



The Wayfarer SKIMMER

United States Wayfarer Association
Fall 2016-3

COMMODORE COMMENTS

Jim Heffernan W1066, W2458

The Wayfarer World Championship held in Friesland this summer gave me the chance to watch some top crews compete and demonstrate how to make a boat move well in a wide range of wind and water conditions. A series of qualifying races mixed up the rosters so that we could start with Olympic level sailors from Denmark and the past World Champion, Michael McNamara from the UK. A few seconds before the start, we are all on the line with the same chance to get going together. Then the gun goes and suddenly the top dogs are off in clean air, trimmed perfectly, moving at top speed and setting themselves up for the first tack to stay ahead. What happened in those last five seconds? Meanwhile the rest of us are foundering in dirty wind, ugly chop, doubts about our rig tension, sail adjustment and watching for tacking boats and the occasional spectator craft. While a bit humbling on the waters of the Heegermeer, this experience shows the complexity of the physical and cerebral aspects that Wayfarer racing can provide for those who have the opportunity to race in a local Wednesday night series, National events or even the Worlds.

While in Heeg, Friesland, I joined the Wayfarer International Committee (WIC) representatives from each National Class Assn. for the tri-annual meeting of the Committee. Here are some of the highlights with the full minutes to be published at the end of the month.

Steph Romaniuk of Canada will take over as the Treasurer for the WIC.

Dues will increase to 50 cents CAD per member of each NCA

2019 Worlds in Ireland with 2022 possibly held in USA Intl. Rally scheduled for July15-22, 2017 at Wellesley Island SP, New York

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WAYFARER WORLDS IRISH PERSPECTIVE

Margaret Hynes, W10826

Cullaun Sailing Club, County Clare

The word double Dutch takes on a new meaning after our recent trip to Holland.

In 2013, I sailed in the Wayfarer Internationals in Mississauga, Ontario and vowed I would make the next worlds. I made lots of friends and never forgot the generosity and welcome we received from our Canadian hosts. Though Holland is much nearer to our home, Limerick, in Mid West of Ireland, it is still a long journey over land and sea. It started on Thursday night, July 14th and ended when we reached Friesland the heart of sailing in Holland on Saturday afternoon. Tom, my husband, Sean my son and crew, and I weren't dampened by the rain in Ireland, as we knew the sunshine was ahead.



To the NEDWA Worlds Margaret traveled with husband, Tom, daughter, Avelina and son and crew, Sean.

Photo by Connie Steennis

We met club mates, Niamh and Michael Haig at Dublin port, before our crossing to Holyhead in Wales. We took separate courses across England, trying to avoid hold ups, road works etc, and we both had pleasant journeys through the English countryside to Harwich port, North East of London. After a welcome

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Full membership	One year	\$20.00
Full membership	Three years	\$50.00
Associate Membership		\$15.00
Associate Membership is available to non-Wayfarer owners.		

rest on the eight hour ferry to Hook of Holland and we went to Amsterdam airport to collect my daughter, Avelina who joined us for the trip.

Once in Holland we were greeted with sunshine and miles and miles of glass houses. Our new best friend the SAT NAV directed us through the "double Dutch" signs and we diverted to eat in a pretty Dutch village of Medemblik. We were fascinated that there were as many canals as roads and both equally busy. Small and big boats travelling along the canals, and road traffic stopped to allow bridges to open and let boats through. The town of Heeg is like Adare on the water, a beautiful picturesque village about 11 miles from our

home, and ancestral home to Jim Heffernan. Heeg is full of beautiful small houses, shops, restaurants and ice cream parlours, laced with canals and narrow streets, pickled with cyclists.

We settled into a local Pharoske chalet located very conveniently beside the sailing venue and then the serious side of the week began. All sails were measured, boats had to be weighed, stripped of spars, etc. I was gutted to discover my boat was 20kg overweight and Danish entrants advised me to turn my boat upside down and store it a warm room for a few weeks! Others had the opposite problem and had to get weights put on. Canadians, Leo van Kampen, and Daniel Wierdsma measured the sails. Leo had measured my sails in Mississauga too, and I told him how happy I was to have my family with me this time.

