



THE LIGHTHOUSE

September Club Event: Annual "Hurricane" Rendezvous

By Anne Martina

Sunday, 9/22

Arrived at Haven Harbor Marina in Rock Hall at 5:30ish. Found Jackie ready to direct us to our boat at slip #14 on the White Dock. We went aboard and quickly realized although Blue Ribbon was in good shape w/spacious lovely cabin, she had few places to stow food & clothing. It's a good thing we have the aft cabin w/full berth where we put all our clothes & unrefrigerated food. We left the inflatable in the car & drove to Blue Heron Restaurant but they were closed for private parties. We went to Watermen's & had a delicious scallop dinner overlooking the sunset on the bay. Back to Marina for cookies & bed.

Monday, 9/23

Jackie arrived a bit after 9 just as I'd finished fixing old fashioned oatmeal w/fruit, seeds & walnuts. We went ahead w/the check out so we could move forward and get over to Lynn Lanham & Marty Gaynor aboard Dragonfly who had arrived Sunday night. Anne walked to the jam packed Rock Hall grocery store to get a few items needed for the less than adequately supplied galley.

Once back to the Marina we tackled the job of moving the uninflated dinghy from the car to the boat & getting it up on its foredeck. The unusually high tide didn't help matters but we were successful and soon on our way.

We'd called ahead and suggested since Blue Ribbon had a windless and wash down pump it might make sense even though Dragonfly was already anchored that she come alongside us. Anne learned that the Catalina 320 could turn on a dime which was fun but that working the throttle and gear shift were not so easy. The Rockna anchor set securely and soon Dragonfly was rafted with us. Just a bit later, Dolce Vita with Joan & Ed Criscuolo arrived and tied up on our starboard side after having had a nice sail across the bay.

Well, three boats total for what over the many years as members and hosts of the PSA Hurricane Rendezvous was a small showing for 2024 but we were happy to be together and started celebrating at 3 pm with our respective choices of libation in Blue Ribbons enormous cockpit. Some of us rested a bit before gathering in Blue Ribbon's cockpit w/substantial enough appetizers that we all skipped dinner. Had fun learning how to take panoramic photos that were hilariously funny and, of course, related sea stories til bedtime.

Newsletter Issue 23, September 2024

Tuesday, 8/24

Lazy morning after a better night's sleep. Bob Morrow called while we were eating our breakfast at 9:30. He won't be joining us because of several reasons but will call us just to chat. After short discussion amongst the 6 of us, we decided to head for Worton Creek and anchor inside. Lots of rain is predicted but nice wind today. Pulled anchor a bit before 11. Motored on out, crossed the bar w/Dolce Vita ahead of us & Dragonfly going into Swan Creek Marina to take advantage of free pump out. What we thought would be an easy beam reach was more a close reach. Took awhile to get the kinks out but Blue Ribbon sailed smartly north, at one point doing over 7 knots. Set anchor around 2:30. Dragonfly arrived about 4 pm after a nice long sail. We had a much shorter happy hour, fixed our respective dinners and then gathered in Blue Ribbons cabin where we played Quidler. We didn't keep score but I'd bet Marty would have been the winner!

Wednesday, 9/25

Woke to light rain w/ showers predicted during the day so decided to stay put.

Had fun rowing ashore to Worton Creek Marina which was established in 1949. I dock walked, admired the classic beauties, the fun names like Socially Sea Cured and Son of a Son of a Sailor and talked w/a young man who explained that the bulkhead had failed and the old store I remember was just a shell. They plan to completely rebuild the shop and hope to find a new tenant for the now vacant Harbor View Restaurant. It started to rain so I headed back almost bumping into Lynn who was out exploring in her dink. I wanted to follow her but decided since my arms were already sore I should go easy the first day. Took photos of both fore and aft views of our tiny raft. Throughout the day, Joan, Marty and John also did some rowing. Marty even took a nice long dip!

