



Owner's Association



NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER 2021

From the Commodore (Jim Hontz)

Dear Fellow Dickersonians! Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Well, the pandemic has been impeding our association activities for two years now. We are all looking forward to some level of normalcy in the coming year. Through the magic of Commodores D and Don Wogaman of **SOUTHERN CROSS**, and the fabulous hosts Bill and Chris Burry (**PLOVER**) at Hookumfair, we had a 2021 Rendezvous full of camaraderie. We are also thankful to Phil Dunn and Joan Podd, neighbors of Hookumfair, for the use of their dock and a presentation of Phil's photography studio. Phil photographed the race. Check out the pictures on the DOA website. <https://www.fastcatphil.com/People/2021-Dickerson-Reunion/i-9xxN8jk> Fantastic!

For us, the crew of **TROUBADOUR**, the Rendezvous and subsequent cruise are about all the sailing we can do all year. Let's see if we can extend that to entice Phaedra and the kids to stay out for a month or more. I have heard of past extended trips (Delmarva Peninsula, Albemarle Sound,...). Is this truth or fiction?

Please attend the Business Luncheon (details below) on January 15, 2022 at the Red Lobster in Annapolis. There are many in-house items to discuss: News from the "New" fleet captains, the Dickerson exhibit at the Richardson Museum in its new location (Sail Master Kerry O'Malley, and board members Barry Creighton and Joe Slavin will have ideas and questions), the newly formatted member list from Eric White (thanks Eric!), and the treasurer's report including the new epay option (John Freal has been working hard on this). Arrange your schedules now to attend the 2022 Rendezvous in Oxford.

We are looking forward to the seeing all of you at the luncheon. Our beloved Sampson Post has mentioned that he hopes to be there!

Dickerson Business Lunch January 15, 2022 at Annapolis (Joe Slavin)

The Dickerson Lunch will be held from 11AM to 3PM on Saturday January 15, 2022 at the Red Lobster Restaurant, 183 Jennifer Road, Annapolis MD. The program will include a discussion by Commodore Jim Hontz of "Dickerson State of the Union" and plans for the 57th Annual Rendezvous at Oxford on Father's Day Weekend, June 17-19,2022 with dinner at the Tred Avon Yacht Club. Sailing Master Kerry O'Malley, Fleet Captains and other members and guests will discuss matters important to our Dickerson Association, including tips on the maintenance of Dickerson yachts. Contact Joe Slavin re your attendance at jws2827@aol.com or 571-287-7600

Dues Reminder to all Members (John Freal)

As a reminder, membership dues are now payable on a calendar year basis. Dues are paid at the end of each year for the following year; notices for 2022 will be sent out over the next month.

For 2022 dues, we have added an option for members to pay electronically with PayPal. **This is an option if you choose to use it.** Members may continue to pay dues with a check. In any event, please return the dues form using the stamped envelope just like last year. Once we finalize the menu for the 2022 Rendezvous, we will have a separate form for you to sign up and pay for dinner.

Any questions, contact Treasurer John Freal at jwf@brackenusa.com

PayPal dues payment process as you follow the prompts from the PayPal website:

- Visit [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com)
- Login or create an account if you don't already have one.
- Click "Pay or Get Paid" in the upper navigation bar
- Type in DickersonOwners@gmail.com which is where the money goes
- Chose the source of your payment i.e. credit card, bank account, etc.
- Enter amount to pay and click "Send"
- Next screen gives a choice between paying a friend or paying for an item or service. Choose "pay a friend" to avoid fees to you.

Verify transaction and approve

Plan Now to Attend Dickerson Owners Association Classic Sailboat Rendezvous June 17-19, 2022 Oxford, Maryland (Commodore Jim Hontz)

Events include a Parade on Friday afternoon on June 17 followed by a Commodores' Cookout at 6 pm at the Safe Harbor Marina grounds.

Highlights of the Rendezvous include the Dickerson Classic Boat Race on Saturday Morning followed by Dinner at 6 pm at the Tred Avon Yacht Club.

Dockage is available at Oxford's Safe Harbor Marina and the Tred Avon Yacht Club.

A traditional post Rendezvous Cruise is also included in the program.

A sign up form will be sent out after January 1, 2022 but please feel free to let us know of your interest in advance.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way Home from Maine! (Chris & Bill Burry & Flaco the Sailing Dog)

PLOVER did a slightly different summer cruise this year down east to Maine since Canadian waters were still closed due to COVID. Like our sister ship D 41' **DOWN HOME**, we enjoyed eating lobster, hiking in cooler temperatures and discovering a new set of offshore islands to explore. We made landfall from the Cape Cod Canal east of Penobscot Bay and then sailed as far down east as we could to Eastport, ME. (44° 57' N 066° 53' W). This included passing through Canadian waters as we cruised around Campobello Island where we experienced 20' tides in the Bay of Fundy.

We would describe the trip as 2,000 miles, 3 months, 3 crew and a million lobster pots! We did more motoring than we would like due to light or adverse winds.