Fellow Irishwoman Monica Schaefer, the UKWA Hartley Boats marketing rep, distributed some nifty towlines to each boat as part of the Hartley Boats sponsorship. A few boats availed of the gift to be towed to shore in very light winds! The sailing area was very near, though to reach it we had to pass through a shipping lane, a very busy channel with both pleasure and commercial boats passing. Some launched from the marina, whilst others launched from the beach where small children were swimming and took absolutely no notice of us sailing by. They are so familiar with boats everywhere.

The practice race was Sunday and everyone eagerly headed out in strong winds that were too fresh for some. The three Canadian crews were destined to waiting ashore for the arrival of their boats, all new Mark IV's. Indeed in late afternoon Richard and Mark Hartley arrived towing a four boat trailer. Extra efforts were given to accomplish the weighing and measuring of these final boats.

There was a lot of talk around the way the fleets were to be divided. According to the NOR only 49 boats could be on each start line, so it was decided to divide the fleet in two. Boat placement would be determined after Monday's three races in which four randomly chosen fleets would sail in round robin fashion.

Sunday evening featured a barbeque night in the brand new clubhouse of Heeg Sailing Club. Again it gave me another memory of Mississauga and the lovely meals we had on the roof top there. Old and new acquaintances were kindled with people having an early night in anticipation of strong winds forecast for Monday. Hans de Bruyne, Chairman of the Dutch Wayfarer Association was our MC for the week.

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Social Highlights of Killbear Rally

by Patty Kuntz W3140

The Wayfarer North American rallies have historically included lively social gatherings, and the 2016 rally at Killbear Provincial Park in Georgian Bay, Ontario, Canada, was no exception.

It was a case of intense “campsite envy,” on the part of Alan Asselstine, that launched the idea for the location of the first of these gatherings. A cycling trip with grandson Julian led them to what was undeniably the loveliest site in the Lighthouse Point campground. As he stepped off his bike, and gazed longingly at the site with the waterfront below, he took a slow deep breath and muttered the word, “party.” One instantly knew that to argue was pointless, and the plan was set.

This gathering was a meet and greet or tailgate party, and took place on Monday evening. It provided marvelous food and drink, and, as many at the rally had participated in “Sail Parry Sound” races, discussion about the very exciting regatta was lively and entertaining. Many of us had completed our first day of destination cruising and we were eager to share our experiences with each other. The evening set the stage for a week of wonderful sailing and sharing.



*Julia & Al Schonborn, Jim and Linda Heffernan
At Monday's party Jim presented Al with this
Appreciation Award given by the Wayfarer
International Associations at the 2016 Worlds.*

Photo by Patty Kuntz

The next night we met at the restaurant at Killbear for the rally banquet. My fondest memory from that evening was of finally getting there, after not returning from a cruise with Alan to Regatta Bay until 7:30PM. We were met with applause, (being the almost last to arrive), and were happy to be back in the fold. Again, good food and drink and sharing stories of the day's cruising were the highlight of the evening. After dinner many spent time going over the nautical charts

framed along the walls of the dining room, chatting about the routes they had sailed that day.

On Thursday evening we met for our “Black Tie Event”, and although our numbers were somewhat diminished, the party was lively, with happy sailors again sharing their cruising stories. The contest for best “Black Tie” attire was really, no contest, won easily by AnnMarie Covington and Dave Coombs. Hats off to AnnMarie's fashion designer, Tom Goldsmith. Really did not know you had it in you.

Lastly, Friday evening the Asselstines hosted the farewell get together at their campsite. Leftovers were remixed, reheated, reimagined, and snacks and beer and wine offered. After enjoying perfect weather for the entirety of the rally, we were experiencing the start of a rain event, which helped put the inevitable end of the rally in perspective. We said our goodbyes with hopes of meeting at the International Rally next year at WISP, if not sooner.

