



# Great Blue Hill



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## Commander's Message

Cdr. Michael J. Hanlon, JN



Hi Everyone,

The Labor Day Holiday is upon us, the un-official end of the summer is here already?!? The end of the boating season always seems to end faster than we are ready to accept. Unless you are one of the lucky boaters that get to extend their season by going south to destinations like Annapolis, Charleston, Florida or the Caribbean. If you are one of the fortunate that are going south, please tell us about your adventure in a future article for the *View From The Blue*. If we cannot sail south, the next best thing is hearing from one of our fellow members experiences!

I hope that you all got to go to your favorite cruising spots this summer and discovered some new spots as well! I love the planning of a cruise, plotting on paper charts, checking the Eldridge for fair currents, weather reports and determining provisions to bring aboard. The reward is the actual journey to that new anchorage or marina and getting there safely!

We at GBH are excited to have our first in person Americas Boating Course beginning on Wednesday, September 29th! We are hoping to offer other courses and seminars throughout the Fall as we miss teaching and learning safe boating!

Enjoy your final cruises for the season, and I look forward to hearing about your boating adventures soon!

Fair winds and following seas,

*Cdr Michael J. Hanlon, JN*

**Executive Officer's Message**  
**Lt/C David F. Albanese, S**



Greetings everyone!

Late summer greetings! I hope all of you are well and have been able to be on the water. Luckily, before the Delta Variant hit, we were able to sneak in a couple of activities and they were well worth it.

Thanks to the O'Malleys for opening their home to the Squadron for an awesome pool party and barbecue. The turnout was great and we got to see each other before we began to forget what we all looked like!

Thanks to our AO, Jim Andersen, we finally got to have our (abbreviated) Summer Cruise! It was my first one and it was just as good as I expected. Getting together for dinner and drinks on our boats was just what we needed after so long apart. When I joined the Squadron I had envisioned socializing and fellowship while our boats were all tied up together in some port. I'm glad to say that's exactly what happened. Maybe a bit too much fellowship... judging from the wee bit of Scotch left in my galley when we finally went to bed! Although, an unexpected wind woke me in the middle of the night, and led to a rough ride to the next port in Barnstable, it was all well worth it!

Another benefit of the Cruise was having one of our USPS Vessel Safety Examiners, Jeff Gardiner, perform Vessel Safety Checks for us. I wasn't sure what to expect, and was quick to point out my Joe Kelliher inspired "numbered PFDs," but I found it to be a painless and educational experience. Nice to have the decal displayed on my boat.

Enjoy the rest of the season and hopefully we'll see everyone, in person, in November.

*Dave Albanese, P*

**Administrative Officer's Message**  
**Lt/C James P. Andersen, Jr., N**



Hello all,

**SUMMER RENDEZVOUS in Sandwich** - well, despite the headwinds that pandemics can bring, we finally pulled off an end-of-summer rendezvous cruise to Sandwich and Barnstable! – 15 brave souls came down to Sandwich Marina to celebrate our end-of-summer rendezvous cruise. I wanted to thank the following for attending:

Jim & Donna Andersen (You Betcha)  
Jeff & Fran Gardner (Second Act)  
Dave & Jill Albanese (Second Nate)  
Rich & Eleanor Terry

Chip Wayne & Laurie Reilly  
Joe Frawley  
Bob Black & Maureen McMurtry

The Sandwich Marina was delightful. It had been 10 years since I last visited there, and I forgot how beautiful it was. On a beautiful and warm summer night we dined out on the lawn at The Pilot House, across the street from the marina, on Friday night. And then at the Mattekeese Wharf in Barnstable Harbor on Saturday. During the day on Saturday, we enjoyed a leisurely day of walks around the marina, ice cream while watching tortoises (no kidding) racing across their cages and friendly games of cribbage on The Second Act. I just couldn't have imagined a better way to spend a weekend around boats among friends. It really did remind us of who we are and why we do this. We may have joined the Squadron for the education but we stayed for the friends. We all can't wait until next summer when we plan on having two long weekend rendezvous events.

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## Administrative Officer's Message ... Continued

Oh, and I almost forgot. As you can imagine, I did put a YouTube video together highlighting the fun we all had. Click on the link below, or go to YouTube and enter "Sandwich Rendezvous" in the search engine. Enjoy!!!

<https://bit.ly/SandwichRendezvous>

But that's not all. As a reminder of how great things were back in our pre-Covid days, and another example of why we are such a great bunch of fun-loving nautical folks, I luckily stumbled on my very first YouTube video highlighting our 2017 summer cruise on Narraganset Bay (Dual Bays Cruise...do you remember?). Well for those nostalgic among us here is the link to that video. Who knew we would experience an event called The Fools Rules Regatta in Jamestown, RI !!!

<https://bit.ly/SummerCruise2017>

What's coming up next in our future???

Windjammer Cruise!! In just a few short weeks a group of us are heading up to Camden, ME to experience life on the high seas. Well...the waves probably won't be higher than six inches, give or take. But I understand the lobster bake will go a long way toward heading off starvation and scurvy. Ok, the scurvy part is a bit exaggerated. I'm looking forward to donning the drone and bringing back some more footage of that great event as well. More on that one in our next issue of View from the Blue.

