

So the January Baltimore Boat Show isn't real exciting for us but it is held the last weekend of January and what else is there to do? So we head to the Convention Center on Saturday morning hoping to meet up with our boating friends. What a bonus.....we find seven of them! We walk around the show, just looking not buying, and then all nine of us walk to a downtown restaurant/bar for lunch. Spending time with great boating friends is a nice way to spend a winter Saturday. The following weekend Henry and I decide to drive to Atlantic City, NJ to check out that boat show. We had not done that before and always said we would go one day. It was much bigger than the Baltimore show and we enjoyed it but hanging out with good friends at the smaller Baltimore show was much better.

Our power issues did not stop after "surviving" the power outage for repairs on the dock. Our friends, Ed and Shirley were here for overnight at the end of January and the wind was "blowing like stink" as our sail boating friends say. Sure enough we lose power that evening. Lucky for us that Ed and Shirley are boaters too and understand that stuff happens. Sometime in the middle of the night the power comes back on so we fire up the heating system and get the boat warmed up. All is well for now.



Speaking of the heating system.....I came home from work one evening in mid-February to find the boiler has had a flame out and is not running. It isn't too cold in here by the time Henry gets home so he tries his best to figure out the problem. He is supposed to fly to Connecticut the next day but after an unsuccessful attempt to fix it he decides to cancel the flight and take a personal day from work so that he can call the vendor in the morning and see if he can help troubleshoot. The next day he calls me at work to tell me that we need a new compressor. The compressor has a life expectancy of 3500-5000 hours and ours has 3200 on it. Oh well....The part is ordered for overnight delivery. The vendor has told Henry how to take the old one apart and clean it out. He says that it might make a "band-aid". Sure enough he does that, reinstalls it and voila....it runs!!! This is good because the new compressor does not arrive overnight since it was shipped with an incorrect zip code. After many calls to attempt to pick it up, Henry gives up and is promised a Monday delivery. The part comes in and on Tuesday he is down in the engine room to install it I am near the switch in the saloon and he calls up....'fire it up". I say "are you sure?". He says "yes, fire it up". So I turn it on and BOOM, BOOM, it backfires twice and scares the beeebies out of us!!! Quickly I shut it off and no fire extinguisher is needed thank goodness. He is not sure why that happened so he reinstalls the old compressor until he can call the vendor again. Once again, he calls up to me to "fire it up"....once again I say "are you sure?".... and once again he says "yes, fire it up". So I turn it on and BOOM, BOOM, it backfires twice again and I shut it off. This time Henry was about two feet away from it so he didn't get his eyebrows singed. And once again we plug in the little heaters for the night.

A few nights later the heater is back in operation. Turns out the combustion fan was not working. Once he got that fixed everything was up and running and it has been fine ever since. Why does EVERYTHING have to be a project???

Also in mid-February we took a weekend to go to Henry's parents to make good on a painting gift. The first coat of paint went on quickly and the weather was beautiful so we took the opportunity to walk the boardwalk in Ocean City, MD while that coat dried. What a nice sunny winter break! It changed quickly overnight (it is Maryland after all) and the next day was very windy. I worried about Seven Tenths, home alone in her slip at BMC, after getting home from the last visit and finding the boat dark and cold. But we finished the painting and Seven Tenths was just fine when we arrived home. Are our power issues finally over?

Wind is not our friend and it screams down the Patapsco in the winter. On Friday, February 25th, BWI recorded winds of 68MPH and we recorded 46MPH here at the boat! We also had a bunch of rain that washed away the four inches of snow we had on the dock from the day before. The day after that our good friends Nancy and Jerry came

for a visit. They live near Pittsburgh and wondered where all of our snow was. We told them that they could have it all! They had not seen Seven Tenths yet and couldn't imagine how we were living on a boat. I think

they were pleasantly surprised. They had seen a Celebrity cruise ship at the cruise ship dock on their way into Baltimore and commented about it to us. As we walked home from a great dinner in Canton Square we saw the cruise ship with billions of lights just across the harbor from BMC. She must have been "in the shop". Before they headed home the next day the four of us met four other friends for brunch. We had not seen each other in years and we had a great reunion. We also promised not to wait so long to do it again.



On the evening of March 3rd I was on the boat and thought I heard Henry coming aboard. He didn't come in so I opened the door to see what he was doing but he was not out there. Then I heard that thumping noise again and now it sounded like someone was on the bow of the boat...that is not really possible since the bow is ten feet up and there is no ladder out. Then I hear the distinct sound of fireworks. So I head up to the pilot house and sure enough there is a fireworks show going on over Ft. McHenry! You might not know that March 3rd, 2011 was the 80th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner being named our national anthem. Since Ft. McHenry is just across the harbor from us I had a front row seat for a fireworks show that lasted for about a half hour.

Amazingly winter is winding down and it is the first day of Spring! It is time to move Seven Tenths back to her summer home at Edwards Boatyard in Middle River. We have assembled a crew of five for the run and the day is looking good....wind on Saturday and Monday but not on Sunday....Sunday it is! John and Kathie are joining us as well as Bill and Susan. Cindy isn't missing a day on the Bay either! We shuttle cars to Edwards on Sunday morning so that we have transportation when we arrive and by noon the captain has the engines fired up and we are ready to go. Our sailboat friends on K Dock, Curt and Cathy, are waving good-bye as we pull out. The Bay is flat and John captures Lady Liberty bidding us farewell until next year. It is good to be a boat again.



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