



Owner's Association

NEWS LETTER

AUGUST 2010

DICKERSON SAILOR'S 43rd ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS*

Bill Dickerson who built boats over 60 years ago in Cambridge and Trappe, Maryland would certainly be pleased to see his classic Bay built boats, ranging from 30 to 50 feet, and their sailors having so much fun. As one senior sailor said, "A Dickerson is more than a boat—it is a way of life"

The "Dickerson Tradition" includes an Annual Rendezvous held on each Father's Day Weekend in Oxford, so the participants will remember when it is, and features a reception on Friday, a race on Saturday, and an awards dinner on Saturday evening. Trophies are given for each class winner. The overall winner becomes Commodore and is forbidden from racing the following year, and must make arrangements for next year's rendezvous. It makes you wonder why some boats lose by only seconds.

While last year brought rain and fog, this year was perfect -- sunshine and fresh southerly winds for some 60 sailors and 14 boats sailing from as far as North Carolina and the Hampton Roads area. It was a beautiful sight to see the parade of Dickersons sailing neck and neck into Oxford with flags flying.



Dickerson Parade

The Friday reception at Mears Yacht Haven was replete with “sailor talk” boosted by wine, beer, soft drinks, and snacks. A new 2010 Dickerson Directory with information and pictures on all known Dickersons, Membership Certificates, and race instructions were distributed. Some ate dinner aboard their boats and chatted for long hours, while others had a jamboree music session.

Race day on Saturday was all business. Commodore Bill Toth and his Race Committee were off early to set up the marks for a triangular racing course, which had a beat and two reaches—twice around. With winds of 12-14 knots it was possible to have two races.

The first race started at 10 AM; imagine the scene! Most boats converged on a short starting line on a starboard tack, but one boat tried to get out ahead by sailing on a port tack at the favored



Start of Dickerson Race

end of the line. The strategy failed miserably, and Bruce Franz’s “Hemisphere Dancer” and Joe Slavin’s “Irish Mist”, both on starboard tack, had to come about fast, start engines to avoid shattering hulls, and witness a miracle! But with no hard feelings nor any damage, (after all it is fun, and our rules state that “only necessary cheating will be tolerated, and protests will only be heard if entertaining”) the fleet took off, and had a great race with Barry Creighton’s, “Crew Rest” winning, and Steve Dettman’s, “Snoodle Time”, following.. Later, Bruce said it was the only instance he knew where starting an engine during a race advanced the position of his competition!

The start of the second race was more peaceful, well, almost! The Freal brothers on “Rainbow” got caught at the start line, and created a panic mode aboard the Committee Boat that included a person placing their body between the two boats in

case of contact! Yikes, another miracle! Most decided to ride the line, but “Irish Mist” was buried, and hit the pin end requiring a 360 penalty turn. “Crew Rest” got a brilliant start and won the second race, followed by Rick and Dottie Woytowich’s, “Belle”.



“Six Pack “ of Dickerson Sailors Relaxing

The Awards Dinner was a white tablecloth event at the historic Tred Avon Yacht Club. Commodore Bill Toth and Secretary Dick Young presided over the event, and gave class trophies as follows: 35 ft.: Joe Slavin, “Irish Mist”, 37 ft.: Barry Creighton, “Crew Rest”, 41 ft.: Dave Fahrmeier, “Down Home”. Barry Creighton was awarded the Commodore’s Trophy using the secret handicap formula that is kept in the Dickerson ‘lock box’. A special award was given to the Freal brothers’, “Rainbow”, who inherited the broken flag pole when they narrowly missed the Committee Boat during the start. Past Commodore Bruce Franz presented a special award from the entire Association to Joe Slavin, our “Sampson Post”, for helping to increase Dickerson Owners Association membership, finding lost Dickersons, producing wonderful Newsletters, and producing articles for “Spinsheet” magazine.

The Awards ceremony was followed by lively Dickerson Sailors musical entertainment, sea chanteys, and sea stories making it, perhaps, the best Dickerson Rendezvous yet....Visit Dickerson Web Site at <http://dickersonowners.org/.....>

Joe Slavin aboard “Irish Mist”



- Much of this report appeared as a feature article in the August 2010 SpinSheet – www.spinsheet.com. Barry Creighton, Bruce Franz and Joe Slavin

COMMODORE'S NOTE

I once heard that each person experiences a finite number of “life events” – the time, the place, the sights and sounds etched forever in the memory bank. Examples -- a wedding, the birth of a child, the assassination of JFK, Neil Armstrong stepping on the moon, the 2010 Dickerson Rendezvous (those are some of mine anyway). Thanks to each and every one of you for contributing to that last one –particularly past Commodore Bill Toth, Secretary Dick Young and resident supporters Jim and Paula Karr. Under Bill’s leadership we’ve completed a stupendous Dickerson year.

