



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB
IRVINGION, VA 22480

February 2010

THE HEADWAY

2010 On-the-Water Opportunities Abound



Photos by Jan Akers, Cynthia Johnson, Coleman Brydon, Jill Worth

Junior Sailing, Racing, and Cruising are regularly well-supported at RRYC.

This year RRYC is partnering with Premier Sailing, run by new members Philip & Arabella Denvir, for the Junior Sailing program, as well as other sailing education opportunities, with members-only pricing offered. See the article on page 3 for all the details on Premier instruction.

Also, the Racing and Cruising

schedules are included on the colored calendar insert in the middle of this issue of *The Headway*. There will be exciting opportunities for PHRF and one-design racing on Carter Creek and the Rappahannock River throughout the year. Cruises this season will start with the Shakedown to Blanche & Walker

Stevens' house at the end of April, and end with a Where the Wind Blows cruise late October into November.

With all these great activities planned, there is just no excuse not to be on the water with your fellow Club members in 2010!

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB

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Comments from the Commodore

By Pete Knight, Commodore

- RRYC was formed nearly 75 years ago by a group of like-minded individuals, first as a fishing club and then a sailing and racing club. Many of these people were from outlying areas. Since they were here only on weekends, the clubhouse was mostly vacant.

Fast forward to today: a goodly percentage of our membership is local; consequently, the Club is used to a much greater degree. I have heard mutterings about the new TV and new heating system and how RRYC is being turned into a country club. The last two words in the Club's name are "yacht club" and will remain so.

We have a majority of old (in age) members and need to attract more young people if the Club is going to remain viable. To attract these younger people, we need to upgrade the facility.

The average length of membership of your Club Board is less than five years. You elected us, and we are ready to do what we can to make the Club prosper. Obviously, we are not aware of all the traditions, but we certainly can listen.

So now as we proceed to improve your Club, I suspect that even if Halsey Herreshoff were to appear on our doorstep, he would still think that we are "a proper yacht club."

- More than 100 diners attended the first social of 2010. Apparently a gathering of this magnitude is a first for a winter social event. To accommodate the crowd, the porch was enclosed with plastic, and the bar, appetizer tables, and coffee service were set up out there. Kudos to our chefs, their helpers, and all who made it a very enjoyable evening. A special "thank you" to Kate Raffetto, who was able to set up the house to seat everyone.

MEMBERS, PLEASE NOTE: The logistics involved in serving meals to a large crowd, such as the number of people at the Club on January 16, require us, going forward, to set a cut-off maximum of 80 people in the winter. Please remember the reservations cut-off date is the Saturday **BEFORE** the event. Reservations are made via e-mail to dinner@RRYC.org.

- **MEMBERS, PLEASE NOTE:** Treat your clubhouse as if it were your much-loved second home when you depart. Pick up after yourselves, and leave the building as you found it! Kent has, on at least two occasions, found lights left on, the oven left on, and dishes of partially consumed food left on the tables when he arrived in the morning.

Premier Educational Opportunities

By Arabella Denvir

RRYC Junior & Family Sailing Week – June 7- 11

This year's program will be run by Premier Sailing who have designed it based on feedback and discussions with RRYC families. This course is for beginners and intermediate sailors ages 6 to 18, using Optimists and Sunfish. Hours are 09:30 to 15:30 each day, with a break for lunch and swim.

This course will take place at RRYC, and students will learn how to rig properly, how to launch, all points of sailing, capsizing recovery, landing back at the dock, general seamanship and much more. Onshore learning will include knots and all the theory necessary to support on-the-water activities, but most of the time will be spent out on the water.

Price: \$279 per child, or \$250 per child for families registering two or more children

Registration: as soon as possible, but final payment must be made by May 1st.

Members who want to book their children or grandchildren for sailing, and for whom the June date is not suitable, can book any other week during June, July or August at Premier Sailing at The Tides Inn for the same price as the RRYC Junior Sailing.

RRYC Junior Race Training Week – July 12-16

An intensive race training course for any sailor who is competent enough to get around a race course, for Optimists, Sunfish, 420's, and Lasers. This course will take place at RRYC and at Premier Sailing at The Tides Inn, and will culminate in the RRYC Junior Regatta on July 16th. This course will additionally be used as preparation for the Optimists Nationals, which will be held at Fishing Bay the following week. Cost \$265.

Registration: as soon as possible, but final payment due by June 1st.

Sunfish courses for adults: RRYC members have a choice of participating in Junior Week in June or of doing a weekend course with Premier Sailing at any time during the summer.

Women only courses: Premier Sailing has lots of other courses and activities for women only – please contact me for information on 438-9300

All prices shown above are for RRYC members only.

To book please mail in registration form elsewhere in this issue with deposit of \$75 per child to Premier Sailing, PO Box 779, Irvington, VA 22480. Or if you have any questions call me on 804-438-9300.

Membership News

New Membership Co-chairs are Brenda Asch and Shirley Crockett.