September Dinner – Unfortunately, given the uncertainties that this current variant of the pandemic is bringing upon us, and in an abundance of caution, we felt it prudent to cancel our upcoming September dinner. We are still hoping that we can meet again in November when we can look forward to a presentation by our own, Rich Terry (assisted by Jeff Gardner), on the all the little things that can and will go wrong when buying a new (to you) boat. I'm really looking forward to that. Or am I???

So let's continue to keep our spirits high. We all look forward to being able to continue our camaraderie in person really soon. Together we have gotten through this past year and a half and we have to trust that this experience behind masks will be behind us soon.

Sunny days and fair air winds to us all as we enjoy this upcoming Fall boating season.

Stay safe!

*Jim Andersen, N*

### Great Blue Hill Sail & Power Squadron FALL 2021 CALENDAR

GBH Membership Dinner Meeting - POSTPONED	9	September	2021
District 12 WindjammerCruise - Rockland, ME	19 - 22	September	2021
GBH Executive Committee Meeting, Location - TBD	7	October	2021
GBH Membership Dinner Meeting - Location - POSTPONED	11	November	2021
GBH Executive Committee Meeting - Location - TBD	2	December	2021

# PHOTOS FROM 2021 SUMMER CRUISE



# Stay afloat at the dock

By Cliff Schmidt

Reprinted from Ensign Magazine

Staying afloat requires preventing the failure of water hoses and their fittings, including through-hulls, valves, strainers and hose clamps supplying raw water cooling to boat systems—the leading cause of vessels sinking at the dock. I look at the following areas when surveying a boat; you should check these items at least once or twice a year.



## Raw water hoses

At the first sign of wear, cracking or softening, replace these hoses with approved marine grade hard-wall hoses. Raw water hoses have a date code and should be replaced after 10 years; some insurance companies require this.

## Rusty hose clamps

Replace them with marine grade clamps, which use 316 stainless steel for the band, screw and screw holder. The majority of clamps have stainless steel bands but mild steel screws and screw holders. When in doubt, use a magnet to check.

## Stuffing boxes for propeller and rudder shafts

Old-style stuffing boxes are designed to allow a small drip of water; a drip or two per minute is acceptable, but a drip or two per second means the packing needs attention. Newer bellows or carbon fiber shaft seals should have no water ingress and make a great upgrade for your vessel.

## Lower unit bellows

Most lower units have three rubber bellows; some have more or less. Replace them at any sign of wear, cracking or heavy marine growth. Bellows have a life expectancy of five years. If one is worn, replace them all.

## Deck drains

Look for unsecured, plugged or broken deck drain fittings. Cockpits with drains that drain overboard via a hose can sink a boat if not serviced. Broken fittings, missing hose clamps and loose hoses can overwhelm a boat dewatering system in heavy rains. Inspect the drains from the deck to the overboard discharge.

Clogged drains are one of the biggest issues, so make sure drains are clear and free flowing. If the drain has a grate, keep it clean and replace broken grates as needed.

Remember to check scuppers. Scuppers have different types of backflow prevention devices, from rubber flaps to ping-pong balls, to keep water out. Keep them clean and serviced. Live wells and bait boxes have the same issues, so monitor them as well.

## Impellers and exhaust systems

Replace raw water pump impellers every two years. An overheated engine can cause the exhaust system's rubber components to burn through and leak not only large amounts of water into a bilge but also carbon monoxide.

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## Stay afloat at the dock ... *Continued*

### **Other fittings**

Inspect all below-the-waterline fittings at least once or twice a year. This includes transducers, speed wheels and valves. I often see leaks around transducers placed in out-of-the-way locations in bilges. Uncapped through-hull fittings also cause problems. Cap off all unused fittings. Gate valves, like those on outdoor water faucets, aren't recommended on vessels. The gates can jam, preventing the valve from being opened or closed, which is why ball valves are recommended for through-hull fittings.

### **Bilge pumps**

By definition, bilge pumps remove nuisance water, but they may not save a sinking boat. Large amounts of water can overwhelm most pumps. Bilge pumps burn out and batteries go dead, so test bilge pumps and automatic float switches monthly. I recommend properly wiring bilge pump automatic float switches to a direct power source and not through a switch that could be left in the off position. I strongly recommend installing a high-water bilge alarm in all bilge compartments. A loud, annoying alarm will alert people in the marina or at your own dock, who will hopefully investigate the problem. Remember, people can get placid about alarms, but in a marina, always check them out; you could save a boat. For peace of mind, I installed a text alert alarm system aboard C-Quest for high bilge water, power failure and water intrusion.

Staying on top of below-the-waterline hoses and fittings can save you headaches and the nightmare of a sinking boat.



## **Great Blue Hill on Facebook**

By Bette O'Connor, S

GBH has their own page on Facebook. To access one needs to have a Facebook account. Sign-Up is simple on the main Facebook Page. If one has a Facebook account, they log into their account and "Search" for "Great Blue Hill Squadron" and ask to become a member of the GBH Page. - OK initially a lot of sign-ins, but future access is easy, Being a member on this page requires one to be a member of the Squadron or ABC/USPS. "I am the friendly "Gate keeper".

Members on this Facebook page will be able to seek crew, post events they are hosting or anything boat related, including a new area for cruising Flotilla, or their adventure or arrange a rendezvous with a Squadron member.

**NO WAY  
TO TIE UP A BOAT!**  
Always be careful what  
you tie up to.  
It could leave you  
high and dry...





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# View From The Blue

Great Blue Hill Sail & Power Squadron  
A Non-Profit Organization

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