



BYC Summer Cruise

Cruisers' Guide



July 13 - 21, 2018

General Information

Communication

The Fleet and Day Captains will monitor VHF channel 72 for official cruise business throughout the cruise, from sunrise to sunset. You may call Fleet Captain Joe Whelan by mobile phone at 401-

4391891 if you need immediate assistance. There will be a daily check-in at 0800 on Channel 72 to review current conditions, any last-minute sailing and evening activity updates and to answer questions. If the departure time is earlier than 8:00 due to tides, etc. the new call time will be announced the evening prior.

If you decide to not go to a port that you signed up for please make sure you notify either the Fleet Captain or the Day Captain for that port.

Flags

Please fly your Bristol Yacht Club burgee night and day so that other boats in the cruise can recognize you. Other signals may be flown at each skipper's discretion.

Navigation meetups

Skippers interested in discussion of the next day's course options and sailing advice meet during or after each day's cocktail hour. Time for meeting will be announced at cocktail hour.

Evening Activities

Highlights of evening activities are listed below. Further details are available in the Gathering section of the specific port.

Port	Gathering Spot	Time	Drink of the Day	What to Bring & Info
Third Beach	Ginger Beer	6:00pm	BYOB	Appetizers
Padanaram	Apponagansett Park	6:00pm	Sangria	Appetizers & Chairs
Quissett	Beach	6:00pm	Dark & Stormy	Appetizers, Chairs & Tables
Edgartown	GEM and ?	6:00pm	Rum Punch	Appetizers
Edgartown	Edgartown Yacht Club	6:00pm Cocktails 7:00pm Dinner	CASH Bar - No Credit Cards accepted	All invited to cocktail hour. Dinner requires pre-registration. Attire: Casual-No Jeans
Vineyard Haven	FREE NIGHT			
Cuttyhunk	Fishing Club	5:00pm Cocktails 6:00pm Dinner	Sea Breeze	All invited to cocktail hour. Dinner requires pre-registration.
Cuttyhunk	Beach	6:00pm	White Port & Tonic	Appetizers, Chairs

2018 Ports of Call & BYC Cruisers

July 13 Third Beach



DISTANCE: From prior nights port of Bristol (18NM)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PORT: Third Beach is a town-owned bathing beach. The waters right off Third Beach are sheltered by Flint Point but once away from the beach you are on the open waters of the mouth of the Sakonnet River where it flows into Rhode Island Sound and the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

On most days the southwest wind fills in strongly in this area in the morning and blows briskly throughout the afternoon, producing strong waves, so be prepared for this when planning your trip.

For those who can get an early start on Friday, we'll meet at **THIRD BEACH**. There are town moorings that you can grab when you arrive.

NAVIGATION: The shortest sail to Sakonnet Harbor or Third Beach takes you under three bridges and down the Sakonnet. From the Club, sail between Hog Island and Bristol, then turn to port under the Mount Hope Bridge into Mount Hope Bay. Sail east, turning to starboard around Common Fence Point. Then sail south under the old and new Sakonnet River bridges, and through Tiverton Harbor. Currents through the Old Stone Bridge gut and down the Sakonnet will be favorable from 9:00 to 13:30 on the 13th.

A note on the Sakonnet passage - turn on your engine to get through the bridges in Tiverton from Green #15C to well past Green #15 - the current is strong and there's not much room to maneuver.

MOORINGS: Approach the beach and look for an open town mooring (first-come, first served) or anchor to the north and east of the mooring field. Steve, the Harbormaster's number is 401-297-1753 not sure if this number is still valid). The moorings cost \$20, cash only, and he will come around to find you.

FACILITIES: Third beach offers swimming, rest rooms, and lemonade.

GATHERING PLACE & TIME: Steve MacQuarrie has volunteered to organize an informal gathering on his boat for those staying overnight on Third Beach at 6:00pm. Bring some food to share and a BYOB. Steve's boat is Ginger Beer and his cell number is 617-840-4826 if you need to contact him. If there are large number of people that want to participate (18 boats are signed up for Third Beach), it might be good to have someone raft with Steve. Call him if you are interested in rafting for the gathering.

July 14 New Bedford Yacht Club at Padanaram



DAY CAPTAINS : Barry and Denise Schrutt, Freedom 28, Mind Eraser

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PORT: Padanaram is a coastal village in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, United States. As the Boston Globe stated, "It's where life slows down." The Buzzards Bay swing bridge which opens every hour to allow the many sailboats to pass in and out of the harbor literally slows things down.

The village is listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) as the Padanaram Village Historic District. The historic district is roughly bounded by Elm, Water, Middle, High, Pleasant, Prospect, Hill, School, Fremont, and Bridge Streets. The district features [Colonial Revival](#), Late [Victorian](#), and [Federal architecture](#) and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

DISTANCE: From prior night's port of call, Third Beach, is (19 NM)

NAVIGATION: If you're leaving from Bristol, a note on the Sakonnet passage - turn on your engine to get through the bridges in Tiverton from Green #15C to well past Green #15 - the current is strong and there's not much room to maneuver.

After exiting the Sakonnet River and turning eastward, the skipper has two choices for entering Buzzards Bay: the more conventional route leaving Old Cock to port; or the direct inshore route. Most boaters prefer the latter, leaving the three nuns off Gooseberry Island to port and crossing the little bar with 15 feet of water under her keel—even at low. This course provides fine views of Gooseberry and her WW II submarine lookout tower, East Horseneck and Little Beaches, the mansion on Mishaum Point, and the anchorage behind the breakwater at Round Hill.

Either choice will allow you to leave G "5" off Dumpling Rock to port. From there, you'll turn NNE to RG "AB" and from there NW to the breakwater at the harbor entrance. Locals often take a more direct route skirting Fatal Rock and Keel Rock. The mere names may give a skipper pause about following them.