At the January Board meeting the following membership-related actions were taken:

- o Garland & Jean Hagen – moved from active to inactive status
- o Resignations were accepted with regret from: John & Kathleen Pollard, Michael & Liliane Merrill, and Vaden & Linda Scott.

RRYC Junior Sailing Registration Form 2010

Name of Young Sailor: _____ Age: _____

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Full mailing address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell phone _____

Local (number to be used at time of course): _____

E-mail _____ Can he/she (young sailor) swim? YES NO

Please state any medical information that you think we should be aware of for the safety/comfort of your child: _____

Junior Sailing Week June 7 – 11 Race Training Week July 12-16

Junior Sailing for alternative date at The Tides Inn on the week of _____

Waiver : Sailing instruction waiver and release of liability and assumption of risk agreement:

The undersigned Premier Sailing School customer/guardian assumes and understands that sailing is a potentially hazardous sport; that grounding, accidental jibes, man-overboards, and equipment failures occur from time to time without warning, and that variations in wind and sea conditions, water traffic, submerged obstructions, and other hazards to navigation exist. In using Premier Sailing School and RRYC equipment and participating in sailing instruction at Premier Sailing School/RRYC, the undersigned recognizes and accepts such dangers, and assumes full responsibility for such risks, and holds Premier Sailing School and /or their officers, employees, assistants, or agents harmless against any and all bodily injury, and/or property damages resulting from such risks.

The undersigned expressly acknowledges that RRYC and related parties have no responsibility whatsoever for sailing school activities. The undersigned gives permission for photos taken during the course to be used by the school for publicity/marketing.

Signature of parent/guardian. _____ Date. _____

Deposit (\$75) enclosed \$ _____ Check. No: _____

Full payment enclosed \$ _____ Check. No: _____

Checks payable to Premier Sailing School. Visa and Mastercard also accepted.

Deposit to be sent with this booking form. Balance due 30 days before course start date.

Please return this form to: **Premier Sailing School, PO Box 779, Irvington, VA 22480.**

Tel: 804 438 9300

E-mail: info@premiersailing.com

Racing News

MURPHY RACING SEMINAR 2010 - Rules around the Race Course: Understand the racing rules so they work FOR you on the race course. And, yes, there have been a few changes, effective January 1, 2010, to the current *Racing Rules of Sailing*. Get the skinny on the changes, clear up any “rules fog” and learn a lot more. MURPHY 2010 is a unique presentation given from the racers’ perspective; the rules will be easier to understand as to how they apply in specific situations around the race course. **Saturday, February 20, 2010, 09:00 - 15:30 at Norfolk Yacht & Country Club.** MURPHY 2010 registration fees remain the same as 2009 - \$40 per person (\$35 for immediate family member of attendee). Fee includes coffee and pastries at registration, lunch, and break refreshments, and all seminar materials. MURPHY 2010 is great for skippers AND crew. To **pre-register by e-mail**, send your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to mcbear@earthlink.net Put MURPHY RACING-2010 on the subject line. You can also **pre-register by phone** by calling (757) 850-4225. Smarter racers race smart, and that’s a good thing!



Flying Scots and Typhoons To Race on River

By Lew Thatcher

Two of our club’s most popular and competitive racing classes, the Cape Dory *Typhoons* and the *Flying Scots*, are set to share courses on the open water of the Rappahannock this spring.

Racing on the mostly Olympic triangle-style courses will allow the classes to use the same race committee; and with a lot more members participating, should provide some big, fun Sunday afternoons at the Club. The *Typhoons*, which were formerly raced only inside Carter Creek, will be able to compete on the big water of the river.

The race committee’s Principal Race Officer (PRO) will decide, based on weather conditions and the number of boats racing, whether to start the whole fleet together or to do separate rolling starts for each class

Spring races will begin on Sunday, April 25, and continue on May 2, 16, and 23. The PRO will run up to four races each day, weather permitting. Skipper’s meetings on the club porch will begin at noon, and the fleet will depart RRYC immediately thereafter. The skipper’s meetings will not be mandatory, so boats can opt to sail directly from their docks/moorings to the river course. After racing, crews will enjoy after-race drinks, snacks, and camaraderie on the porch.

The Wednesday evening *Typhoon* racing will continue for those crews wishing to remain inside Carter Creek.



New Event on the Bay - The Tides Cup

The inaugural Tides Cup Match Racing event is open for entries. The event will run over the weekend of May 1st/2nd on J24's with main, jib and spinnaker for crews of four.

Teams can expect two days of fun, exciting racing, umpired by ISAF umpires, and the event will be an ISAF graded event so you can get yourself started on the ISAF match race ranking list. The entry fee is \$250 per team.

Newcomers to match racing will be most welcome and the organizers will include a free match race training day prior to the event. This is the first year of what organizers plan to be a significant event on the US Match Racing calendar and this is your chance to get involved from the very start!

The 2010 event is limited to four teams so please contact Arabella at Premier Sailing to find out more and to enter. Phone: 804-438-9300 or e-mail: info@premiersailing.com.

