



# CDSOA 2011 Maine Cruise

**Casco Bay Region, ME**

**August 8-12, 2011**

**PLEASE REGISTER BY AUGUST 3RD!**

Questions? Contact Event Organizer **Dave Bradbury** Ph: 603-470-7900; Email: dwbradbury\*NOSPAM\*@hotmail.com  
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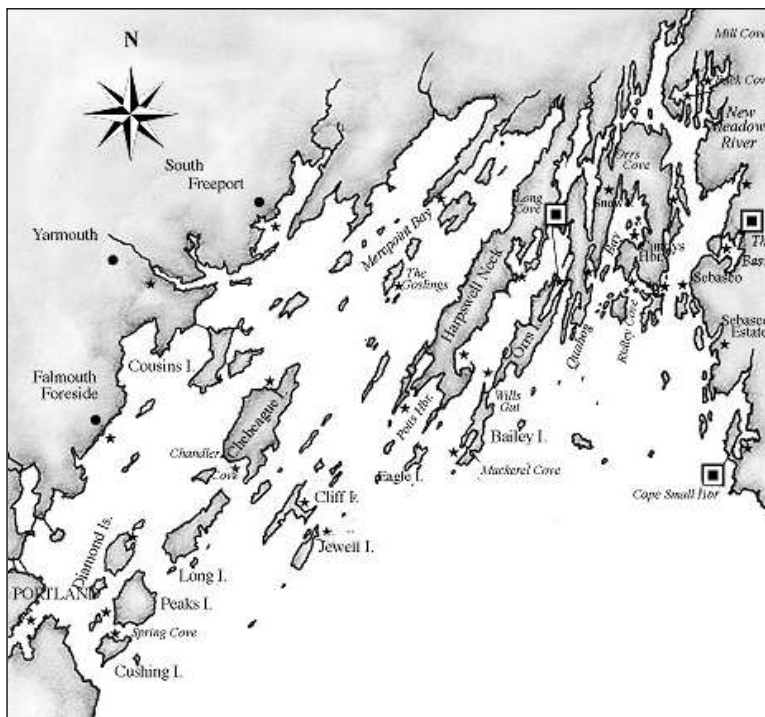
**Fleet communications will be on VHF Ch. 16 and 68.  
Please monitor these channels during the cruise.  
Hail the "Cape Dory Fleet".**

## Maine Cruise:

Mon, Aug 8 --	<b>The Basin (New Meadows R.)</b>
Tue, Aug 9 --	<b>Snow Island</b>
Wed, Aug 10 --	<b>Harpswell Harbor</b>
Thu, Aug 11 --	<b>The Goslings</b>
Fri, Aug 12 --	<b>Falmouth Foreside (Group dinner ashore at The Falmouth Sea Grill) -- approx. ? nm</b>

The focus of this year's Maine Cruise will be Casco Bay and surrounding area. Depending on where the boats are coming from, they may continue to arrive at the various anchorages through the evening so be sure to allow room for other boats to anchor nearby. If conditions are settled, please contemplate allowing another CD to raft-up with your boat – this decision is entirely up to the captain of each vessel.

Boats should begin arriving anytime after 2:00 p.m. In the evening we'll all gather on one or two of the boats for cocktails (this is where at least one 2-boat raft-up will be handy). So bring one or two snack items to share with the rest of the group and the fixin's for your favorite beverage. Then it's potluck for dinner. Whatever you bring is what we'll have, so bring enough to share. So don't leave home port without your dinghy!



