



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB
January 2005

THE HEADWAY

Rappahannock River Yacht Club Honors Volunteer Members

The Rappahannock River Yacht Club held its annual business meeting on November 13, at the clubhouse on Carters Creek in Irvington, to elect 2005 Officers and Directors, and to honor the volunteer efforts of members throughout the year. The meeting began with a moment of silence for those members who had died during the past year – Lindsay McCarty, Art Rice and Audrey Meyer.

Commodore Ron Mihills reported that 2004 was a banner year for new members, PHRF racing, Flying Scot racing, cruising, junior sailing and social events. Rear Commodore Chris Christensen reviewed the completed repairs from Hurricane Isabel, Flying Scot fleet Captain Frank Birdsall provided the final results of the Scot racing season, and Tom Norris shared an overview of the PHRF racing regattas. Social chairs Ronnie Gerster and Nan Liner provided a preview of exciting 2005 social events.

Elected to serve for 2005 were: Commodore Blaine Liner, Vice Commodore Carl Gerster, Rear Commodore Charles Springett, Secretary Margaret

Gunn, Treasurer Coleman Brydon; and Directors Chris Christensen, Jerry Latell, Tom Norris, David Raffetto, Marybeth Sisson, Mosby West and Ron Mihills.

Jerry and Andrea Latell were presented the Flying Scot Sailors of the Year Award for the second year in a row. Jerry Latell also was named the RRYC Yachtsman of the Year. Norm Smith received the CBYRA Highpoint trophy for his accomplishments racing his J/24. Hudson Hoen was not present to receive the Cruising Sailor of the Year award for the second time since he was racing in the Caribbean 1500 race to the Virgin Islands. Dick Libbey was elected to Honorary Membership for his many years of contributions to RRYC and the sport of sailing. Ryan Bransford was awarded the Junior Sailing trophy by former Commodore Dr. Burwell Vaden, Jr. Stephanie Dudley, Social Chair, received the annual Sportsmanship Award.

Cruise Captains John Sharp, Rich Miller, Charles Springett, Hudson Hoen and Walker Stevens received pewter Virginia cups. Junior Sailing volunteers Susan Richardson, Robin Schroeder and Hudson Hoen were recognized for

organizing an extremely successful junior sailing regatta. Arabella and Philip Denvir of Premier Sailing managed the junior sailing program.

Also recognized were: Yearbook Editor Dick Sisson, Docks / Moorings Chair Carl Gerster, Ship's Store Maricel Baker, The *Headway* Editor Marybeth Sisson, Webmaster Margaret Gunn and Legal Advisor Bill Broaddus.

A special award was given to Joe and Carole Sarnowski for the gracious hospitality at their home "Peddler's Landing" for the annual RRYC Labor Day Picnic. Club

(continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue:	Page
RRYC Honors Volunteers	1
Commodore's Message	2
Thanks!	3
RRYC Wins Prize	3
Membership Notes	4
Rear Commodore's Corner	5
US Sailing Course	5
Racing 2005	6
Social Notes	6
January Menu	7
Club Calendar	8

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB



Commodore's Message

By Blaine Liner, Commodore

OFFICERS

Commodore - Blaine Liner

(H) 804-435-0162
(Cell) 804-436-3508
liner@crosslink.net

Vice Commodore - Carl F. Gerster

(H) 804-435-3870
(Cell) 804-703-615-3545
gersterc@aol.com

Rear Commodore - Charles Springett

(H) 804-435-2702
(Cell) 804-761-6389
cspringer@starband.net

Secretary - Margaret B. Gunn

(H) 804-438-9329
(Cell) 804-310-1236
mgunn@kaballero.com

Treasurer - Coleman Brydon

(H) 804-379-1697
(Cell) 804-357-8959
nabrydon@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Past Commodore - Ronald L. Mihills

