

**Manchester Yacht Club
Secrets of the Down East Coast
Notes from the Seminar
April 14, 2007**

Casco Bay to Port Clyde	Chet Shuman
Port Clyde to Bass Harbor	Mory Creighton
Bass Harbor to West Quoddy	Jim Starkey
West Quoddy to Saint John	Tom Walker

Guidebooks

A Cruising Guide to the Maine Coast Diamond Pass Publishing
by Hank and Jan Taft and Curtis Rindlaub (207)766-2337 <http://www.maineoastguide.com>
(The new 5th Edition is supposed to be coming out this summer)

The Cruising Guide to the New England Coast
by Roger F. Duncan (Editor), Robert C. Duncan, Roger S. Duncan, W. Wallace Fenn, Paul W. Fenn

A Visual Cruising Guide to the Maine Coast
by James L. Bildner (Club Member)

Maine Island Trail Stewardship Handbook and Guidebook
Maine Island Trail Association (207) 761-8225 www.mita.org
58 Fore Street, Suite 30-3, Portland, ME 04101

Organizations Preserving the Coast and Islands

There are several organizations operating on the Maine Coastline that are working diligently to preserve islands in their natural state; Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Vinalhaven Land Trust, Island Institute, and the Island Trail Association. These are good organizations and knowing about them will enhance your cruising.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (207) 244-5100 www.mcht.org
1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Topsham, ME 04086

Maine Island Trail Association (207) 761-8225 www.mita.org
58 Fore Street, Suite 30-3, Portland, ME 04101

Vinalhaven Land Trust, P.O. Box 268, Vinalhaven, ME 04863

Island Institute (207) 594-9209 <http://www.islandinstitute.org/>
386 Main Street, Rockland, Maine 04841

Suggested Stopping Points for Cruisers on the Maine Coast

These notes, provided as a service to Manchester Yacht Club members only, are intended for illuminations and suggestions about harbors and points of interest along the Down East coast. They are not intended as guides to navigation nor are they for sure up to date and accurate. Please reference current guides listed above and charts.

Please enjoy these spots and try to leave them as you found them or better.

Casco Bay to Port Clyde

Notes from Chet Shuman's talk

Casco Bay (Chart 13290)

Centerboard Yacht Club, Portland 43.39 N, 70.14 W

Very friendly and helpful club, launch operator took us over to town. Large screen TV in the Yacht Club for watching Olympics

Eagle Island 43.42.80 N, 70.03.30 W

Home of Admiral Robert E. Peary. Island and home is open for visitors. Moorings on the west side. Park Ranger will direct you to a mooring and, if you do not have a dinghy, will transport you back to the pier. <http://www.pearyeagleisland.org/>

Snow Island 43.48.70 N, 69.54.50 W

Dodge Morgan's home, Andy Devereaux has a mooring south of island, swim-able water

Sebasco Harbor 43.46.87 N, 69.52.27W

Sebasco Estates – sometimes they give you free moorings. If you pay fee it includes use of their saltwater pool, guest rates for golf and tennis. Resort has two restaurants, gift shop, golf course nice walks around course.

Others:

Peaks Island (Rental moorings, good walking)
Diamond Island (Slips, restaurant)
Potts Harbor (Dolphin restaurant – great blueberry muffins)
The Basin (Very pretty)

Sheepscot Bay (Chart 13293)

Five Islands 43.49.38 N, 69.42.47 W

Five Islands YC has three free guest moorings off of Malden Island – painted yacht club name on balls. There is no club facility – do not land on the island. Lobster pound with open air dining on the mainland dock. Mosquitoes can be there, but bring your own wine allowed. Excellent groceries 10 minutes walk up main road. There is a pretty hiking trail down the peninsula toward Wood Island.

Little Sheepscot River 43.50.18 N, 69.42.66 W

Pretty passage with plenty of depth. Narrow at a spot. Heads to Robinhood Cove.

Robinhood Marine Center 43.51.25 N, 69.43.97 W

Has all marine services, slips, moorings. Jazz Band at floats Friday afternoon; fresh produce boat Tuesday mornings. Owned by Andrew Vavolotis (owner of Cape Dory).

<http://www.robinhoodmarinecenter.com/>. Local restaurant plus excellent Meetinghouse Restaurant 1 mile down road – they have slips and will pick you up for dinner. <http://www.robinhood-meetinghouse.com/>. There is a three knot current running by the red nun "4" at Goose Rock Passage. Avoid the worst of the current if you can.