**Casco Bay Overview**

## Monday, Aug 8 — The Basin (New Meadows R.)

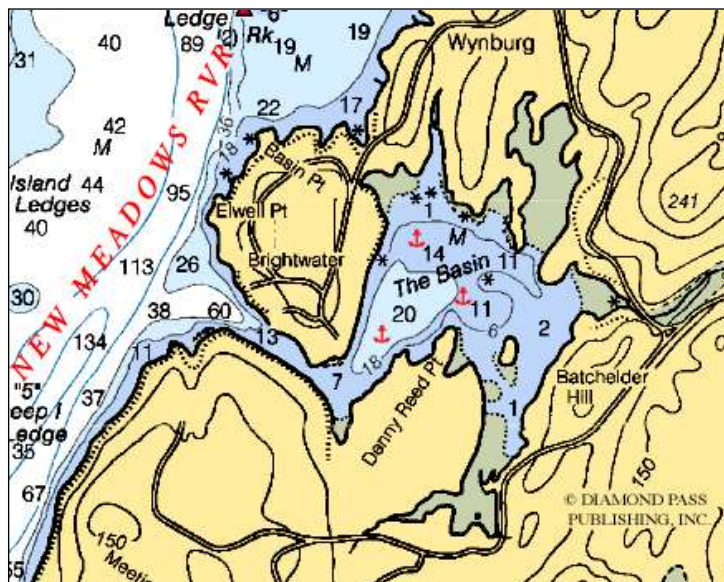
**Theme** — Here is what many yachtsmen dream about when they ponder the ultimate safe harbor—a small lake surrounded by rocky points and dark green trees, with barely a sign of human habitation, the water as still as a millpond, completely protected from every direction. The Basin is an extraordinary harbor on the New Meadows River, about two miles north of Sebasco Harbor. It is worth going out of your way to make the passage through the deep, narrow entrance and into the broad sanctuary beyond. In this part of the world, this is the best hurricane hole around.

Note — anyone for golf in the morning? (See Sebasco Harbor Float-in Aug 7 for details.) I am not a golfer, but it sure is fun seeing my swing :)

The Basin on a calm night feels like a high mountain lake far removed from the sea. To dispel the illusion, taste the water. Beautiful Basin Island is owned by the state and can be explored. However, this is a popular stop on the Maine Island Trail, and the steep banks of this tiny island are eroding. Walk softly. The Basin holds some of the warmest salt water on the Maine coast (67° F). The timid won't find a better place to take the plunge.

**Approaches** — Coming up the New Meadows River, pass Cundys Harbor and leave can "5" on Sheep Island Ledge to port. Look along the east shore for a slight indentation which marks the entrance to The Basin. A house with a pointed chimney is just to the north of the entrance. Turn right into the channel, perhaps 150 feet wide at low tide, and run straight down the middle. The channel narrows to about 75 feet at the left turn where slowed tidal current drops its suspended sediment. Controlling depth is 7 feet here, but turn wide around the bend to find it. Like magic, The Basin will open up before you.

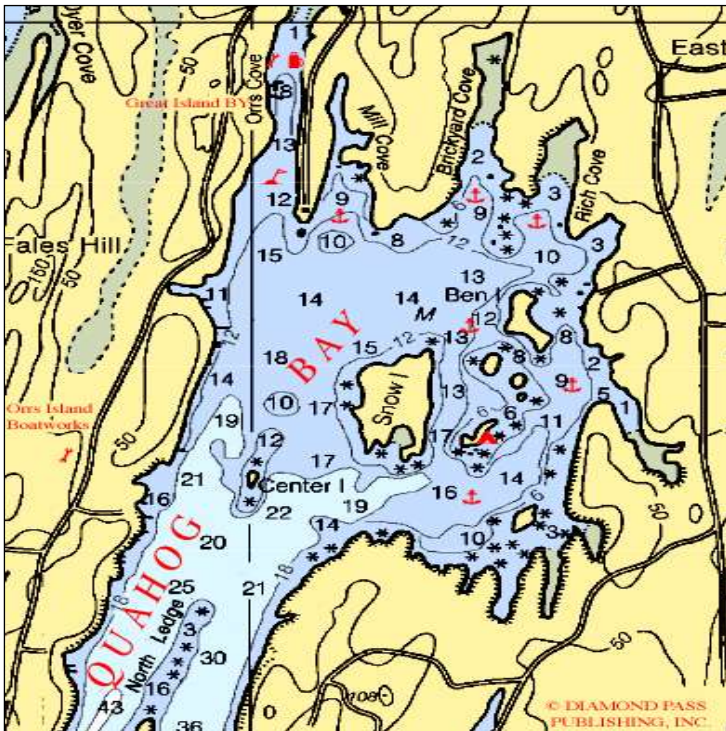
**Anchorage** — Anchor in the middle of the western part of the Basin, in 14 to 20 feet of water at low. The bottom is mud. Even at the height of the summer season, The Basin usually has only a handful of boats, and there is room for a fleet. Some boats work their way in close to the small island, Basin Island, to the east, or close to the rocky point of land that juts down from the north, but use caution. As benign as The Basin seems, the east side is shoal, and there is a ledge almost dead center, shown on the chart between two 11-foot spots, which claims its share of unsuspecting yachts. Pass either north or south of it but not over it. Anchor in the area indicated in the chartlet in **Figure 1** above right.



