

Chesapeake Sailing Club

Annapolis, Maryland

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July 2014

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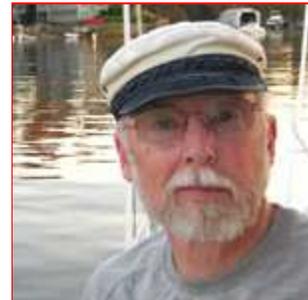
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Commodore's Column

Glenn Whaley, *Trinity*

What a grand month was June! The Memorial Day cruise to the Severn (well, okay, that was actually late May - but it still counts!). The Summer Cruise to the Little Choptank, the Choptank, and points west. Pretty decent weather, too, given the time of year. All in all, a fine sailing month ☺.



Welcome to new members Jim and Sandy Saxton (s/v Infinity), who joined the club during the Memorial Day cruise! And congratulations to Joe and Margie Powers on the purchase of their new boat (which they haven't quite closed on at this writing, but it's close). Looking forward to more fellowship on the water with good friends, old and new!

The biggest activity of June was, of course, the big cruise. I'll describe our day-by-day fun in an article below so won't dwell on it here. But whether you were able to make the cruise or not, we all appreciated the pretty moderate weather we enjoyed all month. For these parts, it was a pretty temperate June. As noted in a previous column, maybe The Weather was doing penance for what we had to put up with over that long, hard winter! We can only hope that we'll get many more good days as the 'dog days' of July and August step into the batter's box.

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Although we don't have many boating forays set up for July and August, that shouldn't stop us from checking our schedules, clicking on the weather, and reaching out to other CSCers for a day raftup or weekend overnight. Just being out there is why we exist as a club, after all! So let's make the most of the sailing season, of the privilege and pleasure of having boats, and getting out on the Bay in them.

It really is that much fun. Here is probably my favorite word picture of boats - the conversation between Water Rat and Mole from Kenneth Grahame's 1908 classic "Wind in the Willows". A fitting quotation to close out a column celebrating our mutual love affair with the Chesapeake, don't you think?

"Is it so nice as all that?" asked the mole, shyly...

"Nice? It's the *only* thing," said the Water Rat solemnly, as he leaned forward for his stroke. "Believe me, my young friend, there is *nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about on boats.*"

"*Simply messing ... about in boats - or with boats ...* In or out of 'em, it doesn't matter. Nothing seems to matter, that's the charm of it. Whether you get away, or whether you don't; whether you arrive at your destination or whether you reach somewhere else, or whether you never get anywhere at all, you're always busy, and you never do anything in particular; and when you've done it there's always something else to do, and you can do it if you like, but you'd much better not."

"Look here! If you've nothing else on hand this morning, supposing we drop down the river together and have a long day of it?"

So, with summer now full upon us, let's think about doing just that!

Fleet Captain's Report

Mary Jo Harris, *Circe*

Ahoy, fellow CSC'ers.

Two fabulous, action-packed CSC Cruises behind us, and more to go! If you missed the Spring Cruise to the Choptank.....you have a lot of good boating to make up for! Let's just say, we had a lovely time, lots of good companionship, and great weather.



Next up is our **Midsummer Dinner** date on the Western Shore. Dinner will be at Cheshire Crab on Bodkin Creek. For those who sail, we can plan to anchor out east of the restaurant and take the water taxi to dinner and back.



Optional Late Summer Cruise at the end of August, and returning by September 2. We will sail where the wind blows, but will attempt this year to visit some ports and anchorages south of the Patuxent. Think about Tangier Island, Fleet's Bay.....possibly Onancock or Urbana, depending on weather, and how much time we have. Please communicate with me regarding your intention to cruise, since I will try to arrange the starting date/meet-up location for the first raft-up to accommodate the majority of our sailors. Tentatively, we will start out on, or about, Thursday, August 21, or Friday August 22. Those who don't have to be home by September 2 might elect to stay out on the water a few extra days.

Fall Cruise leaves the Magothy on Sunday September 16 to reprise our fall visits to the Northern Bay.

Frostbite Cruise coincides with Columbus Day, so be prepared to explore.

Cruise Report-

The CSC Summer Cruise Saga

Glenn Whaley, *Trinity*

I'm sure there will be other accounts of our fun time together on the Bay besides this one, but for what it's worth here is a day-by-day accounting for what we did and the fun we had doing it. To Susan and me, the best thing about the Chesapeake Sailing Club is being able to just get away and spend time with good friends on the water. Although we really enjoy the winter parties and the occasional shore soirees during the sailing season, it's the Bay cruising we love. And we really loved this one!