High tide at Padanaram will be at 9:51 am, so an early start will help. NOAA indicates that the current in Buzzards Bay will turn foul around 10:00am, though its maximum speed will be well under a knot. Check NOAA CHARTS: 13229 and 13230.

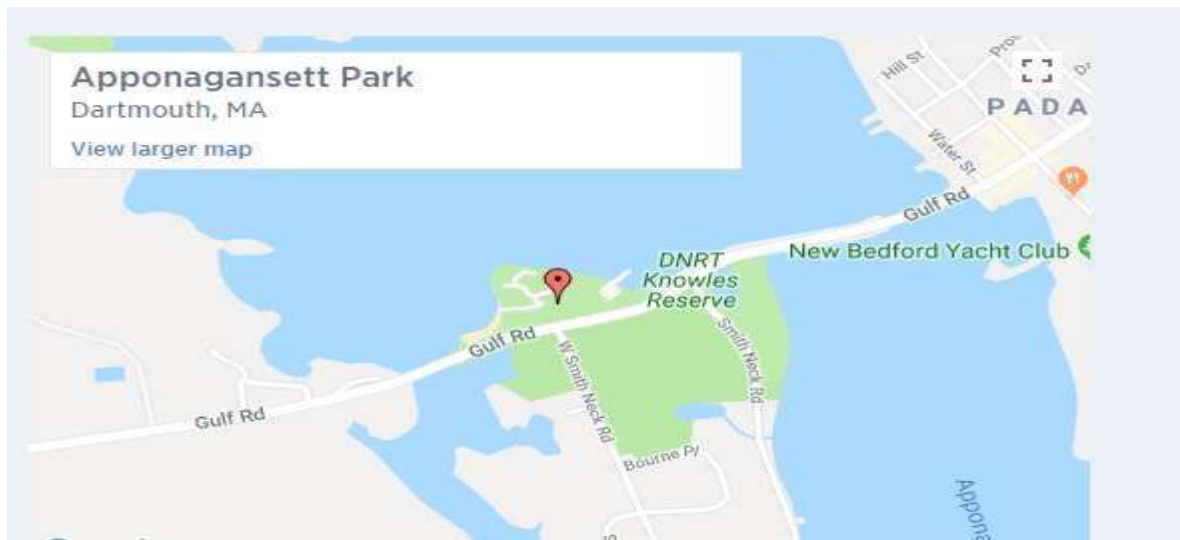
MOORINGS AND ANCHORAGE: New Bedford Yacht Club has reserved moorings for us, paid in advance with Cruise Registration. Hail the NBYC launch on Channel 68 once you have arrived at nun "12". Inform them that you are with the BYC and have a reserved mooring. Provide the name of your boat. Then, once you've settled into your mooring, NBYC requests that you check in at their office ashore

FACILITIES: NBYC has diesel, gas and water at its dock. Block and bagged ice may be purchased from the launch driver. The clubhouse has showers, a dining room and a small bar.

GATHERING PLACE and TIME:

At 6 pm, we will gather at Apponagansett Park. There is a dingy dock where you can pull in. Go under the bridge and turn left. If you would like to walk it is about a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile walk across the bridge. The bridge was just opened a few of weeks ago. There is also a playground for the children.

Our day captains will scout out a picnic table to use for the appetizers and drink of the day. Look for the BYC burgee. Bring chairs if you would like to sit. Please bring appetizers to share. The drink of the day—Sangria—will be available. Your cruise cups and T-shirts will be distributed at the park.



History of Padanaram and NBYC

Do not despair if you have difficulty locating any place called Padanaram on your chart. The harbor is called Apponagansett Bay and the town is called South Dartmouth. If you look carefully at the entrance to the harbor on a large-scale chart, you will find the only reference to the name—Padanaram Breakwater. Duncan and Ware describe a colorful version of the name’s origin: “A man named Laban once lived in South Dartmouth. He thought that if he ran water over a mill wheel he would get enough power to raise water up again with something left over for other purposes. He built a mill to test the idea, which was dubbed Laban’s Folly. As the biblical Laban (Genesis 28: 1-2) had lived in Padan-aram, the locality was given the name.....Padan-aram was one of the original names of Mesopotamia.”

New Bedford Yacht Club was originally located in New Bedford harbor. During the hurricane of 1938, their New Bedford building suffered the same fate as the Bristol Yacht Club’s old location at the foot of Church Street—smashed to smithereens. NBYC, however, did not have the good fortune of having sold its building just before the storm. As a result, Padanaram Station, established in 1901, became the club’s sole location.

While the harbor is quite attractive, one of its most beautiful aspects is the group of seven Concordia sloops that call Padanaram home. Among the finest are Rusty Aertsen’s restored Snow Bird and Arapaho. The latter and her gleaming natural mahogany hull appeared in the 1999 Paul NewmanKevin Costner film “Message in a Bottle”.

FURTHER READING:

Gribbins, Joseph, Peter Gow, and Elizabeth Meyer. *Concordia Yawls the First Fifty Years*. Newport, RI:

Dreadnaught Company, 1988.

Roger F. Duncan and John P. Ware. *A Cruising Guide to the New England Coast*. Dodd, Mead & Company: New York, 1987.

Llewellyn Howland III. *The New Bedford Yacht Club: A History*. New Bedford Yacht Club: South Dartmouth MA, 2002.

July 15: Quisset Harbor



DAY CAPTAIN(S): Bob & Lisa McLaughlin, C&C 110, "Blue Devil"

BRIEF DESCRIPTION of PORT of CALL: Quisset Harbor, MA.

Quisset, shortened from the name Quamquissett, was the Indian equivalent for "Star of the Sea," relating to five points of indentation on the shore of the harbor.

Quisset is a protected harbor surrounded by conservation land and residential property, renowned as one of the most picturesque harbors in New England and is reported to have some of the cleanest water as documented by the Massachusetts government.

