

Gone Troppo

At Fishing Bay Harbor Marina you can kick back Tidewater style, with a gorgeous anchorage in front of you and everything else an easy pace away.

by Bill Mitman

folks around the southern reaches of the Bay have known for years that Fishing Bay on the Piankatank River is a wonderful anchorage. Although open to the southwest, its scenic views, good depth and holding ground make it a favorite destination for cruisers. But on our most recent Piankatank cruise, my wife and I discovered that anchoring out is not the only option available. Nestled snugly in the northwest corner of the bay, Fishing Bay Harbor Marina provides an attractive, easy to reach alternative to spending another night on the hook.

The approach to the marina is straightforward. After rounding Stove Point, we headed northwest until we were midway between red "10" and "10A", then turned north and proceeded straight up the bay. We could see the marina complex off to port, clearly identified by a white octagonal building where the marina offices are located. The railway at Deagle's Boatyard, which is immediately next door, also provides a visible landmark for the first-time visitor. The marina monitors channel 16; by letting them know when we were getting close we had plenty of help tying up. Transients are welcome, and usually moored along the main pier, as we were.

The marina is located a mile from Deltaville's main drag. Deltaville is a postal-delivery area, not an individual municipality, and it sprawls along either side of Route 33 for a couple of miles between the Piankatank and Rappahannock rivers. At one point we walked over to the highway—a very pleasant 20-minute stroll—and from there we meandered first east, then west. It seemed like every other home along the way had at least one big old dog to escort us as we passed by. If walking isn't on your agenda, no worries, mate! Most of the local restaurants will fetch you for dinner, and the local grocery will give you a lift as long as your order exceeds \$25. You can also grab one of the marina's free bicycles and pedal into town.

There are no substantial ship's store or repair facilities at the marina, although some basic items are available in the marina office. This is no problem, however, since Deagle's (804-776-9741), a full-service boatyard, is just on the other side of the fence. In addition, the Deltaville area is the major marine center on the Bay between Solomons Island and Norfolk, so there are many other boatyards and marine-supply outlets within three or



GEORGE PLANT

Fishing Bay Harbor Marina

Deltaville, Va.
804-776-6800
www.fishingbay.com
info@fishingbay.com
Fuel: gas and diesel
Power: 30, 50 amp
Depths: 15' MLW approach;
15' dockside
Dockage: \$1.25/ft (25 percent off for BoatU.S. members) plus \$4 for 30 amp, \$7 for 50 amp
Pump-out: \$5; free for transients

four miles of the marina. If your boat can't be fixed in Deltaville, it can't be fixed.

There are several attractions nearby, including the Deltaville Maritime Museum at the Holly Point Nature Park (804-716-7200), but we were content to spend a few days hanging around the marina. We met all kinds of interesting people (and pets) at the dinghy dock that the marina maintains for the folks at anchor. (Most of the marina facilities, including trash disposal and bikes, are available to anchorees for minimal charges.) Watching the constant flow of watercraft of all sizes and shapes, while sitting in the cockpit with a good book and a Bloody Mary, took care of the morning hours. The large swimming pool provided the perfect antidote to the heat of the afternoon. Before we knew it, the sun was over the yardarm, and it was time to socialize with our neighbors up and down the dock and in the Captain's Lounge next to the pool. If you absolutely must do chores, laundry facilities are located next to the pool. But remember—you're in the Virginia Tidewater; everything, including laundry, is done at a slightly slower, more genteel pace. ■

