

FALL GETAWAY
Cruise Captains: Irv Hetherington and Tod Engelskirchen



CSSM "FALL GETAWAY CRUISE"

Part I: Southbound Cruise Captain: Irv Hetherington

Friday, September 24: Home ports to the Solomons, MD (45 nm)

After departing MRYC at 0730 hours KARAYA (Irv and Jayne and Maggie and Baxter) and FISCAL STRAY (Tod and Anne) reached down the Miles River and Eastern Bay under blue skies with 15-18 knot winds out of the south. TRYST (Pierce and Molly) and SEA TRIAL (Jim) reached down the Choptank from their respective home ports in Oxford and Cambridge. KARAYA and FISCAL STRAY eventually motor sailed down the Bay directly into the southerly winds. All made good time with a favorable current in the morning and early afternoon. TRYST arrived first staking out a good spot in Back Creek, followed by KARAYA, FISCAL STRAY, and SEA TRIAL.

All CSSM members participated in The 1730 Cocktail Party aboard KARAYA. Irv and Jayne's sailing friends from the Solomons- Charlie and Marty Schneider also joined us for libations. We had a pleasant calm starry night at anchor.

Saturday - September 25: Solomons to Mill Creek, Reedville, VA (42 nm)

KARAYA, FISCAL STRAY, and TRYST headed out at 0730 hours to face 20 knot southwest winds and lumpy seas. Again with blue skies and a favorable current we all motor sailed down the Bay. SEA TRIAL left for Cambridge...hopeful to join the cruise for a night on our way back north. The CSSM trio was anchored by 1500 hours in calm waters in Mill Creek- located near the opening of the Great Wicomico River.

At 1800 hours Pierce and Molly hosted a most enjoyable pot-luck dinner party aboard TRYST. Molly offered to share her recipe for Captain's Stew for those of you looking for a delicious on-board one dish meal recipe. Another perfect evening anchored in a picturesque creek off the Bay!

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Sunday - September 26: Mill Creek to The Tides Inn on Carter Creek, VA (30 nm)

Following an overnight front that brought cooler north/northeast blustery winds and gray skies, the trio weighed anchor at 0830 hours headed south for the Rappahannock. With 20-25 knot winds off the port quarter and a favorable current, we reached down the Bay at a good clip. We jibed and took a long starboard tack west/north west up the Rappahannock River approximately 6 miles to the opening of Carter Creek on the northeast side of the river. KARAYA, FISCAL STRAY, and TRYST were all docked at the Tides Inn Resort and Marina by 1430 hours after an exhilarating day of sailing!

The Tides Inn Resort is a great cruising destination...Fortunately, by coming in late September we benefited from a seasonal reduced dockage charge of \$2.00/ft. plus amenities charge of \$24/boat per night. It was well worth approximately \$100/night to stay there. The amenities charge covers electricity, ice, internet connection, cable TV connection, use of washers and dryers, kayaks, canoes, bicycles, and van shuttle service to grocery store, and nearby towns and sights. The extensive resort grounds include walking trails with gardens to enjoy, along with use of a pool, croquet, a par 3 golf course, and tennis courts. The "hotel" had over 100 rooms with great views of Carter Creek, shops, lounges, and two restaurants.

The Sunday afternoon we arrived we walked down the lane to take a guided tour of the small but interesting Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington. It's hard to believe there is not one steamboat left out of the hundreds that plied the waters of the Bay during the 1800s/early 1900s era.

At 1830, we enjoyed our Southbound Cruise CSSM dinner out at the Tides...wonderful food, wine, and conversation! Since we were not yet "tired" we had Domino-Mexican Train instruction and play at a large game table in the main lounge of the Tides. All the "now very tired" sailors sloshed back to their boats for a good night of sleep under the pounding rain on their cabin tops!

Monday - September 27: Lay Day at the Tides Inn

On a not-so-pretty rainy day we managed to occupy ourselves both productively and entertainingly! Boat chores, grocery errands, laundry, and dog walking were accomplished during the on and off drizzly day...Pierce and

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Molly viewed the movie Captain Ron- assigned by Cruise Captain Irv. (Required viewing of all sailors, he said.) Several books were read as well! As the rains continued to come down, we all then met up at the Tides' lounge for a few hours of drinking and Dominos-Mexican Train....a must game for boaters we understand!

Tuesday - September 28: The Tides to Lowrey Creek on the Corrotoman River, VA (7 nm)

Our group took advantage of a break in the weather to do more sight seeing. The shuttle van driver took all of us on a local tour of the area and dropped us off at the Historic Christ Church- brick structure dating back to 1735, built by Robert "King" Carter of the extremely wealthy and influential Carter family of "the Great Neck" of Virginia. We enjoyed the interesting museum and comprehensive tour of the "restored" church and grounds given by a most knowledgeable docent. We then had lunch out at The Local...a deli-like restaurant in Irvington. After we walked the 1.5 mile distance back to the Tides Inn, we reluctantly prepared for departure from the Tides Inn and Marina.

At 1430 hours, with a short distance to cover, we motored out Carter Creek, headed up the Rappahannock about 2 miles, and turned to starboard into the Corrotoman River. After we casually "toured" the Eastern Branch (spotting an eagle) we headed up the Western Branch to locate a protected anchorage for the predicted N/NW front winds coming in that night. We gave the Merry Point cable ferry plenty of room as we explored up the Western Branch before coming back down to Lowrey Creek...a perfect anchorage for our needs.

