

Points East Flotilla

Newsletter #4 of Flotilla 2011



The Roosevelt Campobello International Park has a dock, mostly used for tying up the dinghies of visitors.

Let's meet in Portland, May 1

Today is April 1st, and there's lots of fresh snow on the ground. But I'm confident that it'll be gone in a couple of days, at the most.

In addition to being notable for the spring snowstorm, today is notable for the fact that in just a month – actually less than a month by the time you read this – those of you who have joined the 2011 Fundy Flotilla will be meeting in Portland for our annual May, pre-departure, Flotilla get-together. Please let me know if you'll be able to attend. The meeting is at Portland Yacht Services, on Fore Street, and will run from noon till 2.

The reason we hold these spring get-togethers for Flotilla members is two-fold: First, it's a chance to get a first look at the people you'll be cruising with for two weeks this summer. Second, it's a chance to ask questions of people who either have the answers or will get the answers. The questions we usually get concern what to bring

aboard and what not to bring aboard (in order to not have problems with Canadian Customs and Immigration), whether there'll be sufficient dock space or moorings at the various ports of call, how dangerous is it passing through the Reversing Falls, what happens if some boats can't keep up with the faster boats, what charts and pubs to have onboard, whether there's good cellphone coverage where we're headed, what about pets, what about laundry facilities, what about places to make crew changes, where to leave cars for two weeks in Northeast Harbor, etc. etc. You get the idea. The questions cover the gamut.

The answers will too.

But what if you can't make the meeting? Will you then miss all of the discussion?

No, you won't, because I'll cover all of the discussion in a followup newsletter in May. That said, if you can make the meeting, please do so. In the past we've generally had at the May meetings better than

half of those who had signed up for the Flotilla. Once again, if you plan to attend, please let me know ASAP: Bernie@pointseast.com.

Looking ahead to 2012

Flotilla 2012 will reprise one of our regular Nova Scotia itineraries. Those of you interested in cruising to Nova Scotia should keep this flotilla in mind.

And here's good news for anyone planning to cruise to Nova Scotia, whether with the Fundy Flotilla or on their own: The revised and updated edition of Peter Loveridge's "A Cruising Guide to Nova Scotia" has finally been published. Points East Magazine will be taking orders for the book, which was published in Canada. The original edition has been long out of print.

Here's the updated cruise schedule

July 30: Flotilla gathers at Northeast Harbor, crew meeting, dinner.

July 31: Cutler, lobster dinner

Aug. 1: Grand Manan, clear Customs, bus tour, dinner

Aug. 2: Saint John, clear Reversing Falls and moor at the Royal Kennebecasis Y.C.

Aug. 3: Tour Fundy Traffic in downtown Saint John, banquet at RKYC

Aug. 4-6: Meandering and gunkholing on St. John River

Aug. 7: Arrive Gagetown Marina

Aug. 8: Take bus to Kings Landing, a living history museum. Private tour, private lunch.

Aug. 9: Dock party, BBQ ashore

Aug. 10: Back to the RKYC

Aug. 11: Back through the Reversing Falls and cruise to Campobello, tours, dinner

Aug. 12-13: St. Andrews, welcome party by St. Andrews Y.C. at home of flotilla veterans

Aug. 14: Clear back into U.S. at Eastport ... or continue south and clear at Northeast Harbor or other port.

Flotilla participants will receive a detailed day-by-day schedule, with aerial views of the harbors, etc., which will not appear on the website.



Swallowtail Light, marking the entrance to North Head Harbour (note the British spelling) on Grand Manan.

Who's onboard so far? It's quite a mix

There are 19 boats currently signed up for Fundy Flotilla 2011. (There had been 20, but one had a schedule conflict.) Here are the types and sizes of the boats thus far:

Power: 6 boats, sizes 35'-55'

Sail: 13 boats, sizes 30'-48'

Median length: 42'

Home states: Maine (5), Mass. (5), N.H. (3), R.I. (1), Md (1), Va. (1), Ga. (1), Iowa (1), Texas (1).

Flotilla participants will get a listing of all the boats with boat names, crew names, etc. That list will be only for participants.

There's still time to sign up!

Just go to:

www.pointseast.com/flotillas

to register.