

Spring shakedown cruise on Zephyr

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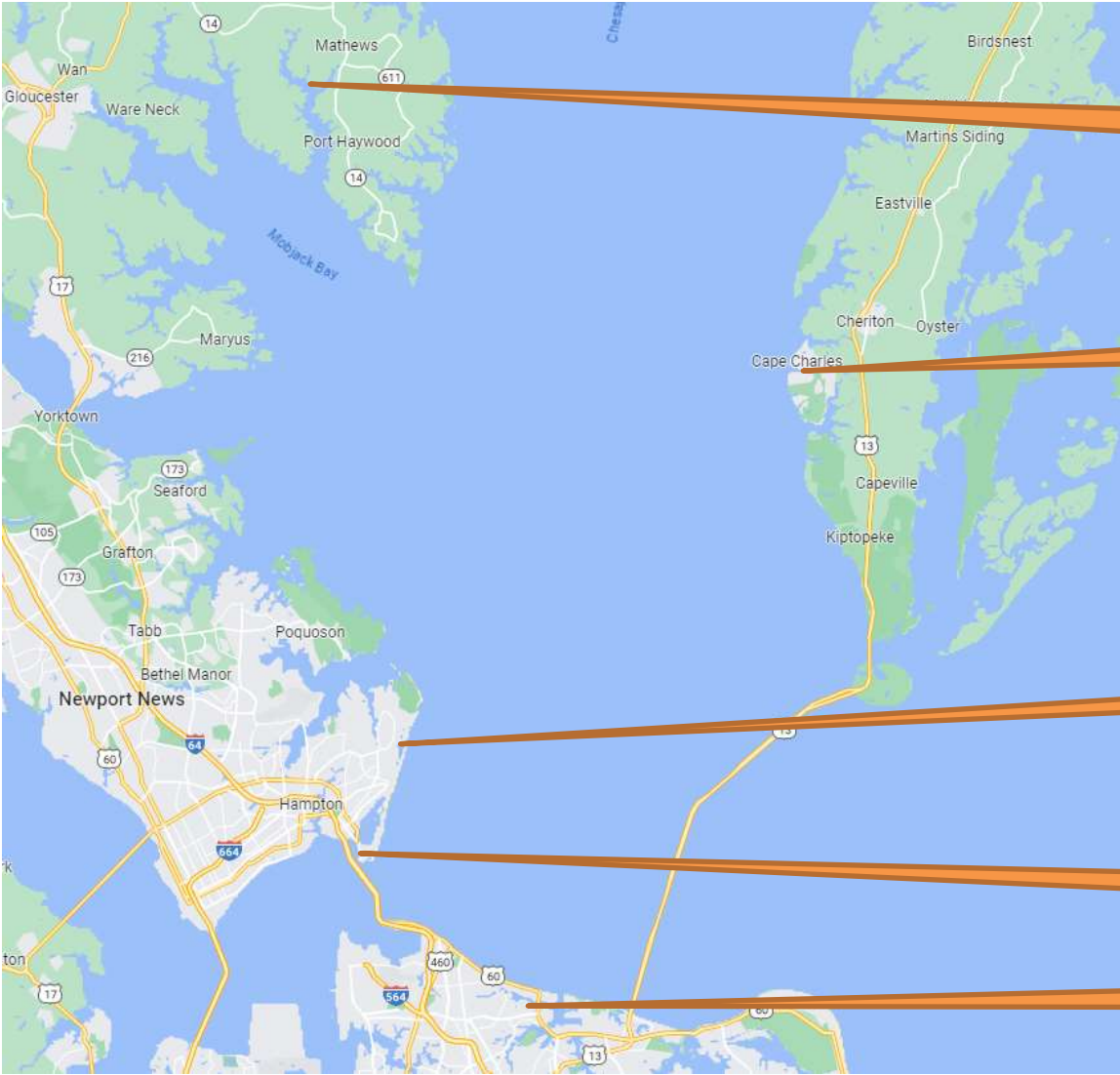
This was the first trip out on Zephyr since a bunch of projects over the off season including replacement of standing and running rigging, rudder, ground tackle, and navigation electronics. We also got a chance to try out our new electric outboard for the first time. Some of the project work was still underway as we arrived, but things wrapped up enough for us to get going the next morning. Since it's a boat, I still have some more project work to do when we get back to the boat 😊

We were glad to have our friends Teresa and Ali join us. They are fun to sail with and helped us sort out and organize a bunch of stuff so Zephyr is all the better for them joining us. See below for brief recap, a map of where we went and some photos.

Date	Destination	Nautical Miles	Hours underway	Weather and Sea State	Notes
SAT 5/20	Stayed at Morningstar in Little Creek	0		Sunny and calm	Arrived in the afternoon. Provisioned and bent on the sails
SUN 5/21	Old Point Comfort Marina in Hampton	12	3	Winds 15-20 kts out of the N-NE. Choppy seas	We were going to head over to Cape Charles but bashing into the chop with winds on the nose was going to be unpleasant and take awhile so we diverted to Old Point Comfort to make it a short day. The weather cleared up in the afternoon and we walked around Fort Monroe (more info at Wikipedia and national monument sites). We walked inside the fort area and up along the grassy area on top of the walls to the moat. It was a good place to explore. For dinner, we ate at the local seafood restaurant called Deadrise, named after the type of boat typically used by crabbers on the Chesapeake.
MON 5/22	Woodas Creek Cove anchorage up the East River in Mobjack Bay	33.4	7.5	Winds 8-10 kts from ENE, waves ~1 ft	We motored for a bit and then tacked our way north close hauled with all the sails out. It was a nice day to be out. Upon entering Mobjack, we motored quite a ways up the East River to an anchorage recommended by a friend. Corrie and I were inside while Teresa and Ali were taking us up the East River. We heard the sound of something small and hard hitting the deck and immediately went up top to investigate. I see a nut (for a bolt) near the base of the mast. As I look up, I see that it goes to the bolt that holds the boom to the mast on the gooseneck! The bolt was too small and not sufficiently tightened. I put it back on, tightened it and checked it regularly until we got back to Little Creek where I got an appropriately sized bolt and secured with lock washer, Loctite, and a nylock nut. I'm sure glad we found that when

