

2016 4TH OF JULY CRUISE
a/k/a The Oh Say Can You See Any Fireworks Cruise

To All Cruising Sailors of St. Michaels,

The following is the Cruise Report for the 2016 4th of July Cruise. Thanks go to Molly Anderson for taking most of the pictures included in this report.

Friday, July 1. Destination – Dun Cove, Choptank. Now this is how to start a cruise! *Whisper* pulled away from the dock around 1100 and motored out the Tred Avon. Sails went up just before Benoni Point in a nice 10 knot South breeze. We started out on Starboard, then tacked over and sailed out the Choptank on a nice, easy close reach at 6+ knots. Off the mouth of Harris Creek we tacked back to the East, then tacked again off Nelson Point before sailing up Harris Creek under main alone. *Tryst* preceded us and was anchored in the North branch of Dun Cove. The breeze built to over 20 knots during the afternoon, but the anchors held. Due to the wind and the thunderstorms we could see coming our way on radar, we did not get together with Peirce and Molly.

The skies opened about 1930 and for a while you couldn't see anything. Another round of rain came through later in the night.

Saturday, July 2. Destination – Mill Creek, Solomons. The first job Saturday morning was to bail out the dinghy! The sky was brilliantly clear after the front came through, with a steady NW 10-15 breeze. Underway about 0900, *Whisper* raised the main just outside Dun Cove and sailed out at 4.5-6 knots. The genoa went up off Knapps Narrows and a great day of sailing had begun.

There was not a lot to do as we broad reached down the Bay at a steady 7 knots, with a peak of 8.2. *Tryst* was ahead of us (always) having a good time as well. The only “work” required was to gybe the genoa over and back when we went wing and wing for a while.

We dropped sail off Drum Point and motored the rest of the way, anchoring off the mouth of Old House Cove on Mill Creek. *Tryst* and *Ruff'N It*, with George and Judy Weckel and their daughter Candy Oliver and her husband Ed, rafted up. *Karaya* and *Rejuvenation* made it all the way from St. Michaels and anchored nearby. Cocktails on *Whisper*, after which *Ruff'N It* elected to break off and anchor separately.

Late in the evening there were some fireworks that we could see over the trees. This is the closest we came all weekend. George announced that due to the weather forecast Solomons postponed the fireworks.

Sunday, July 3. Destination – St. Leonard Creek

The morning dawned overcast and drizzly after several hours of overnight rain. As it was going to be a short day, no one was in a hurry and we got underway about 1050. We motored out of Solomons and unfurled the genoa around R6A and proceeded up the Patuxent at 4-6 knots with *Rejuvenation* and *Karaya* behind us. *Tryst* had left earlier to go for fuel and a pumpout. Still overcast but no rain.

Whisper established the anchorage in St. Leonard Creek off the mouth of Rollins Cove and *Ruff'N It* rafted up with us. *Karaya* and *Rejuvenation* did the same. Very pretty, but a mistake! Not too much later, a good sized cabin cruise came down the creek throwing off an impressive wake, and even though we all saw it, and were prepared, it was all we could do to keep the boats from chewing each other up as we were rocked. *Rejuvenation* broke a chock.

Enough of that – *Rejuvenation* went into Rollins Cove and reported plenty of room and good water, so we moved inside just as *Tryst*, who had sailed further up the creek, arrived on the scene. The crew of *Whisper* decided to demonstrate the saying that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result by trying to anchor in the same spot three times without success before moving about 50 feet and getting the hook down.

Tryst and *Ruff'N It* rafted up with us again and everyone came over for cocktails and dinner. Dinner was a salad pot luck and we dined well – Asian Chicken, Ceasar, Corn and Black Bean, Potato, and Fried Rice. *Ruff'N It* once again cast off after dinner (was is something I said?).

Monday, July 4. Destination – Mill Creek, Patuxent. No, not THAT Mill Creek, the OTHER one! Well, it had to happen, a day with no wind. Luckily, it was planned as a very short one anyway. After blueberry pancakes on *Tryst* (now you know why we keep rafting up with them), we got underway about 1000. *Ruff'N It* headed back to Solomons and Judy Tanczos called to say that they were going to leave the cruise and visit her cousin who lives on Cuckold Creek, so it is down to *Whisper*, *Tryst* and *Karaya*.

Due to all the sailing, *Whisper's* batteries are down quite a bit, so we decided to take advantage of the short day and do some exploring. We motored up the Patuxent to Battle Creek, which looked interesting on the chart, with ActiveCaptain reports of sandy beached suitable for dogs, although the Chesapeake Bay Magazine Cruising Guide has nothing on it. To our delight we found a very pretty creek, with not one but two sandy beaches. We will go back.

Karaya established the anchorage in Mill Creek tucked up past the first open area, just before Hickory Landing Creek, protected from the forecast overnight winds. A little bit of on and off rain, but nothing too bad. Given the forecast there was no rafting up, but we all got together for cocktails and dinner on *Tryst*.

Tuesday, July 5. Destination – Home Ports. All good things must come to an end. We all got all got an early start, underway about 0720. But again we had some wind! As *Whisper* was approaching the LNG pier, we hailed the tug Captain Steve coming up on starboard. Sure enough he said “Yep, I’m headed straight for the gas dock. You do what you have to do.” Since we were having such a nice sail that if anything we were going to cross just in front of him, which suddenly didn’t seem like such a good idea, we furled the genoa to slow down and let him pass. After that we had a nice sail until the wind gave out off of R10 in the Choptank. Speaking only for the crew of *Whisper*, we had a lot of fun on the cruise and hope that the other members on the cruise enjoyed themselves.

Participating Boats:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nights</u>
<i>Whisper</i>	4
<i>Tryst</i>	4
<i>Karaya</i>	3
<i>Rejuvenation</i>	2
<i>Ruff'N It</i> (guest)	2

Respectfully submitted

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Cruise Captains