



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB
IRVINGTON, VA 22480

February 2020

THE HEADWAY

How Did Carter's Creek Become the Worldwide Epicenter for Cape Dory Typhoons?

A Ty Fleet History, Part 1

By Ron Mihills



"America's littlest yacht" - the Cape Dory Typhoon

Swedish naval architect Carl Alberg (1900-1986) could never have imagined the concentration of over 50 Cape Dory Typhoons on Carter's Creek, as well as over 30 on the Piankatank and Wicomico rivers!

Alberg's design philosophy may have been a factor in the Typhoon's popularity. He said, "My boats are strictly family-cruising boats. In all my designs, I go for comfortable accommodations and a boat you can sail upright without scaring the life out of your family or friends."

However, the five local sailors that were featured in the following Rappahannock Record September 10, 1992 article made a major impact on local sailing when they decided to convert the Typhoon daysailer family-cruising sailboat into a one-design racing class!

The fleet of identically restored Typhoon daysailers are towed to the Rappahannock River start of their first local regatta on August 22, 1992. Phil Booth's 1982 #92 *Marilise* (now owned by Robert S. Morgan); John Dorsey's 1979 #39 *Grace E* (now *Grand Cru* owned by Gary Hooper); Curt Peterson's 1979 #22 *Magic Carpet* (Now owned by Roger Collamore); Bob Scheu's 1981 #59 *Sarah* (Now *Anthem* owned

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RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB



Comments from the Commodore

By Danielle Kuper

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- Vision: “RRYC’s vision is to be recognized throughout the Chesapeake Bay as providing outstanding sailing and social opportunities in a welcoming, vibrant and enjoyable yacht club environment.”
- Under the keen eye of the Rear Commodore, the dock project continues on schedule and on budget.
- In spite of being mid-winter, January saw a lot of action at the Clubhouse. Candace Franco and her team pulled off a fun and delicious Chilly Cook-off social, and Brad Perry’s Astronomy Lectures and subsequent star gazing opportunity were well attended and much enjoyed by all. Thank you so much Brad and Candace!
- Joanie Perry has conducted several tutorials on how to operate the new website. Feel free to call her if you need help. She is both knowledgeable and patient.
- Thank you to the many of you who have already responded to Ann Vaden with your Yearbook updates. For those who have not yet, please see the notice below and respond as soon as possible.
- Any sailor, novice or more experienced, would enjoy John McCarthy’s upcoming seminar “Racing Rules Made Easy - The Other Half of the Story”, to be conducted at Old Dominion University. John’s seminars are inexpensive, fun, entertaining and educational. Make a day of it and enjoy the camaraderie! Additional details later in this issue.

From the Vice Commodore

By Ian Ormesher

Where is our sailing program going?

This is my first article since assuming the role of “Vice”. Rather dauntingly, my role description includes “be specifically responsible for all sailing and yachting activities of the Club...” Who on earth wrote that? Anyway, what I am fast learning is that this is a really big team effort.

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Vice Commodore

(continued from page 2)

Our goal is to get more people involved and to get more people out on the water. As a consequence, you will no doubt find yourself being asked for ideas and to support some particular activities. We are doing a lot of “tweaking” this year. You will see this coming out through the various Fleet activities, but I would like to mention a few just to give the context.

Typhoons, with Bob Damon as Fleet Commander, is a great ongoing program. This year there are minor changes to dates and to the coaching activity. The Typhoon Kickoff meet becomes the “sailing” kickoff meet for the whole club. PHRF, with Glenn Solt as Fleet Commander, is looking to implement some new race ideas and get a closer relationship with some of the Cruisers...Cruisers participating in races...Maybe! Watch what happens. Juniors – we will focus on the families (via parents, grandparents and junior members) that make up that section of our club. Sunday will take emphasis as a family and Junior sailing day. The previous format of the Junior Regatta does not meet the needs of our current batch of Juniors, so we are taking a holiday from the Junior Regatta this year.

