



CSSM Chestertown Cruise Report

Submitted by Irv and Jayne Hetherington
JUNE 18-22, 2007

Monday 6/18/07 Home Ports to White Hall Bay

The cruise started on a hot and hazy sunny day with very light wind from the north. Day One led the fleet into the White Hall Bay anchorage followed by Karaya, Ellis Island, Esperanza, and Rags (with John single-handing). Everyone boarded Karaya for cocktails and munchies at 1700 hrs. The day finished off with an orange glowing sun that set through the hazy skies.

Tuesday 6/19/07 White Hall to Swan Creek

Following the Captains Call at 0800 hrs all boats weighed anchor between 0900 and 1000 hrs hoping for a bit more wind than the previous day. We all managed to enjoy some light air sailing in variable winds as we cleared the Bay Bridge, some sailing more than others. Ellis Island greeted Karaya, Day One, Rags, and Esperanza in the Swan Creek anchorage, north of Rock Hall. We had another hot, humid, and hazy day. Cocktail party aboard Ellis Island at 1700 hrs. was a big hit. As forecasted, after dark a front arrived with cooler air and rain. The wind shifted to the NW with gusts in the 20 kt. range. We had no problems in our snug little anchorage with protection from the north.

Wednesday 6/20/07 Swan Creek to Reed Creek

Following Captains Call at 0800 hrs we all said goodbye to Rags as John departed for home. Karaya, Ellis Island, and Day One departed at approximately 1000 hrs, followed by Esperanza leaving a short time later. Everyone but Day One had a great day of sailing south toward the mouth of the Chester River with 15 knot north winds with some higher gusts. One hour out, Day One experienced difficulties with their propeller and opted to return to Haven Harbor in Rock Hall for servicing.

The morning gray skies cleared to a beautiful sunny afternoon with comfortable temperatures. Sea Bonds had anchored in Reed Creek off the Chester River the night before and greeted us on arrival. George had posted himself in his dinghy near the opening where Red #2 Buoy was missing to help direct Karaya and Ellis Island in at about 1400 hrs. Our hero George also rescued Karaya's drifting dinghy. Esperanza arrived at 1630 hrs. with help from Irv in his dinghy. Blue Heron joined the cruise later in



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the afternoon as well. Day One arrived at 1730 hrs. after being hauled and repaired. Needless to say we all enjoyed the cocktail party at 1700 hrs. aboard Esperanza.

As the sun set we were serenaded by Ed and Bonnie on Blue Heron.

Thursday 6/21/07 Reed Creek to Chestertown

The sailing fleet, less Esperanza, weighed anchor in Reed Creek at 0830 hrs. shortly after Captain's Call. Sea Bonds lead the way out through the zig-zag path (with no Red Buoy #2) to the Chester River. Everyone exited safely with Ellis Island leading the way into Chestertown. Several boats sailed most of the way with a WNW breeze of 10-15 kts. Esperanza left about an hour later after doing some stuffing box stuffing! Karaya, Sea Bonds, and Day One took slips at the Chestertown Marina with Ellis Island, Blue Heron, and Esperanza anchoring off in the river. Lunch at The Feast of Reason and an afternoon of puttering on boats and/or shopping followed.

At 1700 hrs the CSSM "Land Cruisers" arrived to join the fleet for the dockside cocktail party under the new tent next to the marina. The skies turned dark and the winds picked up, but nothing more than a sprinkle followed during the cocktail party. At 1645 hrs., everyone, numbering twenty-seven, moved to the Imperial Hotel for a delightful dinner in the newly renovated atrium dining room. An evening of good conversation and catching up with old friends was had by all!

Friday 6/22/07 Chestertown

Day One and Ellis Island departed early in the morning, leaving Sea Bonds, Blue Heron, Esperanza, and Karaya to have all the fun in Chestertown. Esperanza weighed anchor in the afternoon after joining Blue Heron and Karaya for a morning bicycle ride through the countryside south along the Chester River. The group made it to Cliff City Point overlooking the confluence of the Corsica River and Chester River. The scenery and weather could not have been more beautiful!

After cocktails aboard Sea Bonds and dinner at the Blue Heron Restaurant (a "must stop" in Chestertown), Karaya, Sea Bonds, and Blue Heron topped off the evening enjoying the Piano (Ralitza Patcheva) and Cello (Vasily Popov) Concert at the Prince Theater. The music was excellent, educational, and totally entertaining.



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Saturday 6/22/07 Chestertown to Home Ports

Blue Heron, Sea Bonds, and Karaya decided unanimously to end the cruise on a high note and head for home ports Saturday morning. Blue Heron weighed anchor at 0630 hrs. and Sea Bonds and Karaya followed at 0745 hrs. Even in light air we all made the 1130 hrs. Kent Narrows bridge opening and went our separate ways.

Earned Boat Nights:

S/V	6/18	6/19	6/20	6/21	6/22	Total
Esperanza	1	1	1	1		4
Day One	1	1	1	1		4
Ellis Island	1	1	1	1		4
Karaya	1	1	1	1	1	5
Rags	1	1				2
Sea Bonds			1	1	1	3
Blue Heron			1	1	1	3