

## ***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.



**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*

**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.