



## LOWER POTOMAC CRUISE MAY 15-21, 2008

A hardy band of sailors on 7 boats braved the April weather (yes I said April) for the **Potomac River Cruise** on May 15 - May 21. The brave sailors made the best of some rough weather, and generally seemed to enjoy themselves (particularly during the happy hours and group dinners). The cruise captain conducted an on-going nautical quiz during the week, with a question of the day during happy hour or dinner. Bonus points were also awarded on occasion. The details might prove embarrassing to some, so suffice it to say that Irv and Jane Hetherington, aboard Karaya, walked away with the contest. Chinook Wind came in second. Unfortunately, the cruise captain was unable to award the prize since the fleet was scattered on the final night. Don't worry guys, we will get that bottle of wine to you eventually. Nice going! Food for thought: how many of you have actually practiced a crew-overboard drill during the last year? The blow-by-blow log follows.

### Thursday, May 15 - Old House Cove on Mill Creek, Solomons

The day was sunny, with no wind, so diesel engines were the order of the day (this would be the last of that kind of weather!). Six boats assembled for a raft-up and happy hour. The commodore made an unusual approach to the anchorage, as his new vessel Voyager was rafted up alongside Karaya while still underway. We thought at first they had merely started their happy hour early, but alas Voyager was having engine problems and Karaya was providing a "lift" to the anchorage. What is that saying about the two best days in a boat owner's life??? Undaunted, the group enjoyed sundowners as usual. At anchor: Makani, Salt Shaker, Karaya, Voyager, Chinook Wind, Avatar.

### Friday, May 16 - Near Horseshoe Bend on St. Mary's River off the Potomac

The weather was cloudy and cool, with strong winds that were generally from an undesirable direction. The late afternoon brought a squall with Very Strong Wind and Very Heavy horizontal rain (even a little hail). Most of the boats made it to the anchorage near St. Mary's College before the rain hit, but Salt Shaker and Makani were not so lucky. Makani powered the last part of the trip up St. Mary's River while being pelted with horizontal rain and having the boat heeled over with no sails up. Everyone anchored for the night and the Happy Hour was canceled by mutual consent. I should say, the group happy hour was canceled. Personally, I never enjoyed a scotch on the rocks more. At anchor: Makani, Salt Shaker, Karaya, Chinook Wind, Avatar. At Zahnisers Marina for repairs to the fuel pump: Voyager.

### Saturday, May 17 - St. Mary's Yachting Center off St. Mary's River

This was a virtual lay day, with only a short trip required to reach our Marina for the night. Some of us enjoyed a visit ashore at St. Mary's City and College. The sun was shining, and two weddings were in progress ashore. Some of us enjoyed a delightful sail down river to the marina. A hungry and thirsty group of 14 sailors gathered ashore for happy hour and dinner at the restaurant. The food was judged to be very good, although a staff shortage resulted in slow service. The marina location on Carthagen Creek is a fine one, and I would recommend it. New owners are planning to put a lot of money into improvements at the marina. At anchor: Avatar, Voyager (down from the Solomons), Falconer (down from the Tred Avon!). In slips at the Marina: Makani, Salt Shaker, Chinook Wind, Karaya.

### Sunday, May 18 - The Glebe, off the Potomac

Once again, a windy and rainy day. We all made the short trip across the Potomac to "The Glebe" (not a river, not a creek, honest). We found this to be a beautiful body of water, with coves offering protection from any wind direction. We anchored one mile up The Glebe beyond "R8", past a private green day beacon and to



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port. The Commodore was the last to arrive. A VHF conversation confirmed he was only a mile away, but after some time elapsed there was no sign of Voyager. Rumor had it a mast was seen heading up into the wrong cove. Another VHF conversation ensued, and Voyager finally came into view. Could it be that the Commodore was bucking for an award at the annual ceremony? The group Happy Hour was rained out again, although the cruise captain did manage to get in some exercise rowing his dinghy in between showers. At anchor: Makani, Avatar, Salt Shaker, Karaya, Chinook Wind, Voyager, Falconer.

### Monday, May 19 - Coles Point Plantation Marina off the Potomac

Believe it or not, this was again a windy day, with the wind again on the nose. We all made our way out of The Glebe and up the Potomac to the Coles Point Plantation, directly off the Potomac just south of Ragged Point. The marina has a controlling depth of only 6 feet, and needs a lot of work, although the location is hard to beat. The hardy band once again gathered ashore for Sundowners and dinner at the restaurant. At anchor in the basin: Avatar, Voyager. In slips: Makani, Falconer, Karaya, Chinook Wind, Salt Shaker.

### Tuesday, May 20 - Somewhere off the Chesapeake Bay

Tuesday morning "dawned" with driving rain and high winds (I am not making this up). The cruise captain let the captains make their own decisions as to whether to head for the Solomons or head back to The Glebe to wait for better weather. Unfortunately, Falconer was hard aground at the bulkhead (where they had been told there was "plenty of water"), and was unable to leave until mid-day. The lineup at the end of the windy (up to 40 knots) day: At anchor in Old House Cove in the Solomons: Avatar, Voyager, Salt Shaker. Home: Chinook Wind, Karaya. At anchor in the Glebe: Makani, Falconer. (who was in charge of this cruise anyway?!?). Speaking for the Glebe group, we had a great Happy Hour!

### Wednesday, May 21 - Homeward Bound

The weather was unusual, with no rain (okay, we did get some showers in the afternoon, but the rain wasn't even horizontal) and moderate wind. Everyone made it home successfully.

### Cruise Attendance

Makani - 6 nights  
Salt Shaker - 6 nights  
Voyager - 6 nights  
Avatar - 6 nights  
Chinook Wind - 5 nights  
Karaya - 5 nights  
Falconer - 4 nights

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig and Janie Kelting  
"Makani"