



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB

January 2008

# THE HEADWAY

## My Favorite Anchorages

*Reader Contributions*



*Sunset in Onancock Creek*

*Photo by Jan Akers*

### **Onancock, Virginia**

“Onancock is a Norman Rockwell type spot. The long sail through the channel is a relaxing hour, especially when complimented with a properly prepared rum and tonic. Your choice, anchor or slip. Good shower facilities. If you are meek of heart, there are abundant B and B’s. The Harbor Master is gregarious and hospitable, The town itself is a delight to tour via your feet. A couple of good restaurants and some interesting shops. Great pastries if you are not on a low carb diet. I highly recommend it for a 4th of July trip, they celebrate the occasion the good old fashioned way, festivities and fireworks. Have plenty of fuel, as everytime I go, the wind quits.”

*- Bobby Cone*

*(continued on page 3)*

## RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB

### FLAG OFFICERS

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kdraffetto@verizon.net

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**Cruising Fleet Captain - Dave Bronson**  
**Junior Sailing Captain - Dee Byrne**  
**Flying Scot Fleet Captain**  
Tom Richardson

**Social Committee Members**  
Kate Raffetto, **Chairman**  
Michelle Blank and Jan Akers

**Ship's Store Managers**  
Grace Ann Miller and Bev Oren

**Membership Chairman - Sally Clark**

**Yearbook Editor - Dick Sisson**

**Club Manager - Kent White**



## Commodore's Message

By David Raffetto, Commodore

- I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and is experiencing a great new year.
- RRYC received a very nice thank you from the "Lights on the Creek" Chairpersons. It reads as follows:

*To All Our Friends at the RRYC –*

*The "Lights on the Creek" event could not have been better or gone more smoothly, and that, in a large measure, is due to the help we got from you!*

*A special thanks to Scot Vail and Hank Little for being point people. At least it wasn't too cold out there this year.*

*The Dock Handlers were wonderful as always.*

*And we have to give a BIG thanks for duty above and beyond to Chris Christensen who attended many of our meetings and had a big part in decision-making for the whole event, besides organizing the whole dock/chase boats side of the parade. Please say you'll do this again next year. Chris – we really need your input.*

*And to the Commodore and Kate – many, many thanks for all you've done, including decorating "Success" for the event.*

*Again to all of you, THANKS from the bottom of our hearts!*

*Jill and Larry Worth*

Thanks to all of the members who helped keep the parade organized, on schedule, on track, AND out of the mud.

- As our boats are, for the most part, put away for awhile and full of the "pink stuff," its time to think ahead to RRYC's 2008 season. The success of our programs, both on the water and off the water, is due to the participation of a number of members; that number could be much larger and would make the individual efforts smaller for all concerned. I'd ask each of us to think about helping out with one or more of our activities. Dick Sisson includes an interest survey in his questionnaire for the upcoming Yearbook. If you would indicate those activities with which you would be willing to help, it will pay big dividends for the club's fleet captains. Remember that helping with one activity or event doesn't obligate you to all of the events. Experience is not necessary!
- Look forward to seeing you at the January dinner.

## My Favorite Anchorages

(continued from page 1)

“Our favorite is Onancock. It is an easy trip by either sail or power and very close to Tangier, which is in another century. As you all know the approach is lovely. Great town dock, restaurants, and you can even buy green beans and hayman sweet potatoes at the hardware store. The town bakery has wonderful coffee and goodies. What more could you want?”

- Harry and Jane Wells

### Horseshoe Bend, Maryland

“One of my favorite anchorages is Horseshoe Bend in the St. Mary’s River. Most of the loyal readers of the Headway know that this is off the north shore of the Potomac River. I anchored here this fall with Walker Stevens aboard *Friendship*. The approach up the St. Mary’s River is lined with stately homes, some of which have been there from the 17th century. When you arrive, you find a spacious area for anchoring with plenty of deep water just behind Church Point. St. Mary’s College is located on this point... As the college has one of the most active sailing programs in the United States, there is plenty of entertainment while at anchor, watching the young racers doing their thing. The college dock permits dinghies to tie up during the day, allowing visits to St. Mary’s City, which is Maryland’s answer to Williamsburg (on a much smaller scale). One can also eat in the school cafeteria, which is a short walk from the pier. I picked this as one of my favorites because of the ambiance. Around the point there is a replica of the *Dove* – one of the tall ships that discovered the town – which is quite impressive from the water. There are no facilities here, but there is a marina nearby in Carthagen Creek, complete with Tiki bar. Every cruiser should see this anchorage at least once. I hope to return next summer when they have concerts on the hill.”

