi but is much higher in elevation. Its history goes back to the Roman era as well. Our plan was to visit their Musée d'Histoire, but when we arrived there we found out that a new exposition on the Cathars was available to us there as well.

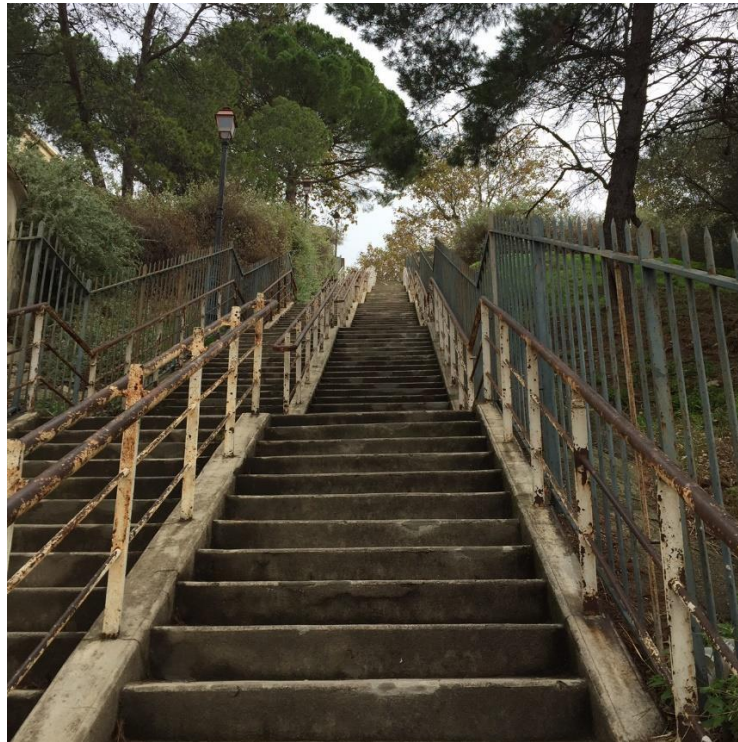
I have to give a lot of credit to the French people for making their history such an important part of their present. All of the exhibits we have seen here have been carefully planned, beautifully installed and very informative. Such was the case with their Musée Biterrois (aka Bezier Museum.) Before finding the section on the Cathars we were more or less forced by the front desk to see over 1000 years of their earlier history - all interestingly presented and somewhat difficult to ignore. There was a whole room dedicated to Pierre Paul Riquet, who was born in Bezier AND was the designer and engineer of the Canal du Midi - which gives a water route across France from the Med to the Atlantic! It was - and is still - a boon to the economy.

It's only been about 25 years that the canal has been used exclusively for pleasure boats. (We may have to rethink a barge trip here, using a pinochette as a hotel room. We see lots of "rentals" parked along the canal here in front of our apartment.)



*Canal in front of the apartment in Narbonne*

Back to the Cathars - the heretical religious and peaceful group wiped out by the Inquisition. Their story in this exhibit was told in contemporary large oil on board paintings that were made to resemble old manuscript illuminations. In many respects the artist tried to show the attire and the artefacts of the time, but he wandered off course when he had voluptuous nude women being dragged around and slain. Upon leaving I asked the front desk people if this were a traveling exhibit. They said NO! The artist is a local judge who paints as a hobby, and the presentation of his artwork was conceived and carried out by the Musée Biterrois. So there'll be no opportunity to see it anywhere after November. I suggested to them they were missing a grand opportunity to raise money by not publishing a catalog of the exhibit! I would have paid \$\$\$\$ for a copy.



*Stairway up to the museum*

In addition to being home to Riquet, Beziers is the birthplace of Jean Moulin, perhaps the most well-known name in the French Resistance - well, after deGaulle! Moulin worked in the French countryside, developing plans and making whatever contacts needed to assist the Resistance. Eventually he was captured and then tortured by Klaus Barbie himself. Much later he died as a prisoner. His body was never recovered, but there is an urn in the Pantheon in Paris with the ashes of someone - hopefully Jean Moulin himself. He is a very well regarded French hero of the Second World War.



*Rental car on a very narrow old road*

Nearing the end of our stay in Narbonne we decided to take a drive along the Mediterranean coast. Gruissan was very near, so we drove there thinking it would be a good starting place on the coast. It wasn't long before we saw the stone fortification perched well above everything nearby.



*Gruissan Castle*

Much of the Med coast from Marseille south is made up of connecting “étangs” or salt water ponds. ‘Some are navigable; others not. These features stretched as far as the eye could see, interrupted only by the perched fortification mentioned.



*Salt piles*

Before this trip we had had oysters for dinner or as appetizers. They are VERY salty! Even our Chincoteagues on the Eastern Shore cannot compare. Now we were about to find out why! Adjacent to the town of Gruissan there is a huge saltworks operation which doubles as an oyster farm! (Don't know why we don't have more of that back home!!!). We saw a not so small seaside building with porches where one could have a snack or lunch or dinner. We found out quickly that even on Thursday it's very popular for lunch.



