



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB  
IRVINGTON, VA 22480

July 2020

# THE HEADWAY

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## RRYC Spring Regatta

*By Glenn Solt and Tom Chapman*



*Photo by Danielle Kuper*

***PHRF Start with Hot Air, Irrational Exuberance and Freedom all on the line.***

Another great RRYC regatta was held on June 20. PHRF Fleet Commander Glenn Solt, cognizant of COVID required precautions, modified the usual Sailing Instructions to have non-spin only with a maximum crew of three.

PRO George Kuper planned for three windward leeward races in the expected 6-8KT SE winds assisted by scorer, Commodore Danielle Kuper, and with Greg and Sue Kirkbride manning the

mark boat. The course was set up perfectly in the ten-degree oscillating SE wind.

With concern about predicted thunderstorms moving through the area, PRO Kuper set the racecourse toward the Norris Bridge which proved prescient, as the storms went by us to the west and obscured Towles Point for over an hour.

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## RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB



## Comments from the Commodore

*By Danielle Kuper*

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On a windy first day of June, the flags were raised and the RRYC sailing season was declared “open” during a brief Commissioning Ceremony. A video of the event can be found on the Home Page of the RRYC website. (Thanks to Gary Hooper for videoing it for us.)

As I said during my Commissioning Ceremony remarks, this was not at all what we all had envisioned at the start of the year. However, as we all know too well, these unusual times require flexibility. We still have so much available for us to enjoy: the wind, the water, the dock, the porch and pool. Members are out and about taking advantage of it all, and the first sailing event of the year, the Single-Handed Race, had a great turnout!



Philip Kenny, a friend of member Tom Watkins, has donated a number of excellent, quality nautical books to the Club. When we are able to use the clubhouse again, I would encourage anyone needing a nautical reference book to take a look at our library. There you will find anything from sailing basics to cut-throat racing tactics, from caring for your boat at home to sailing around the world. From brightwork care, electronics, boat design, fishing etc., if it is nautical in nature, you are likely to find it in the Club’s library.



# From the Vice Commodore

*By Ian Ormesher*



## **Sunday is Funday!**

RRYC is a great place to be despite the ravages of COVID-19, and what we have planned for this summer will be no exception. We want to get kids, young adults and parents out on the water having fun. To facilitate this, we are designating Sunday as Funday. During July and August, we will hold informal coaching and dinghy sailing sessions for those new to sailing. On Sunday July 12 and 19, we will hold “appetite wetter’s”, where juniors and parents will get the opportunity to learn to sail through casual instruction and coaching.

Once appetites are wetted, we will follow this up with more extensive sessions where Premier Sailing can grow and nurture these skills with a two-Sunday (August 9 & 16) event for parents, and the RRYC Pirate week (August 10-14) for juniors. We will coordinate activities so children can be entertained whilst parents are learning to sail. We will also make the club dinghies readily available for weekend and evening sailing, with nominated “coaches” available at the Club to provide guidance on rigging, sailing skills and any other assistance that may be needed.

I am thrilled at the number of club members that have volunteered to give their time, but we do need more to make it flow smoothly. So, if you can spare some time for coaching please let me know. Finally, parents and would be sailors, make a date! We will have sign-up sheets on the Events page of the Club website-based calendar, so click on the link and let us know you will be there, and bring sun screen and a hat. This is going to be fun!

**Fair Winds, Ian**

# Rear Commodore’s Report

By Charles Springett

## June 2020

Well summer has arrived and more people are taking advantage of the weather to get out on the water, enjoy the pool, the porch and the barbecues - it does seem like we are getting back to more normal. We are still, however, encouraging social distancing, following hygiene recommendations and limiting the number of people at any one gathering to 30. The pool is open, and to follow the guidelines from the governor’s office, we are asking pool users to sign up for a slot on “Sign-up Genius”. The link for this has been sent to everyone via a separate e-mail. The new rules for pool use are posted on the pool area gate. So far, the new arrangement seems to be self-policing and working well.

We have decided to reinstate “First Fridays”, and so we are suggesting people gather on the deck on Friday, July 3 for cocktails and appetizers. The difference from past First Fridays is that we ask everyone to bring their own food and drink; the club will not provide set-ups and there will be no access to the clubhouse itself (except for the bathrooms).

