



THE CURRENT

RIVERTON YACHT CLUB
SEPTEMBER 2017

Phone at the Pier (856) 829-9894

RivertonYachtClub.org



Commodore's Corner

September's Here, But There's Still More Sailing and Fun Slated for Fall

By Bruce Nicholson

It hardly seems like September and that we've already wrapped up the Wednesday night sailing season.

Last month our club hosted the New Jersey Lightning Championship Regatta and welcomed sailors from Ocean City, Red Bank and Nyack. On September 16-17 are the Mariner Nationals. Also September 16 is the semi-annual Luau. We hold this event every other year as our farewell party to summer and welcome to the fall season. Plan on attending as it is always a great event and a lot of fun. You do not want to miss the blessing of the pig or the play-by-play commentary on the Limbo competition.

One thing that impresses me more and more is how well Jim Greenwood sets interesting and challenging courses and still gets us off the river before dark. They may not be traditional windward/leeward or triangle, but, at least in the one designs, they are competitive with no place secure until the finish. I may be repeating myself, but it is something I find myself appreciating each Wednesday.

I repeat my previous pleas to stay out of the shipping channel when commercial traffic is approaching. Hopefully enough has been said.

This has been a fast but fun year and I have truly enjoyed the camaraderie and friendships at the club. Thank you all for what you do to make Riverton Yacht Club the fun place that it is.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 10: Fall Singlehanded Series begins (Lasers, Sunfish, Optis)

September 16: Luau!

September 16-17: Mariner National Championship

September 19: CPR Class, 7 pm (registration req.)

September 21: CPR Class, 7 pm (registration req.)

September 22: Overnight Pursuit Race

October 7: Pursuit Race and Oktoberfest

October 15: Pursuit Race and the Mariners' David Reily Memorial Regatta

October 22: Sunday Mariner Races end

October 28: Fall Work Party, Fall General Meeting, Election of 2018 officers

November 18: Commodore's Banquet

The LUAU is Saturday September 16!

Join us at RYC for Dark and Stormies and Bay Breezes at 6pm; Dinner at 7pm

If it gets dark and stormy, the LUAU will go on at Dredge Harbor Boat Center

**\$35 pp if you reserve before September 9-
\$45pp after September 9.**

**Additional donations to benefit Riverton Steamship Landing Foundation appreciated!
Contact Chris O'Brien (610-850-2239 or
omitzvah@yahoo.com) to reserve your spots!**

The Current is looking for a new editor to take over the job of publishing the newsletter in 2018. Please contact Kent Steinriede if interested.

Duster Racing and Cruising History Shared at RYC on Opening Day

By R. Headley
Staff Reporter

The 14-foot Duster plays an important part in the history of the Riverton Yacht Club. On Opening Day in April, Roger Prichard gave a talk on the history of the Duster and created a poster presentation featuring photos of Barbara Lippincott Martin rigging and sailing her Duster in the late 1940s, news clippings, excerpts from brochures, and an article about the boat from the 1948 National Duster Annual.

Roger noted that the Duster was designed in 1932 and built for racing on the Delaware River. Ed Merrill, a banker by trade, designed the Duster at his home at 301 Main Street in Riverton. Merrill wanted a boat that was easy to build, inexpensive and lightweight for the weak winds that haunt the river each summer.

Merrill and his son, Owen P., built the first Duster on the third floor of their house. Legend has it that Ed had to wait for his wife to go to church so he could cut out the window frame and get the boat out of the house. Owen P. later went on to become a draftsman for Sparkman and Stephens in New York.

During that same winter, other club members built Dusters and began racing them at Riverton in the spring. Since the boat only weighed 275 pounds and had a retractable center board, it could be carried on a 1930s car roof.

By 1935, Riverton sailors were hauling Dusters down to Maryland to compete in free-for-all races for sailboats under 15 feet. The Dusters swept top positions in St. Michaels, finished first and second in Betterton, and dominated in other races.

World War II quashed sailboat racing at Riverton, according to Roger. However in 1946, the Duster Class Racing Association was formed with Ted Hunn as president. The first National Duster Regatta was held at Riverton in August 1946 and attracted newspaper press and radio commentators, according to a 1948

National Duster Annual. Of the 29 boats in the two-day regatta, John Knight, with Barbara Lippincott Martin as crew, won the Admiral William Halsey Cup, named after the World War II admiral.