					we did. It was very calm conditions for anchoring. We got to try out our new ground tackle (55lb Rocna on new 5/16 ACCO chain, using a Mantus bridle) along with the existing Lighthouse windlass and all that worked well. We also took a dinghy ride to shore using our new electric outboard and that worked well also.
TUE 5/23	Cape Charles Town Docks	23.3	5.5	Winds 22-28 kts from ENE, choppy seas	This turned out to be lively conditions. We motorsailed with just the staysail and half the main out. Ali helmed much of the day. Winds were still strong in the harbor, but we were able to get a face dock which made for easy docking approach. We walked around Cape Charles for a bit and got some Ice Cream there. We also walked out to their beach and boardwalk. We ate dinner at the Shanty restaurant at the Marina. We'll definitely come back to Cape Charles.
WED 5/24	Morningstar Marina in Little Creek	24.7	5.7	Winds 12-15 kts from ENE, waves 3-4 ft	We sailed through an anchorage of big cargo ships as we sailed on a broad reach with just the headsail. On the way back we fueled up and pumped out at Cobbs before getting back to Morningstar. Ali had to head home the next day so we had dinner at Stony's.
THU 5/25 – SUN-5/28	Remained at Morningstar Marina in Little Creek				On Thursday, Corrie, Teresa, and Ali went to downtown Norfolk to tour the Battleship Wisconsin and Nauticus Museum while Jesse worked on boat projects. Ali flew home and we had to sit out a few days due to poor weather from a Noreaster. Teresa showed us how to use the Sailrite Snapright kit to the Sunbrella cover for the dodger that Jesse sewed over the winter to protect it from UV. We also met up with our friend Jesse Broome, who owns an Island Packet 38 at the Cobbs marina next door.
MON 5/29	Salt Ponds Marina	12.5	3.3	E Winds 5-10 kts, calm seas. Limited visibility for awhile.	We made a leisurely sail up to Salt Ponds in the afternoon to time it with a higher tide since it is a shallow inlet. There was some fog, so we were glad to have AIS while crossing the channel since there is a lot of ship traffic on the Chesapeake. Corrie and I walked to the beach at Salt Ponds. It's a pretty large marina. Corrie and Teresa made dinner using the induction cooktop and we ate in the cockpit. We met the owner of an Island Packet 40 docked nearby.
TUE 5/30	Morningstar Marina in Little Creek	12.2	3	NE Winds, 15-20 kts, choppy seas	We left early since the weather was worsening as the day went on. It was a pretty rolly sail back on a broad reach with just the genoa out. We were hailed over the VHF by an

					inbound cargo ship for the first time to coordinate the channel crossing. We also saw a Navy warship going the other direction. Zephyr feels pretty tiny compared to those massive ships.
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Our anchorage on the East River in Mobjack Bay

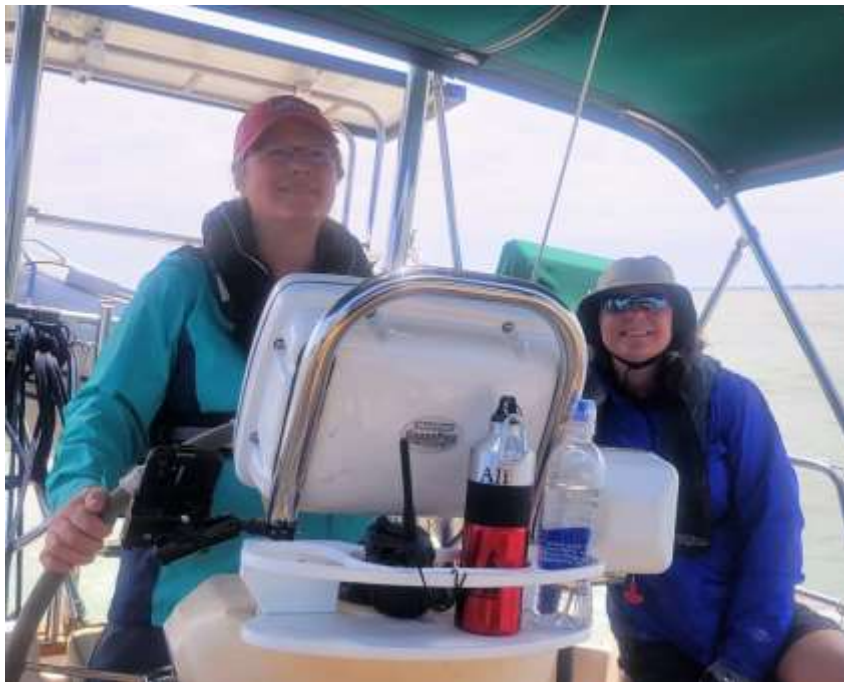
Cape Charles Town Docks

Salt Ponds Marina

Old Point Comfort and Fort Monroe

Little Creek, which is home for Zephyr











Putting the new bolt in the gooseneck



Our friend Jesse who also has a 38' Island Packet, his is called Contented Turtle



The moat around Fort Monroe



We crossed paths with our slip neighbor, Steve, while he was out sailing on the bay his family





