

Ocracoke Cruise 2023

Of the thirteen boats scheduled for the Ocracoke cruise, eight showed up to enjoy a fun week of activities despite the forecasted rainy weather. Though scheduled to begin on Tuesday, June 20th, all but one boat arrived on or before Monday, June 19th to enjoy each other and the sites and activities afforded by Ocracoke. In addition to Bluejacket, participants in the Ocracoke Cruise this year were Co-captains **Bob and Stacey Taylor**/Pelican, **Tom and Diane Carbone**/Jupiter, **Rick and Lynn Edwards**/Three Quarter Time, **Brad May and Ronnie McCay**/Decompression, **Ken and JoAnn Reed**/Rivertyme III, **Charles and Ann Stackhouse** with grandson Jacob/Katherine D, **Henry and Karen VanGammer** with crew Ken and Carol Small/Kory.



The National Park Docks held most of our SCOO boats

Monday evening we had an impromptu happy hour on the National Park grounds. Just after we commenced, the crew from Kory called to say they were arriving at the docks. All the guys went to welcome them in and help them tie up while the gals and Jacob, Stackhouse's grandson, began a game of Catch Phrase which lasted nearly 2 hours.



Let the fun begin.



Helping hands make for a smooth docking.



Catch Phrase for all ages

Tuesday morning offered up rain to challenge us but we weren't deterred. Those long distance cyclers were stomping at the pedals to get going. By 9:45am the skies were clear enough for both the pony pen seekers and the village cyclers to peddle away. Those who chose to save their butts set out on different activities that concluded with the Noon time gathering of all at the 1718 Brewing Ocracoke for a brew and lunch from the Plum Point Kitchen. The rain held off and allowed us to gather at the National Park grounds for our heavy hors d'oeuvre meal followed by a trek to the local ice cream shop.



Ocracoke Pony Pen



Springer's Point Preserve
Bike/Hike



Sites along the
Preserve Trail



200 year celebration of
Ocracoke Light House



Today's brew selection



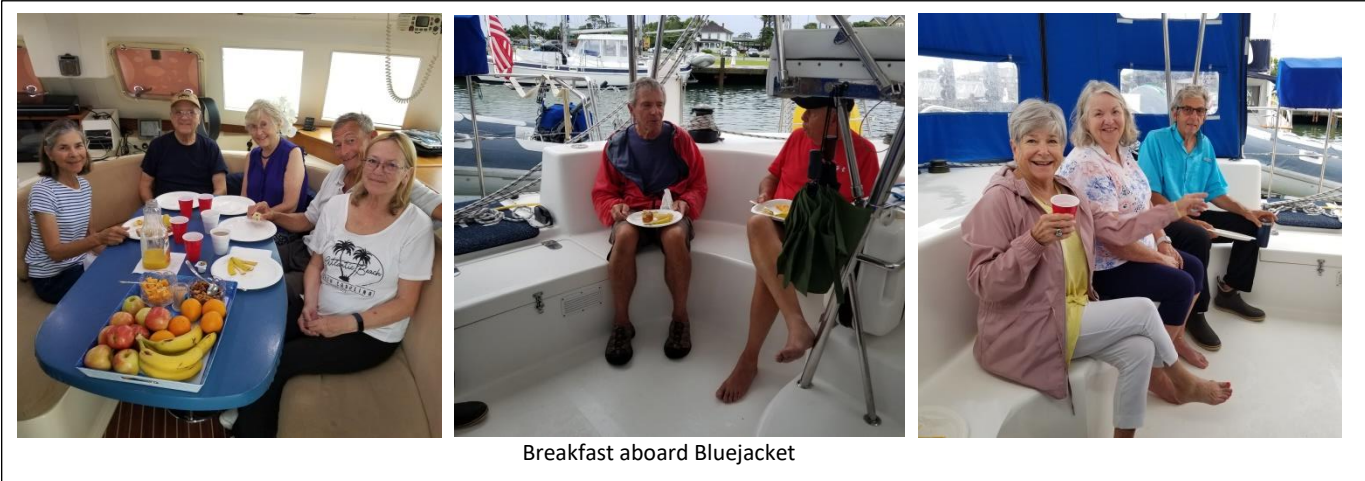
Wednesday was a rain day designed for running thru puddles, boat hopping, relaxing and reading.

The rain stopped just in time for our scheduled group of 19 to have dinner at the Flying Melon followed by a fun evening at the Ocracoke Opry.

We were treated by music from the likes of Fiddler Dave and Marvin Garrish of the popular band Molasses Creek and by Dallas Mason, a local lad of 10 who sounded as if he's been playing all his life instead of one short year.



Thursday started with a continental breakfast aboard Bluejacket and lots of fun conversations which took us to Noon when the rains came back in.



The planned clamming in the bay was cancelled and the pot luck pushed back 30 minutes to allow the rain to push thru. At 5:30pm we all met at the National Park grounds where fresh shrimp supplied by the Carbone's and Luh's replaced clams in the steamer pots. As the perfectly steamed shrimp were emptied onto the serving table by chef Tom Carbone, covers came off all the delicious pot luck dishes. A wonderful meal was shared and all cleared away just before the evening rains came in.



Friday we awoke again to cloudy skies but the weather forecast looked favorable for sailing back to Oriental. The Stackhouse's and Taylor's were the first two boats out beating the first ferry departure by at least 45 minutes. Next was Kory with the Smalls and their 3 family dogs aboard. Bluejacket dropped their lines next followed by Decomposition, Rivertyme III and Three Quarter Time. Jupiter had decided to spend another day in Ocracoke. Some of us sailed thru rain and heavy winds, but they settled to a steady 18–20kts with 1'–2' seas. It was a fun ride back with all boats secure in their home docks by 4:00pm.

Submitted by cruise captains: Donna and Jerry Luh