UK's O'Donnell's Experience First Worlds

Nigel and Belinda O'Donnell W10974

Excitement, nervousness and apprehension were the initial feelings from newbies Nigel & Belinda O'Donnell. Their home club of Swarkestone UK (3 miles from Hartley Boats Derby) is a small 70 acre gravel pit with islands and only one other Wayfarer. The chance to sail on such vast water against a large fleet of the best Wayfarers in the world was very appealing.

Having started sailing in 2006 we bought a cruising Mark 2 W9144 with the intention of cruising. The problem with a water that has only 56 acres of actual sailing is there is not a lot of cruising to be done. We then spent time, effort and money converting the old girl into a racer. And so the fire was lit.

I'm not saying that our Mk2 was built heavy but when she went in to Hartley's, to have spinnaker rigging fitted, they told me that to lift one of their Mark IV's took three men, ours took six! Our Mark IV was ordered a year later! Still not sure if the boat was that heavy or if it was another one of the Hartleys' marketing techniques!

We had done a few circuit events in the UK and found the crowd to be inclusive and friendly. Two of the events Haversham and Bough Beech even included free beer! This is the class for us.

We signed up for the worlds the year before, kept looking at the people signing up, and the anticipation was immense. Seeing names like Mike McNamara, whose articles I had read so intently over the years, was like reading the name of a god to me. The first time we met him was at an event in Shoreham, I was so in awe that I mumbled something incoherent and I'm sure I curtsied. Like Captain Mainwaring to Pike he must have thought 'Stupid boy'

So we packed up and set off, whilst travelling we passed Monica and Miriam towing a double stacker very slowly on the A14 to Harwich. When we arrived at port there were two other Wayfarers in the queue, and so the start of new friendships were formed.

Heeg is a very beautiful place and the marina was walking distance to some lovely restaurants in this small country town. This made camping for 8 nights very pleasurable and so did the unexpected hot, sunny weather.



Belinda and Nigel O'Donnell hold the Scottish Trophy awarded for their first place finish in Race 6. They placed 4th in the Silver Fleet. Photo by Ton Jaspers

We asked around who were the ones to watch, there then follows a list of "The's", The Hartley's, The Townsends, The Coltarts, and The Danes. I wondered how long it would be before we were referred to as "The O'Donnells." and once the qualifiers started we realised it may be some time. This despite the best efforts of Margaret Hynes (The Hynes) from Ireland, indeed Irish Champion, referring to us as The O'Donnells.

Coming from club racing and the midlands we don't race many other Wayfarers. In fact, apart from a recent addition of a Wayfarer at our club and the odd circuit

race, none. When you're on a start line with 30 other Wayfarers the start is key. When you have 10 Wayfarers in front of you at the start they're there for the race, and not easy to pass. Couple that with 20 other Wayfarers wanting to pass you at the same time; it's not quite like picking off the odd Laser or Enterprise in club racing.

My god those boats are big, I now understand why boats at our club don't like me covering them or going windward. It's like someone's turned off the wind!

This lesson came too late for the qualifiers, but paid off in some of the main racing. Other lesson learnt.

Make sure you read the racing instructions fully (missed a start after a general recall)

Old boats and Old helms are there to be battled with, isn't that right Jim? (The Heffernans)

Cover the boat behind on the last beat to the finish line (Margaret and Sean, The Hynes, pulled a master stroke in race 8); we learned more in that last beat than I did all week

The Danes are just machines

Don't allow the Irish girls to say 'are you coming back for a quick drink', it won't be

Don't allow the UK team anywhere near a Karaoke, especially Ruffles

Don't try and out drink Mark Hartley, you won't!

The best part of this racing holiday apart from the sailing, were the friendly people that we met who made us feel welcome, We would like to thank all the competitors who took us under their wing, both the UK and from all round the world.

To anyone who has not taken part in an event like this and may be a little apprehensive, just do it. You will be made to feel most welcome. The advice you are given is invaluable, you realise the people you are in awe of are in fact just people with a wealth of experience and advice to impart. And finally we can say, yes we did the Worlds and we have the tee-shirt!

