

# Dickerson

Owner's Association



***NEWS LETTER***

***JULY 2019***

## **Dickerson Sailors celebrate their 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by Hosting the First Classic Sailboat Rendezvous at Cambridge, MD**

The Dickerson hosted Classic Sailboat Rendezvous was a great success with participation by over 65 sailors. The program featured a parade of sailboats on Friday June 14, 2019 led by Kerry and Kris O'Malley in the classic bug-eye "Chesapeake" followed by the Commodores' Cookout; breakfast on Saturday at the Dickerson Exhibit in the Richardson Maritime Museum, followed by the traditional race on the Choptank and a historic tour of Cambridge for non-racers. This terrific program was topped off with an Awards Dinner at the Cambridge Yacht Club on Saturday evening.

### **Arrival Parade**



"She's come up a blow!" The 2019 Classic Boat Rendezvous got under way in true sailor fashion with the planned parade of boats up the Choptank River from near Oxford to Cambridge. Boats were to meet at the Choptank Light prepared for a 2 PM departure. In anticipation of "spirited winds", several boats pre-positioned near Oxford on Thursday, 13 June. Some boats coming down the Bay had no problem arriving in plenty of time with the nor'westerlies at 20 knots.

In fact, the leader of the parade, Dickerson bugeye "Chesapeake", reported "surfing and ready to go", about an hour early. We did wait until about 1:30, but in the interest of comfort and to the relief of some "greenish" crew, we formed up and departed with apologies to a couple of arriving boats (who did catch up in the end). Virtually all of the 9 participating boats sailed under reduced canvas, but maintained excellent position.

Particularly impressive was the diversity of the fleet, with all Dickerson classes and a lovely classic Cape Dory participating. Paying due attention to the shoals around Howell's Point and Rooster Point, "Chesapeake" led the fleet to Cambridge in just over an hour. There, we were met by the most excellent Dockmaster, Scott Fitzhugh, his staff of dockhands, and earlier arriving rendezvous participants. Almost all dockings were without drama -- save one.....and that would be me. Seems that I could write a book titled "How to ruin a perfectly good docking -- at the very last minute". But, as a result, "Crew Rest" now has a brand new port nav light, and witnesses got some free entertainment. "Sometimes you go to the show--sometimes you ARE the show."



"What could possibly go wrong?"

At the end of the afternoon, all classic yachts were comfortable in their "nests" and ready to PARTY:



### **Commodores' Cookout**

The Commodores' Cookout was held at the Cambridge Municipal Basin. Our thanks to Siobhan Sheehan Fahrmeier for arranging a top notch cookout and to chefs Barry Creighton and Dave Fahrmeier for cooking such delicious burgers.







### **Breakfast at the Richardson Maritime Museum**

Saturday began with a breakfast of pastry, bagels and coffee at the Dickerson Exhibit. Our thanks goes to Richardson Maritime Museum Executive Director Jane Devlin and special guest Senator Eckert for the excellent program. We are extremely proud to be included in the expansion plans for the museum.





## Race of Classics

After a wonderful time at breakfast, the "Race Committee" stealthily made it back to the marina to load up and head out to set up the race course.





Race Committee Barry Creighton and Joe Slavin

And the weather looked benign with hint of another "rendezvous ghoster" as the race committee departed loaded with race markers.



Were racers going have to once again search for a "private breeze"? But, let us not forget the wind at the Parade the previous day -- well, it backed to the southwest and returned with vengeance.

Nine boats from 35 to 41 feet and their gutsy and skilled skippers and crews participated in the race in gusty conditions of over 20 knots. The course was non-traditional and took the boats down river to Castle Haven before reversing course. Some instructions like, "take the mark port but reverse course to starboard to avoid grounding" required close attention and crew coordination.

The start was superb, with "Different Drummer" crossing the line first with only milliseconds to spare.



Skippers chose different sail and reefing options and that became the rule of the day as the winds and points of sail shifted. But alas, by the end of the race, it was obviously a "big-boat day" as Dickerson 41's finished (uncorrected) 1,2,3. But of course, that's not the end of the story.

We use a handicap system similar in concept to that used for golf. Boats winning get a lower handicap and boats losing receive a higher handicap. Prior years' race results are all part of the magic formula which almost ensues that the same boat does not win all the time. This is indeed a "secret sauce" crafted by a creative race team led by Randy Bruns. The system is so good that everyone in the 2019 race finished with corrected times within 8 minutes. (Read on to discover the winners).

