

2022 Fall Cruise SV Island Time



This year Joyce and Ziya did a two-week sailing cruise on the Chesapeake Bay. The first week was with other cruisers as part of a flotilla, a group of wonderful people with the Magothy River Sailing Association (MRSA); the second week was on our own.

The MRSA cruise started on Saturday, September 3, however we did not have child care for our 4 legged boy Logan, so we joined them on Monday September 5; and took advantage of the extra days to get ready.

Day 0 – Preparation. **Given the long journey (for us at least), we topped of the fuel tank, plus two 5 gallons jugs of diesel got tucked in the lazarette, topped of the 70 gallon fresh water tank, charged the battery banks and loaded the boat with bottled drinking water, canned food, and ice for the cooler. A**

new addition this year was installation of our davits which enabled us to bring our dingy, 4 hp two cycle outboard engine and gasoline fuel can for the outboard. We also decided to bring one kayak with us, just in case we wanted to explore.



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Day 1 – Monday, September 5th BYC to Rock Hall/ Swan Creek

Sailing from Belvedere Yacht Club (BYC) to Rock Hall. Lots more prep work, not the least of which was getting the dinghy off the shore storage rack onto the boat davits. Made sure we were stocked for a Gilligan’s Island situation if we needed extra supplies. Then we set off across The Bay. Weather was a light, favorable wind, and so we motor sailed in order to make happy hour. Had the pleasure catching up with MRSA cruising group for raft up on Swan Creek. Upon arrival, we dropped anchor, lowered our dingy into water and met for 5 o’clock Happy Hour. Altogether, there were 7 boats taking part in the flotilla, although some boats joined late and or left early during the week.



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Day 2 – Tuesday, September 6th Swan Creek to Worton Creek

Woke up to a rainy morning and decided to leave early to beat the oncoming late afternoon storm. Well, the storm did not get the message and arrived in mid-morning, just as we left Rock Hal,; consequently, we experienced rough sailing on our Swan Creek to Worton Creek leg. Headed into north winds of 15-25 knots and waves up to 4 foot. Not what was predicted by forecasters. Fortunately, made it to final destination by social hour! So fortunate to live on the Bay.





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Day 3 – Wednesday, September 7th Worton Creek to Georgetown/Sassafras River

On this leg it rained most of the day and a steady 15 knot wind blew directly from the North, right in our face; we used the stay sail for better stability and more drive through head-on waves. Not many photos from this leg, to avoid getting camera lens wet due to the rain. In Georgetown, we stayed at the marina Sailing Associates, and had a lovely shore shower on arrival; weather improved in the evening. We enjoyed a restaurant dinner at The Granary with our flotilla group.





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Day 4 – Thursday, September 8th Sassafra River to Fairlee Creek

Exhausted this night. Had some rough spots but persevered and made it to the MRSA raft up.

The ducks in the next picture, by the way, just would not pose for the shot (taken at Sailing Associates on the morning of our departure). On this morning we also noted that across the T head from us, a catamaran had 3 large live-a-board dogs, who looked like they were very comfortable living on a boat; (the netting had artificial turf and it served as they're 'potty'.)

Half way along this this leg, Ziya pulled down the staysail without securing the halyard, needless to say, sail came down, half way and halyard went up all the way. Fortunately, Joyce was able to “McGyver” a solution using three boat hooks and lots of rope to bring down the halyard without anyone (Ziya) having to go up the mast.

The entrance to Fairlee Creek, despite been very narrow, was well marked and we had no problem negotiating the entrance into creek.



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Day 5 – Friday, September 9th Fairlee Creek to Shaw Bay/Wye River

We motor sailed from Fairlee Creek through Kent Narrows bridge and dropped anchor in Shaw Bay, having broke away from MRSA flotilla and arrived here to set our anchor a day ahead of schedule for an outdoor concert Saturday night. One other boat from the group did likewise, and we shared an enjoyable dinner and a beautiful sunset, then watched a spectacular harvest moon rise.





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Day 6 – Saturday, September 10th Stayed at anchor at Shaw Bay

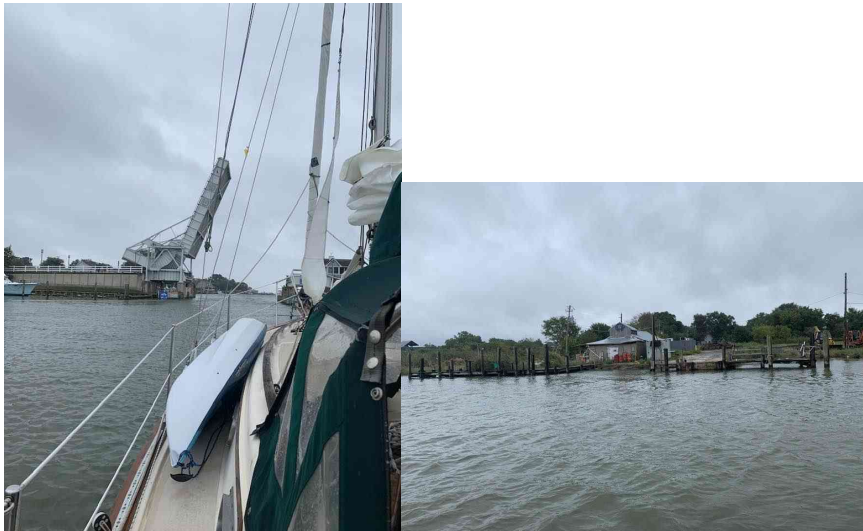
Our MRSA flotilla leaders boat was anchored just downwind from the performance and we dinghied to their boat from our anchorage where the MRSA group joined for happy hour and to listen to the Eastport Oyster Boys, and The Wye River Band for the Shaw Bay Raftup Concert to benefit ShoreRivers and Miles-Wye Riverkeeper 😊