**Not for Navigation**  
**Figure 1 The Basin**  
43° 48.28'N, 069° 51.35' W  
Charts 13290, 13288, 13293 or Chart Kit 60, 17

## Tuesday, Aug 9 — Snow Island

**Theme** — Snow Island, at the head of Quahog Bay, is one of those idyllic anchorages you dream about in the dead of winter. It is a very special place—beautiful, tranquil, and, for the most part, uncrowded. Snow Island is the private retreat of world-famous sailor Dodge Morgan. A red cottage sits at its southeast tip, and landing is not allowed. In the 1980s, Dodge Morgan broke/set a new world record for a non-stop, single-handed sail around the world in his boat American Promise. You may see his latest vessel nearby, the stunning fan-tail steamer Quiet Presence, designed and built by Michael Porter on Chebeague Island.



**Not for Navigation**  
**Figure 2 Snow Island**

43° 45.64'N, 070° 00.26' W  
 Charts 13290, 13288 or Chart Kit 60, 17

above left.

Take your dinghy beyond Ben Island at high tide and turn right to explore a beautiful inlet. The southernmost of the islets is Little Snow Island, owned by the state. In these upper reaches of Quahog Bay, the water temperature is delightful and swimming is a pleasure, rather than an ordeal—even for those from the three-quick-strokes-and-you’re-out school.

**Approaches** – As you pass Pole Island, note the ledges extending northward. Tiny Center Island, with a spray of trees, is very obvious ahead. Bear to the right to avoid the rock south of center, then turn east and run south of Snow Island, which has a red house on its southeast tip.

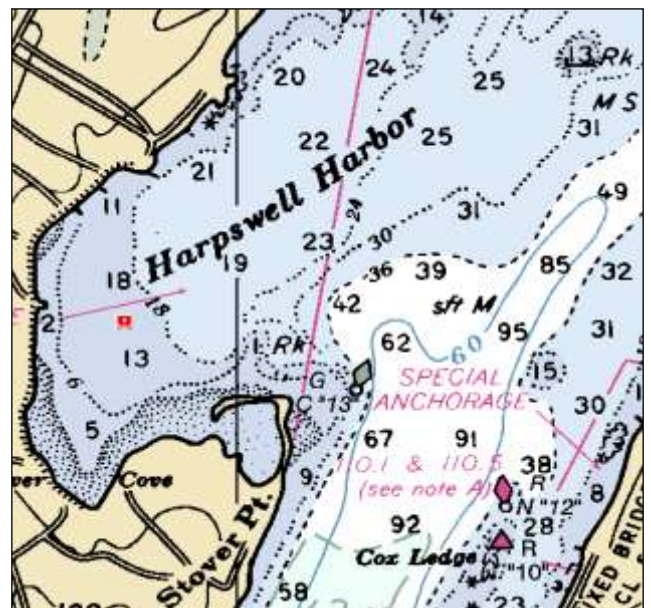
**Anchorage** – Anchor south and east of Snow Island in 16 feet of water at low. The bottom is mud and holds well. You can also anchor between Snow Island and the several islets to the east or work your way along the mainland east of Snow Island to anchor near Ben Island in 9 to 11 feet. Beware, though, of a possible uncharted rock located southeast of Ben Island, between the 2 and the 9-foot soundings. Conceivably this is what makes the 2-foot sounding 2 feet. But sailors Kym and Paul Cournoyer say Ratherby Rock, as it is known, is awash at low and when covered “has claimed its share of prides.” Anchor in the area indicated in the chartlet in **Figure 2**

