



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB  
IRVINGTON, VA 22480

September 2020

# THE HEADWAY

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## Typhoon Fall Series

*By Bob Damon*



After missing the Spring Typhoon Series due to COVID-19 restrictions, the RRYC Typhoon Fleet started the Fall Series on the evening of August 26. Beautiful weather and pleasant breezes greeted the Race Committee of Hal Starke, Bob Damon, and Chris Volk on *Wildfire*, with Stan and Ned Crockett running the Mark boat on Stan's Boston Whaler as *Doug Power* was temporarily out of commission.

Eight Typhoons came out to race. Participants included Tom Chapman with Ed Johnson on *Not Hot*, Tom Watkins and Mike Kennedy on *Radio Flyer* (sporting red team shirts), Danielle Kuper with Stephanie Chaufourrier on *Ty Affair*, Shaun Thaxter with Coleman Brydon on *Orion*, Art Gilbert and crew on *Sculpin* (nice team shirts!), Ed Burton's Family on *Riverscape* including several junior sailors, Greg and Lisa Shivers on *CaVa* (also nice team shirts as well), and John Congdon with crew Mike Miller on his new boat, *Mad Cow*.

*(continued on page 5)*

## RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB

### FLAG OFFICERS

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**Director - Tom Wicks**

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**Club Manager - Kent White**



## Comments from the Commodore

*By Danielle Kuper*

*“RRYC’s vision is to be recognized throughout the Chesapeake Bay as providing outstanding sailing and social opportunities in a welcoming, vibrant and enjoyable yacht club environment.”*



Even pirates are welcome at RRYC! In August, several children and grandchildren of members spent Pirate Week at the club under the watchful eye of Arabella and her Premier Sailing instructors. Every good pirate needs to learn how to right a capsized boat. Taking turns one at a time in the pool, each participant was tossed into the water by a capsizing dinghy and they had to learn how to right it. It was a very hot week and so this particular activity was very popular!

Thank you, Ron Mihills for privately organizing a new weather station on Crab Point. The station is now a RRYC asset. See the details below.

The third annual “Messing About in Boats” sported a medley of different boats and new faces. Many thanks to Vice Commodore Ian Ormesher and Arabella Denvir/Premier Sailing for organizing a wonderful afternoon on the water.

A big “thank you” also to our Rear Commodore Charles Springett and his wife Sue for going above and beyond for the club. They **drove fifteen hundred miles** in order to pick up some new fiberglass pilings for the T-head enhancement plan, thereby substantially reducing the cost to the club. Read details below in the *Headway*. This challenging project could not have been executed so flawlessly by the Rear Commodore and his crew had Charles not thought of every minute detail in advance. Every potential hurdle was proactively overcome - it was masterfully executed by his RRYC-member crew. I was reminded, yet again, of the range and depth of expertise that RRYC members bring to the club!

# From the Vice Commodore

*By Ian Ormesher*

## Braving the Summer Sun

July and August were months when not just the sun, but the club juniors and families shone! Our second family Funday saw eight boats out on the water with hotter conditions than the first Funday, but still much spirited sailing and a clear drive to get out and enjoy the water. We have seen both juniors making their first foray into a dinghy, but equally important parents rekindling their sailing skills. Special note must go to Ap Pollard for his exhortations in retrieving tennis balls from the water without the aid of a dinghy!

The Fundays also provided additional impetus for Premier Sailing's "RRYC Pirate Week" (see Arabella's article), and we topped off the family events with "Messing About in Boats". Apart from being great fun, "Messing" made a huge statement about the popularity of sailing in the NNK. Due to COVID-19, we did run a slightly curtailed event, but we had a total of 16 dinghies and a grand total of 23 boats out on the water! This event lets us see some of sailing's names for the future. We have our own juniors making early ventures into competition with Maddie Ritter and Elise Sterrett, and you should keep an eye on young Henry Latell who finished overall first in the event. Well done, Henry!



