



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB  
IRVINGTON, VA 22480

March 2020

# THE HEADWAY

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

### *A Ty Fleet History, Part 11*

*By Ron Mihills*



*Some of the 30 boats at the first 2011 Nationals.*

The planned restoration of a Cape Dory Typhoon Daysailer in 1988 by George and Elise Hilbert immediately captured the imagination of very experienced sailboat racers Phil Booth, Bob Scheu, John Dorsey and Curt Peterson. Each of the sailors had previously owned much larger sailboats and were now looking for a smaller sailboat that could be sailed easily from their home dock. Bob Scheu had served as a regular watch captain with IBM Chairman Thomas J. Watson, Jr. during numerous ocean races aboard Watson's *Palawan*.

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## RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB

### FLAG OFFICERS

**Commodore – Danielle Kuper**

Email: sistikuper@gmail.com

**Vice Commodore – Ian Ormesher**

Email: ian.ormesher@cox.net

**Rear Commodore - Charles Springett**

Email: cnspringett@gmail.com

**Treasurer – Art Gilbert**

Email: adgilbert64@gmail.com

**Secretary – Ken Vincent**

Email: kenvincent@nnwifi.com

### DIRECTORS

**Past Commodore – Tom Chapman**

Email: tdchapman@verizon.net

**Director - Leslie Damon**

Email: nomadles@aol.com

**Director - Tom Linville**

Email: tsailor@aol.com

**Director - Brad Perry**

Email: skywatchers@cox.net

**Director - Michelle Ritter**

Email: emichelleritter@gmail.com

**Director - Ann Vaden**

Email: annvaden@gmail.com

**Director - Tom Wicks**

Email: marinertom@aol.com

**Club Manager - Kent White**



## Comments from the Commodore

By Danielle Kuper

- 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.”
- Hello from George and me from the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron on the Mornington Peninsula in Australia! Sailing is certainly popular here in the clear blue waters of the Port Phillip Bay.
- As I bask in the sun, I know that RRYC Fleet Commanders are hard at work soliciting input from you and finalizing a busy 2020 sailing season. There will be something for everyone, so plan on participating!



## From the Rear Commodore

By Charles Springett

**February 22, 2020:** The new dock is now structurally complete. Docks of the Bay will, this week, install the white plastic caps on all of the wooden piling and their subcontractor will come in to restore the landscaping around the flag pole and the grass area to its original condition. This weekend they have removed the rest of their construction equipment, although some floating equipment will remain until the post caps have been installed.

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## Rear Commodore

(continued from page 2)

The Lighthouse pedestals were delivered last Thursday, and Paul Elbourne will start installing them next week. Dennis Saunders, our plumber, will be installing the plumbing at the same time. Our only outstanding item is the new 800 amp service from Dominion Power; they are very behind on their work list and it may be months before they get to us. Elbourne will provide a temporary hookup that will make us operational until they get to us.

- The Beavers have installed quite a list of extra items on the dock. The list includes:
- Bumper posts on the tee head
- Mooring cleats
- Life rings and fire extinguisher boxes
- Benches (at the ends of the tee head)
- Slip numbers
- Line holders on the free-standing piles
- Solar lights on each end of the tee head. So far, these lights have stayed lit all night despite overcast days, and they are fully Coastguard compliant for fixed structures in the water.

There are still a number of additional items that we also need to complete:

- Paint the tops of the finger pier posts and the tee head bumper posts
- Install the slip numbers on the finger pier posts (after painting)
- Install the new aluminum ladders
- Install the BBQs on the new deck
- Finish painting the new porch including the porch deck itself. We have had to wait for this until the pressure treated lumber has dried sufficiently to accept new paint. At the moment that means painting between the rain (snow?) showers.

I hope that in the next *Headway* I will be able to report that everything is complete (with the possible exception of Dominion Power), and that we can begin moving boats back onto the new dock.

Elsewhere, Candace is reporting on the last social and what you can expect next month. If the first three socials of our new year are an indication of what we can expect for the remainder of the year, then in my opinion, our social program will have been a resounding success.

Finally, a reminder that April 4 is clean-up day and we welcome and appreciate as many of you as possible to show up and help get the club ready for the sailing season. The Beavers will be directing activities, and lunch will be provided at noon after we have finished. I look forward to meeting you at the club – it should be a fun morning.