Nigel and Belinda O'Donnell (The O'Donnells)

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2016 ROCK HALL ONE DESIGN

By Paul Heffernan

Live in the moment. It's an adage that sailors know well. Winds may be strong one day and light the next, and the sailor always goes with what nature has brought that day. It's an adage that applies to both time and place, I feel, as topography affects how we interact with land and sea. I had these thoughts in mind as I left my New Jersey home and drove south to the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay. Freeway gave way to state road, which in turn led to back road, until I reached my destination, the Rock Hall Yacht Club, on a spit of land reaching into the water. I was there to join the fleet of Wayfarer sailors at the Rock Hall Summer One Design Regatta, on the weekend of the summer solstice, the longest days of the year.

The other Wayfarer sailors had raced that afternoon in the Downriver Regatta, beginning in Chestertown, Maryland, and sailing down the Chester River to its juncture with Langford Creek. The Downriver is a multi-class affair with handicapped scoring, and I was quickly brought up to speed on the day's results. The Wayfarers had acquitted themselves well, with Marc Bennett and Julie Seraphinoff leading the way, first in class and third overall.

I had arrived just in time for evening cocktails and dinner. With the spirit of living in the moment, I opted for the RHYC specialty, the Dark & Stormy, made just so with Gosling's Dark rum and a strong ginger beer. For dinner, my choice was an easy one: crab cakes, one of my favorites, but only when done right. I knew from past visits that the yacht club restaurant made the best crab cakes I have tasted, and I was not disappointed.

We rose on Saturday morning ready to sail. There was no need for alarm clocks for those of us camping on site, as the sun and the birds ensured we woke early. The Rock Hall One Design Regatta is the feature event of the Rock Hall Yacht Club, an annual gathering that attracts boats from many states. We gathered on the deck of the club for the Skippers meeting. The monohulls would race together on Course A and the catamarans further out in the Chester on Course B. The monohull races would feature separate starts, grouping the four Wayfarers with three Hamptons and a sole Day Sailor, while the Windmills and Chesapeake 20's

would go off together. In addition to Marc and Julie, *W10861*, the other Wayfarers included AnneMarie Covington with Nick Seraphinoff as crew, *W11134*, and Phil and Cathy Leonard, *W864*, from the Lake Townsend Yacht Club in North Carolina. I would be crewing for my dad, Jim, the cagiest of old salts. Providing shore support were Linda Heffernan and Mary Seraphinoff.

Winds were light that morning as we made our way into Langford Creek. The races were laid out in a single-M course, with a windward leg followed by a long downwind run and a shorter windward leg to finish. Marc and Julie showed that the previous day's Downriver finish was no fluke, taking first in the first two races. In the third and final race, however, AnnMarie and Nick guessed right in the light air and current, and grabbed the top spot.

On shore we passed a relaxing evening at the club. Wayfarer events have always been as much about the fellowship as the sailing, it seems, and we enjoyed the long daylight of the solstice with good conversation.

The next morning was Father's Day, and it was a blessing to be able to spend it with my father. This day brings the annual question: what to get for the man who has everything. Tie? Don't be ridiculous, Captain Jim has long been retired. Garden shears? Nah, Dad is traveling so much from one regatta to the next that gardening hasn't been a priority.

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Paul finds perfect Father's Day gift for his Dad, Jim.

COLORFUL WAYFARERS AT 2016 WORLDS

Clockwise starting right: beautiful spinnakers crowded the waters on every downwind leg. Denmark's Paul Ammentorp and Klavs Holtug in W239, UK's father son team, Tony and Nathan Geary in W11107, Ireland's Margaret and Sean Hynes in W10826, UK's Simon Ruffles and George Finch in W968, Denmark's Meike Fomsgaard and Jan Kjeldsen in W11124, UK's Mike McNamara and Simon Townsend in a top notch roll tack on W10648
Photos by Soreen Svarre, sejlfoto.dk





2016 KILLBEAR RALLY

Featured spectacular scenery and superb weather!

Left: Wayfarers crowded Hole in the Wall on Friday.

