



The Sailing Club of Oriental participated in a month-long cruise to the Chesapeake Bay in May to June 2021. The Cruisers included Ray and Kathy Ruppert on Knot Too Fast, Joe and Carol Glorioso on Out of the Blue, Dennis and Lisa Marlin on Marlin, Rich and Shirley Righter on The Olive, Charles and Ann Stackhouse on Katherine D, and Rick and Sue Fears on Miss Adventure.

In typical nautical fashion, our first day was a little challenging, we encountered gusty overcast conditions out on the Neuse River followed by the Olive's alternator issues (repaired at the dock). Fortunately, all ended well at the beautifully restored Dowry Creek Marina. We met up at the clubhouse for a spirited happy hour. Jeff and Pat Kenyon of Oriental were also invited to our meeting where we discussed our plan of action for getting to the Chesapeake.

Our second day out ended with most of the group at Alligator River Marina. Katherine D and the Olive went onward to the Coinjock Marina. Meanwhile at the Alligator River Marina, we enjoyed a game of Left Right Center, and after finally learning the rules, Joe Glorioso ended up with an old can of sardines and a big pile of canned goods and a smile. The weather cooled and took a turn for the worse in the form of rain, so after a group discussion, it was decided to stay at the marina one more day in hopes of improved weather.

On day four our group from Alligator Marina, motored across the Albemarle Sound into a mild wind and fair sky to meet up with our missing cruisers Olive and Katherine D. The Coinjock Marina is known for their prime rib, and it didn't disappoint.



Happy hour was enjoyed by all under the shade of the marina restaurant where Dennis and Lisa treated the group to appetizers and drinks.



The Stackhouses and Righters enjoyed a bike ride around the area. The Stackhouses also tried the Righter's electric bikes.



Day five began with a bright sun coming up over the horizon, with the early birds on Katherine D and Knot Too Fast getting an early start on the group. On our journey north, Dennis and Lisa encountered a pair of drawbridges that jumped in front of their boat. The resulting collision did some damage to the Marlin and ended the trip for them in Portsmouth. The remainder of the fleet arrived safely and helped console the Marlins, with a good cuddle from Lulu (the Righter's Pomeranian). Even though the day ended poorly, there was plenty of support and condolences from our group to support the Marlins. With some good advice from Charles, the Marlin moved on its own power back to Atlantic Yacht Basin for repairs. In support of the Marlins, the group decided to stay an additional day in Portsmouth. The group shared a happy hour aboard Miss Adventure and on the next day a wonderful pot-luck dinner at the marina facilities.



Dennis and Lisa were sorely missed for the remainder of the trip.

Day seven was blessed with warm weather and fair seas for the relaxing cruise into Yorktown. We arrived at the Riverwalk Landing Pier Marina with beautiful weather but challenging currents at the docks. The group all landed safely with very little drama for the onlookers. After landing we were treated to happy hour on Miss Adventure and beautiful weather and wonderful museums that enthralled and enlightened the crew. Day two at the marina was highlighted by a wonderful dinner on the Katherine D. The trip was highlighted when Joe Glorioso sniffed out a Ben and Jerry's ice cream shop and ice cream was enjoyed by all. The Mobjack Bay Coffee house was another favorite hangout. Family visited the Stackhouses and the two days were perfect at this delightfully quaint historical village.





Day eight was highlighted with more beautiful motoring weather for our migration northward to Mill Creek for one of the most pleasant anchorages on the trip. We were treated to spectacular sunsets and sunrises for our enjoyment. Some exuberant sailors even saluted the sunset with traditional Conch Horn salutes. For happy hour, we dinghied to the Olive for refreshments and goodies.

Day nine was again blessed with fair seas and blue skies as we made our way north to Zahnisers Marina in the Solomons for a one-night stopover. Glorioso's family visited here for a pot luck under the tent. We also were able to get provisions and do laundry, fuel up, and take on drinking water. We had a last happy hour aboard the Olive and all were sad to see the Olive go on its separate way home.

On Day ten we motor-sailed from Solomons up to Annapolis in fair weather with calm wind and seas. After taps was played at the US Naval Academy we enjoyed a quiet night on the mooring. The group was down to four boats, all moored in the harbor with excitement into the night at restaurants and stores, public buildings, bookstores, barbers, and ice cream again! The Naval cadets visited with relatives this week before commissioning and lots of white Naval uniforms were seen. The Corona Virus face mask requirements were lifted and the port was bustling with activity. For three days we moored here and met up occasionally with each other for wonderful food and conversation and sightseeing. More family greeted the crew.



