

A total of 8 boats took part in the "Choptank Slow and Easy" cruise from Sept. 16 to Sept. 19. Everyone enjoyed the good weather and good company.

Thursday, Sept. 16 - Baby Owl Cove

The day was sunny, with a strong southwest breeze. Makani and others enjoyed a reach across the Choptank and a downwind ride up Broad Creek to the anchorage. Seven boats found their way to the anchorage, not counting the Boat U.S. towboat.....Rejoice managed to find her way to the shoal east of the anchorage. Efforts were made to free her, but she was, as they say, Hard Aground, and it took a towboat to rescue her. Makani hosted cocktails at 1700, and everyone enjoyed the ending of a fine sailing day. The night brought changing winds and showers, resulting in the old "get up and close/open the hatches" game.

Friday, Sept. 17 - Baby Owl Cove to Plaindealing Creek

Friday brought sunshine and northwest winds (10 to 15, gusting to 20), which made for another downwind ride out of Broad Creek and a fast reach across the Choptank to the Tred Avon and Plaindealing Creek. The afternoon found 8 boats in the anchorage, and we hosted cocktails ashore at 1700. The party broke up just before sundown, and all the dinghies found their way back to their mother ships.

Saturday, Sept. 18 - Plaindealing Creek to Trippe Creek

Saturday brought more sunshine, and everyone found their way back ashore for brunch at 0900. We were happy that Sally Dunton could join us, along with daughter Sue. Karaya offered to ferry people to Oxford for lunch at Schooners (did we mention brunch didn't end until almost noon??) Despite full stomachs, the group rallied and piled aboard Karaya for the trip to Schooners. The fleet eventually departed for Trippe Creek at 1500, minus Wayward Wind, Rejoice, and Ellis Island, who headed for home. The wind was light, but the 3 mile trip was made under beautiful sunny skies. Makani again hosted cocktails aboard at 1700, and everyone enjoyed a pleasant final night of camaraderie. We enjoyed spending time with the Gates' friend Trav (aka Carol Confer).

Sunday, Sept. 19 - Homeward Bound

The day brought more sunshine, but no wind. The fleet dispersed early, with much waving, and headed for home ports under power. The good weather held, and no reports were received of any problems on the return voyages.

Cruise Attendance

Makani - 3 nights
Salt Shaker - 3 nights
Karaya - 3 nights
Avatar - 3 nights
Salty Dog - 3 nights
Wayward Wind - 2 nights
Rejoice - 2 nights
Ellis Island - 1 night

Respectfully submitted,
Craig and Janie Kelting
"Makani"