*Henry Latell. 1<sup>st</sup> place overall MOB 2020*



*Messing 2020 Approaching the Mark*

This month's *Headway* signals the change from summer to fall activities. The Fall Typhoon Series has kicked off, and the fall regattas are only a couple of weeks away. Due to COVID-19, our friends at YPRCC won't be hosting all their normal fall events, and under the guiding hand of Glenn Solt we have decided to pick up two of those Saturday's with RRYC events. On September 5 we will run a Single-Handed race, and on September 26 will host a race for club boats of all sizes. We are calling it a "Turkey Shoot Tune Up", so even if the formal competition of the Turkey Shoot is not for you, this will be an opportunity for a great sail in the company of other club members.

Finally, club volunteers give yourselves a pat on the back; you know who you are - great job guys and girls! There is absolutely no success I mention in these articles that could be achieved without your efforts!



# From the Rear Commodore

*By Charles Springett*

**September 2020**

The big news this month is that RRYC is now officially in the pile driving business! There has been a lot of discussion about making the outside of the tee head friendlier to a wider variety of boats. The solution that the board agreed on (there were several proposals) was to install six new fiberglass piles midway between the seven existing wooden posts. Although we approached a couple of local contractors to drive them, we decided to install them ourselves partly to save money and partly so that we retained control of the schedule. The piles arrived from Georgia two weeks ago and were driven the day after they arrived. You may have seen the rather odd looking wooden structure sitting on the dock for the last month or so, but that was wheeled out to end of the dock and we used it to lift the piles into place and then to drive them using an old fashioned drop weight (120 pounds) made from concrete.

Our pile driving crew included:

Shaun Thaxter (who did most of the weight hoisting)  
Greg Kirkbride  
Tom Wicks

Ian Ormesher  
Jackie Allen (our newest and first lady beaver)

It was a morning's work, and we now have six new piles fastened to the side of the tee head and driven about five feet into the creek bed – the piles were 20 feet long, 8 inches in diameter and they weighed about 100 pounds each. I am very proud of our crew – the total cost of the installation was \$3,250. The only external quote we obtained was for six wooden piles and the \$4,500 did not include attachment to the dock.

As far as the Rear Commodore is concerned, this is the end of new dock construction and I am confident that the dock will be in place for a long time. Although it was the most expensive capital project the club has ever undertaken, the contribution of the beavers and other volunteers during the construction reduced the cost considerably. Those contributions included:

- Installing all the cleats
- Installing the line hangars
- Routing the corners of the finger pier posts and painting their tops
- Making and installing the wooden bumper posts on the tee head – 13 in all



*Ian Ormesher, Tom Wicks, Greg Kirkbride, Shaun Thaxter*

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## Rear Commodore

*(continued from page 4)*

- Installing the protection for the two pedestals on the tee head
- Installing all the slip number plates
- Installing the wooden ladders as requested by individual slip holders
- Installing the aluminum safety ladders
- Installing the posts for the fire extinguishers and the life rings
- Installing the pedestal bases

The beavers have also completed the replacement of the decking on the walkway down the side of the club house to the dock.

*Wildfire* is back in the water with a brand new topside paint job. Rappahannock Yachts has done a fine job under the meticulous supervision of George Kuper, and I hope the members like the new grey color – I think it looks very smart.

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## Typhoon Fall Season

*(continued from page 1)*



*(continued on page 6)*

## Typhoon Fall Season

*(continued from page 5)*

Three races were run with a triangle for the first race, an Olympic course for the second race, and a windward/leeward twice around for the third race. As usual, racing was close with this group, but this was only the first of six weekly events so stay tuned for final results.

If you have a Typhoon, come on out Wednesday evening, first gun is at 5:00 p.m. on the water. Fill out an entry form either online and forward to Bob Damon at [nomadbob@aol.com](mailto:nomadbob@aol.com), or use the box on the deck at RRYC with forms. We especially need Race Committee members that can operate either *Doug Power* or *Wildfire*. Contact Bob if you are available.



## Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta - October 3

*By Tom Chapman*



Help RRYC retain the John and Carole Jean McConnico Yacht Club trophy and have a great day on the water while supporting our local Hospices. Register before September 1 to get your boat's name on the commemorative T-Shirt.

Registration for the 25<sup>th</sup> Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta is open on Yachtscoring. In light of the COVID situation, onshore events and spinnakers have been eliminated from this year's event which will now be a one day Pursuit Race. All communications with racers will be electronically with the exception that you will still be able to pick up your skipper's bags with the usual T-Shirts, Hats and information at RRYC's Parking Lot.

