

## Choptank River Shakedown

May 20 – 22, 2024

**Monday, May 20:** The beginning of the Choptank River shakedown cruise lived up to its name. Before we got off of the dock for our short sail to La Trappe Creek, Dave got a call from Denny. Divided Sky had a major engine issue. When he started the engine, water came pouring out from where it shouldn't ---- possibly a broken mixing elbow. The cruise would now be three boats; Last One, Mistral, and Mystic.

Last One and Mistral left Bachelor Point marina late morning. The winds were light, but we were able to sail at 3 knots toward our destination. As we approached the narrow part of the channel near red 16, we heard the American Cruise Line ship American Star on the radio. She was leaving Cambridge on her way to St. Michaels. Having encountered one of these ships in this area once before, we decided to avoid any issue and motored the rest of the way to the anchorage behind Martin Point in La Trappe creek. Last One followed us in, and we were later joined by Mystic. We were the only boats in the anchorage.



We got together for cocktails on Mistral at 5pm, with Keith doing taxi duty. As Debbie was visiting grandchildren, Keith was joined by his friend Bruce, an avid sailor for many years. We enjoyed the lovely weather and good company. The winds were calm. So, we had a peaceful night at anchor.



**Tuesday, May 21:** Everyone enjoyed a leisurely morning before leaving for Harris Creek and Dun Cove. The winds were light, about 5 – 6 knots. Mystic was catching Mistral when the winds died, and we were forced to motor. Mystic was more patient than Mistral, going slower under power, waited for the winds, and sailed into the anchorage.

During the sail, Mistral had her own “shakedown” experience. All of a sudden, the chart plotter and autopilot decided to do a 90 degree change in heading and turned the boat accordingly. Something similar happened the day before. The crew, being mystified, tried rebooting and running only one piece of equipment at a time. The issue kept repeating. So, the journey was completed with minimal electronic assistance, with a call to Garmin in the future.

Stephanie and Denny from Divided Sky were able to join us for cocktail hour by dinghy from their community dock. We enjoyed another lovely evening with friends and good food.





**Wednesday, May 23:** Having spent another peaceful night at anchor, all three boats left on their own time. Mystic left before 7 am to return to Annapolis and pick up Debbie and friends, so that they could anchor out and see the Blue Angels. Last One and Mistral had lovely sails back to Oxford with winds out of the South at about 10 knots.

Dave and Barb Taylor

Cruise Captains

Cruise Nights: Last One – 2

Mistral – 2

Mystic - 2