On Day 13 we had great weather for a sail over to Saint Michaels. We broke up into two marinas and one anchorage. We still managed to get together for happy hour on Out of the Blue. We ate some ice cream and then had some more. Shopping downtown was a treat. While the men were waiting on the couches, Charles Stackhouse did some hat fashion modeling for everyone. Later we enjoyed watching remote-controlled sailboats and log canoes for two rainy days at the Chesapeake Maritime Museum. We finished our activities with some wine tasting.

On Day 16 we sailed to Oxford in good weather. We saw our first big thunderstorm of the trip while we were enjoying happy hour at the clubhouse in Safe Harbor Oxford when Miss Adventure had to return in their dinghy to the Oxford Yacht Agency before the lightning started. Sadly the Scottish Highland Creamery was closed.

On Day 17 after a quick overnight stay, we sailed back to the Solomons and Zahnizers for four days. When coming over for a movie, Charles Stackhouse hat modeled again with a red bucket on his head and a plumber's helper for a scepter, while saving Miss Adventure and their clogged head. Joe and Carol Glorioso had more family from Pittsburgh visit while they were in town. After the sunny first day, which included bike riding through town and Pain Killers at the Tiki Bar, it rained for two days. After fueling, grocery shopping and laundry we took a trip to the nearby Calvert Marine Museum, where we saw boats, lighthouses, fossils, live stingrays, and River Otters.



On Day 21 we enjoyed a nice downwind sail to Deltaville and stayed at the Doziers Regatta Point. Since there was no restaurant, and a holiday weekend, we had a nice pot luck dinner on their beautiful porch. Good conversations were had by all, and the sunset was beautiful.

On Day 22 we motor-sailed most of the day to get south to Downtown Hampton Public Pier before the tide turned, where Knot Too Fast wasn't too slow again keeping up with all the boats. In Hampton we all got together for two days of exploring

the city and finding Donuts from Carol and Joe Glorioso. The crew was really starting to get into the groove of cruising together and most of all having a lot of fun by exploring Hampton and entertaining visiting relatives.

On Day 24 we left early and fought some tides getting across to Norfolk, passing the US Warships at anchor. We continued past the locks to the Great Bridge Free Dock just south of the Locks. We dodged the rain and walked into town to get some more ice cream (notice a trend here). We also enjoyed a walk into the shopping center in town and back to our boats to prepare for another day south.

Day 25 we departed Great Bridge for a nice motor down the Atlantic Intra-Coastal Waterway back to the Coinjock Marina. We met another Oriental couple (Kip and Linda) at these docks and invited them to tell of their adventures during Happy hour, which was highlighted by Pain Killers provided by Gloriosos aboard Miss Adventure. After a coin toss by Ray Ruppert on Miss Adventure, Rick and Sue decided to continue onto Ocracoke to meet some other fellow SCOO members, including the Righters, via Dowry Creek Marina for their last night with the cruise.

Day 26 our group was dwindling. Ann had a family function, but she left Charles with the capable crew of her brother for the remainder of the trip. We spent a quick night at Alligator River Marina, and took off at daybreak for Belhaven.

Day 27 we made good time to Dowry Creek Marina. The warm sunny weather convinced the Gloriosos to go swimming in the pool that was warmed by an ingenious roof piping system for solar heating the water. The new owners have done a great job with renovating the marina and stores, and are working on a big new restaurant adjacent to the office. We're hoping it may be a destination for a Dock 'N Dine in 2022. Our remaining cruisers met for a bring-your-own dinner at the clubhouse, and we polished off the end of the Pain Killers.

On Day 28 the trip home was met with very unsettled weather that gave us good wind for sailing a lot of the way. We ran into a bit of a squall in the Bay River and Maw Point, but we had plenty of time to prepare, and it was over quickly. Katherine D had some minor engine trouble and had a long day home, but made it there by the evening. The windy sail to Broad Creek and Oriental gave the Gloriosos and Rupperts an appropriate end to our summer extended cruise. The Olive and Miss Adventure made it to their home ports from Ocracoke. Despite making a lot of wonderful memories, we were all glad to be home. It was a great trip!