## Submitting Items to *The Headway*

All items for publication should be submitted via email to [rrycheadwayeditors@gmail.com](mailto:rrycheadwayeditors@gmail.com) no later than the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the prior month (i.e. by March 22 for April 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*.

## Cape Dory Typhoons

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The five skippers decided to search for Typhoon Daysailers, restore them to the same specifications and establish their own one design fleet. Each boat would have original winches, a roller-furling headsail, full-battened main, identical outboard, and two cup holders mounted in precisely the same location.

**1992-1999:** The skippers in the newly formed Cape Dory Typhoon squadron, including newest member David Davies, did not meet the 1993 RRYC membership requirement for active members to own a sailboat, *“which is capable of being rated under the PHRF system for sailboats twenty feet or over in length.”* However, the squadron families and friends enjoyed racing and socializing as the Typhoon yacht squadron became their virtual yacht club. Their success formula still works today...50% sailing, 50% socializing, and all Typhoon owners are encouraged to participate.

**2000-2005:** During the 1999 RRYC annual meeting, the members voted to amend the club bylaws to accept persons who own *“a sailboat which conforms to a RRYC Board designated one design fleet.”* Most of the original founding members of the Typhoon fleet had sold their boats by this time; however, John Friday (*Friday’s Child*) suggested the potential for *“casual”* Typhoon one design racing between the dozen or so Typhoons on the Creek. Early organization was simple. A few telephone calls. No race committee or committee boat. A couple of floats. The course was up and down the creek, regardless of wind direction. The starting line was between the RRYC dock house and a RRYC racing mark. No yelling. Lots of laughing. Great fun!

The Chesapeake Fleet of the Cape Dory Sailboat Owners Association (CDSOA) anchored at RRYC on July 9, 2002 during their summer cruise, and CDSOA invited the 25 local Typhoon owners to join them for a barbecue picnic. The Chesapeake Fleet was excited to learn of the concentration of Typhoon activity on Carter’s Creek, and CDSOA has since become a major supporter of the RRYC Typhoon Fleet by providing trophies for every Typhoon Nationals regatta.

The Typhoons continued to gain visibility in December 2000 with the first annual Carter’s Creek holiday boat parade, *“Lights on the Creek”*. *Anthem* was the only boat participating in every parade through 2010.

**2005-2009:** Herb and Sandy Aman (*Pipit*) hosted the traditional picnic in the spring of 2005, and the Wednesday night racing became more organized with the formation of the RRYC Typhoon Fleet Committee. Fred Comer (Sarah Rose) suggested to John Friday that if the local Typhoon sailors were to begin formal racing, they’d be well served to have a winner’s trophy. With that, John Friday found an appropriate, albeit slightly worn chalis in a local thrift shop and made the mahogany base for displaying the names of series winners. Fred Comer happened to be acquainted with an engraver for Tiffany Jewelers in New York City who hand-engraved the cup and provided its first sterling silver name plate. The trophy was inaugurated after the Fall 2005 series and quickly became known as the *“Crockett Cup”*, since Ned’s *Ladybug* and Stan’s *Miss Daisy* won everything for several years.

The Wednesday night series continued to attract new Typhoon racers, and the first major regatta was held May 12, 2009 in front of RRYC on Carter’s Creek. The race committee realized that future regattas would need more navigation room and suggested moving to the Rappahannock River. During the awards ceremony it was humorously suggested that future regattas be called the *“Typhoon National Championships”*. The rest is history.

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## Cape Dory Typhoons

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Chuck Carmichael (*Creampuff*) was honored as the first “Typhoon Sailor of the Year” at the 2009 RRYC annual meeting. Ron Mihills (*Anthem*) served as the first Fleet Commander 2005-2010.

### 2010-Today:

The inaugural 2011 Cape Dory Typhoon National Championships regatta energized Typhoon racing. Even though the regatta was limited to one race as a result of no-wind conditions, the “Typhoon buzz” generated publicity in national publications and e-newsletters. Interestingly, nine of the 30 skippers in the 2011 regatta have raced in all 5 Nationals regattas since and are still active in the Wednesday evening series.

The local Typhoon population has increased dramatically to over 50 on Carter’s Creek, 20 in the Pi-ankatank fleet, and another 10 - 15 located on nearby creeks and rivers. Most importantly, many more sailors have experienced the excitement and joy of sailing a Typhoon as the ownership of boats has changed several times when skippers sell their boats, move from the area or retire from sailing.

