

ROCK HALL YACHT CLUB MEMBERS
1937-1938

Hilry Akers
E. J. Allen
Milton Aul
Lee Barnes
E. B. Becker
William Bennett
Walter Briers
William Brinsfield
J. Abner Bryden
Randolph Burgess
Bartus Carter
Ralph Carter
George Coleman
William S. Collins
Dick Cooper
W. N. Cooper
William Covington
J. P. Cowperthwaite
Irving Crouch
C. Preston Crowding
Casey Dowling
Joseph Downey
Fred Egnor
Harry Essenwein
June Francis
Oliver Frazier
Mrs. Mary Fuerst
Joseph Gagalski
Eldridge Glenn
E. J. Hand
John Harman
Lowery Harrison
Robert Harrison
Jane Hatcherson
Roy Hayes
Herman Hill, Jr.
Herman Hill, Sr.
E. M. Hines
Emory Hogans, Jr.
Alonza Hubbard
Wilbur Ross Hubbard
Wilkes Hubbard
Frank Jester
Ringgold Jones
Weldon Kelley
George E. Leary
Howard Leaverton
Edgar Lipscomb
Mrs. E. J. Lussier
Jane Lussier
Mrs. S. Lee Magness
George W. McMahon

James Meikle
Severn Miller
Capt. B. Moberg
George Myers
Jane Nitsch
Dr. Norbert Nitsch
C. Paul Noble
William Paca
Harry Price
Frank Puppe
Henry Pyle
Howard Pyle
Owen Pyle
Hilda Rich
Leonard Rich
Madeline Rich
Raymond Roberts
Elwood Rodney
Harry S. Russell
Harrison Scoon
Sern Scott
Clifton Simms
Mrs. Julia R. Skirven
Raymond Sparks
Wroth Stavely
A. J. Stevens
Allan Stradley
Albert Strong
Miller Strong
Ruthwin Strong
L. T. Stultz
Joshua Thomas
Sydney Turner
Herbert Urie
Bill Usilton
Martin Wagner
Densel Walker
Amos Waterfield
Joseph Williams
Bernard Willson
Charles A. Wilson
Woodrow Wilson
Franklin Wood

HONORARY MEMBERS

Father Charles Conway
Rev. A. G. Lynch
Rev. William Wylie
Rev. Charles Louhoff
T. Allan Goldsborough

FIRST REGATTA AT ROCK HALL THIS WEEK END

Program Of Races Set For
Saturday Sunday

Dancing Will Be Held On
Friday - Saturday

The first annual regatta of the Rock Hall Yacht Club, which promises to be an attractive affair, is set for Saturday and Sunday of this week with the racing confined to sailing events save for two contests for powerboats which close the program each day.

As entertainment features the club has arranged two outdoor dances on a specially constructed pavilion near the waterfront of the Rock Hall harbor. Here on Friday night and again on Saturday night, to the tune of music by good orchestras, members, contestants and guests of the club will dance.

The racing program provides 18 sailing events each day. Starting at 10 A. M. these events will be run off in rapid order under the final sailing event gets under way at 2:45 P. M. Winners will be determined on a point basis, the best total for the two races in each class taking top honors. Awards will be made for first, second and third place winners.

Many fine trophies have been donated and have been on display in the window of Brinsfield's Drug Store at the lower Kent town for the past week.

The State Conservation Commission boat, Murray, will serve as the committee boat for the two-day affair and a triangular course has been mapped, starting near spar buoy number 1 at the mouth of Rock Hall harbor, continuing to a point near spar buoy 3, to a point near spar buoy 5 and back to the starting point.

The affair is sanctioned by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association and the committee is hoping for a large turn out of boats from all sections of the Shore.

Chestertown racers have abandoned their Sunday program at the Chester River Yacht and Country Club and most of the crafts will take part in the Saturday and Sunday program at the lower Kent town.

A word for the Rock Hall Yacht Club regatta moves for its place in the nautical sun this week-end. Rock Hall is the watering center of Kent county and hence the ideal place for such sport as a regatta affords. Kent countians from all sections should lend a hand to put the first affair of its kind across.