You know you had fun at last year's Turkey Shoot Pursuit Race, so continue the tradition and come out this year. Just click on <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=13004> to register at Yachtscoring.



# Pirate Week

*By Arabella Denvir*



*From left: Regina Rowan (instructor), Finn Rowan (Trainee instructor), Maddie Ritter, Eliza Leo, Tyler Asch, Ryan Asch (instructor), Alistair Amos. Front row from left is Elise Sterrett, Lawter Marchetti, Tucker Braly, Henry Latell, Eli Stewart and Max Braly*

Pirate Week drew out our newest, youngest club members and encouraged them to start sailing during the week of August 10-14. Tucker and Max Braly, aged 9 and 7 took their first ever sailing course. Elise Sterrett (age 8) started one week earlier in the summer and was ahead of the game for Pirate Week. Lawter Marchetti, just 6, sailed with Elise and managed in weather that was a little bit stronger than ideal for a first week of sailing. She was a brave soul. Henry Latell (age 8) was full of action and speed, having already done two weeks of training earlier in the summer and having competed in two regattas. His all black Opti sail was perfect for pirate week. Eli Stewart (age 10), friend of the Braly family, had the fastest mind for the solving of puzzles and finding of clues. This younger group of new sailors and Opti sailors was taught by Premier Sailing instructor Regina Rowan, who loves working with young kids.

The intermediate group contained mostly old favourites who have been attending RRYC Junior program for many years now, and included Tyler Asch (age 16), Maddie Ritter (age 13), and Alistair Amos (14). Eliza Leo (age 10), reintroduced to sailing through the Sunday Fun Day, sailed a mini-fish well and fast and joined this older group. This group was taught by Ryan Asch, instructor from Premier Sailing and RRYC member since his birth 18 years ago! This group was not part of the Pirate activity; they focused instead on building up their sailing skills.

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## 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 September 22 for October 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*.

## Pirate Week

*(continued from page 7)*



Arabella Denvir said, “We had a big club meeting in January, the topic being “How do we get our new young member families interested in sailing. Well, the ideas that came out of that meeting worked, and suddenly ALL of the new young families are sailing, or at least their young children are – what a fabulous end result!”

Pirate week was essentially a mixture of learning to sail, and then a fun-filled couple of days dressed as pirates hunting for the treasure, which was eventually unearthed on the beach at the Tides Inn. Friday was cancelled due to a nasty forecast full of storms and gusty winds.

Photo shows the pirates with their treasure (individually tailored backpacks). Arabella said she had to have a secret meeting with Regina to decide exactly which backpack would be the perfect choice for each sailor.



RRYC Junior Sailing Week 2020 was a great success and hopefully this will lead our new families to take out club boats and just go sailing!



# RRYC Weather Station

*By Ron Mihills*

Have you ever decided not to sail with the kids on Carter's Creek because of a gloomy wind forecast...only to read a later Headway article describing one of the best sailing days of the season?

Thanks to the 15 RRYC sailors who funded the industrial model weather station for RRYC, and thanks as well to Michael and Susan Tempest for offering to have the station placed on their Crab Point property. The weather station is located to starboard as you enter Carter's Creek from the Rappahannock River, opposite daybeacon R "4". It is the only local location on the northern side of the Rappahannock with exposure to the northerly winds which are critical in providing microclimate level hyper-local updates every minute.



*Brent Mihills installs RRYC personal weather station on a sailboat mast at Crab Point.*

*"How do I access the current weather at Crab Point?"*

- Enter <https://rainwise.net/weather/rrycweather> into your web browser (RainWise is the manufacture of the RRYC commercial weather station)
- A RainWiseNET dashboard updates Crab Point weather every minute.
- Bookmark the page address in your browser and you are two clicks away from viewing the RRYC - Crab Point weather!

*"How do I obtain forecasts from Crab Point?"*

- RainWise shares Crab Point data with two free forecasting apps – Weather Underground and SailFlow. Registering with an app allows you to save local personal weather station locations such as Crab Point – RRYC, Sanders Cove, and Hummel Field. Both apps have upgraded, fee-based, ad-free, versions which offer added forecasting features.
  - o Weather Underground Station ID: KVAWEEMS7 (nter in "Search Locations" window)
  - o SailFlow Station: Crab Point – RRYC
- Sailflow is one of the most popular apps for racers. When viewing a complete report of Crab Point - RRYC on SailFlow, scroll to the bottom of the report to "Station Info" and note the 'Data courtesy of RRYC' entry in cluding a link directly to the RRYC web page.

