



C.S.S.M Cruise to Grace Creek & Cambridge
July 3-4, 2008

Thursday, July 3 brought us fair skies, good wind, and mostly bearable temperatures. The Cruise Captain and Admiral on the South Wind departed the Cambridge Yacht Club about 12:20PM with the Ellis Island not far behind; the south west winds ranging from about 8 – 18kn made for a brisk sail to and up Broad Creek. From all reports all boats experienced the same delightful sailing weather and did not drop sails until they reached the entrance to Grace Creek. The first boats to arrive were the Chinook Wind, Voyager (Commodore Dennis single handing his new boat) & Sea Bonds arriving about 1500 hours who's Captains decided to drop anchor around Daymark #6 to give some protection from the south winds and thunder showers predicted for the evening; between 1530 & 1600 hours the South Wind, Ellis Island, Wayward Wind, & Tarry Knot had all anchored nearby. Fortunately neither the showers nor the wind developed, but a light breeze filled in for most of the evening and night to cool the temperatures and keep the area "bugless" for the night.

The Captain's Party started promptly at 1700 hours and was in full swing until about 1930. I believe I heard a couple of requests for full dinners followed by responses of "it's leftovers or do it yourself"; but considering the quantity, quality and variety of the hors d' oeuvres, I suspect most of the dinners were light fare. On the South Wind and Ellis Island, with Commodore Dennis aboard also, we had a delightful choice of salads.

At about 2230 several others and I heard thunder type noises from the west, but after watching for a while and not seeing any sky flashes as from distant lightning, we decided it must have been fireworks on the western shore and retired a second time for the evening. It was a very quiet night until about 0500 when someone, not one of our group, started up a big, and what sounded like an unmuffled, diesel; by 0530 the crabbers were starting out and further sleep for most of the crews was nigh impossible.

The morning of July 4, broke with overcast skies and light winds. At about 0530 the Tarry Knot was the first boat to leave Grace Creek. Because of the decidedly unpromising forecast for later in the day continuing into the following week, they informed us by VHF of their decision to return to their home port on Tilghman Island; and to rejoin us, by car, at the Cambridge Yacht Club for the evening's BBQ and fireworks. Several other boats, as pre-planned, did likewise. The South Wind, Chinook Wind, Ellis Island and Sea Bonds departed about 0900 for the CYC arriving about 1230 hours. Much to Captain Weckel's disappointment the morning winds were only about 5 kn so he was unable to fly his humongous (1200 Sq. Ft. George?) spinnaker. At various times we all tried the jenny's, but decided it was a lost cause on an almost dead downwind run and resorted to motor sailing and then just motoring the rest of the way. The afternoon was primarily devoted to visiting, resting, reading, playing Bridge, consuming some "adult beverages" and relaxing.

After Mary & Ann Ellis talked to the Yacht Club Manager, they were able to wrangle the gazebo for our CSSM group and a pre-BBQ party started at approximately 1700 by which time the Antsey's, Critchlow's, Dunton's, Hawley's & Sokso's has also arrived by car so we had a group of sixteen for dinner. The BBQ consisted of chicken, ribs,



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biscuits, baked beans, tossed salad, sliced tomatoes, a baked pineapple casserole , and more cold salads than anyone could shake a stick at, lemonade, iced tea and coffee, & hot coffee with a lemon sorbet for dessert. Everyone seemed to enjoy the feast. As part of the Cruise Captain's very short remarks (he was forewarned), he asked his CSSM club mentor, Chuck Ellis, to make a presentation of a Certificate of Achievement to Admiral Ann Ellis of the S/V Ellis Island for her successful completion of On the Job Training in several necessary sailing disciplines, to wit: Heavy Weather Sailing, Frantic Re-Anchoring, & Not Making the Captain "walk the plank" all accomplished during their early May cruise to Yankee Point Marina on the Corroton River. If you haven't heard the whole story, ask Ann!

Almost immediately upon conclusion of dinner, the skies opened up with a very impressive lightning display and serious rainfall; it continued for about an hour, perhaps a little more, and was long enough to cause the planned fireworks display to be postponed to a date, as yet, uncertain. In Easton our rain gauge said we got ½", but I saw one boat owner at the Club bailing out his inflatable with a five gallon bucket; there must have been 8 – 10" of water in it, and it had been dry before the rainfall. I don't know how much rain fell in Cambridge, but it was significant and no one had to wash decks this morning.

There was some discussion of extending the cruise for one more day/night, but with the uncertain weather, discretion took the better part of valor, and the idea was scrapped.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all who attended the overnight on Thursday and/or the BBQ on Friday evening; we hope you all had a good time in spite of Friday evening's weather. I apologize to those members who did not get my first e-mails about the cruise and plans. My e-mail list has since been corrected. I also want to thank Chuck and Ann Ellis for helping us with this our first attempt at cruise planning. It would not have gone off as well without their assistance.

Sincerely,
Mary & Jim Campbell
S/V South Wind
(now, finally, with a
properly running
engine)

Cruise Night Credits:

Burke's, Chinook Wind	2
Campbell's, South Wind	2
Dunton's, Wayward Wind	1
Ellis', Ellis Island	2
Hawley's, Tarry Knot	1
Sokso, Voyager	1
Weckel's, Sea Bonds	2