**Wednesday, Aug 10 — Harpswell Harbor**

**Theme** – HARPSWELL HARBOR is a big, wide-open bay on Harpswell Neck at the entrance to Harpswell Sound. It is easy to enter and well protected from prevailing winds, so even though this is not the area’s most scenic anchorage, it may come in handy. The road leading up the hill is pretty and bucolic, but there are no stores nearby.

**Approaches** – Entering the harbor, leave can “13” to port and take a wide swing to the left and into the harbor to avoid the rock and the 1-foot spot off the elbow of Stover Point. One way to avoid the hazard is to leave most of the lobster buoys to port.

**Anchorage** – The Merriconeag Yachting Association is based here, and they graciously maintain a guest mooring, marked “MYA,” for visiting yachtsmen. Or you can anchor in about 12 feet of water at low, just outside the lobsterboat moorings, where the holding ground is good. You will be well protected here from the southwest wind, without a hint of roll. Anchor in the area indicated in the chartlet in **Figure 3** right.



**Not for Navigation**

**Figure 3 Harpswell Harbor**

43° 45.57'N, 070° 00.24' W  
 Charts 13290, 13288 or Chart Kit 60, 59, 17

## Thursday, Aug 11 — The Goslings

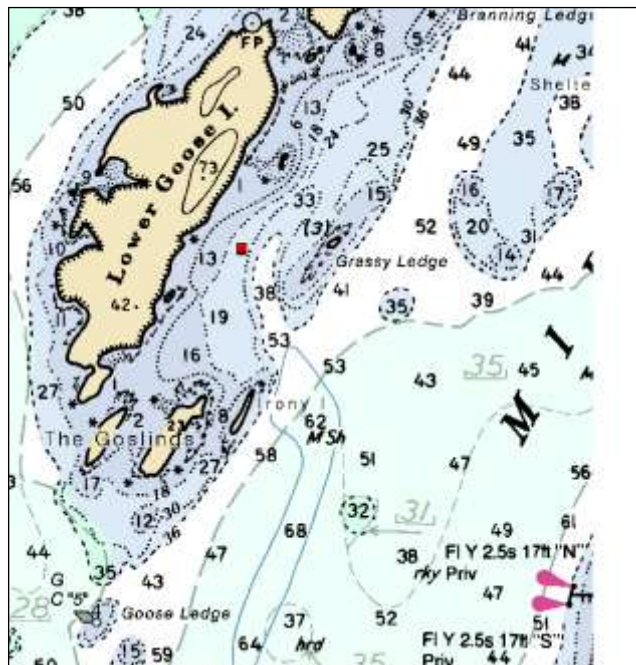
**Theme** — The Goslings are two small, privately-owned islands south of Upper and Lower Goose Island. The anchorage just north of the Goslings is one of the finest in Casco Bay. With the wind anywhere in the south, you can lie here with a surprising degree of protection and choose from several islands to explore. A minor detraction from the beauty of the scene is a platoon of oil tanks marching down to the water on Harpswell Neck across the bay. On a weekday, you might be alone here, but on summer weekends, the Goslings take on the air of a small, festive town with the constant arrival and departure of picnicking groups.

Land the dinghy on either of the Goslings to explore. There is a picnic table on the eastern Gosling and a lovely little shell beach. The water is clear, and the swimming is excellent. At low tide, the reason for the anchorage's protection becomes evident as you watch people wading across the sandbar between the two Goslings. The owners request that there be no fires except on the beach and that no wood be cut for the fires. When the tide is right, you can watch the seals sunbathe and belch on the northern tip of tiny Irony Island. By July, seal pups have joined the entourage and are often basking on the rocks with their mothers. A bronze plaque on Irony memorializes a captain of the Portland Pilot Boat who was lost off his cutter near this island in 1962.

