

## “WHEN PIGS FLY” CRUISE REPORT

To All Cruising Sailors of St. Michaels,

The following is the Cruise Report for the ‘When Pigs Fly’ Cruise, from Friday, October 10 through Saturday, October 18, 2014. Due largely to the good sense shown by CSSMers who were thinking of joining in the middle when the good weather deserted us, attendance was limited to *Whisper* and *Karaya*, but fun was had by both crews.

**Friday, October 10.** Destination – Rhode River. After showing amazing fiscal restraint at the Annapolis Sailboat Show the previous day, *Whisper* and *Karaya* set out from the Miles River Yacht Club on an overcast, cool day with a hint of drizzle. *Karaya*’s crew was supplemented by grandson Maxwell. It was a leisurely sail out the Miles, and some wing-and-wing out Eastern Bay until the breeze died, so we motored as we waited for it to come back. Entering the Bay we started to sail again at about 3-4 knots. Quote from Carolyn as the rain started: “I’m not sure how many layers I have on.” *Whisper* furling at WG “1”, with *Karaya* persevering for a while longer.

Some email traffic from *Karaya* suggesting that the anchorage coordinates posted by the Cruise Captain were in 2 feet of water. Some email traffic from the Cruise Captain to *Karaya* suggesting they consult with their brilliant grandson on board as the definition of the word “approximate”. In any event, *Whisper* anchored without running aground in Sellman Creek, which is between Flat Island and the Camp Letts YMCA camp and *Karaya* rafted up. We spent the afternoon playing Mexican Train, at which Maxwell is quite good. After dinner (Mexican tortilla soup) on board *Karaya*, Irv couldn’t believe that the Carolyn and I had never watched the “classic” movie “Captain Ron”, so of course we did.

**Saturday, October 11.** Destination – Granary Creek, Wye River. It rained steadily overnight and into the morning. Pancake breakfast on *Whisper* and then we waited for the weather to improve. The “fleet” got underway at 1030, motoring out of the Rhode/West in limited visibility. We were rewarded with a great beam reach across the Bay at 6-7 knots in 10-15 out of the North. Both boats rounded G “1” in Eastern Bay and hardened up to close hauled. About 2/3 of the way in *Whisper* hit a squall that shut down visibility just as her brand new depth sounder decided to stop working, so we decided to be prudent, furling the genoa and motor sailed the rest of the way. *Karaya* continued to sail. As we rounded Tilghman Point, we were passed by *Marae* going the other way. She is a 108’ custom steel sloop that can be yours for a week for a Fall discount price of \$43,200. Sign up before it is too late!

We proceeded to the anchorage, where *Whisper* again dropped the hook and *Karaya* rafted. After a dinner of pork stroganoff on *Whisper*, the Mexican train battles resumed. Maxwell (ah, to be young) assured us that when he picked a good tile it was skill but when he picked a bad one it was luck.

**Sunday, October 12.** Destination – Rhode River. A sunny, cool day with not much wind forecast. Irv took Maxwell ashore where his father, Kevin, picked him up (Kevin had been

participating in the Star North American regatta in Oxford – see Irv for appropriate boasting about his performance). By the time we got underway at 1030 the breeze that we could hear in the trees had dissipated, so we ended up motoring back across the Bay to the Rhode River (Hey, it's not about getting somewhere, it's about the journey!) *Whisper* stopped for fuel and then we took slips at Pirates Cove Marina. Cocktails on board *Whisper* at 1700 followed by dinner at Pirates Cove at 1830. Aside from some questions about whether Jayne's filet mignon deserved the label (shape, texture, whatever), dinner was fine.

**Monday, October 13 through Wednesday, October 15.** Irv awoke with the beginning of a cold. Given the weather forecast for the next several days, we decided to suspend the cruise and hope that he could fight it off. *Whisper* spent Monday night on Weems Creek off the Severn and Tuesday and Wednesday nights on Saltworks Creek off the Severn, where we met a couple on a 47 foot catamaran who were 14 years out from New Zealand! The latter in particular is a super spot in a blow, especially if you can grab one of the Navy moorings.

**Thursday, October 16.** Destination – Gray's Inn Creek, Chester River. *Whisper* set out from Saltworks Creek and *Karaya* from Long Haul Creek, headed for Gray's Inn Creek. It was overcast, with a forecast high in the mid-60s and forecast S 5-10. As the day progressed, the sky cleared and it was beautiful. *Whisper* motored North to Love Point and then sailed up the Chester, close-hauled at about 5 knots. We took two tacks to get around Eastern Neck, and then beam reached up the Chester. We could see *Karaya* coming through Kent Narrows behind us and then sailing. They came through at high tide and reported ample water under the keel.

We sailed to the mouth of Gray's Inn Creek and motored in, anchoring in the West branch just after the split, past a small cluster of houses by the Gray's Inn Marina [See attached photo of the shoreline]. *Karaya* rafted up. Another heavy session of Mexican Train preceded a great beef stew dinner on *Karaya*.

**Friday, October 17.** Destination – Rideout Creek on Whitehall Creek. A crystal clear morning with brilliant sun. The leaves starting to turn on the trees are fantastic! Jayne tentatively called over to let us know that they were going to run the generator again as Irv has been struggling with battery issues. No problem. About 0930 we got underway, raising the main at the mouth of the creek and motor sailing for a little while to charge batteries. *Karaya* followed, and motor sailed most of the day to get some juice in the batteries. *Whisper* started sailing in earnest about 1015.

The forecast SW 5-10 was instead due West, so we tacked our way out the Chester (which was made a little interesting by our depth sounder going on the blink again – Praise Navionics!). We got just enough lift on the second tack to clear Eastern Neck again and sail out the Chester. We then hardened up for a tack across the Bay that we had to cut short to avoid a tug pushing a barge. On the tack back we encountered an idiot blithely sailing on autopilot. Carolyn debated shouting "STARBOARD!" as we played toothpick to his chunk of cheese, but instead we luffed up enough to let him by and just swore at him under our breath. This entertainment was followed shortly by the sight of a 30-some foot sport boat headed North with a cruising chute sheeted in tight – so tight that it proceeded to literally explode into shreds! Of course, maybe his wife had told him he couldn't get a new one until this one ripped and so . . . .

We sailed under the Bay Bridge and then furlled to go in to Whitehall Bay. The entrance to Whitehall Creek is one of those tricky ones where the marks aren't quite where the shoals are, so careful attention is needed. Once past the first two marks it is easy. *Whisper* anchored again near the head of the creek. These creeks on the Western Shore are so different from our creeks. We were tucked in under a high shore, sitting in 7-8 feet of water and at times swinging no more than 30 feet or so from the shoreline. It takes some getting used to. Mexican Train again, followed by Carolyn's chili aboard *Whisper*.

**Saturday, October 18.** Destination – Home Port. The forecast was for W 10-15, building to 15-20 by afternoon, so we got an early start under clear skies. Both *Whisper* and *Karaya* went with reefed mains, raising sail in Whitehall Bay and beam/broad reaching down the Bay at 7-8 knots. Quite a ride and a great way to finish off the Cruise. As we approached Eastern Bay the breeze eased some and we thought about shaking out the reef, but didn't and were glad as it freshened again. One gybe and both boats were again beam/broad reaching up Eastern Bay at 7 knots. *Karaya* shifted to main and staysail coming up Eastern Bay. One last gybe at Tilghman Point and both boats continued up the Miles to the Miles River Yacht Club and home.

Participating Boats:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nights</u>
<i>Karaya</i>	5
<i>Whisper</i>	5

Respectfully submitted

Larry Rovin  
Carolyn Rugg

Cruise Captains