### **Tour of Historic Cambridge**

Not everyone chooses to participate in the race and this year for the first time, we offered an alternate activity during that time. Born and bred Cambridgean, Judy Creighton led about a dozen attendees on a leisurely walking tour of portions of the old town. Cambridge was settled by English colonists in 1684 on lands already occupied by the Choptank Indians. Later becoming an important seaport, the town offers a fascinating look into the past and a resurgent future.





The tour ended with lunch at one of Judy's favorite watering holes, "Portside" overlooking Cambridge Creek.

### **Awards Dinner**

The highlight of the Rendezvous was the Awards Dinner held at the Cambridge Yacht Club.

Commodore Joe Slavin welcomed the sixty-six sailors including representatives from the Chesapeake Bay Cape Dory Association and the Chesapeake Bay Bristol Club and Classics from The Cambridge Yacht Club and Oxford.

We were honored to have as guests Mary Ann and George Hazen the wife and son of the late Dave Hazen who passed away in April, 2019. Dave and Mary Ann were pioneers and leaders in the Dickerson Owners Association as Commodores for a total of six times in their classic wooden 35 ft. ketch "YNot".

Joe presented the following framed photo to Mary Ann and George as a token of our appreciation.



Dickerson Owners Association  
Founders Commodores David  
and Mary Ann Hazen





Past Commodore Barry Creighton presented the winning racing trophies as follows: D35-36 Randy Bruns "Rhythms in Blue", D37- Ken Bernholz "Morning Light", D41- D and Don Wogaman "Southern Cross" and Classic Class (Cape Dory 33) John and Nancy Schwarzkopf "Impromptu". The overall winners and new Commodores are D and Don Wogaman, "Southern Cross".



Commodores D and Don Wogaman being "annointed" by Past Commodores Joe Slavin, Bruce Franz, Mary Ann Hazen, Barry Creighton, Parker Hallam and Dave Fahremeier