(O) 804-436-9922
(H) 804-438-6111
rmihills@rivnet.net

Director - Albert T. (Chris) Christensen

(H) 804-435-3839
(Cell) 804-761-0102
ATCHRIS315@peoplepc.com

Director - Jerry Latell

(H) 804-438-5875
(O) 804-438-9011
(Cell) 804-436-3815
jerry@latellsails.com

Director - Thomas H. Norris

(H) 804-435-2882
tomnorris@att.net

Director - David Raffetto

(H) 804-438-9324
kdraffetto@kaballero.com

Director - Marybeth Sisson

(H) 804-438-6180
marybeth@crosslink.net

Director - J. Mosby West III

(O) 804-438-6167
(H) 804-438-6917
jmw@jmwpe.com

- Congratulations to members who spent many hours decorating the grounds and exterior of the Club under the direction of David Rafetto. Ken Baker, Bob and Jane Bierly, Howard and Michelle Blank, Bill and Pepper Bower, Coleman and Terry Brydon, Jack and Jo Chamberlain, Kate Rafetto and Bob and Bertie Strange all just plain outdid the competition and produced lighted yard sculpture that brought "oohs" and "ahhs" from club members and the judges, who awarded the Club the "Best Decorated Premises" on the Creek. The Mihills, last year's Mayor's Cup winner, were once again aboard "Anthem." They won the Traditional Christmas Award with "Heralding Angel Gabriel." New members Vic and Molly Guyan helped decorate Hank and Seale George's Mayor's Cup Winner - "Carters Creek Christmas".
- The Beavers were at it again. This time they brought the Christmas spirit inside the clubhouse by decorating it in the Holiday tradition. Their spouses joined them for the finishing touches. We thank the Beavers and Beaverettes for providing the festive atmosphere.
- Nine RRYC members were marshals for the Lights on the Creek parade. While the rest of us were enjoying the dinner, they were on the water, at the start line, and in between, arranging the boats in order, spacing them, and providing communications and on the water assistance. Our volunteers were Vice Commodore Carl Gerster, Rear Commodore Charles Springett, Norm Smith, Marshall Orr, Scott Vail, Alan Christensen, Chris Christensen, and Tom Norris. Ron Mihills, Past Commodore, served again this year as Parade Chairman.
- A record-breaking, over-capacity crowd came to the Club on Saturday night, December 11, to celebrate the Christmas Season and watch the annual boat parade. It was SRO; 132 members stretched the inventiveness and capacity of the caterer, the social chairs, and the wonderful volunteers who served and cleaned the aftermath. Joe Sarnowski provided the play-by-play lighted boat announcements at dockside so all the dinner guests could spot who's who on the Creek.
- Joe Sarnowski underwent heart bypass surgery on Friday, December 17 at Henrico Doctor's Hospital in Richmond.

(continued on page 5)

RRYC Honors Volunteers

(continued from page 1)

Manager Kent White also received the "Fleets Pain in the Rear Award" for his meritorious service throughout the year.

Rear Commodore Chris Christensen recognized the "Beavers" for their weekly volunteer efforts to maintain the clubhouse, docks, RRYC boats, swimming pool, and grounds. Honored were Alan Christensen, Jim Stone, Warren Hammett, John Sharp, Eric Von Mueller, Carl Gerster and Charles Springett. A special plaque was presented by the "Beavers" in memory of Art Rice who founded the "Beavers".

The awards ceremony was closed with Commodore Ron Mihills presenting pewter Virginia cups to retiring directors Dick Rogers and Don Shanklin and retiring officers Norm Smith and Hal Starke. Former Commodore Hal Starke closed the meeting by recognizing Ron Mihills for his service as Commodore for the past two years.

Following the meeting and awards ceremony the members enjoyed a buffet dinner prepared by social chairs Ronnie Gerster and Nan Liner.



Thanks.....

By Past Commodore Ron Mihills

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Commodore for the past two years. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and was especially proud to represent the Rappahannock River Yacht Club in the sailing community.

