

cape closeup

news and tidbits from around the cape

The Region's New Sport?

The warm, turquoise waters of Hawaii meet the cool, deep waters of Nantucket Sound at Stand Up and Paddle Cape Cod, a new business bringing the Hawaiian sport of stand up paddling to this region. Participants stand on what looks like an oversized surfboard and navigate through the water with a paddle. This exciting new sport is easy to learn for people of all ages.

Amy Hotchkiss, founder and owner of Stand Up and Paddle Cape Cod, is no stranger to adventure. She has kayaked with humpback whales, gone rafting on the Colorado River, and ridden a mule to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

After lamenting her desire to be an adventure guide, she now has the opportunity to teach people from all over the Cape stand up paddling, which is a new experience for many locals.

"So many people live on and visit Cape Cod and never get a chance to enjoy all of the bodies of water



that surround us," says Hotchkiss. "There is so much to see and explore, not to mention getting a little exercise at the same time."

Stand Up and Paddle Cape Cod is located on West Bay Road in Osterville and offers lessons, rentals and guided tours. For more information, visit www.standupandpaddlecapecod.com.—Jacqui Kenyon

Seven-Tenths: Love, Piracy and Science at Sea

How would you change your life? Mechanical engineer, David Fisichella, decided to change his by going to sea for the first time as the research assistant to an oceanographer who was losing her sight. Fisichella learned about science at sea, what it means to live with others on a 300-foot ship, and encountered pirates off the coast of Somalia. In September 2001, he found himself stuck in Africa and France after the terrorist attacks in the United States. Through all this he fell in love with the head scientist who was slowly going blind due to a degenerative retinal disease.

In *Seven-Tenths: Love, Piracy, and Science at Sea* (Leapfrog Press, 2010), Fisichella chronicles his incredible adventures during his employment on two research cruises in 2001.



"I've never written a book before. Learning the method of writing was somewhat experimenting as I went," says Fisichella. He says he would never have attempted to write the book, had he known how intense the process really was.

His experience intensified his relationship with the Chief Scientist, Amy Bower, who in May won the Unsung Heroine of Massachusetts award by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW). They are now married, have an eight-year-old daughter, and Fisichella works with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Shipboard Scientific Services. To learn more about the book and the author, visit www.leapfrogpress.com.—Laurie Balliett



Have fond memories of sunny summers on the Cape and vintage photos to go along with it? Tell us about them! Send Cape recollections to editor@capecodmagazine.com or Editor, Cape Cod Magazine, P.O. Box 208, Yarmouth Port, 02675 with a SASE.