FIRST REGATTA - 1938

Rock Hall Is Set For Its First Regatta

With 38 events listed for sailing craft, the Rock Hall Yacht Club is set to present to Chesapeake Bay yachtsmen its first annual regatta. Under the sanctioning eye of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association the affair will take place next Saturday and Sunday.

Dr. W. S. Brinsfield, commodore of the bay's newest boating organization, said today that more than three hundred dollars in trophies has been gathered together for the winners of the various events, and that the list of advance entries indicates a large field which assures the success of this first venture.

Starting at ten o'clock Saturday morning, there will be two full days of events for windblown craft. Only two powerboat events are listed, one a day. Saturday, at five in the afternoon, a workboat race is to be held; and on Sunday, at the same time, there will be a Chance Workboat race.

The course for all of the events will be at the mouth of Rock Hall harbor. The Conservation boat, Murray, will be used as the committee boat; with Enoch Seeds cruiser assisting.

The schedule of events for both days is practically the same, giving skippers of various classes two chances to show their prowess.

Many of the Chester River skippers are planning to race in the Rock Hall regatta. Mike Williams, champion eighteen-foot boat of the St. Michael's races; and Carl Bordley's Carlsark, will add zest to the events in which they appear.

Officers of the Rock Hall Yacht Club, besides Dr. Brinsfield as commodore, are: J. Lowery Harrison, Vice-Commodore; Herbert Nitsch, Jr., Rear Commodore; Weldon Kelley, Fleet Captain, and Dr. Norbert Nitsch, Fleet Surgeon.

WFER, Baltimore radio station, will broadcast results direct from the race course on both days.

Everything is in fine shape the Rock Hall First Regatta, to held on Friday and Saturday. There are many lovely prizes to be won and I am sure there will be many boats entered in every class of races. The Broadcasting service of WFER will be in town Thursday and remain until Saturday, and will also be back again for the Fishing Fair to be held next week-end. We are expecting a very large crowd to both affairs, and everyone is doing all possible to see that every one has a good time and is looked out for. So until next week-end, when I will see you at the Fishing Fair, I'll say Cheerio.

Rock Hall's 1st Regatta Draws A Throng

Kent News-1938

The Rock Hall Yacht Club held its first regatta last Saturday and Sunday which was a success.

There were over 80 entries and a special for power boats which was won by William Hudson, of Piney Neck. The other winners were:

Under 20-foot Class — Carlark, Carl Bordley, Chestertown.

Skipjacks — Stepside, Albert Strong, Rock Hall.

Barnegat Sneak Boxes — Day Dream, Gilbert Ingersoll, Chestertown.

Comets—Comet, W. P. Blocher, Chestertown.

Crickets—Tricky, J. T. Anthony, Chestertown.

Scrappy Cats — Kit-Kat, Wm. S. Brinsfield, Rock Hall.

Handicap Class, (over 20 feet)—Jolly Roger, won from Saturday's race on points.

Handicap Class (under 16 feet)—Tricy, Wicki-Wicki, Wimpy. Points —Tricky.

Skippers (under 15 years)—Kingfish, Comet, Ja-An, Thomas Dick, Chestertown.

Workboats—Harry Layton, Rock Hall.

The biggest social event of the week was the regatta which was held last week-end. Everyone who helped in any way with this affair is to be congratulated, especially Dr. William S. Brinsfield, as he certainly did his best to help make it a success. We also want to thank everyone who gave a prize. There were many entries for the races which were for sailing boats only, with the exception of one workboat race. There were many local winners and also some from away from here, but everyone had a delightful time and promised to return again next year when there will be another.

This week-end the Fishing Fair will be in full sway, and it promises everyone a grand time from the time they arrive on Friday night until Sunday night. There will be a dance on Friday and Saturday nights, and a crab feast on Saturday at the Mansion House and on Sunday afternoon the prizes will be given and also the fish fry which is also to be held on the Mansion House grounds. Everyone is urged to be on hand for this big affair. If you are planning to spend the nights with us get in touch with Dr. Brinsfield, and he will see that you are taken care of.

REGATTA SET AT ROCK HALL FOR JULY 3-4

Kent News-1939

The second annual regatta of the Rock Hall Yacht Club, set for Monday and Tuesday, July 3-4, and sanctioned by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association, is expected to attract a galaxy of sailing craft to compete in the even dozen events carded for the two-day affair.