*Fair winds!*

# Henry Latell, The Sailor!

*By Jerry Latell*

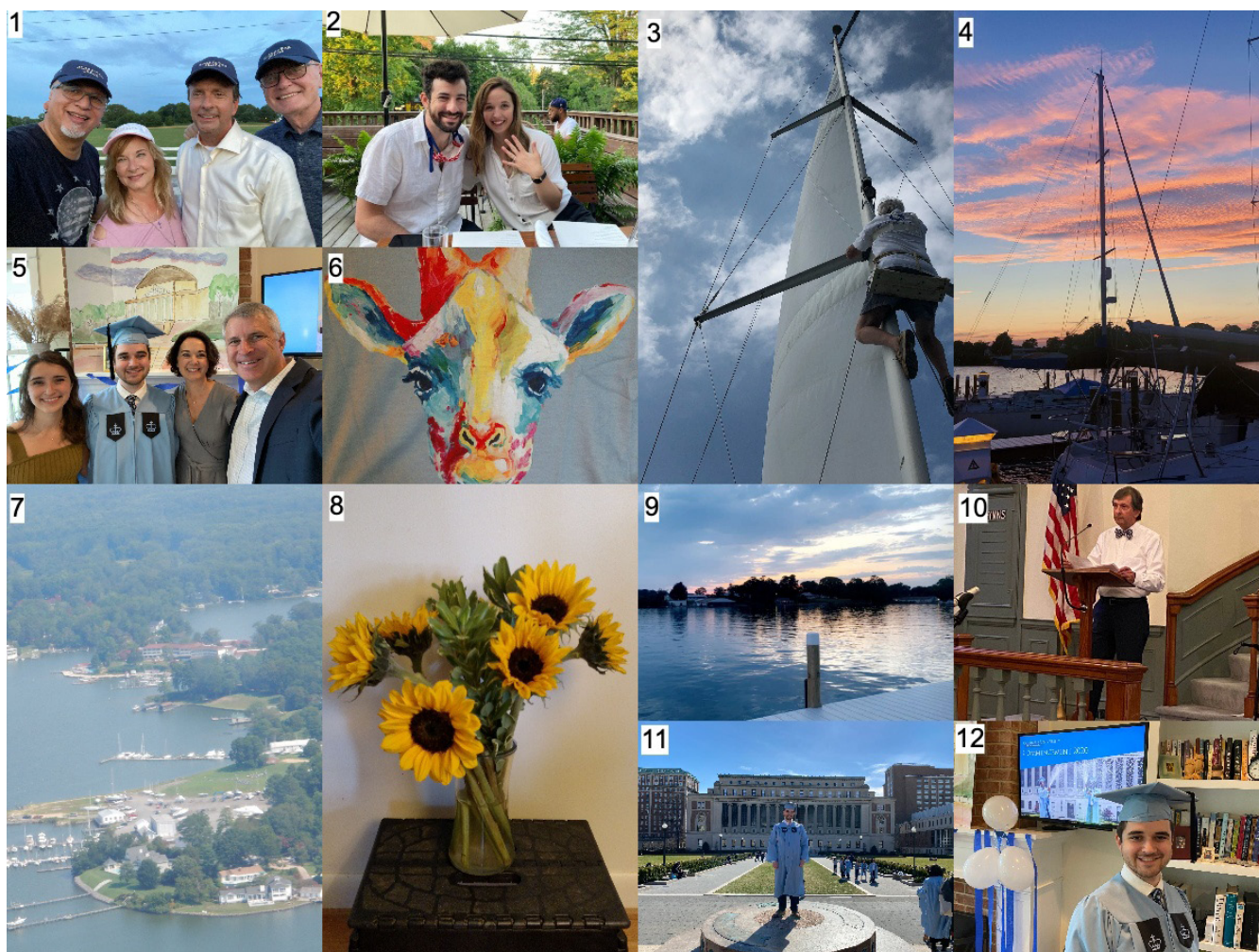
Henry sailed in the green fleet at Norfolk Yacht and Country Club on July 24-26. They held a clinic on Friday with racing on Saturday and Sunday. It was his first full regatta and he learned a ton and did quite well.