After happy hour, we fixed our own dinners and decided we would not stay in Worton a third night but get up early and head south w/no particular destination. Warmer temps called for open hatches & lighter sleepwear.

Thursday, 9/26

Up early for boat bath, breakfast & earlier departure. Went into Wharton Creek Marina for pump out & get water w/Dragonfly leading the way. Blue Ribbon got to dock last where 3 friendly guys met us to help w/lines. We learned that John has been working there for 30 years and he told us all about the Trumpy boat that's been there for many years and had a "million dollar restoration". It was moved up the hill adjacent to the restaurant and is shrink wrapped. He told us there's a UTube clip of the project which would be fun to watch. The owner "has 13 other boats". Guess he's a collector!

John gave us 2 gallons of water from the shop dispenser instead of well water and bid us farewell.

Newsletter Issue 23, September 2024

Dragonfly and Dolce Vita were waiting for us & reported that the bay was as smooth as a lake. For the next several hours the fickle southeast wind gave us some lovely sailing as well as practically nothing. We all ended up using the iron genny. We headed for Bodkin Creek so the gals could get a night out instead of galley duty. Anchor down around 3. Pretty soon we headed for Rumor Reel and dinner on their deck. Marty & Lynn started their row while Ed & Joan readied their dinghy w/outboard & treated us to a ride. Good food, interesting conversation & lovely waitress (who was a postal service delivery person by day & waitress 5 nights a week) made for a nice change of pace. Once back aboard we had a group chat w/Bob Morrow who had hoped to be w/us. By 9 we all headed to our bunks.

Friday, 9/27

An early morning rain shower forced us to close our hatches despite the warm cabin temperatures. Dew point is in the 70s...not exactly the ideal crisp fall weather so far. Hurricane Helene, now a tropical storm in Georgia, will impact our weather today.

We got up about 7, fixed breakfast but hadn't heard a peep from our raft mates. A little before 9 Lynn texted to Joan & me to which I responded but still nothing from Dolce Vita. Soon afterwards, though, Joan popped up out of the companionway to bid good morning. It was still drizzling but forecast is for clearing at noon. I suggested we start getting ready at 11 so we could get out there & catch some wind. The guys talked boat stuff, Lynn read and Joan and I played 5 Crowns in our completely dry cockpit. Lynn was watching the weather & noted the rain had lightened considerably so we all moved into action. Anchor went up at 11:30 and we were sailing by 12 ish headed for Eagles' Cove off the Magothy River. Maybe we'll get to see the Leigh's.

We've had a heavy but brief shower, the wind has freshened from the East and we're doing 5.2 knots over the ground with Gibson Island's shoreline off to starboard.

Sailed right on in through the channel w/Dragonfly close by and Dolce Vita ahead of us and waiting. We had the sweetest sail seeing 4.6 kts on the quiet water... so so peaceful. We doused sails when we had to change course into the wind and Eagle's Cove. Anchor down and raft was built before 3. Naps for some til we heard a familiar voice hailing us & there was Bob Leigh in his Boston Whaler. He told us he had just one hour before he had to get home for dinner. Bob's always a fun addition. Anne announced she was hungry for real food after Bob had headed back. Wind started to pipe up along w/rain so we hunkered down in our respective cabins. It rained off & on throughout the night which meant hatches were closed and cabins were stuffy. Thankfully we had no skeeters.

Saturday, 9/28

Up around 7 w/drizzle & fog but it cleared soon after breakfast. We decided to head for Harness Creek on the South River unless someone was unhappy w/slow sailing or motoring 21 miles. Dragonfly pulled away first, then Dolce Vita & our anchor was up by 10:30. We motored out onto the Bay where

Newsletter Issue 23, September 2024

we found a clearing sky and enough breeze for Blue Ribbon and Dragonfly to start sailing. Dolce Vita motored south. Soon after we had sunshine...the first in several days.