Ten of the events will be decided on a point basis with three races constituting the series. These events will be started Monday morning and repeated that afternoon and Tuesday morning. The other events are specials set for the final afternoon.

The latter two events are drawing considerable attention. The first, the Rock Hall Handicap, for all competing boats, will see the entrants contesting for a sterling silver Revere bowl, mounted on mahogany with six shields on the base for the names of winners. The trophy must be won three times to gain permanent possession. The winner each year, however, may hold it until 90 days prior to the following year's regatta.

The second events is a race for junior skippers of 15 years and under sailing boats of 18 feet or under. The trophy for this event is a 26 inch silver cup. Names of the winners will be engraved on the cup each year and the cup held by the club. A replica will be given each winner.

These and other trophies are to be on display at Durdin's Drug Store.

Social plans for the affair call for the club house at Gratitude to be open for members and guests on Sunday, July 2 with dancing on the evenings of July 3 and 4. The entry booth will also be open on Sunday and early entries will facilitate the work of the various committees.

Officers of the club are: G. Ellsworth Leafy, president; J. P. Cowperthwaite, commodore; J. Lowry Harrison, vice-commodore; Norbert C. Nitsch, Jr., rear commodore; John Harman, treasurer; Jane Hatcherson, secretary. These with L. M. Hubbard, Albert M. Strong, C. Paul Noble and Mrs. J. R. Skirven constitute the board of governors.

Committee chairman are: Course, L. M. Hubbard; Race, Joseph Downey; Entry, Weldon Kelley; Patrol, J. Casey Dowling; Trophy, Norbert C. Nitsch, Jr.; Press, Herman Hill, Jr.; Program, Harrison Scoon, Jr.; Promotion, Mrs. Mary Fuerst; Entertainment, Harvey Brice.

FISHING N
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YACHT W
CLUB S
By DOC. BRINSFIELD

The members of the Rocking Chair Fleet seem to be taking more interest in the affairs of the Yacht Club than the members of the Sailing Fleet. We have quite a number of boat owners and sailors but they are not turning out to the meetings. I suggest that we have one night set aside at the club just for members of the Sailing Fleet. This way we could really get down to real salty talk and compare notes among each other about new types of sails, different kinds of woods, suitable for boat building, and all sorts of new gadgets that are always coming out on the market. Now is the time of the year to get a boat built and I would like to see a lot of our Rocking Chair Fleet get themselves a boat so that they can graduate to the Sailing Fleet.

* * *

Frank Pupper, one of my sincerest reprovers and severest critics, has jumped me for asserting my ideas on the Seeds property as a possible location for our Club. I express my ideas at the Club meetings on what I think is good or not good for our Club and that is a great deal more than a lot of the members do. What our Club needs is a lot of this street corner conversation about the Yacht Club brought up at the meeting and threshed out there. Come on out to the meetings, you members, and don't be afraid to express your opinions when you get there.

* * *

We could almost cry out that old Rag Man saying—

Any old clothes,
Any old rags,
Any old bones

But laying all jokes aside, if you have a piece of furniture up in the attic you don't need or if you can speak in the china closet and find a piece of china that the Club can use, bring it in to the Club Monday night. We're going to have a real get-together and we want everyone to come out.

Yacht Club pitch players can now play to the strains of beautiful music due to the big electro-la which the club has purchased. Some new dance records are on the way, then you members can soon start to swing.

Bobby and Joe Strong, owners of the Bo-Jo, have been working hard on their mast and also have worked hard on Charlie Parsons tools.

Betty and Nita Dussier are working real hard on the "Swim Ashore" while Sister Jane looks on and criticizes.

Lon Hubbard has almost finished Larry Harrison's 20-foot boat and she looks like she is going to be another very fast boat.

FISHING N
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YACHT W
CLUB S
By DOC. BRINSFIELD

That's me who has been sailing around Gray's Inn Creek if anybody should happen to ask you. I sailed my new Scrapy for the first time last Sunday and I think she's a hony.