**Approaches** — Run halfway between Irony Island and Grassy Ledge.

**Anchorage** — Private moorings have proliferated here in recent years, to the point where anchoring boats are forced into less protected waters. Recently one yachtsman tried to anchor and became so upset with the number of moorings he decided to do something about it—and he could. It turned out he was the head of the New England Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, which shares the permitting of moorings with local jurisdictions. Moorings without permits were removed, and new moorings are no longer allowed.

To anchor, find a spot in 12 to 16 feet of water, north of the eastern Gosling or a bit farther west. The heavy mud on the bottom holds well. Anchor in the area indicated in the chartlet in **Figure 4** above right.



**Not for Navigation**

**Figure 4 The Goslings**

43° 47.29'N, 070° 02.43' W

Charts **13290** 13288 or Chart Kit **60, 59, 17**

## Friday, Aug 12 — Falmouth Foreside

**Theme** — Falmouth Foreside is one of Maine's great boating centers and home to the Portland Yacht Club, the second-oldest yacht club in the United States. PYC's handsome old clubhouse overlooks an enormous fleet of handsome yachts, and the members heartily welcome visiting yachtsmen. Handy Boat Service next door can meet every need. The Handy Boat launch monitors channel 09, and the PYC launch is on 68. Row into either dock or to the town landing, one dock farther to the north, for convenient access to the Town Landing Market, .2 mile up the hill.

Note — there are a number of our CD'ians moored here. Perhaps local resources are available by simply asking.

Handy Boat Service (Ch. 09; 207-781-5110). Founded more than fifty years ago as a boat yard, Handy Boat now offers almost every conceivable service including an elegant chandlery and the Hallett sail loft. Major repairs of all kinds can be performed, and facilities include pay phone, ice, water, propane exchange, (electricity), and holding tank pump-outs (CAUTION — not accessible at low tide). There are two docks at Handy's, the southern one for gas and diesel and the northern one for service, with 8 ½ feet of water at the ends and 6 feet along the sides. The Town

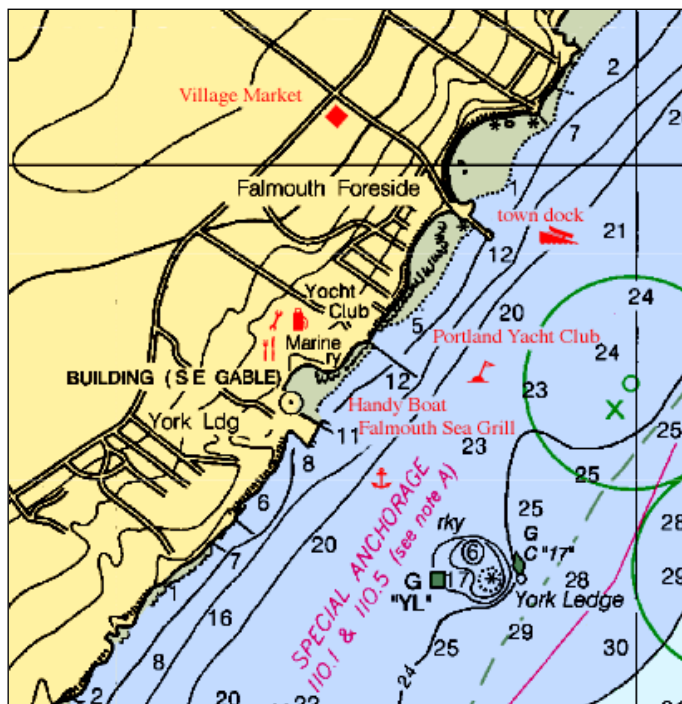
Landing Market, directly up from the town dock or half a mile north on Route 88 from Handy Boat, has the closest groceries and sandwiches. A huge supermarket and a hardware store are located in the Falmouth shopping center, 2.5 miles away.

