



2022 ALBEMARLE LOOP CRUISE-MAY 25-JUNE 6

(more photos are available on Facebook at Sailing Club of Oriental, and press the blue button to join "SCOO". Our website is www.SCOO.org)

The Sailing Club of Oriental (SCOO) held a 2-week cruise, which included the scenic and historic North Carolina towns and marinas listed below. Rick and Sue Fears, Joe and Carol Glorioso, and Charles and Ann Stackhouse were pleased to coordinate marina scheduling, activities, and restaurant reservations as cruise captains.

Thirteen boats joined the cruise from their home docks in Oriental. Our first night was spent at Dowry Creek Marina (1 night) near Belhaven and we had a nice pot luck dinner at the cruiser lounge. The next stop was Alligator River Marina (1 night), then town of Columbia docks (1 night), Albemarle Plantation Marina (4 nights) near Edenton, and Manteo Waterfront Marina on Roanoke Island (4 nights).

There was plenty of time and space in our schedule to roam around the marinas or anchorages as well as enjoy meals with other SCOO members, take bike rides, play games, play golf, take walks, tour each other's boats, go swimming, explore art work, and shop in the quaint towns along the Albemarle Sound. SCOO members and boats that participated on all or parts of the cruise include:

Carol and Joe Glorioso, Out of the Blue
Rick and Sue Fears, Miss Adventure
Charles and Ann Stackhouse, Katherine D
Rich and Shirley Righter, The Olive
Jerry and Donna Luh, Blue Jacket
Ken and JoAnn Reed, Rivers Edge
Henry and Karen VanGamper, Kory
Mark and Marty Fancy, Fancy Free
John Juday, Fancy Dancer
Bob and Stacey Taylor, Pelican
Ken and Carol Small, Miranda
Eric Lind and Crew, Lansa
George & Marjorie Dufek, Andiamo



May 25 – Boats lined up at Dowry Creek marina. The pot luck dinner was fantastic and we were hungry! Dowry Creek Marina clubhouse had plenty of room to share the food.





May 26 – At the Alligator River Marina, we explored the store and fuel station and found ice cream and other meal items. We also had light appetizers and BYOB drinks in the cruisers lounge.





May 27 - Our next stop was the free municipal dock in quaint Columbia, on the Scuppernog River, on the south



shore of the Albemarle Sound. Bob and Stacy of Pelican helped boats squeeze into the docks as they arrived during a brief storm with lots of wind. Two boats (Blue Jacket and Rivers Edge) anchored offshore but were able to easily come to shore for the activities and there was a City gazebo for rain cover. Karen Van Gamper kindly offered us all maps and suggestions of places to visit in Columbia. Some had lunch at Hill Billy's Diner and visited the art center and the Antique and clothing stores.



The oldest Lady Citizen in town visited the marina. She has lived her whole 100 years on the Scuppernog River. We also met a new SCOO member Bill who joined us by car, and his sister who resides in Columbia. Columbia City personnel were very welcoming. Most of us gathered at a large table for an authentic Mexican meal at Tienda Mexicana Peniel # 2.



May 28-30. We headed to Albemarle Plantation (AP) on the north shore of the Albemarle Sound. Mr. "RE" was an excellent Dock Master. This is a beautiful waterfront golf/sailing community with plenty of roads for a leisurely walk or bike ride. Greens fees were discounted to just \$30, including a cart. Most folks enjoyed the pool and/or golf cart rentals and borrowed free bikes or brought their own. OYC offered their facilities to SCOO for the week, and the pool was open for our use too. The



best surprise was that the dockage and electricity was free for the entire club.

We skipped Elizabeth City and stayed 2 more days at AP since we liked it so much. For meals, we all joined for pot luck at the air-conditioned clubhouse, and also several meals at the Dockside Café for reasonable prices. The patio, tables and grounds were excellent. Donna Luh led games for 2-3 days during the hot afternoons, we learned about nautical terminology after dinner. Two of SCOO members Henry Van Gamper and Mark Fancy even sailed in a race with the OTC boats.





June 1-3 – From AP, we motor/sailed to Manteo Waterfront Marina on Roanoke Island, where Ann & Charles Stackhouse were our cruise captains. The first night we were on our own to find beverages or dinner in the vibrant town with plenty of restaurant choices. We also gathered for group photos appetizers in the pavilion close to the marina. The marina facilities were great and there was showers and laundry on site. In addition to being a great little town to visit, Roanoke Island is the site of the first English settlement in the New World, and the Lost Colony Museum. Other town sights included the maritime museum, Elizabethan Gardens, town shopping, trivia at Poor Richards bar, and even a blue grass band performed for a City festival .



June 4. After morning activities, including boat chores or the Manteo City Festival, the Stackhouse's grandson picked us all up in their daughter and son-in-law's fast center-console boat and whisked us off to their canal home in Nags Head. Stackhouses' hosted a fantastic party with house tours and a delicious low country boil.



SCOO members gathered at Ortega's Mexican restaurant in Manteo.







June 3-7. SCOO members staggered their departure from various places along the way or from Manteo based on their ETA for home. On June 5, when a few boats left Manteo, a brisk NE wind associated with tropical storm Alex pushed us for a spirited motor/sail down past the Alligator River Bridge and south on the Pungo River-Alligator River Canal, so we made good time getting from Manteo to Dowry Creek Marina. We were extremely fortunate to have great weather for the whole two weeks!



The remaining 4 boats and crew held one last pot luck and YAHTZEE game at Dowry Creek Marina and toasted to a successful cruise. All boats sailed or motored home and checked in with the cruise captains and made it safely to their home ports.

Thank you SCOO participants!