

C.S.S.M.

Upper Choptank River Cruise

CRUISE LOG -- 8/22 - 8/26/07

Wednesday

22 August

La Trappe Creek

On an overcast day, with a light breeze out of the northeast, SANDERLING anchored in the cove just inside the entrance to La Trappe Creek. We were joined by AURORA, ELLIS ISLAND, LIKE WYE'S, MAKANI, SALT SHAKER, and WAYWARD WIND. The Anstey's aboard ALLEGRO had hoped to participate, but were forced to reschedule. Our Captain's party was aboard SANDERLING, with LIKE WYE'S and WAYWARD WIND rafting alongside. The cruise captain explained the Rubber Duckie contest, where 8 duckies had been launched into the Tuckahoe River the evening before, beginning their trip to the bay. The first boat participating in the cruise which recovered a duckie and returned it to the cruise captain would receive a prize bottle of champagne.

Thursday

23 August

Cabin Creek

In weather that copied the preceding day's, MAKANI had to leave the cruise, and the remaining boats departed early to allow us to pass under the Cambridge Rt 50 Bridge at low tide. All boats made it without incident, although AURORA had a scary episode when a power boat slammed under the bridge, leaving a large wake and lots of rocking. It was a relatively short trip up the Choptank to the mouth of Cabin Creek, with the current giving us a boost. SANDERLING led the procession into the creek, following the local marks. We saw depths not less than 7' until we neared the dock at Suicide Bridge Marina, where we encountered a small hump of 6' 1" - no problem for us, but AURORA, drawing 5' 9", had a brief grounding in this area (she powered through). Five boats tied up at the marina (ELLIS ISLAND chose to anchor at the entrance to the creek). At 1730 we had a party on the waterfront, with the crews of the 6 boats joined by an additional 11 CSSM members arriving by land: Ernie & Barbara COX, Joe & Karen DAY, Irv & Jane HETHERINGTON, Dorothy MOWRY, John & Suzie SCHELL, and Dick & Judy TANCZOS, plus guests Jim & Mary CAMPBELL. It was a great party, with plenty of companionship and delicious food, followed by an excellent meal at Suicide Bridge Restaurant. Our thanks to all attending for their part in making it a wonderful experience.

Friday

24 August

Tuckahoe River

ELLIS ISLAND left the cruise to return home, and LIKE WYE'S chose to remain in the area at the marina. Following a very dense early morning fog which delayed us several hours until the tide turned in our favor, the remaining 4 boats left Cabin Creek and proceeded up the Choptank. We passed through the Dover (swing) Bridge without pause, and arrived at our destination on the Tuckahoe River by mid-afternoon. The Choptank proved to be surprisingly wide and majestic, with low banks and numerous marshes -- beautiful in its own way -- but we thought that the Tuckahoe was even more beautiful, with relatively high banks and dense woodlands on each side. This was new territory for CSSM. Our anchorage (about 3/4 miles upstream of the mouth, just downstream of the fixed Matthewstown Bridge) was quite roomy and breezy, with depths about 12'. AURORA hosted the group for cocktails and dinner, with Stephanie slaving over a hot oven to get everything ready -- it was delicious!

Saturday

25 August

Cambridge

We departed at 0830 and proceeded downstream to the the RiverMarsh Marina at Hyatt Regency Resort. WAYWARD WIND left the cruise, leaving us with 4 boats on this final night of the cruise. The afternoon turned into a real scorcher, very humid with temperature in the high 90's. Les and Gloria Anstey joined us by land, and we enthusiastically helped them to celebrate their 51st anniversary with a party aboard LIKE WYE'S. Les brought several bottles of champagne to fuel the celebration, and the cruise captain, noting that no rubber duckies had been retrieved, ruled that the duckie bottle be added to the festivities. It was a great party, capped by dinner at the marina's Blue Point Restaurant. During the night a very violent thunderstorm passed through, with lots of wind and lighting, but there was no serious damage. Glad we were in the marina rather than anchored elsewhere!

Sunday

26 August

home

All boats headed for home by mid-morning, synching with the low tide at the bridge.

Reflections

We tried to plan a cruise that was a little out of the ordinary, that had new places and events that people hadn't seen before. Hopefully, cruise participants will feel we succeeded. A total of 7 boats participated in the cruise, probably close to the optimum number for a cruise of this type. With the light winds and twisting river, this was primarily a power cruise, although sails were seen occasionally. SANDERLING thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We thank those who joined us, and wish others could have had the chance to share the fun.

Boat Nights

AURORA	4 nights
LIKE WYE'S	4 nights
SALT SHAKER	4 nights
SANDERLING	4 nights
WAYWARD WIND	3 nights
ELLIS ISLAND	2 nights
MAKANI	1 night

Mary & Stan Hutchison
SANDERLING

p.s. Although none of the duckies were seen by cruise boats, when we returned home we had a message on our answering machine dated 8/22 p.m., saying that a kyaker "Jim" had found one about half a mile south of their launch site, and that he was planning to mount the duckie on his kyak. We hope that the remaining 7 find equally nice homes.