DISTANCE: From prior night's port of call, Padanaram, is (13 NM)

NAVIGATION: Quisset is located at latitude 41.543 and longitude -70.649.

From the Padanaram Breakwater, head at 106° for 2.7 miles to the Phinney Rock Lighted Buoy DP while being watchful of N"6", Bents Ledge, and N"4" Lone Roc (and Middle Ledge beyond Lone Rock). You'll then be in a good position to head directly for the remaining 9 miles to the Quisset Harbor Entrance Lighted Buoy #2, on a course of 92°, being careful of any commercial traffic when crossing the New Bedford Shipping Channel.

The entrance to Quissett Harbor hides in plain sight. During the War of 1812, residents of the village of Quissett went to great lengths to obscure the presence of their lovely protected cove from British warships sailing past on Buzzards Bay. According to the Woods Hole Historical Society, foliage was used to camouflage ships, and treetops were lashed to masts to disguise the existence of the harbor and its shipbuilding and saltworks operations.

The entrance to Quissett Harbor is "marked" by two (substantial) rocks that look like sand dunes upon your approach just to the south of the two visible cupolas at Hamlin Pt, and north of the standpipe at Woods Hole. Follow the entry marks carefully as it's pretty shallow on either side. You will have 8 or more feet of water once inside the entrance.

Navigation is straight forward but due to the narrow and winding entrance channel be sure you have reviewed your charts and they are at hand upon your entrance. Look for R"2" Fl R 4s lighted sea buoy at the entrance. Upon entering, favor the right side between C"3" and N"4", then cut across to the second can C"5", then on to N"6", then leaving C"7" to port.

TIDES AND CURRENTS:

Nothing unusual but do watch for set based on the direction of current in Buzzard's Bay at the time of your crossing from Padanaram.

MOORING & ANCHORAGE:

There is an "inner harbor" and an "outer harbor" within the overall Quissett Harbor, with the inner harbor being the area roughly beyond N"8" and the point of land to its south. The transition to the inner harbor is marked with privately maintained nun and can buoys which you must respect,

Pick up any empty mooring labeled QBY. Most of the available moorings will be in the outer harbor. The moorings are white with a blue stripe and are first come, first served (No reservations. Don't call or radio the marina!) Depending on the day, we may need to raft up 2-3 boats to a mooring (permitted only in the outer harbor). Cost of the mooring is \$35 (at time of this writing (I was told it could go up for 2018) and we will collect the money at the beginning of the shore side activity. Please bring CASH.

It's my understanding that the moorings are lines shackled to several cable runs on the bottom. For this reason, do not anchor in the mooring area! If you prefer to anchor, the area to do so is in the southwest corner of the outer harbor.

FACILITIES: (available at Port of Call)

Quissett Harbor Boat Yard (508-548-0506) at the Northeast end of the harbor maintains a dock for short visits, as well as a dinghy tie-up area. You can radio ahead to the boat yard on Channel 9 to obtain permission to tie up at the dock (six feet MLW at the dock). The dinghy dock is to the left of the main pier. Water is available at the end of their pier. If you need water after hours, the shutoff valve is underneath the hut at the head of the pier. There is at least 6 ft of depth all the way into the pier. The marina operates a Pump Out boat (on request), with trash disposal and ice (honor system) at the dock.

Once ashore take a short, easy hike to The Knob, offering magnificent views of Quissett Harbor and Buzzards Bay. The Knob is open to the public from dawn to dusk for bird watching, strolling, beach combing, and swimming.

One can take the WHOOSH Trolley to Woods Hole, a short walk from the Marina. See the Trolley information link in "Further Reading" below.

GATHERING PLACE & TIME:

We will gather at 6pm on the beach in the northwest corner of the harbor at 6pm. Look for the BYC burgee on the beach. (Arrive by dinghy)

Bring chairs and tables if you have onboard.

Drink of the day: Dark and Stormies on the beach with shared appetizers.

****Don't forget to bring \$35 in cash for your mooring**** The tide is favorable for our party!

NOAA CHART: Charts #13230, #13235

FURTHER READING:

Harbor History: <http://www.qhpt.org/quissettharbor.htm>

WHOOSH Trolley: <http://www.capecodtransit.org/whoosh-route.htm> The

June Points East magazine discusses Quissett as their "mystery harbor":

<https://www.pointseast.com/may2018-guess-the-harbor/>

July 16, 17: Edgartown Harbor



DAY CAPTAIN(S): July 16th - Vin and Meg Ratford Lagoon 450 Catamaran, GEM
July 17th – Joe Whelan, Sydney 26, Shearwater

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PORT OF CALL:

Edgartown, located on the eastern side of the Island, is a delightful mix of old-world charm and wideopen spaces.

Originally settled by whaling captains, the town center retains the historic architecture of the whaling captains' homes, some of which are private homes, and many of which have been converted into inns, restaurants and one-of-a-kind shops and cafes.

DISTANCE: From prior night's port of call, Quissett (17 NM)

