

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB
IRVINGTON, VA 22480

May 2020

THE HEADWAY

RRYC's Amazing New Dock

By Coleman Brydon

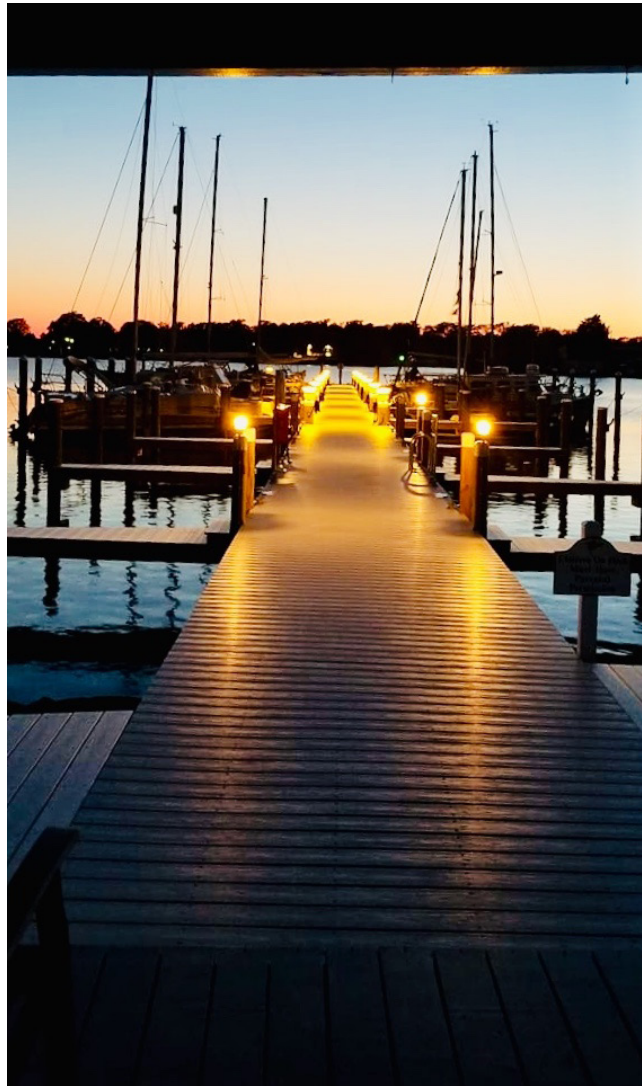


Photo by Coleman Brydon

The new dock taken April 16, 2020 at 8:13 PM

The nifty new dock is beginning to fill up with boats and is getting rave reviews!

My boat, *Inspiration*, was splashed April 8 and moved over to its new home. I had been concerned about the new electric service on the dock, having experienced problems last year at Mathews Yacht

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RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB



Comments from the Commodore

By Danielle Kuper

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On the day of our planned Commissioning of the Yacht Club, along with the planned Blessing of the Fleet and dock opening ceremonies, I stood on the deserted porch and listened to the silence. Even the water was dead calm with not a whisper of wind. There was hardly a soul on the road as I drove home with all of Irvington and surrounding areas hunkered down and just waiting.

This curve ball that the world has been thrown, reminded me of Milton's wonderful poem, "On His Blindness":

When I consider how my light is spent,
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
And that one Talent which is death to hide
Lodged with me useless, though my Soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest he returning chide;
"Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"
I fondly ask. But patience, to prevent
That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need
Either man's work or his own gifts; who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state
Is Kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed
And post o'er Land and Ocean without rest:
They also serve who only stand and wait."

The intended meaning of the famous last line has been pondered by many, but an observation common to all interpretations is that patience and inaction can be as valuable as action, and both require effort! That said, while we wait we can still look forward to the day that the clubhouse and pool can reopen and we can enjoy each other's company face to face!

Rest assured that your Fleet Commanders and Club Officers are constantly alert for any chances to change the status quo safely. threatening illness.

Your RRYC Officers and Board made the decision to close the clubhouse before Governor Ralph Northam made it mandatory. The Board chose to believe that all our members share in our goal of doing our utmost to protect the vulnerable amongst us. The many expressions of solidarity by fellow members proved that we were right. It is a heartwarming reminder that we are indeed, tackling this challenge together.

We will constantly be assessing the situation with a view to returning to normal as soon as possible.

From the Vice Commodore

By Ian Ormesher

Stop the Press!

Thanks to Brad and Joanie for holding the Press...I just got off Danielle's conference call including the Fleet Commanders Bob, Glenn and Jim. We have decided to pencil in some dates for a revised early sailing season!