Saturday, June 14 (Day 1): The cruise started today, although some couldn't join until later. Like us. I had Belvedere commitments that kept us home until the next day. But Bill and Sandy Stine in *Whistwind* and Mary Jo (and, of course, Toby) in *Circe* made their way to Whitehall Bay just south of the Bridge en route to the Choptank. Frank and Liz Cingel in *Southern Lady* had gone on ahead a few days before to their daughter's home on Edgar Creek off the Choptank where the flotilla

was to join them on Tuesday. But that's getting ahead of the story....

Sunday, June 15 (Day 2): While *Whistwind* and *Circe* made their way south to Hudson Creek on the Choptank with a modest south breeze (which is being generous - let's face it, it was destined to be mostly a motoring day), we three on *Trinity* (counting Skittles, of course) finally got underway from the Magothy at 5:30 that afternoon after my last event of the yacht club season. We motored as far as Whitehall before laying up for the night. It was a very pleasant evening, surrounded by hordes of cownose rays for which June is the prime romance month of the year. They were everywhere, and fun to watch. For many, it was probably a really happy Fathers' Day!

Monday, June 16 (Day 3): While *Whistwind* and *Circe* had a fairly short trek to the Little Choptank, *Trinity* booked it under motor (for the most part) to join them at Slaughter Creek that afternoon. It was a very pleasant day, tending to hot-ish, but nice if you had some way on. We were able to cut the engine at Sharps Island Light and sail the rest of the way into the Little Choptank and to the mouth of the creek. Turns out Slaughter Creek channel is really silted up, and the day markers are at best only approximate indicators of where the water is. So we sneaked in at two knots and finally joined the two boats, anchoring separately as there was a fair tidal current in the creek. The plan had been to go out to dinner at the one restaurant on Taylors Island there on the creek but, alas, they were closed on Mondays. So, instead, we enjoyed happy hour on *Whistwind* and settled in for the night. It was a quiet night, although *Trinity* dragged at some point and woke up (blessedly in good water and not against a pier or boat) quite a ways from where we started. Anchor alarms are great, but only if they are loud enough to hear! (We've fixed that problem! 😊)

Tuesday, June 17 (Day 4): Our first truly hot, humid day. Being as we were motoring north to Broad Creek on the Choptank, the moving air made it very pleasant. We were all tied up or anchored at Frank and Liz' daughter's home on Edgar Cove by 1500, were able to join the Cingels there and enjoyed a grilled BYO meal. Thanks, Karen and Doug! Did I mention they had air conditioning? It was a very nice afternoon and evening, and we stayed late because we like each other a lot. And because it was cool in the house. And because we got to watch a really, really cool video put together by Bill about his and Sandy's four-month motor trip to Alaska last year. It cooled down at night enough that it turned out to be pretty comfortable sleeping on the boats after all. A

great day!

Wednesday, June 18 (Day 5): Another hot day was promised, but this time with wind. In fact, after getting underway at 8:30 the flotilla was pretty much able to sail all the way to Cambridge, our next stop. We arrived at the Cambridge Municipal Yacht Basin around 3:30, tied up (and plugged in, very pleasant for those with air conditioning!), then all went out to dinner at Snappers, a nice seafood restaurant on the water a short walk from the marina. The only excitement was a fairly strong thunder storm late that night that got pretty much everyone up making sure everything was secure. (I say 'pretty much everyone' because a husband who shall remain nameless received severe verbal abuse the next morning for having slept through the whole thing.)

Thursday, June 19 (Day 6): This was a 'shelter in place' day - we all stayed put at the Cambridge marina and just enjoyed a down day. The weather was hot again (our last hot day of the whole cruise, as it turned out ☺) so we mostly laid low and did boat chores or read. We also walked around downtown some, and checked out the farmer's market that is open on Thursdays in the park by the marina. Skittles took Glenn kayaking around the harbor that morning and even caught a few small perch in the creek that runs through town. For dinner, we all went out that night to the Hot Spot Gastropub, a place we've visited before. Has local flavor and nice ambiance. (That is, when there isn't a ladies' convention enjoying the same ambiance while you're there. They talked a lot. And they did it very loudly. Let's just say it made the evening 'memorable'!)