Photo by Heather Alldardyce

Center: Regatta Bay lunch stop on Tuesday.

Anneleis Groen and Stuart enjoyed a grand sail to Regatta Bay.

Photos by Bruce Idleman.



Left: AnneMarie Covington and David Coombs took top honors at Black Tie Potluck!

Julian Asselstine, the only youth this year, chose a gneiss rock for his perch at Regatta Bay!

Photos by Bruce Idleman

Irish Perspective continued from page 2

Lous de Bruyne and Connie Steennis gave out hand-made bottle openers, numbered with our boats. Connie was in charge of social events while her husband Ton Jaspers took photos from his tender. Joke Peers was another local organiser who sailed with fellow Irishman, Dave Doran, in her boat.

Monday morning was windy but not as strong as forecast. Heats were run on Monday, with four fleets sailing against each other. As a result the Irish competitors sailed the rest of the races in different fleets. And the same was true for the competitors from the other countries.

After Monday's races a Karakoe night at the club gave us lots of laughs. Dave from Wexford was definitely the best singer in the Worlds, though not everyone agreed! Luckily it was not a singing competition as there were some bad recitals!! We went to bed praying for wind.

Tuesday dawned with very light winds and three races scheduled. In race 1, to our surprise, we came second, thanks to a great call by my crew to gybe on the windward mark, allowing us to pass almost everyone! Then Race Committee hoisted the postponement flag that had to be tied at both ends as there was so little wind! Boats were directed ashore and never returned for more racing.

Wednesday was a rest day. Despite calls from the racers to sail, as there was great wind, the OOD stuck to the plan, explaining that all volunteers had been given the day off and could not be mustered back. A number of cars, including ours, headed to Amsterdam. A beautiful city awaited us. Fabulous architecture, numerous museums and art galleries, as well as the famous Red light district, were among the areas visited. We parked at the AJAX stadium and took a train into the city which made life very easy for one and all. Others drove to the nearby town of Sneek or explored on bikes while others went out sailing in the lovely wind.

Four races were scheduled on Thursday, but again racing was abandoned midway through the first race, due to lack of wind. All boats headed back to shore. Luckily our accommodation was nearby so sunbathing was the task on hand. Two races were held in the afternoon and typically the wind picked up as we sailed back to the clubhouse.

Racing in the Gold fleet was tight, with the top two boats, Denmark's Mogen Just and Anders Friis and

England's Mike McNamara and Simon Townsend, battling for the lead. In the Silver Fleet, places changed every race with every inch of the legs being hard won. We were very pleased to be often lapping the Gold Fleet, but not too pleased to see that our Irish team mates weren't doing as well. Our friends, Robert and Daniel Wierdsma, sailing in the Gold, were keen to know how fellow Canadians, Leo and Joanne van Kampen, were doing, whereas we were keen to report that we were often in front of them! We kept crossing Jim and Sean Heffernan, and despite the Limerick connection and my love of the name Sean, I just wanted to be seeing their bow, but both boats beat me during the week! Leo and Joanne had a bad day on Friday after a great performance on Thursday when they were lying second in the Silver Fleet.

The farewell dinner was held on Thursday night as a lot of people were leaving on ferries on Friday night. This was a feast of locally caught fish, cooked on the balcony of the club house. The eel, a local specialty was delicious. Indeed the local ship that brought eels to England during the last century was parked in the middle of the town.



Canada's Team Steph and Sue show their exuberance after a third place finish in Race 6! Sue won the Top Lady Skipper Award repeating the honor she also won in the 2013 Worlds. Photo by Linda Heffernan

Three races were scheduled for Friday but again the AP flag had to be tied at both ends. The top seven boats in our fleet were lying close, so the game of watching, covering and passing was paramount. Margie and Robin, from East Down, were third in the second race, with Niamh and Michael not far behind. Sean and I were lying in second place in the last race, until I stalled the boat much to the consternation of my

crew. I ended up having to do a 720, which we feared would cost us our place on the podium. Again we didn't know our placing until the results were announced though we ended up on equal points with the second boat.

