

Situation Report 006; 2012-07-14

We were in the historic Mystic Seaport for the July 4th celebrations. It was quite well done in that the “character animators” put on a celebration consistent with 1876, the time frame of the historic seaport and the 100th year of their country. I always find Mystic a delightful experience and especially so when visiting by boat because we’re permitted full access to the site in the evenings and mornings when it is not open to the public.

In Mystic, we met a small contingent (three vessels) of the Catboat Association who were out for a little group cruise. They’re all locals and gave us some useful advice which shaped our next few day’s itinerary. Many thanks to Larry, Bruce, and Ken.

From Mystic, we sailed over to Block Island with plans to anchor in the Great Salt Pond. We had hoped that by the time we arrived the July 4th crowd would have dispersed, but we were disappointed. The anchorage was crowded beyond belief and we ended up on a mooring rented to us for the night by the Harbourmaster.

The next day, we watched a small exodus of vessels from the anchorage and quickly dropped the mooring and found a not-too-crowded spot to drop anchor. We “visited” the island via a quick taxi ride over to the old harbour and also bought a few provisions along the way.

From Block Island, we made our way over to Cuttyhunk where we again were forced to use a town mooring as there was simply no room to anchor. Cuttyhunk is an amazing little “time warp” spot with a very relaxed atmosphere.

From Cuttyhunk, on to the island of Martha’s Vineyard where we found a spot to anchor outside the harbour of Vineyard Haven. As we were anchored for “free”, we decided to stay a few days, do some chores, and explore the place. The grocery store was very close to the dinghy dock, so a major shopping excursion and dinghy ride with the victuals back to the boat was a major activity. An all-day bus pass for \$7 allowed us to visit Edgartown and Oak Bluffs. All three towns, i.e., Vineyard Haven, Edgartown, and Oak Bluffs, have a very different character. One cannot say they have visited the island until seeing all three.

Of course, part of the appeal of Martha’s Vineyard is that it is the “hub” of the Black Dog empire. It is here that the Black Dog Tavern was established in 1971 and has flourished into an amazing business empire with the usual gift shops, restaurant, two “tall ships” which take out tourists on excursion, and so forth. We visited the justly famous “Black Dog Tavern” and had a good breakfast that was consistent with the tavern’s reputation.

From Block Island, we made a very short sail over to Woods Hole where we visited the Oceanographic Institute and Science Aquarium. Both were well worth the stop.

And now, we’re at a dock in a marina in New Bedford. A marina day was warranted as we needed to do an oil and filter change on the engine as well as a few other chores.

In an hour or so, we’ll head north and east to the little town of Onset where we hope to anchor for the night before transiting the Cape Cod Canal.

On the journal front, there’s nothing to report. For some reason, the words will not flow and I know myself well enough not to push it.