



Chesapeake Sailing Club

Annapolis, Maryland

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August 2012

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Commodore's Column

Mal Singerman, *Tieve Owna*

June marked a highly successful cruise to points along the Choptank River. The cruise was planned by our able Fleet Captain, Dave Nance, who picked a lovely series of anchorages - some familiar and some new to the group - ending with a two day stopover at Cambridge. While there, everyone enjoyed visiting the restaurants and shops of the town, taking in the waterfront sights, and shopping at the weekly farmer's market in the park at the marina.



We enjoyed great...some might even say challenging...sailing weather on our trip across the bay from our meeting place in Harness Creek on the Western Shore. We can't figure out how Dave managed it when he was planning the cruise this winter, but we were very pleased that he arranged these memorable sailing conditions.

Boats on the cruise included: *Southern Lady*, *Aquavit*, *Whistwind*, *Circe*, *Bay Gypsy*, and *Tieve Owna*. In the absence of Dave Nance, Mary Jo Harris assumed the duties of Acting Fleet Captain and performed admirably in her discharge of the duties of this office during the duration of the cruise.

Cambridge turned out to be a wonderful stopping point, and everyone had an exceptionally good time. On our last evening there, Bill Stine organized an impromptu crab feast at the marina. Good fun and good food made for a memorable evening, with Bill presiding at the feast, and providing valuable instruction on the techniques for dissecting and devouring the legendary Chesapeake Blue Crab.

Club members were impressed by the condition of the Cambridge Municipal Marina and the help that we received from Roger, the dockmaster. Participants in the cruise expressed our thanks to Roger in the form of a "purse" which we all subscribed to. In addition, I was asked, in my official capacity as Commodore, to write to the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Cambridge expressing our appreciation. A copy my letter is available to anyone who is interested.

July was marked by brutal heat, keeping most of our boats at our dock, and sending some of the members scurrying North by car to find cooler temperatures and a break from the humidity. The hot weather caused the cancellation of the Club's planned cruise to Grays Inn Creek.

The July 21st raftup brought cooler temperatures, but, unfortunately, continuous rain which prompted our Fleet Captain to officially cancel the event on Saturday. *Tieve Owna* and *Ariel* had spent the preceding Friday on a mooring in Annapolis. *Circe*, ably captained and crewed by Mary Jo Harris, had proceeded to Saltworks Creek on Friday to secure a Navy mooring for the club, in

anticipation of possible crowding at the anchorage and a consequent mooring shortage on Saturday. Since Saltworks Creek was a lot closer than Rock Hall, *Ariel* and *Tieve Owna* decided to raft up with *Circe* instead of going home. *Whistwind* was under way when the cancellation became official. She elected to continue to Saltworks Creek, which brought the number of club boats rafted on the Navy mooring to four. An informal cocktail hour, hosted by *Tieve Owna*, provided an enjoyable evening to reward those of us who had slogged through the rain to attend this ad hoc gathering.

I hope to see you all on August 18th at the Club's Annual Meeting and Picnic at the Belvedere Yacht Club.

Vice Commodore's Report

Joe Powers, *Aquavit*

Our annual picnic and business meeting will be at the Belvedere Yacht Club on August 18, at 2 PM. The menu will be similar to previous years, homemade pulled-pork barbecue and chicken for entrees. We will be asking attendees for appetizers, side dishes and desserts. We will have a book exchange. Members who would like to come by boat can get a free slip, with electricity, at the BYC. Let Frank or Liz know a few days in advance so arrangements can be made. There is one item for which I would like to get some feedback. There has been some discussion about substituting grilled chicken for fried. I would like to hear from the members as to their preference. If there is a strong preference for grilled chicken we can switch to that. Fried chicken is the default option.



This will be an important meeting so we encourage everyone to attend.

The Crabcake picnic at the Sailing Emporium will be held on September 8th. Cocktails at 3 with crabcake dinner at 4 PM. We will have corn on the cob this year. If you plan to come by boat call the Sailing Emporium at 410-778-1342 for reservations. Mention that you are part of the CSC group. Won't save you any money but might help with good will. More on this, including costs, later.

Fleet Captain's Report

Dave Nance, *Ariel*

July raft at Saltworks Creek...

If only....

The sailing on Saturday had been as good as on Friday.

The rain had not continued until late on Saturday.

There had been wind on Sunday.

As it was...

It was wonderful wind on Friday when *Circe* sailed on one tack from Rock Hall to Saltworks Creek and secured a Navy mooring for the club meet on Saturday.

Ariel and *Tieve Owna* turned off at Spa Creek and had dinner in Annapolis and discussed how pleasant the week end would be.

The rain came Saturday morning and at 10 AM the rendezvous was called off.