There was great competition in the Gold Fleet too as all races on the last day counted. First prize went to Danish team, Mogens Just and Ander Friis, second to UK team, Michael McNamara and Simon Townsend, third to Danes Peter and Samuel Boje, fourth to UK's Richard and Mark Hartley, fifth to Danes Christian and Jorgen Iversen.

First prize in the Silver Fleet, went to the Danish crew of Bjarne Lindquist and Jan Tantholt Nielsen, second to Jamie and Wendy Wheatly of Cambridge, third, Margaret and Sean Hynes, Cullaun SC, fourth, UK's Nigel and Belinda O'Donnell, and fifth, Jim and Sean Heffernan.

Three trophies were awarded in the Bronze Fleet. First went to Johannes Jacobs and Ruud Risseeuw of the Netherlands,, second to David and Eunice Siggins from the UK, third to the UK/US combo John Cadman and Charles Child.



John and Charles win 3rd place, Bronze, Pic by Ton Jaspers

The thousand kilometer drive home started again, but with silverware on display, it didn't seem quite so long, and we were happy to see Limerick. At least it didn't seem so long to Sean and me. Tom may have a different story. We have lots of memories and I am so happy that my family could get a taste of the wider Wayfarer family. The next worlds will be nearer home at an Irish venue and we will look forward to meeting our friends from America and Canada, as well as from Europe. I would encourage the extended family to come too. Do give yourselves a little time after the sailing to explore, relax and enjoy visiting a different

place we would never see without our precious Wayfarers.

Rock Hall One Design continued from page 5

Frisian For Dummies? After all, the Worlds would be in Friesland in a few short weeks. Try as I might, I couldn't find it on Amazon. I settled for the old standards of a bottle of Scotch and a water bottle made for outdoor use. But I realized I was giving him the best Father's Day of all by sharing a day on the water together. With stronger winds than the previous day, we set out to sail with high hopes.

Sailing at Rock Hall brings its challenges. In the upper reaches of the Chesapeake, the water is tidal, and with the course set where the Chester River nears the bay, there is current to consider as well. Throw in the shifty winds that come with sailing close to land, and the skipper has plenty to take into account. Marc and Julie displayed their sailing mastery again, crossing the line first in five of the six races. Dad and I had our moment of glory, however, winning the third race. We were rewarded for our decision to hug the land on the downwind run, avoiding the residual current of the Chester, more pronounced as the tide was beginning to turn. Captain Jim always has a few tricks up his sleeve.

Awards were in the air-conditioned clubhouse, a welcome spot after a day in the sun. Marc and Julie took top honors, having finished first in seven of the nine races. Second place went to AnnMarie and crew Nick, consistent throughout the two days. Jim and I brought home third place, a fine finish to our father-son effort, with Phil and Cathy in fourth place. All of us extended warm thanks to members of the yacht club who put it so much of their time to make this event happen. They had welcomed us to their club, manned the committee boat, and made us feel right at home.

A few weeks later, back in New Jersey, I went to lunch with work colleagues at a newly-opened restaurant. They featured a range of specialty cocktails, befitting of a place trying to be trendy. How excited I was to see the Dark & Stormy on the menu. Reading the description, however, I noticed that something wasn't right. They weren't using Gosling's Dark rum! If you're going to do something, I say, do it right. It's all part of living in the moment.

**The Best Day of Sailing
Happened at an Awesome Place –**
by Tom Goldsmith, W8343

On a day-sail with a group of Wayfarers from the 2016 Rally at Killbear Provincial Park, AnnMarie Covington and I were sailing W8343 “Lovely Day” alongside Jim and Linda Heffernan and I blurted out, “This is the best day of sailing, ever.” Linda became intrigued and wanted to know more. Obviously, this article follows the rally, but it’s good to attempt to find words to describe a feeling.

Sailing the Wayfarer in Georgian Bay gave me a tapestry of relief and I felt awake. To me this area is a marriage of wind, water and wild rocky shore, little did I know - read on about Canadian Shield and the glacier-sculpted landscape.

