

SCOO's DOG DAYS OF SUMMER DOCK & DINE CRUISE

Tuesday, August 8 ~ Friday, August 11 2023

Dock N' Dine at Dowry Creek Marina

Cruise Captains' Report:

On August 8, 2023, seven sturdy SCOO vessels and their intrepid crews braved both gusty winds and near record breaking temperatures to reach Dowry Creek Marina. As one participant said "this was the most sailing I've ever done on a SCOO cruise."

Participating in this cruise were the following SCOO members:

Joe and Carol Glorioso *Out of the Blue*

Brad May and Ronnie McKay *Decompression*

Bob and Stacy Taylor *Pelican*

Robert Pugh and Tracy Vail *Kindred Spirit III*

Charles and Ann Stackhouse *Katherine D*

Henry and Karen Van Gamper *Kory*

Ray and Kathy Ruppert *Knot Too Fast*

On arrival all were greeted with helping hands from the dockmaster and with cooling hand towels from the cruise captains.

After cooling off, the crews gathered in the marina's air condition clubhouse for light hors d'oeuvres and heavy sea stories.



Cold drinks and cool air after a day of cruising

Wednesday morning started off with a special treat. Tracy Vail (*Kindred Spirit III*) graciously offered to lead everyone in water aerobics.



SCOO Water Aerobics with Tracy Vail. (Can you spot the class troublemaker?)

Later that morning everyone went shopping in Belhaven much to the delight of local merchants and then joined together for lunch in Belhaven.



Water aerobics + shopping = clean lunch plates.

Since tradition constitutes a key part of SCOO's identity, it was only for the sake of tradition that we once again took over the local ice cream store.



There is always room for ice cream.

After a very relaxing afternoon in the marina pool, all hands gathered for the 2nd Annual SCOO Wine Tasting. Each boat provided their favorite wine with bottle labels concealed. Serious attention was given to the quality, bouquet and texture of each wine once everyone realized a prize would be available for the wine with the most votes.



Serious attention to each bottle of wine was a common trait among the participants.



More serious concentration.



Under at least a dozen watchful eyes, the wine tasting scores were calculated.

After many complexed calculations, the unlicensed and unbonded accounting firm of Ruppert and Ruppert declared the wine provided by Charles and Ann Stackhouse of the *Katherine D*, the winner of the wine tasting.

Again, keeping with tradition, all present joined in another SCOO hallmark – a potluck dinner at which everyone enjoyed a wide selection of delicious food.



Too many choices and plates that are too small.

After dinner in an effort to burn off a few calories, several very competitive games were played.



Trying to move an Oriole cookie from forehead to mouth without using one's hands.



Trying to pick up uncooked rigatoni with an uncooked piece of spaghetti.

Robert Pugh of the *Kindred Spirit III* demonstrated exceptional skill at both games and was declared the winner of the competition.

On Thursday after another invigorating session of water aerobics with Tracy Vail, everyone gather for the Blind Dingy Race. This timed event required a steady hand on the oars and crystal clear crew communication as one member of the crew rowed the dingy while the other crew member stood on the shore giving (hopefully) clear rowing directions.



Sometimes things worked OK; other times not so much.



The crew of the *Katherine D*, Charles and Ann Stackhouse, won the race by 17 seconds narrowly defeating Henry and Karen Van Gamper, crew of the *Kory*.



The Stackhouses taking possession of a hard won prize.

Unfortunately, one forgetful captain, who shall remain unnamed, failed to fly the SCOO burgee- a long, long standing SCOO tradition. To address this breach of club protocol, a summary court of inquiry was quickly convened, the captain's fault was duly noted and sentence was imposed. Despite vocal demands from fellow captains and crews that the captain in question buy everyone's dinner that night, the court in a display of mercy and compassion sentence the captain to be dunk in the marina pool. The sentence was immediately executed by the youngest sailor present.



Justice about to as served by Lia, Tracy Vail's granddaughter.

After a restful afternoon, everyone gathered just before dinner for a group tour, courtesy of the marina owners, of the soon to be opened Salty Crab restaurant, which is adjacent to the marina.



Touring the new restaurant at the marina.



A work in progress, but definitely a place to check out on our next cruise.

Our last night dinner in Belhaven was at the Spoon River Restaurant. The food was excellent and good conversation flowed freely.



A delightful way to end a cruise.

After dinner, everyone bid farewell to their fellow sailors. All departed for home on Friday, August 11th with light winds and following seas.



Preparing for an early morning departure



Respectfully Submitted,
Ray and Kathy Ruppert
Cruise Captains

Part of the SCOO fleet heading home.