

2012 Grand Prix Cruise Report (ZOOM...ZOOM...ZOOM!)

Tuesday, August 28: GYPSEA and KARAYA met up in Harness Creek (South River) anchoring right off Quiet Waters Nature Preserve with blue skies and calm conditions. We sailed and motor sailed into 10 knot NW winds with predominantly adverse current most of the way. After a brief walk in the park with their Jack Russell Casey, Pam and Jim McCloud joined us for drinks and eats aboard KARAYA til the sun went down.

Wednesday, August 29: KARAYA weighed anchor early while the McCloud Clan hung out a while longer to enjoy some morning exercise at Quiet Waters Park. Again, with an ebb tide to face going under the Bay Bridge and winds on the nose - NE 14 knots, we motor sailed most of the 22 NM to Rock Hall under fair/cloudy skies. Both boats took slips at Haven Harbor Marina. The Hetheringtons left (by car) for St. Michaels to attend a special event while GYPSEY ventured out to see Rock Hall and enjoy drinks and food.

Thursday, August 30: After trying to sail under light to no wind conditions on the Bay, both boats ended up motor sailing most of the 22 NM to Baltimore. KARAYA stopped for fuel at the Baltimore Marine Center and then joined GYPSEA at Anchorage Marina. The Hetheringtons and McClouds enjoyed a great lunch at Langermann's located across the street from Anchorage.

Thom and Kate Vargish, aboard ELUSIVE, had sailed up from Oxford with a stop at White Hall Bay Wednesday night, to join our CSSM Cruise in Baltimore on Thursday. They arrived just as we returned to the marina. Everyone enjoyed drinks, food, and the game *Catch Phrase* (based on the laughter) aboard KARAYA until after the sun went down!

Friday, August 31: We awoke to sunny skies and the buzzing sound of race cars coming from the Indy Gran Prix city course at Inner Harbor a mile away! After a leisurely start to the day we were off to enjoy the sights and sounds of Baltimore! The Vargishes opted to take the water taxi and go see Fort McHenry, Fells Point, and the Inner Harbor (all new to them) while the McClouds and Hetheringtons taxied downtown to see the Grand Prix Indy Car practice/qualifying races around the Convention Center and Camden Yards.

The Grand Prix event of the day started off well - we toured the paddock area and had great seats on the first turn just after the long high speed straight-away. We enjoyed lunch at Bubba Gump's Shrimp Company at Inner Harbor, but we came back to the course with no action and no noise! It seems that everything had come to a complete halt due to course repair and modifications in one area (cars were going airborne over the light-rail tracks and sometimes crashing into the wall). We did get to see a little more action before calling it a day and heading back to the marina.

We had a delightful evening starting on KARAYA with a short ceremony presenting the CSSM burgee and a Champaign toast to Thom and Kate Vargish of ELUSIVE on their sixth night of cruising with CSSM this summer. (Be sure to welcome them yourselves at the CSSM Commodore's picnic on Sunday!) We then taxied downtown to dine at Cinghiale (*wild boar* in Italian). This fabulous Italian restaurant located in the Four Seasons Hotel was recommended by a friend of the McCloud's who is a former writer for the Baltimore Sun. A great day for everyone in spite of the race course glitch!

Saturday, September 1: We all pulled out of Anchorage Marina between 9:30 and 10:00 am, hoisted our mains, and motor sailed down the Patapsco River anticipating fair winds for the 24 NM sail down the Bay to White Hall Bay on a beautiful sunny morning! For once we were not disappointed! Starting with a light SW breeze the winds built to about 12 knots and we were able to finally turn off our engines and *sail*

down the Bay on a starboard beat! There were lots of sailing boats out enjoying the Labor Day weekend sailing in every direction on this beautiful day. Just south of the bridge we carefully threaded our way through a cluster of spinkered boats racing toward the downwind mark. (This brought back great memories of our racing days out of Chicago on Lake Michigan.)

We all anchored in White Hall Bay amongst a full contingency of boats - power and sail. By cocktail time most of the power boats had departed and the waters had settled down. We enjoyed cocktails and appetizers aboard ELUSIVE followed by another enthusiastic round of *Catch Phrase*. With the threat of thunderstorms looming we reluctantly went back to our respective boats and "buttoned down the hatches" just in time for a down pour!

Sunday, September 2: Everyone agreed that we would head for our homeports one day early because of the forecast of threatening weather expected Sunday afternoon/night. Just south of the Bay Bridge we encountered an anchored US Naval nuclear submarine, with its contingent security patrol boats circling it. Although we kept the required distance away, we thought the sub may have been taking aboard visitors (probably midshipman from the Naval Academy). Under fair skies with fluky light air we all motored or motor sailed down the Bay home - KARAYA up Eastern Bay and the Miles River to MRYC; GYPSEA through Knapps Narrows into Broad Creek and home to Grace Creek; and ELUSIVE up the Choptank to Bachelor Point Marina.

PARTICIPATING BOATS:

ELUSIVE.....3 nights

GYPSEA.....5 nights

KARAYA.....5 nights

Respectfully submitted,

Cruise Captain Irv Hetherington (along with Jayne, Baxter, and Maggie)

s/v KARAYA