

2016 Solstice Severn River Cruise Report:

Date: June 20-22, 2016

Cruise Captains: Kate and Thom Vargish, S/V Jasmine

This cruise started out as a Mission Impossible event but ended happily.

Day 1: Everyone left their home ports for the anchorage in the Rhode River. Attending cruisers were confused because the Cruise Captain sent out incorrect Lat/Lon instructions for the first anchorage. Some called to ask whether porters were available to transport their boats to the site on land. A clarifying email was sent out in time correcting the location.

Jasmine had not quite left the Choptank River when she had an up close and personal encounter with a waterman and his craft which required the cruise captain to do an underwater survey of the rudder and prop before continuing (more at another time). However, after lunch as cruisers moved up the bay, the wind filled in from the SE and everyone had a great end of the afternoon sail to the Rhode River. Cocktails were held on Jasmine at 1730 hrs. and two guest boats were introduced: Flow (David Briemhurst and Sara Robins) and Andiamo (Peter and Beverly Rohman).



Flow and Tryst Rafting on Rhode River. Capricorn and Divided Sky.

Day 2: With a nice SW breeze in the 12-14 kt range, everyone had a great sail to the Severn River and some were able to sail partially up the river. By the time we reached St Helene's Island, the skies were beginning to darken. At the suggestion of Tryst, we moved the anchorage location to the Maynadier Creek which is just west of St Helene's Island. An open area at the top of the creek had a soft bottom and left plenty of room for five boats. Our two guest boats stayed in Annapolis for the evening to pick up friends and address technical problems. Not long after setting anchors, the front came through and the wind and rain from the squall were impressive. Boats did 180 and 220 degree whirlies. There was some dragging of anchors (more at another time). But, the sun came out in time for Tryst to host a cocktail party for the surviving cruisers at the 1730 hours. We awarded Arsho and Taline Sarafian (Capricorn) their CSSM burgee as they completed the membership requirement and were warmly welcomed into the group.



Tryst sailing on Severn River. Sarafians receiving CSSM Burgee.

Day 3: Because of the unpleasant weather forecast for Thursday by unanimous agreement, the cruise was shortened one day to allow all boats to return home. Everyone was able to take advantage of the westerly flow, 10-15 kts with gusts to 20 kts and arrive home safely in a timely manner. In sum, we had three good sailing days and managed to be safely anchored for the T-storms that came through.



The morning after on Maynadier Creek.

Nights:

Capricorn: 2 nights
Divided Sky: 2 nights
Jasmine: 2 nights
Rejuvenation: 2 nights
Tryst: 2 nights

Guest boats:

Andiamo: 1 night
Flow: 1 night

Submitted:

Thomas Vargish
Cruise Captain