Some other themes: We will be running various race seminars/training, including an ambitious on-the-water simulation of key race “stress points”, the idea being to get novice sailors capable and confident just like their more grizzled (you know who you are) counterparts. Race support and boat driving: Our race calendar is demanding on the Race Committee and support people, we will offer opportunities to



get non-sailors trained and proficient in the roles of race committee; it is a great way of getting new faces on the water. Oh, and Duffy’s watch out for something new and totally different as the summer progresses...it might even be slightly intellectual!

There will be a lot going on this year. None of it is secret; all of it is open to constructive feedback, and all of it needs active involvement and most importantly, communication. I always find it useful to be able to put a face to a name, so for those that might not recognize us, here is a mug-shot of Judy and me on a recent trip to the UK.

All the best,
Ian

From the Rear Commodore

By Charles Springett

We have been blessed with really good weather for the past month and work on the new dock has progressed apace. As I write this, the temperature has dipped below freezing but that has not stopped progress. All of the primary structure for the mains stem and tee head is in place, and by the time you are reading this most of the decking will also be in place. If you stand at the end of the dock and look back, it is a long way to the Clubhouse! We still expect to be finished by the end of March and if this weather holds before that. The January social was a success; the weather again cooperated and it was cold enough to really merit chili. Elsewhere, Candace is letting us know what to expect for February.

(continued on page 4)

Rear Commodore

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Not much else to report, but I do have one small item that is particularly relevant now that a percentage of our parking lot is taken up with construction equipment and materials. The one shortcoming of our wonderful location is the shortage of parking spaces – it is something for which we have no obvious solution. It is important, therefore, that we all use our best efforts to park efficiently and make maximum use of the space that we have. To that end I ask that, on those occasions when we are expecting many members, cars parked along the side of the pool do so at right angles to the edge of the pool. This does not impede other cars from entering or leaving (unless you have a one-ton crew cab truck with an eight-foot bed, in which case please park on the road), and it allows us to pack four or five more cars in.

Before we know it, spring will be upon us and we will be back on the water!

Efforts to Increase PHRF Participation Underway

By Glenn Solt, PHRF Fleet Commander

Efforts are underway to increase participation in the PHRF program. Goals include involving more people and boats in the club's PHRF events, expanding our available crew base, and arranging additional competitive sailing opportunities both inside and outside of the club.

As the planning progresses, we would like to hear from as many present and potential future participants as possible, whether they're folks wanting to sail their own boats or those interested in crewing.

Towards that end two get-togethers have been planned. We hope everyone will attend the first meeting on Thursday February 27 (time TBD, watch the RRYC calendar for updates). If you now race, whether PHRF, Typhoons, or crew we need to hear from you. If you've never raced and/or crewed and would like to start, we especially want to hear from you. At this meeting, we will discuss a variety of topics related to improving the PHRF program.

Depending upon the response and feedback from the February meeting, we will schedule a racing skills seminar for March 26. Not to take the place of the spring sailing kickoff, this would be a more basic meeting geared towards those new to racing.

