



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB  
IRVINGTON, VA 22480

November 2008

# THE HEADWAY

## Cruising Season Ends With Wind – Finally!

By Dave Raffetto, Cruise Leader



Photo by Blanche Stevens

*Starlight Express, Escapade, and C'mon Wind anchored in Dividing Creek.*

The final “official” cruise of the 2008 season was a great success. Like many of our trips, this one was focused on eating. The only planned stop was at Indian Creek Yacht Club for Saturday dinner and Sunday brunch. More importantly, unlike several of our

earlier cruises, the weather was in complete agreement with our plans to sail, and sail we did. On several of the legs we saw big wind direction and strength changes in rapid succession.

The cruise began with Bob and Jane Bierly on *C'Mon Wind*, Kate

and Dave Raffetto with *Success*, and Walker and Blanche Stevens on *Friendship* heading to Jackson Creek Friday afternoon for a get-together on *Success* followed by a quiet evening. Saturday saw more members join from a number

*(continued on page 3)*

**Please remember that dinner reservations must now be made ONE WEEK (seven days) prior to the scheduled dinner! Reservations for the Annual Meeting on November 15 must be made by Saturday, November 8.**

## RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB

### FLAG OFFICERS

**Commodore – David Raffetto**  
(H) 804-438-9324  
kdraffetto@verizon.net

**Vice Commodore – Frank Miller**  
(H) 804-436-1404  
(C) 804-436-2312  
fmillerpe@aol.com

**Rear Commodore – Mosby West**  
(H) 804-438-6917  
jmw@jmwpe.com

**Secretary – Kathy Bearden**  
(H) 804-462-5032  
(C) 804-436-4165  
Kb3cw@amsat.org

**Treasurer – Coleman Brydon**  
(H) 804-379-1697  
(C) 804-357-8959  
nabrydon@aol.com

### DIRECTORS

**Past Commodore – Blaine Liner**  
(H) 804-435-0162  
(C) 804-436-3508  
liner@crosslink.net

**Director - Tommy Asch**  
(H) 804-287-8544  
(W) 804-644-3304  
taasch@shockoedevelopment.com

**Director - Bob Bierly**  
(H) 804-453-5335  
(C) 804-358-7106  
bojabierlyz@aol.com

**Director - Dee Byrne**  
(H) 804-436-9270  
dee@tesource.net

**Director - Jerry Latell**  
(H) 804-438-5875  
(W) 804-438-9011  
(C) 804-436-3815  
jerry@latellsails.com

**Director - C. Scott Vail**  
(H) 804-438-5866  
(W) 804-438-6443  
csvyacht@verizon.net

**Director - Pat Willett**  
(H) 804-436-1124  
pwillett@earthlink.net

**PHRF Racing Fleet Captain – Ron Mihills**

**Cruising Fleet Captain - Jim Bearden**

**Junior Sailing Captain - Dee Byrne**

**Typhoon Racing Fleet Captain -  
Ron Mihills**

**Flying Scott Fleet Captain and Race Com-**

**mittee Chairman - Debbie Peterson Cycotte**

**PHRF Representative – Pete Knight**

**Social Committee Members**

Kate Raffetto, **Chairman**

Jan Akers and Terry Brydon

**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

- Remember our Annual Meeting is November 15th at 1600. This is the most important meeting of the year. Officers and directors will be elected, and the Board will report on the club's activities and matters related to the continuing delivery of services to members. All members should have received a mailing announcing the meeting. Active members had included in their packet a voting proxy to be used should they not be able to attend the meeting. Anyone who did not receive the meeting notice and proxy please contact me, our Secretary, Kathy Bearden, or Kent White for a replacement. The meeting notice and proposed slate of officers and directors also appeared in the October Headway.
- RRYC was very well represented in this year's Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta. Our own Frank Birdsall was the overall Flying Cloud Division winner. I counted over twelve RRYC boats out of a total of 130 in the early registration, and I suspect the numbers were higher with later registrations. Alan Young and *Wild Goose* was the #2 fund raising boat. Many thanks to Alan Young and Yankee Point Marina for a great event and magnificent weather.
- Charles and Sue Springett and Ariel, their Bristol 43.3 were featured, with both quotes and picture, in the August, 2008, issue of Cruising World magazine. The article "CW Adventure Charters" is in the Passage notes section beginning on page 44.