With so many of you supporting his efforts, our association is as vibrant as it’s ever been. We recaptured lost souls and missing boats, preserved historical boat and owner data, attracted new members, spread our activities far from the confines of the middle Chesapeake Bay, and communicated with each other and the rest of world via the internet (Alan Willoughby our superb webmaster) and print media (SpinSheet)—all while becoming closer and closer friends.

We extend a warm welcome to new members:

Neal Burtner	36' Ketch	"Eole"	Rochester, NY
Evan Molyneaux	Associate		Teton Village, WY
Hansueli Steiner	35' Ketch	"Talisman"	Lake Monticello, VA
Pat & Debra Ewing	41' Ketch	"Velamore"	Sandy Spring, MD
Steve Toney	36' Ketch	"Diffusion"	Bethesda, MD

I thank you for allowing me to take a turn at the DOA helm and promise that I will do my best (with your help) to carry us forward at hull speed. On your behalf, let me close with one more salute to our association's "Sampson Post", Captain Joe Slavin. He remains the spark plug for most everything we do.



Barry Creighton, "Crew Rest"

COMING EVENTS

New England Gathering Of Dickerson Yachts And Friends

The second New England Gathering of Dickerson Yachts and friends will be held on the week end of September 10-12, 2010 in Bristol, Rhode Island. We will have an informal get together at the Bristol Yacht Club on Friday and a race and dinner on Saturday. Come with your Dickerson sailboat and if you have friends who have another type boat bring them along. If you can't come by boat please drive over. Moorings will be made available by the Yacht Club at a cost of \$40 per night. We had a great time last year in Block Island and we look forward to our second get together.

Contact Al Sampson at wanderlust_bristol@yahoo.com or 401 727 1555 to let us know that you plan to join in the fun and for any further details. The Bristol Yacht Club Web site is www.bristolyc.com and the telephone number is 401.253.2922. The Steward can be reached at steward@bristolyc.com

Dickerson Western Shore Roundup –September 10-11, 2010

Okay we are all set with plans for the fourth Western Shore Roundup on Friday-Saturday, 10-11 September at West River Sailing Club, Galesville, MD. Hope you can make it! We had a good turn out last year and a lot of fun. You don't have to race or even sail to attend but we hope you will do both. If you are driving and need directions we will be glad to provide them. You are also invited to come to the Club Friday night for their weekly cookout meals and drinks which are sold by the Sailing Club to interested parties. Randy Bruns Joe Slavin and others will be there. Also, once again John Freal has pulled off a miraculous dance and figured out how he can make it to the event. There has been considerable trash talking amongst the 35 and 36s so watch for some crash and burn.

Be at G1 off West River at 1200 hours on Saturday for racing. We will start soon after that time. The race will be a rabbit start race around government marks and finishing in West River-- very similar to what we did last year. We will send out another announcement with the Notice of Race and some suggestions on getting a good start a week or so before the race. After racing we will convene at West River Sailing Club for a cocktail party and story- telling session. Please bring some kind of snack. Since the Club now has a liquor license we will have to buy drinks at the bar. You can use the Club docks and moorings, anchor, or use a marina in the area.

We will be modifying the competition awards this year. There will be separate trophies for; Dickerson 35 and 36, Dickerson 37, Dickerson 41, Sheriff of the Western Shore, and other Boats (if we know they are coming)

Sheriff Joe Slavin is the Point of Contact for the Roundup. Please let him know of your participation in the event as soon as you can. You must let him know how many will be in your party for dinner by at the very latest 1700 hours. Thursday 9 Sept.

Because of the large crowd expected, Pirates Cove has asked that we select our meal from four choices; prime ribs of beef, salmon, crab cakes, or chicken marsala. You can decide at the restaurant.

If you have any questions or comments about the event please contact Randy Bruns

See you there!

Joe Slavin
703-560-7250

Randy Bruns
410-544-5571

jws2827@aol.com

rbbruns@verizon.net

2010 DIRECTORY AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

The new 2010 Directory—designed and published by our new Commodore Barry Creighton-- is a “must have” for all Dickerson owners. It contains detailed information on all known Dickerson classic boats, valuable contact owner data,, a summary of the year’s activities, original drawings of the different Dickerson class yachts and colored photographs of the boats and their sailors. The Directory and a Membership Certificate are given to Members and Associate Members. The Membership Year for 2010 is from June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011. So far for 2010 we have 54 Members from 16 States and Canada. For additional information contact the Membership Committee at jws2827@aol.com or 703 560 7250.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We started 2010 with one of the best Dickerson Rendezvous ever—plenty of wind, sailors and boats—all had a great time. Thanks Commodore Bill Toth and Secretary Dick Young who made it all possible. We look forward to the Western Shore Roundup and New England Gathering--both in September. The next Newsletter will be in September and we look forward to getting your suggested article. Happy Sailing!

Membership Committee: Joe Slavin, Barry Creighton and John Freal