Robinhood Cove south of marine center has excellent anchorages. Passage north of marine center via Sasanoa River to Bath – caution - very narrow, current runs very hard especially at Upper and Lower Hell Gate, and a bridge (vertical clearance 51 feet).

Shuman's Wharf 43.51.38 N, 69.42.53 W

Chet and Evelyn Shuman's home (that's their dock on the chart). Ice, free guest mooring, bathroom, showers. Please call ahead 207 882 4869. There is a rock that is not charted where the 6 is on paper charts.

Oven Mouth 43.56.12 N, 69.38.90 W

Up Sheepscot from Shuman's then starboard into Cross River. Spectacular entrance leads to very secluded anchorage (13' spot). John Malone's dock south of anchorage may have one or two of his power boats (Ragtime, Liberty or Rooster).

Johnson's Cottage 43.55.82 N, 69.40.34 W

Tom and Eva Johnson's cottage (that's their dock on the chart). Two moorings marked with MYC burgee pick up free if unoccupied. Bathroom, shower – please call ahead 207 882 4780.

Wiscasset 43.59.94 N, 69.39.88 W

Town is at the top of a lovely drift up the Sheepscot, especially at end of day with a rising tide. Town harbormaster is very friendly. Town has free moorings plus two hour dockage for visit to the town, antique shops, or some nice restaurants. Hinckley is opening a 239 slip marina this summer. The road bridge can be noisy.

Boothbay Region Boatyard 43.49.78 N, 69.40.69 W

Full service marina at bottom of the western finger of Ebenecook Harbor. <http://www.brby.com/>

Love Cove 43.50.03 N, 69.40.25 W

Quiet lovely cove is the eastern finger of Ebenecook Harbor. Several guest moorings to pick up.

Townsend Gut Passage 43.50.59 N, 69.39.27 W

Lovely passage between Sheepscot and Boothbay. Narrow, pretty, current doesn't run. Swing bridge opens on hour and ½ hour.

Boothbay and Damariscotta River (Chart 13293)**Boothbay Harbor 43.50.80 N, 69.37.60 W**

Busy town with many services. Busy harbor with many moorings and marinas. Club members use many different marinas – Carousel, Browns, Tugboat. The former have more marine services, including fuel. Tugboat has quicker access to downtown.

Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club (43.50.80 N, 69.38.60 W) is a very friendly club in the quieter western harbor with guest moorings, showers, and dining room. There is fresh (warm) water swimming across the street from the club in West Harbor Pond.

Linekin Bay 43.50.06 N, 69.35.63W

Paul Luke's Boatyard is a classic. Our old Trident was built there.

Damariscove Island 43.45.33 N, 69.36.90 W

Historic island sticks out into the sea with snug harbor. It's now all in conservancy by Boothbay Region Land Trust. Harbor fits a few boats so get there early.

Christmas Cove

Well known tight harbor circled by summer homes. Coveside Restaurant re-opened last summer.

East Boothbay 43.51.95 N, 69.34.95W

Near the mouth of the Damariscotta this is an interesting town with boatyards, the Ocean Point Marina (slips, moorings, and fuel), and nice walks. Many of the houses were built by wooden boat builders.

There is a model train shop in town. Lobsterman's Wharf is one of the better casual seafood restaurants around and makes an excellent Martini (and Bloody Mary).

Seal Cove 43.53.42 N, 69.34.28 W

A relatively unknown quiet cove with but a few houses. An excellent anchorage. Seals and osprey, guaranteed. Walk on Hodgson's Island.

Thread of Life 43.50.15 N, 69.33.00 W

Lovely passage past beautiful homes, rocks awash, and sea birds. Striking scenery - none better. A short cut to John's Bay.

Johns Bay (Chart 13293)**Pemaquid Harbor 43.52.80 N, 69.31.45 W**

Harbor protected by old fort and ruins to explore. Many private moorings to pick up. Restaurant below fort with very long dock (quality of food varies). About a mile walk over to New Harbor stores. Can anchor in front of Pemaquid Beach in good weather.

Eastern Branch 43.54.40 N, 69.31.95 W

Very tricky harbor entrance, but well protected anchoring inside. Barton, Winchester, Ingraham all have homes there.

Muscongus Bay (Chart 13301)

Round Pond 43.56.65 N, 69.27.40 W

Cozy harbor with rental moorings. On the harbor there is a great lobster pound, a general store with ice cream, and a nice restaurant. There is a better stocked store a short walk up the street. The church carillon plays on the hour. Bruce Cunningham's Padebco yard is here.