## In Memory

Lillian "Mike" Rothery was 92 when she passed away early in the morning of October 1 this year. She and her husband, Gus, were charter members of RRYC going back to 1970. She kept a Cape Dory Typhoon at the club for many years. Services will be private. Memorials may be made to Northern Neck of Virginia Audubon Society or the Rappahannock Art League.

The RRYC webcam is one of a number of cameras sponsored by Select Properties as part of their advertising campaign. Select Properties has turned off the cameras for the winter, but the RRYC WiFi system remains functional. The camera will be turned back on in the spring, when it is a more cost-effective form of advertising.

## Cruising Season

(continued from page 1)

of locations, as we all headed to the Indian Creek Yacht Club. When the anchoring/tying up was finished, we had nine RRYC boats at Indian Creek (food) Saturday evening, having been joined by Mark Allen/*Content*, Coleman and Terry Brydon/*Escapade*, Dave Hutchison/*Menabilly*, Jim and Charlotte Schmidt/*Starlight Express*, Mosby West and Debbie Cycotte/*Midnight Wind* and Hien and Siggy Zenker/*Thaloca Dos*. The pre-dinner cocktail party in Indian Creek's screened gazebo could have been in place of dinner as everyone outdid themselves with their contributions. What a spread! But we all went to dinner, anyway!

After a late start following Sunday brunch (more food), many boats continued on to Dividing Creek. The cocktail gathering on Friendship (still more food) was enhanced with music provided from Mark Allen's house and dock.

Monday most boats were able to take advantage of a great northerly breeze for the sail home. Bob and Jane had a relatively short motor to their home off the Great Wicomico. All in all we covered about 60 sixty miles, sailing the best part of that with blue skies, clear and calm nights, and never spent the night more than about ten miles from RRYC.

## RRYC Keeps The Rappahannock Cup!

By Ron Mihills – PHRF Fleet Captain

The September 27th RRYC Commodore's Cup was canceled due to extremely light winds after the entire fleet sat through a blowing squall of wind and rain. Wouldn't you know it, once the fleet returned to the dock, the winds filled in. That's sailing.....

Missing an opportunity to tune up during the Commodore's Cup didn't slow down "TEAM RRYC" for the defense of the Rappahannock Cup on October 18 & 19. Winds blew a good solid 20K+ with gusts on Saturday and 20K-25K on Sunday with gusts to 30K+, white caps everywhere, and very lumpy seas. The conditions were so strong on Sunday that only *Aerwana* from YPYC and Jerry Latell's *Boomerang* raced one spinnaker race. Neither boat flew a spinnaker. Jerry did not have reef points in his mainsail, so raced with only a jib upwind and two headsails downwind. With only a jib he finished just over a minute behind *Aerwana*.

The RRYC top three non-spinnaker boats won by twenty-one points and the RRYC top two spinnaker boats won by nine points. The team effort with eight RRYC boats competing against six YPYC boats worked. Only the top three non-spinnaker boats and two spinnaker boats from each club are scored.

Representing RRYC in spinnaker class were *Boomerang* – Jerry Latell, *Play It Again* – Sam Marshall, and *Bodacious Too* – Bill Broaddus. Non-spinnaker RRYC boats were *Moya* – Tommy Asch, *Salute* – Pete Knight, *Catitude* – Lew Thatcher, *Windblown* – Frank Miller, and *Stinger* – Dan Clark.

Race Committee PRO Mosby West assembled a first rate committee of Debbie Cycotte, Burke Johnson, Mike Romey, Bob Bierly and Gary Fricke of YPYC aboard Marshall Orr's plush *Three Sisters*.