We have also decided to hold our first social since the start of the pandemic. It will be on Saturday, July 18 and will be a slight modification of our “cook your own steak” night. It will be held on the porch and we are limiting the attendance to 30 people, so I suggest you get your reservation in early. All of the now normal social distancing and other requirements will apply; more details are to be found from Candace Franco elsewhere in this *Headway* issue.

Last month I thought that by now our new electric system for the dock would be installed and up and running. I was wrong, but I will repeat my prediction for next month. There has been some progress, and Dominion Power has at last provided us with a cost for the work, and thankfully we are still within the dock budget - unless there are more surprises. I am sure we are all looking forward to returning to “normal” normal – in the meantime take advantage of what do have to offer and stay safe and healthy.



### 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 July 22 for August 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*.

## RRYC Spring Regatta

(continued from page 1)

The first race was a 1.3 NM, once around windward-leeward race with a good starting line. The downwind leg was perfectly square allowing trailing boats to blanket the leading boats, making for excellent tactical racing.

In the Typhoon fleet, John Congdon in *Mad Cow*, sailing singlehanded sailed a great race and crossed the finish line first, but was disqualified for an incident near the finish line. (The protest by *Orion* was handled somewhat casually by the protest committee, but graciously accepted by John, our apologies.) Lisa and Greg Shivers in *Ca' Va* had good speed and crossed the finished line second for a first-place finish. Shawn Thaxter and Coleman Brydon in *Orion* finished third after losing way after the incident.

In the PHRF fleet, starting was very aggressive with three or four boats all on the line at the gun. Team *Hot Air* (Bill Decoste Jr, Lew Thatcher and Tom Chapman) got to the weather mark with a slight lead, and kept the lead to the finish thanks to good crew trimming on the whisker poled genoa, fighting off *Irrational Exuberance* and *Goshawk* blanketing from behind. Jesse Swartz in his J30 *Irrational Exuberance* and co-skipped by Steve Donofrio, crossed the line second but finished in third place on corrected time to Tom Richardson's Flying Scot, *Goshawk*.

The second race was a 2.6NM, twice around windward-leeward race with a 5-8KT wind which had backed 10 degrees, making the downwind leg a little more interesting as a combination of wing on wing and broad reaching.

The Typhoons battled around the course, close all the way, with *Mad Cow* finishing first, closely followed by *Ca' Va* second and *Orion* third.

In the PHRF fleet, *Hot Air* had a slight lead at the windward mark and had to fight off *Irrational Exuberance* on the first downwind leg. On the second windward leg, things got more interesting with *Irrational Exuberance* and Arabella Denvir in her J-24 *Trouble* gaining and making for tight racing at the windward mark and all the way down the third leg. Team *Trouble*, consistent with their name, had too many crew on board and were DSQD from all finishes but had a lot of fun. They were also very considerate and started late so as not to interfere with the other racers.

With the time limit pressing the competition, PRO Kuper cancelled the third race and everyone headed in for an awards ceremony on the porch. The competitors thanked the race committee for their excellent work and giving us all a chance to get out on the water for some friendly competition. For complete results see the table on next page. PHRF Fleet Commander Solt also announced the idea of Friday night fun races in the creek, coming this summer, with details to be announced.



Photo by Danielle Kuper  
*Storm Clouds to the West as the Fleet prepares  
 for the first start.*

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## RRYC Spring Regatta

(continued from page 5)

