

LOG OF THE *MIMI* - 2005.....2

CHAPTER 9 – Kent Island, MD..... 2
Ralph Visits & *MIMI* Haul-Out..... 2
 Monday, September 19, 2005, Temple, TX 2
 Tuesday, September 20, 2005, Inner Harbor East Marina, Patapsco River, Baltimore, MD..... 2
Hurricane Rita 3
 Wednesday, September 21, 2005, Harrison Boat Harbor, (Grasonville), Kent Narrows, MD 3
 Thursday, September 22, 2005, Harrison Boat Harbor, (Grasonville), Kent Narrows, MD..... 4
 Friday, September 23, 2005, Harrison Boat Harbor, (Grasonville), Kent Narrows, MD 4
 Saturday, September 24, 2005, Anchored, Miles River – Parrott Point (St. Michaels), MD..... 5
 Sunday, September 25, 2005, Anchored, Wye River – Drum Bay, Maryland 6
 Monday, September 26, 2005, Docked, Chestertown Marina, Chester River, Chestertown, MD..... 6
 Tuesday, September 27, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Patapsco River, Baltimore, MD 6
 Wednesday, September 28, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD 7
 Thursday, September 29, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD..... 7
 Friday, September 30, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD 8
 Saturday, October 01, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD..... 8
 Saturday, October 01, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD..... 9
 Monday, October 03, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD..... 9
Hurricane Rita – Recap & Aftermath 10
 Photo Gallery..... 11

LOG OF THE *MIMI* - 2005



CHAPTER 9 – KENT ISLAND, MD

Ralph Visits & *MIMI* Haul-Out

Monday, September 19, 2005, Temple, TX

Temple, TX:

Baltimore, MD:

Hurricane Ophelia gave us concern last week as she slowly churned her way north up the Carolina coast to Virginia and beyond. Bob Grote hauled-out *Ragtime* (Viking 56) for the second time this season... it's getting old but better safe than sorry. Bob and Sue are okay but report that the Cat 1 storm was ugly but relieved that it wasn't worse.

Hurricane Watch: Issued by the National Hurricane Center, Miami, FL at 2:00 pm EDT, Sunday...
“TROPICAL DEPRESSION EIGHTEEN . . . DEPRESSION SLOWLY ORGANIZING AS IT
NEARS THE BAHAMAS . . . A HURRICANE WATCH IS IN EFFECT FOR ALL OF THE
FLORIDA KEYS FROM OCEAN REEF SOUTHWARD AND WESTWARD TO DRY
TORTUGAS . . . INCLUDING FLORIDA BAY.” TD 18 will soon become Hurricane ‘Rita’.

My shuttle flight to DFW was delayed an hour and with only 50 minutes for my connection, it looked like I would miss the Baltimore flight... mad dash through the terminal and the new DFW shuttle system, it's really fast. The Baltimore flight is late and I walk right on as they closed the door behind me... whew! The next flight would make Baltimore around 11:30 pm. Ralph is already on board; he drove in from Cleveland, TN... we nightcap and turn-in.

Tuesday, September 20, 2005, Inner Harbor East Marina, Patapsco River, Baltimore, MD

Mid 60's – Low 80's – Clear, Wind E 10kts

TS 18 (Rita) is gaining strength as she nears the Florida Keys.

Before departing for Harrison Boat Yard, at Kent Narrows, we drive to Fells Point and pick-up our Foster's order. Ken & Helen made arrangements for our slip to be rented to transients while we were away but Ralph may have to go back to Tennessee on the 29th... set-back! He says we'll see... may not have to go until I do October 3rd. We're slip away by 11:00 am; it's a beautiful day and a nice cruise. We make the Kent Narrows draw bridge just in time for the 1:00 pm opening... way to go! At Harrison's we have just a 15 minute wait for the lift and *MIMI* is quickly hauled-out and pressure washed.

We go over the work order with owner Dave Harrison then walk to the 'Crab Deck' for.... A dozen Maryland steamed crab and a couple of pitcher's of Yuengling beer... mmmmmm good! Large crab sold out over the week-end so the large we bought weren't. We finished our 2-hour 'lunch' by 4:00 pm and walked back to the boat yard just in time to meet with Liderman Tamayo to spot gel coat repair locations. Wanting to get the boys off to a good start, we provided with a few Foster's... we'll get a good job!