Congratulations TEAM RRYC!

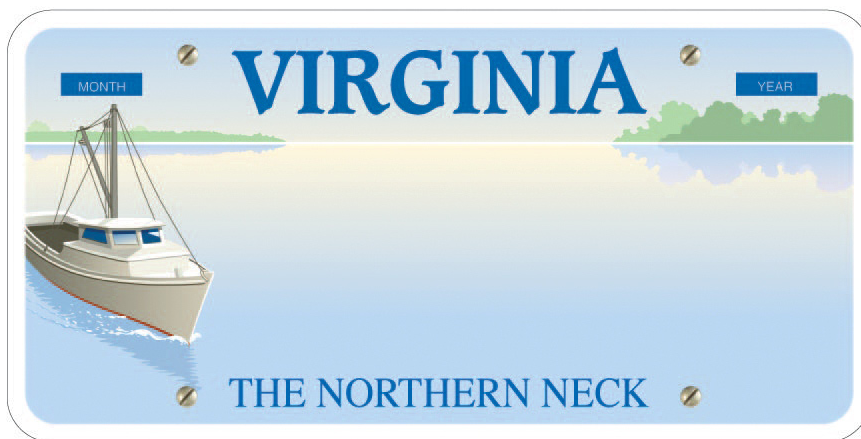
## Cape Dory Typhoon Racing Season

The sixteen Cape Dory Typhoons on Carter Creek must be one of the largest Typhoon fleets in the country. Twenty-five Typhoon sailors and crew celebrated the conclusion of the fall racing season with a picnic at RRYC on October 21. Ned Crockett won first place in the RRYC fall series.

Nine Typhoons raced in the Turkey Shoot Hospice Regatta. First Place - *Friday's Child* – John Friday, second – *Miss Daisy* – Stan Crockett, third – *Creampuff* – Chuck Carmichael (a new RRYC member).

## Birdsall's Flying Scot *Spitkit* Wins 2008 Turkey Shoot Flying Cloud Division

Congratulations to Frank Birdsall on winning his 11-boat fleet each day to take the coveted Flying Cloud Division overall trophy! His name will be engraved on the Virginia Spirit Hospice Cup. Pete Knight on Salute placed third in Division A. Dave Raffetto on *Success* placed third in Division E. Also racing from RRYC were Dan Clark, Hal Starke, Tom Blencowe, Maurice Dickerson, Burke Johnson, Allan Young, Stan Crockett, Chuck Carmichael and Tom Norris. Allan Young was the event chairman for the record 130-boat event. Last year the regatta raised \$46,000 for Hospice care.



**Write your check, it's not too late, to get your Northern Neck license plate!**

We need 350 paid applications (BY DECEMBER) to present to the General Assembly for production to begin. Please send in your completed application NOW or there will be no plate.

Visit [www.nnplate.com](http://www.nnplate.com) to download an application, or for more information. Still have questions? Call Jamie Tucker at 804-462-0979. Celebrate the Northern Neck and support the plate. Proceeds will help support the Northern Neck Land Conservancy after 1,000 are sold.

## Help Needed for the Parade of Lights

Marshall Orr and Sandra Matthews of Creative Designs have joined forces to present a salute to the Norris Bridge on its fiftieth anniversary. Last summer Sandra mounted a model of the bridge on her car for the Fourth of July parade. Now she plans to mount it on Marshall's 29 foot Dyer, *Three Sisters*, for the Parade of Lights. Marshall has asked for help from club members. If anyone would like to add mounting a bridge to a Dyer 29 to their engineering resume, please let Marshall know. He estimates four or five volunteers will be sufficient.

Don't forget that Jack Chamberlain is also looking for volunteers to help decorate the club house for this event!

