

Dickerson

Owner's Association



NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 2022

From the Commodore (Jim Hontz)

Dear Fellow Dickersonians! Happy New Year to all!

Unfortunately, the pandemic is still with us so we had to postpone the Business Luncheon scheduled for this month. See details below for the re-scheduled luncheon on March 12, 2022 at the Red Lobster in Annapolis. We are looking forward to the seeing everyone at the luncheon.

Also, this is a reminder to plan your schedule now to attend the 2022 Rendezvous in Oxford. Our beloved Sampson Post has mentioned that he hopes to be there! See details below.

Dickerson Business Lunch Re-scheduled March 12, 2022 in Annapolis (Joe Slavin)

The Dickerson Lunch will be held from 11AM to 3PM on Saturday March 12, 2022 at the Red Lobster Restaurant, 183 Jennifer Road, Annapolis MD. The program will include a discussion by Commodore Jim Hontz of the "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

Dickerson Business Lunch Agenda

11AM, Saturday March 12, 2022
Red Lobster Restaurant, 183 Jennifer Road, Annapolis MD

Welcome Commodore Jim Hontz

Music and Prayer Pastor Paul Lewis

Treasurer/Secretary Report John Freal

Dickerson Exhibit/History Kerry O'Malley

Dickerson 57th Rendezvous Jim Hontz, Barry Creighton, Bill Toth

Fleet Captain Reports
Larger Yachts (39+) Chris Burry
37 ft Yachts Bill Toth
30-36 ft Yachts Randy Bruns

Dickerson Directory Bill Yeich

Website and Other Matters Jim Hontz

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 or boats can anchor out in Town Creek.

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

A sign up form will be sent out in the next few months, but please feel free to let us know of your interest in advance.

Dues Reminder to all Members (John Freal)

As a reminder, membership dues are now payable on a calendar year basis. You should have received your renewal notice in December 2021 and paid your 2022 dues by now.

Reminder: 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
- 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.



Illustration 1: John Freal's Dickerson Sailboat Model

**In Memory of
Neville B. Lewis
Original Owner of Dickerson 41' Hull #1
SOUTHERN CROSS**



Illustration 2: Neville Lewis, former owner of D41' Hull #1

CUSHING, ME Charles Neville Lewis sailed to a place of peace on Dec. 26, 2021, at the age of 93. An intrepid adventurer, worldwide navigator, master barometer restorer, and loving husband and father, he will be sorely missed by everyone his life touched.

Neville was born in Detroit in 1928 to Nima and Charles Lewis. He studied engineering at the University of Colorado, and initially worked with the Pennsylvania Railroad and then Atlantic Richfield Company. Subsequently, he joined his grandmother's business, Neville Antiques in Haverford, PA. The business featured fine early American and English furniture.

On June 19, 1948, he married Louise Avery Smith. They raised five children. The Lewis family spent many summers traversing the United States and Canada in their pop-up tent trailer, exploring nearly every national park. When they weren't on the road, they took to sailing the Chesapeake Bay.

Neville's passion for sailing led him to circumnavigate the world from 1975 through 1979 with his wife and youngest son, on their Dickerson 41' ketch, **SOUTHERN CROSS**. Sailing before the computer era made Neville a master of navigation. Crossing the Pacific, Indian and South

Atlantic Oceans provided Neville a plethora of great tales of sailing and cultures far from home.

Neville and Louise moved to Cushing, Maine, in 1986, where they lived year round on Maple Juice Cove. From there, even into his 90's, Neville owned the Barometer Shop, and was the country's preeminent expert on antique barometer restoration. He served as President of the Maine Antique Dealers Association and the Cushing Historical Association, and volunteered with the Rockland Red Cross.

Charles Neville Lewis is survived by his devoted wife, Louise, of 73 years and five children: Nima Marsh, Dr. Neville Lewis, Bruce Lewis, Sydney Lewis, and Christopher Lewis. He has nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Per his request, no funeral services will be held. Donations may be made in his name to the Cushing Maine Historical Society, P.O. Box 110, Cushing, ME 04563.