Friday, June 20 (Day 7): After a leisurely morning, we all left Cambridge and made the short (~5 mile) sail to La Trappe Creek on the Choptank. The moderate north wind made it a nice sail, all the way to the mouth of the creek. On the downside, Glenn did a spread-eagle trick while securing Skittles' kayak on top of the dinghy getting ready to tow it. He fell in. He was not amused. Apparently everyone else was, though, judging by the laughter. Oh, well....

After a very pleasant, leisurely afternoon on our boats anchored neatly in the creek, we all made our way to *Southern Lady* for happy hour. We were even joined by two cruising friends of the Stines who happened to be anchored in La Trappe that evening. It was a great time. Afterwards, we all went home, had dinner, and enjoyed the very pleasant, low humidity evening. It was a great day. Apart from the unscheduled bath

Glenn took, that is 😊

Saturday, June 21 (Day 8): Today's plan had been to sail back down the Choptank, then to either Dunn Cove or Harris Creek for the evening. However, it threatened rain and La Trappe is such a pretty place it didn't make sense to move. So we didn't. We just relaxed at anchor for the day. *Whistwind* had to leave that morning, as they had a commitment to attend, leaving *Southern Lady*, *Circe*, and *Trinity* to continue the cruise. After fishing, fixing, reading, relaxing, and generally doing what cruisers do at anchor, we all shared a make-shift buffet supper on *Trinity*. We enjoyed Sue's version of Anne Marie Singerman's world famous veggie chili (and lifted a glass in her honor). Then we all retired to our boats for a nice, cool, quiet night at anchor in one of the prettiest coves on the whole Bay.

Sunday, June 22 (Day 9): The day dawned beautifully, with temps in the mid 60's, low humidity, and still water on the creek. *Southern Lady* departed at 6:30 that morning to return home, leaving only *Trinity* and *Circe* to continue the cruise. (Is two boats a flotilla anymore? Rhetorical question there; ignore it.) After a quiet morning, the two of us got underway around noon-ish and headed west. Sort of, at least - actually, *Trinity* went up La Trappe Creek admiring the big houses, Adirondack chairs on the huge lawns, and the old Dickerson Boat Works at the head of the creek. Then we did eventually turn around and head west across the Bay. Unfortunately, there wasn't much wind so we were on the iron jenny pretty much the whole way across. Destination: the Rhode River. By about 4:30, *Trinity* anchored just off High Island in the Rhode. Which isn't. High, that is. Having sunk, it's no longer an actual island at all; it's just a few markers that say "Shoal". But the chart still lists it, so High Island is officially where we were. *Circe* came alongside and tied up to *Trinity*, then we shared a buffet supper and talked well into the night. And a gorgeous, perfect, cool night it was 😊.

Monday, June 23 (Day 10): The last official day of the cruise. Another perfect morning - crystal clear, cool, no humidity, very slight south breeze. At 9:30, *Circe* cast off and headed back to Rock Hall. For *Trinity*'s part, it was too perfect a morning to leave yet so we dawdled awhile just taking in the morning. Skittles and Glenn went kayaking and fishing, but didn't have much success. Oh, well. Then the remainder of the cruise finally got underway for the northlands. Not headed for home yet; the weather was too perfect to quit quite yet. So we enjoyed a perfect sail up the Bay to the Severn. Actually, we got there too early

to anchor, and just sailed back and forth across the south side of the Bay Bridge. Since we were going at a suitable speed, we dropped a trolling line over the stern and enjoyed sailing and fishing at the same time. Sue caught a 20" rockfish late in the afternoon, which we later filleted and gave to our son and family.

By 5:30, we were anchored in Weems Creek where we rendezvoused with some friends who drove to the dinghy dock and picked us up. We went to a favorite Chinese restaurant for supper and had just a great time. We got back at dark and enjoyed one of our very favorite scenes in all Annapolis: the waterfront views of the houses and moored boats on Weems Creek. It might not be everyone's favorite creek, but it's the only one I have a picture of hanging in my office at work! What a great day it was.

Tuesday, June 24: Although the cruise was officially over, we weren't home so we still figured today was part of the fun. We enjoyed a very leisurely morning of kayaking, fishing, watching birds, enjoying the early morning Annapolis sounds, and just enjoying life. Finally, inevitably, we weighted anchor and left for the Magothy and home. We sailed the whole way from the mouth of Weems Creek, out the Severn, and up the Bay with a following South wind, finally tying up at Belvedere around 6:30. Tired. Relaxed. And very sorry it was all over.

What a great cruise! So when's our next one?? Let's go!

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