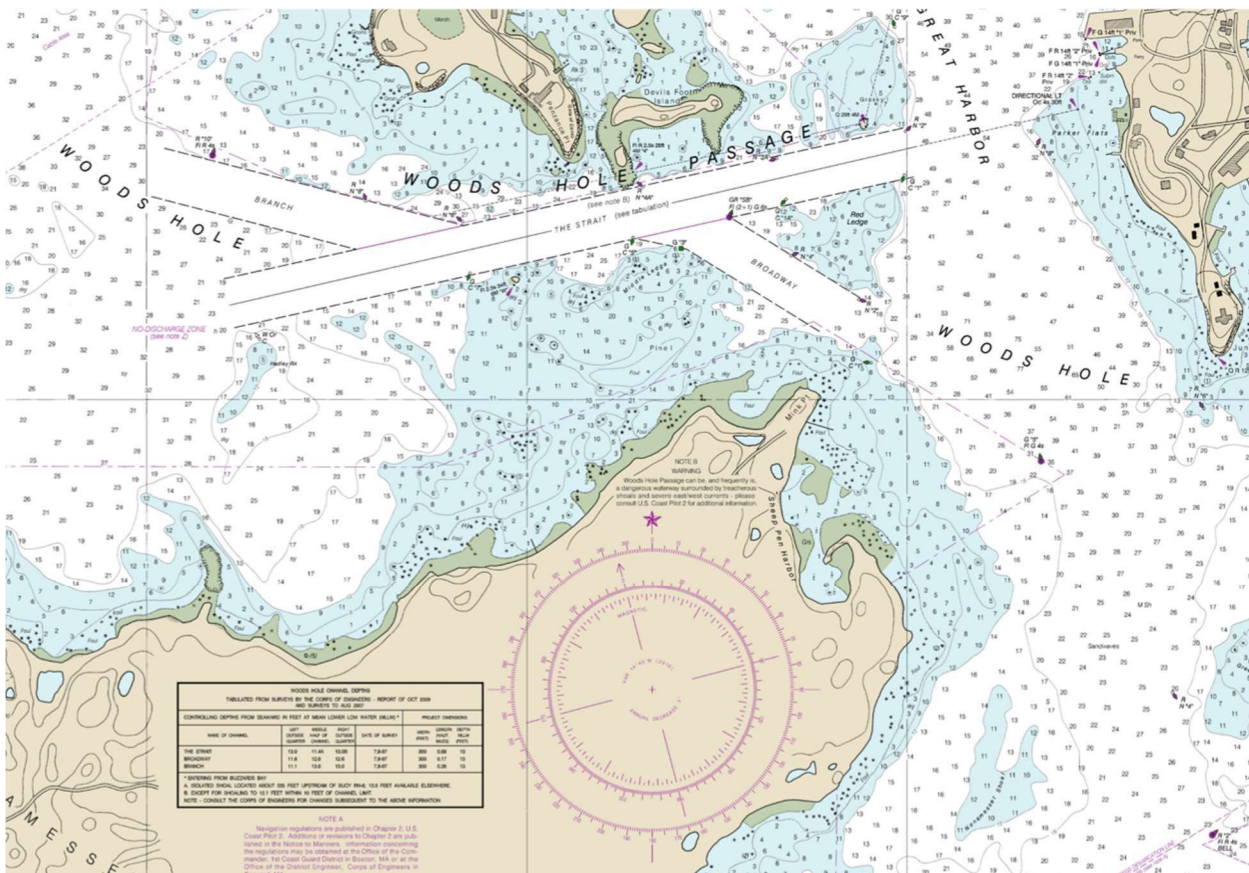
Getting to Edgartown involves a short trip through Woods Hole which sailors will want to run at slack tide, through and including the outgoing tide toward Vineyard Sound (southeast Flood). You can pass through on the flood tide but beware of any cross currents. For folks who want detailed instructions the following article should help.

<https://www.bostonsailingcenter.com/bsccruisingguide/harbors/woodshole/navigation.html>

The current at Woods Hole Passage turns in our favor starting at 06:46 am on July 16 with Flood peak at 11:33 am so you should plan to leave Quissett to get through by noon. For those of you who want to transition at a tide of ≤ 0.5 knots that window is 07:30 am to 09:00 am. After that the current is favorable just stronger.

Turn on your engine, strike your sails as you'll want to be in full control so as to not go out of the channel from Red Nun #6 (pass on stbd) to Red nun #2 (pass to stbd, about .5 miles at 78 degrees). We find it helpful to have one person on the helm and a second person looking backward to ensure that we're not drifting out of the channel. Pass by GC"5" and GC"3" to port when you pass from The Strait to Broadway (see chart below)

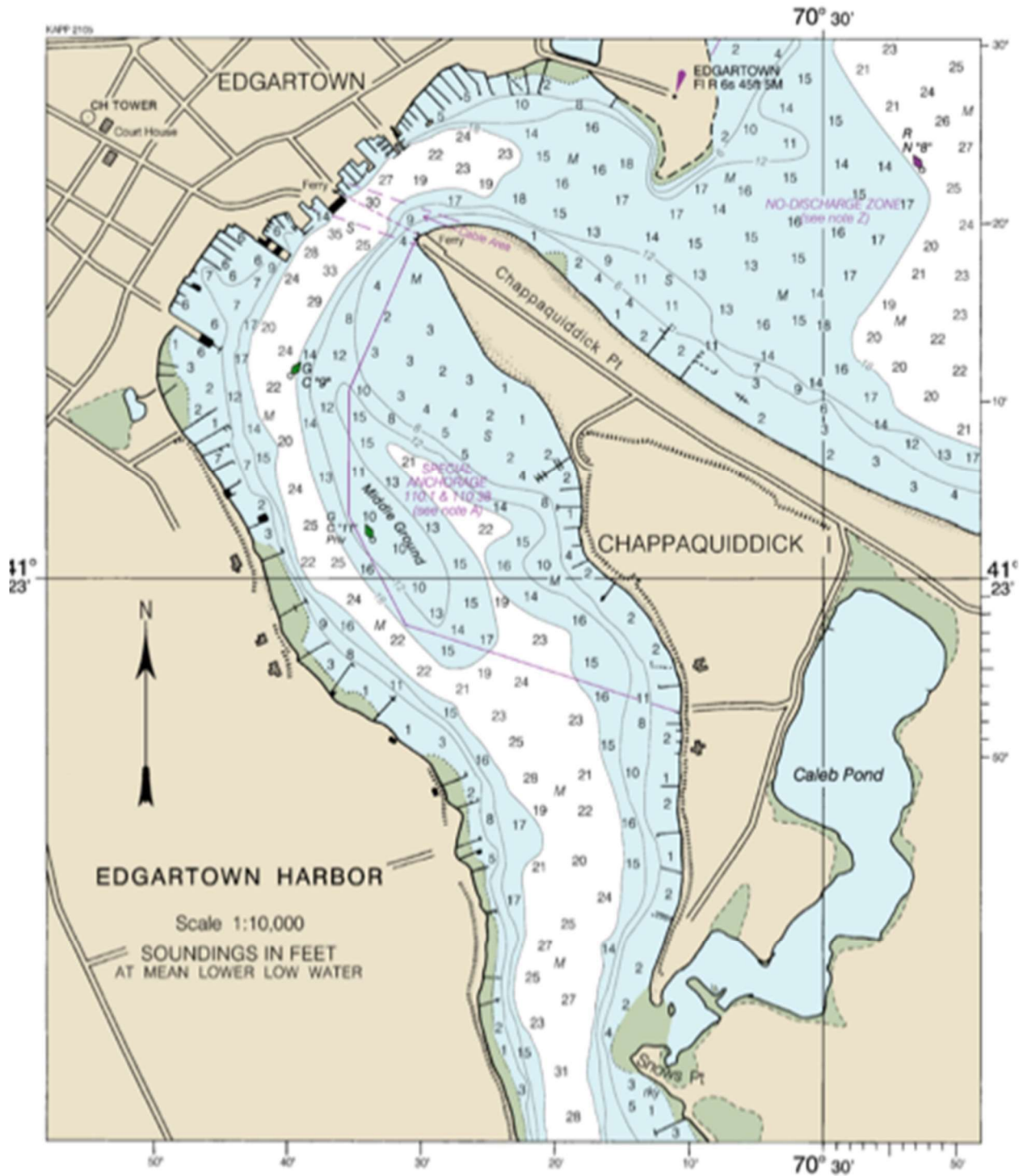
Passing through Great Harbor is a straight .8NM shot at 165 degrees passing G"5" Fl G 4s and should give you no problem.



