

REPORT FOR EQUINOX CRUISE – SEPTEMBER 22-25

Cruise Captains: Kate and Thom Vargish, S/V Elusive.

Day 1- Our group assembled in Dun Cove off Harris Creek for welcome cocktails on Elusive at 1700 hrs. The trip to Dun Cove was slow going for most boats because of the light air during the afternoon. Boats who came last did get a short lift from building Southerly winds. Most ended up using their motors.

In addition to the tasty offerings, Tod and Anne made the trip from St Michaels and shared their adventures in Nova Scotia. Thom and Kate shared stories of their trip to Maine. Others had experiences in Maine or Canada which supplemented the sea stories.

Boats present: Elusive, Fiscal Stray, Mistral, and Moonshadow.



Day 2- At the Captains' meeting, the group agreed that with building southerlies a trip south would be hard going. So, we elected to switch the itinerary and go north instead to the Rhode River. While there were blustery winds to start, the southerlies lightened up until almost noon and then came back enthusiastically 10-14kts. The trip north was slow going at first but by the end of the sail boats were reaching or exceeding hull speed.

We anchored behind the sunken island in the Rhode River off the West River and rafted Moonshadow and Tryst on each side. Cocktails started at 1500 hours followed by dinner provided by Elusive. The climax was carrot cake for our Cruise Captain who celebrated his 75th birthday sailing up the bay. After dinner, we split up the raft and anchored separately. By nightfall, the wind had decreased in velocity and shifted to a NW direction which was anticipated for the following day. Sleeping temperatures were in the low 60s.

Boats present: Elusive, Moonshadow, Tryst

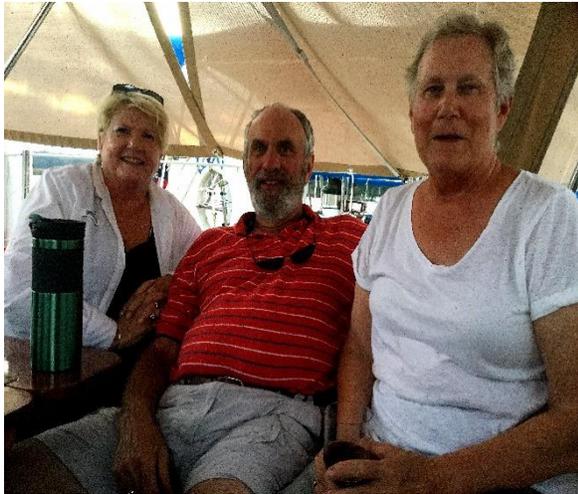


Day 3- The Captains agreed that now with the wind shift, we could proceed south and plan to spend the next day in the Little Choptank. The wind remained in the 8-12 knot range from the NW and the trip down the bay to the Little Choptank River was great. Fortunately, it didn't decrease in intensity until we were at the mouth of the river. We motored back to Beckwith Creek and anchored separately in a lovely secluded area. Care was taken to avoid shoaling as the water depth was only 7-8' and not a lot of rode was needed.

Tryst hosted cocktails at 17:30 and the crews of Elusive and Moonshadow motored over for the festivities. Again the weather was perfect with clear skies and a comfortable evening breeze.

Boats: Elusive, Moonshadow, Tryst





Day 4: Our final stop was planned for an anchorage off the Choptank River. News arrived that the 250 year old Galloway House was going to be moved today from Port street in Easton to the Wye River by barge. In the absence of any wind, the fleet motored up to the river anticipating a sighting. It happened that the barge loading took longer than expected but “the House” was on the move around noon time. So, we changed plans and chose to proceed up the Tred Avon River and observe the process and then anchor in Trippe Creek.

Sure enough as the group arrived at the mouth of Trippe Creek, “the House” appeared coming around the bend and everyone gathered for the photo op this presented. Afterwards, we anchored in Trippe Creek with Moonshadow and Tryst rafting together. Cocktails were at 1700 on Moonshadow. It was another beautiful day and a wonderful last evening together.

Boats: Elusive, Moonshadow, Tryst



The following morning, we all weighed anchor and proceeded to our home ports.

Totals:

Elusive- 4 nights

Moonshadow- 4 nights

Tryst- 3 nights

Fiscal stray- 1 night

Mistral- 1 night

Respectfully submitted, Cruise Captain Vargish