



CHESTERTOWN CRUISE SEPTEMBER 8 – 11. 2008

This cruise was scheduled to leave on Sunday, September 7, but it was not clear how much bad weather would be left in Hannah's wake as it passed us over the weekend, so in consultation with the participating boats, we decided to set the departure date back a day. Our projected contingent of as many as 8 boats had also changed a good bit.

Monday, September 8

Four boats (Karaya, Rejuvenation, Salt Shaker and Lynx) converged on our Kirwan Creek anchorage (off the breakwater) at almost the same time, about 1650 hrs. Rejuvenation rafted with Lynx, and at 1730 hrs., Karaya launched her dink to pick up Salt Shaker's crew for a kickoff gathering. All was calm, but the wind did begin to pick up a bit as the party broke up around 1900 hrs. The forecast for that night had been S 10-15 kts., and with a fair amount of fetch, one might project that having gone further into the creek would have insured a quieter night. Some members of the fleet claimed they didn't sleep that much in the actual conditions (S 15-20, with periods to 25), but we think they just didn't drink enough. We will admit there was a tad of bounce.

Tuesday, September 9

The waters had calmed during the night, and we picked up anchor about 0800 hrs. to make the 0830 opening. But the very accommodating bridge tender opened for us when we arrived, en masse, about 15 after. We still had fair winds (and tide) for our direction, so we (mostly) motor sailed up the Chester. The forecast cold front, with heavy thunderstorms, showed up on Karaya's radar, but slipped past us as we all pulled into the marina just before noon. The Captain's party was held on the dock at 1700 hrs. in delightfully cooling conditions, followed by an unscheduled group dinner at the Blue Heron. The grub, you could say, passed muster. Those who hadn't slept as well as they might have the night before, made up for it this night.

Wednesday, September 10

A knockout of a day, cool and sunny. Various people did various things, but everybody was in fine fettle at yardarm time, and our little group (now enlarged to include the Soksos and the Plummers, who arrived by car) made more noise than the crowd on the restaurant's deck above us. We then went to dinner there ourselves (the Whistling Fish) and had what turned out to be a very good dinner.

Thursday, September 11

This day dawned a bit grey, but with moderate East winds. Our destination for the evening was Shaw Bay (we also considered Langford Creek, since we had dropped it from our original itinerary) or possibly Dividing Creek. The forecast for Friday had worsened overnight, however, now predicting small craft warnings and 15 to 20 knots out of the southeast, with gusts to 25. This did not sound appealing to the Gates, who had to return to Knapps Narrows. After some discussion, the whole fleet decided to cut out the last night, and return home. Other imminent events played as much of a part in this as the weather (which for the three of us Milers, would not have been a problem in itself). Most of us plan to be on at least some of the quickly upcoming cruises. We left Chestertown on a falling tide within minutes of each other about 0930. We trust that everyone made it home, as we did, without incident.

Yr. humble and obedient servants,
Cruise Captains Ernie and Barb, aboard Lynx

Cruise night credits: 3 nights each (9/8, 9/9 and 9/10) for Karaya, Lynx, Rejuvenation and Salt Shaker