

Report: CSSM Sassafras Cruise September 13-19, 2015

Sunday, September 13 Destination: Harness Creek. Karaya, Tryst, and Dee Gee V arrived to join already-anchored Whisper. All had a good sail across the Bay with NNW winds blowing 10-15 knots. Grandson Maxwell (13 yrs. old) crewed aboard Karaya on this leg of the cruise (to the delight of his grandparents). A cocktail party on Karaya at 1700 hrs. was followed by a ruckus game of Catch Phrase (Jayne's team won as usual). A beautiful day of sailing and a beautiful evening on the hook...it does not get much better than this!

Monday, September 14 Destination: Rock Creek at the mouth of the Patapsco River. We were sorry Dee Gee V had to leave us, but Karaya, Tryst, and Whisper enjoyed a great sail on a one leg port tack beat up the Bay with NNW winds blowing 15-20 knots building with gusts to 25 knots as we approached the mouth of the Patapsco. Tryst would have taken first place if we had been competing, but of course we weren't! Tryst hosted a cocktail party at 17:30 hrs. and the Rovin/Rugg dogs (and Larry) provided the entertainment with their multiple trips ashore aboard their favorite boat..the dinghy! What a happy pooch crew- Lilly, Barley, and Cooper. Another quiet anchorage and beautiful sunset.

Tuesday, September 15 Destination: Sassafras River. Karaya and Tryst said farewell to Whisper (who had to leave for home) and headed out to the Bay to find no wind! So we motored all the way to the Sassafras on a beautiful fall day. Since conditions were so calm we decided to skip the protected anchorage at Turner Creek and go another half mile up the river and anchor on the north side just off the channel near Mt. Harmon Plantation in about 12 feet of water. Fiscal Stray, direct from the Miles River, joined us about two hours later. Jasmine arrived at 1800 hrs. coming straight from Oxford (70 miles) and rafted on Karaya to join the cocktail party that had started at 1730 hrs. Another round of Catch Phrase was enjoyed by all. (You know who's team won!)

Wednesday, September 16 Destination: Mt. Harmon Plantation and Georgetown. CSSM landed our dinghy fleet at the new dock at Mt. Harmon Plantation in time for our scheduled tour of the plantation house at 1000 hrs. We were joined by Dick and Judy Tanczos who arrived by car since they had had mechanical problems with Rejuvenation the day the cruise was to start.) Our docent was excellent and everyone seemed to agree that the tour was very interesting. After lunch aboard our boats, the CSSM fleet of four- Karaya, Tryst, Fiscal Stray, and Jasmine motored up the river five miles to Georgetown and their slips at the Sailing Associates Marina. The Tanczos Team drove to Georgetown and enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the Kitty Knight Restaurant overlooking the Georgetown "harbor". They found watching all of us get situated in our slips to be entertaining. (Karaya gets negative points for the "worst" tie up ever!) After time for swimming in the pool, showers, boat chores, and/or naps we met at the picnic area for cocktails and snacks at 1700 hrs. Then we all walked over to nearby Granary Restaurant for a wonderful dinner seated overlooking the Sassafras. Another great day!

Thursday, September 17 Destination: Sillery Bay behind Dobbins Island on the Magothy River. With very little wind, the fearsome foursome- Karaya, Tryst, Fiscal Stray, and Jasmine motored and/or motor sailed down the Sassafras and the Bay to the Magothy River instead of the intended destination Bodkin Creek (shallow entrance water depth). Fiscal Stray rafted on Karaya and Tryst rafted on Jasmine after a long day of motoring. Jasmine hosted the cocktail party at 1730 hrs. Another good day with sailing friends tucked away in a picturesque anchorage.

Friday, September 18 Destination: West River anchorage just off Chesapeake Yacht Club. Karaya, Tryst, Fiscal Stray, and Jasmine set sail for the West River, instead of the scheduled Rhode River, so that we could dine at the Chesapeake Yacht Club's "Authentic" Tapas Dinner. The winds were very light and from the south. Some of us motor sailed the whole way while others chose to beat down the Bay after passing under the Bay Bridge when the winds began to build to 8 knots. It was a beautiful day out there either way. After dinghying to the club, the group enjoyed a wonderful dinner with a great selection of tapas plates from which to choose. An impromptu night out that was enjoyed by all!

Saturday, September 19 Destination: Home Ports. In light SSW winds all four boats headed for home. Karaya and Fiscal Stray sailed across the Bay but had difficulty making headway under sail going up Eastern Bay. Tryst and Jasmine headed down the Bay hoping for better air when they turned up the Choctank. . .

Although we had several light air (or no air) days, we did have two and a half good days of sailing on this cruise. The weather was beautiful- comfortable temperatures and sunny with some spectacular sunsets thrown in. But most of all, the Cruise Captains had a great time in the company of CSSM friends who joined us for all or part of our cruise.

Photos provided by members of this cruise can be viewed in the 2015 Sassafras Cruise Album at the CSSM PicasaWeb site using this link:

https://picasaweb.google.com/CRUISINGSAILORS?authkey=Gv1sRgCLz66r_8h-HaxwE

CSSM Boat Nights:

Karaya (Irv and Jayne, Maxwell and Maggie).....6 nights
Tryst (Peirce and Molly).....6 nights
Whisper (Larry and Carolyn, and Lilly, Barley, & Cooper)..2 nights
Dee Gee V (Ed and Donna).....1 night
Fiscal Stray (Tod and Anne).....4 nights
Jasmine(Thom and Kate).....4 nights
Rejuvenation (Dick and Judy).....0 nights*

* participated by car because of boat problem

Respectfully submitted,

Cruises Captains: Irv and Jayne Hetherington and Crew: Maxwell and Maggie