



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB
IRVINGTON, VA 22480

August 2020

THE HEADWAY

4th of July Mini-Cruise

By Jim and Kathy Bearden



Cruising season is still moving along in fits and starts. If it's not the darn virus, it's the excruciating heat. Anyhow, there were no takers on a cruise to Reedville to watch fireworks on July 5. Can't say we were surprised, as there was little to recommend the trip. However, from discussions on First Friday, we learned that the Tabbs Creek community and home of Charles and Sue Springett had fireworks and a boat parade planned for Saturday, July 4. As luck would have it, Bev and Joe Oren on *Bon Vivant* had also

planned to finish their multi-week cruise there on Saturday. After a few phone calls on Friday evening, we discovered that Bev and Joe had decided to go home a day early. Drat. However, being good sports and with the added bonus that they really hadn't unpacked, they jumped at the chance to get together. So, with little advance planning, *Charm* and *Bon Vivant* left for Tabbs Creek on Saturday.

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RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB

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Comments from the Commodore

By Danielle Kuper

What fun it was to see several families brave the heat for two Sunday Fundays. The floating dock was a hive of activity as they prepared Optis, Sunfish and even a Blue Jay for time on the water. The tennis ball retrieval competition was just as entertaining for the spectators on the porch as it was for the participants! A big “thank you” to Vice Commodore Ian and his crew of volunteers for organizing the Fundays. Read more about it below.

Thanks also, to Mary Carol and Jeremy Taylor for organizing a sedate, decorative Duffy parade on July 4!

We miss our usual social events, but we are so fortunate to be able to enjoy the water. With rising COVID-19 cases in our neck of the woods, patience and adherence to safety protocols remains the order of the day.

From the Vice Commodore

By Ian Ormesher

August is the month for “Messing”.

On August 22, the club will be back on the water in competition mode. This time in boats most suited to COVID-19 social distancing. Yes, it is time once again to beg, borrow or steal and get that dinghy on the water, “Messing About in Boats” is here. As well as winning races, we have prizes for all the best reasons like “the three generations” prize and “oldest and youngest” in a boat. Skippers meeting is at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 22. See the RRYC website for details.



Marchetti family take to the water in the Flying J: coach Jerry Lattel

Recently donated club Laser rigged and ready to go

Club Dinghies: Ready & Raring to go.

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Vice Commodore

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Ready for a Sunday scoot around the creek or an evening excursion around the coves with no motor involved? The club has a fleet of dinghies available for use by members. Most will be familiar with the club Optis and Sunfish, but we also have a couple of C420s, and new to the fleet a Laser and a Flying J.

All boats are available for club members to use on an ad-hoc basis. Just sign the take-out sheet, rig the boat with sails, rudder and dagger board, don a life jacket, launch, and away you go!

For anyone in need of a little guidance on rigging, there are rigging instructions in the dinghy shed. If you need a little more assistance or would like some confidence building coaching, then we can have one of our members provide assistance. Just drop me an email or call me and we will arrange it.

From the Rear Commodore

By Charles Springett

August 2020

Dominion Power has connected the transformer to the new electrical panel wall next to the annex. Paul Elbourne and crew have hooked it all up, dug the trench across the parking lot, installed the conduit and run the new electric cables to the clubhouse. All we are waiting for now is Dominion Power to remove the old meter on the clubhouse wall and activate the new meter on the panel wall. We ran our conduit in the trench and we now have an Ethernet cable (and a spare) connecting the router in the annex to the access point in the clubhouse. As a consequence, the wi-fi signal in the clubhouse is full strength. We also ran an Ethernet cable from the clubhouse to a new access point on top of the porch roof. This access point is directional down the dock and although there is some reduction in signal at the tee head, we think the signal strength will be adequate there for most dock users. The trench was two feet wide and two feet deep and we can expect some settling in the parking lot over the next few months. When it has settled down, we will re-grade the parking lot and add some more gravel. Until then it will be a bit bumpy.



The Beavers are replacing the decking on the walkway from the parking lot to the new dock. It is hard to believe that walkway was installed thirteen years ago, and the 5/4 wood boards had deteriorated to the

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Rear Commodore

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point many of them were overdue for replacement. We decided to replace them with the same decking we have on the dock which should last a long time. This is an ambitious project for the Beavers and will take some time to complete even with extra help outside of the normal Tuesday mornings. The walkway will include a platform under the breaker panels for the dock and will total about 550 square feet and use over 2000 stainless steel deck screws. We have managed to do this without using club funds as a result of generous cash contributions from several members.

The new pool policy is working well, and the pool is occupied for most of the day. We ended up cancelling the July social because of ongoing COVID-19 concerns but the Board is actively reviewing the situation and I still hope we can do something before the end of the year. The July First Friday on the porch was a success and we will do another one in August. It is important to note that the bathrooms in the pool and the club house are being thoroughly cleaned every day. Diane comes early every morning and the club is very fortunate she does.

