

Our First Cape Charles Trip Experience
S/V Luna River
Trina and Hugh Lee

After two years of rehearsing on the Rappahannock, we finally crossed the bay for the first time with a trip to Onancock earlier this summer. Despite the waves hitting the beam and rocking the boat on the way there, it was a successful journey. This was a liberating experience. Accomplishing this goal gave us more confidence for the Cape Charles trip over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

As we set out early Friday morning, we had to come to terms with the lack of wind which made it necessary to motor. The water was like glass. It was so peaceful, except for the motor humming underneath us. Most of the trip was uneventful and rather easy to navigate. We were fortunate to have several more seasoned sailors from the Club check in on us and share valuable advice along the way. The best part was seeing a pod of dolphins in a long line quickly cutting across the water as we passed the large container ships anchored in the bay.

Once we arrived in Cape Charles, we immediately went to the marina restaurant to get a drink and relax. We spent the rest of the weekend exploring the town, socializing with everyone in the Club and meeting several new people at the local restaurants. We even ran into our neighbors who have a vacation home in town. We love that Cape Charles has that small-town charm with inviting historic homes, many of which were built around the same year as our 1919 home in Richmond, while also offering plenty to do to keep you entertained.

On the way back, we were excited that the wind, if we got any, would be coming to our stern and we could test out our spinnaker. A week before the trip Les and Claire Newman generously came out to our boat to show us how to use our spinnaker. Once again, the wind was light, so we waited until we got further out into the bay and then hoisted the sail. It was fluttering off and on for a while since there wasn't much wind, but the closer we got to the mouth of the



Rappahannock the more the wind picked up, and we finally got a remarkable sail up the river. We even got up to 7 knots at one point, which is the fastest we've been on the Luna River.

Just as we were starting to feel more confident in our newly acquired sailing skills, we were reminded that we are still learning when we went to take down the spinnaker. The wind had picked up, and we struggled a bit to douse the sail. As we tried to shift the direction of the wind it was getting caught on the battens. Finally, we got the wind in the right place to release the tension, and we were able to bring down the sail and head up the channel back to Regent Point Marina.

We were exhausted but feeling accomplished for successfully completing both trips over the summer. It would not have been possible without the guidance of many of our fellow sailors who have gone above and beyond by supporting us along the journey. We can't wait for the next trip and future explorations.