

2015 Onancock Cruise Report

The cruise was extended two days due to adverse weather. Total cruise nights were eight.

Sunday 5/31/15 Severe thunderstorms were forecasted for Monday so two boats departed home port (a day earlier than planned) on Sunday. Tryst had a great sail down the Chop Tank while Voyager made several long tacks down the bay with the 10-15 mph south winds. Turning up the river both boats encountered 3-4 ft waves off Cove Point Light house. Tryst suggested a different anchorage across from the Holiday Inn above Spring Cove Marina. Turned out to be a pleasant anchorage for enjoying cocktails aboard Tryst (Winston included) and a calm yet cool sleeping area.

Monday 6/1/15 was a lay day due to the forecast. Turns out we could have gone because the storms held off until later that evening. Dinged into town and had lunch at the Striped Rock restaurant. Took Winston swimming in the afternoon and again enjoyed cocktails aboard Tryst in the evening.

Tuesday 6/2/15 Forecast was for a chance of showers with wind out of north 0-5 in the morning and 5-10 in the afternoon. Winds picked up along with some rain as we entered Mill Creek off the Great Wicomico at 2:30pm. Whisper was not there. After a phone call we found out Whisper moved up by the water tower adjacent to the town. Since the cruise captain made the error both boats moved over to meet Whisper at Cockrell Creek in steady heavy rain. Tryst encountered an electrical problem enroute. All decided to cancel the Captain's Party and dinner due to adverse weather conditions and troubleshooting work needing to be done on Tryst.

Wed. 6/3/15 The forecast was 70% chance of rain due to many stalled lows off the coast of the Carolinas. Also forecasted were wind gusts to 20mph out of the NE. Needless to say we took a second lay day due to weather. Heavy mist and occasional showers prevailed. With no resolution to Tryst's electrical problem they moved to the marina for an electrician to work on their boat. Whisper relocated to a more favorable spot and developed a jam in the windless. With Dennis at eye level from the dingy we managed to brake it free. Many games were played aboard Voyager with Steffi winning most of them. Larry scouted out the town for a restaurant and found Tommy's for our group dinner. It was a great meal and all had a fun evening and we were the last to leave the restaurant. The plan for tomorrow was to go across the bay to Onancock.

Thursday 6/4/15 Up early to get the weather only to find out the forecast was 10-15 with gust to 20mph. Larry confirmed at 7am the buoy at Sting Ray Point was reporting 17mph already. Disappointed to say the least we did not venture out and it was the right decision after listening to all the calls to the coast guard. By late morning we were thinking the worst – We would not make it to Onancock. Just then a call came across the radio from a house on the shore and Carolyn responded. It was Walt Keith and Mary Frazer requesting us to pull up anchor and tie up at their dock behind their house called Harbor Of Anchor. Although we did not know them we graciously accepted the offer and Whisper and Voyager were tied and charging the batteries and filling the water tanks by noon. It did not stop at that. They invited us to their house for Cocktail hour. This meant Tryst needed to reserve the loaner car for the second night in a row and we all enjoyed discussing sailing adventures with them over happy hour. Found out they owned a West Sail 32 and have been to the Bahamas etc. Walt also had the misfortune of losing his right leg from the knee down two years ago but had just purchased a special ladder that would help him to get on and off their boat that had been on the hard for two years. We wished them both the best with their new adventures and called it a night.

Friday 6/5/2015 The flexible boaters we are, we discussed adding another day to the end of the cruise. Whisper called the dog motel to see if they could add an additional day for their three dogs. The kennel had vacancy and Larry and Carolyn were eager to leave for Onancock. Tryst was now repaired but still feeling leery and wanted their main repair man to check over things. They elected not to go to Onancock and started back north. The forecast was the last hurdle. It was a 40% chance of rain and winds out of the north 10-15. Whisper motored while Voyager elected to use the head sail with low motor rpms and saw 7 knots at times. Both boats enjoyed the thirty mile cruise and were in Onancock shortly after noon. Sorry to say Tryst only made it to the south side of the Potomac but enjoyed a sunny evening dinner relaxing on board. That afternoon in Onancock the four of us walked to town to visit the stores. At 6pm Whisper had Voyager for cocktails and we took a tour of their classic beautiful Pass Port boat. Following cocktails we enjoyed a 7pm dinner at Bizzotto's Gallery Café. Highly recommend going there again.

Saturday 6/6/2015 The forecast was for a sunny day finally and north to northwest winds 12mph. Whisper had a great trip with both sails flying. Voyager went to the wrong side of Watts Island and had to double back for several miles but arrived by 2pm. Both boats docked at Somers Cove Marina. Follow a thunderstorm cocktails and dinner were enjoyed aboard Voyager. Larry was the winner (only 36 points) while Dennis had his highest score ever in a game of Mexican Train. Talked to a boat crew from Oxford, MD who had to drop out of the Annapolis to Newport race due to heavy sea conditions on the bay. A phone call to Tryst found them in Solomon's.

Sunday 6/7/2015 We left Chrisfield, MD at 7:30am. Morning winds were light out of the east so we sailed to Kedges Strait. After motoring the Straits the wind shifted, as forecasted, to out of the south. The winds built all day until topping out at 14-15 by mid afternoon. Voyager ventured to put up the Spinnaker with the main while Whisper had both sails up and was keeping up nicely with Voyager. Arrived at the Solomon Island anchorage by 3pm at the Holiday Inn again. That evening Whisper loaded the dingy on board for heavy seas the next day and clean-up to give them time to pick up the dogs the next day before 4pm. After dinner Voyager went by dinghy to visit Rejoice at Spring Cove marina. The Nordic Tugs were there for a 4-5 day gathering. Played a game of Mexican train. Not sure who won but it was a late return to the boat. Tryst arrived at homeport

Monday 6/8/2015 The forecast was for 15-20mph winds out of the south. It proved to be true and both boats again sailed/motored at a fast rate up the bay.

Steffi and I both enjoyed the cruise and would do it again. With no control over the weather you can still accomplish your cruise as long as you remain flexible and are not on a tight schedule.

Boat Nights: Tryst – 5, Whisper – 5, Voyager - 8