Make the turn East at R"2" Fl R 4s Bell and make your way along Vineyard Sound past Vineyard Haven passing to port of R "2" Fl R 4s Gong and Oak Bluffs (G "23" Fl G 4s Bell). Watch out for Ferry's □. Using Chart 13238 From Oak Bluffs to Edgartown you can either pass north, south or through Squash Meadow due to depth of 13'. Regardless you'll want to end up east of Middle Flats so the best route is to target R"2" Bell north of here and pass to either side, then head south passing to

port of RN"4", then R"6" Fl R 4s and finally RN"8" at which point you can contact the harbormaster launch who will direct you.

There is a 'free' anchorage outside Edgartown Harbor along Chappaquiddick. Details can be found at <https://edgartownharbor.com/anchorage/>



Edgartown is lively, cosmopolitan, full of boats large and small, as well as restaurants and shops of all sorts; the opposite of Cuttyhunk in many ways. We'll stay at Edgartown for two nights, plenty of time to enjoy the town and the island of Martha's Vineyard.

MOORINGS, DOCKAGE AND ANCHORAGE:

BYC has reserved moorings for the cruisers who reserved via the BYC website. After you pass through the twisting entrance channel — beware of the currents and the ferry — turn to port and into the harbor. You'll see boats moored on both sides of the channel. To find out which mooring is yours, call the Edgartown Harbormaster on VHF channel 9, explain that you are with the Bristol Yacht Club, and have reserved a mooring. The Harbormaster will tell you which mooring to use. Harbormaster 508 627-4746. This link to Edgartown Harbor has all the details, <https://edgartownharbor.com/info>.

Anchorage is available in the outer harbor to the southeast of red nun bouy #8. The Harbormaster may open Katama Bay under some northerly wind conditions. If Katama Bay is opened then yachts may anchor south of green can #13. Harbormaster can be contacted on VHF channel 74. When the wind changes direction yachts are asked to leave Katama Bay and re-anchor in the outer harbor.

Dockage is available, and very expensive, and you need to call for availability:

- Mad Max Marina (508) 627-7400
- Harborside Inn (508) 627-4321 (Priority given to hotel guests.)

Launch Service

The Town uses Oldport Marine as the launch provider for Edgartown waters. Oldport Marine provides service to all moorings within Edgartown inner harbor, Katama Narrows, and the outer anchorage (anchorage runs go to the top of the hour). Yachtsman can hail Oldport Launch on VHF Ch. 68 for service. Launch rates are \$4 per person each way to the mooring field, \$5 per person each way to the anchorage or Katama Narrows

FACILITIES:

A dinghy dock is available in front of the Atlantic Restaurant on the west side of the Edgartown Yacht Club. If you lock your dinghy to the float, please leave at least an 8 foot bow line so others can land on the float. If you are going to be absent for more than a day please leave your dinghy at the mooring so the float doesn't get overloaded with dinghies that are not being used.

Showers and restrooms may be found at the Edgartown Visitors' Center on Church Street, or at North Wharf on Morse Street.

A pump-out boat is operated by the Harbormaster's Department and may be contacted on VHF channel 74. This is a free service. Edgartown Harbor has numerous facilities onshore and throughout the harbor including a raft for taking on water and pumpout service as well.

GATHERING PLACE & TIME:

Monday Evening: Cocktail hour (6-8 pm) on GEM (Lagoon 45 Catamaran) which will be on a mooring in the harbor. We are looking for another boat willing to raft up with GEM to accommodate dinghy's and people. If you are willing to raft and are under 45' long please let Vin know at vratford@gmail.com or 400.406.0750. Bring appetizers to share.

If possible, we recommend that you take the Old Port launch to allow us to more easily accommodate people arriving and departing.

Tuesday evening: We will enjoy cocktails and dinner at the Edgartown Yacht Club. Cocktails from 6:00 – 7:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm. All are welcome to join cocktails. Dinner requires preregistration.