Mini Cruise

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Bon Vivant had only a couple of miles to travel but decided to protest with a bit of engine trouble. The Orens were not to be deterred and with some coaxing from Joe they continued on. If you've never been in the Tabbs Creek entrance, it takes some courage to attempt it with a balky engine. At one point I swear you can reach out and touch the red and green marks simultaneously. If you stray outside the channel, you are aground.

Anyhow, we anchored in time to dress *Charm* with signal flags for the occasion. Soon *Ariel* motored out dressed in signal flags and over 30 country flags, just a partial sampling of all the many places *Ariel* has been. *Ariel* led the creek parade and we were serenaded by boat horns, trumpets, and music. *Charm* was stationed at the end of the creek and had a perfect view as the parade made its last turn in front of us. Bringing up the end of the parade, none other than *Bon Vivant*. She had balked one more time, in the narrow section of course, but Joe quickly got her going, so they just tagged along behind the rest of the boats.

The three of us rafted for the evening and enjoyed a beautiful set of very professional fireworks performed to music. All of us were impressed. Duffy, *Charm's* Irish Terrier, was not. It was his first fireworks show and I'm not sure what Mom and Dad were thinking when they brought him. He wasn't scared but wanted to race at tip-top speed around the boat while furiously barking; a recipe for disaster. So, Mom and Dad spent an uncomfortable 30 minutes with a squirming 35 lb dog in their laps.

Many local boats came out for the evening, but they dispersed when the show was over, and we soon had the quiet creek to ourselves. The next morning, one of the residents even paddled out to pay us a compliment on our boats. Before the day heated up, we broke up the raft and headed for home. Another successful mini cruise.

Celebrating Sabina

By Eve German

We wanted to share a milestone: the end of an era for our family. This was Sabina's last summer working for Arabella Denvir at Premier Sailing and her last summer staying on our boat while she works. She has enjoyed this experience so much and made so many great friends. And she's pretty sentimental about all this, even has the middle of Carter's Creek, the longitude/latitude, tattooed on her arm. She will really miss Kent, Diane, The Local, sushi from Chao, crazy thunderstorms interrupting her boat sleep, and most of all, Arabella.

Both Sabina and Sawyer began attending Premier's sailing camp when they were around 6 and 8 years old, along with Daniel and Alex Resio, sort of dragged there by the Resios' optimistic belief that even a bookish family fond of air conditioning can become sailors. Sabina eventually became a helper, instructor, and then head instructor, a path many of Arabella's students have followed.

Sabina is now beginning her junior year at ODU. She's been accepted into the Civic Scholars program, leadership training that pairs students with a mentor from the Norfolk business community. And she has accepted a paid internship for her senior year with NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia. She is in the nursing program, but also working towards a graduate certificate in Women's Studies. She plans to pursue a dual DNP, Doctor of Nursing Practice, as a Certified Nurse Midwife and a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.



Photo by Arabella Denvir

Sabina, about age 10, sailing a minifish at Premier Sailing School.

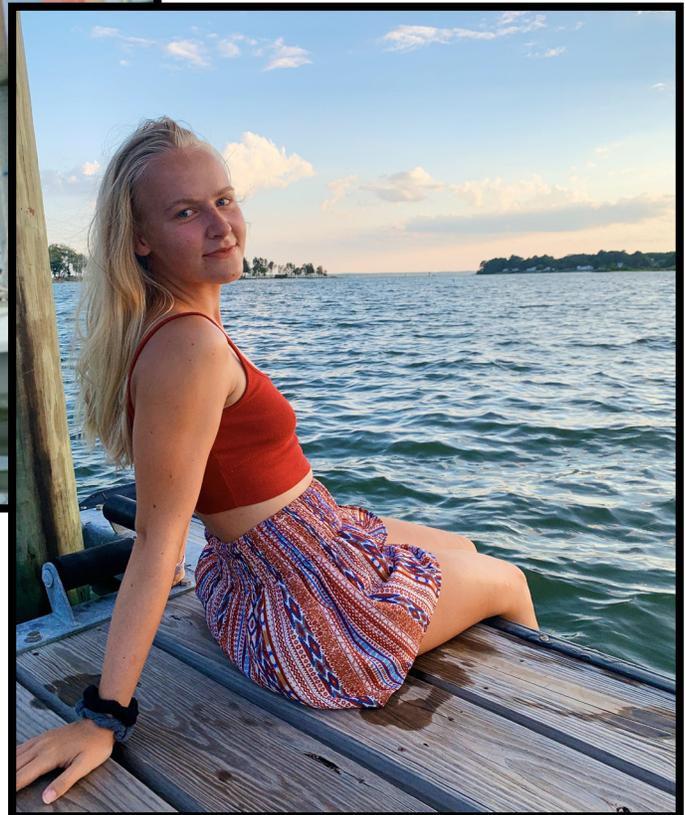


Photo by Kelly Vonhoene

Sunsets on the dock

Typhoon Fleet Update

By Bob Damon, Fleet Commander

It seems like forever since we have thought about sailing, but August is upon us and the Fall Series begins on Wednesday, August 26. First gun is at 6:00 p.m. and Hal Starke has agreed to PRO that date. We still need volunteers for PRO for the next 5 Wednesday's as well as RC staff to man the Mark and Signal boats. If you are looking for crew, remember there is a crew list on the RRYC website on the Typhoon page.

