

Up the Bay

Sunday, August 11 – Friday, August 16, 2024

MURDER ON THE BAY

Join us this August for your VYC weeklong cruise to familiar ports of call filled with great meals, new activities, and a “murder mystery” from 2023 that needs your help to be solved.

*Help us solve beloved (or perhaps not-so-beloved) past Commodore and Club Treasurer Hugh Riley’s murder, which sadly occurred during the VYC Up the Bay Cruise in 2023. All of you are suspects! Join renowned detective Benoit Blanc (and your fellow suspects) in unraveling the clues and solving the murder by Friday night. All week you will receive clues, look for one in this invitation. Your next clue will arrive upon receipt of your registration and check, which are due **Thursday, June 20**.*

Catered heavy hors d’oeuvres/ light dinner and cocktails served by our Fleet Captain will greet us in our first port of call Sunday in Solomons! Monday morning join us under the tent early for made to order omelettes, with bacon and sausage before you leave. Can likely sleep in . . . we cannot arrive at St. Michaels until after 1pm and it is a short trip. *Don’t forget that Hugh left Solomons alive in 2023; there are bound to be clues to be found.*

Monday afternoon we arrive in St. Michaels Town Marina. Dinner that night will be at The Crab Claw Restaurant. Come ready to pick as many crabs as you want, or feast on steamed shrimp, crab balls, O-rings, fries, hush puppies, and more (burgers & chicken available). Kick off your St. Michaels stay with all you can eat!

Interestingly, St. Michaels is where the body was found, and mystery began in 2023. Likely lots of clues in town, two cemeteries to explore. For those of you with us last year, remember Captain Jerry showed up on the premise of engine problems? Ha! Who can fix an engine that quick. And then another obvious clue that the fake Hugh Riley was an imposter, Jerry had to drive the boat back and poor Debbie had to drive back to Hampton.

Tuesday morning, we have a guided tour at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Yes, many of us have been there before, but not in their NEW visitor/welcome center. There will be time after the guided tour for you to explore on your own until box lunches arrive. We’ve reserved a room inside for lunch. Then the afternoon is your own (shop, look for clues). Docktails at 5pm will bring us together again before we all go to dinner. We’ve made reservations at three favorites in town and have asked you to rank them 1,2,3 of your preference on the registration form. We’ll start filling up the spots and honor your requests on a first come, first serve basis, so get those reservations in (no later than **June 20**). You will settle your bill with your server.

VYC Club members are the most likely suspects whether they attended the cruise or not. Local St. Michaels police closed the case after a short investigation because the cause of death . . . head trauma due to a fall after cocktails! Very doubtful. The insurance investigators vaguely labeled it “natural causes.” Widow Debbie knows it must have been murder!

Wednesday, on to Annapolis. The afternoon and dinner are on your own. But we have to get together once a day, so stop by after dinner for a scoop or two of ice cream on host boats (we’ll let you know where). The Commodore loves ice cream at night, so we had to accommodate his wishes.

Only a few days left to solve the mystery. You will receive clues every day during the cruise. And what is the tie in between the murder and Annapolis? Why would Detective Blanc insist that we go to Annapolis? Bound to be more clues to be found there. And last night at the ice cream social?!? What an interesting development.

Thursday morning is your own time before we meet at 1:30 for the Historic Food Tour. Walking shoes are a must, but worth the stroll to learn about the city, and of course sample the food. We’ll finish up at Annapolis Ice Cream Company around 5pm. But we’re not done, Docktails at 6pm, and movie night at a couple of host boats at 7:30. The movie, a murder mystery of course!

Final day of clues – a final autopsy report arrives. Look for your final pieces of the puzzle. This will be solved!

Friday, our final day starts with a tour of the Museum of Historic Annapolis and then the afternoon is your own. Cocktails and dinner will be at Carrol's Creek Café, just across the bridge. Transportation will be provided if needed. Later you will be asked to select an entree for the plated dinner. Final farewells and safe travel for all will be had. Oh, and yes, the big, "WHO DONE IT!" Detective Blanc will gather everyone at dinner and (hopefully) solve the murder mystery!

Registration and check are due by Thursday, June 20, 2024. Follow instructions on registration form.

A detailed schedule and registration form is enclosed. Any questions, contact your Cruise Directors:

Andrew McRoberts 804-337-3988

Laura Dudley 804-305-5853

Hugh Riley 757-869-9687

Debbie Riley 757-880-0097

If mystery-related, contact Detective Benoit Blanc DetectiveBenoitB@gmail.com

Slip reservation information was sent out earlier but attached again.

The following is hotel information. No block of rooms has been reserved, just suggestions:

Solomons Island - Hilton Garden Inn

St. Michaels – Old Brink Inn (Ricketts & Coyles stay last year, very nice), Parsonage Inn, George Brooks House, St. Michaels Harbour Inn.

Annapolis – Annapolis Waterfront Hotel, 80 Compromise St., The Maryland Inn of the Historic Inns of Annapolis, 16 Church Circle

Last Clue (Before Registration): World-famous detective Benoit Blanc says he was "invited" to join us for this cruise to solve this mystery, but no one is sure exactly who did the inviting. Your cruise directors have learned that he received a stack of cash in a plain manilla envelop with a newspaper clip of the incident in St. Michaels and the write up from the "Scuttlebutt" about the "Harvest Moon Up the Bay 2023 Cruise, which suspiciously made no mention of the incident. On the envelope was information regarding the 2024 Up the Bay Cruise and "check it out, please" written in sharpie. You are welcome to join the detective and your fellow suspects as we get to the bottom of it all!