A few weeks later he won the RRYC Messing About in Boats Regatta. Before all this he spent four weeks at Premier Sailing this summer and learned a ton.





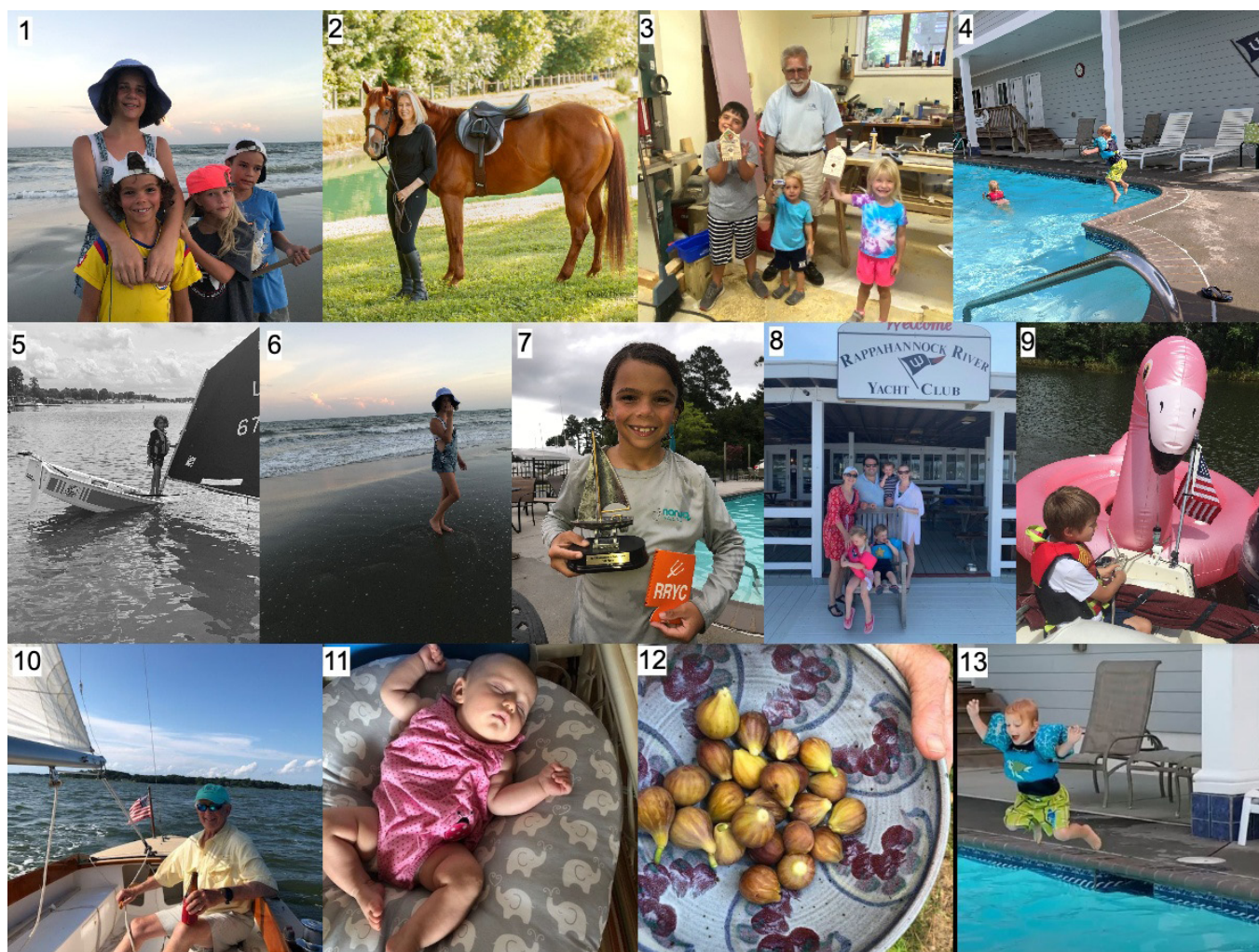
## Here's what some RRYC members have been doing...



