

Sea Scout Ship 681 - Old Ironsides

June 2019

After a VERY busy May we scaled back activities in June. We only had one activity - but it is our major annual event. While Boy Scouts go to Summer Camp, Sea Scouts design their own "Long Cruise". This past weekend we did just that.

Starting Thursday evening we arrived and stowed our gear aboard our cruise liners (S2 7.3 and C&C 22). Friday morning we worked a couple of service projects. Moving prior cut brush from the trailer parking road up to the dumpster and boat maintenance on several Sun Fish. In the afternoon we launched the Sun Fish for an afternoon of small boat sailing. Capsize drills in the heat of the afternoon was the order of the day ! After dinner we boarded our cruise liners and headed out for an overnight anchorage.



Five miles later we arrived in the Lime Creek Cove north of Volente. It is a great, large, flat spot 8 to 15 feet deep. We anchored, rafted up and hit the bunks ... only to be awakened at 0400 with light showers. Not so bad for the Scouts below, until the Scouts sleeping on deck decided to invade the space below ! Not much sleep was had between 0400 and 0700 when we "awakened" and made breakfast. The plan for the day was half a day of sailing maneuvers (tacking, jibing, man-overboard drills, etc.) followed by half a day at the Volente water park. Returning from Volente we split into two groups. One group wanted more MOB practice in the stiff 15 knot

winds we had that day, the other group wanted more time at the park. Having two boats, that's exactly what we did. We reefed Harry Polly's Tejas down and went after the elusive MOB for a couple of hours then headed back to AYC just as the race committee was calling everyone in due to a lightning strike. We got into our slip and sails doused and stowed just before the first raindrops hit. We watched the storm pass over with the rest of the racing teams and wondered whether our sister ship - Old Ironsides - was out in the weather or not. Eventually we received a text that they were just about to





release their dock lines at Volente when the lightning strike hit. They quickly battened down and headed back to the restaurant at the water park and waited out the storm there. After it blew over they motored back to AYC for a meal of chicken fajitas and much deserved overnight sleep after a loooooong day of sailing and water activities.

Sunday was a relaxing day of breakfast, chapel service, deck scrubbing and generally making ship-shape before heading home for naps in the afternoon. A GRAND time was had by all.

- Chris Schuttger - Skipper - SSS 681 - Old Ironsides