



Onancock Cruise Report – 2006 WECKEL JUNE 20- 26, 2006

There are many details that will be shared about our cruise south, and they will be enumerated below. Suffice it to say that the Bay produced its usual wind-in-your-face venue and more than a usual amount of late June squall activity. Through all the shared trials and tribulations we enjoyed ourselves.

Tues. June 20 – Solomons, Old House Cove

The wind was light from the south, and most of the fleet motored or motor-sailed to Solomons. Blue Heron, following true tradition, sailed most of the way. The heat of the day and our thirsts were quenched at an arrival cocktail party hosted by Karaya.

Wed. June 21 - Crisfield

Avatar, as usual, was off her anchor before 0700 hrs. With light winds from the south and a flat sea most of the fleet motored or motor-sailed to Crisfield. Sea Bonds developed a battery-charging issue but decided to tough-it-out for the cruise. Crisfield is changing. There are several new condo buildings and one under construction to the south of the marina entrance. It was too hot to go walking (mid nineties) so most just stayed on or around their boats. Avatar and Blue Heron anchored; the rest were in slips on D dock at Somer's Cove Marina. A good breeze made the Captain's party quite nice in the shade of the tent. The air-conditioned showers were wonderful.

Thurs. June 22 - Onancock

Daybreak brought us a five-day weather forecast of south winds of 10-15 knots and 1-2 foot seas. This was wishful thinking. 14 knots at the dock signaled excitement ahead. Once out in Tangier Sound and headed south, the wind rose to 18 knots and as high as 25 knots – all on the nose! While most of us motor-sailed, Blue Heron and Avatar did the right thing and sailed. Karaya belatedly unfurled her staysail and eased her misery. We were all glad to make the turn into Onancock Creek. Avatar and Blue Heron anchored out; Aurora, Karaya and Sea Bonds took the bulkhead and Empty Nest and Salt Shaker took slips.

Some of us had lunch on the wharf at Mallard's where we met Irv and Jayne Hetherington's sailing friends, the Cooks, who were in town on their boat. Dinner was everyone's individual choice. Collins, Soksos, Weckels and James dined at Bizzotto's. Gates and Meyns went to Flamingo's which is new and has an eastern European and Mediterranean flavor. The food there is quite good. Hetheringtons dined with their friends the Cooks. Armando's is no longer in existence.

Fri. June 23 – Onancock

We were all on our own. Blue Heron took Gates on a sail to Tangier. Irv and George talked electrical/battery problems, and the rest of us took a tour of the Ker Plantation House. It was another very hot day, and dark clouds are all around. At 1500

hrs all broke loose, and we worried for Blue Heron's safety. At the dock it was worse. High winds (50 knots), heavy rain, hail and lightening descended upon us. The Meyns



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lost their battery charger, GPS, depth sounder and speed and depth gages. The Cooks in the next slip fared little better. The Gates and James looked like drowned ducks when they arrived back at 1800 hrs. They were fortunate to have waited out much of the storm in Tangier.

The highlight of the trip was dinner at the Charlotte Hotel. We had 3 tables in a spacious room all to ourselves. It was full of nice art objects; the food and service wonderful; and of course great friends. It should be noted that Alex Collins arrived at the hotel in full foul-weather dress. He removed most of same to reveal a tasteful shirt and shorts. However, he chose to remain shod in shorty deck boots and white socks! By acclamation of all in attendance he has deservedly earned the appellation of **“Boots”** Collins. The party was a nice finish to a stormy day; however, showers continued off and on all night.

Sat. June 24 – Jutland Creek (off of Smith Creek)

The weather reports called for winds of 10-15 knots out of the south as we left for the Potomac. Avatar, leading the way, called to say that it was blowing 12 -15. All sails were up as we headed out south of Tangier Is. and on toward Smith Pt. With winds reaching the 20 knot area and moderate seas, it was a broad reach to Smith Point. The winds dropped to 5-10 knots as we entered the Potomac, and motor-sailing prevailed. With centerboard up to enter Smith Creek, Blue Heron learned again that gusting winds on the Bay can be a “flattening” and exciting experience. Avatar invited all to a party, and we certainly enjoyed it. Meyns had decided to stay on board to nurse their wounded steed. Their plan was to head home early the next day.

Sun. June 25 – Solomons

The weather system off of the Carolinas has affected us all week and is the reason that we cut one day off of the cruise. Today’s sail started out with S & TS predicted with winds SE at 10 knots building to SSE at 15 on our starboard quarters as we rounded Pt. Lookout. It was a run from there to Cedar Pt. where rain squalls soaked us. It rained frequently as we proceeded up the Patuxent River. The sun finally came out when Sea Bonds and then Karaya pulled into Old House Cove shortly after noon.

At 1700 hrs, a final potluck dinner party was hosted aboard Sea Bonds with Karaya rafted alongside. Rum punch and mixture of wonderful food and great imaginations was contributed by all. The party was going strong at 2000 hrs when the wind and weight of two boats and 14 people (The Meyns decided to stay for the final night) began to take its toll on our anchor position, and more rain was coming. The party ended, and we re-anchored.



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Mon. June 26 – Home.

Blue Heron and Avatar left earlier and Sea Bonds, Karaya and Empty Nest left at 0700 hrs. Aurora and Salt Shaker left around 0900 hrs. The forecast was for east winds at 15-20 knots and a 60% chance of S & TS. Out in the Patuxent we found 3 footers, heavy rain and 20-27 knots of wind. At Little Cove Pt. the waves built to 4 feet with a beam sea and harder rain. The rain continued on and off all the way up the bay, but as we approached Red # 2 off James Is., the sun found space to shine through. It was just perfect enough to cast the end of a rainbow sitting right on the water with the western shore's green hills faintly behind, and the clouds above cutting the ark from view. There must have surely been a pot of gold there. Eventually everyone arrived safely home, and each boat has her stories to tell. Bonnie James spent the day on the foredeck freeing lines and holding on for dear life, and she just looked thrilled with it all!

Thanks to all of you for making our (your) cruise to Onancock such a memorable trip.

And the rain goes on,

George & Judy Weckel
Sea Bonds
June 28, 2006

Boats present: Aurora, Avatar, Blue Heron, Empty Nest, Karaya, Salt Shaker and Sea Bonds. All boats were present for each of the six nights