

St. Michael's Sailing Trip
July 18th – 19th 2015

The following journal is a recap of our sailing trip to St. Michael's, Maryland. St. Michael's is about 30 nm from Selby Bay and is an easy day sail of about six hours. Some of the crew stayed overnight on the boat, and some went home for the evening. We had five crew on Saturday and six on Sunday. Bill Ridgway was kind enough to taxi our day sailors meeting them just over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge on the Eastern Shore.

Saturday 7/18 9:00am

We all met at Selby Bay Sailing Center and began loading our gear, food and belongings. Fran Stetina was kind enough to provide donuts for everyone. Our Saturday crew were Bill Ridgway as Captain, Tom Gaeng, Fran Stetina, Maria Keller, and Robin Clemente.



Bill Ridgway, Captain

Saturday 7/18 9:30am

We cast off Selby Bay and motored to most of the way to the Bay. The skies looked ominous and we thought we would be hit by a rain storm for certain. Once we hit the Bay, waters were a bit choppy but with 1' foot waves. Winds were out of the south at about 4-8 knots however, died down a bit later down the Bay.

We soon approached and passed Bloody Point Lighthouse taking many pictures of this historical site. We then rounded Kent Island to make our way towards the Miles River. We seemed to keep one step ahead of the storm and thought we just may luck out and not get hit with the rain.



Bloody Point Lighthouse

Saturday 7/18 12:30

We stopped along the shore at a cove on the Miles River for lunch. A spread of cold cuts, fruit, potato salad, chips and brownies was prepared. It was calm and partly sunny, and it looked as though our luck was on our side as far as the rain. It was beginning to get a bit warm but still pleasant enough to enjoy the intermission. After about an hour, we pulled anchor and headed down the river to St. Michaels.

Saturday 7/18 6:00pm

We arrived at St. Michaels and enjoyed the view and atmosphere of this beautiful and quaint little town. We entered the harbor looking for the Higgins Yacht Yard marina. Approaching the dock masters booth, we searched high and low for our reserved slip number. The dock master tried to guide us through the marina, and with a bit of a struggle, we finally found it. He was very friendly though, and insisted on compensating us with free electric for our troubles.





Higgins Yacht Yard

Saturday 7/18 7:00pm

After getting docked and hooked up to electric, the fans went on. The temperature had risen quite a bit with little or no breeze.

We met up with Bill's wife, Juana, and after freshening up a bit, we headed to a local restaurant for dinner. We came upon Marcoritaville Tikki Bar and Grill and took a table outside. It was fairly warm but they had some big fans going so it wasn't so bad. Dinner was pleasant for most, but not for everyone. Despite a couple of reorders of dinner, the luck simply was not there and all hope was lost. It was still a pleasant atmosphere though, and everyone enjoyed the ambience of this small little town.



Marcoritaville Tikki Bar and Grill

Once we finished up with dinner, we all strolled down the street and came upon an ice cream parlor. Who could resist. Soon after, Bill, Juana and Tom headed for home, Fran headed back to the boat, and Maria and Robin went to do a little sightseeing and shopping. The stores and shops were quaint and very inviting. Albeit expensive, we just had to buy a t-shirt.



Justine's Ice Cream Parlor



Back at the boat, it was now time for cocktail hour. Robin, Maria and Fran enjoyed a few cocktails while gazing at the stars on this very clear evening. It cooled off quite a bit and the breeze picked up ever so slightly. It was soon time to call it an evening so Fran headed to the fore cabin while Robin and Maria made up some bunks in the cockpit. Despite the bunks in the cabin, the evening breeze was perfect and made for a wonderful sleep.

Sunday 7/19 7:00am

Morning came and first things first. Robin and Fran made their way out to find some coffee. They found a coffee shop that opened early so they ventured inside. They were delighted that they also served bagels so that became breakfast. They grabbed a coffee for Maria, who had stayed behind to shower, and made their way back to the boat.

Bill, Juana, and the Sunday crew arrived soon after. Peter and Geronimo had joined us for the voyage back to Selby Bay, but not before they all took a short excursion to the Maritime Museum. After everyone was showered and collected back at the boat, we took off for our journey home.

Sunday 7/19 10:00am

We set off with a much better departure than arrival. It was a little sad leaving the harbor as we had visited just a short time. So, off to Miles River, the winds were from the southwest at about 6-10 knots. We put up the sails and managed to move about 4-5 knots, a little more when the winds kicked up.



Sunday 7/19 2:30pm

We stopped off the shore of the Miles River again for lunch. Out came the spread of lunch and goodies and everyone enjoyed a hearty meal. It was a piping hot day and almost unbearable so Peter and Geronimo decided to take a refreshing dip in the river to cool off. We could have all jumped off at this point, it was so hot.



Maria Keller



Tom Gaeng



Bill Ridgway



Fran Stetina

Sunday 7/19 4:00pm

We set off again to complete our journey home. We had fair winds so we raised the sails and had Bloody Point Lighthouse in our sights. We each took a turn at the helm and managed between 4-5 knots. We made it back to Selby Bay at around 5:00pm.

Sunday 7/19 5:00pm

We made it back to Selby Bay in fairly good time. We unpacked the boat and cleaned up and we said our goodbyes. All in all, this was a really good adventure and even wanted to give it another go maybe in October. We would certainly recommend this to be at least an annual outing.