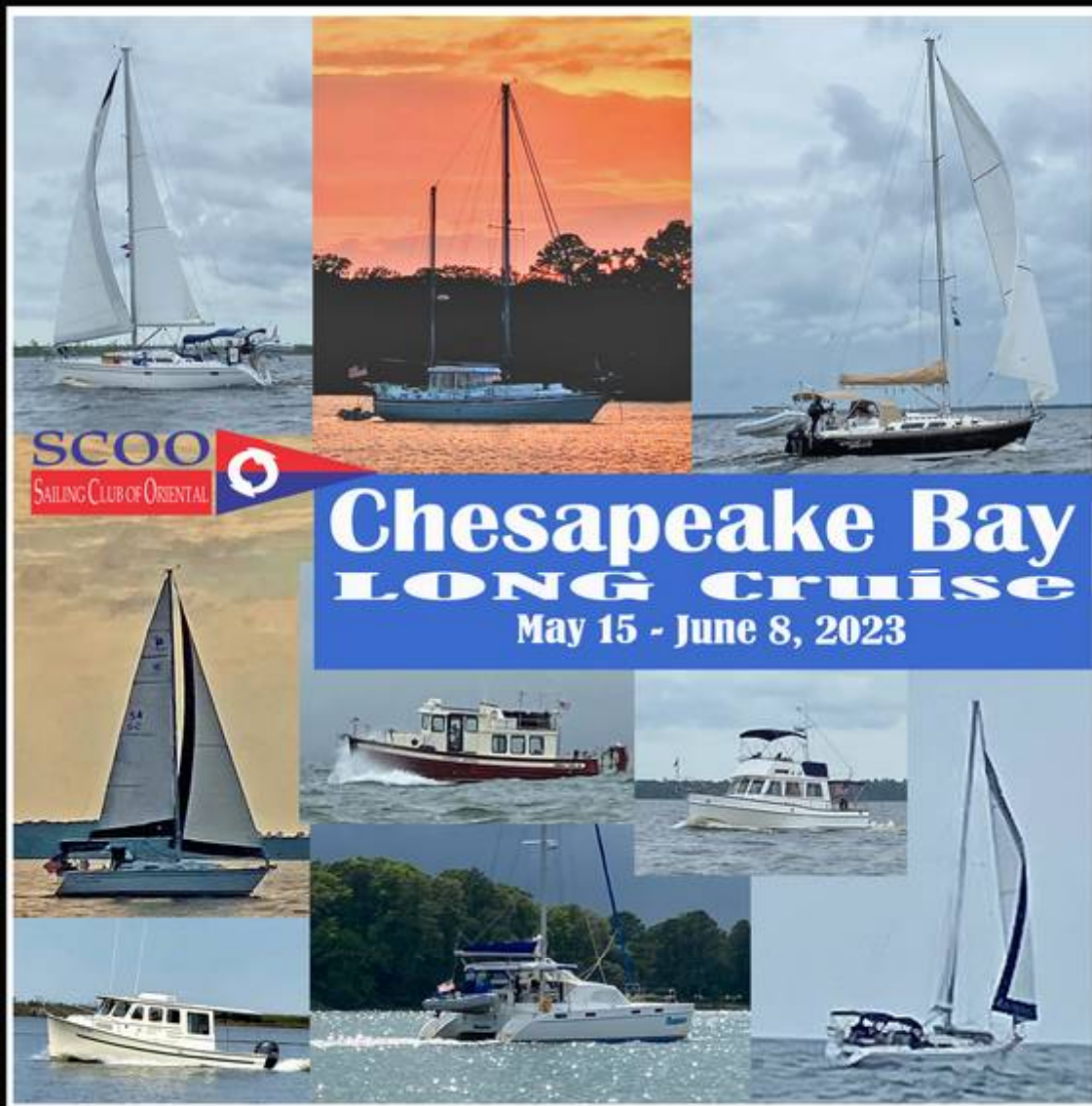


2023 CHESAPEAKE BAY CRUISE

On Monday, May 15, our intrepid SCOO fleet of 9 boats ventured north from Oriental to the Chesapeake Bay: Blue Jacket (Luh's), Miss Adventure (Fears'), The Olive (Righters), Compass Rose (Soha's), K-Nine (Kleiner's), Pelican (Taylor's), Fancy Free (Fancy's), Katherine D (Stackhouse's), and Out of the Blue (Glorioso's). We sailed & motored to our first port at Dowry Creek Marina, where we enjoyed an over the top pot luck dinner and a toast to adventures ahead.