Then a funny thing happened once we reached the Chesapeake Bay – the fall winds picked up and we had several days of the best sailing we had all summer. What's not to like about a reach down the upper bay under the Annapolis Bay Bridge at 6-7 knots? Or a rip-roaring 60nm downwind sail from Solomon's, MD across the Potomac Ocean all the way to Mathews, VA in one day? It made us want to keep sailing over the horizon and made us appreciate our home waters in the Chesapeake Bay.



Illustration 1: PLOVER under sail down the Chesapeake Bay

Lost but not Forgotten: Sad Tale of a Dickerson 36' (Chris & Bill Burry with Barry Creighton)

Ten years ago Barry Creighton (**CREW REST**) found a diamond in the rough in the form of **LAURA ISABEL**, a 1972 wooden Dickerson 36' at his marina in New Point Comfort. She needed a new owner and Barry together with Bob Shelton (**AQUANIMITAS**) found not one, but four new owners. They sailed her up to Deltaville and put her at Chick Cove Marina near Bob's boat. In the spring of 2012, we met the new owners who invited us to a renaming & christening ceremony for **LOTHLORIEN**. She had been restored and painted a vivid RED and was ready for a new life.



Illustration 2: LOTHLORIEN in better times in 2011

Fast forward 10 years in time to two weeks ago, when we drove into the same boatyard where she was launched and christened. She was next to a dumpster with both masts removed and the red paint peeling off her hull. We spoke to one of the yard employees who said she was getting ready for destruction and then burial in an orange dumpster. We asked if we could take a few mementos for the Dickerson Historical Display at the Richardson Museum in Cambridge, MD. We returned the next day with Eric Hedberg, new owner of **RAINBOW**, and stripped a few remaining items. It was a very sad day. If you want to read more about **LAURA ISABEL** and **LOTHLORIEN**, visit lothloriendickerson36ketch.weebly.com

Illustration 3: LOTHLORIEN ready for the dumpster in 2021



Irish Mist Lives On (Randy Bruns)

Last year Doug Sergeant and I went down to **IRISH MIST** to remove whatever we could salvage as the boat was on its way to the boneyard. Doug got sails, some anchors, part of the beautiful binnacle and some other stuff. I made off with the teak cockpit gratings which my wife Barb had always admired as well as the wheel. Over the Covid winter, I discovered the dimensions of the 35 and my 36 cockpits are the same size. I found they would fit in my boat with modifications to accommodate the different binnacle arrangements. Got some teak from Exotic Lumber here in AA County and put it all together. The teak was in remarkably good condition. A great addition to **RHYTHMS IN BLUE**.