Cape Dory Typhoons

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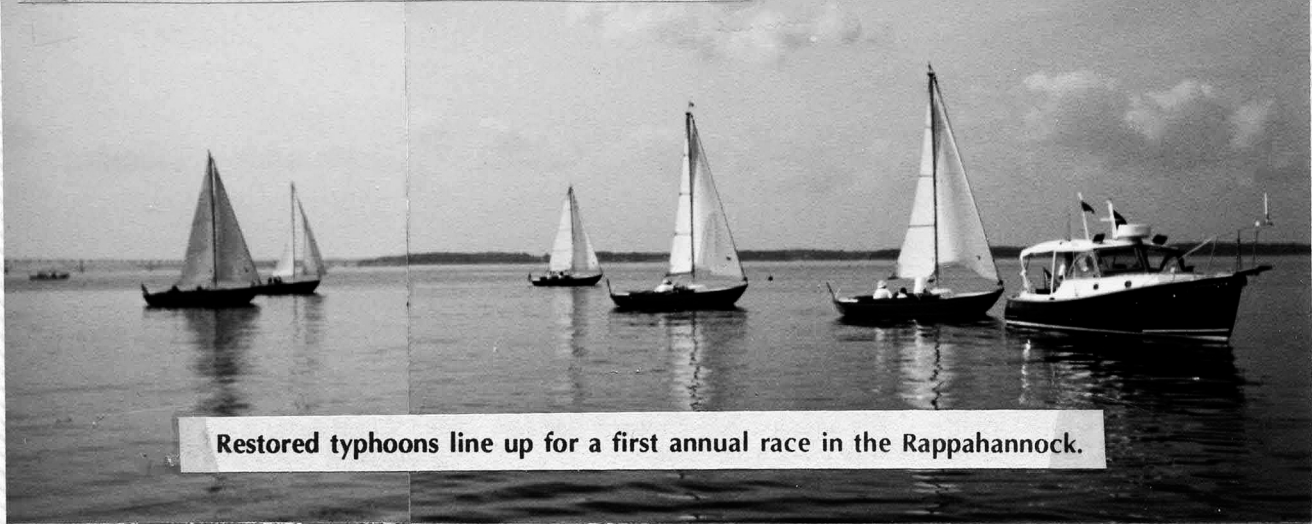
by Brent & Ron Mihills); and George Hilbert's 1983 #112 *Pipit*, (now owned by Randy Bozarth). David Davies' 1993 #34 *Goldfinch* joined the fleet in 1993, and is now owned by Mosby West.

Since the original five Typhoon sailors lived on the Corrotoman River, Carter's Creek, Dymer Creek, Taylor Creek and Tabbs Creek, they only held one regatta a year on the Rappahannock River. The celebration picnic following the racing was always hosted at a Typhoon sailor's home.

Rapp. Record 1992 article appears on following page.

Next Month: ***Part 2, The history of the RRYC Typhoon Fleet***

Rappahannock Record, Kilmarnock, Va. • Sept. 10, 1992



Restored typhoons line up for a first annual race in the Rappahannock.

George and Elise Hilbert, always enthusiastic sailors, greet yachting friends visiting their Dyer Creek dock with a blast from their miniature cannon, and offer a swimming pool, food and drinks to make each stay a delightful memory of the Northern Neck.

This same love of sailing brought the two to a stop in 1989 in front of what Elise called "an unloved" Cape Dory Typhoon at Southern Chesapeake Yachts in Irvington, then owned by Bruce Watson.

A review of the history of the Typhoon series, and the fact that the small day sailer had languished for so long without owners, made the boat even more appealing, Hilbert said. The couple was able to establish it as a 1983 model of the 120 still remaining, hard-to-find Typhoons, which were built by Cape Dory Yachts between 1979 and 1983.

Naming her Pipit, the couple had the boat lifted out of the water and commenced refinishing it from bow to stern. New Allgrip paint in Newport green and newly-chromed bronze fittings, along with new sails, a roller reefing jib and a full battened main, completed her look.

As the Hilberts worked, several others became interested in this particular type of day sailer, he said. They also had an interest in the type of racing events that used to be the mainstay of Saturday mornings up and down the east coast. For the "one-class" type of racing to be set-up for the Northern Neck, however, more Typhoons would have to be located.

The word went out to yacht brokers and boating magazines. After a number of phone calls from Maine to Florida, a Typhoon was found in Brewster, N.Y., for Bob Scheu; another was located in New Jersey for

Phil Booth, while John Dorsey put in an order and found his on Long Island. Curt Peterson located the most recent Typhoon south of Norfolk.

All have now been restored, identical except in color, to the fittings and sails installed by the Hilberts. With a squadron of five small boats active and in the water, the next move was to organize a race.

On Saturday, August 22, the first annual regatta of the newly-formed Chesapeake Bay Cape Dory Yachting Association took place on the Rappahannock River. Three races were scheduled, making quite a show for boaters above the bridge, as the different colored boats were towed to the starting line by Tom Denegre. A race committee chaired by Susanna Collins and assisted by Dick Higgins and MaryLu Dorsey reviewed the race.

