



**“COME SAIL AWAY”
– OR JUST RELAX AND ENJOY THE VIEW –
IN THE TOWN OF OXFORD, MARYLAND**



*"Ships are the nearest thing to dreams that hands have ever made."
Robert N. Rose*

Oxford, MD – Nestled on the Eastern Shore, the Town of Oxford, Maryland is tiny, family-friendly, and oh-so-serene ... until you scratch the surface, that is. Select a weekend when the town is hosting one of its many community events; make a reservation at one of its lovely hostelries; and enjoy the scenic trip (by car or boat) to this lovely waterside village. There you'll begin a destination experience loaded with history, heritage, and charm – and never more so than in summertime, when Oxford's nautical nature is on full display for sailors and landlubbers alike.

Colorful canvas silhouetted against the brilliant blue sky ... the soothing sounds of the gently lapping river ... crab delicacies and homemade lemonade on hand ... all make for a classic summer weekend, Chesapeake-style.

Visitors are encouraged to showcase their own sailing craft and skills on local waters, of course – they'll find no warmer welcome, more beautiful scenery, or finer dockage than in Oxford – but for those who appreciate the opportunity to enjoy the view without doing all the work, Oxford has thoughtfully organized a number of races and regattas for landlubbers' enjoyment. Here are just a few:

Cardboard Boat Races

The racing season begins in Oxford with hoots and hijinks as intrepid sailors launch onto the chilly Tred Avon River ... in boats made strictly of cardboard! (There's even a set of construction rules, including a requirement that the boats be biodegradable.) Benefitting Special

Olympics Maryland, this June event anchors a day full of feasting and frivolity. Best place to see the show: The Strand, with events following in Oxford Town Park.

Friday Night Series

The Oxford Amateur Racing Series, founded on the concept of fun, features approximately 30 sailing craft. Open to all skippers sailing boats with a minimum overall length of 18 feet, the fleets are scored in two divisions: spinnaker and non-spinnaker. Races are held off the Tred Avon Yacht Club on Friday evenings, with a start time of 6:10 p.m. (earlier as the days get shorter in September). The racing season is celebrated with an annual awards dinner in which "Great Oars" are presented to the winners of each division. Additional information may be found at www.oxfordars.org.

"Focus on Sailing" Outings

For those visitors who are lucky enough to extend their weekend stay, Monday evenings offer another opportunity for sailboat-spotting as Tred Avon Yacht Club members and their guests learn the ropes on the river. Founded in 2007, the "Focus on Sailing" Program helps adults learn the basics of sailing as well as refine their skills. The boat used in this program is an Ideal 1, sailed with jib or spinnaker. A lovely craft well-suited to small families, residents and visitors alike enjoy spotting the Ideal 18s plying the waters of the Tred Avon.

Junior Sailing Program

Setting sail in mid-June, Tred Avon Yacht Club's Junior Sailing Program teaches the basics of sailing to budding skippers ages 8 through 16. The program runs from Monday through Thursday each week through mid-August. When the students are on the water, viewers will see them crewing the Optimist Pram (one of the biggest sailing fleets in the world), the Club 420, and the Laser. Another youth-oriented sailing event is the Junior Regatta hosted by Tred Avon Yacht Club in early August. Young sailors come from all over the Chesapeake Bay area for a day of friendly, competitive sailing – creating a scenic and exciting tableau for everyone in town to enjoy.

Oxford Regatta

The Oxford Regatta, hosted by the Tred Avon Yacht Club, kicks off on Friday, August 12, when over 100 sailboats depart from Annapolis in the morning on a thrilling race to the Town of Oxford. The boats arrive in the late afternoon (wind and weather cooperating), and the vision of their beautiful spinnakers rounding the Choptank River Light – known as the "spider" – and heading up the Tred Avon River to the finish in front of the Yacht Club is a sight to see!

Saturday and Sunday, August 13 and 14, the sailboats will be out again. The fleets range from Optimist Prams manned by the smallest sailors to Chesapeake Bay Log Canoes helmed by the most experienced. Visitors and residents can share the experience – and live music, refreshments, and sailing stories – at the Club itself, which is open to the public all weekend.

And there's still more: the Oxford Heritage Regatta will be held on August 27 and 28. Featuring classic boats such as Comets, Penguins, Hammonds, and those remarkable Chesapeake Bay Log Canoes, this event will also be celebrated with music, refreshments, and stories at the Yacht Club.

Residents and visitors alike revel in viewing the races from a variety of vantage points. The Tred Avon Yacht Club throws open its doors for a “Sails ‘N Ales” gathering each Friday night throughout the summer. The Masthead Restaurant invites guests to enjoy dinner – and the spectacular vision of full sails against the sunset -- on its deck. Guests of Sandaway have a private lawn for their viewing pleasure. And for those who enjoy a quiet setting and a gourmet picnic dinner made up of Talbot County farm-to-fork delicacies, Oxford Town Park is just the place.

The sights and stories of this little town with a long history and an even bigger heart – not to mention cultural offerings, recreational opportunities, and fine lodging and dining options – promise to entertain the whole family any season of the year ... but never with a better backdrop than the many sails of summertime.

The Town of Oxford, Maryland: docks, daydreams, discoveries, and so much more

About Oxford, Maryland:

The historic town of Oxford, Maryland, founded in 1683, is located in Talbot County on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Until the American Revolution, Oxford was an international shipping center, surrounded by tobacco plantations and home to a number of prominent national figures. Later it thrived on oyster harvesting and packing and other watermen’s trades, even as tourism and leisure activities increased. It guards its peaceful personality, architectural integrity, and small-town virtues to this day, while warmly welcoming visitors from right next door and around the world. The Oxford Business Association welcomes inquiries by telephone (1-410-745-9023) and at its website (www.portofoxford.com); and the Talbot County Office of Tourism offers comprehensive information and trip planning services at its Easton office (1-410-770-8000) and on its website (www.tourtalbot.org).

PRESS INFORMATION

Carlyle Fairfax Smith
Carlyle International
Ph: 703.898.1333
Carlyle@CarlyleInternational.us

April 2011