Maple Juice Cove 43.58.52 N, 69.16.90 W

A big broad cove with 9 or 10 feet of water. The better anchorage is in the southwest corner. You can see the house in Andrew Wyeth's "Christina's World" on the north shore of the cove. Visit it via the lobster dock at Bird Point.

Port Clyde 43.55.53 N, 69.15.64 W

General Store does just about everything in town – as well as food: moorings, water, fuel. Diesel fuel is very expensive. Many moorings available. Nice walk to Marshall Point Light. Entering from the west is now marked with local red and green buoyed channel - you can get through at ½ tide.

Port Clyde to Bass Harbor

Notes from Mory Creighton's Talk

This is a list of the places that we enjoy going to and a brief note about each. There are certain places included on this list that require careful navigating to get in and out but Narada draws 6 feet and we visit them all regularly. We hope that you enjoy these special places as much as we do.

Two Bush & Muscle Ridge Channels

Tennants Harbor 43 57.80 N, 69 12.23 W

MYC has been here for picnics and gatherings many times over the years. There are fun stores around, interesting galleries and other fun things to see.

High & Dix Islands 44 00.87 N, 69 04.02 W

This is a wonderful little collection of Islands that offer good protection and fun walking. The Islands are private but there are often some other cruising vessels about passing up and down the coastline. We particularly enjoy walking on Little Green to the north. The beach is strewn with boulders and fun rocks and the small cabin in the center invokes some great mystery tales!

West Penobscot Bay

Rockland Harbor 44 06.61 N, 69 05.92 W

Rockland is a major industrial port with several marinas and lots of facilities. There is a local car rental facility and a bus terminal convenient for crew changes and ferries depart from here for Vinalhaven and North Haven. Interesting stops include the Brown Bag restaurant on Main Street for good breakfasts and freshly baked goods. The Farmsworth Museum, just off Main Street, has a wonderful collection of nautical artifacts and one of the largest collections of Wyeth paintings – worth seeing if you have time. The True Value store up (north) on Main Street has all sorts of supplies and items as well.

Camden and Rockport are also fun stopovers, often very busy and crowded.

Gilkey Harbor, Cradle Cove 700 Acre Island 44 15.77 N, 68 56.40 W

Moving up the coast and out to Ilseboro, we enjoy Cradle Cove and Gilkey Harbor. MYC has hosted events at Gilkey harbor and it is a fun and picturesque spot with spectacular sunsets to the west over the Camden Hills. One of our favorite spots is Cradle Cove and despite its beauty it will always be slightly tainted with the memory of attempting to swim and ultimately sinking with our outboard engine one year – we did retrieve it! Go ashore at the small boat yard and peek around for some of the lovely Dark Harbor 15 sailboats that may be in the sheds. Sarah and I enjoy walking up the road on 700 Acre Island and looking over the fields down to Penobscot Bay, a view well worth the walk.

Castine Harbor 44 23.36 N, 68 47.62 W

Moving further up the coast you find Casting, another popular MYC stopping point. Castine has lovely, elm lined streets, and many old houses that follow the hillside up from the harbor. Lot's of American history here, Indian battles, a fort at the top of the hill and lots of legends. Castine is also the home of the Maine Maritime Academy and tours of their large vessel and talking with the midshipmen (and women) are fun if you have the time. Kenny Eaton owns the marina facility and is very capable at fixing things. The small YC beyond is very friendly as well.

Smith's Cove 44 22.36 N, 68 46.50 W

Just south of Castine, this large cove is tranquil and more rustic than staying in Castine with its bright evening lights along the shore. The Islands are fun to wander around as well.

Horseshoe Cove 44 20.11 N, 68 46.14 W

This is a bit of a challenge to get into and you do want to consult your chart carefully but once inside the cove is lovely. The Seal Cove Boatyard has moorings and they are very friendly. Go shore at the boatyard and walk up the road for great raspberries and blueberries. At the end of the cove, is a small reversing falls that opens up into a lovely bay of trapped water that is warm for swimming and great for bird watching. The harbor is small so you may need to get there early, the boats maintained by Seal Cove Boatyard and often on moorings represent great craftsmanship and are fun to see.

Bucks Harbor 44 20.33 N, 68 44.30 W

This is a busy but fun place to visit. The harbor is full of boats and a short walk up from the marina and fuel docks will put you near Mr. Congdon's old store referenced in Robert McCloskey's "One Morning in Maine". There are some fun galleries around and a great general store for ice cream cones.

