



SOUTHERN BAY CRUISE
May 19 to June 25, 2009
Jim and Mary Campbell

Greetings again CSSM-ers,

The cruise report of the South Wind's cruise to and around the Southern Bay accompanied by the S/V's Lynx and **Voyager** for parts of the first week.

The South Wind was out for a total of 38 days and put 648 miles under the keel; we returned home on June 25. I will publish a Cruise Report covering the second part of the trip as soon as I get a chance to put it together.

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5-19-09 The morning opened to a beautiful day with a bright sun and cloudless sky. After a couple hours of loading last minute items primarily Jake, the sailor cat, & food stuffs into an already pre-cooled refrigerator system, the South Wind got underway at 1155 hours.

We talked to Ernie and Barbara Cox on the Lynx and learned that they had left Tilghman Creek around 0930 so were ahead of us (we had tentatively planned to meet up around Sharps Island) and so they arrived about 1 1/2 hours ahead of us.

Leaving the Cambridge Yacht Club, the wind was about 5 kn but directly on the bow so we motored until we passed Sharps Island Light where we set all sails and with the wind swinging to the NW at 10 kn we sailed on a broad reach until about Taylor's Island. The apparent wind then dropped to 3kn or less and at 1510 the iron genny went back to work. We motored the rest of the way to Back Creek in the Solomons arriving at 1745 Hrs.

We anchored astern of the Lynx with about a half dozen other boats enjoying the quiet and solitude of the beautiful creek.

5-20-09 At dawn, or shortly after, there was a light sea smoke haze hanging above the water which made for some interesting pictures. The haze shortly burned off and we departed for Chrisfield at 0800 hours. The Cox's having awoken earlier than planned had departed about 45 minutes earlier.

The Bay was a flat as the proverbial lake with no wind so it was a chug all the way through Kedge's Straight to Chrisfield and by 1515 we were tied up at Somers Cove Marina. Per the GPS the distance was 40.9 NM and the average speed 5.8 kn was helped by an ebbing tide after noontime. Cocktails were aboard the Lynx, and we had dinner at "The Cove" restaurant, Waterman's Inn was still on summer hours (Thurs.-Sun only.)



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5-21-09 South Wind and Lynx departed Chrisfield for Tangier at 1030 and 1050 hrs respectively. It was another motor trip of 12.7NM and took the South Wind 2 hrs, 20 minutes. We both tied up at Park's Marina; the Cox's had been there many time, but it was our first and we got to meet Milton Parks, the 78 year old dock master, who has lived all his life on the island. Milton gave Mary and I a "golf cart" tour of the island. We all had an early dinner at Hilda Crockett's Chesapeake House and experienced her crab cakes--they were delicious and made the way they should be made.

5-22-09 South Wind and Lynx departed Tangier at 8:00 & 9:35 respectively for the run to Carter Creek on the Rappahanock River. South Wind was anchored in Yopps Cove off the Eastern Branch by 1650 hrs after delightful close reach across the Bay toward Great Wicomico River making 5.8-6.0 kn in the 11 – 12 kn SSW wind then motor sailing to the Rappahanock. Lynx had to divert further up river to Urbanna to pick up some necessary provisions so the Cox's decided to stay there for the evening and would rejoin us the next day.

5-23-09 S/V Voyager with Denny, Stephanie & Max aboard arrived in Yopps Cove at about 1330 hours after a motor sail (mostly motor) from Reedville where they laid up Friday evening. The Lynx arrived at approximately 1530 after spending several hours sailing in the 10-12 kn SW breeze in the Rappahanock. The crews of the South Wind and Endeavor toured the Tides Inn and walked into the Town of Irvington where we had a delightful and informative tour of the Steamboat Era museum. We were fortunate that the Museum Director happened to be "on duty" at the museum so we had a exceptionally well informed guide. The museum is small but very interesting and we all heartily recommend it if you are in the area. The traditional Social Hour/Captain's Party, actually almost two hours, commenced on the South Wind at 1730. We all had a peaceful night sheltered from the winds out on the river.

5-24-09 At about 1000 Voyager and South Wind departed Yopps Cove for Urbanna arriving about 1200 hours. We both motor sailed up the river; motors were not at all necessary but it gave both of us a chance to recharge the batteries and run refrigeration. We had the first few raindrops of the cruise on the sail upriver, and after we were all anchored we had a 15 minute rain shower. Skies are still (1350 hrs) somewhat overcast but some blue is beginning to appear. We both anchored in the little cove opposite the Urbanna Town Marina with several other boats a couple of which appeared to be cruisers and at least two on permanent moorings. The Cox's departed for their home port later in the morning. Their original plan was to continue down the bay, meeting with the South Wind's crew at the Hampton Yacht Club, but a revision of plans by family house guests required their return to home port.



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5-25-09 Memorial Day—We walked downtown Urbanna and between Denny, Stephanie, Mary and I probably visited almost every open shop. We were surprised that so many were open in a small town on a National Holiday-- probably a symptom of the economy; there didn't seem to be many customers around. We also took advantage of the Town's free weekend bus ride program to visit the Super Market for supplies. That evening we went out for a very nice dinner at the restaurant at the Urbanna Yachting Center. The only negative on the evening was that our outboard wouldn't start for the return trip, but the Sokso's saved me from a long row by seeing my efforts and giving us a tow.

5-26-09 Dennie, Stephanie & Max started back on Tuesday Morning as they only had a week for this cruise. We tried calling one another on VHF when they were at the river mouth or just outside, but although I could hear his transmission clearly, he couldn't hear us well.

 Thus ends the CSSM portion end of the South Wind's summer's bay exploration.

Cruise Nights:	South Wind	6
	Lynx	4
	Voyager	3

Respectively submitted,

Jim & Mary Campbell