

Here we are, snugged in at Baltimore Marine Center to spend the winter. It was a good summer with several great outings with good friends and family. Our final run for the season was planned for the first weekend in October....destination St. Michaels, MD. Unfortunately, the week before saw record rains and a southerly



wind that pushed the water up the Bay and as the front cleared our area, the wind kicked in. On that Thursday, September 30th I arrived home to find my sister, Cindy, waiting for me in her car in the parking lot at the boatyard. The water was over the dock and up into the lot so I put on my rain boots and Cindy rolled up her pants legs and we inched our way down the pier. The water was over the top of my boots! Later when we measured we determined that it was 16 inches over the pier! Anyway, Seven Tenths was sitting high above the dock so we literally crawled

onto the swim platform to get on. Henry was trying to make his way home on a train from a business trip to New York. Needless to say, he was running into many delays. Sometime before midnight he arrived with the rain coming down again. What a sight...he had changed into swim trunks and boat shoes with his dress shirt, flashlight and umbrella. Too bad it was too dark for a picture. It was a sight to behold.

Friday morning there are gale warnings (39-54mph) on the Bay but the water is down. We are pretty sure we are not making the run. Our friends, Dennis and Joanne, were supposed to join us too but we have them on hold. We have to leave by 11AM to make it worth going since it is a six hour run for us. Only two other boats plan to and they go faster and can wait until later to leave the dock. By 11AM the gale warning has been changed to a small craft warning. That means that the wind has decreased to 25-38mph. Cindy and Henry out vote me in favor of going so I call our friends and say "are you up for an adventure?" By 12:50 we are underway. The wind is on our stern so we "surf" the waves on an 80,000lb boat! Just as it is getting dark we tie up to the face dock at St. Michaels Harbor Inn and Marina. It turns out to be a great weekend but Sunday morning when it is time to come back it is still "blowing like stink" as our sail boating friends say. So we lay everything breakable on the floor and head out. The wind is on our nose now so the trip is rougher. A couple of times we hit hard after breaking through a wave. We are perfectly safe on Seven Tenths but it is not a comfortable ride.

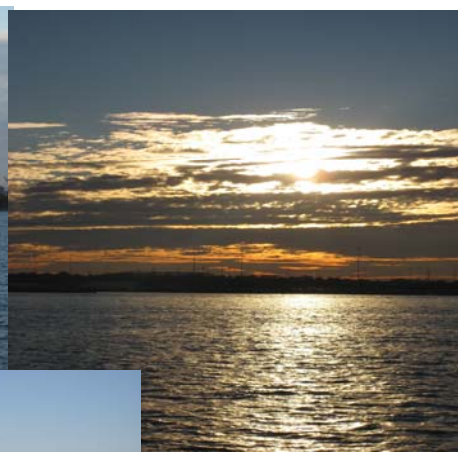
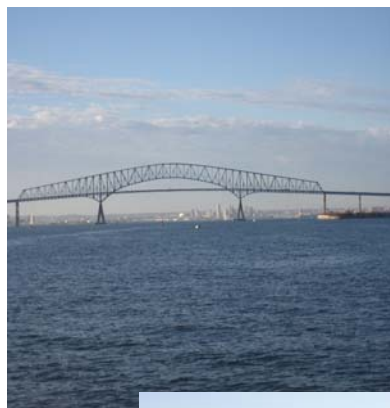


By the time we get back to our slip at Edwards Boat Yard many more things are on the floor (on purpose) and pictures are off the walls (again, on purpose). Whew, it was a bit of an adventure.

We usually make the run to BMC the first weekend in November. All of our retired liveaboard friends have headed south and we really don't want to walk the dock in the water as it gets colder. Soon the boat yard will turn the water off for the winter so it is time to go. But....Henry has a conference in San Diego and I haven't been there so Cindy and I tag along to play while he works. We enjoyed every minute being tourists and taking in the sites. We took a harbor cruise, went to Coronado Island (that really is not an island), visited the San Diego Zoo and the Birch Aquarium and saw amazing views from Point Loma at the Cabrillo National Monument. On the way to the airport to leave San Diego we saw the crippled Carnival cruise ship "Splendor" sitting at the cruise ship dock. As we arrived home late on Thursday night we see that the water is just even with the pier. Yep, time to go.



The second weekend in November is perfect to move the boat to the Canton area of the Inner Harbor. Henry's folks have spent the night with us. They have just returned from a wonderful trip to Spain and a transatlantic crossing on a cruise ship to return home. It was great to hear about their trip and see pictures. Of course we have to reciprocate with tales and pictures of San Diego. They can't make the run with us so with just Cindy for crew we set off about 1:30PM. It is a great run, a little chilly but sunny and flat out on the Bay. About three hours later we turn into the Patapsco River and the Baltimore-Inner Harbor sights come into view. Seeing the hospital ship "USNS Comfort" we are reminded that we had seen her sister ship, "USNS Mercy" in the San Diego harbor. Soon we are snug in our winter home. This is our third winter on Seven Tenths, our third stay at BMC and for the third time, a different slip. But it is all good. We have a quick visit with some friends from last winter and then drive back to Middle River to pick up the other vehicle and return Cindy to her car to go home. Back at the boat we check everything one last time and settle in for the evening. Hard to believe it is time for the holidays and winter!



USNS Comfort



USNS Mercy

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