



## CRUISING SAILORS OF ST MICHAELS

### Northern Chesapeake Cruise

#### SUMMARY

The cruise as planned and the actuals

7/28 - Planned: Tilghman Creek; Actual: same

7/29 - Planned: Swan Creek, Osprey Point Marina; Actual: Same

7/30 - Planned: Worton Creek; Actual: Same

7/31 - Planned: Turner Creek; Actual: Fairlee Creek, Great Oak Landing

8/01 - Planned: Fairlee Creek, Mears Marina; Actual: Same

8/02 - Planned: Kent Island, Castle Harbor Marina; Actual: Same

8/03 - Planned: Return to home ports; Actual: West River, Chesapeake YC

8/04 - Actual: Return to home ports

Co-captains Jim and Pamela McCloud planned the cruise to visit some of the less travelled northern Chesapeake creeks, to enjoy a balance of anchoring out and marina slips, and to take advantage of the generally nettle-free waters up north. The cruise was revised along the way both to reflect changing weather conditions and provide an impromptu opportunity to add on an extra cruising day. With the exception of 1 rainy day, we had unaccountably cool and sunny weather for this time of year and some excellent sailing conditions.

#### **Day 1, July 28, Tilghman Creek**

The Day started off cloudy in Broad Creek and Choptank with 15 - 17 knots. Once through Knapps Narrow, winds dropped to 5 kts and the sun came out. Winds gradually picked up as we approached E. Bay to 10 - 12 kts allowing for a lovely sail all the way to Tilghman Creek. Esperanza came in after GypSea, followed a couple hours later by Cat Nap. Captains Cocktails got underway on board GypSea towards 6 PM hosting Virginia, Dick and Judy but not Donna Lange and Ed Buckholz who unfortunately arrived too late. During cocktails, a light shower soon turned in to a roaring downpour which drenched the returning partiers.

1 night each - GypSea, Esperanza, Cat Nap

**Day 2, July 29, Osprey Point Marina, Swan Creek**

The day dawned clear cool and sunny. NOAA predicted west and NW winds 5 - 10 kts, however, actuals turned out to be 18 – 20 with gusts to 29 kts throughout the morning later dropping to 15 and then 5 kts by late afternoon. GypSea experienced a broken roller furler line in the morning when trying to shorten sail and that put a dent in the remainder of the day's sailing. Joining us in Swan Creek were Irv and Jane Hetherington, Denny and Steffi Sokso, Jim and Linda Montague, Virginia Alpert with Dick and Judy Tanczos, and Donna Lange and Ed Buckholz. We assembled for cocktails at 5 in the marina picnic area, and by 6, everyone was on the Rock Hall Trolley, bound for a pleasant dinner at the Waterman's Crab House.

1 night each - GypSea, Karaya, Voyager, Rejoice, Cat Nap, and Esperanza

**Day 3, July 30, Worton Creek**

At 9:00 am, spar and rigging specialist, Mike Sipata arrived to repair GypSea's roller furler and by 11:30 am, we others were underway, headed to Worton Creek. The weather was cool and pleasant with temps in the low to mid 70s but winds only 1.5 – 3 kts, enough for some genoa motor sailing. Everyone anchored out in Belly Button Bay, north of Worton Creek entrance. Jim, Pamela, Denny (and Winston) took advantage of the nettle-free waters and went for a delightful swim followed by cocktails at 5:00 on board Karaya that included a fast and uber competitive game of Catch Phrase. Cool and calm conditions prevailed throughout the night.

1 night each - GypSea, Karaya, Voyager, and Cat Nap

**Day 4, July 31, Fairlee Creek, Mears Great Oak Landing**

We bid an early morning farewell to Denny and Steffi who needed to head south, and after some consultation about upcoming foul weather, decided instead of going up to Turner Creek, to do some local sailing/puttering around, and end up at Fairlee Creek where we'd be tucked in at Great Oak Landing Marina to wait out the impending nasty weather. Jim and Pam went to Still Pond Creek to explore,

go for a swim and have lunch, joining Karaya and Catnap later in the afternoon at the marina. Donna and Ed on Catnap hosted cocktails at 5:00, and as this was their 4th night this year, combined with 2 nights carried over from last year, they were officially recognized as full fledged CSSM members. Absent a new CSSM pennant and pins, Judy and Dick Tanczos had kindly passed on their own pennant and pin to use as a proxy until new supplies arrived.

1 night each GypSea, Karaya, and Cap Nap

### **Day 5, August 1, Fairlee Creek, Mears Great Oak Landing**

This was a lazy layover day due to the gray rainy weather. Lots of reading and relaxing and in the afternoon, on board Karaya, Heatheringtons and McClouds introduced Donna and Ed to the mysteries of Mexican Train – which they survived. This was followed by cocktails and a toothsome dinner at Mangrove's, the marina restaurant.

1 night each, GypSea, Karaya Cat Nap

### **Day 6, August 2, Kent Island, Castle Harbor Marina**

Another cool and sunny day, but this time with splendid west and south west winds of 10 – 12 kts, gradually picking up to 16 mid-afternoon, which made for wonderful sailing all the way down. Karaya departed for home port at MRYC while GypSea and Catnap sailed to Castle Harbor. That evening, dinner was at Café Sado, a pan Asian restaurant immediately next to the marina entrance where we were joined by land cruisers, Irv and Jane Hetherington, Virginia Albert, Dick and Judy Tanczos. All agreed that the food was fantastic and worth another trip by land or sea.

1 night each, GypSea and Cat Nap

### **Day 7, August 3, West River, Chesapeake Yacht Club**

McClouds on GypSea were headed for West River for some repairs and outfitting at Hartge. After determining that there was some interest in continuing the

cruise, Cruise Captain sent out a message inviting others to an impromptu cruise to the West River taking a slip at the CYC. Joining us were Thom and Kate Vargish on Elusive, Hetheringtons on Karaya, and Montages on Rejoice. Again, the sailing was superb with winds increasing from 5 kts early in the morning to 15 kts by mid-morning and for the remainder of the sail. Thanks to the recommendation of the Montagues, CYC turned out to be a great club – with very attractive slip rates for members of reciprocal clubs. Cocktails at 5:00 were hosted by Vargish’s on board Elusive followed by a Luau dinner on the deck of the CYC restaurant.

1 night each for GypSea, Karaya, Elusive, and Rejoice

**Day 8, August 4, home ports**

Early the next morning, Gypsea followed by Rejoice motored over to Hartge, tied up and transferred to Rejoice for the return across the bay to Tilghman on Chesapeake. Others also got an early start, and with winds of 15+ kts out of the NW, the sailors presumably had another enjoyable sail, all the way to home ports.

Total Nights

|           | <u>Nights</u> | <u>Sail</u> | <u>Motor</u> |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| GypSea    | 7             | ▣           |              |
| Cat Nap   | 6             | ▣           |              |
| Karaya    | 4             | ▣           |              |
| Voyager   | 2             | ▣           |              |
| Esperanza | 2             | ▣           |              |
| Rejoice   | 2             |             | ▣            |
| Elusive   | 1             | ▣           |              |