

November Foliage Cruise 15-16 November 2008

The front had finally passed by and by 9AM the rain had stopped. We knew there would be wind but it was just getting started. By the time most of the members had their boats ready to sail it was after 10AM but there was not any real worry about the time since by now the wind was really kicking in. We left the dock by 10:30 with Jimmy leaving first. I trailed behind getting my sails up after getting behind the no-wake mark to start this Cruiser Quest destination. I put up a reefed main and a reefed jib as well. It was the right thing to do. The wind was blowing 15-18mph most of the time with gusts as high as 25mph I think. Everyone else had reefed their mainsail as well. Before we passed Airport Island, I think Ken & Jennifer had rounded up more than a half dozen times. We stayed pretty close together except for Jim



Danaher on his Starwind 19. He was sailing with just a reefed mainsail and we slowly left him behind after passing Airport Island. The wind tunnel at the narrows was a bit challenging, but we finally made it to the power lines and was able to sail on a reach to Goat Island. When we were in the basin in front of Sinclair Marina, the old mylar headsail on Ken's Hunter 260, ripped and Ken had to sail with just the main to Goat Island. We rafted up behind Goat Island and had lunch. I loaned Ken a storm sail I had aboard and we again sailed up the lake. I turned into

Crooked Creek to check out the new docks and Warren Hughes's Cape Dory 22 that was tied to the dock. As I was meandering aimlessly about in front of Crooked Creek Marina, the fleet raced by heading up the lake. I missed the radio communications that had transpired between Jimmy and the rest of the fleet but soon realized they were headed for Oconee Springs Campgrounds. Jimmy had intended to sail a mile or so up from Crooked Creek but with everyone following his lead, he decided he might as well press on to Oconee Springs. I sailed out of Crooked Creek and sometimes caught a glimpse of the



Hunter 260 as I sailed up the lake. When I



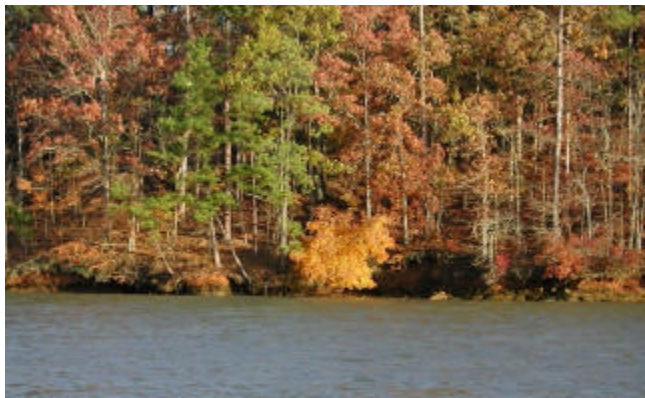
finally caught up with the fleet, they had rounded the mark at Oconee Springs and were a half mile down the lake already. I was a mile behind as I rounded the mark at Oconee Springs, so I shook out the reef in my jib because I knew I would have plenty of upwind sailing to do in some of the East/West oriented legs of the lake as I was followed the fleet. Once again I caught glimpses of the Hunter 260 as I rounded bends in the lake. I was a mile from Crooked Creek when I finally was able to see all three boats in front of me before they

made the last bend heading to Crooked Creek. We all were safely tied in a slip at Crooked Creek by 5:45 PM.

We were all thinking about going up to the Bone Fish Grill to eat when Jimmy came down the dock saying there was a 2hr wait. I looked at the 6 cars parked in front of the restaurant and decided he was pulling our legs. In the past this restaurant has been thru a number of managements. This one it turns out is here to stay. The place looks GREAT!. The food was even BETTER! We had a great time, with Charlotte Harrell coming up by car, and a little later Ronnie & Sandy Young came in followed shortly by Jim Danaher. He had sailed as far as the power lines then back to OSYC and decided to drive up for dinner. Some of us retired early but the Hunter Condo was the location of the late night party. I am not sure when the party broke up because after I was nice in warm in my sleeping bag, I did not hear anything.



The next morning when I got up the temp in the cabin was 41 degrees. With a little help from the stove as I made pancakes, the temp got all the way up to 50 degrees. The rest of the fleet had breakfast at the restaurant and once again the food was Outstanding. My pancake breakfast looked pretty tame compared with the likes of eggs benedict, eggs benedict w/fried green tomatoes, sausage gravy w/biscuits, and others. One could stay tied to the dock there for some time before getting tired of the food served there. One more note here is that the docks have been completely redone. All the little finger piers that were against the shore are gone and replaced with slip type docks that are in deep water. I had 10ft of water under my boat. There must be almost 30 slips available for boats to tie up to. We will not have a problem with having dockage space on our cruises to this destination anymore.



Jimmy left the dock first and I left 15 minutes later at 10AM. He was going to stop at his house to pick up Charlotte then sail the rest of the way to OSYC. The Dortchs and the Griffins got away by about 10:30 and we all sailed down the lake. They say anytime there is two sailboats on the lake there is a race, and this morning was no exception. It seems that Ken shook out the reef in his mainsail and started to really pull away from Michael. SO.... Even after Michael took out the

reef in his mainsail, he could not catch up with the K & J Racing team. Once a racer always a racer!. I arrived at OSYC by noon, a 2 hour sail and the rest of the fleet arrive shortly after each saying it took them about 2 hours to sail in from Crooked Creek. The wind was blowing a lot and I remember a couple of jibes I made that although they went well, I made the mistake of looking behind me at the green water with many whitecaps and thinking I hope the mainsail does not get out of control and break something. It was an exciting 2 hour ride and a fitting end to a great Fall Cruise. We all had a grand time and wish more of you could have joined us. We hope to have more of these but may have to wait till the spring to have good enough weather. Make it a point to join us for the next one. You will not regret it, especially if we stop at Crooked Creek for dinner.

Your Cruising Committee
Bob Horan

See this site for more photos...

<http://picasaweb.google.com/jimmy.harrell.photos/OSYCFoilageCruiseNov1516200802>