Attire: Casual – No Jeans

Transportation: We can use the EYC launch to go to the dinner. It runs until 6:00pm. Hail Helot on VHF channel 72. For your return trip you would use the Old Port Launch which is just 2 piers down.

EYC does have a dingy dock that we can use the evening of the dinner. When you are approaching the club from the water there is a floating dock on the left-hand side of the club. If that dock is full the town dingy dock is just a little further down on the left.

NOAA CHART:

Woods Hole – 13235

South Coast of Cape Cod Bay and Islands - 13229

Martha's Vineyard – Eastern Part - 13238

FURTHER READING:

Chamber of Commerce

Martha's Vineyard Online

July 18: Vineyard Haven



DAY CAPTAINS : Glen and Marsha Petaja, Tartan 372, SISU

DISTANCE: From prior night's port of call Edgartown (10NM)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PORT OF CALL:

Vineyard Haven, the beautiful working harbor village in the town of Tisbury is not only the year-round port for Martha's Vineyard, it also boasts a really fun and diverse Cultural District.

The Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District is a walkable mile from the shipyards on Beach Street, to the Library on Main Street, and it includes a huge number of businesses in the creative industries – design, architecture, wooden shipbuilding, home goods, handcrafts, theater, music, films and delight slew of wonderful restaurants, one-of-a-kind boutique shops, galleries, studios, clothing design, and books.

NAVIGATION:

<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/13238.shtml>

Leaving Edgartown Harbor:

When leaving the harbor, honor the channel markers out to R “2” Bell before turning west. Do not be tempted to cut the corner as the rocks extend north of RN “4”. Once out of the harbor there are three shoals that you need to be aware of: Squash Meadow, Hedge Fence and L’Hommedieu. The wind direction and strong currents need to be taken into account when planning your route. See the current section below.

Entering Vineyard Haven

Enter between the lighthouses on the headlands of West Chop and East Chop. The harbor mouth is more than a mile wide at its outermost extremity, narrowing gradually upon approaching the inner harbor breakwater and the ferry wharf at harbor's head.

Buoyage on entry is gauged to deep draft vessels: however due respect must be paid to the rocky ledges along the eastern shore of West Chop, beginning at Allegheny Rock (marked by Can "25") and west of Nun “4”.

Currents:

The currents can run strong in the channel north of East Chop. The current predictions for two locations in the area are below. The effects of these strong currents can be slightly reduced by staying south of Squash Meadow Shoal.

Station Name: East Chop, 1 mile north of

Mean Flood Dir: 116° (T)

Mean Ebb Dir: 297° (T)

Date	Time (LST/LDT)	Event	Speed (knots)
2018-07-18	04:23 AM	slack	- 2018-07-18
	06:59 AM	ebb	-2.46
2018-07-18	10:40 AM	slack	- 2018-07-18
	01:22 PM	flood	2.43
2018-07-18	04:59 PM	slack	- 2018-07-18
	07:35 PM	ebb	-2.35

Station Name: East Chop-Squash Meadow, between

Latitude: 41.4650 Longitude: -70.5367

Location is just west of GR C “W”

Mean Flood Dir: 131° (T)

Mean Ebb Dir: 329° (T)

Date	Time (LST/LDT)	Event	Speed (knots)
2018-07-18	03:49 AM	slack	- 2018-07-18
	06:52 AM	ebb	-2.08
2018-07-18	10:07 AM	slack	- 2018-07-18
	12:25 PM	flood	1.54
2018-07-18	04:25 PM	slack	- 2018-07-18
	07:28 PM	ebb	-1.99
2018-07-18	10:49 PM	slack	-

Enter between the lighthouses on the headlands of West Chop and East Chop. The harbor mouth is more than a mile wide at its outermost extremity, narrowing gradually upon approaching the inner harbor breakwater and the ferry wharf at harbor's head.

Buoyage on entry is gauged to deep draft vessels: however due respect must be paid to the rocky ledges along the eastern shore of West Chop, beginning at Allegheny Rock (marked by Can "25") and west of Nun "4".

MOORINGS AND ANCHORAGE:

Upon entering the harbor please hail the Vineyard Haven Harbormaster on VHF channel 9 and identify yourself as a Bristol Yacht Club cruise member. Please provide the Harbormaster with your vessel name and LOA. The Harbormaster will assign you a mooring. The harbormaster will be rafting the BYC boats, possibly up to 3 on a mooring. After you are provided your information ask the name of the boat(s) you are rafting with and whether it is already on the mooring. This will make it easier to locate. If you require directions to the assigned mooring, please ask.

FACILITIES:

Water is available on the face of the town dock. The harbormaster requests that you limit your time at the face of the dock to 15 minutes. A dinghy dock available for your use is located on the North side of the town pier and also on the north side of the Steamship Authority slip. Showers and bathrooms are also available in the Harbor Department building ashore from the town dock.

During July and August there is usually a launch service available from the Black Dog Wharf. They can be hailed on VHF channel 72.

See more details at:

<http://newenglandboating.com/destinations/vineyard-haven-harbor/>

GATHERING:

Wednesday evening will be a free evening to explore the Vineyard and dinner options on your own or with other fellow BYC cruisers. Enjoy!!

July 20, 21: Cuttyhunk Harbor



DAY CAPTAINS : July 20th - Alan and Marilyn Dimson-Doyle, Freedom 35, Sea Rose
July 21st - Bev and Steve Russell, Pearson 34, Wings of Gold

DISTANCE: From the prior nights port Vineyard Haven (18.5 NM)

NAVIGATION:

Cuttyhunk is at the tail end of the Elizabeth Islands chain. The following is one possible route with the starting point being Vineyard Haven. The intent is to give those who have not sailed this particular route a sense of time and direction needed to arrive safely and comfortably. As with any advice, this should be viewed with a critical eye, adjusting your course to what seems best for you. Current times are based upon Eldridge Tide and Pilot Book as well as AyeTides, an app that provides tides and currents.

