Boat Clubs Growing

By Jim Mantell

The lure of the sea always has been fascinating to men. It still is, and evidence of this time-worn desire to mess around boats, all kinds of boats, is everywhere these days.

Boating, once the exclusive hobby and sport of the wealthy, now has appeal to many men of moderate means, and blackmen have joined the sea-going parade.

On the East Coast, especially around the Chesapeake Bay area and Atlantic City coastline to the New England shores; in the Southern seacoast towns, the Midwest lake territory, and on the West Coast wherever major sea and lake confines are, we now see boat clubs cropping up among black men who love the waterways.

from simple outboards to 60foot yachts, and cabin cruisers,
the waterways have become
almost as crowded as the highways. On any weekend, blessed
with good weather and calm
seas, this is where the action is.

The boats come in all shapes and sizes, single engines and twin-engine types, and some provide a virtual floating home for the summer months from May to September. It is real fun, exciting and pleasure-giving for those who participate.

It, too, is costly but every man pays a price for his pleasure. Thus, this new lifestyle for the seabirds is no more costly to those who participate than other pleasures men engage in as a means of relaxing and making life comfortable and pleasurable.

Down the Chesapeake Bay

Waterways becoming as crowded as the highways as boat owners find real pleasure at sea



All hands aboard deck, says top fashion model Travis Winkey (above). He's ready for daytime activities in this two-piece leisure suit of off-white

muslin. (Photos taken aboard Merry 3 cruise ship in Annapolis, Md. by Benjamin M. Phillips IV)

way, two boating clubs are fast gaining distinction in the field, the Neptune Yacht Club of Baltimore, Md. and the Seafarers Yacht Club of Washington, D.C.

Any day one may check out the marina along the Back Creek in Eastport, Annapolis area in Maryland and find it filled with boats owned and operated by the Seafarers.

Then there is the Columbia Beach Boat Club only a few nautical miles away.

Boats belonging to these three clubs regularly cruise the Chesapeake Bay, which is big. broad and beautiful. Tucked between the U.S. mainland and the Delmava Peninsula, the Chesapeake Bay is one of the largest bodies of inland tidewater in the world and provides an excellent waterway for boat enthusiasts.

Moreover, the boating schedule for these clubs includes numerous trips to other ports, and at Columbia, Md., an annual regatta involving competitive events and the

Blacks joining boat club parade in increasing numbers around the country

crowning of a queen.

The other clubs also engage in similar social activities as a part of their year-round activity program.

Membership in these clubs, as in other such boating organizations around the country, is growing rapidly as more and more men succumb to their boyhood love of the sea.

The Seafarers Yacht Club, founded in 1960, is 15 years old and one of the oldest black boating clubs in the United States. It is the hub of the first black Coast Guard auxiliary flotilla in the United States and is registered in Lloyd's of London.

Members of the Seafarers, some 75 strong, own 60 vessels ranging from 34-footers to 42-footers plus three sailboats, the majority of them housed along a pier in Annapolis bought by one of the club founders in 1956.

The Seafarers members in-

clude men from all walks of life. businessmen, contractors, professionals, postal workers, teachers and retirees—all with a love of the sea and the economic ability to enjoy it.

And the ranks of these boating clubs are swelling annually as shorter work weeks, longer holiday weekends and better paying jobs provide greater leisure time and a little more money to spend to make living more comfortable and pleasurable.

This is the pattern elsewhere where the waterways beckon the faithful, and when the weather and water are in good spirits you can observe the city dwellers everywhere motoring towards the bay, lake or sea with trailer boat behind, joining the boat club parade.

It is a grand switch because only a quarter of century ago, black boat owners were few and difficult to find. In many instances, two decades ago, they could not rent a spot on the popular piers.

It is a happy switch, and boaters have learned that good seamanship overshadows race or economic condition, so the

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We drove a set of tires 72,400 miles. They still exceed the government safety standard for new tires.

