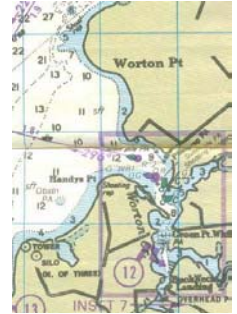




## Fishing & Fish Fry - Grill Tournament Raft-up

### September 25, 2010



Boats attending:

*Champagne*  
*Silent Running*  
*Jo-Lin-Dy*  
*Fortune Hunter*

*Contigo*  
*penury's prize*  
*Windependent*

*Annie Eileen*  
*Paisano*  
*Windsprint*

*Narsilion*  
*Sly Fox*  
*Imagine*

It seems whenever NSHSA Boats get together good things happen. The NSHSA Fishing Tournament and Fish Fry/Grill Contest began early for *Paisano* and *Jo-Lin-Dy* when they enjoyed a great evening sail on Friday to Worton Creek to lay claim to the best crabbing waters in Worton. Rafted together, *Paisano* and *Jo-Lin-Dy* planned their assault on the crustaceans who called Worton Creek their home.

Saturday morning found eleven NSHSAer's setting course in a light southerly to meet the 1300 hours Fishing Tournament starting time. Dedication and commitment began early with *penury's prize* having to turn on the 'iron genny' because of a inoperative jib roller furling, and *Contigo* needing to put-in port temporarily to replace their starting battery. *Annie Eileen* sailed down from Havre De Grace, while *Windsprint*, *Sly Fox* and *Fortune Hunter* found only the light southerly wind and were forced to motor. Joann of *Windependent* sailed with *penury's prize*.

*Silent Running*, the Official Tournament Fishing boat arrived ahead of the inbound NSHSA Fleet to set the anchor in the deep waters just off the Governor's Tree...a well known hangout for 'big game fish'.

*Champagne* approached the Worton Creek R2 Channel Buoy, only to head back out to sea to enjoy sailing in the increasing wind and risk winning the 'Calamity Cup' by 'sailing large and on the edge' through the Worton Creek Channel within 'spitting distance' of *Narsilion*. *Champagne* and *Narsilion* sailed up to *Silent Running* within minutes of the Fishing Tournament Start.



Objects are closer than they appear

## Fishing Tournament Begins

With the Fishing Tournament underway, things got serious....seriously fun. Linda Ubelacker became the Tournament's unquestionable master sport-fishing person demonstrating her skills of baiting, landing, unhooking the fish. Not only hers, but if you were on *Silent Running* fishing, your fishing tackle was fair game. No one will believe this, but Linda actually speaks 'fish'.

Sort of like a 'fish whisper' getting tips on how to get the big ones and the best mutual fund picks. With most everyone fishing from *Silent Running*, the competition was intense. How, Donna, a guest aboard *Silent Running*, Frederique and Marc of *Champagne*, and of course Linda managed not to 'knot' their lines together, is still a mystery.



Linda the 'Fish Whisperer'



Donna nets another one



Frederique waiting for the 'Big One'

Meanwhile, more sedate activity was taking place on *Jo-Lin-Dy* who turned 'Watermen' for the day. Having expertly set their 'chicken necks', it was easy for them to harvest the 'Keepers' in their net. The first netted crab resulted in a 'shriek of surprise' by Linda Yates that was heard clear to Pooles Island. The easy life would soon change for *Jo-Lin-Dy* in the Fish Fry / Grill Preparation Phase.



Linda and John working as 'Watermen'

No one was really sure what Clem's (*Paisano*) unusual fishing technique would produce. And Bill on *Imagine* had two lines out, a book on his lap, his head back, eyes closed, and dreaming of winning the 1<sup>st</sup> Place trophy?

The afternoon temps hovered around 90<sup>0</sup> while all of this high energy fishing activity was accomplished under the watchful eye of Bill Ubelacker who had the difficult task of judging the caught 'game fish, while ensuring not to get hooked himself. Accurately measuring a large flipping / flopping fish is not done on the first try.

### Fishing Tournament Results

In total, there were seven (7) fish caught and five (5) Crabs....all 'keepers'. With each fish or crab caught there were cheers congratulations and encouragement. Honorable mention needs to be made of the 'really big fish' that broke the line and got away....not sure whose fishing line was broken, but rumors persist.



It would be easier if they would hold still!

With measuring scale in hand, Bill of *Silent Running* determined the results of the Fishing Tournament.

**Big Fish 1st Place – Donna on *Silent Running* with an 18 inch Catfish.**  
**Big Fish 2nd Place – Linda on *Silent Running* with a 16 inch Catfish.**



Fishing Competition was Intense

## Food Preparation / Tasting Contest as seen through the words of PC John Molnar

As the years pass by, memories seem to become compressed. They blend together and in that blending they tend to wash away. Not quite forgotten, but unless reminded would never again be recalled. For me that's true of NSHSA raft-ups. I may have attended one-hundred but have difficulty recalling more than a dozen. They have to be truly special to stick in this slippery mind of mine. This past week's fishy, fishy, fry raft-up has been pasted in with Gorilla Glue.