Portland Yacht Club (Ch. 68; 207-781-9820). The Portland Yacht Club welcomes members of recognized yacht clubs (bring your membership card) and asks that you sign the guest register. The "facility user fee" includes the mooring, launch service, and the use of club facilities. The club was founded in Portland just after the Civil War when Portland Harbor was still crowded with great sailing ships and coasting schooners. Having survived fire and the Depression, the PYC almost foundered due to lost membership during World War II. It was born again with the acquisition of a Falmouth Foreside summer cottage on a bluff with grand views of Casco Bay. Today the club is a bustling, family-oriented sailing center, with a vigorous sailing program for juniors and popular races on weekends and Thursday evenings. Launch service is provided from 8 AM to 9 PM. Water and ice are available at the dock, but no fuel. PYC will hold mail for your arrival. There are showers, a washing machine, and a dryer. The dining room is open to visiting yachtsmen for lunch and dinner. Dress is informal, but not too informal. BYOB. Credit cards are now accepted.

Town dock (harbormaster 207-781-7317). The town dock and float are at the north end of the harbor. Limited docking is allowed on the float, with 3 feet of depth at low tide. Town Landing Market is directly up the hill.

**Approaches** – The forest of masts off Falmouth Foreside is visible from as far away as Portland. The various dangers are well marked, and the approach is easy from north or south. Look for seals on Clapboard Island Ledge to the south. In the harbor, watch for York Ledge hidden among the boats, marked by small green beacon "YL" and can "17."

**Anchorage** – The big complex of buildings and docks to the south belongs to Handy Boat Service. The dock farther to the north belongs to Portland Yacht Club. Check with the PYC launch to see if a mooring is available. If not, hail the Handy Boat launch. Handy's maintains a sizable number of very heavy moorings which can be reserved (781-5110). Falmouth Foreside is on an exposed stretch of coast. The only protection comes from Clapboard Island to the east, so a strong chop can build up over the long fetch from the south. There is plenty of room to anchor out beyond the moored boats, and the bottom mud holds well. If there is not too much chop, it may be possible to lie along the floats at Handy's. Check with the dockmaster. for a mooring or drop an anchor in the area indicated in the chartlet in **Figure 5** below.



**Not for Navigation**  
**Figure 5 Falmouth Foreside**  
43° 43.66'N, 070° 12.38' W  
Charts **13292**, 13290, 13288 or Chart Kit 59, 17

**Dinner** – The Falmouth Sea Grill (781-9820) is located right at Handy Boat. Headline - The new owners of HBS are rebuilding this facility with yachtsmen services (showers, etc.) expected... woohoo.

### Registration Fees:

CDSOA Members: **NO REGISTRATION FEE**

Non-CDSOA Members (per boat): **\$5.00 (pay at the event)**

Register online by **August 3, 2011**. Just click on the link below!

[http://www.capedory.org/fleetevents/NE-2011-MaineCruise\\_regform.php](http://www.capedory.org/fleetevents/NE-2011-MaineCruise_regform.php)

Any questions? Please contact Event Organizers  
**Dave Bradbury** Ph: 603-470-7900; Email: dwbradbury\*NOSPAM\*@hotmail.com  
or **Christina Bradbury** 703-946-5976; Email: [cabradbury\\*NOSPAM\\*@lycos.com](mailto:cabradbury*NOSPAM*@lycos.com)  
[Don't forget to remove "**\*NOSPAM\***" from email addresses before clicking on Send!]

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***ALL OWNERS OF BOTH CAPE DORY AND ROBINHOOD POWER AND SAILBOATS,  
CDSOA MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS, ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.***

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### **Web Resources:**

CDSOA, Inc.: <http://www.capedory.org/>  
Maine Coast Internet Guide: <http://www.coastguides.com/>  
Maine Harbors & Tides: <http://www.maineharbors.com/>

### **Recommended Resource/Reading:**

**Credits** – much of the information above was directly quoted from “A Cruising Guide to the Maine Coast” by Hank and Jan Taft, Curtis Rindlaub, Diamond Pass Publishing, Inc.