

# Them Eastport Oyster Boys

## Fact Sheet

### Who:

#### **Them Eastport Oyster Boys**

Jeff Holland & Kevin Brooks began performing together as members of the popular Chesapeake Bay folk quartet, Crab Alley. Since then, they have been working together as a duet aboard the 74-foot schooner *Woodwind*. They developed and perform their trademark "comical musical history tour," a send-up of life in Annapolis on the shores of the Chesapeake, while performing aboard the schooner.

#### **Kevin Brooks, banjo guitar, bass, vocals**

An avid-sailor and musician, Kevin brings a rich music heritage to the duet, having played bass with top regional folk artists Mack Bailey, Shannon Tide, Crab Alley and other high-energy acoustic groups. During Kevin's 15-year career in music, he has shared the stage with such musical legends as Glenn Yarbrough, Chet Atkins, The Wolfe Tones, Charlie Byrd, and numerous national talents.

#### **Jeff Holland, baritone ukulele, vocals**

A writer, songwriter and musician, Jeff was appointed the official Poet laureate of Eastport by Annapolis Mayor Alfred A. Hopkins in 1995. Jeff was one of the original members of Crab Alley. He has written numerous newspaper, magazine articles as well as video documentaries about the Chesapeake, plus one popular children's book, *Chessie, the Sea Monster that Ate Annapolis*.

#### **The Back Creek Band**

For larger venues, Them Boys can bring in their back-up band consisting of percussion, keyboard, and bass. For special occasions, the Horn Point Horns, a four-piece brass section, can be added to the fun.

#### **Dan Beigel, photographer**

A resident artist at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, Dan's magnificent slides of Annapolis and the Chesapeake, enhance the Oyster Boys' performances and highlight the comical material.

### Most Interesting "Gig:"

Aboard the Maryland State Yacht *Independence*, performing for then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John M. Shalikashvili, his counterparts from the United Kingdom, France and Germany, their spouses and staff. "It was fun to see the most powerful men in the universe singing along with our Deck Shoe Sea Chantey," muses Jeff. "Such a wonderful variety of accents. Such fun!"

## Where:

Eastport is the maritime neighborhood across the harbor from Historic Annapolis. It's here among the boat yards and sailors' pubs that the Oyster Boys find their inspiration for their original humorous songs, stories, and narrative poems.

## When:

Then Eastport Oyster Boys can be seen aboard the Schooner *Woodwind* during the Friday evening sunset cruises between May and October. The *Woodwind* sails from the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront Hotel from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For reservations, call 410 263-7837. Check the Oyster Boys' website, [www.oysterboys.com](http://www.oysterboys.com), for a schedule of concerts, festivals, and other public appearances.

Performances can also be scheduled aboard local charter vessels. Contact us for more information. In addition, Them Eastport Oyster Boys can appear at your event for a fun musical performance with a strong taste of Annapolis and the Bay.

## Contact Us:

For more information, or to schedule the Oyster Boys, contact Chief Oysterette Jan Case at 410 280-3945, or via email, [eoysterboys@aol.com](mailto:eoysterboys@aol.com).

# Them Eastport Oyster Boys

## Partial Play List

Written and performed by Jeff Holland & Kevin Brooks

**Miss Lonesome:** A Country/Western Shore tearjerker ala Patsy Cline about an abandoned waterman's workboat. "Not long ago she'd roar across the Bay / Out tongin' oysters by the break of day / Now the oysters are all gone, the waterman moved on to find another way to earn his pay..."

**Back Creek Crab:** An upbeat shuffle about the Chesapeake's favorite pastime – crabbing! "Goin' down to Back Creek, sit on a pier / Dangle my line while I sip on a beer / Give me some Back Creek crabs and put 'em on a simmer / I can eat about eleven-hundred dozen for dinner / Goin' down to Back Creek, I'm gonna Back Creek crab..."

**Ego Alley:** Classic 50s rock tune about muscle boaters at Annapolis City Dock. "Cruisin' Ego Alley, checkin' out the scene / Rumblin' my engines, soundin' really mean / I'm louder than the Proving Grounds at Aberdeen / With my wrap-around chains and my bikini underwear / And the nine gold chains mingled in my chest hair / I'm a man beyond compare..."

**SA. V.:** What would a song about sub-aquatic vegetation be, but a tango!  
"The baby-boomer generation / Has fostered overpopulation / Waterfront property inflation / Development, deforestation / Deforestation leads to soil erosion that wrecks / Environmental devastation / On sub-aquatic vegetation..."

**Deck Shoes:** A sea-chantey about the most important part of a sailor's attire, next to his hat : "Sperry-O, Sperry-O, Sperry-O, Sebago!"

**Good Hat, Good Dog, Good Boat:** A Dixie-swing tune about the three priorities in a sailors' life. "If you have these three, you can live a life of grace and ease..." And where do women fit in this philosophy? "If they like the way you float your boat, then hang on tight and don't let go – so long as your dog ain't agin' it!"

**Reef-Down Day:** Just one Them Boys' many Island-rhythm songs, this calypso plays with the joys and hazards of heading out in a heavy wind when you have to reef down the mainsail to maintain control. "When the wind blows from the west, that's when the Oyster Boys like it best..."

**Eastport Shuttle:** Adopted as the official national anthem of the Maritime Republic of Eastport, this laid-back song talks about the unique character of the little neighborhood across the harbor from Annapolis proper where there are "Yuppies with puppies walkin' side-by-side, nothin' changes here except for the tide..."

**Annapolis:** A gentle swing song about sailing into Annapolis Harbor. "I can see the domes and spires of my little town / Rise from the horizon like the jewels on a crown / In Annapolis, upon the Chesapeake Bay..."

Along with many more Chesapeake cruisin' tunes...