Analyzing the Typhoon owners/crew in the RRYC Yearbooks and Typhoon email lists over the past 15 years demonstrates the value of the 1993 RRYC Board decision to designate the Cape Dory Typhoon a RRYC one design fleet. It is estimated that over 70 current, or former, RRYC members joined RRYC because of the charisma of the Typhoon fleet and a passion for “America’s littlest yacht”.

Thanks to the leadership of the Typhoon Fleet Commanders since 2010 who have ensured that the Typhoon momentum continues: Ned Crockett – 2011, Chuck Carmichael – 2012-2013, Ron Mihills – 2014, Tom Watkins – 2015-2016, Gary Hooper – 2017, Arabella Denvir – 2018, Bob Damon – 2019-2020.

Fair winds. Godspeed.



## 2020 RRYC Cape Dory Typhoon Fleet News

*By Bob Damon*

*2020 Typhoon Fleet Commander*

The Typhoon Fleet Committee met on January 6 at RRYC to review the Typhoon Fleet Rules and to set the 2020 Schedule. The Fleet Rules and schedule are now on the RRYC Website under the Fleets, Typhoon Fleet. We will begin our season with the Sailing Season Kickoff at RRYC on Wednesday, April 15. More information on this gathering will be forthcoming. Racing begins on Wednesday, April 22 and will continue each Wednesday through May 27. The racing on Wednesday, May 6 will see the return of our Sailing Development Night where skippers have the opportunity to have an experienced coach on board to give feedback on their sailing, racing, and sail trimming skills. The racing on this evening will not be scored as part of the series, but will be paired with our mid-series social to give folks the chance to discuss their experiences and to allow the fleet to gather for some post-race fun. The Typhoon Nationals co-chairs Greg Kirkbride and Brad Perry have been hard at work preparing for the Nationals May 29-31. The entry form and NOR are on the Typhoon Fleet page as well.

There was discussion by the Committee about three items in particular dealing with eligibility and safety, sails, and optional equipment.

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## Typhoons Fleet News

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1. **Eligibility and Safety:** Language was added to require each competitor to fill out an entry form. The entry form contains the required language for a disclaimer of liability. The entry form is available on the RRYC website under the Typhoon Fleet page. Additionally, language was added to the SI's for the Wednesday Series to further define an amount of minimum liability coverage for the requirement to have liability insurance while racing. Both of these items were added due to the recent increase in damaging boat contacts. The Committee strongly recommends that if there is contact between boats, the owners discuss any damage that may have occurred and come to an agreement on fault and responsibility for repairs, if any. The Committee also recommends that owners review their policy and speak with their insurance agent to add a "racing rider" to their policies. This is usually a minimal cost, but can ensure that if any liability occurs during racing that the policy will cover it.
2. **Sails:** The current language for sails has not changed; however, there was discussion about genoa size. The intention at one time was to have a jib and 155% genoa, in addition to the mainsail on board. This was to minimize the need and expense to have multiple size genoas on board depending on wind conditions. A question arose last year regarding if you could use a genoa that was smaller than the 155%. The current rule specifies that the genoa cannot be larger than 155%. After much discussion, the Committee elected to keep the current language so someone could use a smaller genoa; however, the rule further limits that only 1 genoa can be onboard, so the owner must decide what size to use before departing land.
3. **Optional equipment:** Regarding use of electronics, in the past we listed the various types of electronics by brand but this was becoming an issue as new electronic instruments and smart phone or iPad apps added many new charting/position/speed/distance calculating capabilities. The revised text for "position sensing devices" is consistent with other one design class rules, and lists the electronics functions that are not to be used on board while racing.

An additional current issue is lack of a Series Principal Race Officer. Since most of the RRYC PRO's actively race Typhoons, we have not been able to identify someone who is willing to serve in this capacity. The Fleet Commander will continue to talk with members about serving in this position, but if he cannot find a volunteer we will need to seek volunteers from the Fleet for each racing day. Our rules provide that if someone serves on RC, they will receive their average for those races. If you are willing to serve as PRO for the series, let Bob Damon know at [nomadbob@aol.com](mailto:nomadbob@aol.com) or by phone (804) 245-0079. Otherwise, a sign-up list will be on the RRYC website for volunteers to take a day.

