



# THE CURRENT

RIVERTON YACHT CLUB  
SEPTEMBER 2019

Phone at the Pier (856) 829-9894

RivertonYachtClub.org



Impression, Floaty Boat at Dusk Photo by Byron Campbell

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14: Second Annual Female Skipper Regatta

September 14: Luau!

September 15, 22 and 29: Fall Laser, Sunfish, Opti Series begins (Sundays thru September 30)

September 21: Overnight Pursuit Race

October 5: Oktoberfest Pursuit Race

October 13: Mariner David Reily Memorial Regatta

October 26: Fall Work Party, Meeting and Election

### Board of Directors Openings: A Call to Serve

The Club has three openings on the Board of Directors for 2020. The Board manages the activities of the Club and meets on the first Tuesday of each month, except December. Elections will be held at General Meeting at the end of the Fall Work Party on October 26.

If you're interested in serving, please contact Dan Curran at [curran4077@aol.com](mailto:curran4077@aol.com) or any current Board member.

### THE LUAU IS THIS SATURDAY

Join us at RYC for Dark 'n' Stormies and Dinner  
6:30 to 11 pm

We're looking for helping hands with the event.  
Please contact Lindsay Mills at 609-330-1747

## Commodore's Corner

# Psst! I know It's Busy, Busy, Busy, But Did You Hear About All This?

By Mark Johnson

Thanks to David Breinig and Michael Wainwright for installing the new Throwable Float Rings and to Byron Campbell for procurement. If necessary, remove, step on tennis ball bitter end, throw the ring BEYOND the victim, and pull ring to the victim. Don't throw the ring at the victim or they will be injured and drowning. Thanks to my Boy Scout Lifesaving Merit Badge instructor.

The Riverton 4th of July Raft Race was a success despite threatening weather from the South. Thanks to Hank Croft and his dedicated team for hosting.

Sail Camp has had extremely successful youth and adult beginner sessions this summer. Additionally, the youth sailing team is having a fantastic season competing "down the Shore." Thanks June Neuman, Aaron Haegele, and their dedicated cadre of instructors. Thanks also to Patrick Arons for stepping up to coordinate daily tender maintenance.

The Gail Walsh Memorial Pursuit Race and Autism Fundraiser was a huge success. Congratulations to Greg Maute for winning the pursuit race. He escaped the current and was the only boat to finish. Thanks to Dan Walsh, Lynn Mills, Bill Mills (RC), and Bob and Mary Keppel for running the race and reception. About \$10,000 was donated by RYC folks and associate sponsors. An additional donation of \$50,000 brought the total to about \$60,000!

Speaking of Dan Walsh, congratulations on winning the MAYRA Flying Scot Championship at Stone Harbor/Avalon. There were four RYC boats in a fleet of 20.

Thanks to June Neuman, Aaron Haegele, Devon Rau, Glenn Smyth Jr, and Byron Campbell for meeting with members of the Riverton Fire and Police departments. We are working on better communication and coordination if there is a 911 call regarding boating activity on the Delaware.

(Continued on page 4)

## Ups and Downs in the Annapolis-to-Newport Race

By R. Headley

Riverton member and Treasurer, Uwe Mewes, diligently built a team for the 37th biennial nautical 475 mile Annapolis to Newport inshore-offshore sailboat race in his Beneteau 45f5 sailboat Heaven Can Wait. Uwe was the boat captain, with a crew of Tom Bader, (medic/doctor), George Bader (mid mast), Bob Corney (watch captain), James Elder (bow), Ned Feist (bow), Ed Thompson (watch captain), and Jeremy Wenig (floater). The race was challenging and had some turns they did not want.

In January of 2019, Bob Corney, RYC Mariner and J/22 sailor, got a call from Uwe, who said, "We are going ocean racing." Uwe and Bob have sailed together over the years at RYC and out of Annapolis, Florida and other venues. Bob decided to wait a while to see how his new hip worked out.

Meanwhile, Uwe had the shipyard preparing his boat for ocean racing. He had the boat hauled out and the keel and rudder inspected. The prep list for ocean racing included a permanent bilge pump installed in the cabin, the stepped mast permanently lashed to the deck, replacement of all life lines, and a professional rigger going over all the rigging.

As for Bob's new rigging, his hip worked out, and he joined the crew. For ocean racing, all the crew had to attend a two-day safety-at-sea seminar at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

"Once we got the crew together we started practicing in 30-knot winds in April in the Chesapeake," said Uwe, who had to complement

his sail inventory with a new heavy jib, a storm jib and a trysail.

All the crew were either current or former Riverton sailors. Skip Moorehouse was instrumental in designing the sails and getting them made for Uwe. With the new sails, they went out eight times to practice every sail combination and even surprise man-overboard drills.

