



Stimulus Cruise Report (aka Tanker's Shakedown) Chuck & Ann Ellis April 24-26, 2009

Friday April 24th

We were greeted by SE winds 10 – 15 kts. Ellis Island sailed all the way from Cambridge to Broad Creek on a beam reach. Eagle had excellent wind from La Trappe Creek and managed to stay ahead of Ellis Island all day. Salt Shaker and Voyager experienced the same great sailing from Tilghman. We were joined by Eagle's guests Dave and Joanne Miller aboard Grace.

The cruise captain arrived at Baby Owl Cove at 1500 hours only to find Eagle already at anchor. As we passed Eagle on the way to find our spot we heard the Captain exclaim "We beat George". Salt Shaker was next to enter the cove and rafted alongside Ellis Island per the Cruise Captain's instructions.

Grace called on the VHF asking if someone would volunteer to guide them into the anchorage as their depth sounder was malfunctioning – what the heck, it's a shakedown! Voyager volunteered with Denny explaining to Grace that he drew more than they did so if he stopped they should also. Since Voyager drew 5'9" and Grace drew 5'5" Grace was never in any danger.

Once everyone was settled in either at anchor or rafted per instructions the Commodore began his ceremony to open the 2009 sailing season for CSSM. The sequence of events was as follow:

- 1645 Com picks up Miller's in T/T Eagle
- 1647 Com returns to Eagle
- 1648 Com confirms via VHF all ships at the ready to hoist Club burgee.
- 1650 Salt Shaker fires ceremonial cannon
- 1651 Com declared "Cruising Sailors of St Michaels is Commissioned for the 2009 Season"
- 1652 Com fires up dingy and races to cocktails aboard Ellis Island
- 1655 Cocktail party begins followed by a dinner of soup, bread, tortellini salad and dessert aboard Ellis Island
- 1900 Everyone returns to own boat and Salt Shaker disengages

Saturday April 25th

Our destination was Madison Bay off the Little Choptank about 20 nm. One boat was seen leaving the anchorage dragging their stern ladder. Another award perhaps? The wind



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was forecast to be South 7 – 10 knots but we could not back it and managed to motor all the way. Ellis Island was first out of Baby Owl wanting to arrive in Madison Bay first to

navigate the channel to the “free” dockage at the R & R Restaurant as promised. Ellis Island entered the channel with 1.2’ under the keel at low tide or close to it. As we proceeded down the channel toward marker # 4 and about 200 yards from the R & R the Admiral noticed the depth sounder was now showing .7’ and exclaimed that she had had enough. The Captain prudently made a sharp U turn during which the Admiral claims the depth sounder was down to .2” and announced that the fleet would use alternate means of transportation to the R & R and anchor for the night in Madison Bay.

The Com and Cruise Captain made a preliminary visit to the R & R via T/T Eagle in the early afternoon to make sure the R & R was up to CSSM standards since some reports indicated that it was not the “Ritz”. After a frosty mug of beer and a bowl of bar snacks both certified the R & R suitable for the fleet dinner. Kitty, the manager, even asked us what time we would like to have our private table. At 1800 hours all arrived at the R & R either via T/T Eagle or the Voyager dink as Salt Shaker didn’t bring a dink, again following the Cruise Captain’s directive of free slips and the Cruise Captain’s dink engine as usual wouldn’t start. The meal was great with lots of local seafood to choose from along with the usual Eastern Shore fried chicken. Early on the beer drinkers switched from mugs to pitchers. As the individual checks were delivered someone exclaimed “damn three vodka tonics for \$8.25, I love this place!”

While Dorchester County has a reputation for the largest and hungriest mosquitoes on earth the ten hearty souls had not noticed them until departing the R & R when the attack began. They were obviously waiting for the well fed victims.

Even though the temperature had reached the low 90’s and there was no wind during the day, it was a delightful evening at anchor. The storms that were all around us made for a great show of fireworks and breeze. There was a brief period of rain and high winds later in the night but no one experienced any problems. There was one boat however that may have dragged about 100 feet but this has not been confirmed.

Sunday April 26th

An optional breakfast at the Madison Fire Hall was enjoyed by most of the fleet. Grace elected to leave early during high tide for the trip home. The rest feasted on eggs, monkey bread, juice, grits (reg & cheese), assorted meats, biscuits, chipped beef, potatoes etc, etc.

Having eaten our way around Madison Bay everyone headed for home under power with temperatures again forecast to be in the low 90’s.



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Thanks to Mike and Denny for providing much needed tank transportation.

Submitted April 30th

Ann and Chuck Ellis

Boat	23-Apr	24-Apr	Total nights
Ellis Island	1	1	2
Eagle	1	1	2
Voyager	1	1	2
Salt Shaker	1	1	2
Grace	1	1	2