

Chesapeake Bay – Urbanna VA

July is the story of discovering the delightful small towns around Chesapeake Bay. We took a driving tour in June, checking out marinas. The best rate and nicest location we found was in Urbanna Virginia.

Why not cruise and anchor out? Air conditioning. We need shore power for air. We started using the air conditioner in the middle of June, and used it through July and much of August. The weather “broke” with a cold front the third week in August, and now we can sleep again with just the ports open.

We had beautiful weather and a pleasant sail from Salt Ponds to Urbanna. We made it in two days, with an overnight stop anchored in the Piankatank River. Here’s Mary relaxing as we pass Wolf Trap light.



Urbanna is like a time warp. I feel like I’ve stepped into a Norman Rockwell painting. There is one gas station, one grocery store, three churches, and five thrift stores. There are art studios and restaurants, but no bars.

Yesterday I saw a bunny rabbit hopping across main street in the middle of the day. Tree lined avenues, white frame houses, and a scrubbed clean look that reminds me of my childhood. All of this, and only \$300 a month dockage!

Yes, Chesapeake has the infamous sea nettles. The jellyfish become prolific during the hot weather months. You can walk the docks at the marina and count several jellyfish in the space of each boat slip. They’re everywhere! They’ve even tried to sneak aboard our boat – (Smile!) They enter the air conditioner’s water intake and become jellyfish-goo clogging the raw water strainer. At the heaviest time in July I had to clean the filter several times a day. Later, in August, they’re gone.

Urbanna has a fourth of July parade. Not on main street, but through the harbor with decorated boats. What fun !



In the spirit of the occasion I strung up a line of signal flags on a halyard on "Gideon". The flags spell out "God Bless the USA".



People have enjoyed boating on the Chesapeake for a long time. Just sitting in our cockpit, it's fascinating to see beautiful antique boats passing by that are still in regular use.

We had time in July to take some sight seeing trips. We visited Richmond, a city with a lot of history.



It's a beautiful city with the grace of a bygone era. The Confederate White House and the Museum of the Confederacy are great stops for history buffs!

We both stayed busy. I saw an ad for a Captains License course nearby, in Gloucester. Hmmmm.... a Captains License? That could open up opportunities for extra cash, driving a dive boat in the Keys or doing boat deliveries. I signed up for the 100 ton course, took the exam, passed, and sent in my paperwork to the Coast Guard. Meanwhile, with me off the boat for two weeks, Mary enjoyed time that she could devote to her interests; sewing wall hangings and quilts.

While we were tied up it was time to catch up on a backlog of projects, and clean up the boat. Each day was a combination of work, and cleaning the air conditioner filter. (Remember the jellyfish?) With temperatures in the high 90's, and dumping jellyfish out of the filter four times a day, it seemed like a good time to bug out.

July 21st we left by car for a month long visit with Mary's Dad, Dick Davis at his camp in New York. The fact that temps in New York were in the 70's is of course sheer coincidence. (Smile!) The details on the New York trip will be in the next update, for August.

Here's a final photo. This is the "Miss Ann" built as a millionaire's yacht in 1926. It's used for dinner cruises, and on weekends serves as a ferry between The Tides Inn and Urbanna. What a beautiful sight!

