

Part 10—Being A Boat!

We promised ourselves that we would be a boat more this year. That being said we spent the month of June at the dock!!! On June 9th the weather was a little “squirrely” as I arrived home from work. Severe thunderstorms were in the area and the wind was picking up. I went to the pilot house to look around and a very ominous cloud had formed over the creek. It was a little unnerving but the storm blew through with some wind and a little rain. Thank goodness it was not as bad as the sky suggested it might be. However, later that night we heard that Essex, just a couple of miles away, had a tornado!!! I do believe I saw the system that produced that tornado. It prompted the question of what to do if a tornado is actually predicted when we are on the boat. I won't tell you what Henry's answer was.

My niece, Christy, and her friend Eliza arrived after an Orioles game on June 12th to spend the night. Eliza is not a big fan of boating so we were happy that there were no tornadoes in the area that day. They enjoyed their short visit on the boat and were gone the next day.

On June 18th Henry left early for the airport for a meeting in CT. A minute later he was back inside. The dock was under water! So he rolled up his pants, put his backpack on and carried his shoes up the dock to his truck to leave....one of the “joys” of living aboard while still working.

Now it is the 4th of July and time to be a boat again. On Friday, the 3rd, we (Cindy too) head for Eagle Cove in the Magothy. It was breezy and nice and we anchored with no problem. John and Kathie came out with their two dogs and we had a great afternoon just hanging out. The dogs are good entertainment as they fetch toys thrown from the boat. Early in the evening we all get on John and Kathie's Sea Ray, Liberty Call 2 (remember the renaming ceremony?) and head back to their house to watch their neighbor's fireworks show. It was odd to leave Seven Tenths on the hook. Everything we own is on the boat! But it was fine while we were gone. They brought us back about 11PM and it was a beautiful night on the water. The next day John and Connie show up with their boxer, Mazy. Boxers are not fond of the water and are very poor swimmers so Mazy just hung out with us! Late in the afternoon we



headed back up John and Kathie's creek to see John's fireworks. They tell us he puts on a good show so we shall see. Their neighbor has allowed us to tie up to his dock so we don't have to anchor in the creek and get the dinghy down to go to their house. The creek is narrow and shallow but we can do it. A guy in a dinghy follows us because he is sure we are going to run aground! Of course, we don't so Henry tells him all about the boat and its shallow draft. We have a good cookout



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and when it is time for the fireworks almost everyone comes to Seven Tenths to watch. I think we had 25-30 people on the boat!!! The fireworks show was awesome and we are glad we finally made it to the event. Seven Tenths looks pretty good from John and Kathie's deck too...don't you think? (Picture courtesy of Julie Capuano, John's daughter)

The following Sunday some family joins us for a day run to Hart-Miller Island. It is my cousin and his wife, their son and his wife, and their sixteen month old,

Logan. He is a very pleasant toddler and very content on the boat. He took a long nap and let his Mom and Dad have a little fun in the water. And he loved looking out the hawse pipes because they were more on his level. We dubbed them "Logan's windows." So cute...

Mid-July is the Crownline Rally at Tomes Landing in the Susquehanna River. In years past it was a true rally with food and dancing and a poker run. With the economy being what it is we just used it as a chance to meet and have a good time. We don't even have all Crownline boats anymore. After all, we took Seven Tenths! Anyway, we head out early on Friday because we are slow. As we get out of Middle River we see a couple of pelicans! We have never seen pelicans this far north. Too bad they were too far away to get a good picture. Just as we get north of Pooles Island, we get a call on the radio that one of our friends is having engine trouble a couple of miles behind us. They wanted to know if we could tow them up the Susquehanna! So we turn around and head for them. Kathie and John are traveling with them on their own boat so Kathie maneuvers Liberty Call close enough for John to step onto Seven Tenths so he can help rig the tow line with Henry while I man the helm. They get the tow line set and John swims back to his boat and we all take off again...some of us faster than others. We tow Ed and Barbara all the way up the Susquehanna, through the railroad bridge and up to Tomes dock where they can get a mechanic to look at the engine. Since it was so late when we arrived we just hung out and then headed to Tugs for some food and drink. I won't tell the pathetic story of the horrible service from a small town establishment but I will ask you to not patronize this restaurant and bar in Port Deposit, MD.



Saturday the wind is blowing pretty good and Ed's engine is not fixed. So we connect with him, hook up the tow line, and haul him up the Sassafras River for our raft out. Unfortunately, we did not arrive before some of our boating buddies were already anchored and we could not tie up to them. The wind was just blowing us around too much and there were too many boats for "targets." So we aborted and found a place to anchor and all of the other boats came to the "mothership" because they can maneuver better in the wind than we can. We had a great Saturday and made some new friends on Two Tone. On Sunday Ed called a real towboat to be hauled back to his home marina. Too quickly the weekend was over and we broke up the raft, agreeing to all meet again the following weekend in Fairlee Creek.