Since we had a 12 kn southerly breeze behind us on Tuesday, and pending 15 northerly the next day, we decided to by-pass Alligator River Marina and cross the Albemarle Sound. From that day until we headed home from Portsmouth on Monday, June 4, we had constant NE winds, a challenge when you're traveling north. We made Coinjock in one long day, and after a relaxing happy hour, many of us decided to stay an extra day. Miss Adventure and the Olive braved strong NE winds up the Currituck, as they were making time toward their eventual destination of Maine.



We left Thursday morning and got stuck between the Great Bridge bridge and lock (which was down to limited openings due to a power outage), and decided that it was as good a place as any to tie up for the night. The lure of the Dairy Queen a short walk away was too tempting to refuse! The next morning we navigated the lock, the Norfolk Southern RR bridge #7, and the Gilmerton bridge (under construction on a reduced opening schedule) and arrived at Tidewater Marina in

Portsmouth for the night. We all met up with the Fears' & Righters for hors d'oeuvres at the dock pavilion. There was a Cajun Festival in Norfolk, a short ferry ride away, where Rich Righter designed & constructed our new Commodore's hat.

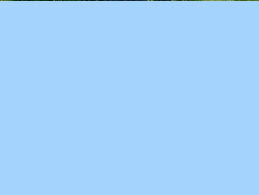
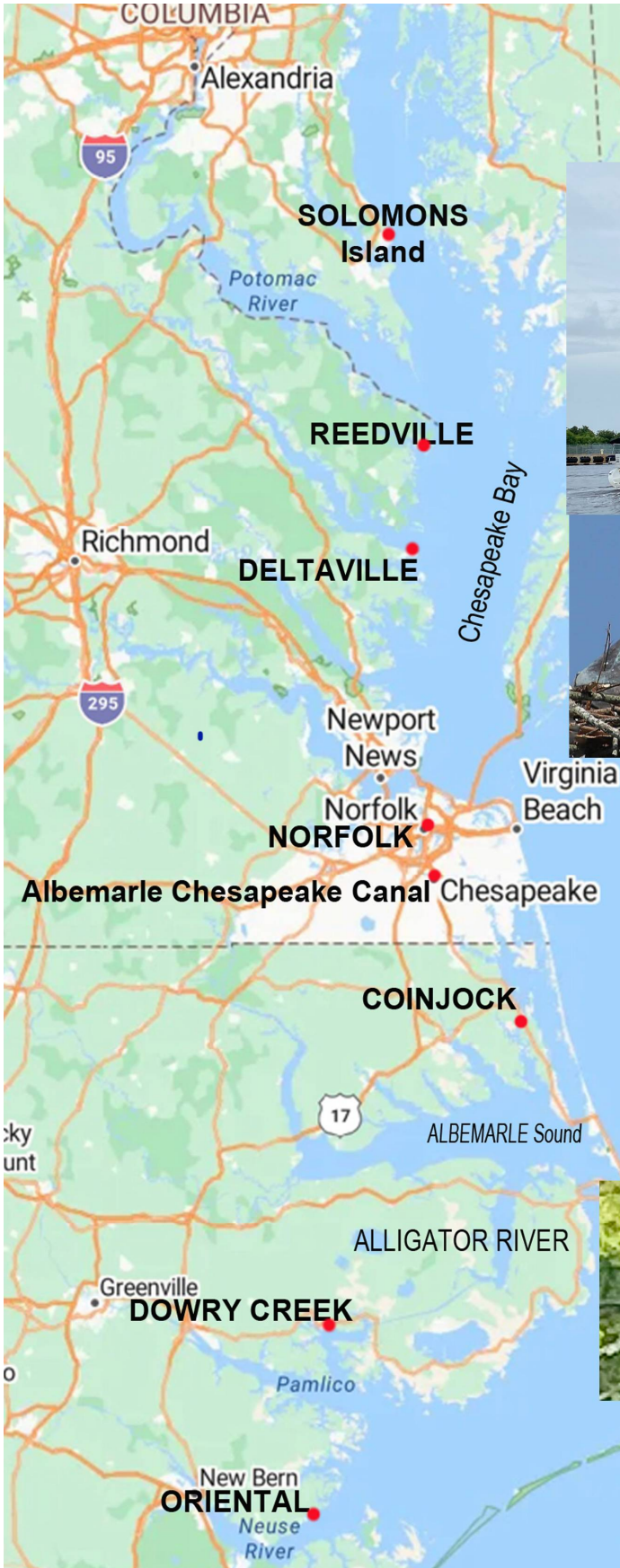


Still wearing our layers, as Spring hadn't gotten the message yet, we headed out on the 20th and pushed through to Fishing Bay on the Piankatank to beat another low pressure system due to come through the next day. Miss Adventure, The Olive, and Katherine D continued around to Deltaville, then they biked over to meet us at the Café on the Bay for lunch. Fishing Bay proved to be a very pretty and snug spot to wait out the weather. We gathered on Blue Jacket for snacks and a movie "Wind". Appropriate!



