

# CHESAPEAKE BAY PORTS OF CALL

## LISTED FROM SOUTH TO NORTH

(ES) = EASTERN SHORE and (WS) = WESTERN SHORE

Many boaters on the Americas' Great Loop Cruise and/or Snow Birds going South for the Winter and/or North for the Summer only plan to spend 5 to 7 days on the Chesapeake Bay. We tell them that they will miss most of the Chesapeake!

**The star ( \* ) ratings are purely personal, and only intended to give you a priority if you can not spare the time to see it all! (5 = best, 1 = least)**

For more complete information about marinas, phone numbers and web sites, we recommend that you visit the District 5, United States Power Squadrons web site at: < <http://www.usps.org/localusps/d5> >, go down the left Site Menu menu ("fly out") and scroll down to Local Areas Marinas - Map. Click on the Location (listed in bold below) you wish to visit for links to various marina web sites.

**(1) \*\* Norfolk, VA & Portsmouth (ES & Bottom of Bay), (Lat. 36.50'N--Lon. 76.17'W):** Waterside Marina, just south of the Navy Base. Large shopping mall across street from marina. Maintain a wide berth (no photos of naval ships and/or installations), security is tight and serious. If you start into the Chesapeake Bay and get heavy seas from the north and want shelter, duck in behind Willoughby Spit on the south side of Hampton Roads. Otherwise, go up the Hampton R. (see (3), below).

**(2) \* James River (WS), (Lat. 36.59'N--Lon. 76.18'W):** Only if you want to go to Colonial Williamsburg, VA or Jamestown, VA.

**(3) \* Hampton, VA (WS), Sunset Creek (Lat. 37.00'N--Lon. 76.20'W):** Several marinas, the first is Bluewater Yachting Center.

**(4) \* Cape Charles, VA (ES), (Lat. 37.16'N -- Lon. 76.01'W):** -- Bay Creek Marina. A small town that died after the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel was built, now experiencing a revival.

**(5) \* Hayes, VA (WS), Mobjack Bay (Lat. 37.18'N -- Lon.76.27'W):** Severn River Marina. \*\*\*\* Trans-Atlantic Diesel for diesel service & repairs. Call as far ahead as possible for arrangements Tel: 1-(800) 927-9295 or Tel: (804) 642-9296 <[www.TADiesels.com](http://www.TADiesels.com)>, Email: [tadinc@earthlink.net](mailto:tadinc@earthlink.net)

**(6) \*\*\* Irvington, (WS), Rappahannock R.(Lat. 37.40'N -- Lon. 76.26'W):** Tides Inn on Carter Creek. A 4 star resort and marina with golf and all the amenities; jackets/dresses required in dining room. Windmill Point (shut down after hurricane Isabel).

**(7) \* Deltaville, VA (WS), Broad Cr. off the Rappahannock R. (Lat. 37.34'N--Lon. 76.19'W):** for most marinas. **Off of Piankatank R.** for Deltaville Marina on Jackson Cr. and best anchorage's (Lat. 37.33'N -- Lon. 76.19'W).

**(8) \* Reedville, VA -- (WS), Crockrell Creek. (Lat. 37.50'N -- 76.17'W):** Reedville Marina on Crockrell Cr. A quaint town that thrived on the menhaden fish processing industry.

**(9) \* Smith Point, VA (WS), Little Wicomico R. (Lat. 37.54'N--Lon. 76.14'W):** Smith Point Marina. Also, duck in anchorage in creek. No redeeming features other than a sheltered spot that has an easy in and out.

**(10) \*\* Washington D.C. (WS), Potomac R. (Lat. 38.53'N--Lon. 77.01'W):** Gangplank Marina - 90 miles from the Bay. A wonderful one week side trip, but not considered part of the Chesapeake Bay. You can also anchor in Washington Channel and use facilities at Capital Yacht Club. Either way, you are an easy walk to the subway and in the middle of the monuments, museums (all free) and sites.

