

## Memorial Day Weekend and Southern Bay Cruise

The weather forecast was showing rain for the entire week, with the potential for a tropical storm to head up the coast. Elsie's Phantasie had planned to lead group of boats on a Delmarva Circumnavigation cruise, but decided it would be better not to venture out into the ocean due to the weather forecast. The plan was changed to a Southern Bay Cruise.



We attended a Raft Up on the Rhode River near Big Island on Saturday, May 26, hosted by Muzella, a member of HSA1. NSHSA boats in attendance were Schatzi, Tenacity, Windsprint, Annalea, and Windrose. During Happy Hour we listened to an entertaining presentation about the State of the Bay by Jeff Holland, the West & Rhode Rive Keeper.



On Sunday morning, while the other boats headed off to various locations, Windrose and Elsie's Phantasie departed for Fishing Creek on the Little Choptank River. It was hazy, hot and humid, with very light winds, making it a day for motoring. We anchored in Fishing Creek, went for a refreshing swim, and then planned the rest of the cruise during happy hour aboard Elsie's Phantasie.



Monday brought clouds and variable winds from 5 to 10 knots, allowing a nice sail side by side up the Patuxent River and under the bridge to an anchorage in Cuckhold Creek.



Tuesday found us motoring again, with 2 knots of wind from the southwest. With an early start to the day, we headed to Tangier Island and took slips at Parks Marina for \$35 per night including electric. We spent some time talking to the marina owner, Milton Parks, an 87 year old descendent of one of the original families on the island. Tangier Island is only accessible by boat, and everything is transported there by ferry from Cambridge. Most of the island residents travel in golf carts. Walking through the town was like going back in time about 50 years, and our cell phones did not work due to the lack of cell phone towers. We ate seafood dinner at Lorraine's Restaurant and then enjoyed a beautiful sunset and a beautiful sunrise the following day.



On Wednesday we headed across the bay for the Potomac River and an anchorage on the Coan Rive, sailing wing on wing most of the way in 5 to 10 knot winds. After entering the Coan River, we had to make our way through numerous crab traps and an oyster farm, and we finally anchored in a beautiful and well-protected anchorage for the night.

We crossed the Potomac River on a broad reach on Thursday, heading into an anchorage on Smith Creek. After anchoring, Sue and Elsie went for a refreshing swim before dinner. We traveled to Courtney's Restaurant by dinghy with the wind splashing the waves over the bow of the dinghy. As soon as we beached the dinghy and stepped out onto the sand we were drenched in a heavy downpour as we headed to the restaurant. The waitress brought us a towel to dry off and we enjoyed a delicious seafood dinner. By the time we went back to the dinghy the storm was over, and the winds had subsided, making the trip back to the boats much more comfortable.

On Friday the weather was sunny and warm with a 5 to 10 knot breeze allowing us to motor sail to the Patuxent while watching the Blue Angels practicing for the big show on Saturday. Windrose was back at their home port at Zahnhisers, and Elsie's Phantasie took a slip on the T-head nearby. We were happy to be able to some food shopping before going out for a nice dinner.



Saturday, June 2 was the day we had been looking forward to. Sue Reitz accompanied us aboard Elsie's Phantasie, and we anchored near the Patuxent Naval Air Base to watch the Blue Angels perform. Carl Reitz joined us by dinghy. It was thrilling as the planes flew directly over our boat. After the show, we went back to Zahnhisers for the night.

On Sunday, despite the threatening weather forecasts and Elsie's advice to wait until Monday, Steve decided to start heading home. The winds had dropped to 12 knots, and we left the comfort of Zanhisers with a destination of Harness Creek on the South River. We saw 30 knot winds and 6 to 8 foot waves as we approached the mouth of the Patuxent River. Although Elsie wanted to turn back, we were committed to continuing on our way north for fear of being hit broadside while trying to turn around. It was a long, wet, and bumpy trip up the bay and we changed our destination to the Rhode River near Big Island. We dropped the anchor after dark in calm water, and were thankful to have made it there safely.

On Monday morning the weather was sunny with light winds. We left right after breakfast and arrived at our slip in Rock Hall in time for lunch and a trip to the pool.

