

## Where the Keel Meets the Water

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How many of us have taken boating courses but not had the chance to actually apply the knowledge learned? Our Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation, Navigation and Cruise Planning courses all progressively get into advanced electronics and navigation.

Many topics we address in our classes come to life when you put them in play out on the water. On Friday, 20 August at 1700, we will set sail from Annapolis to circumnavigate the Delmarva Peninsula. Our plan is to complete the voyage nonstop, arriving back in Annapolis at approximately 1400 on Monday, 23 August. Fuel stops will be made as needed.

Here are some of the experiences you could have on our upcoming sail around the Delmarva Peninsula:

- Planning and plotting a cruise that includes overnight offshore sailing
- Logging your GPS position and forecasting your DR position on paper charts
- Using RADAR and AIS to cruise safely in heavy traffic
- Communicating with commercial vessels to arrange safe passage
- Addressing situations with ocean currents
- Utilizing advanced software for offshore cruise planning
- Want to get your BOC ACN or ON skill checked off? This can be your opportunity to do so. \*

This three-night sail will include all of the above procedures to assure a safe cruise. All crew members will be able to learn about and use the various safety and navigation equipment aboard the vessels. Each participating vessel will need to be equipped with the following equipment:

- \* Paper Charts
- \* At least one DSC enabled VHF radio connected to a GPS and programmed with your MMSI number
- \* A backup VHF radio
- \* A chartplotter/Multifunctional Device (MFD) at the helm
- \* A computer or smart pad navigation system
- \* A backup GPS
- \* Radar (Optional)

\* AIS (Optional)

If you want to expand your sailing experience by serving as crew, let me know so I can put you on the list. I will need to know your sailing experiences and the classes you have taken. If you decide to sign up, remember that you will be standing watch at night, possibly by yourself.

Each participating boat should have a minimum of four aboard. Captains needing crew will be given the list of volunteers. It will be up to the captains to pick their crew.

Cruising around the Delmarva is always exciting. The Chesapeake Bay always is crowded with both recreational and commercial traffic and at night the biggest challenge is differentiating the ATONs from shore lights and other vessels. In the Atlantic, you will be out of sight of land and hopefully have a sky full of beautiful stars. The Delaware Bay has its own challenges. Narrow channels require sharp lookout for freighters north bound for Wilmington and Philadelphia and south bound for the Atlantic. And then there is the C&D Canal with its currents, RR bridge (make sure it is open!) and dealing with the big freighters in a narrow canal.

Please let me know if you are interested in either sailing your boat or want to crew on someone's boat.

Each time I make this cruise I have a different learning experience. I look forward to another fabulous Delmarva cruise. Hope you can join us.

- \* Those wishing to get their BOC certifications should contact our ABC-MidAtlantic BOC Assistant Regional Director, John Locke, [locke806@gmail.com](mailto:locke806@gmail.com) - (443) 262-6892 or our BOC Regional Director, Chuck Wells - [wellsatsea@aol.com](mailto:wellsatsea@aol.com) - (301) 325-8568, to arrange for a Certifier to sail with you.