As for electronic equipment, "I outfitted the boat from the mast to the keel with new electronics for ocean racing three years ago," said Uwe.

The crew had to get life vests with 4,500-pound tensile strength tethers and crouch straps, a whistle, a waterproof light and marine-grade retro-reflective material. The vest had to be compatible with a safety harness and a tether with a quick disconnect. The boat was fitted with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponder. Several crew had an MOB1 personal locator beacon attached to their vests while Ed Thompson had a personal emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB).

Watches were set up with 6-hour shifts from 0600 to 1800 and 4-hour shifts from 1800 to 0600. Each watch captain had three crew members. They were responsible for anything that happened on their watch, even meals.

The on-watch crew prepared the meals for the off-watch crew, who were sleeping. The off-watch woke up, ate and became the on-watch crew. The watch just relieved had already cooked and eaten their meals as they went off-watch, while the new on-watch crew cleaned the dishes.

Their class for the race, ORR-2, started at 1100 on Friday June 7.

They sailed down the westward side of the Bay with the spinnaker into a very light air hole, said Bob. Some of the crew took naps on the foredeck as they drifted.

Uwe spent most of his time down below tracking and calling the way points, rhumb line and weather. The offshore forecast was for 15 knots out of the northwest. It would be a beam reach up the coast, thought Bob. However, the forecast and the actual are not always the same.

The wind started to build and build, Bob noted. They put up the 150 genoa for the 10 to 14 knots out of east-northeast with gusts in the upper teens. It took them about 18 hours to get to of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. They arrived around 0500 Saturday, in the dark.

"Approaching the north tunnel channel, we converged with two sailboats about 200 yards in front and two more within 200 yards behind. I got Uwe from below and said, 'Hey, you drive, it's your boat and you should be the one taking us into the ocean,'" said Bob.

On their way to the Chesapeake Light Tower they reefed the main and the genoa and took the tower on port and turned northeast into the wind.

Depending who you ask among the crew, swells ranged from 6 to 10 feet from trough to the top and were in 4-second intervals from top to top, with gusts of a least 25 knots. "It was up-up-over-down-down crashing into the trough with spray blowing back over us," said Jeremy.

After tacking a while, "We had double reefed the main, but needed to get rid of the reefed

*Continued on next page*

## Annapolis to Newport (Cont.)

genoa. That called for all hands on deck," said Bob. "Uwe took the wheel and it took us almost an hour to get the genoa off the forestay and down in the salon. We put on the heavy weather jib, 85%."

They did this while sloggling through the up-and-down swells as green water splashed over the bow in the 25-plus-knot winds. "We were soaked and exhausted from the constant pounding," said Bob.

Going below seemed to aggravate their stomachs. Regardless, Uwe, Bob and Jeremy went below and were trying to rest. As the boat rocked, Uwe's hooked D-ring broke throwing him across the cabin into a post on the other side next to his bunk. Dr. Bader checked out Uwe as best he could under those conditions and no serious injury seemed apparent.

This event inspired a discursive meeting. One concern was how

they would play the swells in the dark and that the wind pushing those waves was supposed to move out of the area on Sunday. A decision was made to head for shelter in the bay and see how the weather was on Sunday.

About 30 miles out, they turned around and ran downwind with the double-reefed main and the .85 jib reefed to about 60%. Jeremy, while driving, hit a personal best boat speed of 9.1 knots with a lot of 8.5s as they surfed down the swells. However, the speed winner was Dr. Bader, who hit 10.1 knots, said Bob. They sailed into Cape Charles, Va. It was now that we got the genoa out of the salon and finally folded. Showers and sleep were next!

Sunday morning it was gusting 30 to 35 knots in the ocean with 7- to 9-foot waves. We decided then, said Bob, that we were done racing and prepared to leave Cape Charles about 0800 for a terrific sail up the Bay to Baltimore, in those 30- to 35-knot winds but on

a close to beam reach and no big waves. "What a fantastic sail! Hull speed virtually for the entire trip and back in Baltimore in about 15 hours. Our preparations served us well," Bob reflected.

Bob said that he thought Uwe had prepared the boat well and that there were never any boat problems or concerns. Jeremy thought the adventure was a blast and at one point when going up wind he hooked up to the mast and would jump up when the boat was on its downhill slide to see how long he could stay in the air.

Ned, who also crews on Uwe's J/22, Corkscrew, is talking up Uwe about doing the Newport to Bermuda in 2020. Meantime, Uwe has started planning an Annapolis-to-Bermuda run in 2020. James said he is ready for Bermuda. Bob Corney said he is wiser now but would do it again, but differently?

Who knows what will happen next year on *Heaven Can Wait*.