## Social Notes

What started out as a windy and cool day, perfect for the Rappahannock Cup races, turned into a blustery, chilly evening by the time of the monthly social. For the first time this season, members were forced to trade the porch for the fireplace, and kept cozy inside! The evening's chatter was largely about the adventures of the racers, under very windy conditions, and retaining the Rappahannock Cup for RRYC. Kent White should have set up a cot at the club for the weekend; he prepared breakfast for the racers two days in a row, and sandwiched the social in between.

There were eighty hardy souls attending, including some guest racers from the Rappahannock Cup, David & Page Savins and Dwight & Sharon Timm. Other guests were with Sally & Dan Clark, and Charlotte & Jim Schmidt. Terry & Coleman Brydon had guests with them who they had met while sharing a table for lunch at the Annapolis Boat Show this year. Conversation revealed that the two strangers owned a Cape Dory 330 and were planning a move to the Northern Neck. Not being one to miss an opportunity to tout the wonders of RRYC, Coleman invited them to the October social and they showed up! Ernie and Susan Smith of Alexandria were given a warm welcome and seemed to have a wonderful time. Several members took the opportunity to suggest real estate possibilities to them

*(continued on page 6)*

# Lightning Strike and Back Again

By Kathy Bearden

As reported in the July Headway, our boat, *Charm*, was struck by lightning on the RRYC Havre de Grace cruise. *Charm's* crew is happy to report that she is back in the water and mostly recovered from the lightning strike. We would like to offer some sage advice on how to protect yourself from lightning, but after much study we learned that there are as many opinions as there are studies. The bottom line seems to be to hope for a "light" strike and if not, hope for the best and check your thru-hulls as fast as you can.

It is interesting to note that although we were on board during the strike we didn't feel a thing. However, that was not the case for the equipment. Although everything was properly grounded and installed, we experienced damage to the HF and VHF radios. Raymarine rebuilt our chart-plotter, speed, depth, and wind displays. They also repaired damage to our linear drive and autopilot. Our battery monitoring system was fried, but the charger seems to be fine. An unwelcome surprise is that since the strike, our batteries won't hold a charge, at all. They were nearing the end of their life, but their precipitous end does tie directly to the strike. We also lost engine instruments, including the tachometer and temperature gages. Instruments on the masthead suffered greatly. The VHF antenna disappeared in a ball of fire and the LED tricolor/anchor light was permanently extinguished. Raymarine repaired/



Photo by Kathy Bearden

*Since the lightning strike adventure, Murphy has been suffering a bit of an identity crisis. Several rounds of therapy over the winter should help him re-learn who is boss! This picture appeared earlier at [www.irishterriers.com](http://www.irishterriers.com).*

replaced the wind vane and wiring but it was interesting to note that the same plastic anemometer and wind vane came back with the refurbished electronics side.

We were anchored during the strike and had the advantage of a great grounding system courtesy of our all-chain rode. Judging by the scorch marks on our headsail and burn mark on the bowsprit, it appears that most of the strike went down the forestay, jumped to the stainless bowsprit and then continued down the chain to ground. We guess that the other part of the strike came down the VHF wiring and back-fed through the grounding system to the engine.

Now, as to Murphy's therapy... Murphy sends his thanks for everyone's kind thoughts and inquiries as to his welfare. He has returned to the sailboat, though he has not been out sailing since the strike. Of course, we just got the boat back in the water last week so he hasn't exactly missed anything. Murphy spent the summer land-camping and he has to admit that since he is a terrier, i.e. earth-dog, he kind of enjoys the camping thing. However, his main desire is to go wherever Mom and Dad go, so if it's back to being a boat-dog next summer, he's willing to go. Besides, by then his therapy should be complete and he'll be ready for the RRYC shakedown cruise.

# Membership News

By Sally Clark, Membership Chair

The Board of Directors voted to accept with regret the resignation of inactive members Dick & Pat Taylor.

