Cruising News

Fleet 10 Cruise Itinerary

June 18 to June 24

Hello Fleet 10! As the 2021 sailing season draws to a close, we thought it might be useful and fun to share some information about next year's National Cruise. The crew of Volunteer has offered to organize the 2022 cruise. What follows are a few thoughts along with an itinerary.

The cruise will begin on Saturday, June 18, 2022. This keeps the entire cruise out of the July 4 holiday week. This is especially important in view of the locations we will be visiting during prime boating season. Also, it is possible that the weather might be a bit cooler and sea nettles less numerous in the earlier time slot.

Another timing issue is the need to reserve an adequate number of slips for the dates and locations on the schedule. This may require folks to make reservations earlier than usual. We have been all over the bay this season and a recurring theme is that boat sales have significantly increased. As such, we have found that some popular places have increased their roster of annual slip holders, thus reducing the number of transient slips. Plus, more boaters means more requests for transient slips.

The itinerary tries to hit some spots that we know are popular with the fleet, as well as some spots that some members of the fleet have either never visited or have not visited for a long time. We have also tried to keep the mileage between destinations on the short side in order to provide options for cruisers to linger at a location, sail, or get to the next stop early.

Some of the locations have extensive online sources of information on restaurants, places to visit, etc. While we have been to all these locations and are happy to try to answer your questions, you will often find the information you are looking for online. In all cases, when making reservations you should identify yourself as a member of Fleet 10. Also, most of the stops that are not anchorages have lodging on premises or nearby, so you can have non-boating friends or family visit you during the cruise.

Saturday, June 18, marina--- Kent Island Yacht Club, Kent Island

As you will see on the Kent Island Yacht Club's website, kiyc.org,, this is a very nice facility! They have a heated salt water pool, two covered pavilions, on site restaurant and bar, and gorgeous views to the east, south, and west. The opening evening picnic will be catered by Chesapeake Chef Services. Details on the picnic tba. NOTE: Please do NOT confuse the Kent Island Yacht Club with the Kent Narrows Yacht Club!!! The Kent Island Yacht Club is just south of the Kent Narrows draw bridge. The Kent Narrows Yacht Club is just north of the Kent Narrows draw bridge.

The Kent Island Yacht Club is asking that we make reservations by the end of October 2021 in order to guarantee enough slips for the entire fleet. After that slip reservations are on a first come, first served basis. We have been directed to make reservations (either before or after the end of October) via Dockwa. In sum,

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if you reserve by the end of October 2021 you will definitely have a slip on June 18, 2022. After that date you may, or may not, be able to reserve a slip at that location on that date.

Sunday, June 19, anchorage---East Branch, Wye River, preferably Granary Creek or Dividing Creek (13 NM from Kent Island Yacht Club)

This leg of the trip takes you to Eastern Bay, then the Wye River. As such, if it is a nice day for sailing, Eastern Bay and the Miles River provide plenty of water. The east branch of the Wye is gorgeous, and Granary and Dividing Creeks are ideal anchorages. The Granary location provides easy access to a small boat dock, so it is easy to dinghy to land to explore Wye Island, https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/eastern/wyeisland.aspx. Given the time of year and location, there should be zero sea nettles, so good swimming.

Monday, June 20, marina---Higgins Yacht Yard & Marina, St. Michaels (8.6 NM from Granary Creek)

Higgins has a great location for walking to the heart of downtown St. Michaels. Reserve your slip by directly contacting Higgins, higginsyachtyard.com/marina. Higgins will guarantee slips for us until November 1, 2021. Reservations made after that date are on a first come, first served basis.

As you know, the town of St. Michaels has many charms. A few of our favorites are Gourmet by the Bay and the Village Shoppe. Our absolute favorite place to visit and shop when we are in St. Michaels is Simpatico, simpaticostmichaels.com. Almost everything in the store is from Italy. It has the best selection of Italian wines we have found anywhere in the states. If there is sufficient interest, Simpatico's owner, Bobbi Parlett, is willing to host a wine tasting for Fleet 10 on the afternoon of June 10. All the food and wine will be from Italy. Our favorite restaurant in St. Michaels is Limoncello. (Note: Mondays and Tuesdays are half price bottles of wine at Limoncello. This fact did NOT influence the cruise directors in developing this itinerary!)