The significant contributions of the 2004 retiring officers and directors are recognized by the entire membership. Dick Rogers and Don Shanklin always provided sage advice. The Club's fiscal health was nurtured by Norm Smith's financial acumen, knowledge of the Club's history and commitment to the Treasurer's responsibilities. Hal Starke's wise counsel was invaluable and ensured the Board's decisions were in the best interest of the members.

There is no question that RRYC's most valuable asset is the spirit of its members. Commodore Blaine Liner and the 2005 officers and directors are already beginning to chart a course that will continue to make RRYC a very special place on Carters Creek. The next time you see your volunteer leadership, be sure to say "thanks".

Wishing you fair winds and calm seas.

RRYC Cruises Away With The Prize!

The 2004 Carter Creek "Lights on the Creek" boat parade was held Saturday, 11 December. Participant boats were judged by a committee onboard the "Miss Ann". The boat crews then voted on the best decorated shore facilities. RRYC was voted the "Best House".

The club house did indeed look great, the results of a lot of hard, and at times wet, work contributed by a very enthusiastic group of volunteers. Ken Baker led off as Creative Genius with Linda Bower providing design feedback; assisted by Jack and Jo Chamberlain for Reindeer design and construction; Bob Bierly was our structural engineer; Howard Blank, Coleman Brydon and Bob Strange assumed the duties of sign maker and spell checker. The exterior of the club building was the work of Jane Bierly, Kate Raffetto and Bertie Strange.

The team was most grateful for the use of Past Commodore Mihill's sails and Dave Raffetto's trees.

Membership Notes

By Sally Clark

New Members

We are pleased to announce that the board has approved Harry and Jane Wells and Lloyd and Margaret Redlin for Active Membership.

Harry and Jane Wells own “*Teacup*”, an 18’ Cape Dory, located on Carters Creek. They are currently members of Fishing Bay Yacht Club, and have skippered, crewed and cruised a variety of boats, and have particularly enjoyed the fierce competition of our Wednesday night races. The Wells’ have attended several RRYC events over the years, waiting for their Typhoon to be restored prior to applying for membership. Harry is interested in the House & Grounds Committee, as well as The Beavers. Jane is interested in the Social & Programs Committee and The *Headway*.

Lloyd and Margaret Redlin own “*Dream*”, a 32’ Beneteau, located on Tabbs Creek. Past sailboats have included a Flying Scot (Lloyd would like to try his hand at racing on one again) and a C&C 32. Lloyd and Margie have cruised the Chesapeake Bay off and on for years, and look forward to RRYC membership to meet fellow Bay cruisers. They both have always enjoyed the camaraderie of sailors and look forward to making new friends while participating in club activities. Lloyd is interested in the Cruising Committee, and Margie would like to get involved with the Socials & Programs Committee.

The Redlins
3333 Highland Lane
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-698-0808
Email: /redlin@cox.net

The Wells
P.O. Box 9, 358 Quails Trail
Irvington, VA 22480
438-6848
Email: hwells@rivnet.net

Prospective New Members:

Dave Bresett and Scott Vail have proposed Frank and Grace Ann Miller of Weems for Active Membership. The Millers own “*Windblown*”, a 38’ Ericson Sloop, located on the Corrotoman. Frank and Grace Ann are currently members of Hampton Yacht Club, and have often enjoyed the reciprocal hospitality of RRYC since 1986, both the facility and the warm welcomes they have received. Having built and moved into their new home on Black Stump Road this year, they wish to become involved with a local yacht club, and remembering our past hospitality, they felt that RRYC was their logical choice. They are interested in cruising and limited racing. Frank would like to become involved with the Cruising and Dock Committees as well as Buildings and Grounds Maintenance. Grace Ann is interested in the Cruising and Social & Programs Committees and the Ship’s Store.

