

In 1982 my wife and I sailed into Manteo Harbor on our beautiful 37 Ft., center cockpit motor sailor, sloop "Celeste" with idea that we would spend the summer at the town docks and return to Fla. and the Bahamas in the winter.

We fell in love with the place and we saw someone moving out of a lovely apartment overlooking the harbor and found out it was for rent again, so we crabbled it and it came with a private dock for our boat.

That fall a small group of sailboat owners living on their boats decided to have a sailboat race on Labor day - the group included Glen van Suskil of the Island Trader - Steve and Amy Musil of the "Good Sign" - a trimaran and Carl Bock from Wanchese with a 28 or 30 Ft. sloop. There may have been another boat or two.

After the race we all gathered on the Island Trader for a few and I brought up the idea of starting a sailing yacht club and everyone thought it was a great idea

That fall I talked it up - contacted Tony McGowan who owned the "Currant" a local news paper and he gave a great deal of PR and we had a meeting in a hall that the town provided- and we were greatly surprised at how many people showed up, from all the towns on the beach and Manteo.

The next summer we had many races just north of the dug channel down Roanoke Sound.

The next year Pete Hunter was commodore and it was the celebration of the 400th year of the English colony on Roanoke Island and Princess Anne was there and our club was active in the affair and we hosted a convoy of about 100 boats from Elizabeth City with Walter Kronkite in the lead boat. We made Walter an honorary member of our club that day.

Those were exciting days !!!!!

A few years on - most of us moved to Colington Harbor and along with members already living there, the club ended up in Colington Harbor instead of Manteo.

In retrospect I wonder if we had been better off staying in Manteo, because the town was behind us 100%, in fact our Yacht Club flag pole is still there.

Living in the Outer Banks for 21 years was a wonderful and exciting experience and we miss the many, many friends we had there!

Good luck in the future and may all your wind be on the beam or quarter!!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth and Bob Buchanan