

**Choptank Shakedown/ First COVID-19 Cruise Report**  
**May 25,26, and 27, 2020**

**Moonshadow:** 2 cruise nights

**Gambrinus:** 1 cruise night

**Tryst:** 2 cruise nights

**Divided Sky:** 2 cruise nights

The original Shakedown Cruise was scheduled a week earlier and was postponed due to weather. Fortunately, we were given some good days for our new dates and were fortunate to be able to raft as per Maryland's new boating guidelines.

**May 25, 2020:** Moonshadow set out in the morning from home port in Oxford and headed to Baby Owl. As we left Bachelor's Point there was very little wind so we played with our recently altered main before heading out of the Tred Avon. By the time we entered the Choptank at Benoni Point, we were able to put up the sails and keep them out all the way up part of Broad Creek. We had a lovely sail on an overcast day. Shortly after anchoring at about 2:30, we were blessed with beautiful sunshine and the arrival, one by one, of the other cruise's boats. Tryst arrived first and rafted up with Moonshadow. Shortly afterward, Gambrinus arrived and rafted on the other side of Moonshadow. Social distance was maintained as everyone remained on their own boats. Sailing gloves and handwashing were used as a precaution after handling lines. Masks were used during rafting by some of the crews. Divided Sky anchored near by and all three members of the crew (Captain Denny, Stephanie and Winston) dinghied over for cocktails at 5:00. One end of the dinghy was tied to the stern of Tryst and the other end was tied to the stern of Gambrinus. All members of the cruise were able to talk and catch up with each other while enjoying their own cocktails and munchies. Speaking for Moonshadow, the face to face interaction raised spirits. As any good CSSMer, we are all ardent bird watchers and we were fortunate enough to see a rare Crown Swan while at anchor. All enjoyed the experience ( picture attached).



At about 6:30pm, the crew of Divided Sky cast off to return to their boat after a brief stop on shore for Winston. Gambrinus and Tryst then broke off from the raft and anchored their boats in the cove.



**May 26<sup>th</sup>:** Everyone awoke Tuesday morning to pea soup fog. We were unable to see the shoreline or any of the other boats when we first got up. The forecast indicated that it would lift by 11:00, so we chose to wait awhile before pulling anchor. Gambrinus left for home port around 9:30 due to a commitment on the Western Shore. Tryst, Divided Sky and Moonshadow left at around 10:00 for La Trappe. By the time the anchors were pulled the sun was out in Baby Owl Cove, but the trip to La Trappe was mostly overcast and with no wind. Everyone was forced to motor. Divided Sky and Tryst tried taking out the sails but although, as Denny said, it looked good, there was not enough wind to get anywhere and motors ruled the day. Moonshadow anchored around 12:30 and Tryst and Divided Sky joined them soon after. Both rafted with Moonshadow. Folks had lunch on their own boats, took naps, read, drew, etc. as they awaited evening cocktails. Again, everyone remained on their own boats and the sun came out. Good conversation and comradery were appreciated all the more given the restrictions that we all have been abiding by due to COVID-19. A lovely evening was had by all. At around 6:30 the raft broke up and boats anchored separately. It was agreed that everyone would leave for home port the next morning at their own pace.



**May 27<sup>th</sup>**: Wednesday morning we all awoke to another foggy morning. It was not quite as thick as the day before. Everyone readied to leave for home port, and all vessels were on there way between 9:30 and 10:00. The day did not provide the wind we were looking for, so the motors again came in handy.

Submitted by,  
Cruise Captains, Judy and Larry Weaver  
s/v Moonshadow