Dusters also have a history as cruising boats among Riverton sailors. Bob Martin shared with the Opening Day crowd an adventure story about sailing from Riverton to Rock Hall, Md. with Tommy Lippincott when they were teenagers.

At first, Bob was reluctant to go because he had two lawn cutting jobs and played basketball on two teams. "But Tommy talked me into doing it because there was a regatta at Rock Hall." The two packed bed rolls into their Dusters and shoved off into light breeze to ride the ebbing tide down the Delaware River. Tugboats passed by and the Dusters rode their wakes. They made good time, but at the Delaware River Bridge they sailed into a storm. "We took down our sails and headed for the beach, and my boat got swamped," Bob said. "We beached our boats and the wind bounced the boats around and cracked my hull at the waterline as we hid behind a telephone pole for shelter."

After the storm, Bob duct taped the crack and they pushed off and made it to Pennsville, where they camped on a stranger's lawn. The property owner walked out of his house and wanted to know what the boys were doing. "Our story perturbed the homeowner. He made us call our mothers," said Bob. Once the homeowner was satisfied that the boys' mothers were OK with the trip, the owner gave Bob and Tommy permission to build a fire on his lawn, where they heated up cans of SpaghettiOs and Beefaroni and spent the night.

The next day, Bob and Tommy sailed into the Chesapeake Delaware Canal, where a ketch motored by and offered assistance. "He towed us through the canal while occasionally throwing cans of beer to us," said Bob.

At Chesapeake City they rafted with other boats in Engineers Cove for the night. The next day they sailed down the Elk River to Still Pond and camped for the night. They woke up hungry but had no food. Bob had some of his lawn cutting money so they stopped at an old marina grocery store on Worton Creek. "I bought some barbecued potato chips and a six pack of grape soda," said Bob.

Once they left Worton Creek, the air died and it was hot. At Tolchester Beach Bob and Tommy tied off their tillers and jumped into the water to cool off. Tommy was tied to his boat, but Bob was not. A breeze caught Bob's boat and it took off toward a rock pile. "We got into Tommy's boat and sailed and paddled to catch it before it hit the rocks," said Bob, who got back safely into his Duster.

The breeze held and they sailed into the night. Tommy had a flashlight and a chart. "He would disappear into the blackness, and I would call out, and he flashed his light on for me and his position," said Bob. The boys kept sailing along the dark shoreline. Eventually, Bob yelled into the darkness: "Where is Rock Hall?" And a porch light popped on and a man yelled: "It's back up the bay a few miles." They had passed it and were at the Chester River. "We anchored in a cove, nested our boats and slept," said Bob.

At sunrise, they sailed back up to Rock Hall. "We were hungry and rooted around for some food and ate a jar of relish and mustard that we found in the back of someone's crab boat," said Bob.

Later they knocked on the door of a house to call to get a ride back to Riverton. "When I got back home I had only one lawn cutting job left and one of my coaches dropped me from the basketball team," said Bob.

Tommy's life was also changed by the Duster trip south, said Bob. "Tommy now lives in a house next door to the house where we telephoned home 42 years ago."

Moorestown High School Sailors to Begin Training at RYC

The next generation of Riverton racers will begin practicing at RYC this fall on the club 420s, which are currently getting much needed fiberglass, finish, fitting, and rigging refurbishing at Cherubini Yachts in Delran. Robert Graham, who sails on Uwe Mewes' J-22 *Corkscrew*, is the coach for the team, which will compete in NJ Interscholastic Sailing Association Regattas in Toms River. Learn more at <https://www.moorestownsailing.org/>.



Sailing Quaker: Bobby Whitley is one of 13 high schoolers who will be practicing at RYC this fall on the club 420s.

Interested in Serving on the RYC Board of Directors? Let us Know

The Club has openings on the Board of Directors. If you're interested in serving RYC or want to know more about the board and its responsibilities, please get in touch with any current member of the RYC Board as soon as possible. A slate of Board nominees will be voted on during the General Meeting after the Fall Work Party on Oct. 28.

Volunteers Needed for Next Year's Wednesday Night River Café

After many years of splendid service and great Wednesday night meals, Donna Wenig is ready to hand over the tongs of the Wednesday night café to new volunteers. If you're interested, please contact Donna or any member of the RYC Board of Directors.