Currents

Vineyard Haven: Depart Thursday, July 19th West
Chop 0.2 miles west of Vineyard Sound
Ebb Starts: 0456 hours – 241 degrees True
Flood Starts: 1020 hours – 059 degrees True

Quick's Hole: Arrive Thursday, July 19th
South End (Lat: 41.4383 N; Long: 70.8417 W) E
Flood Starts: 1150 hours – 140 degrees True

Ebb Starts: 1612 hours – 300 degrees True

Using tidal current charts for Pollock Rip Channel (pages 72 – 83), a favorable current would be 2 to 3 hours after Ebb starts (0456 hours), suggesting a departure time from Vineyard Haven of 0700 or 0800 hours or soon thereafter. The current turns unfavorable at Quicks Hole 3 hours after flood starts (1450 hours), providing approximately a 6 to 7-hour window to travel the 18.5nm or so, depending when you leave Vineyard Haven and on how you sail. Getting to Quick's Hole after 2 pm could be challenging for the novice sailor.

Tides

West Chop, Martha's Vineyard

High Tide: 0511 hours

Low Tide: 1044 hours

High Tide: 1746 hours

Quick's Hole:

Low Tide: 0721 hours

High Tide: 1352 hours

VH: RN6 (41*27.7' N; 70*35.8' W) to R2 Gong (41*29.2' N; 70*35.5' W) > 1.4 nm

R2 Gong to GC "25" > 0.5 nm

GC "25" to 41*27'; 70*43' (End of Middle Ground) > 5.4 nm

41*27'; 70*43' to G "1" Fl G Bell (41*25.8'; 70*50.4'/Entrance to Quick's Hole) > 5.7 nm

G "1" to GR Fl G "Lone Rock" (41*27.6'; 70*51.0') > 1.8 nm

Lone Rock to RW "CH" Bell (41*26.6'; 70*53.4') > 2.1 nm

RW "CH" Bell to RN "2E"/GC "1E" (41*26.3; 70*54.2') > 0.7nm

RN "2E" to R "6" Bell (41*25.6'; 70*54.8') > 0.9 nm

If you leave Vineyard Haven by about 0800 hours, you'll have a good tide and favorable current to round West Chop and make your way down Vineyard Sound. Wind direction and speed will certainly be a major factor in your choice of routes. The route outlined above is one possibility that takes you south of Middle Ground. Certainly, one could chart a course more toward the middle of the Sound, keeping Middle Ground to the south. The current is favorable at Quick's Hole until 2:00 p.m., there is ample time to meander down the Sound.

There is also the option of going through Canapitsit Channel between Cuttyhunk and Nashawena Islands, just be sure you are on an ebb tide when doing so. It is not a recommended route for the faint of heart nor for the novice sailor. For those who have not sailed this region, we would suggest consulting with any number of other sailors/cruisers in the club. There is a wealth of knowledge to be had from your fellow club members.

As an alternative, you can use the following route which will take you through the middle of the channel.

Leaving Vineyard Haven, here are the marks to follow:

Exit breakwater “8” to R “6”---To R “4”---To R “2” Gong/ FL G
Continue West, Keep C “25” to Port side { Middle Ground}
Continue to G“27” FL G ---C “29” FL G

ENTRANCE INTO CUTTYHUNK HARBOR:

Turn slight North to G “11” FL G Bell Through Quicks Hole South East entrance.

Try to stay in middle of channel when possible.

Please check your charts for water depths.

Keep well off Felix Ledge. Keep C “3” to Port.

Try to stay in middle of channel when possible.

Please check your charts for water depths.

Keep well off Felix Ledge. Keep C “3” to Port.

Turn West around North Rock.

Continue to RW [MO-A } Bell to C “1E” Keep it to Port

Watch for channel markers. Anchoring is available on Port side

Entrance for Cuttyhunk channel is on Starboard side C”9”——“8” is on the jetty wall.

Please observe sandbar on Starboard end of channel.

Follow fairway to mooring field.

MOORINGS AND ANCHORAGE:

Moorings balls are first-come, first served; no reservations are possible for moorings. You may pick up a mooring ball in Cuttyhunk Pond (well-protected but crowded), or in the area to the east of the harbor channel entrance (less crowded, and less protected). You may anchor in the area north of the harbor entrance channel but watch out for the rocks.

Should all the moorings in the harbor be occupied upon your arrival, you may raft with another BYC cruiser, up to three boats per raft, weather permitting. The mooring balls in the pond sprout a fixed ring on a 16-inch metal pole, so prepare a dock line to pass through the ring and onto your cleats. Fees for the moorings, \$45 per boat, are collected through credit card, cash, or check by the town skiff that makes the rounds at dusk.

Cuttyhunk’s Harbormaster is Capt. George Isabel, who may be reached on VHF channel 9, or by cell phone at (508) 971-1388. The Town runs a marina with slips available at \$2.50 per foot, plus electricity. You can reserve a dock space via DOCKWA. Information available on <http://www.cuttyhunkmarina.net/marina/>. The marina may be reached at (508) 990-7578.

The moorings outside the entrance are managed by Frog Pond Marine Moorings, 508-992-7530. They are \$35.00/day, cash only. They are the bright orange balls to the left of the channel as you approach Cuttyhunk. Similar to the inner harbor, you will need to run a line through the fixed ring on the pole.

Bay Keeper, the pump out boat, may be reached on VHF channel 9.

FACILITIES:

No launch service is available at Cuttyhunk, so you'll need your dinghy to go ashore. Leave it at the dinghy dock behind the marina slips. Ice, lobsters, fish, and ice cream are available on the town dock. Restrooms and trash disposal may be found near the dinghy dock.