We staying at the new Hilton Garden Inn, across the street from the boat yard where we shower and catch up on 'Rita's' activity in the Key's, I attempt to get my new notebook computer to do email... it takes a call to son Drew for help... he'll have to get back with me tomorrow! He may have to come along on all future trips just to keep the computer working! Don't think so.

Hurricane: 'Rita' is building to Category 2 and although the Keys weren't heavily damaged. The projected current track takes her across warm Gulf of Mexico waters with landfall between Galveston and Corpus Christi. This could be a bad one.



By 8:30 pm we walk to 'The Jetty' bar & restaurant about a block from the hotel for crab cake sandwiches on the deck overlooking the water... a really beautiful full-moon night!

Hurricane Rita

Wednesday, September 21, 2005, Harrison Boat Harbor, (Grasonville), Kent Narrows, MD
Low 60's – Upper 70's – Clear, Wind E 10kts

I'm up early and blow an hour on the computer attempting to make email work (no luck) then walk over to the boat yard. Our crew is already hard at it prepping for the bottom job and working on gel coat stress cracks and dings... about 43, most very minor including some sander marks at teak steps from manufacture. One of Harrison's guys pulls the bow thruster prop to change oil and grease the shaft.

Ralph and I go to work on the fresh water pump. It's located behind the port engine and under the 12" exhaust pipe... challenging access best made by a guy 4' tall with 4' arms! We get it going but discover a broken check valve so we 'improvise' by inserting one in the water line and removing the one from the pump.. it works. Problem is, there's a slight drip from the new check valve, very slight. Need the 4' guy again, wrapped around the exhaust pipe trying to tighten the 4 screws and nuts, this turns out to be another 45 minutes of hell. The leak is less... 1 per minute... it must be warped but it'll have to do until I can buy a replacement. We call it a day and return to the hotel for happy hour. We have dinner at 'Fisherman's' next to the hotel... a bucket of 50 Cherrystone clams appetizer followed by fried oysters... emmmm good!

Hurricane: Rita exploded into a category 5 monster today with 168 mph sustained winds. More than 1.3 million people have been ordered out of the Galveston-Houston area. Governor Perry activated 5,000 National Guard troops and the Pentagon said 300,000 troops are on standby. The U.S. coast has only been hit by five Cat 5 hurricanes.

Thursday, September 22, 2005, Harrison Boat Harbor, (Grasonville), Kent Narrows, MD
Low 60's – Upper 70's – Wind E 10kts

My computer is still not communicating... now because the battery is too low... cell phone too... gotta get chargers from the *MIMI*. At 8:00 am, the crew is already applying a second bottom coat and finishing the gel coat repair. Harrison installs a device to automatically retract the trim tabs when the ignition is turned-off... good for the hydraulic shafts to be retracted (no marine growth) and it takes pressure off the cylinders... kewl. Ralph is having a reaction to new cholesterol medication that makes him feel bad and light-headed... not good.

Hurricane: 'Rita' winds are gusting to 215 mph with 50' seas near the eye. She appears to be tracking a little more to the north and east. New Orleans is definitely concerned with the possibility of heavy rain and what that could mean to the levee's recently repaired following hurricane '**Katrina**'. **News:** The Senate Judiciary Committee voted this morning to recommend Judge John Roberts to the full Senate for confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court.

'Lider Sea' completed the bottom job and gel coat repair and finished up with a wash job late this evening. Ralph & I watch '**Rita**' on TV... unbelievable storm. Galveston and Houston is being evacuated and I 45 is bumper to bumper taking as much as 12 hours to make 15 miles! One evacuee said she was "buying toilet paper," when asked what she was buying in preparation for the hurricane. A Galveston Fox News reporter repeatedly told of "massive beach erosion" since yesterday, pointing at rocks below the sea wall that weren't visible before. Duh! The tide was up and they were under water! There could well be massive erosion but it's a too early for that now.



We have dinner at the 'Crab Deck' served by 'Radar' – he looks just like Radar on the old 'M.A.S.H.' TV series; I have a platter of shrimp, little neck clams, mussels and steamed crab... Ralph had ... flounder stuffed with lump crab imperial... emmmm! Good! Ralph had to help with mine. Back at the hotel the little lobby bar is open... and I couldn't not pass up a Glen Fiddich single malt scotch. I really needed that... yeah right!