## Prospective Members:

Jerry Latell and Ron Mihills have proposed Charles (Chuck) & Barbara (Barie) Carmichael of Hardyville, VA for Active Membership. The Carmichael's own *Galatea*, a Cape Dory 36 located on Healy Creek and *Creampuff* a Typhoon. They have over 30 years and 28,000 miles on *Galatea* and raced last fall in our Typhoon series. Chuck also trailers *Creampuff* to Georgia to race in the annual Savannah to Charleston race. Both Chuck & Barie are interested in serving on the Cruising Committee and Chick is also interested in the Race Committee. They plan to continue with the Typhoon races on Wednesday evenings and look forward to cruising with other RRYC members as well as participating in some of our other racing events.

Scott Vail and Dave Raffetto have proposed Stephen & Page Savin of Richmond, VA for Active Membership. The Savins own their first sailboat, *Semper fi*, a Caliber 33 Sloop, located at Rappahannock Yachts. Steve has had a lifelong love of being on the water, crewing on sailboats for family and friends. His most recent experience was sailing with his brother-in-law on a Tartan 37 out of Sting Ray Point. Steve & Page are very interested in mingling with other sailors for the social aspect and to continue learning about sailing. They both look forward to working with the Cruising and Social & Programs Committees, and Public Relations. Steve is also interested in working with our Junior Sailing Program.

Members may direct comments about these applications to Membership Chair Sally Clark prior to the November Board Meeting.

## Socials

(continued from page 4)

as well. The ambiance of the club during this crowded, happy social provided them a perfect introduction.

The homemade beef stroganoff dinner also went a long way toward taking the chill off the evening. Kate Raffetto was assisted in this endeavor by Jill & Larry Worth and Fran Westbrook, who brought salads and noodles. Prior to enjoying dinner, party-goers enjoyed appetizers provided by

the Brydons, Raffettos, Gene & Susan Edmonds, Ginny & Sam Marshall, Ruth & Don McLean, and Esther Platsis. As is the usual custom, those folks also helped with serving and clean-up. Board hosts for the evening were Kimberly and Scott Vail.

In case you missed the box on the front page, please be reminded once again that there has been a change to the reservation deadline. Dinner reservations must be received no later than one week prior to the social. That means by the Saturday before the social. Seven whole days ahead

of time! The November social, on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>, will double as the Annual Meeting, which always brings a large turnout. Make your reservations using the mail-in form or via e-mail (dinner@rryc.org) by Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>!!! And remember, the meeting starts at 1600, a different time than usual for monthly socials.

Since the December social is early in the month, reservations will actually have to be made in November. Please note the deadline of Saturday, November 29, and don't miss it!

*November Social*  
*and*  
*Annual Meeting*




*Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1600*

**Heavy Hors d'oeuvres  
 Wine / Beer  
 \$10 per person**

**December Social and  
 Lights Parade**



**Bottomless Pot of Chili  
 Crusty Bread - Salad  
 Make-Your-Own Sundae**

**Make Reservations by Saturday,  
 November 29<sup>th</sup>!**



CUT HERE



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STAMP  
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FOLD HERE

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

Saturday, November 15, 2008  
Meeting at 1600, followed by social  
RSVP by Saturday November 8, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_ # Persons @\$10<sup>00</sup>

Saturday, December 6, 2008  
December Social and Lights Parade  
RSVP by Saturday November 29, 2008

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

# Club Calendar

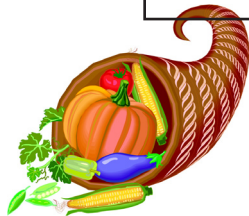
## November-December 2008

### November

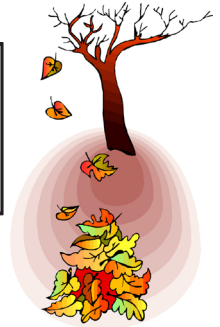
- 1<sup>st</sup> Cruising Social
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Daylight Savings Time ends
- 4<sup>th</sup> Election Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> First Friday
- 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Urbanna Oyster Festival
- 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at 1600
- 27<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving

### December

- 5<sup>th</sup> – First Friday
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Lights on the Creek  
and Club Social
- 13<sup>th</sup> – New Board Brunch
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve Party



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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