



Chesapeake Sailing Club

Annapolis, Maryland

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June 2012

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Commodore's Column

Mal Singerman, *Tieve Owna*

Those members who were fortunate enough to participate in the Memorial Day cruise enjoyed some nice sailing conditions and interesting anchorages. The crew of Captain Queez hosted the first night in fine style, providing Champagne for a season opening toast and...as a totally unexpected treat at anchor...ice cream. The crew of *Ariel*, our hosts for the second night, provided an interesting choice of red or white wines (for drinking or sprinkling), and a comfortable venue for a lively evening of shared stories and conversation.

Thanks are due to Dave Nance for this thoughtful planning, and to Paul and Shirley, Dave (again) and Lois for their generous efforts as host boats.



My last letter was quite brief, as Anne Marie and I had just begun our trip on the ICW from Florida to the Bay. A more complete description of our trip follows for those who may be interested.

Anne Marie and I arrived at Sailing Emporium on Tuesday of May 15th, 22 days after leaving our dock in Fort Lauderdale. Our trip up the ICW was the total opposite of our trip down. We had nothing but pleasantly warm and sunny days, no winds over 18 knots, no rain. (A total of two hours rain while underway for the whole trip, and that was on our very last day.)

After leaving our dock in Fort Lauderdale, we went North on the ICW to Hillsboro Inlet and out to the Atlantic Ocean then North to the Lake Worth inlet at Palm Beach. The trip was about 4 hours, and we had the Gulf Stream helping us for 3 of them. After that, we stayed "inside", on the ICW, for the rest of the way. We anchored just off the ICW channel in Hobe Sound, then in the Indian River and then in Mosquito Lagoon, then we spent a night at Palm Coast Marina (no anchorage handy) where we found an interesting restaurant called Europa within walking distance. Then we anchored in Sister's Creek just North of the bridge, St. Simon's sound, Walberg Creek, Bryan Creek and Five Mile Creek.

After Five Mile Creek, we pulled into Hazzard Marina in Georgetown, where we waited for two days for my brother-in-law, Desi Edwards, to join us. We rented an Enterprise car to pick Desi up at Kingstree, about 45 miles away, but the nearest passenger rail stop to Georgetown. Our stop in Georgetown allowed, us to put some fresh provisions aboard and refill one of our propane tanks. Hazzard is a nice marina with floating dock, diesel and pumpout at the slip, and (Anne Marie appreciated this) an air conditioned laundry room.

After Hazzard, we stopped at Barefoot Landing, specifically because an old friend from my J&J days now lives in North Myrtle Beach, and we wanted to see him. Barefoot Landing was, I understand, once an outlet mall with a free dock. it is now full of stores that sell nothing but

junk, and the former free dock operates as a marina which is way overpriced for a place with no showers, no pumpout and a long walk to a restroom. My old friend did take us to a restaurant there that did a good job on prime rib and steak.

After Barefoot, we anchored in Wrightsville Beach. We called the local Boat US and learned that Mott's Channel, the entrance to the anchorage, had been recently dredged, and we had no trouble getting in at low tide....bar a few kids on paddleboards who had to be hailed and told to move aside as we approached from behind.

We had planned to anchor at Spooner Creek before reaching Morehead City, but a narrow channel and a strong cross current kept us out. We went in at about mid tide, and....cruising guides and charts notwithstanding...I kind of doubt that the channel held 5 feet all the way in. Anyway, we abandoned plans to anchor, and proceeded to the Morehead City Yacht Center for the night. We were running out of daylight, and didn't want to find, and then struggle with a crowded anchorage in Morehead City.

After Morehead City, we anchored in Pantego Creek, then anchored on the other side of the of the Elizabeth City Bridge. We decided to take the Dismal Swamp route. This route is far from "dismal", actually quite scenic and with very little traffic compared to the main route, We made it through the Dismal Swamp, and caught the last lock through at 3:30. We were the only boat going through the lock and had a lot of time to chat with the lock tender "Robert". We had planned to anchor in Deep Creek basin, also know as Hole in the Wall outside of Norfolk, but Robert told us that it was a small boat playground for the local kids on weekends, and that they ran their boats and waverunners around all night and loved to 'buzz' anchored sailboats. He gave us a tip about tying up at the Portsmouth Ferry Dock, which we thought we'd try. Unfortunately we had a really long wait at the Gilmerton Bridge, and, while circling, opted to call the Tidewater Marina for a slip, preferring a certain destination at the end of the day when we were all tired. We did look in to the Ferry dock area on the way to Tidewater Marina. It would definitely have worked! We've tucked the information away for future reference.

From Portsmouth, we went to an anchorage in Jackson Creek in Deltaville, then to a mooring ball in Solomon's, then "home" to Sailing Emporium in Rock Hall.

All those who have read this far are commended for their patience.

I look forward to seeing you all as the sailing season progresses.

Vice Commodore's Report

Joe Powers, Aquavit

We had a great month for sailing in May, although we didn't all (especially the VC) get our butts in gear to take advantage of it until the memorial day weekend. We're now in June and we hope the weather continues to hold without any more demonstrations of global warming.



The only on-shore get together this month will be a joint raft-up/restaurant gathering in the West River. The Summer Cruise schedule calls for a raft-up there with a dinner ashore at Thursday's Steak and Crabhouse. The restaurant does have a limited number of free slips available, first come, first served, for dinner only. You can also choose to anchor first and dinghy in or you can drive if you're not planning to go by boat. The restaurant will provide separate checks but we have to inform of that when we get seated. Since this will be a Saturday, and likely to be busy, we plan to start with cocktails at 5pm, followed by dinner.

