

Typhoons on the Rappahannock

The Rappahannock River YC (RRYC) hosted the first Typhoon National Championship Regatta on the Rappahannock River near Carter's Creek in Irvington, VA, June 10-12. Thirty-two 19-foot Cape Dory Typhoon sailboats competed in the two-day race, and more than 100 people participated in the race festivities.

"The inaugural National Regatta for the Typhoon class will always be remembered as a three-day battle with Mother Nature," comments John McCarthy, Principal Race Officer and CBYRA Southern Bay Race Management Coordinator. On Sunday morning, the Typhoons slipped out ahead of the original schedule and squeezed in a race that made for the championship. *Anthem*, skippered by Ron Mihills, won first place in the championship fleet. Placing second and third, respectively, were Gary Hooper and Norm Smith.

Friday's Child, skippered by John Friday, took home the prize for the Corinthian fleet followed by Bill Turenne in second place and Lance Franke in third.

The fleet also congregated for a one-of-a-kind "sunflower raft-up" with 21 boats as seen in the aerial photograph. Carter's Creek is home to the world's largest concentration of Cape Dory Typhoons, with over 40 Typhoons on Carter's Creek alone and over 60 in the greater Northern Neck area.

"There is so much enthusiasm for Typhoon racing on the Northern Neck that it's appropriate for the national event to take place here," says Mihills, event chairman and former RRYC commodore. The second Typhoon National Regatta will take place June 8-10, 2012. To learn more, check out the event blog at typhoonnationals.blogspot.com.



■ A sunflower raft-up of Typhoons on the Rappahannock. Photo by Truly Yours Photography