



# The Enemy of the Good Is the Perfect

The enemy of the good is the perfect. Perhaps this is one of the most powerful pieces of advice that I've ever been given. In business, it can lead to "analysis paralysis." In life, it can simply lead to a lack of fulfillment. The examples are many and some are sure to hit close to home. It can be the vacation home or RV that requires more time and energy in preparation for use than use itself. It can be the perfect vacation that never happens, but involves years of planning. While planning that trip can have some rewards in and of itself as we enjoy the concept, it can also delay the vacation until one is too old, or too much a victim of circumstance to enjoy it. Imagine if every parent waited until they "could afford" to have kids. Our population would be in serious decline.

It's not that all planning is bad. We need to know that there is a room at a reasonable rate and that the destination isn't under renovation, for example. These things are relatively easy to find out. It's more difficult to give yourself a pass on work for the weekend, to delay cleaning out the garage or to reduce that to-do list. If you sit down and create a bucket list of 20 items you'd really like to do in your life, you would be wise to try and experience one of them every year. Don't worry, you'll never run out of new ones to add as you cross off old ones. The point is to just do it. I realize you can't circumnavigate the earth on a sailboat every year (although that would be pretty cool), but in reality, it's the host of smaller things that create the lifestyle and memories.

There are so many small, easy-to-acquire experiences right in your own backyard and within your budget. Who wouldn't agree that a fuller life should include experiences like cruising the bay and seeing the lighthouses with Capt. Mike aboard his craft as the sun sets, hiking the Appalachian Trail along Skyline Drive, taking a canoe down the river to a winery with the folks at River and Trail Outfitters, watching the hot air balloon festival in Bealeton as the Flying Circus entertains, or watching headliners of the '80s perform at a waterfront venue in Calvert County? It's all possible and easily doable. We'll tell you how, right here in *Recreation News*. Dream today, absolutely! But react tomorrow, or this weekend, or take that vacation time you've piled up and do the whole week. "Carpe diem," as Robin Williams tells us in *The Dead Poets Society*. Seize the day . . . or the weekend . . . or the week . . . or all of the above!

As I close this column, I dedicate this issue to John Palardy, my father-in-law, who recently passed away at almost 90 years old. He had a wonderful experience-filled life in part because he didn't just dream — he acted. He had a lifetime of journeys; one of the first involved floating in the darkness of the North Atlantic after his ship was torpedoed in WWII. That didn't stop him from later travels in life. He cruised the south Pacific, visited Machu-Pichu, took an RV across the United States and deep into Mexico, camped in Canada, and fished in the bay. These memories not only enriched his

life, they inspired many others to do the same, thus enriching other lives, mine included. I hope to carry on a piece of that legacy and pass it on to you. Sure, dream of that perfect future trip, but don't let it stop you from taking the current one.

## On Our Cover

(clockwise from top) The *Carnival Victory* has a great itinerary for the Southern Caribbean (Michelle Teel); Hampton Virginia's 400th celebrations continue with the annual hydroplane race (Hampton Tourism); Caverns are part of the fun in Pennsylvania's Alleghenies (Lincoln Caverns).

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## Lady Patty Sails Again

*Lady Patty*, the 1935 Phillip Rhodes-designed ketch, is returning to her prominent spot on the Tilghman Island waterfront. For more than 16 years she carried up to 16 passengers for spirited sails or sunset cruises from her wharf, but her Chesapeake Bay pedigree was cemented long before that. *Lady Patty's* keel was laid by M. M. Davis Boat Builders on Solomons Island the same year that Babe Ruth played his last game of baseball and F.D.R. enacted parts of his "New Deal" to help end the Great Depression. She proved herself to be a player in the offshore racing scene for many years, including a win in the 1951 Transpac as well as strong showings in the Southern Ocean Racing Series and the St. Petersburg to Havana Race.

In 1993, she was refitted by Captain Mike Richards and emerged as a stunning example of beautiful design and craftsmanship from a simpler time, before mass production and man-made materials. Now, a previous first mate has purchased the vessel and is returning her to service on Aug. 1. She resumes her enjoyable Chesapeake Bay cruises with Captain Jeffrey Mathias at the helm, a great example of Eastern Shore maritime heritage. ([www.ladypatty.com](http://www.ladypatty.com))

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