

Community Forum

Picture this

May 12, 2016

Rappahannock Record
Kilmarnock, VA

I'll never forget the day we sailed our "new" boat from the Great Wicomico to our home on Myer Creek. This was 23 years ago, before GPS. Just binoculars and a chart.

The four of us had never been on the Chesapeake Bay. All the land looked alike. We had only a vague idea of where we'd been, and no idea of where we were or where we were going. Just go south and turn right at the Rappahannock River.

We sailed close to a big iron spider to match it with our chart, but could find no marking. We agreed if we didn't find the Rappahannock by 4, we'd anchor before dark. Trouble was, we had no idea where to anchor—or how to anchor. It was 4:10 when we approached another iron spider.

"Hey, I think I see an 'Erector Set' through the mist way up there," my wife exclaimed. The chart showed a bridge a few miles up the Rappahannock. We had found our river.

We have sailed under and driven over that bridge many times. It's always a welcome sight, the subject of uncounted photos and popular paintings.

"Welcome to White Stone," says the town's official greeting, "Southern Gateway to the Northern Neck." Town banners show an image of the river, a work boat and that landmark "Erector Set."

Dominion Power plans to blight that iconic image with a giant phalanx of ugly transmission towers and drooping wires. The Coalition to Save the Rappahannock is fighting to save our image. Town council votes next month whether to join the county and our other towns in opposing the towers in favor of tunneling under the river.

It would be a shame if White Stone had to add ugly towers and drooping wires to that town logo.

**Jack Chamberlain,
Lancaster**