Friday, September 23, 2005, Harrison Boat Harbor, (Grasonville), Kent Narrows, MD
Low 60's – Upper 70's – Wind E 10kts

Ralph is still not feeling well from a new cholesterol Rx. We walk to the boat yard at 8:30 am and test the auto trim-tab retractors; they work but the timer doesn't run long enough for them to close entirely... set back! Matt with the yard makes a call and the factory make-up a unit with a longer timer. It'll be ready late next week.

The fuel truck we ordered arrived at 9:00am and we take-on 500 gallons of diesel. Everything is complete and before splashing we borrow Dave's car for a quick trip to the local 'Safeway' for provisions; we're back on the *MIMI* and splashed by 11:00 am. When about 300 yards away from the dock when we realize we forgot our frozen food stored in Harrison's freezer... we call and they deliver it to the end dock and we're on our way. *MIMI* looks and runs great... turning 25kts easily with less than 75% power on a slick bottom.

We cruise down Prospect Bay to Eastern Bay and anchor at the mouth of the Miles River and St. Michaels. After a quick sandwich we relax and watch the many boats, mostly sail, arrive to this anchorage. It is a beautiful afternoon with clear skies and the seas 'FAC'... not a ripple. Watching boaters anchor is almost as entertaining as watching a boat ramp. Entertaining too would have been watching me trying to get the satellite TV receiver working for an hour and a half (where's Betty when you need her?!). Now we can watch non-stop Hurricane '**Rita**' coverage. '**Rita**' has been down-graded to a Cat 3 storm with 125mph wind and now taking aim at Port Arthur, TX., 2.7 million have evacuated the hurricane warning area

making it the largest evacuation in U.S. history. Bad news... the New Orleans levees have again breached and the city is flooding again!

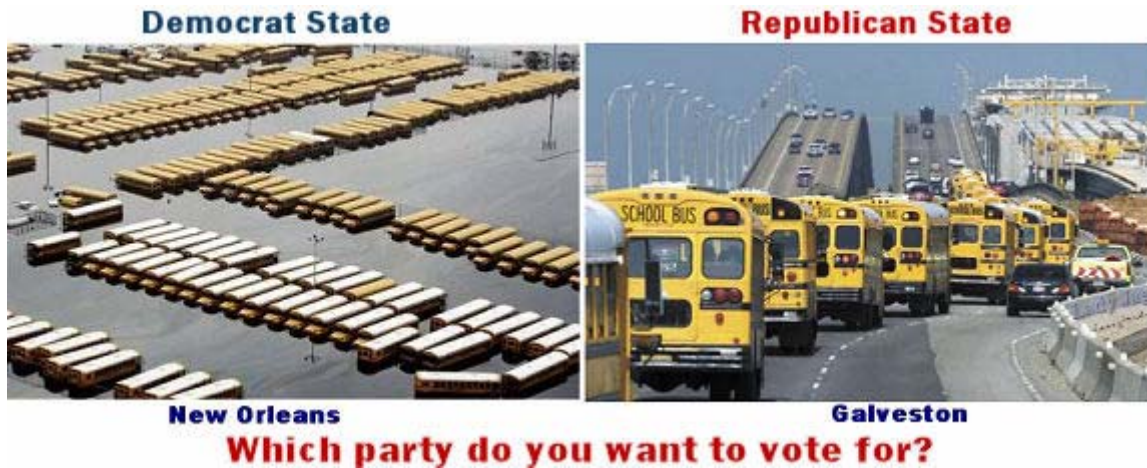
The wind kicks up out of the north and our swing is a little too close to a nearby sailboat so we up anchor and re-set. We have grilled Yellow Fin Tuna salad and continue watching non-stop 'Rita' coverage. Ralph turns-in early and I fall asleep watching TV but am abruptly awakened by the anchor dragging alarm around 11:00 pm... it's a slow drag but we must re-set because of the many boats anchored close by. Ralph is awakened by the sound and vibration of the engines and we raise anchor and move where there's plenty of room to put out more rode, and drop the hook.... Boink – Boink... we're set and holding.

Saturday, September 24, 2005, Anchored, Miles River – Parrott Point (St. Michaels), MD
60⁰ – 73⁰ – Overcast, Wind NE 15kts, Seas 1-2'

Hurricane Rita: Rita made landfall as a CAT 2 at the Texas / Louisiana border around 2:00 am this morning. Galveston and Houston 'dodged a bullet' being on the 'clean' side of the storm. Concern is now about the evacuee's return and that future hurricane warnings may not be observed as well because: 1) The miserable gridlock on the interstates, and 2) The fact that the hurricane did not make landfall where first predicted.



