

Cruise Report: Cruise to York River

June 4-13 2022

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

Cruisers: Divided Sky, Mistral, Elusive

Saturday, June 4, 2022: Boats left their respective home ports for the Patuxent River. Weather was cool but sunny with WS N 5-10. Most boats motored to the Bay and then picked up the N wind and sailed for a time. Depending upon your location that time may have been 1 or more hours. Eventually the wind died down and most boats finished the trip motor sailing. Our anchorage was in Mill Creek just east of Solomons Island, N 38 20.129/ W 076 26.294. Cocktails were on Elusive. Of note to members, there was significant grass in water such that one dinghy could not motor home because of grass caught on his prop. (23.5 nm)

Sunday, June 5, 2022: Boats left in sunny skies with anticipated NE>E wind 10-15 kts. When we reached G "1", wind was as predicted and boats sailed S making good way. Some used only genoa and others sailed with reefed main and reefed genoa. By the time we reached the Potomac River, WS were higher with gusts to 20+ and waves 2-4'. The worst area was the approach to Smith Point when wind gusts increased and waves were higher. Everyone persevered through



the rough water which was less of a problem once past Smith Point Lt. We entered the channel and proceeded to Mill Creek to anchor. BS over the trip were between 6-8 kts even though we had shortened sail. Everyone anchored in the Mill Creek basin, N 37 47.522/ W 076 19.374. Due to the pounding everyone took, we elected to skip cocktails so that everyone could rest. This anchorage is highly recommended. (35.1 nm)

Monday, June 6, 2022: Boats left in sunny skies with SE wind at 5-10 kts. It was a pleasant sail to Windmill Point when the wind diminished. Most boats finished by motor sailing into Deltaville on Jackson Creek. The Deltaville Marina is very good for diesel, water and pump-out but you should check their hours. They are now closed on Sunday. There are several places to anchor and this is a well protected although narrow spot. N 37 32.727/ W 076 20.219. Cocktails were on Elusive. (23.2 nm)

Tuesday, June 7, 2022: Boats remained at anchor. Despite sunny skies, wind was SE 15-20, g25 and everyone decided to remain in place. This allowed for some boat repair work to be done.

Some went ashore to visit the Deltaville Maritime Museum, which is an easy walk from the Marina and then had lunch at the nearby, Café by the Bay. The return trip to our boats was wet because of the increased wind driven waves. Cocktails were held on Mistral.

Wednesday, June 8, 2022: Boats departed in sunny skies. Wind was SW 5-10 with 1' seas. We motored to the York River passage and then up the river to Sarah Creek and the York River Yacht Haven Marina. This is a nice spot and a large marina. The entrance shoals to 6-7' but once inside, water depth is 8-10'. There are some large vessels inside. We had dinner together at the restaurant and planned the next day's activity. Only a timely departure from dinner allowed us to get back to our boats as a T-storm arrived with plenty of wind and rain. (35.8 nm)

Thursday, June 9, 2022:
Another sunny day although warm enough to use the AC. A shuttle picked us up and took us to the Jamestowne Settlement where we toured the site and reviewed the exhibits. Lunch was at a café on site. When we were through touring, the shuttle took us back to the marina. (Yorktown shuttle:757.867.9400 highly recommended). We gathered at the marina picnic area and had a picnic together before returning to out boats.



Friday, June 10, 2022: Sunny skies and winds from NW 5-10. Motor sailed down the York River and then north to Deltaville again. We elected to skip Mobjack Bay because of forecasted strong N winds and extended rain showers on the following day. We motored with sail up until wind increased enough to sail into Deltaville. Those who needed fuel water or pump-out got it from the Marina. We anchored again in Jackson Creek and had cocktails on Divided Sky. (35.8 nm)



Saturday, June 11, 2022: Cloudy skies and light winds W 5 but no rain. Motor sailed to Reedville and anchored again in the basin on Mill Creek. Occasional light sprinkles necessitated a Captains' meeting to discuss the next day. Weather forecast for wind and rain with T-storms had finally become a reality.



Our intention was to sit out the storms and proceed to Solomons Island skipping Smith Creek on Monday. (23.2 nm)

Monday, June 12, 2022: Day started with light sprinkles followed by sequential T-storms with winds gusting to high 20s and blowing rain. One boat lost an anchor and had to re-anchor after the wind and rain subsided. Radio meeting confirmed our planned departure for Solomons at 8:00 AM the next

morning.

Tuesday, June 13, 2022: Day started with clouds that gradually gave way to sunshine. Wind SE 5-10 allowed motor sailing up the Bay. Mid-morning, Elusive determined that because of a sick crew person, that they would abandon the cruise and let the other two boats proceed to Solomon's together. After a discussion, all boats decided to continue to home ports and the cruise ended a day early. When wind increased to 8-10, it was possible to motor sail up the bay. We arrived home between 6 and 6:30 pm. (58.6 nm)

We successfully completed the trip down and back. The visit to Jamestown Settlement is highly recommended. There was good camaraderie among the boats and our disappointment was in not getting as much sailing as we wished and that we had to skip two spots.

Submitted by Cruise Captain Vargish

Total Boat Nights: Divided Sky 9; Mistral 9; Elusive 9

Total Distance Traveled: 235.2 nm