Vinalhaven

Moving back down Penobscot Bay to the south you will find Vinalhaven and there are many fun places to go here. The next five spots are situated on the south side of Vinalhaven.

Long Cove 44 05.38 N, 68 53.04 W

A longtime favorite amongst MYC Cruisers, Long Cove is "long", has deep water and is well protected. The swimming here is good and at the back of the cove there is a small reversing falls that leads back to a land locked bay. Here the water is warm for swimming but the bottom is muddy and mucky. The photo on the right was taken from the top of our mast looking up toward this land locked bay.



The Basin – day spot

From Long Cove you can take your dinghy for a long ride to the east where you will encounter the entrance to the Basin. This is one of the most spectacular land locked bays in the region and is over a mile in length with a depth of more than 100 feet in the middle. Two entrances allow the water to flow in and out and the tidal surge is dramatic. Seals play in the reversing falls and lie on the rocks at the east end of the basin napping at low tide (we have counted as many as 60 in one visit!). At the West end is the lobster pound which is a small circular cove and a man-made underwater wall to keep and store lobsters until the market prices improved. Use great caution entering the basin in your dinghy and keep an eye on the tide change if you are inside exploring or when you come out you may have a very exciting trip! Years ago my uncle brought his 42 foot powerboat into the Basin for a picnic lunch but with the changing bottom and fast currents this is now ill advised. Most of the land inside the basin is now protected.

White Islands 44 02.81 N, 68 54.63 W

This is a special place that requires some care getting into and only offers room for only a couple of boats. The Islands are pristine and very rustic. Take your dinghy ashore and walk around – you may encounter a Hurricane person on their 3 day solo and should leave them alone. If you visit the Island to the west of the group you will notice a tremendous amount of past quarrying – much of the Rockland breakwater came from this island years ago. The photo on the right was taken of Island Girl and Narada in the White Islands in 2003.



Hurricane Island 44 02.10 N, 68 53.09 W (Day Spot)

This is a fun day visiting spot and one of the homes to the Hurricane Island Outward Bound program. There are moorings available, call the watch house on 16 or swing by their dock and ask about a mooring. They encourage walking around the island and

if you go east from the main dock area you will see climbing walls, remnants of old steam engines from the quarrying days and other interesting artifacts. The point at the end has a fun boulder beach and the sea can really pound in here on a good storm. Behind you is the quarry which was used for drown-proofing years ago – my brother and I watched people in the Outward Bound program swimming in this quarry with their hands tied together! No more. As you walk along the shore, notice the “tailings” and grout from the old granite quarrying and carving days. Years ago, Hurricane was home to many Italian carvers that made cobblestones for streets in famous cities and eagles that adorn the tops of many buildings to this day. Follow the path west along the shore until you see the large modern house on the peak of the bluff. This is a good place to turn right and cut back across the island to the waterfront and explore that area.

Brimstone Island 44 00.85 N, 68 46.34 W

Heading east you will eventually encounter Brimstone Island. This island is large island with a pebbly beach on the NW end which is the place to land. On Sundays, you may find a few Vinalhaven families on the beach having a cookout. Climbing up to the center of the island gives you wonderful views all around. In the 1980s, local farmers used to put sheep on the island all summer to graze in the grasses. For those interested in a steep climb, on the ESE end of Brimstone is a fascinating small beach of completely black rocks smoothed by the sea. These igneous rocks formed when a passageway of lava opened to the surface on this end of the island millions of years ago. Brimstone is a great day stop on the way across the bay, at night it can be very rolly and exposed.

Vinalhaven / North Haven

Now we retrace our way back to the NW side of Vinalhaven and talk about spots on the north side of Vinalhaven

North Haven 44 07.62 N, 68 52.48 W

The Fox Island Thorofare cuts between North Haven and Vinalhaven. MYC members are very familiar with this area and it is well covered in the books. The Casino or YC just to the left of the ferry landing is a fun stop and their clubhouse is usually a buzz with small kids and their active sailing program. The North Haven Dinghy is a pretty, narrow, gaff rigged sailboat that was the first one design fleet in the U.S.. These boats are actively raced and every year they have a “Round the Island” race so you may see them out on the bay far from home. J.O. Brown has fuel and water and a wonderful workshop up on their wharf. Foy Brown is an ingenious guy and can fix most boat problems.

