

Summer Rendezvous Round Up

Oak Bluffs Rendezvous

Our traditional first gathering of the year was held the weekend of 11-13 June and was a big success as



Large group, small caption space ... all look happy

always. We had a great turnout of both boaters and ferry-riders who joined the group on the Island.



Jim Morse and Hugh Blair-Smith dine out

Those who arrived Friday made their way to Vineyard Haven for the famous *Grace Church Lobster Roll Supper*, where \$13 buys you (no exaggeration) *fistfuls* of lobster salad.

Saturday morning brought the rest of the group, both in their own boats and riding on the ferry. We were



Mary Lou Walsh, Carol Spagnuolo, Gail Burke, Maryanne Morse, Nola Cloutier aka "The Hen Party" on the ferry to Oak Bluffs.



lucky to be there for the *Lighthouse Challenge Weekend*, so most of the rendezvous-ers took the opportunity to visit the Vineyard's lighthouses, hear their history and climb to the top for pictures. No one was able to visit all 5, but several made a valiant attempt!

Several groups also visited the famous [West Tisbury Farmer's Market](#) and one carload had lunch along *Squid Row* at [Menemsha Basin](#), just a few weeks before much of the

marina was destroyed in a huge fire. That group also made it to the other end of the island and rode the *On Time* ferry to Chappy where they toured the *MyToi Gardens*.



Sharyn Seasholtz and Liz Van Wye serving Dave Van Wye's birthday cake. Nice hats, ladies!

Saturday afternoon saw the famous – or is it infamous? - *Docktails Party* in place of supper. Every year sees more and bigger appetizers, and now no one bothers going out to dinner after a spread. Dessert was cake celebrating Dave Van Wye's birthday. Early evening brought light rain just as most of the ferry riders were preparing to leave. The boaters rode out the rain and cast off early Sunday to return to real life or continue on their summer cruise.

Egg Island Rendezvous

This year, the Egg Island gathering was sparsely attended for a variety of reasons. It seemed to be a perfect storm of boat problems and schedule conflicts. But several intrepid members and their parties survived the reenactment of Gilligan's Island and made it back to tell about it. Obviously, none of their boats is named *Minnow*!

Mark Downey and **Ian Ryan** and their guests made lemonade from lemons, and when the rising tide chased them off Egg Island, they had a second party of their own on Sampson's Island off Cotuit. **Jack Fox** and his family found the island deserted, so took off to do their own cruising. **Pat** and **Bob Palmer** went out to the island, found it empty, so they were forced to make do with lunch at the Hyannis Yacht Club.

Grand Illumination



On 18 August, we had a large group on the chartered boat out of Falmouth Harbor for the 141st Grand Illumination. The same program has been followed for all those

years, so veteran attendees know what to expect right down to the sequence of the songs played by the Vineyard Haven Band. But that tradition is exactly what *The Grand Illumination* is all about: a tradition since 1869.



Gail Burke and guest

One thing we did notice this year was the lower attendance among townspeople. There were plenty of people on the Island, the

restaurants were mobbed and the hotels all had no vacancies, so why the lower attendance in Trinity Park? Then it was suggested, probably rightly, that the hotels are all booked by the Obama retinue and the assorted followers: the security people who need housing, reporters and support people from the various news



Val and Tony Gulla whoop it up



Carol Spagnuolo (right) with two warmly welcomed guests

organizations and on and on ... so even though the hotels and restaurants were doing a great business, everyday tourists found no vacancy for a visit. It pays to plan ahead... or have your own boat!

Lobster Roll Cruise



A mighty, mighty portion of the traditional Lobster Bake.

On 21 August, we had our first Lobster Roll Cruise out of Sesuit Harbor. Judging from the enthusiastic feedback among the attendees, it may well end up our new August event in place

Next year, we're aiming for 50-60 people so we can charter the entire boat. Everyone had a great time in beautiful weather and calm seas.



A Paula Bacon cheer



Hugh Blair-Smith on a mission

The topside bar was very popular and the lunch downstairs offered huge portions of lobster salad and other entrees.

Ed Ruckle caught the brass ring on this trip. He was last to be served and the crew was apologetic that they'd run out of chicken for his Caesar Salad. So he was forced to make do with a Lobster Salad Caesar Salad. awww... it was tough, but someone had to do it and Ed rose to the challenge!



Gail and Hal Petersen ... Ed Ruckle in background

No one loses yet ...

See what events remain and choose to be there. After all, it is September on Cape Cod and only the most brilliant people know that this is "our" season. All events are quite memorable ... take a look.