



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB
IRVINGTON, VA 22480

September 2017

THE HEADWAY

The Balearic Islands

By Charles and Sue Springett



Medieval Walls Above Port Mahon Waterfront

Sue and I decided to visit the Balearic Islands this spring while *Ariel* was in the Marina at Calpe on the Costa Blanca (between Alicante and Valencia). These are a small island group about 70 miles off the mainland Spanish coast. They have been inhabited since prehistoric times and their sovereignty has changed hands multiple times since recorded history when the Phoenicians controlled a large part of the Mediterranean. As in much of Southern Spain they were conquered in about 900 by Islamic forces coming from the East (still referred to locally as the

Moors). The Moors were driven out around 1400 AD and now, although the islands enjoy a considerable amount of autonomy, they are still associated with Catalan. The principal islands are Formentera, Ibiza, Majorca and Menorca with Formentera being the closest to Calpe, a long day sail away.

We left Calpe at 0715 on Sunday April 30 in the company of *Reflexion*, a Danish X Yacht owned by Ian Miller from the Channel Islands, who was

(continued on page 3)

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB



Comments from the Commodore

By Tom Decker, Commodore

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- Although the weather was unbelievably hot, the August social drew a large crowd. We enjoyed burgers, dogs, and brats straight from the grill, along with all the fixins. It was great to see such a large crowd at the club. Perhaps we will plan to have an August social next year.
- Looking at our long-term needs as a club, we need to seriously consider rebuilding the dock in the near future. The clubhouse will stand for years, but our 23-year-old dock continues to deteriorate. Just this week we lost another piling due to worms eating the piling off at the mud level. We continue to address issues that arise and do the band aide approach. We recognize that we are facing a large financial outlay and the dock committee, under the umbrella of the Long Range Planning Committee, is investigating alternatives. An extensive report will be given at the annual meeting. The costs are such that a briefing to the members is required. The Long Range Planning Committee will also brief at the Annual meeting.
- I need to address a continuing problem. Ours is a volunteer organization and all of us need to respond when called upon. One such place where we can all pitch in is contributing appetizers to our monthly socials when asked to do so. Our socials are totally planned, cooked, and served by volunteers. Members bringing appetizers keeps our costs down and lower costs are passed on to you in what we charge you for dinner. So I am hoping that all of you will cheerfully respond when you get the call.
- We, as a Board, have recognized that some sort of inflationary increase in dues should be done annually. We are not in trouble financially, but we need to keep a close watch on how we spend our money. This is why we ask members at socials to clean up their own tables. We currently hire one person to help in the kitchen and to clean the clubhouse once a week. We also have a pool service. All the rest of the work goes to volunteer members, just as we have a group of volunteers, the Beavers, to do the weekly maintenance on the clubhouse, dock, club boats and the grounds. Our members continually bring forward great ideas and suggest purchases (and we encourage this) but the Board is very careful about financial commitments and long term consequences of decisions we make. We take spending our members' money very seriously.

See you on the water, Tom Decker, Commodore

The Balearic Islands

(continued from page 3)

heading to Ibiza to leave the boat for several weeks until his wife was able to join him. We actually stayed reasonably close to *Reflexion* for the whole day and dropped anchor within 15 minutes of each other just North of Ibiza (town) at 1845 after an exhilarating sail in Southerly winds on a broad reach. The next day we sailed with *Reflexion* back to Formentera and a really great anchorage in Islas Empladora just North of the main Island and a very pleasant dinner aboard *Reflexion* who was trying to empty his refrigerator. The next day we left Ian and made the short trip to Formentera and found a place in the marina. Formentera is the smallest of the Balearics and is relatively flat; the other islands are quite mountainous. As we did in all the islands we rented a car and drove around. Formentera's history revolves around fishing and they have developed a unique way of housing and launching their iconic small boats. They use crude wooden rails supported on stilts to take their boats in and out of the water. They mostly now use electric winches but you can still see the remains of some of the original hand operated windlasses.

While in Spain we adopted the Spanish custom of eating a major meal at about 2:30 in the afternoon that lasts until about 4:00 PM after which a siesta takes care of the rest of the day. Very civilized and Formentera had some really nice restaurants overlooking the water.