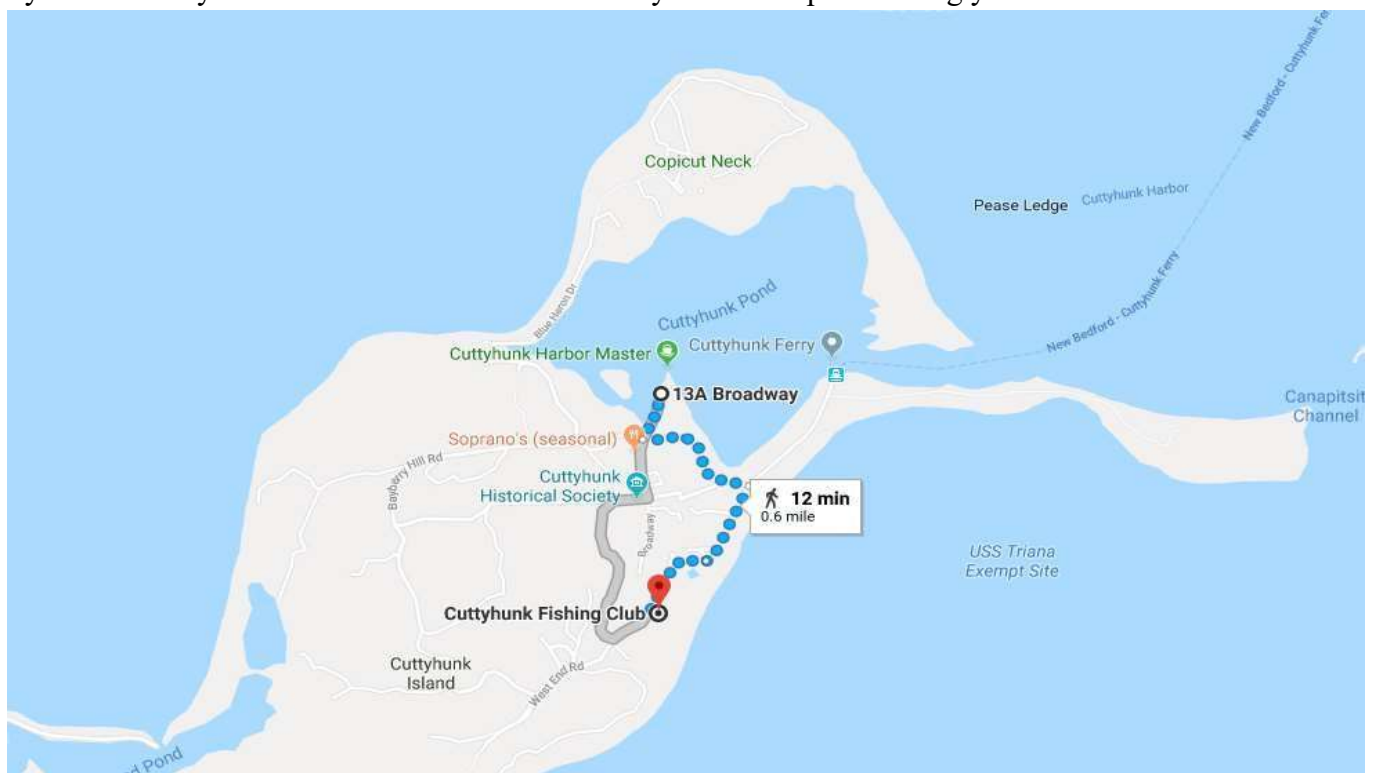
There is a floating raw bar that makes its way around the harbor each afternoon.

In Cuttyhunk...

- Walk to the observation tower at the top of the hill for a spectacular view, and good exercise.
- Visit the beaches and go for a swim.
- Tour the village, see the museum, and the old school, and visit the general store.
- Buy an ice cream cone, or a lobster, at the Town Dock.
- Watch the fishermen clean their catch on the Town Dock.

GATHERING PLACE & TIME:

Thursday Evening: There will be a dinner at the Fishing Club (see map below for location on island – walk is .6 miles) for those who have pre-registered. All invited to join us for drinks. Drink of day, Sea Breeze, will be available starting at 5:00, at the Club with dinner being served at 6:00. Cuttyhunk is a dry island so if you would like a beer or wine with your dinner please bring your own bottle.



Friday Evening: Please join the beach party at 6:00pm at the beach on the south side of the entrance channel about halfway down (see map below for location on island). Look for the BYC burgee, beach your dingy, and walk to the party. Bring some food — hors d'œuvres — to share, as well as a table and chairs if you have them. The drink of the Day will be White Port & Tonic.

July 22: Bristol Yacht Club



TIDES:

In Cuttyhunk Pond, the tide will be high at 04:39 AM. Once out into Cuttyhunk Harbor, the current in Buzzards Bay will turn north at about 1000

Current will be favorable up the Sakonnet beginning at about 8:09 AM, running north under the Tiverton RR bridge until 2:48 PM

DISTANCE: From prior nights port of Cuttyhunk (29 NM)

NAVIGATION:

Leaving Cuttyhunk, stay to the center of the channel.

In Cuttyhunk Harbor, head North (about 350°) keeping the Red Buoys #6, #4, and #2 to port.

Then, head toward the red/green Middle Ground Buoy MG (.5 NM at 296°)

Once there, your course is pretty much due West for about 12 NM to the entrance of the Sakonnet River. Be sure to give room to the Schuyler Ledge Buoy #2 as you turn the corner.

Head North on the Sakonnet. When you get to the narrow opening of the old Stone Bridge (Green #15 and Red #16), turn on your engine. The current can be very strong from this point until you get past the old Railroad Bridge (Green #15C and Red #16C) and there's not a lot of room to tack.

Once past Green #17, you can head toward Green #19, then Red #20, finally setting a course of about 236° for the center span of the Mount Hope Bridge.

Welcome home!