Ariel and *Tieve Owna*, not wanting to sail back to Rock Hall in the rain, continued on to Saltworks Creek to keep *Circe* company. *Whistwind* was already on the water when the cancellation was announced and decided to continue on.



The rain slowed to a drizzle by 5 PM on Saturday and the wet and bedraggled crews gathered on *Tieve Owna* for wine and what turned out to be dinner.

Sunday began cool and windless. It quickly turned to hot and less wind.

This will be known as the summer of stinky weather!

The next event will be the August Picnic and Annual Meeting at the Belvedere Yacht Club. Lets see if the weather can mess this up!

Cruise Report-

The Saga of the CSC Summer Sail

Glenn Whaley, *Bay GyPSy*

There may have been grand sailing club cruises in the past, but few if any could have exceeded this one in healthy camaraderie, healthy winds, and healthy weather all around. What a wonderful time we all had! While I'm sure not everyone wants to read a blow by blow (excuse the pun) rendering of the entire week's activities, for those who either (1) were there and want to relive the wonderfulness or (2) missed it and want to eat their heart out, here is a not-so-brief journal of a really great early summer cruise:



Day 1: The fleet sallied forth from our various home ports on Sunday morning, June 3rd, to a mild westerly breeze. It was clear with some clouds, low humidity, temp in the low 70's - perfect sailing weather. We all made our way to the South River and Harness Creek, arriving in mid afternoon. Sailed all the way, which can sometimes be a novelty on these cruises. But not this time! Wind was the name of the game, especially on Monday. But that was tomorrow. We're still talking Sunday here.

Boats in attendance included *Southern Lady* (Frank and Liz Cingel), *Tieve Owna* (Commodore Mal and Anne Marie Singerman), *Bay Gypsy* (Glenn, Sue, and Skittles Whaley) and *Circe* (Mary Jo Harris and [dog mate] Toby). We enjoyed a first night Happy Hour on *Bay Gypsy*, perched right off the shore of Quiet Waters Park. It was fun waving to the paddle-boaters and watching the herons - all in all, a wonderful day and most delightful evening.

Day 2: Okay, now it's Monday, June 4th. Today, the destination was Caulk Cove off Leadendam Creek on the Choptank River. A very healthy NW wind had set up that morning, promising a lively trek across the Bay. And it was all of that. In fact, it was pretty much reefed mains all the way. For those who raised their mainsails already reefed, that is. For some (like some of us rookies!), it was reefed mains all the way once we got the darned thing reefed. Which was its own story.

With a new sail housing (Stack Pack® by Doyle Sailmakers), *Bay Gypsy* hadn't rigged things to reef yet. Big mistake. As it turned out, trying to break the code on that while underway in that breeze, which was now up to around 20 kt, was quite the experience. Especially when the bimini started to shred itself. While navigating through a crab pot farm. It was pretty exciting, in its way. Yeah, that's it. Exciting.

But we made it - didn't even hook any pots in the process - and set up for a fun, fast sail across the Bay. We saw speeds up to 8+ kts at times, but some of that must have been when we were going downhill or something. She normally doesn't go that fast. And that was while towing the dinghy and the inflatable kayak (another questionable call, under those conditions). Which became the gist of the next adventure....

About 2/3 of the way across the Bay, the kayak came partially loose and got crosswise in front of the dink. So we had our very own sea anchor going, pooping the dinghy and putting heavy strain on lots of bad things. To fix all that, Susan had to turn into the wind with the engine on, just to keep steerage way, while Glenn played with all the flooded boats being dragged astern. And since he was holding onto the dinghy and kayak lines for dear life, he couldn't lower the sails. So all this went on with the sails flapping in the pretty considerable breeze. It all worked out eventually, even if the engine overheated in all the excitement of the moment. But the wind enabled us to sail pretty much the rest of the way to Caulk Cove, so we were fine. As we were entering Leadendam Creek, in fact, *Whistwind* wizzed past us on their way in to join the fleet

after a delayed start due to a balky water pump. They graciously offered *Bay Gypsy* assistance, but as we were okay by then we declined. The offer was muchly appreciated, though!

So that evening, *Whistwind* (Bill and Sandy Stine) hosted a grand happy hour where we regaled each other with stories of strong winds and fast sailing. Gusts approaching 30 kts were mentioned. All in all, it was an adventuresome day, ending in a perfect anchorage with 60 degree temps, low humidity, and no bugs. An all around grand day!

Day 3 (Tuesday, June 5): Next stop was La Trappe Creek, about 12 miles farther up the Choptank. Being a short trip, we all lazed around that morning just enjoying the cool temps and nice breeze. It was just a bit too breezy for fishing or kayaking, but that let us do other things. For instance, Frank and Bill hauled Glenn up his mast to retrieve a lazy jack lead that had escaped in all of Monday's festivities. (You may notice that Glenn goes up his mast a lot. He says he does it to get his money's worth out of his bosun's chair.)