**Sturdy Crew:** Uwe Mewes, owner of Beneteau 45f5 *Heaven Can Wait*, put together a crew for the Annapolis to Newport Race in June. The crew of current or former Riverton sailors included Tom Bader, (medic), George Bader (mid mast), Bob Corney (watch captain), James Elder (bow), Ned Feist (bow), Ed Thompson (watch captain), and Jeremy Wenig (floater).

## Commodore's Corner (continued from page 1.)

Thanks to Glenn Smyth Jr for coordinating installation of a new sewage pump and the cleaning of our line, which pumps up-hill to the township sewer line.

There were nine wind gusts over 30 mph in July recorded by our new USGS weather station. On July 31 several gusts were over 50 mph. On July 22 just before 5 pm, a gust front came through that registered just over 70 mph!!!

Thanks to Aaron Haegele for sorting out boats and covers. Thanks to Greg Maute and his team for re-setting several moorings that were dragged by their boats...TWICE! Fortunately, there was no significant damage. Keep doing a good job of securing those covers, boats, and trailers!

These are just a few notable things that happened at RYC in the past few months.

See you at the pier.

Mark



**Just in Case:** David Breinig and Michael Wainwright installed the new Throwable Float Rings on the docks. Thanks to Byron Campbell for doing all of the research and purchasing.

### Five Racing and Partay-ing Events Not To Be Missed

#### 1. Laser, Sunfish & Opti Regatta

Dates: Four Sundays: September 8, 15, 22 and 29

Registration: Mary Keppel at MKeppeL005@msn.com

Schedule: First Race at 2:00 pm. Three short races are scheduled each day.

#### 2. Second Annual Female Skipper Regatta

Date: September 14 (not the 15th)

Registration: Devon Rau at DevonRapp@gmail.com

Schedule: 10:30 am. Skippers Meeting on the deck. First Race at 11:30 p.m.

Three races are scheduled, time and conditions permitting.

#### 3. LUAU

Date: September 14; 6:30 – 11:00pm

Registration: Lindsay Mills at LindsayM524@gmail.com

#### 4. Overnight Pursuit Race

Date: September 21

Registration: Bill Mills at wrmills913@gmail.com

Schedule: Skippers Meeting on the deck, 6:15p.m. First start at sunset.

#### 5. Oktoberfest Pursuit Race

Date: October 5

Registration: TBD

Schedule: Skippers' Meeting on the deck, 12:30 pm. First start at 1:00 pm.

## Seaport Museum's Corinthian Sloop Visits RYC

Riverton received a special guest on August 17 when the Independence Seaport Museum's Corinthian Sloop came for a day of sailing and fundraising for the Seaport Museum's Hands On Education Program. Restored in 2017, the mahogany and white oak sloop was designed by Philadelphian Thomas D. Bowes and built in Holland in 1951. Eight sloops were built for the Corinthian Yacht Club of Essington, Pa., and this is one of three still in existence. The sloop was restored in hopes of revitalizing interest in the fleet.



*Photos by Byron Campbell*

## RYC Race Team at the Junior Olympics in NJ

*By Laura Major*

Our RYC sailors were the first to arrive at the Island Heights Yacht Club on July 22. It seemed like a normal wind day with breezes at around 8-11MPH before launch.

The weather quickly changed with an impending storm later that day. Winds were a steady 18 with gusts of 25-30. They were able to get in four races the first day despite the 3-foot swells and three races the second day.

Lily Major and Ellie McCarron sailed in the Opti Gold course (62 total) in the Blue Fleet (34 total) which was the furthest out into the bay and was the most turbulent sailing course. This is the most competitive course as some kids weigh too much in for the Red Fleet and go to the Laser and 420 class.

The seas were rough, boats were capsizing and getting damaged, and more than half dropped out the final two races. Lily hung in there and even ended up bailing jellyfish out of her boat in order to stay in the race.

Unfortunately, our MAYRA coach ended up pulling Ellie off the course early, he thought there were no more races due to the conditions, but they had started a 5th race that Lily was still participating in which helped her overall score. Pat McCarron had a great two days in the Laser Radial fleet (19 total), he sails best in high winds. Elliot Smith sailed in the 4.7 fleet (26 total) and had a good first day and an even better second day.

**(Continued on next page)**



**Olympians!** The RYC race team travelled to the Island Heights Yacht Club to participate in the Junior Olympic Mid-Atlantic Sailing Festival in July.

## **RYC at JOs (Continued)**

We left shortly after dinner and drove through a pretty bad storm. When we returned home, we received word that a microburst had hit the Island Heights Yacht Club and damaged some of the boats with 70MPH winds. We were advised to return early the next day in case we needed to have our boats repaired by Colie. We knew the lasers were OK because one of the sailors returned that night to assess the damage, but we were told the Optis were gone. We were certain that something bad had happened but to our surprise, upon our return we saw that some very kind people had moved the Optis to a street that was protected from wind. We were so relieved and got the kids launched for the second day in much calmer water.