In Memory of Neville Lewis

(Don & D Wogaman, Current Owners of SOUTHERN CROSS)

I (Don) met Neville in 1984 on the pre-purchase sea trial of **SOUTHERN CROSS**, sailing from Cambridge, MD to the Dickerson yard on La Trappe Creek. Neville's eyes were misty when we shook hands to close the deal; the circumnavigation on the boat was a highlight for the Lewis family. I had no more contact with Neville until D and I joined the Dickerson Owner's Association, which kindled an interest in the history of our boat.

In the late 1990's, we attempted to contact Neville at his Philadelphia address. He and wife Louise had moved and the new owners did not know where. On a visit to D's folks in the area we went to the address, hoping to find a neighbor who knew something. We didn't have much luck with most neighbors, perhaps because I was wearing a trench coat and carrying a book about the size of a Bible, as I knocked on doors. But one neighbor spoke to me through a locked storm door and said "Maine, I think." An Internet search revealed only one Neville Lewis in Maine, in Cushing, and we struck gold with one letter to the address.

In 2003, D & I made our first Maine cruise, with instructions from Neville to anchor in Maple Juice Cove off the St. Georges River. We dinghied to a neighborhood dock, where Neville and Louise picked us up and hosted us at their home on the headwaters of the cove. A lobster dinner and a personalized tour of the area allowed us to get to know them a bit more. At their request we held an "Open Boat", so that their neighbors who they had entertained with circumnavigation slide presentations over the years, could see the actual craft. Later we all sailed the boat together from Rockland to Maple Juice Cove. Once offered the wheel, Neville never surrendered it until it was time to anchor! This was the beginning of a magical friendship, with all of us bound together by one old boat which enabled the Lewis family circumnavigation, instigated by Louise. After that we never entered Maine waters without a visit.

In 2017 Neville called with an invitation for his former boat, **SOUTHERN CROSS** to attend his 90th birthday celebration. In 2018 he called again and invited D & I as well! We were guests for not only the 90th birthday celebration but also Neville and Louise's 70th wedding

anniversary and a week-long family reunion, which allowed us to meet the family and, in particular, Chris Lewis, who accompanied his parents on their circumnavigation. We provided boat tours and an afternoon cruise, and Neville came aboard alone one afternoon just to sit quietly behind the wheel. Chris informed us that his father had a great deal of input into the design of the D41, working with Ernie Tucker. We who sail these fine boats owe him.

In December 2022, we were able to visit Neville in Hospice, where in spite of his failing body he was, as always, the perfect gentleman and kind with the caregivers. At one point he pointed his forefinger at me (Don), and making a circle, said "Take her around again." I had to confess my age, and Neville agreed, "Too old." So sorry Neville, but we will try our best to find another owner who will do the second round for you. We will always cherish and remember Neville, and continue to visit Louise whenever in Maine.

Fair Winds, friend

NOTE: At the July 2015, 50th Anniversary of the Dickerson Owner's Association, decades of Dickerson Memories came to life with Larry Moser's DVD of Neville Lewis' historic global voyage in his D41, **SOUTHERN CROSS**, 40 years ago and an interview via Skype with Neville. Here is the link to **SOUTHERN CROSS'** world cruise video.

<https://youtu.be/enPH13JTdDE>

Special Edition Dickerson 30-36' Newsletter (Randy Bruns)

As the lucky guy to have been chosen to be the Fleet Captain for the 30-36' Boats, I sent emails to about 55 owners listed in the 2019 Dickerson Directory. To these owners I asked them to tell us about themselves and their boats including how they sail, issues they have had with their boats, how they have solved problems, and anything else they care to say. I got some interesting stories from several folks. Since most of the 30-36' boats are the oldest (and with wood hulls) in the Dickerson Class there are undoubtedly a lot of sad casualties. So its not surprising the response was modest and and about 10 of the emails I sent bounced.

If anyone else out there in Dickerson land would like to post their story, send them to Chris Burry (wcburry@gmail.com) and me rbbruns@verizon.net, and we will include them in the next newsletter. Its been fun for me to read these stories.



Illustration 3: AQUANIMITAS, D36' under sail