

2019 MEANDER ON THE BAY

To All Cruising Sailors of St. Michaels,

The following is the Cruise Report for the 2019 Meander on the Bay (or, more accurately, the “Meander on the Choptank”).

Monday, June 16. Intended Destination – Dun Cove, Choptank. Actual Destination – Trippe Creek, Tred Avon.

So much for picking anchorages based on wind! *Whisper* pulled away from the dock around 1015 and motored out the Tred Avon. We knew the forecast was for Southwest at 10-15 with gusts, but as we came around Benoni Point it was clear that we had more like 20 steady with gusts to 25. [Note: so far this is verbatim from my report for the 2017 Memorial Day Cruise]. This time, we got sensible. I contacted *Mistral* and *Moonshadow* and changed the anchorage to Trippe Creek. Back around Benoni Point, we unrolled the Genoa and had a nice, relaxed ride at 4-5 knots, arriving in Pirates Cove on Trippe Creek around 1220. *Moonshadow* and *Mistral* arrived soon after us. *Tryst* was supposed to join us but Molly picked the wrong time for a summer cold so they stayed in port.

The crew of *Whisper* demanded shore leave at about 1500. There was a perplexing amount of water in *Whisper*'s brand new dinghy that I decided to tackle later. Obligatory photos of crew:



The crews of *Moonshadow* and *Mistral* joined us for cocktails at 1700 and a good time was had by all.



Monday, June 17. Destination – Bobby Owl Cove, Leadenham Creek.

The forecast is for light SW winds, so we decided on Bobby Owl Cove. Yes, that is the spelling on the charts, and No, no one knows why. Even mighty Google has no results for “Bobby Owl” other than as the name of this cove.

It ended up being a motoring trip, as no breeze to speak of ever showed up. *Whisper* arrived first, followed by *Moonshadow*, *Mistral* and *Divided Sky*. Mid-afternoon the crew of *Whisper* got shore leave again and I decided to tackle the water issue in the dinghy. Bad idea. In the process of doing so, and totally misunderstanding how the self bailer worked, I lost a critical piece and basically was left with a 1” hole in the bottom of the transom. The good news is that an inflatable dinghy apparently floats quite well with a 1” hole in the transom! A quick Google search and I ordered a replacement part.

This was Carolyn’s birthday, a fact which I just might have let slip to others. The plan was for cocktails and dinner on *Whisper*, but Mother Nature had other plans. A series of storms rolled through starting about 1700, and as it looked like they would (and did) continue for quite some time we postponed the group dinner until Tuesday night.

Waiting for the storm



Tuesday, June 18. Destination – LaTrappe Creek, Choptank

We awoke to a beautiful morning. *Mistral* was scheduled to leave us, and *Moonshadow* had a change of plans and needed to head home, so consulting with *Divided Sky* we decided to head to LaTrappe Creek. Underway around 0920, we motored out into Broad Creek and raised sail, close reaching at 4.5-5 knots in 8 apparent from the SW. Coming out Broad Creek there was an obstacle course of trotliners. Figuring out who was running their line, who was going around for another pass, and where their lines were laid was interesting to say the least.

Once we got to the Choptank we eased to a broad reach and had a nice, sedate sail until we got past Chlora Point where the wind died and we motored the rest of the way. We anchored behind the sandy spit with the “No Trespassing” sign that all of Talbot County ignores. Whisper’s crew demanded shore leave, complete with Cooper playing fetch in the water, channeling his inner Lab.



Denny and Stephe came over for cocktails and dinner. We had a lovely evening until it was time to go. I glanced at radar as Denny and Stephe were gathering their things and saw a nasty storm

cell about to hit us. I basically threw the dogs in the dinghy and dashed to shore for their final potty break. As we got back to the boat all Hell broke loose (if Hell includes torrential rain hitting in an instant with 40-50 mph winds). We spent the next hour in the cockpit checking our bearing against the shore and the other boats.

Wednesday, June 19. Destination – Home.

The morning weather forecast called for light air for the next two days and then a lot from the wrong direction on Friday, with severe T-Storms each afternoon and evening. After the last two days of storms, this did not sound appealing and we decided to cut the cruise short. Whisper got underway about 0930, motoring out of the creek and raising sail. From there, we close reached to Castle Haven and then beam/broad reached up the Tred Avon, maneuvering through more trotliners and several fleets of TAYC junior sailors.

Friday, June 28. Cooke's Hope.

As we were stormed-out for the birthday dinner, Larry and Judy Weaver invited everyone to their house for a follow-up dinner. The crews of Whisper, Moonshadow, Mistral and Tryst were there, along with Thom and Kate Vargish. Everyone had a good time, and the cake!



Speaking only for the crew of *Whisper* (two-legged, that is), 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>	3
<i>Divided Sky</i>	2
<i>Moonshadow</i>	2
<i>Mistral</i>	2

Respectfully submitted

Larry Rovin

Carolyn Rugg

Cruise Captains