Our sailing was short lived. Marty & Lynn sailed the entire way, moving slowly at times but happy for the peaceful journey. We found our way to the creek which was already filled with lots of sailboats, interestingly mostly catamarans...large ones. We threaded our way through the anchorage, finally dropping our anchor around 3 o'clock. Very soon, we had Dolce Vita alongside. Dragonfly arrived close to 5 pm. We had our usual happy hour aboard Blue Ribbon, then fixed our own dinners but rejoined in our cockpit for a game of 5 Crowns, a new game for most of us. Bid good night and at least on Blue Ribbon were soon fast asleep.

Sunday, 9/29

After breakfast, we discussed our options and decided to head for St Michael's but not before we went into Selby Bay Marina for pump outs, fuel & water. By 11 we had our sails set for our best run of the cruise so far. Under full main and genoa we crossed the bay on port tack and close reach, then trimmed our sails to beat up Eastern Bay. By the time we neared the Miles River, we were getting tired so doused the sails and motored along at one point passing the beautiful skipjack, Rosie Parks, under full sail. We dropped our hook about 4 in the quiet cove just off The Inn at Perry Cabin Resort and the St Michael's Maritime Museum. We were the only boats anchored there. Prosecco seemed appropriate to end our successful sail. About 6 we all dinghied over to a floating dock at the museum and then walked through the grounds of the museum and found the walkway into town. The tide was still unusually high but we were able to get to Talbott Street without getting our feet wet. John and I had not been to St Michael's for several years and were amazed at its transformation reminding us of Saratoga Springs, NY with all the charming restaurants, cafes, even a brewery. We had dinner at Limoncello where the Italian food, ambiance and service were outstanding. We managed to save room for gelato which was good but still not like we remember from our days in Italy. We all dinghied back to the raft and were soon fast asleep.

Monday, September 30

Layday - Woke to drizzle...again! We lazed a bit, then 5 of us went to shore to explore the town. Ed opted to stay on board to rest his swollen leg and charge his batteries. Those solar panels weren't doing much in this dreary weather.

Once ashore, the museum with all its new and extensive buildings begged a visit. We stopped to register, drop our trash and pay for our dinghies & learned there was no fee. Nice! We started at the beautiful one year old Visitors Center and paid our discounted senior rate (\$17) for a 2 day pass. It was then suggested we listen to Bob, a knowledgeable guide who gave us an overview of all the different buildings. The huge modern designed Visitors Center housed exhibits of both restored and unrestored small Chesapeake crafts that dated back to the Underground Railroad. Reading some of the stories of

Newsletter Issue 23, September 2024

those slaves who escaped using the waterways was new for me and the stories were amazing. There was also an exhibit focusing on the women captains of the bay and their extraordinary accomplishments. The large gift shop was filled with lovely, interesting items for sale. We soon realized how two whole days could easily be spent at this remarkable museum. After just a few hours, grumbling tummies pulled us off the museum grounds and into town to look for an eatery. The high tide, however, forced us to detour away from the harbor and the usual route. We chose Corah's Corner and ate outside on the porch of what had been a private Victorian era house. Food was good and not too expensive.

We all needed some necessary food items but learned the closest full service grocery store was a mile and a half away on the main highway. John and I opted to make the trek while the others stayed in town. We used the paved trail which parallels the highway for most of the distance making the three-mile round trip hike more pleasant. On our way back we stopped for just a few minutes to visit some longtime friends who lived on Thompson Street. They were surprised but pleased to see us and we promised to come back in the not too distant future. It was close to five when we neared the museum and coincidentally found our friends headed for the gift shop. We headed for Blue Ribbon to get the fresh food into the frig and fix a simple dinner for all. A short happy hour, then dinner in the cockpit made it nice for all to eat together. Anne managed to knock over a cup of red wine in our cockpit. Ugh! John fixed our special house dessert which is always a treat. Our berth felt especially good that night.

Tuesday, October 1

More periods of drizzle and rain. John and Marty went to shore for various reasons while Anne worked on cleaning the spilled wine which had followed a gutter aft and down to the swim platform into the water!