The first event will be a COVID-19 compliant single-handed event, hopefully on June 6 as previously published. This may be a pursuit race or round-the-cans depending on restrictions at the time and how this impacts our ability to run a committee boat.

Next up, and new to the calendar for these extreme circumstances, is the RRYC sailing kick-off. This will take place when reduced COVID-19 restrictions are implemented, and we are hoping to do it on June 13. For this event, we propose that the Cruisers hold a shakedown sail to Carters Creek on June 12 and overnight in the Creek, and then join the PHRF and Typhoons in a RRYC Race/Parade on the Rappahannock.

The Spring Regatta remains scheduled for June 20, though depending on restrictions this may also take the form of a pursuit race. Sailing in each event is, of course, at individual discretion and will be compliant with whatever the COVID-19 restrictions may be at that time....

Fair winds

Ian

Rear Commodore's Report

By Charles Springett

April 24, 2020

Although the clubhouse is closed and for now will remain closed, there is activity on the dock. About half of the slips are occupied and every day sees new boat arrivals. The good news is that sailing season has begun, and maintaining social distance on the water is easy. There have been some abnormally low tides this month, unusual for this time of the year, and it is apparent that getting off some of the smaller boats next to a full height finger pier at low tide is difficult. I am hoping that the tides will return to normal for the spring and summer and this will not actually be a problem. If it is, we are looking at the possibility of providing wooden ladders for those full-height finger piers that need them. My preference is to reevaluate at the end of the sailing season before we install any additional ladders. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome, and we will do our best to ensure that the dock is convenient for all the slip holders.

We have taken advantage of the clubhouse closure to change out the two doors onto the deck. They were old, in poor repair and created a traffic bottleneck during club socials and other club activities. We considered a new sliding door in line with the end of the new dock, but the board rejected that option because of the cost and also due to concerns about reducing the available seating capacity. The new ar-

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Rear Commodore

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range has two wider doors; the Southern door opens outwards and the Northern door opens inwards. Both doors have spring loaded hinges and neither has a screen. We will be encouraging people to go out the South door and come in the North door. The North door will have a combination lock. We hope members will get used to this arrangement and find it an improvement. Both doors are four inches wider than the doors we replaced and have a single, full length glass pane. No one can remember when the old doors were originally installed, but the framing was built for 36-inch doors, which is why we could increase the door size with very little structural modification. Especial thanks are owing to Ken Vincent and Kent White, both of whom put in a lot of time with the installation. There is a new oak step threshold that for which Ken generously donated the solid oak flooring material.

Two weeks ago, the ice machine on the South side of the clubhouse died. This week the service man came and replaced the compressor unit. The unit is now fully functional, and by the time you read this will have been refilled with ice; it is again available for club use. As before, if you help yourself to ice please record what you take on the clipboard in the unit and we will bill you.

All that remains is for life to get back to normal with monthly socials, First Fridays and all of the usual club racing, cruising and social activities. We are monitoring this pandemic's progress and are hopeful that we will get a green light to eliminate the current club restrictions sooner rather than later. I don't think anyone knows when that will be. In the meantime, I hope everyone stays well and is taking advantage of the marked improvement in the weather to enjoy time outside and on the water.

Thank You!

A special "Thank You!!" to John Burkeson, aka club member Burke Johnson, for the excellent U.S. Navy Typhoon April Fool's article that appeared in last month's Headway. The story, based on a Typhoon that was observed at Bath Iron Works (aka Rappahannock Yachts), received wide praise and acclaim. Well done Burke!

Editors

Submitting Items to *The Headway*

All items for publication should be submitted via email to rytheadwayeditors@gmail.com no later than the 22nd of the prior month (i.e. by May 22 for June 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*.

New Dock

(continued from page 1)

Club's new dock when their new ground fault interrupter circuit kept blowing. I have read stories about similar problems arising from the new GFI standards that are required on new docks.

Happily, we had no problems and the new power/water stations are first class. We have gone from one old thirty-amp exposed outlet on a pole to new stations with three outlets: 10, 30 and 50 amps, each with its own circuit breaker. As you can see from the picture, they are also attractive at night. The dock is also higher, which is great for boats with a high freeboard such as mine. (On the old dock, we had to install a set of steps in order to get on the boat at high tide.) Kudos to Charles Springett for the wonderful job that he did designing and overseeing the construction of this fine facility!

Of course, the club is closed now so you will have to wait to enjoy the dock fully. In the meantime, if you are getting tired of Netflix, Network TV and Zoom, try going to YouTube and watching *Sailing Uma*. This is a vlog by a young couple – she is Haitian and he is Canadian – who both graduated from the University of Georgia with architecture degrees. They bought a derelict 36-foot Pearson, and over the past five years while living aboard, have transformed it into an all-electric boat. They crossed the Atlantic last fall, in 17 days, and are currently in Plymouth, England.