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Day 7 – Sunday, September 11th Shay Bay to Dun Cove/Choptank River (passing through Knapp Narrows, Tilghman Island)

The MRSA flotilla sailing cruise was over and other boats returned home while we continued on our own for the second week. We woke up to a cloudy day and a questionable forecast. We left Shaw Bay and headed to Eastern Bay, and re-assessed the weather conditions. Once we reached Eastern Bay, we decided to continue with our plan for the next stop, in Dun Cove on Choptank River. As we got behind Poplar Island, the weather opened up and the waves grew, mostly dues to shallow depth, but we managed to make it to Knapp Narrows. Keeping close to the RED marker, we passed through the narrows with 1.8 ft under out keel, (we draw 4 foot), and dropped anchor at Dun Cove. There was only one other boat there, and we enjoyed a quiet, relaxing evening.





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Day 8 – Monday, September 12th Dun Cove to Solomons Island Yacht Club / Patuxent River

Left Dun Cove and motored back through Knapp Narrows (2nd time), again with 1.8 beneath our 4' keel at red marker on a post closest to inlet on bay side; across the Bay and south to Solomon's Island. We found Solomon's Island to be the friendliest town! And on the way there, we were passed by the Maryland Dove (the newly completed replica of a historic ship), which as it turned out, tied up 2 slips down from us, at Solomon's Island Yacht club. The Dove headed on to St Marys early the next morning.





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Day 9 – Tuesday, September 13th Stayed at SIYC

Day 9 was a rest day! Stayed an extra day in Solomon’s Island and enjoyed a wonderful visit with good friends, who arrived by car. We all visited the Calvert Maritime Museum; a museum volunteer let Ziya try operating a radio controlled model sailboat (and he was thrilled!).

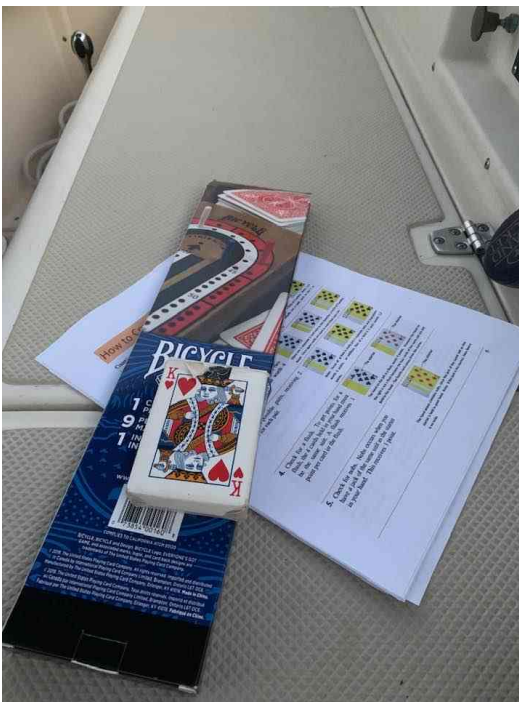




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Day 10 – Wednesday, September 14th Solomons Island to San Domingo Creek/Choptank River

We covered a distance of about 30 miles. This night the last of our fresh produce was used for ‘Use-Up Perishable Veggie Chili’ (with our new manual pressure cooker) and cranberry drink for dinner. Meant to play Cribbage, but we were so tired from this long leg of our journey (2 hours of sailing, then 2 hours of motor-sailing, and then 4 hours of motoring), that we fell asleep early. (the wind was not terribly cooperative again). While at anchor listened to flocks of noisy geese go by, and the St Michaels church bells chime in distance too.





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Day 11 – Thursday, September 15th Stayed at anchor in San Domingo Creek

Rest Day! Took a short dinghy ride to St Michaels, half a mile from our anchorage. Tied up at a dinghy dock at top of the creek. Walked around town for some shopping and lunch. Visited CBMM-(Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum) and took advantage of access to their shore showers. St Michaels is a beautiful town with so many gardens. We loved playing “tourist” in town.







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Day 12 – Friday, September 16th San Domingo Creek to Galesville/West River

Friday was the last night on our journey and 2nd to last leg; we left San Domingo Creek behind St Michaels. Motored all day, and passed once again through Knapp Narrows (with 0.8 under our keel, low tide); and with nothing much to speak of in terms of wind, a very calm day. Our beautiful daughters met us at Pirates Cove Restaurant in Galesville. (Had

to share the picture of our sailboat, Island Time, flying the Stars and Stripes, and club burgees: Spent our last night anchored just outside the mooring field at Pirates Cove on West River.





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**Day 13—Saturday, September 17 West River to Magothy River to Forked Creek.
Our journey came to an end with our final leg, which was the return from West River, past
Annapolis, under the Bay Bridge, and back to Belvedere Yacht Club.**

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We enjoyed this trip; our longest one yet; and returned home feeling like we had accomplished something. And we learned a few lessons along the way. By sharing our experience, we hope to encourage others to go out there and enjoy the Bay. Hope to see you out on the water.

**Joyce and Ziya,
S/V Island Time**