<b>Boat</b>	<b>Skipper</b>		<b>RACE 1</b>	<b>Race 2</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>PHRF Fleet</b>						
<i>Hot Air</i>	<b>Chapman, Tom</b>	J-24	1	1	2	<u>1</u>
<i>Goshawk</i>	<b>Richardson, Tom</b>	Flying Scot	2	2	4	<u>2</u>
<i>Irrational Exuberance</i>	<b>Swartz, Jesse</b>	J-30	3	3	6	<u>3</u>
<i>Freedom</i>	<b>Solt, Glenn</b>	Alerion 28	4	4	8	4
<i>Pocahontas</i>	<b>Ormesher, Ian</b>	Gloucester 22	5	5	10	5
<i>Equinox</i>	<b>Polhamus, Stu</b>	Yankee Dolphin	6	6	12	6
<i>Brightwindbridled</i>	<b>Ward, Pam</b>	Hunter 27	7	7	14	7
<i>Trouble</i>	<b>Denver, Arabella</b>	J24	DSQ	DSQ	16	8
<b>Typhoon Fleet</b>						
<i>Ca' Va</i>	<b>Shivers, Greg</b>		1	2	3	<u>1</u>
<i>Orion</i>	<b>Thaxter, Shawn</b>		2	3	5	<u>2</u>
<i>Mad Cow</i>	<b>Congdon, John</b>		DSQ	1	6	<u>3</u>
<i>Riverdance</i>	<b>Burton, Ed</b>		DNF	DNS	10	4

## Cruising Season Underway

By Kathy Bearden

RRYC cruising is finally out of the blocks and off to a great start. June 12 saw the first attempt with a nicely attended get-together at the Club on Friday evening. Our destination for the next day was to be Onancock, but some phone calls revealed that little was open and the winds weren't favorable, so we decided to postpone.

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## Cruising Season

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On Saturday, *Charm*, *Ariel* and *Menabilly* went over to the Sandy Point cove on the Eastern Branch of the Corrotoman for a nice cocktail hour and a good snooze in delightful temperatures. The mini-cruise proved to be a good little shakedown for some of us. *Charm* experimented with techniques for unwrapping dock lines from props and learned that a squirrel had decided to snack on their dinghy fuel line. *Ariel* gave their muscles a workout hauling in 100 ft of chain by hand, and *Menabilly* drifted across the anchorage in style as her anchor drug in the stiff morning breeze.

On the following weekend, a good group of 5 boats headed for Cape Charles. There was no wind to speak of, but everyone made excellent time and evaded the forecast of afternoon rain. The group included Jim and Kathy Bearden on *Charm*, Charles and Sue Springett on *Ariel*, Frank and Grace Ann Miller on



*Cruisers at Cape Charles*



*Late Afternoon at Cape Charles*

*Windblown*, and Steve Zukor and Tom Wicks on *Wetted Bliss*. We were very excited to welcome new cruisers Chris and Carol Carlson on *Escape*, and delighted that Tom and Steve could coordinate to make the cruise.

Cape Charles was a happening town on Saturday afternoon. The marina was basically full to the brim and the streets were crowded with people. Seems like everyone was ready to get out and get away. Social distancing was reasonably observed, but we gave our usual forays into the shops a wide berth. The line for the ice cream shop was well-spaced and stretched down the street. Most restaurants had put in additional outside seating and most of those seats were full. This was kind of shake-down number two for the crowd, but I think boats and crew were on good behavior. Most of the crowd ate dinner at the dockside Shanty restaurant. They gave us an isolated outside table which worked out well. Not sure if it was for social isolation purposes or if they recognized a rowdy bunch when they saw one!



*Captain Duffy*



*Jim and Duffy Chilling on the Deck*

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## Cruising Season

*(continued from page 7)*

The next morning the group split, with *Escape* heading home (after all somebody has to keep working), and the rest headed for Hampton Yacht Club. Everyone really enjoyed having Chris and Carol along. They were great sports and it was nice to have them along to repeat our stories to, and especially great to have some new stories from them to add to the conversation.

Hampton Yacht Club was busy. The docks were pretty full and there were quite a few members hosting get-togethers on their various boats. *Charm*, *Windblown* and *Wetted Bliss* were on the new F dock. It's a great long tee-head with a new gazebo at the end. The only downside is that it's the furthest dock from the clubhouse. The group enjoyed a nice happy hour at the gazebo and were treated to Dark and Stormies courtesy of Tom Wicks. With warm temps and a gentle breeze, you could almost envision being in the islands.

I'm writing this as we all head for home on Monday. It is a Chesapeake summer for sure. It's hot, there isn't much wind and the flies are biting. But it's sunny, the skies are blue, and we are out on our boats having a great time. We are going to try and keep doing short little hops for this first part of the summer, as we feel our way through virus-impacted cruising. Hopefully, a few more of you will join us. We may break a few boat parts, do more motoring than we like, and eat a little too much, but we always have a great time. This fall we will try to get some longer cruises going. After all, Frank has a cruise to Washington sitting on the shelf once things settle down.