After some discussion, we decided to head for Granary Creek on the Wye River the following day. By this time our anchorage was filling with lots of various size sailboats perhaps arriving early for the weekend's wooden boat show? We tried sailing with just the jib but gave up and motored most of the way. Marty & Lynn's Dragonfly did better. We dropped our anchor around 2 in the beautifully protected quiet creek with a view of the Duck Lodge where early in our PSA years we'd have joint crab feasts with the Rhode River Sailing Club. Members would come by land and sea for a weekend of games and feasting ending on Sunday morning with PSA fixing breakfast for all. Fun memories!

We rested, read, then had our last happy hour together.

Wednesday, October 2

Marty & Lynn dropped off the raft at 9 headed for Kent Narrows which will shorten their long trip home considerably. Unfortunately our charter contract prohibits us from using the narrows.

Newsletter Issue 23, September 2024

We decided to get in a walk so dinghied to the lodge's dock which we discovered had been under water for many of its boards were quite slippery. Joan & Ed accompanied us partway while we did the 3 mile loop using the Dividing Creek Trail and paved and unpaved roads, stopping along the way to photograph wildflowers, mushrooms, insects and vast fields of soybeans and corn.

After lunch and a nap, Anne boarded the dinghy and slowly rowed to the head of the creek hoping to catch a picture of a great blue or other animal life. It was so so quiet and peaceful and I felt so totally grateful to have Jordan's tender to explore.

We had happy hour w/Joan & Ed, our own cabin for dinner but then they came back for a few games of Rumikub. Fun!

Thursday, October 3

Anne was ready for dinner out and the Criscuolos needed to get a pump out. They also wanted to get closer to Swan Creek where they were to meet another club for a wine tasting party over the weekend so we decided to go across to West River. Dolce Vita dropped their lines but as John started to pull up our anchor he called me forward to help hose down all the mucky mud. When I saw the anchor surfacing I yelled for him to stop the windless. There was a neatly coiled and secured 40-50 foot long half inch braided Dacron line hooked on the anchor that someone had lost overboard. I wanted no part of the mess but John wanted to salvage it. Using a boat hook he brought the line up on deck, undid the coil and trailed it over the stern. You can imagine the mess it left but John worked diligently to clean it all.

We soon caught up w/Dolce Vita and headed for West River. The sun was shining but the breeze was close to non existent so we motored for 5 hours. Ugh!

Both boats stopped at the West River fuel dock for pump out, fuel and water. Ed suggested dropping our hook on the lee shore outside of our usual favored spot near Hartge's but it was quiet there and closer to Pirate's Cove. Ed offered to motor all of us over to the restaurant after happy hour. We enjoyed a good meal while listening to some live music. I'd hoped for more games after dinner but we were tired and our berths beckoned.

Friday, October 4

Locals were running trot lines quite close when I woke but it didn't look like they were catching many crabs. Sun was out though!

Ed & Joan wanted to get an early start for Swan Creek and were off by 9:30 after hugs and photos.

We really didn't know where we were headed but I wanted to have a lazy morning and wait for a fair tide due mid-day. While John read I had a lovely long chat with my brother, an annual ritual for the two of us while cruising, I guess because of those long ago years when we spent so much time together messing about in boats.

Newsletter Issue 23, September 2024

I bid farewell to West River knowing it will probably be the last time I'm there on it.

Pulled anchor at 12:30 hoping the GPS tide chart is correct. Motored out and raised main & jenny. We clipped along w/tide & wind under partly cloudy sky. NO RAIN PREDICTED!!! Going 5 knots. Happy day!

Sailed to main span, motored on through, then sailed to the Magothy, all the while seeing speeds averaging around 3.5 knots. Elaine & Bob Leigh invited us to tie up at their dock but we chose to be safe and keep Blue Ribbon on her hook. John rowed us in for drinks and we had a delightful visit w/them on their screened porch. Fixed a late dinner on board using the last of the chicken, some fresh veggies & quinoa. Crawled into our bunk & slept soundly.