Pulpit Harbor 44 09.35 N, 68 53.24 W

This harbor on the NW side of North Haven is well protected and a wonderful stop over. It is a pretty good walk to town from here and you’ll pass a small airstrip on the way. Large windjammers often tuck into Pulpit for the night and are fun to watch as well.

Perry Creek 44 06.89 N, 68 52.04 W

This lovely spot is a long time favorite of the MYC cruising fleet and an MYC mooring is here given in memory of past Commodore Sam Batchelder who came here frequently on his yawl Serene. There are some wonderful walking trails here maintained by the Vinalhaven Land Trust. From the MYC mooring, head due west and around the back of this little point you can tie up your dinghy and start walking west. There are a few lookouts long the way.

Winter Harbor 44 05.66 N, 68 49.26 W

This is a lovely, long anchorage bounded on the north by Calderwood Neck and Penobscot Island to the south. We enjoy anchoring right under Starboard rock where the water is deep. For many years the Hoyt’s would allow visitors to climb Starboard Rock and the view from the top is truly spectacular, particularly looking to the south and east. Access to the top of Starboard rock has been restricted in recent years but may be opening up again for visitors – contact VLT about this. If you are lucky enough to climb Starboard Rock, please be courteous, quiet and stay on the trails – the VLT and MCHT are working very hard in this area. Going deep into Winter Harbor gives you great views and at the end is an old dock and pier system with osprey nests on top of the poles. Another fun exploration is to take your dinghy and explore the Mill River by passing under the causeway – this is great warm water swimming.

Penobscot Island has a dock at the NE end of the island and we encourage you to go ashore and explore. There is a small cabin at the end of the island that is rarely used and a network of trails is great for walking. For those that are adventurous, Penobscot Island has an ice cave at 44 05.65N and 68 48.62W up high on a hillside where years ago local fishermen used to pack the cave with ice in the winter and pull it out for summer use.

Seal Bay **44 05.29 N, 68 48.77 W**

This is a secluded bay to the SE of Penobscot Island and very tranquil. Consult your charts carefully and tuck in between Hay Island and Penobscot. There has been an Eagle nesting on the SE end of Penobscot and the family fishes regularly in Seal Bay.

Eggemoggin Reach

Moving around Penobscot Bay, we head up to Eggemoggin Reach which runs NW by SE between the mainland and Deer Isle. This reach is wonderful for sailing with views on all sides. Before entering the reach there are two fun stopping places;

Pond Island **44 17.51 N, 68 48.08 W**

Pond Island is about 3 miles from Eggemoggin Reach and a great day stopping place. Anchor right near where the depth shelves off and you can swim ashore. There is a campsite on Pond and the island is fun to walk around. As the SW winds build, the NE side of the island remains well protected.

Butter Island: **44 14.03 N, 68 47.15 W**

Butter Island is a magnificent island with walking trails, beaches and fun vistas to see. The Island is owned by the Cabot family and in years past there have been sheep grazing on the island. On top of the high point to the NE is a wonderful lookout with a granite bench in memory of Tom Cabot. In the past year or so we have heard that access to Butter may be restricted due to heavy visitor traffic. MCHT and others have worked hard on Butter Island.

Benjamin River **44 17.71 N, 68 37.60 W**

In Eggemoggin Reach you will find the Benjamin River which is a fun spot of an overnight stay. The town landing is at the back of the cove and there is a great scenic walk heading NE from the landing. It is often very calm and still in this anchorage.

Brooklyn & Wooden Boat

Further down Eggemoggin Reach to the SE you will find the Wooden Boat School. This is a fun day stop and you can wander up and see the workshops and classes building small boats.

Isle Au Haut

Isle Au Haut **44 04.66 N, 68 38.04 W**

This is a lovely island with a closely knit summer community and several year round residents. The main landing has a place for your dinghy and walking along the town roads gives you views of the channel and many small ornate summer cottages. Isle Au Haut is part of Acadia and for some exercise, you can hike up Isle Au Haut Mountain – the views for the top are amazing if the weather is clear.

Duck Harbor **44 01.77 N, 68 39.17 W**

This is a tight little harbor that can hold a few boats. There is a park service pier on the SE corner of the harbor where you can tie up your dinghy and follow the path to climb Duck Harbor Mt. For years we have enjoyed walking along the road to Long Pond and swimming in the crystal clear water.

