



SOUTHERN BAY CRUISE REPORT (KIPTOPEKE CRUISE)

May 25 Cloudy to sunny/ Winds 5-10 SW then SE permitting some sailing as we proceeded down the Bay. Get together on AVATAR with crews of DAY ONE, KARAYA, VOYAGER, and MAKANI, who joined us for the night in Old House Cove, Solomons.

May 26 Sunny, great cooling breeze, but from the S 5-10. VOYAGER tried some motor sailing. Memorial Day and no ice available in Reedville. Denny and Stephanie had all aboard for a good dinner. It was a lot warmer ashore, but the cool bay water and breezes this time of year made the days more comfortable and sleeping was great.

May 27 Sunny, but again the winds were not helpful-slightly West of South 5-15. Jane's leg was not improved so KARAYA set off for home. There has been a general absence of insects. VOYAGER again tried motor sailing. A nice get together aboard DAY ONE in Fishing Bay.

May 28 It was partly cloudy with winds S 5-15. There was some sailing. VOYAGER had all sales up, but AVATAR and DAY ONE used main and motor. DAY ONE wanted to stay two nights in Bay Creek and VOYAGER had water tank problems, so we went to Bay Creek Marina, saving Kiptopeke for the next day. The tides were good for entry and exit the next day. We entered a bit past half flood with no problems and there were some additional marks which helped. We had the captain's party in the shade on their deck and then to Aqua for dinner, which was excellent except for Stephanie's meat loaf spicy), which she took in a brown bag back to the boat and I suspect it made it Winston's favorite stop. Bay Creek's floating docks were very good and everything was clean and upscale. The staff was very accommodating and even charged a lesser rate than advertised.

May 29 Sunny with winds 10-15. The weather report said turning SE late day and through the night. The exit from Bay Creek that morning was at about half tide and was without incident except VOYAGER started to leave to port of the red marks, but fortunately got back in the channel without incident. AVATAR stayed in channel but bumped. This predicted winds never happened and instead winds went SW late. VOYAGER and AVATAR motored to Kiptopeke while DAY ONE stayed at Bay Creek. AVATAR arrived to find crab pots literally littering the area behind the sunken boat barrier. This forced anchoring in a different area that would have been fine had the winds not gone SW, making it a choppy night anchorage. Then both boats awoke in the morning to find watermen right beside them emptying pots. I would not recommend Kiptopeke for an anchorage although it was fun to see and is now off my bucket list.

May 30 Weather prediction for winds was SW 10-15 to noon and then NW and with possible showers. VOYAGER and AVATAR started sailing, but by about 8-8:30 am, the winds had gone North with a slight westerly twist which took care of any real sailing. DAY ONE caught up to us as we passed Bay Creek. There was a drizzle all day, and when we arrived at Onancock, VOYAGER took a slip and DAY ONE and AVATAR anchored out.

May 31 This was a lay day. Sunny and warm, but a nice breeze. VOYAGER and AVATAR had breakfast at a restaurant on a corner which was excellent and we caught up with DAY ONE after finishing; then everyone explored Onancock. We had a quick drink on VOYAGER having been told that SULTANA's arrival was imminent. Not imminent enough and we had to leave for dinner reservations at the Charlotte Hotel-another excellent meal. On our return, we found the SULTANA had arrived and was docked along side of the municipal marina.

June 1 Beautiful morning with winds SW 5-21, providing the best sail of the trip. VOYAGER left a bit later because they had to secure a prescription for Winston's eye infection. Anchored in Mill Creek off the Great Wicomico River. In the late afternoon and evening, there were heavy rains and thunder storms.

June 2 Another beautiful morning but winds predicted to be NW 15-20 with higher gusts. When we got into the bay, the waves were at least 4-5 feet on the bow. VOYAGER had water leaking and decided to return to the anchorage to isolate the problem. DAY ONE and AVATAR returned as well. VOYAGER found a hatch that hadn't been sealed properly and spent the day drying out. Drinks were on AVATAR. The winds were predicted to be West on June 3, then various Northerly directions for the next several days. So, we decided to go to Dun Cove.

June 3 The winds turned out to be SW 5-18 with good sailing, we all decided to sail for home. We could have used wind that permitted a bit more sailing, but it was a wonderful cruise because of the people involved.

Alex and Joan Collins

Nights

AVATAR 9

DAY ONE 8

KARAYA 2

MAKANI 1

VOYAGER 9