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**(11) \* Onancock, VA (ES), (Lat. 37.43'N--Lon. 75.50'W): Onancock Creek:** Onancock Town Wharf Marina. A nice little town that is not experiencing a revival. It never had the downturn. Because of its isolated Eastern Shore location, it is just caught in an 1950s time warp.

**(12) \*\*\*\*\* Crisfield, MD (ES), (Lat. 37.58'N--Lon. 75.52'W): Annemessex R:** An absolute MUST - the seafood capital of the Eastern United States. The only marina is Somers Cove, a state marina - pool, stores in town for provisioning. Take the time to go to Tangier Island, Smith Island and the Eco Tour - tour boats only. Restaurants in Crisfield are good - a favorite is the Captains Table.

**(13) \*\*\*\* Solomons Islands (WS), (Lat. 38.19'N--Lon. 76.27'W): Patuxant R.** A NO MISS Port on the Western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Plenty of good protected anchorage. For least expensive fuel - Calvert Marina. Use Spring Cove marina for dockage because of their many amenities and near by restaurants. Provisioning at an outstanding grocery store with excellent take out food and bakery department. Nearby liquor store. The town has a wonderful watermans museum and many gift shops.

**(14) \*\*\* Choptank River area & Tilghman Island (ES), Knaps Narrows (Lat. 38.43'N--Lon. 76.20'W): Choptank R. / Tilghman Island.** You could go to Oxford (Mears marina) on the Tred Avon River or (Marsh Creek Marina & Hyatt Hotel) in Cambridge on the Choptank. We prefer going to Tilghman Island and the famous Harrison's Chesapeake House - which has a few transient slips. Harrison's is where James Mitchner wrote some of his book - CHESAPEAKE. We like Tilghman On Chesapeake Yacht Club - tell Dock Master Paul Davis that Judy and John Gill said to dock there (walking distance to Harrisons or they will send a courtesy car) .

**(15) \*\* Harrington Harbor South (WS), (Lat. 38°.44' N--Lon. 76°.33'W): Herring Bay.** There are two Harrington Harbor Marinas - South, the tourist spot and North, the working mans / maintenance marina with a West Marine store nearby. HHS has a pool, restaurant and a convenience store across the street with courtesy car to North and West Marine.

**(16) \*\*\* \* Annapolis, MD (WS), (Lat. 38.59'N--Lon. 76.29'W): Severn R:** Another Don't Miss, particularly if you wish to tour the U.S. Naval Academy (make sure it is open to the public). Yacht Basin Marina is within easy walking distance of the down town area and the Academy. Others prefer Mears Marina because of the amenities (water taxi or dinghy to town). Ego Alley (first come first served with only water and electric) in the center of town. There are moorings in the harbor with a dinghy dock in Ego Alley. Lots of shops to visit, light provisioning, excellent restaurants (we like Maria's for Italian and Buddy's for seafood). Fawcetts Marine Store is also in town.

**(17) \*\*\*\* St. Michaels, MD (ES), (Lat. 38.47'N--Lon. 76.13'W): Miles R:** A Must See Stop! St. Michaels Inn and Marina, or the St. Michaels Town Dock Marina (closer to town) - both are very good. You can anchor just outside the creek. The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is worth a visit. Restaurants are excellent. For crab picking and beer, go to the Crab Claw. Good town for provisions and shopping.

**(18) \*\* Kent Narrows (ES), Kent Island (Lat. 38.84'N--Lon. 76.15'W):** The narrows between the Chester River and Eastern Bay. We like Mears Marina - pool, Annie's Restaurant; shops and other restaurants within walking distance. Not a quiet place on the weekends during the Summer.

**(19) \*\*\* Chestertown, MD (ES), (Lat. 39.12'N--Lon. 76.04'W):** Up the **Chester R** : Take a 25 mile side trip up the beautiful Chester River to the Chestertown Marina and Old Wharf Inn or anchor across the river in the no-wake zone. Visit historic Chestertown and see the tall sailing ship Sultana. If you want to dine in style, and money is no object, make reservations in the restaurant in the Imperial Hotel on High Street.