The kids had a great time and have formed bonds with sailors from other clubs through events like these. Pat McCarron ended up placing 4th and Elliot 9th in the 4.7 class! Lily placed 13th and Ellie 18th in the Blue division which was the highest of the MAYRA Opti sailors. We are very proud of our RYC team this year and we are looking forward to participating again next year.

## **RYC Girls Show Strong at Powder Puff Regatta at Metedeconk River YC**

Lily Major and Ellie McCarron attended the 36th Annual Junior Powder Puff Regatta on the Metedeconk River Yacht Club on July 12. This was the first time the two attended this girls-only event. There were more than 200 boats in attendance with 164 in the Opti class alone. The girls were a bit disappointed they only got four races in despite the fact that weather was great, there was a lot of the day remaining and plenty of time to get more in. Of the 59 boats in Opti Blue fleet, Ellie came in 16th and Lily 31st.

The event was well attended by North Jersey race teams with only a small handful of female MAYRA sailors. The girls and their parents learned that many of the sailors are on teams that practice in the spring and fall as well and have coaches that they import from around the world, some even have private coaches. Due to the cost of entry and minimal number of races this year, it is unlikely that the girls will attend this event next year.

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## **Riverton Sailors Out and About**

**Lightning Fleet:** Hugh Hutchison, Cécile Steinriede, James Elder, George Bader, Mark and Cindi Schneider and Adam Schaefer all competed for the Lightning North American Championship President's Cup in August at the Buffalo Canoe Club. Hugh, won the fifth race shortly after being named Class President. Hugh also competed in the Master's North American Championship the week before.

Kayla Neuman with a crew of RYC members Austin Neuman and Patrick McCarron won the Lightning Duck Challenge Regatta at Havre de Grace. Other RYC boats included Glenn Smyth Jr with Jeremy Wenig and Tim Lojek and James Elder with Sarah Martin and Sebastian Lemaire.

**Flying Scot Fleet:** Dan Walsh and crew Randy Swartley won the 2019 Mariner Class Association National Championships this past weekend at Brant Beach Yacht Club. This was the 5th time that Dan has been National Champion. Jim Irwin, Rob Seidelmann, Rob Corney and Chris O'Brien also competed. See photos here: <https://www.usmariner.org/>

**J/22 Fleet:** Pat Curran headed down to the Tred Avon YC in Maryland and came in 3rd in the Comet International Championship.

**Billy Martin** has had a busy summer. In July he sailed 50th running of the classic Transpacific Race from Long Beach, Calif. to Honolulu, Hi. In August he sailed in the Rolex Fastnet Race from Cowes on the Isle of Wight to Plymouth in southwest England.

### **AmazonSmile Pays Off for Riverton Steamboat Landing Foundation**

As of August, online shoppers using AmazonSmile have raised \$400 for the Riverton Steamboat Landing Foundation. Here's how to help when you shop Amazon:

[http://www.rivertyachtclub.org/amazon\\_smile.shtml](http://www.rivertyachtclub.org/amazon_smile.shtml).

## **RYC 2019 Calendar of Events**

*All events and dates are subject to change.*

### SEPTEMBER

15, 22 and 29 Fall Laser, Sunfish, Opti Series begins (Sundays thru September 30)

14 Luau!

14 Second Annual Female Skippered Regatta

21 Overnight Pursuit Race

### OCTOBER

5 Pursuit Race and Oktoberfest (hosted by Flying Scots)

13 Mariners David Reily Memorial Regatta

20 Sunday Mariner races end

26 Fall Work Party, Fall General Meeting, Election of 2020 Officers

### NOVEMBER

16 Commodore's Banquet.

## **Riverton YC Race Team Completes a Stellar Summer**



**RYC Race Team:** Left to right: Robert Graham, (coach), Lily Major, Mason Alvarado (in front), Patrick McCarron, Ellie McCarron and Elliot Smith.



Mason Alvarado

In August, the Corinthian YC of Cape May hosted the last of 7 regattas in the Junior MAYRA's South Jersey Summer Series. The RYC team did well.

OPTI out of 47:

Ellie 9th

Lily 10th

Mason 40th

LASER RADIAL

Patrick 9th

Elliot 11th

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
2019 RIVERTON YACHT CLUB

# LUAU

Saturday, September 14th • 6:30<sub>pm</sub> - 11:00<sub>pm</sub>



PIG ROAST • LIVE MUSIC  
FROZEN MAI TAIS • BEER AND WINE

LOTS OF GAMES AND PRIZES

LIMBO • HULA HOOP • BEST DRESSED  
CONTEST • FUNNIEST DRESSED CONTEST

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LINDSAY MILLS at 609•330•1747 or [LINDSAYM524@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LINDSAYM524@GMAIL.COM)