- Coleman Brydon

### Big Majors Spot, Bahamas

“Big Majors, in the Exumas, between Staniel Cay and Fowl Cay is a great place to drop a hook and use your dink to explore far and wide. It is also a nice cut to shift to if the wind direction changes.”

- Garland Hagen

### Banderas Bay, Mexico

“In October, 1956, I was sailing south along the west coast of Central America in a 25 ft. sloop with a weather helm. We had just left Mazatlan and the Tres Marias and were close hauled. The wind was picking up as we passed Cape Corrientes, the southern most point at the entry to Banderas Bay. Two hours later we were laboring in a chop and maybe 20 knots of wind. An inhospitable barrier beach and a leeward shore were to the east of us. We turned around and ran north before the wind, not knowing what was in store for us. We had been warned about “*Chubascos*,” wind that came down from the northern prairies. I was tense. After another hour we sighted Cape Corrientes to starboard. The sky was overcast, the wind force was unabated, and a light drizzle was falling. I jibed and headed east and entered Banderas Bay. Within five or ten minutes the sky was clear and sunny, the wind had fallen off, and we were in a safe bight of land with a sandy beach. No sooner had we dropped anchor than a native paddling a *cayuca* (dugout canoe) came along side. I knew some Spanish and so was able to speak with him. He had been watching us from the shore. With him leading the way, we went ashore in our dinghy. Our new friend took us to a fresh water spring and showed us a lemon tree with fruit on it. I asked him if we could give him something in return. He said, “Pah, Pah, Pah!” I had brought some .22 caliber bullets, along with cigarettes and other tradable goods, and he was well satisfied. We went spear fishing and splashed around in the water. The next day we sailed into Ylapa. That, too, was a memorable anchorage.”

- Frank Birdsall

# An Early History of RRYC (Part 4 of 4)

By Dave Bronson

## THE RESORT YEARS

In 1962, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Broderson, cruising South from the Buffalo area, arranged to buy the club property; “We needed a hobby, and this run-down yacht club needed a friend.” Ed and “Weej” operated the club as a summertime marina selling “Drift-R-Cruise” houseboats, Homelite outboards, and Texaco products. Weej organized the first “RRYC Ladies Sailing Circle” among charterers and local friends. In 1965, the Brodersons acquired the entire peninsula west of the RRYC clubhouse (including the twin-gabled Victorian home). Their four children, plus young Lou Siegel and a “chef” handled operations. With the purchase of their 34-ft. ketch, *Second Wind*, the family’s interests shifted to sail, and a sizeable sailboat charter business developed. By 1967, RRYC included a marina, three air-conditioned cottages around a swimming pool (“Sailboat Cove”), tennis courts, and a restaurant serving lunch all week and dinners by reservation. By 1968, the Brodersons had made RRYC a family-fun resort famous for gracious hospitality and excellent seafood. Ed and the crew caught crabs and fish off the dock and Weej cooked them like a native Northern Necker. The Broderson’s promotion of recreational sailing was instrumental in the area’s growth as a sailing center.

With initial dues of \$10, the Brodersons began rebuilding an RRYC organization among charterers, cottage-renters, transient visitors and local friends. The primary membership requirements were friendliness, good humor, and an interest in boats and/or good seafood. There were 110 members in mid-1970, of whom only 25 were non-resident. Fifty-two children took part in junior activities during the year.

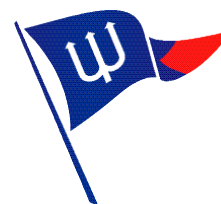
Following a decision in early 1970 to relocate to Florida, the Brodersons divided their holdings for sale, but developed a plan to turn the clubhouse over to the members as a private club. Dues would continue to be paid to the Brodersons, who would cover all expenses for the first year while the Club began building a fund of its own from initiation fees and special activities; the Brodersons would continue to operate the restaurant on a catering basis.