**(20) \*\*\*\*\* Baltimore Inner Harbor (WS), Patapsco R (Lat. 39.17'N--Lon. 76.36'W):** Another DON'T MISS Port of Call. This pleasure craft friendly Port City has much to offer. We like Inner Harbor EAST Marina because of its amenities and location. Plan to visit Ft. McHenry where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner; the National Aquarium; the Science Center; Phillips Restaurants and food court and shops; Fells Point antique shops, bars and restaurants; little Italy restaurants. Purchase a water taxi ticket and leave your boat in the slip!

**(21) \*\*\* Rock Hall, MD & Swan Creek (ES), (Lat. 39.08'N--Lon. 76.16'W):** Between Chester R. & Fairlee Ck: Good anchorage in Swan Creek and also Haven Harbor Marina - 2 pools, bar, ships store & gift shop. In Rock Hall - Rock Hall Landing Marina - pool, Waterman's Restaurant next door. An old fashioned ice cream parlor and shops in town with a narrated trolley ride from the marinas around town.

**(22) \*\* Fairlee Creek (ES), (Lat. 39.16'N--Lon. 76.12'W): Fairlee Creek.** Good anchorage inside the creek entrance (follow chart and buoys carefully). Noisy on weekends. Great Oak Landing Marina - pool, ships store, golf course, bar, restaurant, and motel accommodations.

**(23) \*\* Wharton Creek (ES), (Lat. 39.17'N--Lon. 76.10'W):** Between Fairlee Ck & Sassafras R: Good anchorage inside the entrance to Wharton Creek. Wharton Creek marina - pool, ships store, fuel, and restaurant.

**(24) \* Still Pond (ES), (Lat. 39.20'N--Lon. 76.08'W): Between Wharton Ck & Sassafras:** Good anchorage in Still Pond except for NW wind - crowded on weekends. Also, behind the Coast Guard station in Still Pond Creek (check channel depth with USCG). No marinas or restaurants.

**(25) \*\*\* Georgetown, MD (ES), Sassafras R (Lat. 39.22'N--Lon. 75.53'W):** The second river South of the C & D Canal. About 3 miles up stream is Turners Creek on the South side of the river just past Ordinary Point - one of the best hurricane holes on the bay. Good anchorage inside no wake zone (past buoy #9). Eight miles up stream from mouth of river are 7 marinas, including Georgetown Yachting Center. Two J's V home port is the Sassafras Harbor Marina - pool, ships store & gift shop, activities center, picnic area, deli restaurant. The Kitty Knight House Inn and Granary fine dining restaurants are within walking distance.

## ENJOY THE CHESAPEAKE BAY!

**(26) \*\* Engineer's Cove / Chesapeake City, MD, C & D Canal (Lat 39.32N--Lon 75.47 W):** A good place to stop between the Chesapeake and the Delaware Bays with a good protected anchorage area. We like the Bayard House restaurant and also the Tap Room in town for steamed crabs. The Chesapeake Inn Restaurant & Marina (good dockage; very good restaurant but a bit expensive).

**(27) \* Summit North Marina, C & D Canal (Lat 39.35N--Lon 75.35 W):** 7 miles from the Delaware River. A good place to stop for a jump across the Delaware Bay to Cape May, NJ. Check for Depth & Tide.

**(28) Delaware City, DE (WS), Delaware R (Lat 39.35N--Lon 75.35 W):** Delaware City Marina. A few miles North of the C&D Canal across from Pea Patch Island.

**(29) Lewes, DE (SW end of Delaware Bay), (Lat 38.47N--Lon 75.09 W).** A delightful town with much to offer (See reprint of article from the Great Loop LINK - Vol 5, Issue 1, January 2003).

**(30) DELAWARE BAY to Cape May Canal. Next stop is Cape May, NJ.** Stopping on the Cohansy River in NJ is NOT recommended due to the very swift currents on the river.

**(31) \*\*\*\*\* CAPE MAY, NJ (Lat 38.56N--Lon 74.54 W):** MARINA RECOMMENDATION - South Jersey Marina, Cape May, NJ. Recently (2005) made into a Transient marina with great amenities. Dockmaster's Tel: 609-884-2400.