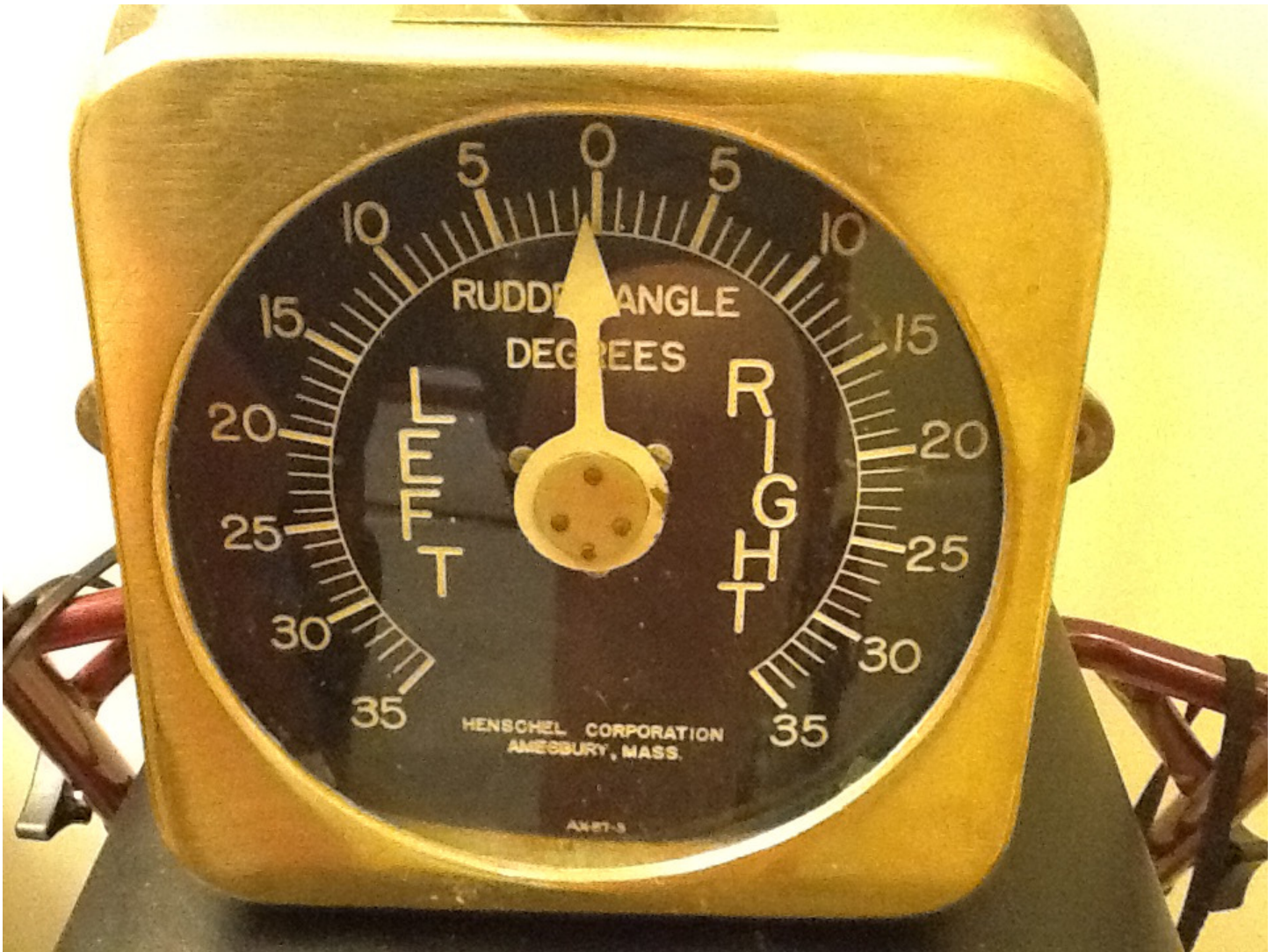
### **Special Recognition**

In appreciation of his work as Commodore and Samson Post, Past Commodore Barry Creighton presented Joe Slavin with a historic brass cast rudder angle indicator made by the Henschel Corporation of Amesbury, MA in the 1940's. This vintage historical instrument was used on the Liberty and Victory ships vital to winning world War II. This gift was especially appreciated by Joe who graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and sailed on Merchant Ships on the closing days of World War II.





Past Commodores Mary Ann Hazen, Joe Slavin, Dave Fahrmeier and Parker Hallam



Rudder Angle Indicator

Every member in the Dickerson Owners' Association joins in celebrating Joe's leadership in keeping us "on course" with our rudder centered.

## 2019 Dickerson Classics Invitational Post Rendezvous Cruise

D41 "Southern Cross" had the privilege of leading the traditional post-Rendezvous cruise due to mechanical difficulties aboard sister ship "Plover". Owners Chris & Bill Burry have been the leaders of this cruise since the beginning, and we were surprised and flattered to be asked to substitute this year. Our only directive was to begin with our first night at anchor in the bay behind Sandy Spit at the mouth of La Trappe Creek, where the "modern" (Beginning in 1968) Dickersons were built at the boat yard at the head of the creek.



We had hoped to raft the fleet at La Trappe, but with dubious weather only 3 boats rafted, D36 "Frigate Connie" and D37 "Morning Light" rafted to D41 "Down Home". The rest of us, "Southern Cross", D41 "Papillion", D37's "Crew Rest" and "Troubadour" plus our Classics guests



Bristol 43.3 “Albetross” and Cape Dory 33 “Impromptu” anchored.

We joined the rafted boats for a great pot luck dinner with lively conversation that Sunday evening.



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### Unexpected Guests

Aboard “Southern Cross” (SC) we often make “organic” plans, meaning that the plan grows as we go, and this cruise was no exception. The group decided on our next destination, anchoring in San Domingo Creek, the back door to St. Michaels, and then to meet at the Crab Claw restaurant for dinner.

We lost “Down Home”, “Morning Light” and “Albetross” who had other commitments or plans but arrived in San Domingo creek with “Crew Rest” providing local knowledge for our group.

We had a fine time at dinner and decided on the Rhode River for our next destination.



On Tuesday SC led 5 other boats through the Knapps Narrows draw bridge where our Regatta helmsman Bryan Souders was bridge tender; we had some fun with that. After we reached the Bay there was at last an opportunity for some sailing. We anchored near High Island off the Rhode River where we hoped to visit the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Unfortunately they do not offer tours but do have dinghy access to a system of trails, which didn't work for us due to rain. We did have a cockpit potluck aboard SC which was mostly dry (sorry Jim) for our guests, and decided to head for Annapolis next.

Parker headed "Frigate Connie" for home on Wednesday morning and the rest of us straggled into Annapolis. At this point



most boats had other plans, so that ended the 2019 Dickerson Classic Invitational Post Rendezvous Mini Cruise. We met our newest D41 owner Kusuru from "Papillion" at Davis Pub in Eastport for dinner before heading north ourselves.

See you all behind "Plover" next year!

D and Don Wogaman, Dickerson Commodores

We hope that you will have many enjoyable Dickerson sailing adventures and will renew your Dickerson Membership if you have not already done it. We would like to receive write ups on your sailing adventures, Dickerson fix it jobs or just your thoughts and any suggestions for future events. Please do not be bashful. We look forward to seeing many of you at the West River Round Up September 20-21, 2019.

Joe Slavin, Barry Creighton and D and Don Wogaman



