



RAPPAHANNOCK CRUISE 2006 GATES MAY 12 – 18, 2006

With short and long range weather reports predicting heavy rains, we set out under sunny skies and a south wind forcing us to motor most of the way to Old House Cove in Solomons. Salt Shaker rafted with their guests, Janie and Craig Kelting on "Makani", and were joined shortly thereafter by Alex and Joan Collins and singlehander Tom Cornwell for Captain's party. I had removed the wheel to make more room in the cockpit, and I am certain the Kelting's wondered what they had gotten themselves into when I cast off from the raft with the wheel still in the salon. Guest boat "Fiscal Stray" arrived too late to join for cocktails; so rafted with host boat "Avatar", and partied into the wee hours of the morning.

The last two hours on the trip to the Great Wicomico were a joy with a great southeast wind pushing the fleet all the way past the marker at Sandy Point where we anchored for cocktails aboard "Avatar". "Makani" showed great skill in threading between 2 fish traps under full sail just before the entrance to the river.

After banging through the entrance to the Bay out of the Great Wicomico, we were able to take advantage of an excellent wind that allowed us to sail under the bridge over the Rappahannock, and drop sail just at the entrance to Carter Creek. With all boats secure we sat through a rather severe afternoon thunderstorm. Here we were joined by "Lynx" who had scouted out the amenities of The Tides and found that the cabaña by the pool was the perfect place for cocktails. Dinner for all in the Chesapeake Room was excellent, especially the prime rib, which they ran out of by the time Alex ordered. Laundry and showers were also a treat.

The next day, some explored the Corrotoman River, hung out at The Tides, or made it to Urbanna for a town tour, or resupply from the market and local ABC store. Cocktails on the new Town Marina dock (no credit cards - check or cash only) preceded an excellent group dinner at the Virginia Street Cafe.

Although we had been to Reedville by land, it was a shock to enter via water where abandoned piers, buildings, and ships are in disrepair on both sides of the entrance. It appears that only one fish processing plant is still in operation in what was a major industry for the region. Once past that, there is a pleasant town and anchorage where the five of us dropped the hook for another pleasant evening.

It was a long stretch to get into the Patuxent and head for Mill Creek where "Fiscal Stray" hosted cocktails. The sailing was off and on most of the day, but at least everyone was safe. Here we were joined by the Sokso's on "Aurora", Ed James on "Blue Heron", and John Schell on guest boat "Zara". As cocktails ended, "Salt Shaker" ferried all 13 of us to Clarks Landing for an excellent dinner on the porch. With 8 captain's aboard one vessel, it was amazing that we were able to dock without incident. However, with 2 inches under the keel and a falling



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tide, a wise decision was made to move to the starboard side of the fuel dock where we tied up in 7 feet of water.

In spite of the weather predictions, we never were rained on while underway all week, and enjoyed a great sail to home ports under 15 - 20 knot winds out of the south.

Lynn & Mike
"Salt Shaker"

Aurora - 1 night
Blue Heron - 1 night
Zara - 1 Night
Lynx - 2 Nights
Makani - 6 Nights
Andiamo - 6 Nights
Avatar - 6 Nights
Fiscal Stray - 6 Nights
Salt Shaker - 6 Nights