As we still have COVID-19 restrictions in place, teams that are not family members should wear masks onboard as well as RC volunteers. Definitely if at RRYC on the porch, wear your mask.

We typically have a mid-series social at RRYC and no definite decision has been made to or not to have this event, so stay tuned for more information on this.

As most of you know, the Turkey Shoot will be a one-day event with a pursuit race format on Saturday, October 3. Our end of the year Awards Dinner is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 14 and again, this event is contingent on RRYC being open for use.

Hopefully the hot and humid conditions will abate quickly and we all can get out and about again in comfort and enjoy our beautiful area.

Ode to Equinox

A sad day at our dock. Equinox, a beautiful Dolphin sailboat owned by Stu Polhamus sank due to dagger board trunk failure. The boat was raised and is now resting on the hard next door at Rapp Yachts.

- Pete Clay



Duffy Independence Day 2020

By Mary Carol Taylor

Members of the Duffy fleet gathered on July 4 in front of RRYC for an unofficial afternoon Independence Day boat parade cruising the Western and Eastern Branches of Carters Creek. At one point, we counted at least 20 vessels, of all types, joining the procession. Glenn and Jody Solt headed the parade as Grand Marshalls. They did a magnificent job! *Freedom II* in her red, white and blue bunting and large American flag was most impressive.



Submitting Items to *The Headway*

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

Sunday Funday - A Multi-Generational Blast!

By Ian Ormesher

What do you need to make a Sunday fun? A shady club porch, fine weather, a light breeze, a few dinghies, willing and knowledgeable club members. Just add water and kids!

Over the past two Sundays we have organized informal sessions to give appetite wetters and confidence builders to some of our less experienced sailors. Club members both full grown and somewhat younger took to the water in a variety of club dinghies and member owned kayaks, boards and pontoons. The goal: to get on the water and have fun. The heat didn't deter us, after all we had cool water, iced drinks, frozen ice pops and energy giving pizza.

Some of our youngest members got their first ever trip in a sailboat. Our adventurous youngsters got to expand their skills on the water, and our past juniors provided essential knowledge and coaching.

Thanks to all who participated and gave of their time to make these a success. You have to admire the club volunteers that make such events possible. Much thanks go to Danielle & George, the whole Resio family, Al Pollard, Jackie Allen, Jerry Latell, Judy Fay, Glenn Solt, Cynthia Miller, and Shaun Thaxter.



Busy Beavers!

Fred Pevahouse working on walkway



*Tom Wicks, Jim Schmidt and Greg Kirkbride (not shown) working under the direction of Charles Springett, rebuilding RRYC walkway.
- Jim and Charlotte Schmidt*



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



1. Working on cross stitch - Candee Pevahouse
2. Weeding flower beds – Mary Carol Taylor
3. Dolphins seen off Belle Isle while taking Al Pollard's boat up the river for service work. – Brian Jenkins
4. Tomato Pie – Mary Carol Taylor
5. Cherry Cobbler – Mary Carol Taylor
6. Siberian Iris – Mary Carol Taylor
7. Covid Soda Choir – Mary Carol Taylor
8. Quilt – Mary Carol Taylor
9. Working on my train layout – Fred Pevahouse
10. Sissy with a new friend – Danielle Kuper
- 11 & 12. With a bit more time on my hands I've decided to do a few woodworking projects that I've wanted to produce for a long time. At the top of the list has been the creation of a strong and practical workbench that meets my own needs and can be given to my son down the road. It is made from 70 board feet of red oak, employs a face vise and an end vise. The top surface is three inches thick and perfectly flat. The whole thing weighs in at over 300 pounds creating a very stable work platform. It was fun to build and will help with more projects. Next, a new dining room table for Linda. – Bill DeCoste
13. RRYC on July 4 – Danielle Kuper

Club Calendar

August - September

August

- 7 First Friday
- 9 Adult Funday
- 10-14 Jr. Pirate Week
- 13 Board of Directors Meeting
- 22 Messing Around in Boats
- 26 Wednesday Night TY Racing

September

- 2 Wednesday Night TY Racing
- 4 First Friday
- 9 Wednesday Night TY Racing
- 15 VIA Meeting 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 16 Wednesday Night TY Racing
- 17 Board of Directors Meeting
- 23 Wednesday Night TY Racing
- 30 Wednesday Night TY Racing



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