Last but not least, kudos to Sue Springett for being a trooper. She had a swollen and painful knee, but limped on and off the boat and around town without complaint. Kudos also to Chris and Carol for their first of what will be many trips across the Bay.

## Man Overboard: A Safety Briefing for All of Us

*By Cynthia Miller*

With the start of the racing season and other water sports, there have been some recent accidents in the news that brings us pause. On June 14 in Summit County, Colorado, a 21-foot racing sailboat was traveling downwind toward the marina and performed a maneuver to change course. During the maneuver, the boat lost control and tipped over, causing the captain, a 68-year-old man, to fall overboard. He was not wearing his personal flotation device at the time. The boat then collided with a race committee boat that was moored to a buoy, the Summit County Sheriff's Office said. Boats in the area immediately began searching for the captain. The search continued throughout the day Saturday with the help of water search dogs, underwater sonar and an underwater remote-operated vehicle, which found the man's body in approximately 180 feet of water.

In another incident in Windsor, Colorado on May 8, a 13-year-old Colorado boy who was canoeing with his younger brother died after their boat capsized. He was not wearing a personal flotation device. It happened in the afternoon at Rock Bridge Lake in Windsor when a storm came up quickly and the boys tried to return to shore. Rescue crews said they were hampered by strong winds blowing in the area and their emergency effort took several hours. The victim's brother, an 8-year old, who was wearing a life jacket, was able to get out of the water on his own. The victim's body was later recovered from the lake by divers.

In addition to wearing a personal flotation device, knowing CPR can save a life. On June 20 in El Dorado County, California people at the American River Confluence rescued a drowning victim, according to El Dorado County firefighters. Officials say the victim was pulled out of the water by people at the river, who then successfully administered CPR.

According to the WHO, drowning is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of unintentional injury death worldwide, accounting for 7% of all injury-related deaths. There are an estimated 320,000 annual drowning deaths worldwide. (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drowning>, 2/3/20)

# RRYC Opens 2020 Racing Season with Single-handed Regatta

By Tom Wicks

Racers understandably have been anxious to get back on the water, and eight PHRF boats and four Typhoons showed up on June 6 for the Single-handed Regatta. Honoring group size and distancing rules, the Race Committee boat with Hal Starke and Lisa Watlington set out a simple course with a single float while using existing markers for the remainder.

While Tom Chapman on his J-24 *Hot Air* took first place in the PHRF division and Glen Solt aboard his Alerion 28 *Freedom* took second, third place was decided in a contest between Lew Thatcher's Catalina



Photos by Paul Neumann



320 *Catitude* and Tom Richardson's smaller Flying Scot *Goshawk*, with Tom winning third on corrected time and Lew earning fourth.

In the Typhoon division, John Congdon, on *Mad Cow*, took first and Shawn Thaxter, second, on *Orion*. Unfortunately, the loss of wind caused some boats to withdraw.

Awards were presented outdoors on the Club porch, and participants thanked race officer Hal Starke and his Race Committee of Lisa Watlington, Marshall Orr, Paul Neumann, Gary Hooper, and RRYC Commodore Danielle Kuper for giving them the opportunity to kick off the racing season.

# 25th Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta Announced: October 3, 2020

*By Tom Wicks*

Responding to the COVID-19 guidelines and to offer a safe and fun outlet for sailors, the Board of Directors decided to hold a modified regatta, reports co-chairman Tom Chapman of the Rappahannock River Yacht Club (RRYC). Mark your calendar: the event will be a one-day pursuit race held on Saturday, October 3, 2020 on the Rappahannock River, with no land activities planned at present. Slips, moorings and an anchoring area (water taxis may not be available) on Carter Creek in Irvington will be available to those boats which choose to come on Friday evening or wish to stay later to enjoy the local surroundings. Check [www.turkeyshoot.org](http://www.turkeyshoot.org) in the weeks ahead as details emerge.