Scheu took the first race under light and variable winds in Sarah. Peterson came in second in Magic Carpet and Hilbert placed third.

In the second race, Hilbert took first on a leeward course with a lit-

tle more wind. He was chased by Scheu, who was followed by John Dorsey in Grace E. Winds gave out before the third race, and plans to go again that day were scrapped.

A permanent trophy donated by Elise Hilbert will now grace each replay of this mid-summer race, and as others join the new one-class family of sailors, more opportunities will be open to take it home for the year. This year, Bob Scheu and crew (his son, Don, and grandson, Peter) took top honors. Hilbert was second overall and Peterson was third.

According to the Hilberts, plans already are under way for next year's Chesapeake Bay Cape Dory Yachting Association's racing season. Anyone who might be interested in finding and restoring one of the 115 or so remaining Cape Dory Typhoons can contact any of the members for help.

"There's no way to know how many of these boats are actually left," Hilbert said. "Brokers know that we have an interest in them down here on the Chesapeake Bay, but they're not everyday finds, by any means.

"They're a sweet, little boat, a perfect day sailer and a lot of fun to handle. They're safe, but they're light enough to be exciting. Most of the people who have them in good condition want to keep them.

"About the only ones you can find are those that need some attention. If you're willing to spend some time, effort and money, I don't think you'll be sorry. And, we'll be glad to welcome you into the fleet."

RACING RULES MADE EASY
“THE OTHER HALF OF THE STORY”

Saturday, February 29, 2020

0900-1200

Old Dominion University – Constant Hall

Sponsored by BROAD BAY SAILING ASSOCIATION

Taught by John McCarthy – US Sailing Race Officer, Instructor, and Judge

Cost = \$15 (BBSA members) ; \$20 (non-BBSA)

A racing rules seminar OPEN TO ALL taught in John’s Rules Made Easy style. Designed to simplify the complex approach often taken when discussing the rules. Last year the seminar dealt with issues of right of way and proper course. This year we will close the circle by dealing with:

- * Mark Room – what it means and who gets it**
- * Obstructions – getting around them safely and efficiently**
- * Starts and Finishes (and, of course, our old friend, barging)**

- ** All of this is done in John’s informal, entertaining style**
 - Deals with concepts, not memorizing rules**
 - Scenario driven using magnetic boats on a whiteboard**
 - Easy to understand**
- ** Partake of complimentary coffee and pastries throughout the morning**
Come early, get a good seat, and enjoy hobnobbing with fellow racers.

For map to ODU Constant Hall and the 49th Street Stadium Garage <https://goo.gl/maps/ktv4D6mJMdk> (seminar attendees park on upper level)

To enter: Register at <https://broadbaysailing.org/event-3608880>

For more information, contact:

John or Lin McCarthy mcbear@earthlink.net 757-850-4225

RRYC Hosts Well-Attended Astronomy Course

By Tom Wicks

Sailor, member and professional astronomer Brad Perry offered to present a college-level three-part introductory course, and this was met with an enthusiastic response from both RRYC members and many from outside the club. With almost 50 individuals signing up, the course raised over \$1,000 for the Dock Replacement Fund.



Photo by Tom Wicks

Brad Perry presenting to his class at RRYC on January 7.

Following two lectures with slides at the Clubhouse, each over two hours on January 7 and 14, many also joined Brad and fellow astronomer Art Gilbert for a hands-on observing session on January 16 at the historic Shiloh School near Kilmarnock, selected because it enables viewing with little artificial light pollution. We thank Susan and Jack Moore of Northumberland Preservation, Inc. for allowing us the use of the school grounds and also for opening up Shiloh School and serving warm beverages and snacks to our fellow stargazers.

Although it was cool and windy, five optical instruments were set up to allow everyone to view popular objects such as Venus in the western sky, giant red stars such as Betelgeuse (in the left shoulder of the constellation *Orion*, the hunter), our favorite galaxy – the Milky Way and our galactic neighbor Andromeda, and also distant star clusters and nebulae. (BTW, Betelgeuse is undergoing some dynamic changes, with marked rapid dimming associated with a recent gravitational wave burst. Is it going to explode and change *Orion's* shoulder?)

