

2007 Memorial Day Cruise

Story and Photos by P/Lt/C Lorraine B. Ryan, S

Participating in our 2007 Memorial Day Cruise were: *Yes Dear 2* with Cathy and Chris Payne and me on board; *Vagabond* with Bonnie and Steve Boshart; *Salbe* with Sally and Phil Benson; and *Canal Gal* with Wilma and Clay Helm.

Three boats launched at Edenton Saturday morning and *Canal Gal* joined that afternoon from Holiday Island. Our morning cruise took us up the Roanoke River to Plymouth, where we again attempted to visit the Plymouth Maritime Museum. This time the museum staff did not lock up when they saw us coming as they had left earlier to attend a funeral!

Prior to docking for a leisurely lunch under the shade of some trees on the pier, we were all stopped by the NC Wildlife Officer for a safety check. It didn't matter to the officer that Phil had on his red Vessel Examiner shirt. However, we all passed with flying colors.

After lunch, we met up with Wilma and Clay, traveled up the Chowan River, and viewed the new \$350,000 condos by the bridge. We also saw the old Roanoke River Lighthouse that had just been moved to the Edenton town park where it will be permanently installed. Did you know that it is North Carolina's last screwpole light? See the article inside and Google "Edenton Lighthouse Move" to learn more about it.

Instead of staying at the Edenton Town docks as planned, we decided to trailer the boats back to Holiday Island (except for *Salbe*, who cruised) since we were heading in a different direction on Sunday. We drove back to Edenton for dinner Saturday night at Waterman's where we always have good food.

Sunday we headed up the Scuppernong River to Columbia, docked at the town dock, rocked on the rocking chairs at the Tyrrell County Visitor's Center, and walked along the Scuppernong River trail to view lots of turtles, birds, and one young water moccasin. While we had our lunch at the town dock, a large water moccasin was our neighbor. Although there were several exciting moments with the snake and Wilma and Cathy, we all survived its visit.

We started to head to Elizabeth City Sunday afternoon but the Albemarle Sound finally lives up to its reputation for changing water. When the waves started curling, we decided to turn back.

Sunday evening, Chris was our master chef at the grill on his back deck for dinner and we all enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, and watermelon. Exhausted after our busy day, everyone hit the sack early and left on Monday morning to head home.

Another great cruising weekend and fun for all that attended. Thanks to Cathy and Chris for being such great hosts, as always.



Let's Get Going!



Where are my fishing poles?



This is the Life



Wilma and P/C Clay Helm's new boat



Rest Stop & Visitor Center at Columbia



Just hanging around!



CSS Albemarle



My boat's faster than yours!



Sally and P/C Phil Benson's *Salbe*