

Washington-Bath Fall Cruise

September 19–24, 2023

Participants:

Carl Aubele & Tony (Sur la Mer)
Peter Crawford & Katherine Smart (Seabiscuit)
Kevin Crockett & Ginger Mott (Spartan)
Jack & Joan Edwardson (Miss Addy)
Brad May & Ronnie McKay (Decompression)
William & Mary Misenheimer (Barefeet)
Dale & Debbie Montgomery (Dragonfly)
Henry & Karen VanGamper (Kory)

Eight boats participated in our Fall cruise. Cruise co-captain Gordon Towle's boat got stuck in the mud and he had to drive up to Bath (if he waited until the weekend he wouldn't have had any problem with low water!). A couple boaters came early on Monday; the rest including your cruise captain, started out early Tuesday for the ~50nm trip to Bath Harbor Marina. Decompression and Dragonfly tied up at the State dock; the rest stayed at the marina.

There was little wind and I think everyone motored including of course Miss Addy. As people arrived, they walked around Bath and took in the sights. There is now a store just around the corner from the marina named Petals and Produce that has been open since Spring and stocks many staples you may have forgotten, as well as fresh baked goods. A very nice addition for cruisers!



Everyone gathered Tuesday evening for a potluck in the covered picnic area.



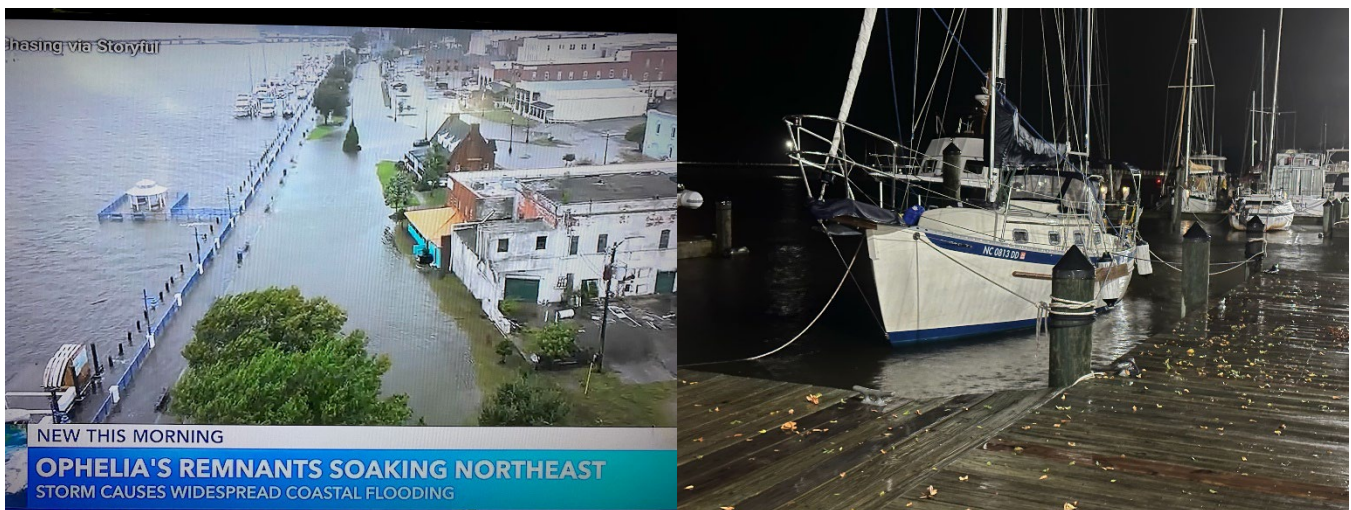
It was just an overnight in Bath, and we were on our way for the 20nm trip to the Washington Waterfront Docks. They have great slips and facilities, and I believe I was told there were 17 restaurants within walking distance. Washington is a great little stop!

Donna Luh drove up to welcome new members Peter Crawford, Katherine Smart, and William and Mary Misenheimer and present them with their membership handbooks and burgees. We had plenty of time to explore Washington and do a little shopping.

With tropical storm Idalia approaching, most of the boaters decided to return Thursday, so we moved our dinner up to Wednesday night. 12 of us had an excellent dinner at the Mulberry House. So even though it felt like a rushed trip, we on Decompression got up with the first light of dawn for the long trip back. It was a great sail, with the wind building from nothing in the early morning to 18 knots or so by the time we got to Broad Creek, with our route taking from close hauled to a broad reach, and finally gybing to go up the Neuse. I was glad to be back and secure the boat for the tropical storm. At Ensign Harbor, we had 4.5' storm surge, with the docks underwater.



Those who waited the storm out in Washington had similar conditions. The first photo is from local television showing the waterfront underwater; the second was sent by Kevin Crocket during the storm. Kevin Crocket did not leave for Oriental until Tuesday (a week after we started the cruise). He reported maintenance crews were scraping mud off the sidewalk and replacing missing dock boards. Many logs had drifted into the marina; they had to remove one log for him to get out of his slip!



Finally, all were back in their home ports. Thanks to all who went on the cruise!

Cruise Captain Brad May