*Boat at Gruissan*

While eating there we struck up a conversation with a couple at the adjacent table. They were in their early 60's, had lived in Caans then moved to Switzerland because it was a much cheaper place to live than France. He was a medical general practitioner, she a librarian. They admitted they would likely NEVER be able to retire because they would not be able to afford it. That is a problem we had not been aware of. Taxes are so very high it's impossible to save for the future, so they have no choice but to live on a pensioner's income if they retire at all!!

During our conversation, the presidential election in the states came up. They said they were **frightened** that Donald Trump might win!

Just like I am unable to recognize French accents, many of the French people we have encountered think we are British because we are speaking English. We think Americans may be more well-liked by the French due to American assistance in both WWI and WWII. (Or that the US has not been at war with the French for a thousand years!) Even in small French towns there will often be a huge monument dedicated to "sons lost" in the wars. If the town is not too large, the names of those killed are engraved on the monument.

We have been in France on several occasions on Veterans Day. The French take that day very seriously. Schools are closed, the remaining veterans (becoming fewer and fewer, of course) dress in their regalia and a parade through the heart of the city with people waving French flags out of 2nd and 3rd floor windows. There will be a ceremony in the centre of the town, often with children carrying flowers to be placed on the monument. It's quite moving to see. And maybe a shame that we don't take more time to remember that date at all.

I'm tempted to ask around our grands what they think Veterans Day is all about. Anybody seen a red poppy lately? In the US, they were made of crepe paper, but I understand in Europe the real flowers are used.

Many of us in the States think that everyone in Europe speaks English. However, each time we visit France I'm glad that I can get along okay in French. Many of the waiters and shopkeepers do not speak English well.

Bill and I have had several experiences in which he was glad for my years of studying French. One was an incident in the parking garage across from our apartment on our final day. We had been given a "card" by our apartment owner to enter and exit the garage. We used it on rare occasions because we spent many days just hanging around Narbonne.

On our last effort to use the card, the bar to enter would not lift for us. We tried a number of things, but nothing seemed to work. So Bill requested a ticket, and the gate opened.

The next morning when we were all packed and ready to depart Narbonne for the last time for a while, we tried to leave the garage by using the card. The bar would not lift. Bill tried lots of different maneuvers to no avail. Finally having no other choices, we called "HELP". When an attendant arrived, he wanted to know "where is the ticket".

Bill kept telling him we had no ticket - that we had used the card to enter. Long pause, attendant goes to the command centre and returns. Again: "Where is your ticket?" With that I admitted we did have a ticket & gave it to him.

Back to command central for a while. He returned, admonished us for being so stupid, did a few inserts and withdrawals, and we were no longer trapped. I tried, with no success, to explain what we had done wrong.... But, never mind! Obviously you cannot leave with a **card** if a **ticket** transaction had been recorded to enter...

The other occasion was also on our last day when we ran into translation problems trying to get to the Best Western for our flight home the next morning. Ms. GPS had been taking us to strange locations all afternoon (which was okay), but now we were really getting tired and we ended up in the heliport at the Marseille airport. I got out of the car and told Bill I would see if I could get directions to get us out.

When I got into the heliport office I tried to speak in French to the attendant there, mentioned Best Western and next thing I knew she was on the phone requesting a shuttle. "No, no, no". I tried again to explain, but I have now learned that once they hear my French, they think "Aha!". And do whatever first comes to mind - like call for a shuttle but she didn't listen to me. Instead she called another attendant who listened, gave us directions and we were finally back on track.

Our last day and our drive to the Marseille airport was very amusing - for a while. We had a very sensitive GPS, and immediately when we'd go one turn off track, we were rerouted in the direction we had mistakenly taken. Our destination was Agde, a seaside town with a population in the winter of 28,000 and 200,000 in the summer!





*Vineyards along a shortcut*

Miles away from there we took a **right** in a small town when we should have **curved to the left**. Alas, we were now destined to spend the next hour and a half driving through vineyards on narrow paved - or often unpaved - roads. We saw two cars while on our vineyard excursion and followed an antique tractor - even across a stone bridge that was hardly wide enough to suffice as a footbridge.

From time to time we would catch glimpses of main roads or even A 9, but when we came close we were rerouted again to the paths through the vineyards. Along the way, we were warned about flooding and inundations if it rained hard. Fortunately, that did not happen; however, we did have to go through one muddy stretch and two good sized puddles.

Our car was a mess, looked like it had been in a mud fight!

But we did finally make it to **Agde**!



*Bill and Amphitriti in Agde*

And to **Marseille**.

And very early the next morning to the airport very near the Best Western.

And to **Charles de Gaulle** in Paris where my pewter coloured shoes caused some concerns in security “GO BACK! After going through, my hands were wanded to make sure there was no ‘POWDER on them.

Bill in the meanwhile was having his own problems over gift sea salt and sea salt bath salt. He was taken to the counter of powder wanding and had each of the containers chemically tested!

And finally, to **JFK** where sequins on a blouse brought about a body search and where the baggage retrieval for customs was a MILE LONG (honest) walk to our boarding gate to **BWI** for our flight home.

**And** we made it back to BWI in time to pick up Tico before closing time at the pet store!