Although AnnMarie had us on a well charted course, curiosity was leading us on. Wind was good, company excellent and the scenery was magnificent. Feelings of humility and exuberance came on me and lingered. Cruising that day in the Wayfarer gave me precious uninterrupted time and space to breath. I became awe struck, hence the blurt-out.

Stopping at Regatta Bay, we all enjoyed a nice swim in beautiful clear, clean, sweet water. We ate our sandwiches on rock. Fortunately, Bruce Idleman was there to enlighten us about this rock. This “gneiss bedrock” is part of the billion year old Canadian Shield which is the ancient core of our continent that once had a mountain range atop as tall as the Himalayas, explained Bruce.

Georgian Bay is unique and famous for its 30,000 islands found along its eastern and northern shores. It’s the gneiss bedrock that makes this area unique. Other Great Lakes shorelines are carved from other kinds of rock such as granite, volcanic rock or limestone, or by Ice Age deposits of sand and glacial debris.

Fourteen thousand years ago the Parry Sound region lay below a kilometer of slow-moving glacial ice that sculpted and polished the area resulting in rocky landscape and small deposits of soil in which only the hardiest of vegetation can exist.

Another example of island-rich shoreline carved into gneiss bedrock is the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River, also a Wayfarer rally destination. Hope to see you there at the 2017 Wayfarer International Rally at Wellesley Island State Park NY.

2016 CHESTER RIVER DOWNRIVER RACE

By Julie Seraphinoff, W10861

One of my most vivid life memories is waking early on a misty, muggy summer morning to the sounds and sights of Chesapeake Bay blue crab boats unloading their hauls.

This all unfolded on a random dock where my family had chosen to park and sleep. We rolled in under the cover of night, probably after a Wayfarer regatta, and spread out in the back of the van: three kids and our parents. We woke and opened the van doors to men talking among themselves while working and selling their catches.

Just thinking about that childhood morning brings back the smells, the sounds, the feel of being in the Chesapeake Bay region. That memory is also why traveling to Rock Hall, Maryland to sail the Rock Hall Yacht Club Regatta each June is a trip I much anticipate and cringe at missing.

While the regatta includes course racing Saturday and Sunday, the Friday Downriver Race is the biggest draw for my skipper/husband Marc Bennett and me, probably especially for me. The 12-mile race down the Chester River from the Chester River Yacht and Country Club to RHYC, past the crab pots, along the winding, rolling farm fields, dotted with tall farm houses, is everything a lover of the Chesapeake would expect.

This year’s June 17 Downriver didn’t disappoint. We woke to a sunny, perfect temperature morning with relatively light winds. The mixed fleet of 20 boats included, to name a few, the stately Chesapeake 20, Windmills, A-Cats, Hobie 16, Sunfish, a GP14 and five Wayfarers. The registration officials and race committee were, as usual, gracious and welcoming.

The race start line is set between the dock of the club and a buoy in the middle of the river. For those of us used to Great Lakes and smaller lake sailing, the first thing to get accustomed to is the tidal current in the river. Add in a light wind and there’s good potential of not getting to the start line at the gun or being way over the line at the gun. Marc and I have done both.

But not this time. The start was clean for us and fellow sailors. As we set off down river, it wasn’t long until those of us with spinnakers had ‘em hoisted and full. Of course, the A-Cats and Hobies quickly became small dots on the horizon seemingly put there for our navigational use. Each bend of the river, we could see the tips of their masts peeking up at the next bend showing us the way.

Marc and I took the lead on the Wayfarers and kept trying to make way on two Chesapeake 20s just ahead of us. The hull-speed day made it tough for the smaller boats with spinnakers to catch the beautiful Chesapeake 20s. The cat sailors? Already on the club beach, drinking beers.