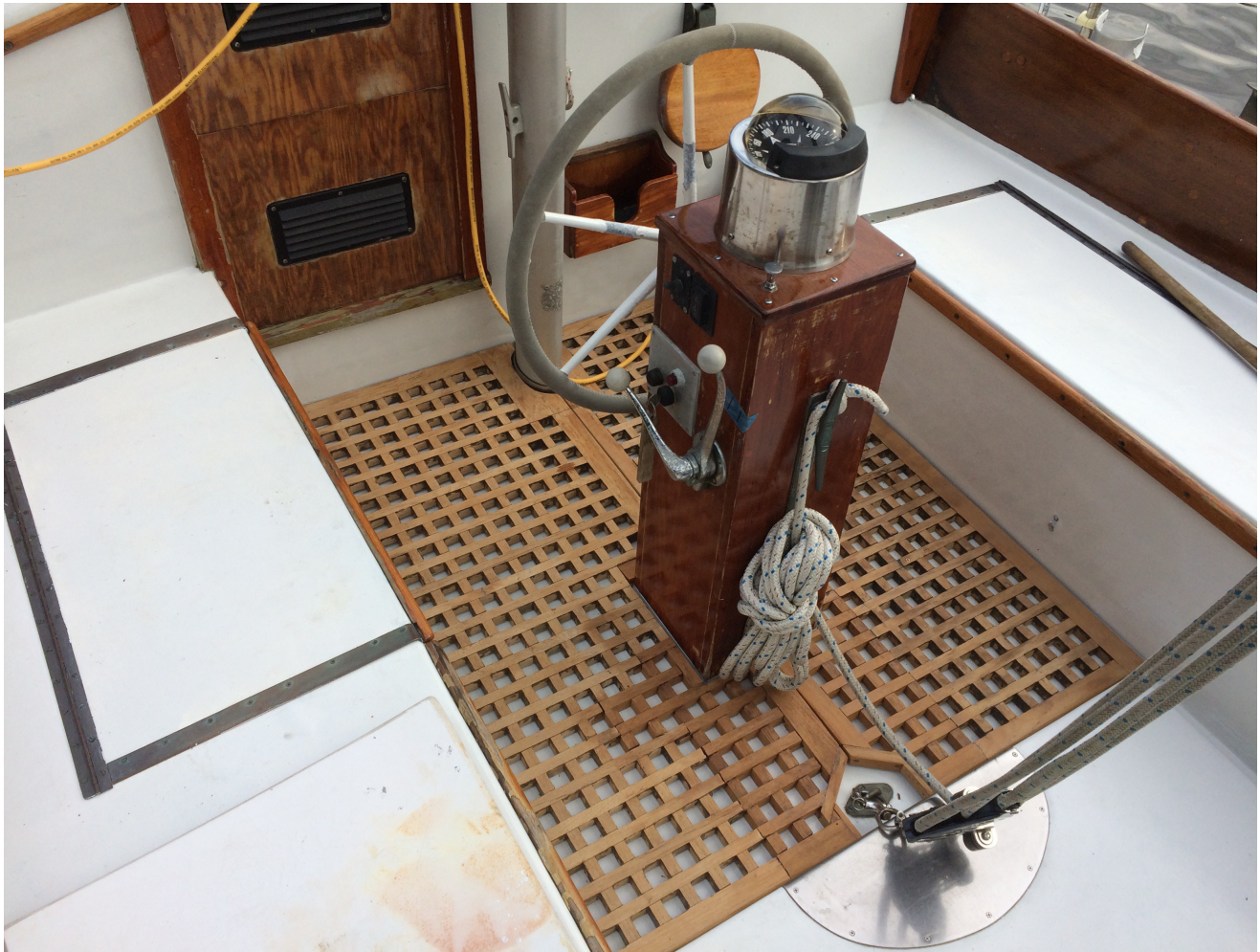


Illustration 4: Irish Mist teak grates in Rhythms in Blue

Some Peripheral Dickerson History (Barry Creighton)

Many of you are aware that the Dickerson Owners' Association assembled a wonderful exhibit of nautical history and artifacts that are currently on display at the Richardson Maritime Museum in Cambridge, Maryland. We chose this museum as it most appropriately represents the roots of Dickerson Boat-building and it's many craftsmen. While the museum has been closed due to the COVID crisis, there are plans to move it from it's current location in the old "Peoples Bank" building on High Street in downtown Cambridge to the site of the museum's campus "Ruark Boatworks" on Cambridge Creek. Ruark Boatworks is an active boat restoration and teaching activity. We are working under the leadership of Association Sail Master Kerry O'Malley to take advantage of this move to enhance the exhibit — more about this in upcoming Newsletters.

This article will provide you some information about of couple of key personalities in the Dickerson story:

Bill Dickerson — The Founder

Dickerson Boat-builders was a company with a storybook history. Bill Dickerson started his company in his own back yard on Church Creek near Cambridge, Maryland in 1946. For twenty years he built a variety of pleasure boats that ranged from compact day sailors to a 58' schooner.

Although Bill Dickerson built a number of different types of boats, they all shared common characteristics. His boats were rugged and capable of taking whatever conditions the sea delivered. And they all evolved in response to specific needs of the marketplace.

"Mr. Jim" Richardson — Museum Namesake

This renowned boat-builder was born in Cambridge and lived in Lloyds (just a stone's throw from Church Creek). Like Bill Dickerson, he built and repaired PT boats during WWII and went on to build replicas of colonial boats, the "Dove" at St. Mary's City, MD and the "Adventurer" in Charleston. SC.

Harold Ruark — Boatworks Namesake

Mr. Ruark, also born in the Cambridge area (Hudson) worked with Jim Richardson as a designer and master craftsman. Later he designed and built many of the hydroplanes that for years dominated racing on the American Power Boat Association circuit — several world champions in various classes. Later, he designed and supervised the building of the classic skip jack the "Nathan of Dorchester" that sails regularly out of Long Wharf in Cambridge.

History of the Current Dickerson Harbor Boatyard Site

(Barry Creighton)

The story of our Dickerson Harbor Boatyard is important because of the way the boat culture, boat building, and boat service skills were brought to us, and remain today. It's an important story about boat building and now yacht repair on the Chesapeake Bay. I recently found a link to this history on the Oxford Yacht Agency website: <https://oya.com/dickerson-harbor-history/>

Dickerson 37' Fleet Captain Report

(Bill Toth)

With winter approaching the Chesapeake, Dickerson 37 owners are winterizing, wondering, and wandering. **WINTERIZING**—making sure that their “classic” is properly prepared for freezing temperatures and a couple months of repose. **WONDERING**—What will Santa Claus, and next season bring for their 2022 nautical adventures. **WANDERING**— Heading to warmer parts of the 71% of the earth that is covered with water.

As I write this, I am enjoying **STARRY NIGHT** as my floating office for the last week of the season. My winterizing list, well known and begrudgingly executed over the last 20+ years is just about done while a date with the travel lift is scheduled for tomorrow!

Dickerson 37 owners, I have been remiss in reaching out to you as your Fleet Captain. 2021 is not over! Expect a call or an email over the holidays, to hear;

- A **Winterizing** gone wrong story
- **Wondering** what Santa may bring you
- Where you want to **Wander**

Remember, our 2022 Rendezvous is less that 213 days away!



Illustration 5: STARRY NIGHT under sail!