Deer Island Thorofare

Stonington **44 09.21 N, 68 39.76 W**

Stonington is a fun town to visit on the Deer Island Thorofare. There are many fun shops and things to see on the streets. A small quarrying museum is worth seeing as well. Billings Marine is a very capable boat yard and can handle most problems.

Crotch Island **44 08.60 N, 68 40.21 W**

This is a fascinating Island for its past and current quarrying activities. You will notice very large boom poles and masts on the island with long cable runs of hauling granite blocks and equipment around the island. Many of the poles have osprey and eagle nests on top of them. Much of the activity on Crotch has been dormant in the last two decades but recently they have restarted the quarrying operation. We anchor off the Mill Pond and take our dinghy in and climb the wharf to pick up the network of trails. It is fascinating to see many of the old abandoned quarrying tools and steam engines around and also the modern equipment at work. We were surprised by some blasting during a visit 2 years ago so landing on the main wharf near the thorofare might make your visit a little more peaceful.

Merchant Row

Wreck, Round & McGlathery I. 44 07.63 N, 68 37.41 W

These three islands form a wonderful little bay that is reasonably protected. The islands are fun to walk around and explore. During the middle of the week you may be accompanied by a windjammer or two and the crews often go ashore and build a fire on the low rocks and after dinner begin singing.

Camp, Devil Bold I & Hell's ½ Acre. 44 09.10 N, 68 37.46 W

This is another fun group of islands with good overnight protection. Walk ashore and explore, Hells ½ Acre is small but interesting. This group of islands is frequently visited by kayakers from the Maine Island Trail Association so you may see campers on the islands.

Blue Hill Bay

Blue Hill Harbor 44 24.46 N, 68 34.51 W

This is a fun spot up at the end of Blue Hill Bay. Once you are past the harbor entrance the harbor is well protected and peaceful for sleeping at night. About five years ago we were entertained in the evening by a large male seal up on a fisherman's dock grunting and talking – it was all we could do to contain our laughter.

Bass Harbor to West Quoddy

Notes from Jim Starkey's talk

Mount Desert Island

Southwest Harbor 44.16.25 N, 68.18.60 W

This is the center of marine life support in this part of Maine. Hinckley's – one of the most complete marine facility in the area, able to fix most anything. <http://www.hinckleyyachts.com/> Moorings, dock, gas, water, ice, showers, laundry, etc. The St. John River Cruise will be leaving from Dysart's Great Harbor Marina at the west end of the harbor. <http://www.dysartsmarina.com/> It is also a full service marina and a short walk to town with stores, restaurants, etc.

Sommes Sound 44.21.60 N, 68.19.60 W

An afternoon drift up Sommes Sound fjord is a sailing pleasure to be savored. At the beginning of the sound Valley Cove has some enormous storm moorings balls. Pick up the mooring or anchor near the shore for a lovely climb up the notch for a view over the fjord and surrounding area. Sommes Harbor at the head of the sound is not good anchorage, but local moorings to pick up, none for rent. The harbor master is nice and will help you. There is good swimming here and a great bookstore in town.

Northeast Harbor 44.17.80 N, 68.16.90 W

Famous as much for its summertime residents as it is for its beautiful and protected harbor full of yachts. Fuel dock near the entrance provides water and ice too. Moorings and slips; they can fill up, so get there early. Town is lovely with variety of stores and good restaurants.

Bar Harbor 44.23.65 N, 68.12.15 W

Bar Harbor is a big tourist town. It's not frequented by our Club members. US Customs is located there. Moorings are available. The high speed cat to Yarmouth, NS docks here – watch for it and it's wake when you are in these waters.

Winter Harbor 44.23.25 N, 68.04.50 W

Anchor in Sand Cove. Yacht club is to the southwest. We have had parties there, but they are not especially friendly. From Sand Cove dink around to the inner harbor. It is full of working boats. Town landing on the north is excellent - water on dock and a place to leave trash. There is a good grocery up the road about a quarter mile. At the head of the inner harbor is the Winter Harbor Coop where you can get working man's fuel at incredibly low prices. Henry's Cove looks OK, but don't go there – the docks shown on chart are broken down or protected with riprap.

Past Schoodic Point

Schoodic Point Bell 44.19.12 N, 68.02.10 W

The point is a demarcation point; 90% of boats stay west of the point. If you want to cruise and anchor in a lovely cove by yourself sail east of Schoodic. Pay attention to currents and pay attention to the

double or triple toggles on the lobster buoys. One classic trick for heading to St. John River is to hole up in Winter Harbor and catch the favorable currents off Schoodic very early in the morning.