From Formentera we sailed up the West coast of Ibiza to San Antonio, famous for lots of raucous and generally inebriated Brits – not in evidence during our visit. This was one of the nicer marinas we visited and it was a great place from which to explore Ibiza.

Ibiza is home to the town of Santa Eulalia, the patron saint of Catalan. Ibiza was repopulated with Catalonians after the expulsion of the Moors in the 1400's and they bought their patron saint with them.

Majorca is a day sail from the North Coast of Ibiza and we hoped to find a place in Palma, the capital. No space in any marina so we diverted to El Arenal and an overpriced and rather industrial marina. We took the bus into Palma and spent an interesting day but Palma is a big bustling city with lots of tourists. There is a lot to see; in particular the Arab bathhouse, a legacy of the Moors occupation and the late medieval cathedral. From El Arenal we



Ariel at Anchor on Islas Cabrera



Fort Guarding the Entrance to Cabrera Harbor

sailed to Islas Cabrera a nature reserve on a small island about 14 miles off the coast. You have to make reservations and pay for your mooring on the Internet. We elected to stay for two nights and the anchorage is a huge very well protected bay.

The island is uninhabited except for the park rangers but it is well administered. Cabrera is popular and apparently it is hard to find space there at the height of the season. There are pleasant walks on the island and you can climb to the fort guarding the entrance.

(continued on page 4)

The Balearic Islands

(continued from page 3)



*The Luxury of Coming Alongside
– Porto Preto*

From Cabrera it was a short sail to Porto Petro; one of the nicest marinas we stayed at. Porto Petro is a pretty little town with everything in walking distance.

Rafael and Flora's restaurant next to the harbor was a delight. We ate there twice and the food was excellent. One of the many small families owned and operated restaurants we found. We rented a car here and spent two full days exploring the island. Majorca is very popular with Germans many of whom were riding bicycles in large groups around the narrow winding roads – quite a challenge and absolutely no point in being in a hurry.

We thought about stopping at a harbor on the North coast of Majorca but decided we would go straight to Cuitadella on the South coast of Menorca.



Typical Balearic Island Fishing Boat Bow Configuration

We do not know a lot about these people but they were famous in ancient times for their stone and slingshot warriors. Hannibal used a lot of them in his battles against the Romans. Port Mahon, on the Northern coast is the capital of Menorca and the island's tourist center also with a good natural harbor; we elected to visit by car. Mahon is named

(continued on page 5)



*Standard Med Moor at Club Nautico
Cuitadella*

We loved Cuitadella, a fabulous natural harbor right in the middle of an ancient town. Menorca was our favorite island. Still a strong British presence but much more abundant history going back to prehistoric times. We visited a lot of the settlement sites with evidence of both living quarters as well as burial buildings called Navetas because they look like upturned boats. There are also strange vertical stones with a flat stone balanced on top called "Tabulas" the purpose for which is unknown.



*Naveta D'Es Tudons - Prehistoric (C 1200 BC) Burial
Structure*

The Balearic Islands

(continued from page 4)

after Mago, Hannibal’s youngest brother. A local delicacy is the egg sauce we know today as Mayonnaise and that is where the name comes from.

We returned to Calpe with stops on Islas Cabrera and Islas Empadadora where completely coincidentally we ran into Ian Fleming and *Reflexion* as well as Yoshi a Japanese sailor we befriended in Portugal the previous year. Yoshi sails a 47 foot Halberg Rassy he bought in Florida. We arrived back in Calpe on May 21 in time to help celebrate (with about 25 family members) my sister’s eightieth birthday.

There are a number of charter companies in the Balearics and although it is a long way to go, they are worth visiting. The months of July and August should be avoided because everything is very busy, it is hot, there is no wind and everything is expensive. Early spring and late fall are both delightful and there is no problem getting reservations at the marinas or finding space in the many beautiful anchorages. We did everything in three weeks but it would very easy and rewarding to spend more time if it is possible.



