

## Bay/Land Social

August 18 and it seemed like it was going to be a typical hot and humid afternoon despite the forecast for SSW 10-15. It was just before noon and we completed loading up *Lapin Agile*. The wind was calm, not a ripple on the water, and forecast was to be in the upper 80's. Plenty of time to get to Chase Creek – out the West River, turn left and up the Severn, just over 15 miles. I'm thinking that we'll motor along slowly perhaps set a trolling line, get there early so that I can set the anchor and wait for the other cruisers to come in. So a "typical" August afternoon when I've said more than once that perhaps we should put the boat on the hard for the month of August and spend our weekends looking for cooler climes. Of course Jane always responds by saying "You always say that and forget those great August sailing days!"

Lines cast ashore and we start to motor slowly down the West River. Before we reach R "4" the breeze comes up from the SSW and before to long the engine is off and we're coasting out the river. My log says 7-14 knots SSW after rounding Thomas Point Light and now we're wing on wing to the Severn G "1AH." Lots of traffic on the Severn and we're on a broad reach to the Academy where we furl the head sail and proceed on the main. The wind seems to die out on the Severn after you pass under the Route 2 bridge, and this was no exception. We started up the iron main, and motored the rest of the way to Chase Creek. We arrived at around 3:30 to see that Stuart has reserved the anchorage with *CURA*, and *SEPTEMBER SONG* was comfortably set on their anchor. No sooner than had I set my anchor than *CATHARSIS* entered the creek and rafted up. *CATHARSIS* was quickly followed by *SCANDIA*, *SOUTHERN GIRL*, and *PILGRIM*. While *PRIM*, *NIGHTWIND* and *SPRAY* anchored Stuart and Sondra were starting to welcome those that came by land.

Stuart ferried those from the raft to his pier and following a short steep climb up to the patio we were treated to a marvelous view overlooking the creek. I can imagine the drive to this picturesque part of Arnold, MD, where after leaving the main highway you'll find small, narrow, wooded, winding roads, lined with a rather eclectic variety of homes. An established neighborhood, secluded in its own way – a place that if you were to stumble upon on some Sunday drive, you would say "I can't believe that there can be such a lovely neighborhood so close to Annapolis."

The evening was off to a great start as we renewed acquaintances, talked about our latest adventures and simply enjoyed the conviviality of the evening. Of course all this talk led to an extended cocktail hour coupled with the hors d'ouerves and pot luck dishes that complimented the filet mignon and chicken that Stuart and Sondra had selected for the grill. The evening passed quickly and soon it was time to return to our boats, or to take the careful drive home. It was truly a successful evening, and a terrific dinner. Hats off to Stuart and Sondra for offering such a great venue and being such superb hosts. Thanks to all the cruisers who were able to attend and make this such a pleasurable event.

It was a quiet and calm Sunday morning as we each weighed anchor to begin our relaxed sail home. This is one great August sailing weekend that I won't forget.

Erick Chiang