Coleman Brydon and Mosby West have proposed Craig and Janis Akers of Midlothian, VA for Active Membership. The Akers own “*L’Attitudes*”, a 40’ Hunter Sloop, located at Windmill Point Resort. Craig has been sailing for over 30 years, usually on 19-33 foot boats, and more recently on “*L’Attitudes*.” Both Craig and Jan have taken the USCG Sailing Fundamentals course, with Craig continuing on to the Advanced Coastal Navigation course. The Akers have attended several RRYC functions, most recently the “Lights on the Creek” boat parade and dinner. They are impressed by our location, the camaraderie of the members they have met, as well as our facilities and the relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Craig and Jan anticipate participating in weekend cruises, and Craig would like to learn more about racing and race management, as well as become involved with the Docks Committee. Jan is interested in the Social & Programs Committee and both are interested in working on The *Headway* and The *Yearbook*.

(continued on page 5)

Membership Notes

(continued from page 4)

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

Membership Changes:

The board has regretfully accepted the resignations of Walt Rogers, John Sharp and Tom Abbott.

Commodore's Message

(continued from page 2)

According to Joe, the outcome was very good and he looks forward to coming home within a short period. We wish him continued improvement and a quick return to his more enjoyable activities.

- John McConnico, one of the area's most active and well-known voyagers, will be the guest speaker at the January 15 dinner. He will describe his recent ordeal when he and crew were caught for several days in Hurricane force winds. He will show slides and discuss innovative tactics that were used during and at the end of the trip.

REAR COMMODORE'S CORNER

By Charles Springett

E
R

We have finally made a start on the plumbing make-over in the club-house. Leonard Gibson has replaced all of the plumbing under the floor in preparation for applying the heat taping. As I write this, the water is still turned off but we hope to have the system back in operation shortly and the heat taping applied before the next freezing spell. The objective is to leave the water turned on throughout the year – something we have so far been unable to do.

Kent White is taking a well-deserved vacation over Christmas and the Beavers are filling in by checking the premises every morning. Otherwise things have been very quiet.

US SAILING Basic Race Management Course

Irvington, Virginia

February 26, 2005

Hosted by Rappahannock River Yacht Club

The instructor will be the club favorite, John McCarthy, of Hampton and Southern Bay fame. The course is - OPEN TO ALL. This is a one day course which meets the requirement for US SAILING Certified Club Race Officer. There will be a test (optional), lunch, and break. Refreshments are included in fee (\$15).

Point of Contact: Blaine Liner

(804) 435-0162 and (cell) (804) 436-3508

Email: liner@crosslink.net

Racing 2005

By Jerry Latell, Racing Fleet Captain

Racing your boat is one of the best ways to become a better sailor, and we are planning plenty of opportunities for racing in 2005. The PHRF schedule for 2005 is nearing completion, and we have made several changes to the schedule from last year. The Turkey Shoot regatta has been moved forward a week to not conflict with the Annapolis boat show. We have decided to keep three spring and three fall CBYRA sanctioned regattas. To do this, we have taken over what was the Urbanna Creek Yacht Club spring regatta and Yankee Point will run an extra race day to replace the UCYC fall regatta.

Another important change is the return of a joint river series that we will run with Yankee Point. Over the years, three river clubs have run a local series as a

compliment to the more “serious” CBYRA sanctioned events. Several years ago the Urbanna racers, as a group, moved their boats off the river and much of the local racing momentum was lost. Last year Yankee Point reintroduced a more laid back series, and we are planning to once again make this jointly run. These races are intended to have a more welcoming format, and will be a great opportunity for all racers to get more experience.

The Rappahannock Cup Regatta will be a two day affair, and has been moved back a week in October. YPYC is the host this year and is planning a big party for Saturday night. I hope to see a strong RRYC showing this year both on the water and at the party. My goal is for RRYC to win both parts of the event!

It is never too early to get a PHRF valid certificate. Anyone planning to race in a CBYRA event or the Rappahannock Cup Regatta will need one. A valid certificate is not necessary for the joint series races. I am also looking for race committee volunteers. I have several names already (be careful what you say at cocktail parties!), and I'm looking for more. My official Email is racing@rryc.org.