Great Wass 44.29.10 N, 67.35.06 W

While you can enter Eastern Bay via the Mud Hole Channel, for a beautiful entrance go in the Main Channel Way. The Mud Hole is one of the nicest and best protected hurricane holes on the coast. Enter at half tide or above staying south of the rock (see guides for specifics). Anchor in soft mud. A trail along the south shore winds east to Mud Hole Point, where there are spectacular views of the islands of Eastern Bay. It continues through deep moss-floored spruce and fir forests interspersed with open ledges of jack pine to Little Cape Point.

The Cows Yard 44.29.94 N, 67.31.64 W

Tucked under the belly of Head Harbor Island, the Cow Yard is very well protected. It's an excellent anchorage frequented by many club members.

Roque Island 44.34.60 N, 67.31.20 W

The must destination for Down East cruising sailors. An island with many anchorages. A favorite way to approach the island is by going through the Thorofare, the passage between Roque and the Spruce Islands. Bunker Cove on the starboard going through is a good spot to anchor. The rock exists. Roque's fabulously beach is a delight, but avoid the weir at the south end. Check latest guides about walking on beach, for sure do not proceed inland, and if you're there, pick up and remove any trash you see. We believe the rule is walk on the sand at low water, but not high water. Lakeman's Harbor is also a nice anchorage.

Cutler 44.39.36 N, 67.12.47 W

Cutler is a nice harbor and a most convenient spot going to or from the St. John River. With an early morning start through the falls you can usually make Cutler unless winds are hard on the nose. The town is a classic Maine fishing village. There is nothing there, but a village and a general store and some of the best lobsters on the coast can be bought from the lobster dock. We understand there is just one dock left and the "LR" Bell is not there anymore. Watch for the fish weirs on the way in.

West Quoddy to Saint John

Notes from Tom Walker's talk

The overall chart for this area is Canadian chart 4011 Approaches to Bay of Fundy (1:300,000 & depth in fathoms) covering the area from Mount Desert to Saint John. Canadian charts can be obtained here in the US from Blue Water Books and Charts <http://www.bluewaterweb.com/> and Boxell's Chandlery in Boston <http://www.cgedwards.com/Boxells/Chandlery.html>.

Grand Manan Island

Seal Cove 44.38.75 N, 66.50.20 W

An interesting alternative to enter Canada is this harbor on the southern end of Grand Manan. You can tie up to the boats along the pier at Seal Cove. You can clear in here. The agent comes down from the North Head. There is no ferry here. My experience has been that if you check in at a harbor where there is a ferry, the agents are far more thorough (obnoxious) than at other ports.

Wood Island 44.36.75 N, 66.49.60 W

Just south of Seal cove tucked in between Wood Island and Outer Wood Island is lovely Wood Island Harbor. Great scenery in this secluded harbor. Anchor in 20 feet to the west of the submarine cable and fish weir. Explore the islands.

North Head / Flagg Cove 44.45.70 N, 66.45.21 W

This is a good harbor and where you can anchor or tie up and clear in customs. This is the major harbor on Grand Manan. The customs officer serving the island is located here and owns the restaurant at the head of the dock. The harbormaster knows we're coming and there are moorings to be had.

Around Campobello

Head Harbor 44.56.67 N, 66.55.10 W

Head Harbor at the north end of Campobello is a crowded harbor where you can clear into Canada. It is very well protected and very crowded. Many yacht club members recommend this harbor, but I found it difficult to find a place to tie up on my last visit in 2002.

Harbor De Lute **44.54.50 N, 66.55.85 W**

A very nice quiet anchorage on the west side of Campobello. Sheltered in any weather, but hard to get ashore.

Lubec **44.51.65 N, 66.58.85 W**

The clearance at the fixed bridge between Campobello and Lubec is 47 feet at high tide. Typical 20' tide makes the clearance about 67 feet at low tide. Passage through Lubec channel is narrow and should only be done at slack tide. Check your guides! Duncan's guide has a good description of getting through the bridge. The town is a traditional fishing village with historic waterfront. There are restaurants, stores and a walking tour of churches and sea captains houses.

Cobscook & Passamaquoddy Bay

Eastport **44.54.35 N, 66.59.00 W**

The only official place to clear back into US, east of Bar Harbor. (There will be more information on clearing customs for the St. John River Cruisers coming in June). US Customs office is located here at the head of the Breakwater on the ground floor of the Post Office at 100 Water Street (207) 853-4313; open 8:00 AM-4:00 PM EDT weekdays and Saturday. Eastport provides berthing for visitors located at the finger piers on the north side of the Breakwater and at the float on the south side of the Fish Pier. On the north side, there are two public moorings of the five located there (The most easterly and the most southerly ones are public). On the south side of the Fish Pier there is one public mooring.