Network Electronically With Our Members

By Debbie Cycotte & Mosby West

Rappahannock River Yacht Club has our own Facebook page and Yahoo Group. Both are open to the public and anyone can join. These are good ways to promote ourselves and our events to the sailing world as well as communicating to our fellow members.

Using Facebook, any member can post news articles, race results, upcoming events and pictures any time. Besides the general notices on the "wall," there is a section for discussions and photos. Several members have already added some great pictures for us to enjoy. Contributing news and photos often will keep the Facebook page interesting. If you aren't a member already, check us out today and join. Help spread the word and encourage your crew, family and friends to sign up too. The web address is www.facebook.com and our page is under Rappahannock River Yacht Club.

Yahoo Groups is a method by which group members post messages to the group for all the group members to receive via e-mail. The advantage of using Yahoo Groups over Facebook is that you don't have to log into anything to receive notices; you just simply receive an e-mail in your normal e-mail box. For example, if you want to go cruising and you're looking for someone to buddy boat with, you simply post a message: "looking for someone to go cruising..., leaving Friday afternoon for Onancock, anyone want to go?" Group members receive this as an e-mail and can then respond if interested. To sign up for the group, go to www.yahoo.com and click on the Group icon. If you don't see it, click on the [View Yahoo! Sites] icon and then on [Groups]. Do a search for RRYC and you'll find RRYCSailing. That's our group. Just sign up by clicking the [Join This Group] link. You'll need to sign up for a Yahoo ID and Password if you don't already have one. After a day or two you'll have full access to the site and start receiving e-mails. You can post pictures and files to the site for everyone to enjoy. You can also tailor your e-mail preferences. Check it out.

Wanted: A few good men or women to serve on the RRYC Social Committee

Jobs include table set-up and decoration, meal time assembly, in-kitchen prep, serving, and various and sundry other tasks. Hours can be long, work tedious and bosses exacting. However, the rewards of kitchen camaraderie are great!

If you are interested in finding out more call Jill Worth at 804-438-9371 or e-mail her at jmworth878@verizon.net and we'll try to get all interested parties together for supper sometime late in February so that we can discuss situations and expectations in detail.

Another Successful New Year's Eve at RRYC

By Frank Miller



Photo by Cynthia Johnson

A small part of the RRYC New Year's crowd enjoying the Times Square festivities on the new television.

Thirty RRYC members and guests celebrated New Years Eve with an Oldies Night. With a record player (instrument for playing phonograph records through a loud speaker: Webster's) furnished by Dan Clark, we celebrated with music from our youths. Revelers brought the records they enjoyed growing up and we all danced to music we had not heard for awhile. With delicious food brought by each couple, libations, Karaoke, and the traditional lowering of the *lighted ring buoy* a great time was had by all. Happy New Year.

Big Turnout for the First Social of 2010

The snow took a break to let a big crowd of RRYC-ers gather for a dinner of "comfort food" at our January social. Grace Ann & Frank Miller served as Board Hosts for the evening, collecting dinner payments and greeting everyone on arrival. Many members either brought appetizers, helped serve, or both: Arabella Denvir, Skip Ferguson, Kate & Dave Raffetto, Susan & Tom Richardson, Sue Springett, Kay & Tony Weiler, and Fran & Bob Westbrook. Making these dinners happen each month takes a lot of participation, so be sure to thank those who help, and jump in when asked. Better yet, don't wait to be asked -- volunteer!

After dinner, new member Arabella Denvir gave the group an overview of the programs planned in partnership by the Club and Premier Sailing, as well as Philip's and her sailing history and qualifications.

The theme of the February social, on Saturday the 20th, is "Quintessentially Southern." The side dishes are still in doubt, due to rapidly rising produce prices as a result of freezes in the Southern growing regions this winter. But rest assured chefs Jill & Larry Worth will shop wisely for a delicious dinner. Remember that reservations **MUST** be made via e-mail to dinner@rryc.org **NO LATER** than 17:00 on Saturday, February 13. If you do not get a response within 24 hours, please re-send your reservations e-mail.

A new social opportunity now is the Mahjong group, which meets at the Club at 14:30 on the first

February Menu

Vegetable Gumbo

**Shrimp and Roasted Corn
with Cheesy Stone-ground Grits
and Smoked Surry Sausage
(served with appropriate sides
and dessert)**



Club Calendar

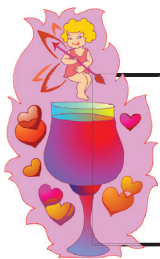
February - March

February

- 5th Mahjong Group (Nan Liner for Information) 14:30
- 5th First Friday 17:30
- 12th Private Party 18:00 – 22:00
- 14th Valentine’s Day
- 20th Board Meeting
- Club Social 17:30

March

- 5th Mahjong Group (Nan Liner for Information) 14:30
- 5th First Friday 17:30
- 17th St. Patrick’s Day
- 20th Board Meeting
- Club Social 17:30



The *Headway* is the official publication of the Rappahannock River Yacht Club
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