

## **RIVERS AND CREEKS CRUISE 2011**

Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> : A steady morning rain and a forecast for continued unpleasant weather prompted a postponement. As it turned out, once the rain stopped, the afternoon and early evening turned out to be as nice as any on the cruise. Nonetheless, we started out the following day.

Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> : Avatar, Day One, Salt Shaker and Voyager set out under gloomy skies with winds out of the SW at 10 – 12 knots toward Whitehall Bay/Whitehall Creek. The trip up the Bay was a little lumpy but it did allow for at least some sailing toward the destination. Avatar and Voyager sailed most of the way. By mid-day the sun began to shine through broken clouds with the wind holding steady at ~ 10 knots; still predominantly SW with the temperature in the mid-80s.

By mid-afternoon all four boats were snugly anchored in picturesque Whitehall Creek enjoying the pleasant southerly breeze. Later in the afternoon, we were delighted to be joined by the crew of Sovereign, Gloria and Les Anstey. They had sailed down the Severn from Little Round Bay where their son lives and where the boat is berthed.

At 1700 all crews enjoyed appetizers, drinks and great camaraderie aboard Day One. Dennis and Stephanie of Voyager graciously helped ferry non-dinghy participants back to their boats for the evening. The night was punctuated by thunder and lightning in the area but, fortunately, not close to our anchorage. Otherwise, all enjoyed a comfortable night.

Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> : Five boats departed Whitehall Creek after the 0800 captain's call. Sovereign had a brief (happily) engine hiccup, but restarted and headed back to Little Round Bay. It was a treat to have Gloria and Les with us for the night at Whitehall Creek. Four boats then set off across the Bay for Langford Creek and Lankford Bay Marina. Initially, the wind was shifting from the E/NE, but eventually backed to SW at 5 -10 knots. Skies were partly cloudy and the temperature was due to reach 90 later in the day. There was some sailing done on this leg especially after rounding G "9" on the Chester River. Again, Avatar and Voyager had sails up most of the way to Langford Creek.

After a relaxing, though warm, afternoon at the marina, all enjoyed cocktails and appetizers in the picnic area near the pool. This was followed by a barbecue in one of the nearby grills where beef was the main course of choice. Of course this was accompanied by liberal quantities of wine and other beverages. The many trees in this area provided shade and with the steady evening breeze, it was a very pleasant end to the day.

Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> : Avatar departed early for the Rhode River in order to be in position for the trip home the next day while avoiding Kent Narrows. The day began overcast with winds out of the S at 5 -10 knots, occasionally gusting higher. Sprits of rain fell intermittently. All participants had agreed the previous night that we should set course for the Corsica River instead of Grays Inn Creek. After a leisurely morning at the marina, the three remaining boats departed at about 1130 (check out time is 1100) for the Corsica. After a short trip across the Chester River, we anchored just south of R "4" between Wash Point and Rocky Point. Captain Sokso decided on a cool dip in the river while the crews of Day One and Salt Shaker explored up this beautiful river by dinghy. Salt Shaker hosted cocktails and appetizers at 1700. The evening treat was a perceptive dip in the humidity and a magnificent sunset (see photos to be posted to the website).

Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> : The day dawned partly cloudy with a pleasant breeze out of the S at ~10 knots. All three boats departed the Corsica at 0900 in order to reach the Kent Narrows Bridge in plenty of time for the 1200 opening. This was fortuitously also the time of high tide (1202). Traffic in the Narrows was heavy (it was noon on a Friday after all) with many power boats exiting to the north. Even at high tide there were sections of the channel that were less than six feet deep, mostly on the western side. The exiting power boats made it difficult to stay to the east side, but all boats made it through eventually. Voyager made it on the second try thanks to the indomitable spirit of her captain and crew, including Winston. After passing through the bridge en train with another sailboat, Day One, Salt Shaker and Voyager headed for home ports. Winds were blowing at 12 -15 knots out of the S by now so not much sailing was done on the final and homeward leg of the cruise.

#### CRUISE NIGHTS:

<u>Boat</u>	<u>Nights</u>
Avatar	2
Day One	3
Salt Shaker	3
Sovereign	1
Voyager	3

Joe and Karen Day