



## OYSTER BOYS NO CONCERT CRUISE

Thursday September 6, 2012

It was a dreary morning with rain off and on. Tryst, Voyager, Whisper and Ellis Island obviously got underway, since they actually made it to Annapolis. Orient left her slip in Long Haul Creek heading for Annapolis to join her fellow cruisers; she had made it all the way to Red Daymark "2" at the entrance to Long Haul Creek before her engine quit. No surge, no loud noises, no smoke, no warning...just falling revs and then no engine. The rain had lessened and the wind had come up a bit, so we were able to roll out the jib and head for Higgins Yacht Yard. We called the yard and advised them of our dilemma, and they told us Eric would meet us in the travel-lift well. Wendy did a fine job sailing to the pier and Fritz rolled in the jib and handed two lines to Eric just as we were nudging a piling. Brian came to Orient, asked a few questions and said he would get to her as soon as he could, but not that day. It seemed that Patriot had severe engine problems and a 125 guest wedding on the weekend. Once again the "right of tonnage" prevailed, Orient had to wait her turn.

Meanwhile Tryst, Voyager, Whisper and Ellis Island were bobbing happily on their moorings in Annapolis harbor under clearing skies. Jayne and Irv decided to drive over the bridge and join the cruisers for dinner at the Boatyard Bar and Grill. By all accounts it was a fun evening. I just wish we could have been there.

Friday September 7, 2012

Friday morning brought a beautiful day with a stiff South breeze. Since there was not far to go, Carolyn and Molly did a little shopping in the morning and Whisper and Tryst got underway a little after 1100. Voyager and Ellis Island had departed a bit earlier. Ignoring the precept that gentlemen do not go to weather, Whisper and Tryst had a great sail across the Bay and back into the West/Rhode. They sailed all the way to the anchorage. Whisper and Tryst rafted up and Tryst hosted a cocktail party. The forecast for Saturday was calling for Southerlies at 15-20 and gusts to 30. Everyone decided to get an early start in the morning.

Patriot's engines were repaired and Brian was able to attend to Orient. The problem was water in the fuel; the cause remains a mystery. Fresh fuel and new filters got us ready to finally join our cruise, but not until Saturday.

Due to the forecast and Shaw Bay being open to the south, we changed Saturday's anchorage to Dividing Creek.

Saturday September 8, 2012

The boats anchored in the Rhode River got underway a little after 0700 on Saturday. Tryst, Voyager, and Ellis Island left for home while Whisper sailed close hauled to the entrance to Eastern Bay and then up Eastern Bay into the Wye River and on to Dividing Creek. Strong winds all the way – quite a ride!

Salty Dog and Orient sailed from St. Michaels joining Whisper in Dividing Creek to await the arrival of a promised strong squall line late in the afternoon. Radar showed that the forecast was accurate, and then the squall hit right on schedule along with a 180 degree wind shift. From Orient's cockpit I watched as first Whisper and then Salty Dog were knocked on their beam ends; Orient's turn was next. Mercifully all three anchors held, and we hunkered down for a night of listening to raindrops on the housetop. Due to the weather we delayed the cocktail party until Sunday morning.

Sunday September 9, 2012

The morning was glorious, and the Mimosas and smoked salmon aboard Orient were pretty good too. By late morning Whisper and Orient hauled anchor and headed for home. Wally and Jane on Salty Dog decided to stay out one more night.



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<u>BOAT</u>	<u>CRUISE NIGHTS</u>
Whisper	3
Voyager	2
Tryst	2
Ellis Island	2
Salty Dog	1
Orient	1

Respectfully Submitted,

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