“This is the silver anniversary of the regatta’s association with and fund-raising efforts for local Hospice services,” said co-chairman George Bott of the Yankee Point Racing and Cruising Club (YPRCC). Normally this has been a 3-day event, with lots of activities ashore for skippers, crews and guests at Bruce Sanders’ Rappahannock Yachts on Carter Creek. Last year 98 sailboats registered, always the largest Hospice Regatta in the nation, and one of the largest sail races in the Chesapeake Bay. It is also the 30th local Turkey Shoot Regatta, started by Chairman Emeritus John McConnico and Chuck Harney.

In line with the shortened event, the registration fee has been reduced, but there will be the popular commemorative hats, T-shirts and skippers’ bags. Photos of finishing boats and the awards will be available in a contact-less scenario. The popular display on land of all 30 annual T-shirts, done by Carole Jean McConnico, will likely be postponed, per Publicist Tom Wicks.

According to webmaster Warren Ryan, captains may register their boats now and learn more about the event by going to [www.turkeyshoot.org](http://www.turkeyshoot.org) and following the prompts to Yachtscoring. All requests for extra hats & T-shirts and other commemorative items must be made through the Yachtscoring site since there will be no sale sites on land. Ryan noted that for those who wish to donate to Hospice services, there will be an online mechanism for donations, either by buying \$100 Golden Burgee pennants or by direct contributions. The commemorative pennants are popular so order them early, he observed.

A reminder, per Tom Chapman, this is a race for classic mono-hulls whose design is at least 20 years old: the boat can be newer, but its design must have been established before 2000. Questions concerning qualifications can be answered by Tom Chapman or Jerry Latell, who manage the on-water activities.

Chapman and Bott stated that this year’s goal was two-fold: “One goal is to encourage everyone who raced last year to come back again, to defend their titles in some cases, and to have a safe time sailing,” they said. “And the other goal is to support Hospice Support Services of the Northern Neck and Riverside Hospices Agencies.” They noted that both organizations play important roles within the communities they serve.

For more information and pictures of last year’s regatta, go to [www.turkeyshoot.org](http://www.turkeyshoot.org)

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



**Top row (left to right):** Enjoying a passing Duffy;...and a passing sailboat; First face mask prototype; Face mask production (Mary Carol Taylor)

**Middle row (left to right):** Kent White and friend inspecting the dock...and enjoying the dock (Kent White); Henry in his Opti; Fishing off the RRYC dock; and caught a fish! (Jerry Latell)

**Bottom row (left to right):** Peter giving a kayaking lesson to our grandson (Sandy Porteous); France and I are renovating the house, riding the bike built for two, and figuring out a revised wedding date...and sailing when we can! Burke snapped this for us the other night as we were passing the Club. (Jack Geier); Where I am in repairing my very first sailboat that was severely damaged by a hurricane in the late 90's, and one of my Typhoons waiting for it to be boot-striped (Kevin Stepko)

# RRYC Socials Again!

*By Candace Franco*

**We're making a comeback ...**

**COOK YOUR OWN returns on July 18 at 5:00 p.m. to RRYC!**

**Choose your protein:**

**Pick one Steak, Salmon, or Boneless Chicken Breast**

**Choose your sides:**

**Pick two Corn, Tomato & Basil Salad, Southern Living Peach Slaw, or Potato Salad**

**And complete your meal with a KLONDIKE BAR!**



**We'll be sure to space folks out at the grill,  
sides will be in individual portion containers, and we  
will social distance on the porch.**

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED AND  
YOU MUST INDICATE YOUR CHOICE OF  
PROTEIN AND SIDES!**

**ABSOLUTE FINAL DAY TO RESERVE IS  
MIDNIGHT SUNDAY JULY 12**

[rroycmanager@gmail.com](mailto:rroycmanager@gmail.com)

# Club Calendar

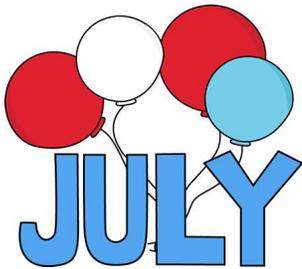
## July - August

July

3 First Friday  
 16 Board of Directors Meeting.  
 18 Social

August

7 First Friday  
 13 Board of Directors Meeting  
 22 Messing Around in Boats  
 26 Wednesday Night TY Racing



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