Spring is not far behind and soon we will be on the water, some of us with new dockage at RRYC!! As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



# Groundhog Day Extravaganza

*By Sue and Greg Kirkbride*



***Cape Dory Sailboat Owners  
Association***

We went to our first Groundhog Day Extravaganza annual meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Fleet of the Cape Dory Sailboat Owners Association (CDSOA). It was an easy drive to the venue at the Courtyard Marriott in historic Fredericksburg on February 1. It turned out to be a most pleasant gathering of CD aficionados. Our main purpose was to advocate for the Alberg award for this year's Typhoon Nationals (May 29-31 for your calendars!), and talk up that event and the RRYC in general. We received a warm welcome from Fleet Captain Katie Potter and the rest of the members. They all asked us to pass on their regards to Jo and Jack Chamberlain who have attended in the past.



The Guest Speaker was Patrick Schoenberger, the Senior Deck Instructor at Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education in Piney Point, Maryland. The topic was "Marine Electronics – How they Work & their Limitations". He gave a captivating talk, keeping it very current, relevant and thought-provoking. Sue and Greg then described the Typhoon Nationals, RRYC's appreciation for the Alberg awards, and told about our Club, especially the new dock! A unanimous vote to fund two engraved plate Alberg trophies followed (one for Championship Fleet and one for Corinthian Fleet) for our 2020 Typhoon Nationals. For the evening, we all walked the short distance to Castiglia's Restaurant and enjoyed a very sumptuous Italian feast in a nice private room. There was lots of enjoyment, sea stories and interesting people. We would recommend membership in the CDSOA, and especially going to Groundhog Day to any Cape Dory owner. Several people showed interest in sailing in our Typhoon Nationals if they could find boat(s). Please let Greg Kirkbride or Brad Perry know if you can provide a Typhoon to race or if you have an open crew position, and they will get the word out.

# RRYC Cruising 2020

*By Jim Bearden*

Spring is upon us and it is time to start thinking about on-water activities. This includes kayaking, fishing, racing, cruising and much more, as well as watching the sunset from your boat. This is Jim Bearden, your RRYC Cruising Director this year, and I am here to get everyone out Cruising!

We are hoping to have a broad enough Cruising Plan to get everyone with a boat out on a Cruise this year. It is time to start thinking about potential cruising destinations - where would you like to go?



There are basically an infinite number of destinations in the Chesapeake and beyond, so start thinking! A few that come to mind include:

## Longer Trips:

- Albemarle Sound Loop - go down the Dismal Swamp, tour the Albemarle Sound, and return via the Virginia cut
- Annapolis
- Baltimore
- Washington

## Shorter Trips (as short as an overnight, a weekend or a little longer):

- Shakedown Cruise - an overnight somewhere
- Fleets Bay - great beach to bring the dog and kids
- Onancock and Urbanna - great overnight locations with nice restaurants and shopping
- Great Wicomico River - Reedville restaurants and museum
- Cape Charles - City Marina, shopping, and restaurants
- St. Mary's - College town and concerts

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## RRYC Cruising 2020

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Yacht Clubs with reciprocity for RRYC members. Benefits range from free night stays to being invited to visit their club.

- Fishing Bay - nice anchorage and club
- Solomon's Island - great hospitality, fun yacht club bar and many local restaurants
- Mathews - nice dinners and a fun trip through the bridge
- Hampton - great dinners at the yacht club and plenty to do in the surrounding area

And that is what I came up with off the top of my head. So keep your eyes on the RRYC website and/or the *Headway* for more information on upcoming cruises. If you have any requests for specific destinations or times, be sure to let me know and I will get it on the schedule. Plan to join us as often as you can, and if you have any questions or concerns as a first-time cruiser, please let me know. We have all been there and benefited from the knowledge of other club members and the fun of cruising with a group.

See you on the water!!!

## Evolution/Latell Sails Hosted Sail Repair/Line Spicing Seminar at RRYC

*By Tom Wicks*



*Photo credit: Tom Wicks*

On a brisk Saturday morn, February 22 at 9:00 a.m., Jerry Latell and Jake Pender hosted a three-hour seminar at the clubhouse on sailmaking materials (fiber properties), outfitting an offshore sail repair kit including tools, spare parts, repair materials and advanced tools, conducting a sail inspection, making some do-it-yourself repairs, and splicing both three-strand and double-braided rope. Handouts were provided and a lively Q & A session helped make the time fly.