4-Week Singlehanded Series Begins Sept 10 for Lasers, Sunfish and Optis

Fall racing begins this weekend with the 2017 Singlehanded Regatta, open to all Lasers, Laser 4.7s, Sunfish and Optimists. RYC membership is not required. Three races are scheduled each Sunday through Oct 8. The skippers' meeting each day is set for 1:15 pm. There is no registration fee, but racers are encouraged to make a donation to the Riverton Steamboat Landing Foundation at <http://www.rivertonsteamboatlanding.org/support.html>.

Basic Life Support/CPR Certification Courses at Riverton on Sept 19 and 21

If someone collapses on your boat, on the pier, at the mall, or anywhere else, what's the first thing you should do?

The first RYC Basic Life Saving class successfully learned this and more from Captain Bob Getz at the Clubhouse last Thursday. Knowing CPR and how to use an AED (automatic defibrillator) could help save the life of a friend or family member in the most critical moments of a life-threatening event. The good news is that learning basic lifesaving skills and how to use an AED is easy, fun, and it works.

RYC is sponsoring Basic Life Support/CPR certification on two more dates this summer for all RYC members, families, and employees (Tuesday September 19 and Thursday September 21 from 7pm-9pm at RYC). The discounted cost is \$20 per person.

If you certified at RYC two years ago, your card has now lapsed, so this is the perfect time to recertify. If you've never learned CPR, this is the perfect time to learn. Kneeling/sitting will be required, so a garden pad (or a life jacket) are recommended. Please contact Chris O'Brien (610-850-2239 or omitzvah@yahoo.com) to reserve a spot.

Come join us with Captain Bob Getz at RYC this month. It could save a life!

2017 RYC Calendar of Events

All events and dates are subject to change.

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Fall Series Laser, Sunfish, Opti (4 Sundays thru Oct 8th). Skip Sept 17th
- 16/17 Mariner Nationals, RYC hosting
- 16 LUAU
- 22 Overnight Pursuit Race
- 23 Philadelphia Cup Regatta, Philadelphia Seaport Museum
- TBD RC Pool Penguin National Regatta

OCTOBER

- 7 Pursuit Race and Oktoberfest (Flying Scots host)
- 15 Mariners' David Reily Memorial Regatta
- 22 Sunday Mariner races end
- 28 Fall Work Party, followed by general meeting (election of officers)

NOVEMBER

- 18 Commodore's Banquet



Just in Case: As a storm came up the river an hour before the Governor's Cup party was set to begin, Glenn Smyth went home and got a large tent that served as a shelter for the band. Fortunately, the storm veered west. *Thanks Glenn!*

Winner of the 2017 NJ Governor's Cup
Commodore Bruce Nicholson presented Mariner sailor Frank Pelosi with the 67th NJ Governor's Cup in June. The regatta attracted 34 boats and more than 140 people for cocktails, BBQ, and sunset jazz from the Keith Franklin Trio.



Signs of Things to Come.

Photo by Cécile Steinriede

The Current is edited by Kent Steinriede.
R. Headley is staff reporter.



Wear your mumus
and Hawaiian shirts!

ALOHA!

Saturday
September 16

LUAU!

Adults only
21 yrs+

6:00 PM
Tiki Bar
Opens

50/50 & Luau Fun!
*Limbo, Hula Competition
and more!*

Dancing and
Live Music
by The Zone
*Back by
popular
demand!*

6:45 PM
Dinner

Pig!
*Island Beef Kabobs, Coconut
Shrimp, Pineapple Bake, Veggie
Stir Fry, Hawaiian Fruit Salad,
& more! Burgers & Dogs!
Dark and Stormies!
Food by Bringham Catering*

\$35 per person by Sept. 9
\$45 Sept. 10-15 / No tickets at the door
*Be a sport! Donate an extra \$5 (tax deductible)
to Riverton Steamboat Landing Foundation*

Tickets are limited! Make your reservations early!

For Tickets Contact Chris O'Brien at
Omitzvah@yahoo.com or 610-850-2239

In case of rain, the Luau will be held at the
Dredge Harbor Boat Center
67 St. Mihiel Drive, Delran, NJ • www.dredgeharbor.com