- 1) Brad and Joanie in Franklin, TN with friends for the Alabaster Grace photo shoot. – Brad Perry
- 2) Daughter, Jess got engaged. – Martha Little
- 3) This was me from a not very flattering angle on my way up the mast to fix a jam in my roller furling a couple of weekends ago. Proof that sailing keeps you young (and stupid!) Coleman Brydon, on Inspiration. – Coleman Brydon
- 4) Sunset/dock photo #1 that either Sabina or Bob took. – Eve German
- 5) John Richardson, graduate with Family. – Tom Richardson
- 6) No reason for these except that they are gifts I received that made me smile. Gift #1 – Jo Chamberlain
- 7) My aerial view of RRYC during an airplane ride. – Cathy Polhamus
- 8) No reason for these except that they are gifts I received that made me smile. Gift #2 – Jo Chamberlain
- 9) Sunset/dock photo #2 that either Sabina or Bob took. – Eve German
- 10) Brad delivering a message for Kilmarnock United Methodist Church. – Joanie Perry
- 11) and 12) Celebrating John Richardson, Graduate of Columbia University, Environmental Science. – Tom Richardson

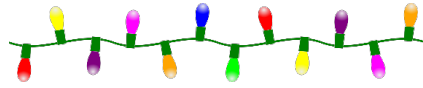


## Here's what some RRYC members have been doing...



- 1) The Latell family at the beach. – Jerry Latell
- 2) Riding my horse in Goochland. - Mary Ruth Burton
- 3) Our grandchildren came for five days. – Charles and Sue Springett
- 4) We swam in the pool. – Charles and Sue Springett
- 5) Henry Latell on an Opti. – Jerry Latell
- 6) Enjoying the beach. – Jerry Latell
- 7) Henry winning 1st Overall at RRYC. – Jerry Latell
- 8) We have enjoyed our grandchildren visiting from Baltimore. Two good ways to ride out the pandemic. – Mary Ruth Burton and Rich McClain
- 9) Wyatt Mihills, Ron & Cheryl's grandson, rescues a floating pink flamingo that "escaped" from an Annapolis waterfront bachelorette party. – Ron Mihills
- 10) This is Harry sailing on Possum – Harry and Jane Wells
- 11) Our new grand baby Virginia who has been living with us – Harry and Jane Wells
- 12) A bowl of figs - We made fig tarts and jam and popped them into our mouths right off the tree. - Harry and Jane Wells
- 13) Our grandchildren came for five days. We swam in the pool. – Charles and Sue Springett

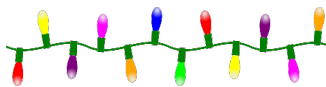




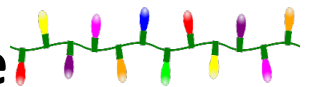
# **Lights on the Creek**

presents the revival of the

**Carters Creek**



**Christmas Boat Parade**

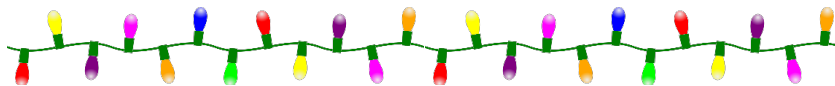


Save the Date !

**November 28, 2020**

*In previous years, the Carters Creek communities have enjoyed the decorated boat parade on the creek. A scaled back version of this much enjoyed tradition will return this year, keeping in mind social distancing.*

***More details to follow !***



# Club Calendar

## September - October

(Please check the RRYC website calendar for updates and times.)

### September

- 2 Wednesday Night TY Racing
- 4 First Friday
- 5 YPRCC Fall Regatta
- 9 Wednesday Night TY Racing
- 15 VIA Meeting
- 16 Wednesday Night TY Racing
- 17 Board of Directors Meeting
- 19 Rappahannock Cup Regatta
- 19 Club Dinner
- 23 Wednesday Night TY Racing
- 26 YPRCC Single Handed Race
- 30 Wednesday Night TY Racing

### October

- 2 First Friday
- 3-4 Turkey Shoot Regatta
- 10 New Member Orientatino
- 15 Board of Directors Mtg
- 17 Commodore's Cup Regatta
- 17 Club Dinner
- 20 VIA Meeting

### SEPTEMBER



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