As part of his introduction, Jerry noted that Latell Sails had joined with the New Zealand company Evolution Sails, that his loft had earned the privilege of being the exclusive sailmaker for the USCG barque EAGLE, and that they had been selected to make sails for

*Left: Jake Pender, with Jerry Latell Feb. 22, 2020.*

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## Seminar at RRYC

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the Mayflower replica (using modern materials, rather than the original flax) helping to ready her for the 400-year anniversary celebration of the original Mayflower landing at Plymouth Rock, MA. Jerry and his team will be hosting this training seminar at Cruisers University in Annapolis in April. Check with him for the details.

For those who did not attend but would like to learn the slicing techniques, Jake and Jerry advised that the techniques are best described at the [SamsonRopes.com](http://SamsonRopes.com) website. Latell Sails may have additional copies of the seminar handouts.



Mike Kennedy and Tom Watkins recently traveled to the BVI for a bit of R&R with two other guys. They chartered a sailboat, basked in the sun, and ate lobsters. (Not mentioning the rum!)

Life is good in the BVI, even when a Virginia boat is hiding from the cold. Here Mikey is shown sharing our RRYC burgee at the Bitter End Yacht Club.

## Gear Box Winterizing (It's Not Too Late!)

*By Ken Vincent*

This from a trusted professional boatyard manager: When you winterize your boat, the gearbox (aka transmission) needs to be winterized too. Since boats are typically out of the water for 4-6 months, gearbox components that are not submerged in oil can corrode. Especially if your gearbox oil level is a little low. You need to fill the gearbox up with the appropriate oil when you put your boat away for the winter.

That said, it is very important that, when commissioning your boat for the upcoming season, you change the gearbox oil, and fill it to the recommended level. If you run the engine with a gearbox full of oil, it will overheat, and bad things happen. SO, at commissioning for the upcoming season, pump out all the old oil from your gear box, and replace it with new oil, to the recommended level. Check the oil after a few hours of operation, and add oil if necessary. This procedure will add years to the life of your gearbox.

PS: A new gear box costs 7-9 boat units, installed. Been there, done that!

# From the Galley

*By Candace Franco*

While you were gone...we celebrated Valentines Day at RRYC Lady and the Tramp style. Romantic music was provided by Fred Pevahous. Our two spaghetti dishes were served by Pam and Jim Ward, and Fred and Candace Pevahous, and our desserts and table settings were prepared by the Francos. Dessert was served by Mike Kennedy, or was it? ☺ And all of the festivities were anchored by the able assistance of Diane and Kent.

We hope you'll be back from your winter travels in time to enjoy our upcoming dinner on March 21. We will enjoy the culinary prowess of our own Rear Commodore, Charles Springett! Charles will prepare his Chicken Curry, one pot hot and one pot not. So no matter how you like it, he's got you covered.

Want to be a part of the RRYC Social Committee? Contact Candace at [candacef4@gmail.com](mailto:candacef4@gmail.com)...the more the merrier.



**March 21 RRYC Dinner**  
*Don't miss the Rear Commodore's ...*

**Chicken Curry, Hot or Not**  
**Chopped Salad**  
**Vanilla Bean Ice Cream with**  
**Pistachios & A Honey Drizzle**



**Reservations by Monday March 16!**  
**[rrycmanager@gmail.com](mailto:rrycmanager@gmail.com)**

## Club Calendar

### March - April

#### March

5	First Friday	5:00 p.m.
21	Board of Director's Meeting	4:00 p.m.
	Club Dinner	5:30 p.m.
27	PHRF Racing Skills Seminar	7:00-9:00 p.m.

#### April

3	First Friday	5:00 p.m.
4	Clean-up Day	9:00 a.m.
15	TY Kickoff	5:00 p.m.
16	Board of Director's Meeting	4:00 p.m.
18	Dock Dedication	4:00 p.m.
	Blessing of the Fleet	
	Cocktail Party	5:00 p.m.
21	VIA Meeting	5:00-7:00 p.m.
22	TY Wed. Night Racing	6:00 p.m.
29	YPRCC Spring Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
	Night Series Begins	
	TY Wed. Night Racing	6:00 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 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month to [rrycheadwayeditors@gmail.com](mailto:rrycheadwayeditors@gmail.com)

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