Other future courses may be offered depending on member interests. Contact Brad Perry at skywatchers@cox.net for information on astronomy and check out the following sources for more information:

General Astronomy: Google Sky: www.google.com/sky; and Google Earth/Moon/Mars

NASA Science: www.nasa.gov; for coverage of NASA's science missions and apps

Hubble Photos: heritage.stscl.edu; for the greatest photos from HST

NASA Images: www.nasaimages.org, for NASA astronomy and mission images

Yearbook Update

Did you buy a boat last year? Sell a boat? Did you move? Did you add a child to your growing family? Now is the time to update your information in the Yearbook. Please email any changes to Ann Vaden: Annvaden@gmail.com. If we don't hear from you we will assume that there are no changes.

From the Galley

By Candace Franco

The RRYC kitchen was buzzing with chili making activity for days in anticipation of the club's Celebrity Recipe Chili Cook-off. In the end, the 44 members who attended the January social voted the Vegetarian Chili, prepared by Team Jim and Charlotte Schmidt and Dick and Candace Franco, First Place. Coming in Second Place, prepared by Jim and Pam Ward with help from their house guests, was the Firehouse Chili con Carne. A very tasty chicken chili prepared by Fred Pevahouse and Leslie Damon came in Third Place.



A big shout out to Dick Franco who decorated our tables with unique drawings of snowmen, Ginny Clay who worked on table settings and salad preparation, and Grace Ann Miller for getting the salads on the table. Thanks to all the members who stuffed themselves with chili and helped tidy up the club, and as always to Kent and Diane who never fail to whip that kitchen back in shape in record time. We had a great time and left plenty of chili for the Beavers!

For February ... Love is in the air at RRYC

On February 15, we will celebrate Valentine's Day, Lady and the Tramp style! That means your choice of Tramp style spaghetti with Red Gravy and meat balls, or Lady style with Shrimp spaghetti and Spicy Lobster. Both will be served with Garlic Bread and a Tossed Salad. Our dessert will be Vanilla Panna Cotta with a Raspberry Sauce. YUM! We will end our evening with a little romantic music, maybe you'll twirl your best girl?

Reservations are Required and must be in no later than midnight Sunday February 9. Email Kent at rrycmanager@gmail.com

If you'd like to learn how to make Panna Cotta, we'll be doing that on Friday February 14. Just email candacef4@gmail.com to reserve a space.



♥ **Tramp Style Spaghetti**
with Red Gravy and Meatballs
or

♥ **Lady Style with Shrimp Spaghetti**
and Spicy Lobster
♥ **Garlic Bread**
♥ **Tossed Salad**
♥ **Vanilla Panna Cotta**
with a Raspberry
Sauce

Club Calendar

February - March

February

7	First Friday	5:00 p.m.
15	Board of Director's Meeting Club Dinner	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

March

5	First Friday	5:00 p.m.
21	Board of Director's Meeting Club Dinner	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

The Headway is the official publication of the Rappahannock River Yacht Club
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Danielle Kuper, Commodore
Brad and Joan Perry, Editors
Submit articles by the 22nd of the month to rryheadwayeditors@gmail.com

Submitting Items to *The Headway*

All items for publication should be submitted via email to rryheadwayeditors@gmail.com no later than the 22nd of the prior month (i.e. by February 22 for March publication). For consistency's sake, whenever boat names are included, please italicize them only (not in all caps, not in quotation marks). Please provide photographer name with any photos submitted. For quality, photos should be jpeg files not inserted in a word file. Spell out numbers under 10 or that begin sentences. Use a 12-hour clock for all times (e.g., 4:00 p.m.). Articles should be limited to no more than 1,200 words, or alternately split into multiple parts with a 1,200 word limit per part, to run in contiguous issues of *The Headway*.

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