

Waypoint: *“Waypoints typically mark either points along a planned route, or locations of interest”*

- The American Practical Navigator/Bowditch

Harbormaster Waypoint 4

Fellow Boaters:

Things have gotten much quieter around the waterfront since Labor Day. It's unfortunate that many plans were ruined by the remnants of Tropical Storm Hermine over the holiday weekend, causing many of you to haul your boat out rather than using it. Some of you have chosen to just leave them "on the hard" for the winter – at this point, you're ahead of the game.

The Labor Day storm resulted in 7 boats breaking free from their moorings and going aground – 4 on the east side of the island, and 3 on the west. All of the boats were successfully refloated with minimal damage. An inflatable dinghy from Dutch Harbor also went missing for about two weeks, but an alert kayaker spotted it in the tall grass of Sheffield Cove and reported it. It was recovered and returned to its owner. Even though we are into October now, the threat of hurricane is still out there, in fact, as I write this, Hurricane Mathew is wreaking havoc in the Caribbean, and might head our way in the coming week. I ask that you double check your boats and moorings to ensure everything is in order should we have to deal with another blow.

As activity winds down on the water, we are turning our attention to administrative chores. In the Harbor Office we have sent out dozens of notification letters for non-use of moorings per the Harbor Ordinance. As a result, some people have reevaluated their desires to maintain their moorings, and decided to relinquish them. That will make some on the wait list very happy!

Like many of you, I am developing plans to haul, clean, winterize and store both of the town's harbormaster boats. Currently, the plan is to take them out after Columbus Weekend.... another hurricane might cause that plan to be modified. My season as the Harbormaster ends on October 31st. I intend to write one more "Waypoint" with a recap of the season and a look ahead before I am done for the year.

Open communication is essential...My office number is: 401-423-7249. My cell number is 401-265-3990. If I'm out on the boat, you can hail me on VHF Channel 16, and we'll take it to another channel.

Please remember that we all share the same goal: to enjoy our time on the water in a safe and responsible way.

See you on the water!

Be safe!

Mark Campbell
Harbormaster