It took most of us a whole entire couple hours to sail and/or motor to La Trappe Cr., where we all were neatly anchored by around 2:00. After a lazy afternoon in the pleasant afternoon sun, we all mustered on *Tieve Owna* for a buffet supper that was nothing short of wonderful: chicken enchiladas by Liz and Sue, a cool curry/mushroom/shrimp spicy soup by Mary Jo, chicken salad made by Anne Marie, and a green salad (and some salsa) contributed by Sandy. Oh, and Mary Jo also brought a pasta dish. No one went hungry, that's for sure! Did I mention that Mal and Anne Marie contributed the wine? It was a truly grand party, and a beautiful quiet anchorage. The upper 50's temps that night made for some fine sleeping weather. Another wonderful day!

Day 4 (Wednesday, June 6): Today we made the very short transit to Cambridge and the Cambridge Municipal Yacht Basin. It was another quiet morning, with a little drizzle - the only rain of the trip, as it turned out. Glenn and Skittles went fishing in and around the occasional showers. They caught a few white perch, but threw them back. They had fun, though (Glenn and Skittles did at least; the fish, not so much).

We all mostly motored to Cambridge in the early afternoon, although *Bay Gypsy* explored the upper reaches of La Trappe Creek before departing for the marina. Lots of very nice houses, big boats, and baby ospreys to check out. But by 2:30 we were all safely moored, including *Aquavit* (Joe and Margie Powers) who joined the flotilla for the second half of the cruise.

That evening, we made the four block trek to Jimmie and Sook's Raw Bar and Grill in downtown Cambridge. We thoroughly enjoyed some great seafood and sashayed back to our boats and bunkies around 9:00 after a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun.

Day 5 (Thursday, June 7): This was a 'shelter in place' day where we all just chilled at the Cambridge Marina and thoroughly enjoyed walking around town, reading, and doing small odd jobs on the boat. Skittles and Glenn explored the farthest reaches of Cambridge Creek by kayak, which wasn't all that far actually. Everyone explored the old town and checked out the farmer's market that the town sponsors on Thursdays. At 3:00, we all mustered at the High Spot Gastropub on High Street in downtown Cambridge for their \$3.00 drinks and hors d'oeuvres. It was a perfect outside afternoon, with clear skies and temps in the 60's.

After eating our almost-fill at High Spot, we all pitched in on a bushel of crabs and had a crab feast at the marina's gazebo. Roger, the very obliging dockmaster, and Scott, a semi-permanent resident on a boat at the marina, joined the 11 of us boat people for a grand time. Great crabs at a great price with great weather. It was the best evening of fun yet!

Day 6 (Friday, June 8): The last full day of the summer cruise ☹️. The plan had been to sail over to Thursdays Steak and Crabhouse in Galesville on the West River. However, in the face of what was projected to be a 12-15 kt west wind we'd have to sail into, and also with the prospect of a busy Friday night at the restaurant, we adjusted our plans. Instead, we opted for Plaindealing Creek off the Tred Avon River. But before shoving off, several of us went back to the High Point Gastropub on word that they do a mean breakfast. And it was every bit as good as advertised - stuffed French toast, omelets to order, and a fried oyster eggs benedict dish that was to die for.

Plaindealing Creek was a great decision - another short steaming day with some sailing (no hurry, so lots of tacking got us there just fine). A very leisurely morning, with pumpouts and

fueling to suit available at the marina. All five boats were safely at anchor by 3:30-4:00, with happy hour on *Aquavit*. We all shared some blow-out hors d'oeuvres and enjoyed the clear sky, perfect calm, low humidity, and temps in the low 80's. It was a great final happy hour together, sharing memories of a fine cruise. And to cap off a great evening, Skittles and Glenn went kayaking at sunset and caught breakfast - a perfect nightcap to a perfect day.

Day 7 (Saturday, June 9): Everyone sort of did their own thing this morning. In due time, each got underway for wherever. *Tieve Owna* left for Rock Hall. *Circe* is also from Rock Hall, but decided to go somewhere else. (That's what cruisers do!) *Whistwind* took off for Tilghman Creek to hook up with some other friends. *Southern Lady* and *Bay Gypsy* went to Dun Cove for a final evening on the water, not wanting the cruise to end. They shared a two-boat happy hour that evening and, Sunday morning, motored back to the Magothy and home.

After a week of tremendous weather and wonderful days together on the water, it was finally time for it all to come to an end. And, as it turned out, it was probably the right time as the weather had begun to turn seriously hot that day. Sunday proved to be the only 90's-ish day of the cruise, and turned out to be the first in a record-breaking string of 90+ days in June and early July. So we timed it just about right! I hope we can do as well come the fall cruise in mid-September. And hope more can join us when we do!

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