

September 8, 2014

Guy Cruise 2014

Our annual "Guy Cruise" was held, as usual, on the week beginning Labour Day. It's not an official club event, it's just some guys getting together for a single-



handed cruise. It's easy to get a slip for our Pub Night after Labour Day, that's one good reason for the timing. With guys, there has to be a pub night. The rest of the time, we anchor out and get together for breakfasts and dinners and evenings. Anyone interested can join in; Hans Juffermans, Jim Boyes, Terry Johnson and I were

joined for the first time by Les Galicinski this year. He is a terrific cook and storyteller, lots of fun.

When it comes to itinerary and the planning of meals, all we can say is "It's a guy plan", meaning that we haven't thought it through yet. We basically go where the wind takes us, and whoever feels like cooking the most gets to cook that day. Meals using fresh ingredients have a natural priority to them that saves us from a lot of planning. This year's meals were quite interesting and varied. The only disaster was my frittata breakfast. Next time I try it on board I will bake it instead of doing it stove top. You live and learn.

Lake Simcoe being what it is, there are only so many anchorages suited to the forecast wind direction overnight. Our first night this year was at "The Stop Sign Anchorage", well protected from southerly winds. We sailed through a bit of light rain getting there, then it was great. Warm water for swimming, lots of fun. Terry was our dinner host and he followed up with breakfast Tuesday morning. The forecast was for north westerly winds, rain expected all day ending in a thunderstorm late afternoon or early evening. We decided it was to be pub night at Jackson's Point. We sailed in rain all day with light winds. Biminis and Dodgers kept us out and put in my side curtains as well - very



dry. I wimped civilized. We made it to Jackson's Point before the thunderstorm, then went up to the Simcoe Arms for our pub dinner

afterward. After dinner we walked up to Sobeys for supplies and grabbed an ice cream from Moolicious.

Wednesday morning was hot and sunny. After breakfast with Jim, Les promoted a dinghy ride up the Black River to Sutton from Jacksons Point. Les, Hans and I went for a very lovely ride. There are lots of herons, turtles, kingfishers and other wildlife to enjoy. After winding through The Briars golf club, it ends by the old mill pond dam in Sutton. We tied up there and went into town to explore the famous General Store where Les picked up a used coffee thermos for a buck. We proceeded to a nearby cafe for a coffee and bun on the terrace overlooking the river. In the afternoon, the promised westerly breeze never really materialized, so after a swim we motored to Thorah Island, where we anchored close by the little harbour. Jim was cook and host that evening. Winds were very light all night, as expected, then picked up from the south west Thursday morning after Hans' breakfast . We had a fast sail around the north end of Thorah then upwind to Chicken Bay, near Barrie for Thursday night. It was gusty in Kempenfeldt, where it took 4 tacks each direction to work our way in. I had my rail under at one point. Chicken Bay is a great anchorage in southerly winds, and we really enjoyed our time there. Les was our host that evening.



Friday, after my infamous frittata, was a wild sail downwind to HYC for most of us. Les went into Barrie to prepare for an LSIS race Saturday. The rest of us wanted into our home harbour before the severe storm system hit. It was a broad reach in a strong south wind all the way, with boat speeds maxed out despite pulling a dinghy through large waves. We made it back before the afternoon storm hit. Our final dinner, prepared by Hans, was safely inside Terry's house

beside the club while the big storm hit. Everything worked out well.