The wind is still rocking us... we're on the end of a northwest fetch this morning. Most of the sailboats in the anchorage are departing, a good day for sailing. We dink in to St. Michaels and tour the 'Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum'; it was my second time this summer, but worth it. We finish by noon and have steamed crab lunch at the 'Crab Claw'; we're proud at having only a half dozen... no over-stuffing for us!



The nearby Wye River is winding and narrow and will afford wind protection tonight. A crabber is running his traps nearby so I give it a try with a chicken wing... no luck! It's still pretty windy and our boat swing is probably challenging crabs to keep up?

We have a great cocktail hour followed by a fine dinner of corned beef brisket, steamed broccoli and cauliflower... Ralph cooked and I cleaned. We predict we won't stay awake for the entire movie but we were wrong; the WWII submarine DVD U571 is action packed. I'm soooo glad Ralph is feeling better; he says if they can't find a medication that doesn't make him feel so bad, he'll just have to control the cholesterol with a serious change in life style and diet, yeah right!!! More exercise by sailing more again, and changing cocktail hour from 4:00 to 7:00 pm to a more reasonable 5:00 to 7:00 pm. No doubt 3 Rum and coke can still be had in that time!!!!.

Sunday, September 25, 2005, Anchored, Wye River – Drum Bay, Maryland

60° – 70° – Overcast – clearing after noon, Wind E 5-10kts

We checked our crab-line first thing and no crab... no chicken-wing bait either! After momentary thoughts that a crab had taken the bait, we came to our senses... it must have been dragged off with the constant boat swing. We gave up, deciding we're not crabbers... except for the eating part.

We up anchor and cruise up Eastern Bay to Kent Narrows... good bridge tender... he held the bridge about 10 minutes for us... very unusual. It's a beautiful cruise up the Chester River with lots of sail boaters and blue skies. We arrive at Chestertown around 2:00 pm and tie up on the tee-head. There is a terrible, loud band playing in a nearby park... we escape by walking to town.

Historic Chestertown has served as Kent County seat since 1706; it was a Royal Port of Entry for the colonial movement into Maryland. Home of Washington College; George Washington gave to the "College of Chester" the authorized use of his name. High Street (Main Street) is lined with old shops and a wide brick sidewalk... fortunately most of the shops were closed so our walk around town took only a short while. There seem to be a lot of homes for sale; little frame houses that are extremely expensive. One such 2 BR, 1 BA home at 230 Cannon Street and built in 1880 was listed at \$399,000!!



We have dinner on the deck of the 'Old Wharf Inn' overlooking the marina; Broiled Grouper topped with Crab Imperial... emmmm good! 'Meet the Fockers' entertains us tonight... it's our second in a row that we've stayed awake for the entire feature.

Monday, September 26, 2005, Docked, Chestertown Marina, Chester River, Chestertown, MD

60° – 70° – Overcast – Wind SW 15-20kts (Temple, TX - 108°)

Hurricane **Rita** has made her way northeast and wind and thunderstorms are forecast for today and tonight so rather than stay out another day we head for home to Baltimore Inner Harbor East. The bay was rough but the 2-3' seas were on our port stern and it was a good ride. We fuel-up and pump-out at Tidewater Yacht Services then Captain Bill Flohr (dock master) helps us on the tie-up in our slip.



Doing a windy, full wash-down, I lack only the hull and am stopped by rain. The wind picks up and our wet dock-lines stretch so as the rain lets up, we engine tighten them... oh, oh! The water hose was still in the water... it's now considerably twisted and much shorter! CRS! We get things put away and it rains most of the night.

Yellow Fin Tuna and veggies for dinner followed by 'Water World'... it's a gottado once a trip... amazingly we saw the whole thing... could be a first. Three consecutive movies from start to finish... certainly a record for us.

Tuesday, September 27, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Patapsco River, Baltimore, MD

59° – 80° – Clear, Wind E Light & Variable (Temple, TX 102°)

I don't get it... why won't my new computer hook-up 'Wi-Fi' and on and on.... I finally make 'Wi-Fi' connection on the bridge and John gets me into the Omega computer by 11:00 am... now we're getting somewhere! Unfortunately for now, I have to go through the Omega computer to get email... slow. Ralph and I make a trip to West Marine... it's got to be the worst in the country; you can seldom find half of the items on your list. Ralph finds a jacket he's been wanting though. We go on to 'Home Depot' for a few 'nice-to-have's' and return in time for computer consultant Daniel's 3:00 pm scheduled call; it finally

comes at 6:00 pm... could it be the time zones?? Don't think so! He gets me going; I think... we'll see tomorrow.