Typical Tabula on Menorca

In September we will leave Calpe for Gibraltar, Tangier, the Moroccan coast and the Canary Islands. We will be returning to the US with Jimmy Cornell’s Islands Odyssey from Tenerife via the Cape Verde Islands and Barbados. We expect to be back in the Chesapeake some time in May 2018.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Report to the Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Sue Kirkbride, Pete Knight, Carl Isbrandsten, Tom Watkins, George Kuper and Tom Decker, (as Commodore and ex-officio), offer the following slate of Officers and Directors to serve in 2018:

Commodore: Tom Chapman
 Vice Commodore: Danielle Kuper
 Rear Commodore: Ed Peake
 Treasurer: Tom Richardson
 Secretary: Candice Franco

Directors serving the remainder of their term:
 Dave Bronson Ted Kvell
 Mike Kennedy, (to serve the balance of
 Danielle Kuper’s term)

Directors to serve a two-year term:
 Jen Resio Martha Little Ken Vincent

Respectfully Submitted,
 Peter M. Clay, Chair, Past Commodore

Kayak Fleet Info

By Blanche Stevens

Kayakers!

We got rained out on August 12 for a paddle on the eastern branch of Carters Creek, and no one was able to come on the 19th. Maybe the September group will have better luck with the weather and timing.

From the Vice Commodore

By Tom Chapman, Vice Commodore

- **Fall Racing:** Fall Racing is officially underway with the August 30 Typhoon series start. PHRF Racing kicked off August 26 with our rescheduled Singlehanded Regatta. Our PHRF schedule includes the YPRCC Fall Regatta September 9, the Rappahannock Cup, September 16-17, the Turkey Shoot September 30 and October 1 and finally the RRYC Commodore's Cup Regatta to close out the season on October 15. Let's get everyone to the starting line.
- **Turkey Shoot:** The Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta is a major fall event in Irvington and in addition to the fun and competition raises money for both Hospice Support Services of the Northern Neck and Riverside Volunteer Hospice. RRYC won the McConnico Trophy (best Yacht Club or Marina) in 2014 and 2015 but FBYC won it in 2016. Let's get more boats entered in the regatta and win it back.
- **Volunteers:** Volunteers will be needed for Typhoon RC on Wednesday nights, PHRF Regatta RCs and Turkey Shoot RC and landside activities like water taxi and other activities. Please reach out and volunteer. Contact Tom Linville for Typhoon RC, Tom Chapman for PHRF RC, Ed Johnson for Turkey Shoot water taxi and Kimberly Vail for Turkey Shoot skipper bag stuffing, hat and T-Shirt sales and registration.

From the Rear Commodore

By Ed Peake, Rear Commodore

Members:

We have recently installed a lock box on the thermostat in the clubhouse. After numerous complaints regarding the heat over the last month and people constantly adjusting the temperature trying to make it cooler we decided to keep the thermostat at a consistent temperature to see if that would help keep the clubhouse cooler as well as warmer in the winter. We have also put tape over the ceiling fan switches; please do not remove the tape to turn the fans off. The fans must stay on at all times to help with the temperature control.

Thank you for your cooperation.



What did you do for the solar eclipse?



It would be fun to see what everyone did for the eclipse. Here's a picture of us out on the creek on *Volare*.

Chris Little

Junior Sailing (Pirate Week) on August 14-18

By Arabella Denvir

We all had a blast during Pirate week this year – the students and the instructors and Arabella too. Everyone tried different boats (Optis, Sunfish and 420s) and some learned to fly a spinnaker on the 420. Instructors jumped in and out of the sailboats to give the kids some intensive training. Sailing skills were vastly improved while simultaneously sailing up and down the creek to find clues for the Treasure. The Treasure was eventually located near the big chessboard at the Tides Inn on Friday morning and included a watch for each sailor.

Students were mainly the usual suspects, some of who have been coming for many years now.

Instructors were club members and excellent racing sailors Alex Resio (Head Instructor) and John Vail (420 instructor), and Arabella Denvir.

The group of students was full of wit and repartee and clever puns, so no two days were the same, and every day was a blast!

Participants were: Drew Blandford (14) and Eric Blandford (11) and Hart Miller (8), Frank and Grace Ann Miller's grandchildren; Addison Karluk (Coleman and Terry Brydon's grandchild). Millie Branflick (9), Jeff and Louise's daughter; Nolan Marfiak (Kent White's grandson); Chloe Hohensee (Kimberly and Scott Vaile granddaughter); Ryleigh Hornsmith (Steven Horn's grandchild; and Nathan Meberg and Maddie Ritter.