The first time I teamed up to sail this race with Marc, we were in our old Wayfarer Mark I, Pub Crawl. Our attitude going into the race was, we shall have fun and we shall drink some beers. Which we did. Our next outings were in Jamaica Blue, our sleek Mark IV. Nonetheless, we were going out to have fun and drink some beers along the way. What we have found is we do better if we remember our philosophy. Canadians Mike and Marge Duncan tried to pressure us into not cracking a beer in 2015, but we didn't let their threats of overtaking us win out. In fact, once we opened beers, hugged between our knees while we hiked out on a tight fetch, we relaxed and picked up some speed. Marge damned those beers.



Marc and Julie were top Wayfarer sailors at Rock Hall.

The Downriver is a truly lovely race, especially when the conditions are friendly. Light winds can make for a long, exhausting experience, which is quickly forgotten with refreshing Dark and Stormies. But a day like we had this spring made the Downriver Race a perfect, two and a half hour sail. While we were the first Wayfarer to cross the finish, we were followed closely by AnneMarie Covington of North Carolina in her new Mark IV with crew Nick Seraphinoff. Jim and Linda

Heffernan of North Carolina were the third Wayfarer and RHYC's Catherine and Mike Babowicz were fourth. Bill Harkins, who hadn't made a Downriver appearance in a number of years, was a welcome sight and the fifth Wayfarer to cross.

When everything was handicapped out, Marc and I finished third overall. The two Chesapeakes were first and second.

But in the end, the trophies didn't matter. We (OK, I) got a prolonged time to fly the spinnaker. Beers were consumed. And the beautiful Chesapeake Bay in all its loveliness was experienced.

Commodore Comments continued from page 1

60 Years of Wayfaring event in UK promoted by Hartley Boats for June 2017

In July 2017, the UK will take over the duty of International Secretary.

What a pleasure to work with and compete against the reps from the other Class Associations. I am happy to see the strength and enthusiasm in other countries, especially Denmark. They have a long heritage as seafarers and now they show themselves as excellent Wayfarers in competition as well as cruising.

Florida Cruise – February 6-10, 2017

After the Midwinters a cruise is planned to Cayo Costa State Park on the Southwest coast of Florida.

This park features nine miles of beaches and acres of pine forests, oak-palm hammocks and mangrove swamps. This is a Gulf Coast gem accessible by ferry or private boat such as a Wayfarer or a kayak. Native Americans left their imprint here 4,000 years ago and the place has only changed slightly with minimal habitation over the years. Star gazing is fantastic since there is no electricity near the camping area and no lights. See www.floridastateparks.org for full park details and pictures.

The park is equipped with rustic one room cabins and tent sites. Outdoor grills, restrooms, cold water showers and potable water are nearby the cabins.

As of September 9, we have ten sailors signed up for the voyage with some camping and others in cabins. Updates and more info can be found on the Cruising Secretary of the USWA Blogspot at:
wayfarercruisingarm.wordpress.com



npboatsus.com

*For the dinghy sailor in all of us
Home of the Mark IV Wayfarer*

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Marc Bennett: marcb27732@gmail.com



2016-2017 Calling All Wayfarers

Sep 24-25	Clark Lake Regatta, CLYC	Jackson, Michigan
Oct 1-2	Centerboard Invitational VISA YC	Smith Mountain Lake, VA
Oct 28-30	HOT V Regatta, Lake Townsend YC	Greensboro, NC
Nov 5-6	Old Brown Dog Regatta, Catawba YC	Charlotte, NC
Feb 3-5	2017 Midwinters, Lake Eustis SC	Eustis, FL
Feb 6-10	Cayo Costa SP Cruise	Pinelands, FL
Feb 11-12	Single handed Regatta, LESC	Eustis, FL
Feb 18-19	GWB Regatta, Lake Eustis SC	Eustis, FL
July 15-22	International Rally, Wellesley Island SP	Clayton, NY

For more information contact Jim Heffernan, jheffernan@nc.rr.com

If you know of an Open Handicap event in your area where Wayfarers can participate, we can post the info here and on the Racing Schedule.

USWA SKIMMER 2016-3

United States Wayfarer Association
Gary Hirsch, Treasurer
1014 State Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

*Please note your boat number and check that your dues are current.
Thank you to our members for supporting the USWA!*