We grill chicken on the Electri-Chef spit... it just doesn't get any better... then watch 'Scent of a Woman', our 4th complete movie in a row... good job Al Pacino.

Wednesday, September 28, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD
56^o – 80^o – Clear, Wind E Light & Variable

I'm up early attempting to computer connect with the office... no luck... later I find that the office system was down due to some new equipment not working. I spend most of the morning working on the center section of the bridge enclosure to secure it in high wind; we've had the problem of 'flippity-flapping' when underway in windy conditions... a real pain.

Comments from Ralph.....After fighting the bad side effects of my cholesterol medicines while *MIMI* was out of the water I decided to quit taking it so I could enjoy the cruising life again, *MIMI* can work miracles as I felt better right away. As always we had a great relaxing time, no matter whether we anchor out, dock at some new landing, or just back at the "home" base dock chilling out. My biggest entertainment is watching Capt Jim trying to get his new computer on line and amazingly the help coming from Texas, they hook up, take control of his computer and then "send it back" changed, fixed, or whatever they do. I do not even try to understand what they are doing; it would wear out what's left of my old brain! Got to leave early, but I do appreciate the 9 glorious days on the Chesapeake with Jim and the *MIMI*, only thing that would have made it better is having Betty and Jeanne with us, maybe next time.

Office computer is (supposedly) up but I'm still down... more set-back! I finally reach John and he clues me in that the new email system requires logging onto the 'Omega VPN' (virtual private network)... okay all they had to do was tell me (and remind me) and it works. Except my contacts list isn't connected... a tomorrow project.

At a little after 5:00 pm we walk to 'Roy's' ... with free drink tickets courtesy of Helen; we had 2 'Hawaiian Martinis' and Roy's fabulous appetizer. The drink recipe is fairly simple; fresh pineapple stacked in a 5 gallon glass container and marinated in vodka for a week.

Hawaiian Martini
2 parts Vodka
2 parts Vanilla Vodka
1 part Coconut Rum
1 part Pineapple juice
1 slice of Pineapple



We've been planning on tonight being a 'crab-night' and we do it at 'Bo Brooks'... Jack, our weird waiter brings Ralph the wrong soup and over-all did a pretty sorry job... we speculate he removed several claws before serving our crab. The crab (large size) was the best this trip. We split a ½ dozen... just right... we weren't stuffed though we could easily have done a dozen they were so good.

Thursday, September 29, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD
48^o – 74^o – Overcast (cold front due at 12:00pm), Wind SW 15-20

It's cold this morning with a cold front due around noon. Sad day... Ralph returns to Tennessee. It's good he's feeling better for the long drive home. Cold, windy and light rain so after cleaning the BBQ grill, I do some inside stuff including loading 'Wx Worx' weather software on the new computer, updating the log with pictures, whipping dock-lines and other stuff... the day evaporates.

News: John Roberts is sworn in as the 17th Chief Justice of the United States by Associate Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens (R) during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

Left-over's for dinner with O'Reilly and early to bed.

Friday, September 30, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD

48^o – 74^o – Clear, Wind 5-10

Frustration... I was well connected on Wi Fi last night but not this morning! I'll hook-up the new 'SMC' 'Hi-power wireless PC card and we'll be 'hot'... yeah right. Windows message... the software is not 'Windows Logo' and that it could do damage to other programs... set back! I leave a Vmail for 'Port Networks' Wi Fi to call. Carl, of Networks Wi Fi calls and we spend a couple of hours trying to configure... he finally gives up... Bob will call later 'cause he has the real know-how!

When Bob doesn't call by 4:00 pm, I call and we work on it for an hour... now I'm getting the signal, on the internet but unable to connect to the Omega 'VPN' for email and connection into the office... I give up... taking the computer home Monday for our guy to get it working; they say the problem is 2 modems 'fighting'... whatever that means! More computer stuff... I need to load Garmin charts and need the access code... that's a 40 minute hold for the tech... got it and 'good to go'!