*Back row, from left, Ryleigh Hornsmith, Addison Karluk, Alex Resio (Instructor), Nolan Marfiak, Drew Blandford, John Vail (Instructor), Middle row, from left: Nathan Meberg, Eric Blandford, Maddie Ritter
Front row, from left: Hart Miller, Millie Branflick, and Chloe Hohensee.*

Long Cruise to Baltimore

(355nm with almost no sail ware)

By Grace Ann & Frank Miller

Cruise Vessels: *Inspiration*, Coleman and Terry Brydon; *Wetted Bliss*, Steve and Shelia Zukor; *Autumn Wind*, Ken and Kay Vincent; *Tart*, Jack McKim and Alison Gay; *Prime Time*, Tom and Glenda Decker; *Joy Ride*, Pete and Ginny Clay; *Windblown*, Frank and Grace Ann Miller.

June 24 - RRYC with impromptu social on the porch

June 25 - Sail to Mill Creek with cocktails hosted by *Wetted Bliss* and *Tart*

June 26 - Sail to Solomons Island, Maryland and the usual cocktails at Solomons Island Yacht Club.

This might be the most social club on the Bay with bar open seven nights a week and many new friends.



June 27 and 28 - Sail to St. Michaels Maryland (yes, we actually did sail for about 5 miles). Most boats stayed at Henderson's Yacht Yard due to the closeness to town and the C Street Saloon. Shopping, great food, cocktails and, oh yes ice cream. Dinner at the Crab Claw restaurant was both delicious and expensive.



June 29 - Short sail to West River with drinks, dinner and swim hosted by Jack and Alison. What a great evening. Some boats stayed at Chesapeake Yacht Club, which although closed except on weekends, appears to be a very nice club. Also, if you need to know whether to dock bow or stern first,

which lines to use, whether to secure the eye a bitter end to the boat, when to put your lines on the boat, when to tie lines to dock, how to run and plug in your electricity and much other unneeded and unwanted information, the CYC dock master is there to help.



(continued on page 9)

Long Cruise to Baltimore

(continued from page 8)

June 30 - July 1 - Short trip to Annapolis with most boats using moorings. Always a great place to visit. Our stay included bar hopping, shopping, breakfast and pledge of allegiance at Chick and Ruth's, cocktails at East Point Yacht Club and a special tour of the U.S. Naval Academy conducted by Tom Decker, Class of 68.



July 2 - After many tries and all misses, RRYC finally made it to Gibson Island. Docking at the GI Yacht Squadron with excellent Dock Master, Devner and son. With a rented golf cart all were able to tour the private island with vacation homes built in the 30's to 50's. Cocktails and dinner were special at the new Gibson Island Club.



July 3 - 4 - A short motor to Baltimore's Inner Harbor Marina. What's not to do in Downtown Baltimore. Special interests included Ft. McHenry tours, 100 plus beers on tap in Fells Point and the new Broadway Pier Hotel. Then there was the spectacular July 4 fire works, which was watched from our boats. Next visit we may chose to dock away from the post fireworks line dancing!



(continued on page 10)



Long Cruise to Baltimore

(continued from page 9)

July 5 - Baltimore to Herrington Harbor South with its large pool. However, Mango's Restaurant and Tiki Bar is in the process of being replaced by The Point.

July 6 - Rough trip from Herrington Harbor to Solomons, rain winds gusting to 20 plus and more rain. All arrived safely at SIYC and the sun came out. As usual cocktails and many friends, dining at the Pier Restaurant and ice cream. There is a rumor that some also went to the infamous Tiki Bar.

July 7 - Several boats left for home with good weather. *Wetted Bliss* and *Windblown* stayed in Solomons and took a day trip by boat to Vera's White Sands Marina and Beach club. Vera is gone but the new owners have turned it into a great venue with large restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, several bars, a beach club with tiki bar, live bands on Saturdays, and good docks. We will go back!

July 8 - *Windblown* and *Wetted Bliss* returned home with good sailing, motoring and a beautiful day. Not much sailing during the trip, but beautiful weather with one exception, reasonable temperatures and the great RRYC cruisers to share the journey!

Burgee Item of the Month

By Mike Kennedy

THREE MORE!

Since the last *Headway* we have received three more burgees for our collection.