I'm sure that's true, in part, because Tom Schmidt asked me to chair the food-judging committee. A perfect job for an overweight gourmand who can't keep his mouth shut. However, in greater part it's true because the chefs among our membership took the time, the effort and the inspiration to prepare some exceptionally fine dishes. Also, the three other members of the committee, Heidi Bowser, Jo Ann Palmer and Linda Yates each possessed a discriminating palate and delivered persuasive, well-expressed opinions about the food. It was a delight to both chair the committee and to eat at the chair.

Elke Fox prepared an exceptional dish that Jarvis dubbed *Poisson au jardin*. It was a Flounder cake seasoned with fresh herbs from Elke's garden and garnished with haricot-verte and cherry tomatoes also from Elke's garden. I watched her prepare the dish with the loving attention it deserved. That morning's freshly picked herbs had a heavenly aroma. Every part of that dish was true Elke, so pleasing to the eye so delicious to the tongue.

I have never ordered catfish while dining at a seafood restaurant. Linda Ubelacker opened my eyes to what a tasty treat this can be. She caught it, she cleaned it, and she cooked it. She deserves the plaudits it received. The effort that Linda went through to skin the fish was practically monumental. Not an easy task I must say. The judges devoured every morsel. Linda, it was worth the work.

Editor's Note: There is nothing like trying to skin and filet a 16" catfish in the hot sun with a dull knife.



OMG !!

Linda Yates prepared crab cakes. Not true ... Linda Yates prepared *Crabcakes par Excellence*. The crabs she picked she also caught fresh that very day. Seven crabs in all, I believe. Backed up with purchased crab meat (just in case), Linda prepared both varieties. The delicate flavor of crab is enhanced with just the right amount and combination of spices. To get that right and not overwhelm the crab takes a master's touch. I've never been able to do it, and I know by experience that many restaurants cannot do it. Linda does it. These were the best I've had in years. The cakes made with freshly picked crabs, of course, tasted better, but both were superb.

Editor's Note: Linda raised the temperature inside *Jo-Lin-Dy's* cabin to above 95<sup>0</sup> when steaming the crabs, but this paled in comparison to the fever pitch of activity by John Yates chasing the loose 5+ inch crabs trying for one last chance at freedom around in the salon and galley.

Ah Frederique! What a lucky man is Marc. To be able to eat dishes like that every evening. Perfectly grilled salmon blended with shallots and champagne! One had to know that both her nationality and her boat name made it imperative for her to use champagne in its preparation. What exquisite flavor, served at just the right temperature and just the right firmness; a true chef's touch. Then, just to show that she's also rough and ready, she prepared some fried catfish caught that day. It was a true tour de force example of culinary expertise.



Frederique and Linda 'slicing and dicing' - YUCK

Editor's Note: Frederique proved herself just as handy with a knife in the hot sun as Linda...Frederique cleaned two of the slippery little guys in record time.

He may have organized the raft-up and overseen its smooth operation but that didn't stop Tom Schmidt from taking the time to enter a dish called *My Favorites* into the competition. A starburst of brisling sardines radiated outward from a pyramidal mound of Oreos interspersed with bright red buttons of pepperoni. All of which was served with his favorite beverage --- Scotch Whiskey. I discovered that his favorites were also mine, especially the latter. I took several samplings. However, since the dish was only assembled and not cooked, we had to award it last place. 'Tis a pity.

Editor's Note: Not really sure what kind of rock this was (would need Earl Green for this), but we were sure it was not a Rock Fish. Sorry Clem...nice try.



**And then there was the victor.**

To be able to rise above the previous panoply of provisions the dish had to be grand indeed, and Bonnie Shearer made sure of that. Her *Tilapia Mango* was, in a word, magnificent. Perfectly grilled tilapia served with a spicy mango salsa and coconut rice all topped with a Möbius-shaped orange slice was remarkable. Prepared under the judges eyes it was clear that Bonnie was no newcomer to a chef's kitchen. She employed the skills of a restaurateur by using fine china, cutlery and cloth. The flavors meshed wondrously, the appearance was gorgeous and the dining experience was first-rate. Congratulations Bonnie!



Bonnie chases Clem away from the Grill

**Congratulations to all entrants and to the well-reasoned efforts of the judges.**



Bonnie    Linda    Donna

### **50 / 50 Raffle**

In addition to the excitement of the Fish Tournament, Fish Fry / Grill Contest there was a 50 / 50 Raffle. Anna of *Annie Eileen* took command of the adults and collected a sizeable pot. By flashlight, standing atop a picnic table, Anna pulled out the winning ticket....and the winner was Bill Schearer of *Imagine*. It seems all that snoozing paid off handsomely.

### **Epilogue**

As the moon rose in the sky, so did the wind out of the north. After a little rearranging in the anchorage, everyone settled comfortably into the cool of the night breeze. Sunday morning rewarded everyone with a 15 to 18 knot northerly with some intermittent rain. This gave everyone a pleasant sail back to home port.

All of the fun would not have been possible without the huge effort of the participants of the Fishing Tournament and Fish Fry / Grill Contest. Lots of energy goes into creating the environment for everyone to have a memorable experience. Whether fishing, preparing an award winning dish, judging the contestants entries, hawking the 50/50 tickets, or supporting & applauding the contestants....it takes everyone. **A special note of appreciation goes to the Fishing Tournament & Fish Fry / Grill Participants and the Judges.**