Local members Bud Wiley, Sterling Wright, Lou Randall, Jim and Sandra Breeden, and William Thomas were the primary team preparing for the Club’s independence; they took over active management in January, 1971. The Brodersons felt the Club could manage on a 1971 budget income of \$7,960 and maximum expense of \$7,000 with the rent at \$1,560. “Resident” and “non-resident” membership classes were replaced with a single general class; a Certificate of Incorporation was filed for

Rappahannock River Yacht Club, Inc. – a \$25 initiation fee, \$25 dues, and a \$25 minimum annual restaurant expenditure were established – a new burgee was designed, and an application was filed for an ABC license.

On July 1, 1971, Lou and Joan Siegel, operating as Rappahannock Yachts and Rappahannock Charters (RY/RC), took the Broderson’s place as landlords. The Siegels agreed to accept seasonal slip rental leases only from Club members, holding two large slips and one shallow one for short-term rental. Details of the ownership changes were explained to the Club’s 134 members at the new corporation’s first Annual Meeting in August. With dues increased to \$40/year, the Club was expected to be in the black for 1972. Lt. Gen. Sterling Wright was elected as the new Club’s first Commodore.

*Editor’s Note: Dave’s history also includes a detailed description of the RRYC regattas, some of which he also summarized throughout his club history. If you would like a copy of this regatta synopsis, please send your request to [headway@rryc.org](mailto:headway@rryc.org).*



## 2007 New Members

Please make sure you give these families a warm welcome whenever you see them at club activities.



**Tom Haines and Tracy Masuck**  
**(804) 648-0591**  
HainesConstructionLLC@MSN.com  
TKTracy@AOL.com



**Jim and Brenda Hebert**  
**(703) 360-2748**



**Mike and Polli Romey**  
**(804) 453-3955**  
MPRomey@Yahoo.com



**NO PICTURE  
AVAILABLE**

**Bob and Andrea Deskin**  
**(804) 438-6263**

### **First Friday Reminder**



Join the group at the club on Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 for drinks, eats, laughs, and sunset. Bring your own wine, beer, etc. and a munchie or hors d'oeuvre to share and join the fun.

### **February Reader Input**

For the February Headway, please send us a paragraph or so describing "my silliest/dumbest moment as a sailor or boat owner." We can all learn from and laugh at each other's mistakes, and we'll print them anonymously, if requested! Send your input to headway@rryc.org by January 20<sup>th</sup>, please.

On page one of this issue you can find member contributions of "my favorite anchorage."

# SOUTHERN BAY RACING NEWS YOU CAN USE

*presents*

## **MURPHY GOES RACING – 2008**

*“GOING FASTER – IT’S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE”*

- Date:** Saturday, February 2, 2008
- Time:** 0900 – 1430 (9am – 2:30pm)
- Price:** \$35 (\$25 for accompanying family member)  
Fee includes morning refreshments, lunch, and all clinic materials including the course workbook.
- Place:** Old Dominion University Sailing Center (Norfolk)

A MURPHY RACING CLINIC geared toward Non-Spinnaker and Cruising racers wanting to improve their results on the race course. This year’s edition will focus on the role of the crew (no matter how many) and emphasize concrete skills and techniques to help your boat perform better and go faster. IDEAL FOR SKIPPERS AND CREW.

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

- \* Crew Organization
- \* Tacking and Jibing
- \* Sail Trim Tips
- \* Upwind Evolutions
- \* Reaching Techniques
- \* Working with the Pole
- \* The Dreaded Double-Headsail
- \* Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Crew

### **Sponsored by – BROAD BAY SAILING ASSOCIATION**

Course Instructor - John McCarthy - As a racer, John has won multiple High Point Championships and his entertaining, informative style will give you many specific ideas on how to improve your results and, most importantly, have more fun.

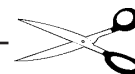
Space is limited, so register now by email to [mcbear@earthlink.net](mailto:mcbear@earthlink.net), OR call (757) 850-4225, OR register by completing the accompanying form that is found on the next page.

# REGISTRATION FORM

MURPHY GOES RACING – 2008  
“GOING FASTER – IT’S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE”  
Saturday, February 2, 2008  
9am – 2:30pm

Make check payable to Lin McCarthy and mail both check and form to Lin at:  
4401 Chesapeake Avenue, Hampton, VA 23669-4639.