From right to left: The Greater Richmond Sailing Association donated by Bob Damon. The Masonic Yacht Club and Greenwich Yacht Club both donated by Stu Polhamus. Interestingly the Masonic Yacht Club originally met at the Astor Hotel in NYC in 1964. It still has no clubhouse or boat requirement but is a member of the Yachting Association so it does have reciprocal agreements with member clubs.

And so our collection grows. Bring us what you have and let's fill all available space.

Last shot: when traveling, bring your RRYC burgee and take a selfie with it to show your whereabouts.

Great fodder for *The Headway*! Fun seeing where members go!

Travel safely!

Submitting Items to *The Headway*

All items for publication should be submitted via email to headway@rryc.org no later than the 20th of the prior month (i.e. by September 20th 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 100 or that begin sentences. Use a twenty-four hour clock for all times (i.e. 16:00, not 4:00 P.M.)

From the Galley

By Craig Akers

Ahoy, mates! The August social proved to be every bit as steamy as one would expect, but it didn't stop a large crew of more than 75 RRYC members and guests from coming out to enjoy hotdogs, hamburgers, and brats with baked beans, pasta salad, and all the fixins. And the reduced cost of only \$15 per person included beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres, thus helping everyone cope with the heat as well. Thanks to Jan Akers, Coleman Brydon, Candace & Dick Franco, and Sue & Greg Kirkbride for spending their Saturday morning slicing and dicing, setting tables, and doing all the prep work to prepare for the evening, and then coming back to help with serving and cleanup. Thanks also to Leslie Damon for coming in early and working throughout the evening helping with dinner and dessert, and a special thanks to Jim Schmidt, Ed Peake, and Tom Decker for standing over the hot grill on such a hot day. As one member said, they were "the hottest guys" at the social. Despite the heat, the new grill came in handy again for cooking the brats, burgers, and dogs to order, but it was definitely hot, HOT, HOOOOOOOT! If you don't believe me, just ask Jim or Ed. And finally, thanks to Ken Vincent and the army of volunteers who helped with cleanup. The "fix your own" sundae bar was a nice refreshing finish to the meal, and proved to be very popular. I hope Jim and Ed got a double portion of the cool ice cream.

Volunteerism is the thing that makes this Club so great, and I can't express enough gratitude to the volunteers of the Social Committee who come out and work every month to make the socials a huge success. This month the Social Committee not only donated their time and talents to prepare the dinner, but also shopped and prepared the appetizers, as it is getting harder to get the membership to bring them. Please show your appreciation for the contributions of the Social Committee by chipping in to provide a hors d'oeuvre to feed 10 if asked. Many hands make light work, and if everyone pitches in, you should only have to bring something once every 6-12 months. And the next time you see a member of the Social Committee, thank them for the time and effort they contribute to make RRYC such a wonderful Club.

Come out next month and join us for our 5th annual "men in the kitchen" dinner. The weather should be more moderate, and fare will be apricot curry shrimp over rice (this is not a spicy curry, so don't be scared off), with a pear and gorgonzola greens salad, and a mixture of red, black, and lima beans, plus a 6-oz. Crème Brulee for dessert. If you are male and would like to join in the fun and camaraderie, e-mail me at rryc.craig@gmail.com and let me know you want to participate in "men in the kitchen." You do not have to be a member of the Social Committee, and don't even need to be "handy" in the kitchen. All you need is to be willing to have fun with the guys. I look forward to seeing you there.

SEPTEMBER MENU



Apricot Curry Shrimp over Rice

Pear and Gorgonzola Greens Salad

Mixture of Red, Black and Lima Beans

6-oz. Crème Brulee



Club Calendar September - October

September

1 st	First Friday
2 nd	Sarnowski Party
6 th	Typhoon Racing
9 th	Jr. Rappah Social
13 th	Typhoon Racing & Dinner
16 th	Rappahannock Cup Regatta Board of Directors Meeting Club Social
17 th	Rappahannock Cup Regatta
20 th	Typhoon Racing
27 th	Typhoon Racing
29 th	Turkey Shoot Regatta
30 th	Turkey Shoot Regatta

October

1 st	Turkey Shoot Regatta
4 th	Typhoon Racing
6 th	First Friday
13 th	Private Party
14 th	Commodore's Cup Regatta
21 st	Board of Directors Meeting Club Social



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