



SASSAFRAS RIVER CRUISE REPORT – 2006

PLUMMER SEPTEMBER 7 – 12, 2006

Thursday, 7 Sept: On a murky, almost windless day, the CSSM fleet motored from home ports to Whitehall Bay near the mouth of the Severn River. When *Wye Wind* arrived we found *Sea Bonds* and *Karaya* rafted, and a number of catamarans already anchored. As the other CSSM boats arrived, so did other catamarans, all part of another sailing group. By nightfall 18 to 20 boats were anchored in the bay. We all watched a full, orange moon rise in the east.

Friday, 8 Sept: Our group moved on to Fairlee Creek. Again it was very hazy with little wind. Most boats motored all the way, although one or two tried sailing without much success. Although Fairlee Creek has a tricky entrance, all boats made it in safely despite a very strong adverse current at the mouth of the creek. One or two captains reported slight bumps, but no groundings. Once at anchor, dinghies were lowered for visits, buying ice, and other chores. Although there was a considerable amount of noise from parties aboard two non-CSSM boats, it eventually abated and we had another quiet night.

Saturday, 9 Sept: Again a murky day with the wind from the southeast at about 5 knots. We left Fairlee on a high tide so no boats had trouble at the entrance, although the Anstey's *Quatrefoil*, which was having electrical trouble, also had an encounter with crab pots after leaving Fairlee. Sailing and motoring up the SassafRAS we passed numerous crab pots and a group of sailboats preparing for a race. On reaching the Sailing Associates marina at Fredericktown (across the river from Georgetown) *Wye Wind*, *Salt Shaker*, and *Sanderling* had difficulty tying up to the T-dock due to a strong ebb tide current; *Quatrefoil* tied up at the other T-dock; *Karaya* took a slip, and *Sea Bonds* and *Avatar* picked up moorings; *Esperanza* anchored.

The captain's party was held on the lawn at the Sailing Associates taking advantage of their picnic tables and screened gazebo. Many goodies were consumed along with ample libations before the group repaired to The Granary restaurant for excellent dinners.

Sunday, 10 Sept: The weather improved over night and was clear and breezy. This was a lay day given over to boat washing, obtaining ice,



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newspaper and book reading, shopping, and other chores. *Avatar* departed to avoid bad weather and strong east winds predicted for Tuesday and was replaced by the Passport 40, *Whisper*, owned by Carolyn Rugg and Larry Rovin, guests of the Weckels. Most of the group dined at the Kitty Knight House on the Georgetown side of the river, some at the new Harbor Cafe in Fredericktown.

Monday, 11 Sept: The trip from the Sassafras to the Magothy River was the longest leg of the cruise, 39 miles. An early start allowed us to take advantage of a good wind from the northeast. The run down the river was pleasant, but on entering the bay we found the seas quite bumpy. Nevertheless most boats sailed nearly all the way to the Magothy, the first good sail of the cruise. Several boats deployed their spinnakers. With the wind from the northeast it was decided to anchor in the more sheltered cove behind Gibson Island in lieu of Dobbin Island. Everyone enjoyed cocktails and munchies aboard *Sea Bonds* followed by a quiet night at anchor.

Tuesday, 12 Sept: We woke to a strong east wind and, in view of predictions for more wind and poor weather, all boats decided to head for home. Most boats had a good sail south towards Knapps Narrows, while *Wye Wind* opted to head for Kent Narrows. The trip across the bay directly into the wind was rough, but once in the Chester it was a pleasant sail to the narrows where we encountered no less than 9.5 feet, due to the off-shore hurricane-caused flood tide. After sailing for several hours, the wind died and *Wye Wind* motored home.

In general the cruise was a pleasant one, and it was a pleasure to have been with all those who participated. Thank you for coming.

Norm & Ellen

Boat nights:

<i>Avatar</i>	3	<i>Sanderling</i>	5
<i>Esperanza</i>	5	<i>Salt Shaker</i>	5
<i>Wye Wind</i>	5	<i>Sea Bonds</i>	5
<i>Karaya</i>	5		
<i>Quatrefoil</i>	5	<i>Whisper</i>	2



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