



CDSOA Atlantic Highlands Float-in Northeast Fleet October 2, 2004

Crews from 4 of 5 boats managed to make it to the annual CDSOA "Atlantic Highlands Float-in" in New Jersey this past Saturday, October 2nd. As usual, it lived up to its nickname as the "Heavy Weather" rendezvous.

Realization and her crew, Cathy Monaghan and Bruce Halley, set out from Morgan in time to make the 11:00 a.m. opening of the Route 35 "Morgan Highway" bridge. We set our sails and headed for Atlantic Highlands on a beam reach with the winds coming from the south. We sailed along nicely in light winds moving the boat at around 5.5 knots until we neared Keyport. We hailed Howard Kolsby aboard his CD33 *Gemini* in Keyport. Howard indicated that it would be at least another half hour before they got underway so we continued.

Well we continued for about 10 minutes, then the wind died and *Realization* slowed to about 2.2 knots. We slogged along at around 2 knots for the next hour or so. I thought for sure that at the rate we were moving, *Gemini* would surely beat us to the Keyport buoy since they'd probably be under power, but no *Gemini* so we sailed onward.



Pioneer anchored on Sandy Hook Bay

After we finally passed the Keyport buoy the wind came up again and we were able to maintain just over 6 knots as we watched bands of rain showers pass ahead of us across the bay. We avoided much of the rain but it did get squally with big gusts laying *Realization's* lower lifelines in the water and prompting us to shorten sail down to a double-reefed main. Then it began to sprinkle lightly as we approached the Leonardo area. The windy squalls moved through quickly and took both the rain and wind with them. As we rounded the Navy piers at Earl and headed south onto Sandy Hook Bay, the wind was light again but square on the nose as we beat our way to Atlantic Highlands, passed the anchored schooner *Pioneer*, finally arriving at the

breakwater around 3:00 p.m. where we dropped our sails.

We found Greg Dalton's RH36 *Colleen Marie* in the mooring field and radioed Greg to let him know that we had arrived. He let us know that fellow Cape Dorians Jack Flannery and his friend Donna were with him and that he was ready if we wanted to raft-up to *Colleen Marie*. But we decided to get our own mooring rather than rafting or anchoring since the weather forecast was calling for more rain, possible thunderstorms and lots of wind. Then Howard on *Gemini* called on the VHF to let us know they were on Sandy Hook Bay and would be to the breakwater shortly. Howard and Greg decided that they would raft-up anyway. We tried calling Jim Trotta aboard *Cinnamon* on the VHF several times but there was no answer. Then Bruce tried reaching them by phone but there was no answer at their home either. We later learned that the rain earlier in the day had changed their minds about sailing to Atlantic Highlands, so we missed them.

The crews in attendance decided to meet aboard *Colleen Marie* for cocktails, snacks and our potluck dinner. So I showered then prepared a dish of cheese, crackers and salami while Bruce showered. Then Bruce outdid himself yet again by preparing a scrumptious chicken and rice dish for the potluck. Once that was ready we packed up the food, called for the launch and got a ride over to *Colleen Marie*. We were in good company and had lots of good food as usual with the talk of the evening centering on, what else, our Cape Dorians and recent adventures aboard them.

In attendance were:

CD30 *Pelican Moon* – Jack Flannery and Donna
 CD32 *Realization* – Cathy Monaghan and Bruce Halley
 CD33 *Gemini* – Howard and Joe Kolsby
 RH36 *Colleen Marie* – Greg, Karen and Colleen Dalton

We enjoyed the Dalton's hospitality until after the launch stopped running so Greg gave us a dinghy ride back to *Realization* around 11:00 p.m.

It was peaceful and calm in the anchorage, even though we had been watching the sky light up from lightening off in the distance all evening, so *Gemini* and *Colleen Marie* remained rafted. But it wasn't long before the winds came howling out of the north and they howled all night. We were glad to be on our own mooring and worried about the rafted boats but they faired the weather just fine.



Colleen Marie on Sandy Hook Bay

In the morning the winds continued to blow with a vengeance from the north with the waters of Sandy Hook Bay crashing against the breakwater. Then as quickly as they had started, they stopped at 11:00 a.m., as we were getting underway, leaving us ghosting our way out of Sandy Hook Bay.

We were still bobbing around on Sandy Hook Bay at 1:00 p.m. having only traveled a couple of miles when *Colleen Marie* drove past us and headed around Sandy Hook for the open ocean. We then cranked up the iron genny and followed suit hoping to find some wind out on the Atlantic but it was not to be. After fighting the southeast swell and finding no wind off the New Jersey coast we turned around and fought the outgoing tide back into Raritan Bay and headed for Great Kills Harbor on Staten Island, NY. We found our friend Rich's mooring and tied up for a peaceful night.



Joe aboard *Black Sheep* on Raritan Bay

Monday morning was bright and sunny and this time we had good wind. So we hoisted the mainsail, dropped our mooring and headed out of the harbor for a beat back to Morgan in the southwest wind. As we entered the channel out of Great Kills I spied another set of tanbark sails a few miles off to the west. We sailed parallel tacks with them as we sailed down the bay.

Around 1:00 p.m. we heard *Realization* being hailed on VHF Ch. 16. It was our old friend and fellow CDSOA member Joe Focarile aboard his friend's Baba 30 *Black Sheep* out for a daysail. Joe had spotted the tanbark sails on the boat behind them and new it had to be *Realization*. So they turned around and headed our way. *Realization* and *Black Sheep* had fun trading tacks and sailing circles around each other for awhile. We chatted when we were close enough to talk to each other or on the radio when we weren't, then we turned and went our separate ways promising to get together at a later date. What a great way to end a rendezvous weekend.

Submitted by:

Catherine Monaghan
 Northeast Fleet Captain—CDSOA, Inc.
 CD32 *Realization*, #3
 Rahway, NJ
 Raritan Bay

<http://www.capedory.org/>