

2016 - Choptank Shakedown Cruise Report

Friday, May 27 – Six boats anchored in Trippe Creek off the Tred Avon. *Tryst* (Molly and Peirce Anderson), *Jasmine* (Kate and Thom Vargish), *Whisper* (Carolyn Rugg, Commodore Larry Rovin, Cooper, Lily and Barley), *Mistral* (Barb and Dave Taylor), *Capricorn* (Taline and Arsho Sarrafian) and *Divided Sky* (Denny and Stephanie Sosko and Winston). Everyone gathered on *Tryst* for cocktails at 1700hrs to kick off the 2016 Choptank Shakedown Cruise.

Saturday, May 28 – We left Trippe Creek anchorage around 0900hrs with plans to sail as there was a nice breeze and head for Dun Cove. On the way, *Whisper* headed to Oxford for water; *Jasmine* headed for Bachelor Point Marina to pump out, refill their water tanks and to get some Gin from home. All essentials for a shakedown cruise. At cocktails/dinner on *Tryst* that evening everyone reported that the sailing was excellent. *Tryst* rafted with *Jasmine* for the festivities. Unfortunately, we lost *Capricorn* to the anchoring in a stiff breeze/current gods, who decided to head back to Oxford as trying to anchor in a spot with good holding ground in Dun Cove with a brisk breeze, became too much of a hassle.

The balance of the fleet managed to get to *Tryst/Jasmine* for cocktails and dinner, French Beef Stew with Rosemary and Mushrooms. *Divided Sky* brought a delicious Caesar Salad and *Whisper* provided Brownies to wish Larry Rovin a happy 66th birthday.

Sunday, May 29 – With the prospect of rain coming in the late afternoon and more rain predicted for Monday we decided to alter our plan to sail across the Bay to the Rhode River. Since Barb and Dave on *Mistral* had to leave Sunday to attend their grandson's high school graduation and *Jasmine* and *Divided Sky* needed to break off on Monday, it seemed prudent to stay in the Choptank. We decided to head for Baby Owl Cove, a favorite, off Ledenham Creek off Broad Creek. *Tryst* needed to head to Oxford to pump out and to add water, but returned to anchor with everyone. Cocktails and dinner was on *Jasmine*. Cocktails were great with Stephanie supplying the most delicious deviled eggs. Kate out did herself for dinner with Chicken Marsala on rice with Hungarian creamed Spinach followed by cheese cake with strawberries on top. We all got back to our boats and bedded down before the rain and thunderstorms arrived.

Monday, May 30 – With *Jasmine* and *Divided Sky* planning to depart for home ports, *Tryst* supplied a little excitement for their departure. Molly spotted a black snake curled up on a shelf next to the entertainment center in *Tryst's* main salon. Thom and Kate advised that it was not venomous and supplied a fishing net which Denny picked up on his way to walk Winston. Denny and Winston climbed on *Tryst* to offer aid and moral support in capturing the snake. As Denny tried to capture the snake in the fishing net, it slithered through the netting, but Peirce was able to grab it with a towel, ran it to the cockpit and threw it overboard where it calmly swam away. Being less than calm the crew aboard *Tryst* began the inquiry as to how it got on board in the first place. This involved the opening of the dinghy bag and deployment of the dingy but no snake residue was found, only the carcass of a desiccated fish found under the inflatable floor tube. We next took topside the gennaker sail and deployed that sail to search for any siblings of our snake pet. Fortunately, no evidence of other slithery reptiles was found. Our conclusion was that the snake was brought aboard by us in the dinghy or sail bag after having wintered in our garage.

After all calmed down and rattled nerves settled, the decision was for the Cruise to enjoy a lay day in Baby Owl Cove. We awaited the joinder of Chip Seltzer and Paula Clement on *Esprit* in the late afternoon of May 30. *Esprit* rafted with *Tryst* that evening although we noticed some

reluctance aboard *Whisper* to consider hooking up. Wonder if the snake event was off-setting to the Commodore and Carolyn.

Tuesday, May 31 – We awoke to a morning with a very gentle southerly breeze despite predictions for WNW wind for Tuesday, but slightly increased wind prospects from the WNW for Wednesday. We decided to head for the Little Choptank River. There was a very slight breeze throughout the day, but we were able to sail slowly from Nelson Point at the mouth of Broad Creek to Ragged Point on the Little Choptank so long as one was willing to drift for a significant portion of that distance. From there we powered to an anchorage that Commodore Rovin set up (WNW breeze) behind Cherry Island where the Beckwith Creek joins Phillips Creek. *Whisper*, *Esprit* and *Tryst* rafted together that evening. Apparently, “SNAKES ON A BOAT” concerns were sufficiently allayed Carolyn supplied dinner, which was a delicious beans and rice dish.

Wednesday, June 1 - We decided to head back to the Choptank as we all planned to head home on Thursday. Sailing from the Little Chop to the Choptank was a beat to windward, however once we turned at Cook Point and fell off we struggled for a while to carry sail and finally succumbed to turning on the engines for a run to La Trappe Creek, anchoring behind Martin Point. Just as we arrived at La Trappe Creek, a pop-up storm developed so we all anchored separately until it passed. We then rafted on *Esprit* for another delicious community dinner supplied by Paula. As a result of all of these wonderful community dinners, we all found that when we packed up to go home, we had almost as much food as we had started with on Friday.

Thursday, June 2 – *Whisper*, *Tryst* and *Esprit* all headed for home port.

Although we did not get to the Rhode River or to the Patuxent River as originally planned. We had some good sailing and little rain, lots of shared meals and wonderful times sharing each days sail with each other. Thanks for all the nice comments and emails from those who joined us and to Dave Taylor who supplied us with overheard VHF comments:

1. “Best Boat Name we heard on VHF: “Passing Wind”
2. “Best VHF transmission they heard, with respect to the Cambridge Power Boat Regatta and the many anchored fans and observers: “How do I get around this mess? I have a reservation at the Hyatt!”

Nights Awarded

<i>Tryst</i>	6
<i>Whisper</i>	6
<i>Divided Sky</i>	3
<i>Jasmine</i>	3
<i>Esprit</i>	3
<i>Mistral</i>	2
<i>Capricorn</i>	2

Respectively submitted,

Molly and Peirce Anderson

Tryst