There are no on-shore get togethers planned for July. Our next land based event will be the annual picnic and business meeting at the Belvedere Yacht Club on August 18th. The Crabcake dinner at the Sailing Emporium will be held on September 8th. If you plan to come by boat call the Sailing Emporium at 410-778-1342 for reservations. More on both of these later.

Fleet Captain's Report

Dave Nance, *Ariel*

Over the Memorial Day holiday the fleet met in Dividing Creek. Happy Hour was well hosted by Shirley and Paul Berson aboard their yacht *Captain Queeze*. We have nominated Shirley and Paul for the prize of Premier Host and Hostess for their outstanding happy hours. What other sailing group has champagne served at happy hour!



Besides the great happy hour, the sailing was just perfect on Sunday for a swift sail down Eastern Bay and up the South River to a very tight anchorage in Church Creek. The fleet scattered on Memorial day for a lazy sail to the respected marinas.

The Summer Cruise starts Sunday, June 3 for a tour around the Choptank River. Let the "relief cruise captain" Mary Jo Harris know if you will be sailing so that she knows whom to expect.

Ariel hopes to see you on the June 30 raft up in Grays Inn Creek.

Cruise Report-

Memorial Day (Shakedown) Cruise, May 26-28

Glenn Whaley, *Bay GyPSy*

The CSC sailing season got off to a rousing start with a fun cruise to the Eastern Shore and the South River this past weekend. Thanks to Fleet Captain Dave Nance for setting it all up and getting us out on the water! As it turned out, it was the first time underway for the season for at least some of the boats. So the cruise served as a shakedown cruise for them, as well as the inaugural on-the-water event of the season.



The First Foray on the Bay was launched on a warm but pleasant Saturday morning from various places on the bay - the South River, Rock Hall, and the Magothy. We all worked our way south and east across the bounding main against a light southerly breeze (okay, so maybe 'bounding' is a bit of a stretch - but we did get to sail a fair amount of the day). By afternoon, we were all safely tucked into Dividing Creek on the Wye River.

There were six of us in the fleet: *Tieve Owna* (Commodore Mal and Anne Marie Singerman), *Aquavit* (V/C Joe and Margie Powers), *Ariel* (F/C Dave Nance and Lois Carey), *Captain Queez* (Paul and Shirley Berson), *Southern Lady* (Frank and Liz Cingel), and *Bay GyPSy* (Glenn, Susan, and Skittles Whaley). Happy Hour that first night was onboard *Captain Queez*, the token power boat in our midst. (We love them anyway.) And what a celebration it was! Besides hors d'oeuvres contributed by the six boats attending, *Captain Queez* treated the assembled crews to champagne and strawberries to properly launch the season. And, to top it all off as a grand finale, we were treated to rocky road and chocolate chip ice cream. How cool was that?! It was decided then and there that a new CSC tradition has been established for the first afloat happy hour of the season. So who wants to host next year's celebration?

Sunday dawned fair and bright, in the low 70's with a rising breeze from the south. We eventually all got underway after a leisurely morning and headed back west to the South River and, ultimately, about five miles up the river to Church Creek. It was a good sailing day, with the wind holding at a pretty steady 10-12 kts. *Captain Queez* sorteed early and returned to home port, as the Bersons had preps to make for a new adventure later in the week. But five boats remained and enjoyed a fine Happy Hour onboard *Ariel* who provided free flowing wine for all. (Which was muchly appreciated, especially after we heard about the loose bottle that had flowed a little too freely while heeling over in the transit back across the Bay. Such a waste!)

The evening was very pleasant and ended too soon. After more or less settling in for the night, most of us were at ease and enjoying the peace and gentle breeze. But *Ariel* was plagued by a particularly obnoxious mooring buoy which apparently had a crush on her. (We had all been

entertained by the amorous buoy during happy hour.) So Dave and Lois tried to move. But the bottom wasn't playing well with their anchor so moving didn't work either. Finally, even though it was getting on towards dark, *Ariel* decided to call it a cruise and return to Rock Hall. Of course, that's when the weather changed....

As it turns out, a band of pretty non-trivial thunderstorms were heading through the area a bit later. So *Ariel* made it to near the mouth of the river and checked into a secluded cove and holed up there for the night, getting underway for home early the next morning instead. All was well with the fleet after all.

Monday, Memorial Day, was another pleasant morning. Everyone had a peaceful wakeup and breakfast. Skittles and Glenn went out in their kayak checking out the area. (They discovered that there are apparently no fish in Church Creek.) By mid-morning, everyone had packed up, raised anchor, and made the return voyage to homeport. It was another south wind day and, except for *Aquavit* (who was already almost home, being South River-ites), the rest of us had a chance to sail north with a following breeze. It was slow, but who was in a hurry?

For the Whaleys, the day ended late as an impromptu dinner party evolved sometime that day with some landlocked friends. So Bay GyPSy moored at Deep Creek Restaurant, on the Magothy not far from Belvedere, and had a great time with two other couples who joined them. After long and spirited discussion (about just about everything) they returned home in the dark, full and happy. And well rested.

Thus endeth the 2012 CSC Memorial Day Weekend cruise. Let's do it all again next weekend, this time for a whole week!

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