A week into our voyage we headed to Solomon's, MD, where we tied up at Zahniser's Safe Harbor and Beacon Marina. We all met at the CD Café for a really delicious dinner, highly recommend! Miss Adventure and the Olive took off for the Choptank, followed by Blue Jacket and Katherine D. They visited St. Michaels & Cambridge, then Fears' & Righter's left for Annapolis and points north. The rest of us decided to enjoy the ambiance of Solomon's for the holiday weekend. This was great for the Glorioso's, whose daughter's family including 2 young grandsons, hung out with the group for a few days. Larry Kleiner gave little Sam a few soccer pointers.





Dowry Creek



Meanwhile, Dennis and Lisa Marlin were working diligently in Oriental and along the way to make multiple unexpected repairs to their boat, Marlin. They were a week behind, but they crushed north to join those headed for Maine. They finally caught up in NJ. Unfortunately the breakdowns transferred to Miss Adventure who had transmission problems. As of this writing the Olive is still making fast tracks for Maine...Miss Adventure is heading that way, and Marlin may cruise the Bay for a month or so before heading home. Never a bad option!

On Monday the 29th we started heading back south to Reedville, where Blue Jacket and Katherine D joined up with us after a 70 nm sail! Reedville proved to be a very pretty little town...but don't get there on a Monday. It was buttoned up tight, but still offered a lovely walk up Main Street, lined with beautiful Victorian houses. Little known fact: at the turn of the century Reedville boasted the largest fish processing plant in the USA. We were glad for the northerly breeze while there, as a southerly wafts the "fragrance" of the current menhaden plant over the marina & town. We were able to walk the outside exhibits at the Fisherman's Museum and see the skipjack "Claud W. Somers" and the buy boat "Elva C." at dock. The Reedville Marina/Crazy Crab Restaurant owners graciously offered us the use of their protected outdoor dining porch, which we took advantage of for meals and games. We all learned or re-learned Mexican Train and Golf, thank you Donna!



On Wed. the 31st we sailed south to Deltaville. The day started out great with a 12-15 kn breeze off our port quarter. It steadily built until we had 20+ kn and 3-4' seas as we turned into the Rappahanock. After all safely landed at the docks, we decompressed, did some grocery shopping, and in the evening we laughed hard at "Captain Ron". It was fun to watch with some who had never seen it, and others who had seen it enough to anticipate scenes and lines. Dozier's Regatta Point Marina was clean & very accommodating, a good stop. We said goodbye to Katherine D, who sailed up the James River to Williamsburg for some family time, then we left for Norfolk, where we waited out yet another weather system for the weekend.





Waterside Marina was not a bad place to stay! We had some warm sun, morning walks, dinner at Stripers, ice cream, skee ball, a cornhole competition, & a concert. Entertainment also consisted of watching huge power yachts maneuvering their way through the tight fairway. It's amazing what a captain can do (or almost do, in one case) with a joystick. They were a little too

close for comfort to Compass Rose! Blue Jacket arrived the next morning bearing treasure for all: a dozen Glazed Donuts from Hampton, Joe's favorite.
west. Our four remaining travelers gathered at Alligator R. Marina in the clubhouse for a showing of "Master & Commander, Far Side of the World". It made our mishaps seem minor, but hey, they didn't have to deal with crab pots and powerboat wakes! After a calm reach down the Alligator R. (Mother Nature's reward after challenging us for quite a while), we ended up where we started at Dowry Creek Marina, with a champagne toast – "We made it!" We brought our dinners to the clubhouse and celebrated with ice cream, great conversation, and a quiet night. Our final day dawned cool, we had some brief sun and a light westerly breeze: a good day to make time for Oriental & home.

We learned a lot, navigated some unruly weather, found our resolve, brought home some sea stories, saw cute seaside towns and lots of birds & dolphin, and became good friends along the way! Thanks to all who sailed with us, we'll see you next year!

Respectfully submitted,
Your cruise captains
Joe & Carol Glorioso

