

Cruise Report

Chomp chomp bang bang July 1st – July 4th

As anticipated this was truly a drop in drop out adventure.

Friday – Dunn Cove – those arriving from the Choptank managed to find some favorable winds to guide them to the anchorage while those arriving from the Miles primarily motored but what the heck it is July. Cocktails were at the usual 1700 hours and enjoyed by Ellis Island, Chinook Wind, Karaya, Wayward Wind, Voyager and Ellis Island guest Sea Nettle. Crews were a mixed bag with two single handlers (the guys) and a Father Daughter team.

Saturday – Madison Bay – Voyager was spotted with its sails up before the anchor, anxious for the sail to the next anchorage. The cruise captain reported a 38 nm trip from Dunn Cove which was no issue for any of the boats headed there. All managed to arrive within four hours of departure. Who said sailing was slow! Regrets were received via VHF from Jim and Mary Campbell who were sailing back from the south and were scheduled to join us at this point. Jim had a pulled his back and was setting his sites for home. During the customary cocktails at 1700 hours aboard Ellis Island we heard a strange noise in the Bay. Turns out it was Jeannine and Tom Hook coming to join the group for cocktails on their 28 foot Maycraft with twin 130 Hondas. They are local Madison Bay residents and friends of the cruise captain. After cocktails all were welcomed aboard the MayCraft for ferry service to the locally famous R & R, Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal from soft shell crab to steak. Tom and Jeannine ordered fried pickles (a house specialty) for everyone to enjoy. Some did and some didn't. After dinner the ferry returned the cruisers to Ellis Island to pick up their dinghies. Some were able to see the St. Michaels fireworks from their boats. Many thanks to the Hooks for making it a really great evening. Participants were Ellis Island, Chinook Wind, Karaya, Voyager and Sea Nettle. Wayward Wind returned home to get more crew. Voyager left the cruise at this point again sails up before the anchor, itching to get home to Stephanie.

Sunday – Plaindealing Creek – Somehow the projected miles from Madison Bay to Plaindealing were less than the miles from Dunn Cove to Madison Bay but the actual travel time was about the same. While some attempted to sail motoring was the main mode of propulsion. Weather predictions for the evening were not good so the cruise captain changed the anchorage to inside Plaindealing rather than in the Tred Avon. Apparently others had made the same decision as the anchorage filled up quickly and several boats appeared to be rafted up even though they were not. As predicted a storm did come through but luckily after the usual 1700 hours festivities. One non CSSM boat “frequent flyer” which was anchored earlier broke loose with no one aboard and managed to drag all the way across the creek barely missing Karaya. It was a sight to behold particularly with no crew aboard. They did manage to show up via dingy and rescue their ship just in the time to avoid grounding on the far shore. Erv said he watched them anchor and all they did was throw the anchor in and let out line. This could have been a warning Erv! Chinook Wind made a wise decision and moved out to the mouth of the Tred Avon. Wise in regard to safety and wise because they were the only ones that saw the fireworks. The remainder of the CSSM boats missed the fireworks due to trees between the launch pad and our boats. There was a brief discussion about only awarding Chinook Wind ½ a night since they moved but in the end common sense prevailed. This was the largest gathering of CSSM boats for the cruise. Those experiencing the drama were Ellis Island, Chinook Wind (with full crew), Wayward Wind with Sally and daughter on board, Karaya and Sea Nettle from prior night joined by Grace and Salt Shaker. We were also joined for cocktails by our Commodore Craig even though he had to come a great distance in his dink (no night but good to have you join the cruise). Good wishes go out to Janie – hope she will be feeling better soon.

Monday – Cambridge Yacht Club – Finally the wind Gods responded and all had a great sail down the Choptank to the Cambridge Yacht Club. There were six boats Ellis Island, Chinook Wind, Karaya, Grace, Sea Nettle and Salt Shaker. Also joining the BBQ and fireworks were Virginia Albert, Judy and Dick Tanzos, Jim and Mary Campbell and power boaters Pam and Mike Epprecht all arriving by land yacht.

Cruise

	Nights
Ellis Island	4
Chinook	
Wind	4
Karaya	4
Wayward	
Wind	2
Voyager	2
Grace	2
Sea Nettle	4
Salt Shaker	2

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck and Ann Ellis, cruise leaders