Tuesday, June 21, virtual anchorage---The Mooring Buoys, Annapolis (24.3 NM from St. Michaels)

We have become devoted fans of staying on the mooring buoys when visiting Annapolis. The primary target location is right in front of the Annapolis town dock, adjacent to Spa Creek on one side and the Naval Academy on the other. There are 40 buoys at that location. If the weather is awful, or if there are not enough mooring buoys at this location, there are another 36 mooring buoys at several locations under the bridge in Spa Creek. Check, annapolis.gov/183/Moorings, for details. The basic process is you find an unoccupied buoy and tie up to it. Then call the dockmaster, 410 263-7973, to tell him your buoy number and give him your payment info. Mooring buoys CAN NOT be reserved in advance. You don't ever have to leave the boat, but you can get shower tokens from the dockmaster if you go ashore. There are also slips that can be reserved. You can also anchor further from shore. As you will see on the web page, the mooring buoys are very reasonably priced and conveniently located.

NOTE: Please do NOT confuse the Annapolis mooring buoys with Annapolis Town Dock or Annapolis Marina. The mooring buoys are operated by the city of Annapolis, hence ".gov" in the e mail address. Although there are dinghy docks at numerous locations in Annapolis and Eastport, we always just use the water taxi. It is fast and convenient. A robust list of restaurants, museums, gardens, events, etc. is found at the (Continued on page 3)

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on line Annapolis visitors guide at visitannapolis.org/plan/visitor-guide/. As a respite from the bustle of the shopping and dining areas of Eastport and Annapolis, the campus of St. John's University is a tranquil place to visit.

Wednesday, June 22, marina---Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall (17.2 NM from Annapolis)

This facility has a pool, on site restaurant, and is reasonably close to town, havenharbour.com. NOTE: Please do not confuse Haven Harbor Marina with Haven Harbor South. Haven Harbor Marina is on Swan Creek. Reservations are done directly on the marina's web page and must be made not less than two weeks prior to June 22 in order to guarantee a slip. Again, we advise that you book your slip much earlier than that. You will receive a discount if you identify yourself as a member of Fleet 10. The pavilion next to the pool is being reserved for Fleet 10 on the evening of June 22 so we'll have a nice place to congregate if the sun is hot or it's raining. Complimentary bicycles are available for travel to town.

Thursday, **June 23**, anchorage---Corsica River (20.4 NM from Rock Hall)

The Corsica is a beautiful river with at least two large, very scenic anchorages. Given the time of year and location there should be no nettles, so good swimming. The Corsica is a few miles up the Chester River. We have found that you can sail on either side of the marks on most of that stretch of the Chester River.

Friday, June 24, marina---Chestertown Marina, Chestertown (13.5 NM from Corsica River)

The stretch of the Chester River from the Corsica River to Chestertown is very nice. If there's good wind you can sail there, but if you have to motor the scenery makes it enjoyable. If you want to just sail around for a while, the lower Chester River has plenty of water.

The Chestertown Marina has floating docks and the harbormaster said he can hold up to 15 slips for our group until two weeks before June 24. That said, we advise making reservations well before that date. Registration is online, chestertownmarina.com. If we have more than 15 boats, one option is for two or more boats to raft up at the end of the dock. Another option is to anchor in the river. There is a fixed bridge with low clearance at the upriver edge of Chestertown so there is almost no boat traffic except whatever is moving in and out of the marina. The marina uses 50 amp outlets, but the harbormaster advises that they have plenty of 50 to 30 amp splitters for rent.

Chestertown is a gem. The Kitchen at the Imperial Hotel is fine dining without the prices or dress code. There is also a very good place to eat right at the marina, 98 Canon Street. If there is sufficient interest we can probably do a closing picnic/dinner Friday night via the 98 Cannon Street restaurant.

On Saturday morning you don't want to miss the Evergrain Bread Company. Locals line up for the baguettes! Chestertown Wine and Cheese has lots of goodies to eat and drink. The grand finale, however, is the Chestertown Farmer's Market on Saturday morning, chestertownfarmersmarket.org. (Note: This did influence the proposed itinerary.) It is one of the best farmer's markets we have ever experienced.

Registration Form Fleet 10 Cruise

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