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Fairlee Creek is a great anchorage with a tricky entrance. You have to stay in the channel which makes it look like you are going to run aground on the beach! And most of the time the current runs pretty fast through the entrance. We have taken the Crownline in there many times. Henry was looking forward to the challenge of maneuvering Seven Tenths through the cut. Friday evening when we are ready to leave Edwards it is overcast and windy. The two-hour run sees the wind totally change direction but the rain holds off and we get through the cut and anchored with no problems. Some of our boat buddies are already there but they let us get anchored and come to us. Saturday is a great day. The boat dogs provide our entertainment. Our friends, Gene and Judy, on Lo Que Se A, have arrived at Edwards for the rest of the summer so they join us on their GH37, anchoring just a short distance away from the raft up and using their dinghy to come over to us to hang out. Cindy's birthday is just a couple of days away and Kathie has baked a cake. It is a "practice" train cake that she puts Harley motorcycles on so now it is a freight train! As we get ready for the party, the sky gets black and the wind kicks up. Gene and Judy run back to their boat, we put cake on hold and everyone zips up their canvas and closes their windows. It looked like it was going to be ugly but it skirted around us and we went back to the birthday party. We headed home on Sunday, once again saying it was a great weekend and we would do it again soon. It's what we do.



Early in August my son, Jeff, daughter-in-law, Dana, and grandson, Spencer, come for a visit. They have not seen our new home. We went for a short boat ride and Spencer "drove." We had a great visit with them although we had to spend a little time on the land to let a three year old expend some energy! The next day some more family comes for a run to Hart Miller Island just to hang out, eat, drink and swim....another good day making it a complete boating weekend! Remember, we promised to be a boat more this summer!



My older son, Stephen, participates in the triathlon in North East, MD in August so this year we decided to take Seven Tenths up the North East River to be the hotel. We made a reservation at the North East Yacht Club and headed up there on Saturday morning. It is a four hour run. As we got close to the marina we called on the cell phone and the VHF radio but no one ever answered. So we bellied up to their face dock and got the dinghy down to take Stephen into the park area to pick up his race package. Four adults and a dog made the run in the dinghy to the park area and then head back to Seven Tenths to just relax. Our friends Mike and Leslie come for a pasta dinner and we have a good evening. Very early the next morning Henry takes Stephen and the bicycle to the park. The security folks stop them and tell them they can't come to the dock. Then they see the bike and say "hand it here." They've never had a participant arrive by dinghy before! Then Henry comes back for Kimberly, Frances, the granddog, and me so we can go back and watch the swim. We watched the swim, watched him leave on the bike and come back. Kimberly thought he looked pretty used up when he left on the run. Sure enough, twenty minutes later he was back....it was not his day to finish. So we loaded four adults, the dog, and the bicycle in the dink and head back to the mothership. Where were the photographers then? We must have looked like the Beverly Hillbillies of the water world!



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We decided that we were tired of rocking in the wakes of other boats at the marina so we untied the lines and headed for Fairlee Creek. No one ever showed up at the marina office anyway! We arrived at Fairlee late afternoon on Sunday. It was a beautiful calm evening so we went for a swim (actually a “float”) and then fired up the grill. It was so much nicer than the dock at North East.

Labor Day Weekend came way too fast. The boating gang had decided to hold a raft-up in Frog Mortar Creek, right here off Middle River. Friday we get a great surprise from our friends, Donna and Jerry. They have gone on a road trip and are close by. So They come for a short visit and it is just like old times. Too bad they can't spend the weekend. We miss them. Anyway, after they leave we head out into the creek. There are only two boats there and no wind so we can get tied up to them. Friday night as we sat under a full moon on a gorgeous night on the bow of Seven Tenths we were reminded me again why we wanted to live on a boat.

Unfortunately, we picked a popular anchorage and the boats rolled in all weekend. There was lots of partying going on around us and it got a little “squirrely” a few times, like when a boat dropped an anchor right beside us. We could reach out and touch them! Fortunately, we had put out some stern anchors to keep us from swinging into anyone and had actually tied one to a tree on the shore! We were glad we had done that when a storm kicked up on Sunday. It was pretty windy and it dropped the temperature so we decided to have movie night on Seven Tenths. Ten adults and one dog gathered in our salon to watch a movie and keep the weekend going. Monday dawned cooler and windy. When we were ready to break up the final three boats of the raft-up we made a plan before we started. Although the storm had chased a lot of folks in there were still some boats close by and we didn't want to blow into them when the stern anchors were freed. David from Jamie Dee got in the water to untie us from the tree and pull the anchors. Thank goodness he did because no one else wanted to! We got away and headed back to Edwards...another good weekend with good friends had come to an end.

St. Michaels is going to be the final big run for the season. Henry's folks join us, along with my sister, and we head down the Bay on Friday morning in mid-September. The weather was overcast and cool but by the time we tied up at St. Michael's Marina six hours later the sun is out. Jamie Dee and Liberty Call have also made the run and come in right behind us. Everyone comes to Seven Tenths for happy hour and then we all head out to dinner at The Crab Claw. Saturday is spent walking through the quaint little town, doing a little shopping along the way. It is nice enough to eat outside that night at the marina restaurant so we do. Sunday, the marina is going to fill us with fuel and they do it right in our slip.



Awesome! We take on about 500 gallons, listing to one side before the second tank on the other side is filled. Leveled out we head up the Bay. It has been a great weekend with great friends and family.

Soon we will say good-bye to our Great Harbour buddies who are getting ready to head south. We have really enjoyed their company this summer. Happy hours have become the “norm.” After they depart we will start planning to go to Baltimore Marine Center again for the winter. It should be better this year with the new heating system on board. We hope so!

Remember, the world is seven tenths water. We should spend seven tenths of our time on it.