Look to the club website as the definitive source of racing information. A preliminary schedule is posted that reflects all of the above changes, and look for the addition of the joint series dates over the next few weeks. We are looking forward to a lot of participation in racing this year and will need plenty of volunteers. This should be the best year yet for racing on the river.

Social Notes

By Nan Liner and Ronnie Gerster, Social Chairs

The New Year is fast approaching and with it comes reflection of past successes and the new challenges we face in 2005. Our first attempt with a new caterer seems to have met with resounding success on the occasion of the “Lights on the Creek” party at the club on December 11, 2004. Cora Tiggle of Cora's Kitchen did a marvelous job with an over-capacity crowd and a new helper in the kitchen. We thank you, Cora, and from all

reports, we should be seeing her again later in the spring.

This new social event at RRYC could not have occurred without the help and guidance of our Club Manager, Kent White. The Raffetto family, who sat at the entry desk, also assisted us. It was observed that this is not entirely a pleasant task when members arrive without having a confirmed reservation. If you do make a reservation by Email, please check for a reply, which is your

confirmation. If you do not receive one, please enter your reservation again or call Ronnie or Nan. All reservations are answered and recorded.

Volunteers assisting Cora with food serving were Chris Jenkins, Carole Sarnowski, and Rina Springett. Carole also brought appetizers to add to the feast. We also appreciated the clearing assistance by Jean Christensen and Mildred Christensen.

(continued on page 7)

Social Notes

(continued from page 6)

For our meeting on January 15, 2005, we are trying another new caterer for an early celebration of the Chinese New Year. Good Fortune Restaurant in Kilmarnock will provide food for this event. They do require an earlier head count than usual. We are asking that you make reservations ASAP, prior to Friday, January 7, 2005. As usual, you can make your reservation either by mail using the attached form or by Email to dinner@rryc.org.

Please give some thought to when you would like to be a

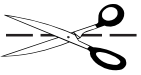
volunteer server in 2005. Each volunteer couple brings an appetizer and either serves food on the line or clears and serves dessert in the dining room. If everyone offers to help at least one time each year, the burden will be more evenly distributed among all members.

The Social Committee thanks you for your patience in this time of transition. We would welcome the names of good caterers who can easily handle 100 persons, and whose costs are reasonable. We thank those who made 2004 so successful.

January Menu

- Vegetarian Spring Roll Rice
- Moo Goo Gai Pan
- Sweet and Sour Pork
- Hunan Style Shrimp and Scallops
- Sherbet with Fortune Cookie

CUT HERE



AFFIX
STAMP
HERE

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

FOLD HERE

Saturday, January 15: Dinner and Social
Cocktails 5:00 PM, Dinner 5:30 PM
RSVP by Friday, January 7.

- Vegetarian Spring Roll Rice
- Moo Goo Gai Pan
- Sweet and Sour Pork
- Hunan Style Shrimp and Scallops
- Sherbet with Fortune Cookie

_____ # Adults @\$15⁰⁰ _____ # Children (10 and under) @ & \$5⁰⁰

_____ # Cocktails only @\$5⁰⁰

Name

Club Calendar

(January - February 2005)

January 15 RRYC Officers / Directors
 1600 Hours
 RRYC Monthly Social / Dinner
 1730 Hours
 John McConnico—"Surviving a
 Hurricane at Sea"

February 19 RRYC Officers / Directors
 1600 Hours

February 19 RRYC Monthly Social / Dinner
 (continued) 1730 Hours
 Charles Springett, J.D. Willett
 "The Caribbean 1500"

February 26 US Sailing Basic Race Management
 Course
 (\$15 fee includes beverages,
 materials, & lunch)

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
 Blaine Liner, Commodore
 Marybeth Sisson, *Headway* Editor
 Submit articles by the 20th of the month to headway@rryc.org

PRESORTED STANDARD
 PERMIT NO. 2
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 LOTTSBURG, VA 22511