TRYST and FISCAL STRAY rafted up to KARAYA and we enjoyed another pot-luck dinner...this time aboard KARAYA with Tod and Anne's featured venison stew main dish a big hit! It was another perfect evening in a beautiful anchorage...our last beautiful weather for several days and nights. KARAYA handed off the Cruise Captain's responsibilities and flag to FISCAL STRAY for the next CSSM Cruise on the Rappahannock and North.

CSSM Cruising Nights Tally:

KARAYA: F, Sa, Su, M, T 5 nights

FISCAL STRAY: F, Sa, Su, M, T 5 nights

TRYST: F, Sa, Su, M, T 5 nights

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SEA TRIAL: F 1 night

Cruise Report written and submitted by Irv and Jayne Hetherington
October 10, 2010

Part II: Beyond the Tides Inn – The cruise that did not want to end: Cruise Captain: Tod Engelskirchen.

9/29/2010

All of us left the anchorage at Lowery Creek at 9:30, heading for Urbanna, VA. Just off the anchorage we dodged the local cable ferry making its way across the river. This was intended to be a short trip but we ended up with heavy wind and rain. Upon arrival at Urbanna we extended our stay to two days because tropical storm Nicole was bearing down on us. IT RAINED AND Poured AND BLEW. We were told that nearby areas got up to 17 inches of rain. Once we were secured, rested and changed, we all gathered in the dry and large cockpit of Karaya for a very extended meeting and cocktail hour(s)!!

9/30/2010

Today it rained some more –lots more. Crews rested and read. There seemed to be a lull so we walked up the hill to dine at the Virginia St. Café and did not finish dinner before the downpour resumed. Luckily most were dressed in full foul weather gear.

10/1/2010

We awoke to clearing skies but when we looked out at the huge breakers on the Rappahannock we decided on yet another lay day. The sun came out, some did laundry and grocery shopping and toured town. We lunched at Angelo's Pizza, a very nice lunch indeed. The female crews checked out the shopping opportunities in Urbanna and all crew met on Fiscal Stray at the appointed hour for departure planning and cocktails with Cap't Senor Tod's quesadillas. Early to bed as our off the docks time was to be early.

10/2/2010

Karaya, Tryst, and Fiscal Stray left at 7:30 AM. We had wind from the north but reasonable weather under clear skies. All of us zig zagged up the coast under sail and power to Mill Creek off the Great Wicomico River where we anchored just about where we had anchored on 9/25/2010. With Fiscal Stray's detour to Reedville for diesel, we had covered 44 nm. There were soon 5 boats within sight then about a dozen in our part of the creek. People were looking for shelter as another blow was predicted. We all spent a quiet afternoon reading, other boat and bird watching.

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10/3/2010

At 6:30 AM Karaya and Fiscal Stray elected to leave for Solomons. Several other boats did also. Tryst elected to stay. That was the right decision because most, if not all, boats which tried to go north and at least one which wanted to go south came back. It was not pleasant on the Bay with 20 knots of wind on the nose and very rough seas. Plowing through it would have been wet indeed. We all took the places in the anchorage we had previously taken. And suffered more rain and winds...

10/4/2010

The bay did not look good per Digital Dan the weather man. We stayed put. We read, did minor repairs and cleaning (inside – it is cold and wet out there), and read. A cocktail and game afternoon was planned for 3 PM. Irv's taxi service insured that we all enjoyed Mexican Train on Karaya and cured our cabin fever.

10/5/2010

We all agreed to leave for Solomons, MD even though moderately lousy weather was forecast. Karaya, Tryst, and Fiscal Stray left at 7:30 AM. Things were not too bad at the start. No walk in the park but "doable." Other boats which had seen us leave called on the VHF to see how things were going. We relayed our situation and at least one other boat (50 foot range) followed us later. Things went ok until we got to the mouth of the Potomac. We found 20+ knots of wind way too close on the wind to avoid tacking, and wind against current coming out of the Potomac. Picture a washing machine. Karaya lost a funnel for one dorade. Fiscal Stray lost the cap off a haws pipe which leads to the anchor locker. All of us took water over our boats and buried our bows many times. However, at this point there was no sense in bailing out and we all hung in there. After a couple of hours crossing the Potomac things eased off and we made it to the Patuxent and Solomons. We had come about 40 nm and ended up at Spring Cove Marina at about 3:30 PM. All enjoyed a nice dinner at the Naughty Gull. Some adult beverages were consumed.

10/6/2010

At about 8:30 AM Karaya, Tryst, and Fiscal Stray departed for our respective home ports. We were happy to have clear skies and sunshine. The wind was lighter than predicted for the first several hours. The winds picked up and we were able to enjoy a lovely sail the last bit home to MRYC and Oxford. All of us agreed that despite the weather trials, we had an enjoyable cruise to some new destinations.

Nights on Cruise -- Starting on 9/29/2010

Karaya	29,30,1,2,3,4,5	7 nights
Tryst	"	7 nights

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Fiscal Stray “ 7 nights

Respectfully Submitted, W. T. Engelskirchen / A. L. Pilert

10/9/2010