In the last three episodes, they cut a big hole in the bottom of *Uma* to install a new sail-drive to replace their electric forklift engine. Watch the first couple of episodes and then skip to crossing the Atlantic, and then watch the technical episodes on batteries and electrical propulsion. The transformation of their living space is also interesting and unusual. They have a large following and recently were invited on board a British warship for a two-day cruise that they filmed.

Shake Down

By Tom Wicks



Photo by Tom Wicks

After launch on April 17, with help from Coleman Brydon, we bent on sails while tied at T1 in a brisk southerly (and yes that main weighs 65 pounds naked). Seeing the wind strengthen, we set a skinny and faulty fender board and fenders and retreated. But Mother decided to huff and puff from a new angle which broke that board.

We then secured in slip 32 on Saturday and completed prep for the shakedown round the Point - Windmill, that is, on Sunday. With southerly winds on Sunday, the tack down the Rivah was pleasant, and as the wind strengthened at the mouth (23 knots apparent), wave heights grew to 2-3 feet. With a wave to other sailors also enjoying some extreme social distancing south of Windmill, without a GPS plotter (what's wrong with a 10-year old Navionics card?), we executed a graceful turn at the light and set *Eminence* on her favorite point of sail, downwind, spreading her wings - a big main and a jib/camber spar-on wing. She accelerated happily to hull speed on the course "downhill", back home to Indian Creek. While passing rafts of pelicans, some fishing, some socializing perhaps less than 6 feet apart, we saw very few boats. With those fortunate winds, we blew past

An improper left and a proper fender board, right.

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Shake Down

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a quiet Indian Creek Yacht and County Club marina, past a full but quiet Chesapeake Boat Basin marina, and into our haven on Waverly Cove where we tied up, not yet three hours since hoisting sail on the Rappahannock.

Our home, “Port-O’-Call”, has a salty heritage so named by nuclear sub Captain Stan McCord when he built that house and dock after a career at sea. He too once had a sailboat tethered there. Back home, with a short fix-it list, we poured some rum and reflected on recent events and what the cruising season will be.



Photo by Tom Wicks

Passing inside Windmill Pt light, homeward bound.



Photo by Tom Wicks

Happy Sailor, bundled running downhill to Indian Creek.

Typhoon Fleet Update

By Bob Damon, Fleet Commander

As most of you know, the Spring Series for Typhoons has been cancelled due to uncertainty about the coronavirus. We are hoping, as everyone is, that this will clear up and we can get on the water again for some Typhoon fun. There are two events at RRYC in June, the Single-Hand Regatta and the Spring PHRF Regatta that we could certainly participate in given the current conditions.

For now, updates will occur on the RRYC Website, Typhoon Page. There are also listings for crew positions, and boats for sale in the area. We are developing a comprehensive list of Typhoon owners that will be for members-only viewing on the RRYC website. Once this is finished it will provide an easy source for communicating with other fleet members.

I hope everyone is doing well and I look forward to seeing everyone again in June!!

From the Galley?

Looking forward to when we eat together again!!

Here's what some RRYC members have been doing...



Top row (left to right): Jo Chamberlain: - Jo making fabric masks for family, friends and neighbors; Tom Watkins - Tom Watkins is pruning the young redbud trees this spring! (courtesy of Brownie Watkins); Thomas Richardson - Homemade masks at the Richardson's. Glad we have our kids out of NYC!; Stephanie Chaufournier – Working on my “victory” garden in case this darn virus plans to stick around for a while.; Brad Perry – Playing classical Bach and Barrios

Middle row (left to right): Burke Johnson - Burke Johnson of DeadRise (which has played twice at the Club) practicing outdoors (and while socially distancing) with the band!; Miriam MacCarthy – Winter Oysters - Oil, 22 x 30 inches. It's not finished, but very near to being “abandoned.”; Jim Schmidt - Always has a project - building a fence; John Arsenault - Welding and fabricating some farm equipment.

Bottom row (left to right): Jim Schmidt - Always has a project - working on a jigsaw puzzle; Joe Oren – Making music for the golfers; Michael Kennedy - Popcorn delight (courtesy of Bryan Kennedy); Gary Hooper - Bored with watching closing bell activities, I decided to focus on more important things...such as the screen in the lower left.; Beverly Oren – Social distancing on the bike path

Club Calendar

May - June

All scheduled sailing and social events have been canceled or postponed for the month of May.

Most of the scheduled sailing and social events have been canceled or postponed for the month of June. Updates, when available, will be announced by email.



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