This week-end is the annual 'Fells Point Festival'; they say it's primarily an excuse to have a party and lots of folks come from all around. The marinas are full of transients; here at Inner Harbor East the 'Chesapeake Bay Grand Banks Owners' Association' is here with 34 'Grand Banks' trawlers... a big party!

Mimi (Betty) has grandson Zachary, while his Mom & Dad are in Cancun. Mimi is having a ball... I talk to Zach on the phone, but Grumpy talking out of a little box... he doesn't get it. **Sports:** The Astros magic number is "2"; any combination of Astros wins or Philly's losses and the Astros win the National League 'Wild Card' and they're in the play-offs. Tonight they loose a second game in a row to the Cubs 4-3 while the Philly's win.

Saturday, October 01, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD

48^o – 74^o – Clear, Wind 5-10

Cleaning day... don't want to wait until tomorrow the last day before returning to Texas Monday. Three loads of wash, change bed and bath linens, dusting and vacuuming.... It's a bitch of a job! I have Sushi for lunch, from 'Whole Foods,' and salmon corn chowder for dinner... good stuff.

After all this domestic work, I walk to Fells point to see what the festival is all about... Streets for about a 12-block area are closed to vehicles and there a lots of people... thousands... no beer or drinks allowed on the street so they create 'drinking pens'... roped-off areas on the sidewalk in front of bars,



where people cram in for a drink then back out on the street. All kinds of food and 'junk' booths; baked corn on the cob was good, German sausage wasn't, others included hot dogs, crab-cake sandwiches, burgers, etc.. A couple of bands were playing with some street dancing. All-in-all, it would have been more interesting if beer on the street were permitted.

Back on *MIMI* there's more to do... my list is getting shorter! Ken is sanding bright work so I have a rum and watch until Helen gets off work... she worked all day running the marina office; they're going to 'James Joyce' restaurant for dinner but I have salmon corn chowder and decline an invitation. Small world, I meet a lady on the dock who deals in longhorn cattle; buys and sells in Lockhart, TX... she wanted to know where Kemah, TX is and if affected by 'Rita'. Kemah is off Galveston bay and according to friends Sam & Cheryl Boyd, suffered only minor damage... tree limbs and such.

I talk with Ben & Cecelia this afternoon; they were with Tom & Joyce Shotten watching football and fixin to walk to the beach (Virginia Beach). They are undecided whether they'll be making the trip the Marathon this winter. In any event we'll stop and see them on the way down. Ben says 'Oregon Inlet' is shoaling badly and may not be an option... meaning we'd have to go off-shore to Beaufort or take the ICW to Coinjock and down. I gave Ben the phone number of the Coast Guard that had 'local knowledge' of the inlet when we came up, and suggested he call. Ben says they'll decide if they're making the trip and let us know next week.

Saturday, October 01, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD
52° – 79° – Clear, Wind South 5-10

By 8:00 am most of the CBGBOA boats are gone or leaving... some have a good way to go so they need to leave early. I finish domestic shit and preparation for the cruise to the Keys by 2:00 pm; today's list includes: Re-caulk master shower, spot clean carpet covers, clear refrigerator of perishables, haul trash, Fluids check and top-off engines, genset and transmissions, clean sea-water strainers and engine room and apply rust inhibitor to non-stainless items.

Monday, October 03, 2005, Docked, Inner Harbor East Marina, Baltimore, MD
Baltimore MD 65° – 81° – Clear, Wind S 5-10
Temple, TX 69° – 92° – Partly Cloudy, Wind SE 5-10

Up at 4:30 am and have plenty of time... no waiting on Betty to get moving! Both flights are on time and my car is waiting for me at the terminal... way to go! I stop to see Mom on the way and am in the office by 12:00 pm.

NEWS: President Bush today announced his appointment of Harriet Miers to succeed Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Her appointment is causing some strange political friction with Republican's unsure of her conservative credentials and some Democrats openly supporting her??



Hurricane Rita – Recap & Aftermath

Hurricane Rita was the seventeenth named tropical storm, ninth hurricane, fifth major hurricane, and second Category 5 hurricane of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season. This hurricane is on record as being the strongest measured hurricane to ever have entered the Gulf of Mexico, and the third most intense hurricane ever in the Atlantic Basin. After peaking in strength at 175 mph (280 km/h) steady winds, it made landfall between Sabine Pass, Texas, and Johnson's Bayou, Louisiana, at 02:38 CDT (07:38 UTC) on September 24, 2005 as a Category 3 hurricane, with windspeeds of 120 mph (190 km/h) and a storm surge of 10 feet (3 m).