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Murphy Goes Racing – Feb 2, 2008



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Boat \_\_\_\_\_ Type/Model \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: If you choose to REGISTER BY EMAIL, send your name, address, telephone number, and email address to [mcbear@earthlink.net](mailto:mcbear@earthlink.net). Be sure to put MURPHY CLINIC on the subj: line of your email.**



## Membership News

*By Sally Clark, Membership Chairman*

### Prospective Members:

Hein Zenker and Howard Blank have proposed Jim and Charlotte Schmidt of White Stone for Active Membership. Jim and Charlotte own *Starlight Express*, a Pearson 35 currently docked at Rappahannock Yachts. They have sailed in the Annapolis area and have made four trips to the Bahamas and the Keys. For the past ten years they have cruised the Florida waters, living on their boat for 6 months of each year. In the spring of 2007, they sailed back to the Chesapeake where they would like to meet fellow sailors and join in organized cruising events. Jim is interested in working with the Cruising, Dock and House & Grounds Committees. Additional interests include volunteering for race crew and Public Relations. Charlotte is also interested in the Cruising and House & Grounds Committees.

Bob Strange and Bill Bower have proposed Brian and Bev Hart of White Stone for Active Membership. Brian and Bev own a Hunter 28, *Wind Lass*, located on Ashley Cove in White Stone. They learned how to sail at the Annapolis Sailing School in 1975, as well some recent lessons from Norton Sailing. After moving to White Stone in January, Brian joined Flotilla 33 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and has been involved in boat crew training. Brian is interested in the House & Grounds Committee, and Bev is interested in the Social & Programs Committee. Both look forward to joining in our cruising activities as well as expanding their circle of friends among people with common interests.

Members may direct comments about this application to Membership Chair, Sally Clark, prior to the January Board Meeting.



*Photos supplied by  
Ann Meekins  
and Gordon Slatford,  
Tides Inn General  
Manager*



*Even in black and  
white, these boats  
look festive.*

*Top Left: Franz  
Baichl's snowman,  
Top Right: the Mihills'  
angel,  
Bottom: boats at the  
Tides' dock with the  
Raffetto's peace dove  
in the background.*

## **Club Christmas Festivities Saw Good Turnout**

On an evening just chilly enough to feel like Christmas in Virginia, 79 spirited folks turned out for the RRYC social and Lights on the Creek illuminated boat parade on Carter Creek. As co-sponsors of the parade, the Club provided dock workers to assist boats getting out of and back into slips at the Tides Inn, as well as several boats, skippers, and crew who participated in the parade. Those at the club enjoyed Kate's chili and festive decorations after huddling on the dock to watch the boats pass in review. The following members brought appetizers to enhance the "cocktail hour," and helped serve and clear tables: Alison and Doug

*(continued on page 9)*

# Christmas Festivities

(continued from page 8)

Jayne, Renita & Steve Sommers, and Bertie & Bob Strange. There were twelve guests joining us for the evening, invited by members Rolly and Steve Butts, Jo and Jack Chamberlain, Alison and Doug Jayne, Grace Ann and Frank Miller, and Renita and Steve Sommers.

After this winter celebration, we'll change course next month for "Summer in January," a barbecue-style dinner catered by Smokin' Joe's on January 19. Be sure to make your reservations in the usual fashion, either by e-mail to [dinner@rryc.org](mailto:dinner@rryc.org) or by mailing the form below. And remember, if you do not receive a confirmation, you may not have a reservation!

## "Summer in January" Menu



• BBQ Chicken pieces

• Baked Beans

• Cole Slaw

• Tossed Salad

• Rolls

• Kate's Crème Brulé

CUT HERE



AFFIX  
STAMP  
HERE

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB  
P. O. Box 55  
Irvington, VA 22480

FOLD HERE

Saturday, January 19, 2008  
Dinner following the parade.  
RSVP by Wednesday, January 16, 2008

### "Summer in January" Menu

- BBQ Chicken pieces
- Baked Beans
- Cole Slaw
- Tossed Salad
- Rolls
- Kate's Crème Brulé

\_\_\_\_\_ # Adults @\$17<sup>00</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ # Children (10 and under) @\$5<sup>00</sup>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Club Calendar

## January-February 2008

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### January

- 11 Flying Scot Holiday Party
- 19 Board Meeting and Club Dinner

### February

- 1 First Friday
- 2 Ground Hog's Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Board Meeting & Club Social

The *Headway* is the official publication of the Rappahannock River Yacht Club  
P.O. Box 55, Irvington, VA 22480 804-438-6650 Web site: [www.rryc.org](http://www.rryc.org)  
David Raffetto, Commodore  
Craig and Jan Akers, Editors  
Submit articles by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to [headway@rryc.org](mailto:headway@rryc.org)

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