Cobscook Bay **44.54.00 N, 67.05.00 W**

West of Eastport is wild, unsettled Cobscook Bay with a lot of bird life and a few wonderful anchorages - a special place. There are two recommended harbors in the Bay, Pennamaquan River and Federal Harbor. Both are well detailed in "Taft". Study your guides and currents - remember the tides here change one foot or more every half hour. Cobscook Falls located northwest of Falls Island is well described in Duncan. The late Alan Bemis used to run the falls in his 45 foot yawl CIRRUS. Two MYC members are known to have run the falls as well! On the flood tide, the current runs at eight knots and hits the rock Roaring Bull at the west end of the passage and deflects off it, carrying your yacht past the rock! It's kind of like ski jumping, if you land right it's OK. Normal skippers go through places like that at slack tide.

Northwest Harbour **44.59.00 N, 66.57.00 W**

This is a particularly attractive harbor on the east side of Deer Island. Good shelter in any wind. Lord's Cove to the north is also an attractive area to visit.

Old Sow **44.55.40 N, 66.59.20 W**

The two entrances into Passamaquoddy Bay from the Bay of Fundy are the Letite Passage east of Deer Island, and the Western Passage to the west of Deer Island. Old Sow, the largest tidal whirlpool in the Western Hemisphere, is located off the southwestern shore of Deer Island between it and Moose Island, the principle island of Eastport. Tremendous water turbulence occurs locally in the greater Old Sow area, but it does not usually constitute a navigation hazard for motorized vessels with experienced operators at the helm; however, small craft -- especially sailboats -- are warned to avoid these waters when the tide is running. Besides Old Sow and its numerous "piglets" (small and medium whirlpools surrounding Old Sow), other area phenomena include standing waves, upwellings and, non-vortexing depressions in the water. Check your tides and currents.

St Andrews Harbour **45.04.18 N, 67.03.40 W**

This is a picturesque town with Scottish heritage and many sites to see. The town dock has been rebuilt after a fire. The crowded harbor has only a few moorings and services available. The harbor has many anchored barges used to carry food out to aqua culture pens. The pens that raise salmon are east of the main harbor.

Letite Passage **45.03.10 N, 66.55.00 W**

The eastern entrance to Passamaquoddy Bay is through Letite Passage. It is well marked but the current can run six or seven knots at full flood or ebb, so plan ahead.

Fundy Coast

Bliss Islands **45.01.50 N, 66.50.20 W**

Fisherman Cove in the Bliss Islands is a secure anchorage – a nice spot, sheltered from the south and close to the track to Saint John.

Blacks Harbour **45.02.90 N, 66.48.40 W**

Very commercial with a ferry landing and a fish factory. However, it is a good stopover point, sheltered in any wind, with some supplies available. Recommend tying up at lower pier, or go up the harbor to the 17 foot spot off the second wharf and anchor there.

Beaver Harbour **45.04.20 N, 66.44.40 W**

This is also a commercial harbor. There is a pier and you can tie up outside of fishing boats. We tied alongside a derelict fishing boat, thinking it would not be going out. Sure enough at 3am they came down and started their engines. The fishermen were very friendly and suggested that we anchor in the bay inside the wharf. When I said I didn't think there was enough water at low tide, they replied, "It's all ooze you'll stand up." At low water, we grounded out in the ooze, stood up straight two feet out of water! When the tide came in we popped out, with no harm.

Dipper Harbour **45.05.50 N, 66.24.60 W**

The nearest harbors to Saint John are Dipper and Chance. Dipper is the one to go into. It is better protected, has sufficient water and there is a restaurant there.

Saint John River Guides

Taft and Duncan's books are the good ones for the river. Tracy's, *Cruising Guide to St. John River*, gets a C+
----- End Notes -----

Thanks to the participants who added comments and to the instructors at the seminar Chet Shuman, Mory Creighton, Jim Starkey, and Tom Walker for sharing their insights and knowledge of the Down East Coast.

Remember, these notes, provided as a service to Manchester Yacht Club members only. They are not intended as guides to navigation. Please reference current guides listed above and charts.

Please enjoy these spots and try to leave them as you found them or better.