The storm first struck Florida after making an approach near Cuba and went on to strike Texas and Louisiana. It is doubtful that Cuba saw sustained tropical storm force winds. A day prior to landfall, the resultant storm surge also reopened some of the levee breaches caused by Hurricane Katrina a month earlier, and reflooded parts of New Orleans. Post-landfall damage was extensive in the coastal areas in southwestern Louisiana and extreme southeastern Texas.

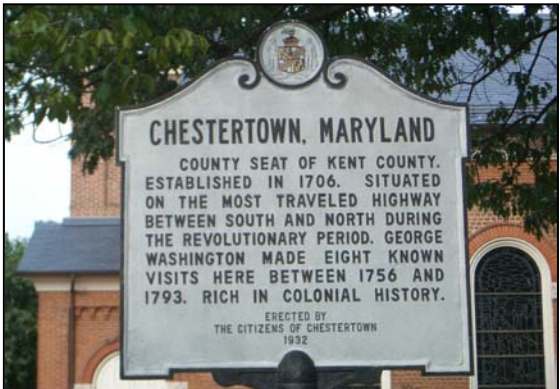
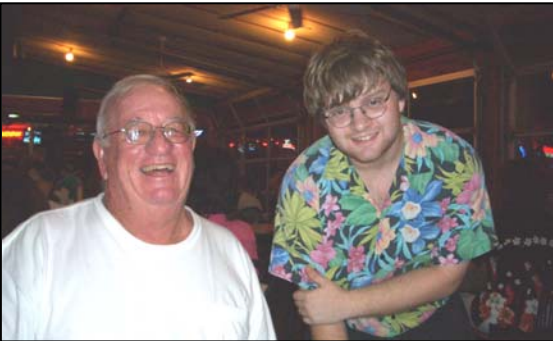
Because the Gulf of Mexico is a major center for crude oil production and refineries, as well as home to some of the busiest ports in the world, Rita initially presented the potential to do damage beyond the localized wind and wave surge. These concerns have so far not been realized, as no reports emerged of long-term damage to the major U.S. refining and shipping capacities in Houston, Texas City, Port Arthur, Texas or Beaumont, Texas. Power outages may have the greatest related effect.

NOAA reported Rita's record-setting Category 5 strength as a result of achieving a minimum central pressure of 897 millibars (hPa) (26.49 inches of mercury) on the afternoon of September 21, 2005. This record strength steadily diminished prior to landfall after Rita moved over cooler waters in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

North Atlantic				Landfall U.S.			
Rank	Hurricane	Year	Pressure	Rank	Hurricane	Year	Pressure
1	Gilbert	1988	888 mbar (hPa)	1	Labor Day	1935	892 mbar (hPa)
2	Labor Day	1935	892 mbar (hPa)	2	Camille	1969	909 mbar (hPa)
3	Rita	2005	897 mbar (hPa)	3	Katrina	2005	918 mbar (hPa)
4	Allen	1980	899 mbar (hPa)	4	Andrew	1992	922 mbar (hPa)
5	Katrina	2005	902 mbar (hPa)	5	Indianola	1886	925 mbar (hPa)
Based on data from: The Weather Channel				Based on data from: U.S. National Hurricane Center			

Top five most costliest Atlantic hurricanes since measurements began			
North Atlantic			
Rank	Hurricane	Year	Cost (In 2005 dollars)
1	Katrina	2005	Est. \$200 billion
2	Andrew	1992	\$45 billion
3	Rita	2005	\$8 billion (insured estimate)
4	Hugo	1989	\$15-16 billion
5	Fifi	1974	\$5 billion (1974 dollar)

Photo Gallery



<p>Sunset over <i>MIMI</i> on the 'hard' – Harrison Boat Yard Kent Narrows, MD</p>	<p>'Lieder Sea' worker Making hair-line stress cracks go away</p>
<p>Ralph with 'Radar' – The 'Crab Deck' Kent Narrows, MD</p>	<p>Anchorage outside St. Michaels, MD FAC</p>
<p>Ralph & Ralph Mid-morning Red Beer (Clamato & Fosters)</p>	<p>Chestertown Fixing to celebrate 300 years!</p>
<p>Jim & Dick & Maryland Steamed Crab – 'Bo Brooks Restaurant' – Baltimore, MD</p>	