Saturday, October 5

Wind had shifted to west then north northwest during the night. Temperature dropped enough for us to get into our zipped together sleeping bags. Nice!

We accepted the Leigh's invitation for breakfast and Bob fixed his traditional "toad in a hole" skillet dish. The wind started to pipe up as we sat in their solarium overlooking the Magothy. What a very special home it is and warm and gracious hosts they are!

Bob had told us about a big CBYRA race that started at the mouth of the Patapsco River and went down to south of Rock Hall. We realized we'd be crossing the bay on port tack as they were running downwind with their spinnakers. The wind was 19-22 knots but predicted to ease as the day progressed. Our GPS stopped working that morning, and the auto pilot, and knot meter were also not functioning. The compass was off sometimes by 40 degrees. I was feeling a bit anxious while John attempted to plot our course as we motored past Gibson Island.

We sailed w/reefed Genoa and full main out of the Magothy and into the steep choppy, white-capped Chesapeake making good time considering the conditions. It was a glorious, sunny, windy day. Very soon we started spotting brightly colored "chutes" headed south. We had to go about a couple of times to keep clear of the racers but it was all very exciting.

Ron Harbin called me wondering where we were. When I told him we were sailing & headed towards Swan Creek he said he was headed there as well. At that point we hadn't decided if we'd anchor or take a mooring. I ended the call abruptly to give way to a racer.

Once we rounded the south end of the Swan Point bar, we turned on our engine and motored along with the bare poled racers who'd finished and were headed in to party.

We were both tired and took the last available mooring at Swan Point Marina figuring it would make things easier to get to Haven Harbor's fuel and pump out dock early Sunday morning.

Newsletter Issue 23, September 2024

As we were getting ready for dinner ashore Ron Harbin called again wondering where we were anchored. I felt badly that we were on a mooring and could not raft. He came along side and I suggested he join us for dinner but he'd already eaten so we bid good bye.

Dinner at the Blue Heron was a little crazy because of all the racers and Fall Fest but the food was good, the waiter friendly and it wasn't too expensive. We sat just one table away from where back in 1999 we'd made the decision to purchase Luna, our Pearson 35 we sailed for the next 17 years. So many memories. So many miles.

Sunday, October 6

We got up early, fixed breakfast and readied the boat for 8:30 departure. I looked out the companionway and where I'd had a clear view of the boats around us there was thick fog. It took me to Westport, MA in just seconds. Amazing!

Quite quickly, the fog lifted and we got the dinghy out of the water, onto the foredeck and motored on in. Jackie helped John get Blue Ribbon safely back in her slip. We then showered and dressed for our day in Cambridge for a celebration of life for a dear friend I'd known since the 70s.

We got back by 10 PM. Haven Harbor was sound asleep and we soon were as well.

Monday, October 7

I was up at 6 ready to fix our last breakfast aboard before packing, cleaning the dinghy bottom and then cleaning the mud spattered, spider spotted Blue Ribbon. It was a New England kind of day-perfect for doing anything outside. Hours later, the car was packed to its gills. We lunched on board, then said our goodbyes to Dave & Jackie.

It was another fun Pearson Cruise but probably our last. Viking Cruises sound like fun and a lot less WORK!!

Check out photos here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/MDgzB7XRnxR9Wrdz6>

Member Happenings - Do you have an update to share in an upcoming newsletter or with our club members via email?

Reach out to Martina at martinaprague@verizon.net.

SAIL ON!

Questions/comments? Contact the 2023/24 CLUB OFFICERS * www.cbpsa.org
Commodore Jordan Snyder (josnyder@comcast.net) * Vice-Commodore Martina Snyder (martinaprague@verizon.net)
Treasurer Ron Harbin (harbin2@verizon.net) * Secretary Joan Criscuolo (stampbyjoan@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Issue 23, September 2024