

**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](http://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](http://wayfarercruisingarm.wordpress.com)