

## Impromptu Cruise

Friday, September 4 ----- Monday September 7, 2020

### Friday, September 4: Home Port to Rhode River

Mistral left Oxford mid-morning, hoping to sail. However, the winds were out of the southwest in the morning, changing to northwest in the afternoon. So, she motored most of the way. Mistral was the first to anchor on the south side of Big Island.

Flow arrived soon after and initially rafted with Mistral. She had a good sail from St. Michaels as the wind direction was favorable. After chatting for about 30 minutes, we decided to break up the raft due to impending storms and higher winds overnight. Tryst, Karaya, and Gambrinus soon joined the group.

Since we were not able to raft due to weather, Tryst initiated the already scheduled Friday Zoom cocktail hour. Eventually, all of the boats joined, and we were the only CSSM members on the call. Afterwards, we all enjoyed the evenings. The storms missed us, and there was a beautiful full moon lighting the anchorage.



*Tryst at anchor*

### Saturday, September 5: Rhode River to Little Choptank River

After a brief captain's call, Flow, Gambrinus, Mistral, and Tryst hauled anchor around 9:30. The winds in the anchorage were 8 – 10 becoming 12 – 17 out of the north as we emerged into the bay, dodging the usual crab pots coming out of the West River. We had a brisk sail down the bay.

Karaya was returning to her home port. However, we heard her call Towboat U.S. saying she was at the mouth of the Rhode River and needed a tow. We later learned she had an overheating problem, which the captain was unable to fix. Eventually, Tow Boat U.S. towed her to Yacht Maintenance in Cambridge. There they were further rescued by Tod (another adventure that included getting locked inside the Yacht Maintenance boat yard).

Mid-afternoon we heard Gambrinus call Tryst asking if she had any extra oil on board. Tryst was able to transfer some oil to her. However, oil still did not register on the dip stick. Gambrinus initially tried to sail from near the Little Choptank to Knapps Narrows, but eventually called Tow Boat U.S. for a tow to her home port at the Miles River Yacht Club.

Flow, Mistral, and Tryst arrived in Fishing Creek off of the Little Choptank and anchored behind McKeil Point without further adventures. They were joined by Dee Gee V and Moonshadow. Flow and Tryst rafted together. Dee Gee V, Mistral, and Moonshadow did the same.

As Mistral joined Moonshadow, one of Moonshadow's fenders came undone and floated toward the shore. We had no way to retrieve it. As Dee Gee V joined the raft, another one of Moonshadow's fenders came off and began floating away. Dee Gee V was starting to deploy her dinghy for a rescue operation, when we were able to hail a passing small power boat, who plucked the errant fender from the water and threw it into Dee Gee's dinghy.



*Fender is saved!*

We stayed rafted until near sunset, enjoying a "socially distanced" cocktail hour, with the in-person conversation and interaction we have all been missing. After breaking up, we enjoyed a calm overnight with a magnificent harvest moon and the Milky Way visible.

Sunday, September 6: Little Choptank to Harris Creek

The original plan was to sail to Solomons. However, the winds had changed to southerly. So, we decided to sail north to Dun Cove off Harris Creek.

Moonshadow was leaving the cruise due to another commitment. The remaining boats left Fishing Creek mid-morning. The winds were fairly light. However, all of the boats sailed part of the way. Dee Gee V had the most success deploying her spinnaker and enjoying the beautiful weather.

Dee Gee V, Mistral, and Tryst rafted together on the south side of Dun Cove. Flow joined other friends on the north end. We enjoyed cocktails and conversation for a second night, breaking up the raft before sunset.



Monday, September 7: Harris Creek to Home Port

We all left Harris Creek on our own time, and arrived home without further adventures (as far as we know).

<u>Boat</u>	<u>Nights</u>
Dee Gee V	2
Flow	2
Gambrinus	1
Karaya	1
Moonshadow	1
Mistral	3
Tryst	3

Submitted By: Dave and Barb Taylor, Cruise Captains