

July 29 -30, 2013

## Exploring Cape Cod's South Shore – Part III

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In fact I did go. Ideal conditions to sail to Martha's Vineyard, NWN wind at 10 – 15, allowed me to sail parallel to the coast on one tack, then angle to the south when the island came into view. A heading of 210 on a beam reach took me right into Edgartown harbor, a wide open bay which narrows quickly when approaching town. Where it narrows the wind gets funneled right through from the south. Within minutes it was gusting up to 25. I was way overcanvased to accomplish the delicate task of tacking up into the narrow, congested harbor. I tied up to a dock and put in a single reef and comfortably sailed to a restaurant dock where I could tie up and enjoy a crabcake sandwich and a beer. Edgartown harbor is delightful. Tiny three-car ferries run back and forth across the 100 yard wide channel to Chappaquiddick Island. Pleasure boats of all stripes pass by. Families swim and picnic on the beaches.

Now, approaching 5 o'clock it was time to find a place for the night. To the north and east of Edgartown is Cape Poge Bay, part of Chappaquiddick Island. It is a shallow, quiet, protected bay about a mile in diameter. I found a secluded cove on the north end and anchored behind a sand bar in 3 feet of water (just enough not to ground this time). While enjoying coffee I heard trashing on the shore and looked up to find a quite large deer staring at me. We talked for awhile then he sauntered back into the thicket. A gentle breeze rocked me to sleep.

The 18NM sail from Lewis Bay had taken about 4 hours. The trip home was to be a different story. All was well at 7AM as I sailed north out of Edgartown and around the tip of Chappaquiddick. But about halfway to the mainland the wind completely died (a very rare occurrence around here). For almost two hours I bobbed on the wake of passing fishing boats and high speed ferries. The incoming tide made matters worse by pushing me right back where I'd come from. I watched in frustration as lobster buoys swirled passed me. For lack of anything else to do I rowed for awhile. Eventually the wind shifted and picked up to about 5-10 from the S and I arrived back in Lewis Bay around 3pm, a long, but thoroughly enjoyable day of sailing.

So if I could sail to MV, why not Nantucket? The 20NM sail would be due S from Lewis Bay. If I had two days of the usual SW wind the trip over would be one upwind tack and the ride home would be a thrilling ride with the wind just abaft the beam. This one will have to wait until next summer!



Anchored in Cape Poge Bay on Chappaquiddick Island



Two-masted schooner anchored off Edgarton





Northern tip of Chappaquiddick



Busy entrance to Edgarton





Congested Edgarton harbor



Possum at a restaurant dock





Ferry from Edgarton to Chappaquiddick Island

