



PAX RIVER CRUISE REPORT 2009

MIKE & LYNN GATES

JUNE 8 TO 12. 2009

Monday June 8th was a wonderful day for sailing, if you were headed north. Unfortunately south was the direction for most of us, but we all arrived in Mill Creek at Old House Cove in time for cocktails aboard Salt Shaker and Rejuvenation.

Tuesday morning started out as a promising "sail day" with a nice steady breeze out of the south. All six boats had sails up as we headed up the Patuxent toward Battle Creek, but the fun was short lived as the wind they call Maria lasted less than an hour. The entrance to the creek has 2 standard green marks to begin with a white day marker with red edge and "4" on the center. This proved to be a bit confusing to one of our mariners who proceeded to run aground, back out, and then leave the white marker to port; so 2 potential awards in the span of about 50 feet. Once anchored, most of the boats launched dinghy's to explore the area as it was a first time anchorage for 5 of the 6 boats. The clouds darkened and the breeze picked up at about 1800 hours, and a few minutes later we were clocking 40 knot winds with horizontal rain. Five of the boats remained at anchor with guest boat "Grace" flunking the testing of their new delta anchor by dragging several hundred yards until she ran into Falconer. This allowed Joann and David Miller the opportunity to abandon dinner plans on Eagle and reboard "Grace" and get her reattached to the bottom of Battle Creek. No damage to either boat was reported, but another potential award in the making!

Wednesday was a slight disappointing breeze out of the south as we headed for Spring Cove Marina. 2 boats stopped for lunch at Clark's Landing in Mill Creek in St. Mary's County, 2 boats headed to Solomons to lunch at the C&D Cafe, and 2 boats explored a couple of creeks/coves before ending up at the marina. Spring Cove is a clean well run park like setting. 4 members took advantage of the pool before cocktails, and then we walked to the Naughty Gull for a group dinner where we were joined by our life long friends, Bill & Nancy Favor who were also our sponsors the following day for the tour of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Thursday morning we had a staggered start to the West Basin Marina at the air base as docking was limited and we needed all hands to man the lines. There was a dock boy on the dock, but it must have been his 1st day of work, as he was simply useless and clueless. Rejuvenation made 2 passes through the narrow freeway and finally got lashed to the "T" dock as she was overheating and just couldn't "stick it in the hole". The marina manager was an ex engine mechanic and troubleshoot the problem in about 5 minutes and determined that it would be best to get towed to Solomons the next morning for repairs.



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The van arrived at 1130 hours and deposited us at the "O" Club for lunch. The tour was outstanding! We started with two guides for the 12 of us showing us through the inside of a P-3 and C-130. With several members sitting in as pilot & co-pilot. One of the highlights was the actual viewing in the P-3 of an official "wine rack" sanctioned by the Navy. We moved to the V-22 Osprey, on to the Atlantic tracking station, and then on to survival training center. At the survival training center they had us scheduled for the day before, but we were treated to a real adventure by Lt. Andy Hayes who was a medical doctor and knew his stuff. Judy Tanczos was the 1st volunteer who demonstrated her inner ear capabilities in a gentle spin test. Joe Day will never forget his experience of going from flatness to Big Bertha in one nano second, and Don Saballus stalled out at 15,000 feet without really sucking in on any nitrogen. No one got wet in the pool demo's, and we all made it to the docks before 1700 hours. Cocktails were aboard Eagle where the Commodore welcomed the 1st member of the class of '09, Joann & David Miller, into CSSM.

Tow Boat US arrived at 6:30 am to take Rejuvenation to Solomons for repairs that were completed by noon, and the rest of the fleet motored home on scant winds that were predicted to be 10 to 15 from the south, but never developed.

Cruise Nights:

Day One - 4
Eagle - 4
Falconer - 4
Grace - 4
Rejuvenation - 4
Salt Shaker - 4