



The Sailing Club of Oriental (SCOO) held a wine tasting cruise to Vandermere, North Carolina on April 20-23, 2021. Rick and Sue Fears served as cruise captains. There is an awesome town Park and harbor near a fishing boat ramp that has dock walks, grassy areas and slips for sailboats and trawlers. The gazebo was nice for gatherings and the restrooms came in handy too although there is no electricity and water hookups. Rich and Shirley on the Olive, Bill and Phyllis on Blue Comet, Carol and Joe on Out of the Blue, Rick and Sue on Miss Adventure, Karen and Henry on Kory, and Lou and Peggy on Muddy Paws. The first night we enjoyed Happy Hour snacks and refreshments on the dock with our chairs lined up in a row right beside the boats. We told waterway war stories and laughed for a few hours, then we retreated to our boats for dinner, and an early evening.



Although the night was chilly, the next morning was sunny and everyone was treated to a continental breakfast at the gazebo. We even had electricity at the gazebo so we made coffee and bagels, and brought other goodies to share. Muddy Paws crew had to dinghy in to the docks from their anchorage spot just off shore. After breakfast, they left for home, since the wind was coming up fast. The day was spent resting, biking, walking to Squidders supply store in town, and we also met the Vandermere mayor who asked their contractors to mow the grass at the park. Later in the afternoon, Shirley Righter prepared a plentiful Chartutery board full of cheeses, crackers and snacks to accompany wine tasting. Everyone brought various types of wine or snacks to taste. We had some more visitors by car and boat that evening including Cindy and Hall Dunn, Dennis and Lisa Marlin (who sold SCOO garb), and the trawler Pelican with Bob, Stacy and two new members. Fun was had by all, and there was even a rousing game of corn hole, thanks to the Righters who set up their boards on the grass near the gazebo.



Next we fired up 2 BBQ grills under the picnic table area and the men BBQ'd hamburgers and cheeseburgers to share with donated side dishes. We visited until it got dark and cold and then snuggled into our boats for a nice rest. The next day was windy so we visited some more, and walked dogs and left about noon for a nice sail home. Thank you to the SCOO participants! We are looking forward to a busy SCOO spring and summer season.