Now that all ice has cleared away from the shores and spring is really here in full swing, the sailors around Rock Hall are throwing back winter covers, building new boats and planning a full season of racing. The Rock Hall boys are looking forward to keen racing with the Chestertown boys this summer.

Our Rear Commodore, Norbert Nitsch, is planning some changes on his sturdy sail boat and will soon have it in shape for our Sunday races.

Young Kempster Noble is getting to be a real sailor judging by the way he handled my Scrapy last Wednesday. Kemp likes a Scrapy and says he might get one himself.

I just received another letter from Representative Goldsborough about our harbor dredging project. He is very positive that we will have all the dredging completed in time for our Regatta and Fishing Fair.

Enamel signs to fasten to your automobile tags have been ordered which read—"Rock Hall, Md.—These will be sold for 50 cents each Fishing Fair, August 27-28, 1938." to cover expenses of holding the Fishing Fair here.

Some of our officers and directors of the Yacht Club are not taking the interest in club affairs as they should and it looks very much like there will be a lot of changes when we have election of officers next September.

I was sorry that I could not attend the meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association last Saturday. Maybe Bill Collins of the Chestertown Club will come down and tell us all about it.

It is being talked around that there will be a Rock Hall Fishing Guide Association formed this season. An organization like this could do some real work in cooperative advertising, setting uniform prices for fishing parties and in many other ways.

Every place of business in Rock Hall and vicinity should join the Fishing Fair Association. The latest place of business that has joined is The Hidden Lodge near Tolchester.

Eighteen boys between the ages of 18 and 24 have signed up for our clean-up project, which will consist also of grading roads and planting shrubbery.

Lon Hubbard will soon have Larry Harrison's new 20-foot sail boat completed and she looks like she is really going to be fast.

COMMODORE BRINSFIELD'S
REMARKS

Boat builders, mechanics and railway owners here are all busy getting boats in shape for the Rock Hall Fishing Fair Guides. The angling season will be in full swing here starting with Decoration Day.

Gray's Inn Creek is the scene of much activity due to the number of sail boats and outboard motor boats that have been racing there. Bucky Nelson's boat beat my Kit Kat Sunday in a heavy breeze and the only excuse I could offer was that it was too much breeze for my boat.

Snooks Strong's Step Aside and my Kit Kat have not had our race yet. We just seem to miss each other every time we go out.

Young Kemp Noble is planning to make a change on his boat and says he is really going to show us some speed next Sunday.

Charlie Parsons says if he had a dollar for every one he has taken out sailing this year, he could almost retire for life.

Young Jack Cowperthwaite is very much interested in all the sailboats that go by his home every day. The only trouble with Jack and the water is he can't keep his feet dry.

John Hubbard has finished Paul Thompson's "Sea Dog." She is a 16 foot boat, gaff rigged and is a peach of a boat. Paul can hardly wait to go sailing in her.

Joe Strong Downey, Herman Hill, Jr., and Snooks Strong have been having a glorious time with their outboard motor speed boat. We are looking for Joe to be a second Gar Wood.

Carl Zimmerman has ordered the sail for his Scrapy Cat and will soon be in on all this Sunday sailing.

We have sent in the names of 102 members for the Fishing Fair from Rock Hall and vicinity. It won't be long before the Fishing Fair Booklet will be out and some of last year's members and others who are slow in joining are going to be disappointed in being too late to be listed in this booklet.

If you don't think there are a lot of places taking in tourists in Rock Hall, listen to this. A local sign painter told me that he has orders for eight more tourists signs to be erected this month. Nearly all of these people that have ordered signs, not only furnish rooms but meals as well.

We expect to have a large crowd at the Yacht Club meeting next Monday night. Plans will be made to start on our new club house.

Rock Hall Yacht Club Takes Option On New Piney Neck Site

Members of the Rock Hall Yacht Club met last night, Friday, to discuss the means and advisability of buying a site for the club which this week was optioned with a view to purchase.

The club this week, through its attorney here, took an option on an eighteen-acre site in Piney Neck, formerly owned by Capt. Southard. The property has almost a mile of waterfront, offers excellent harbor facilities and faces a broad expanse of the Chester River just off the mouth of Grayson's Creek.

The club at present has but a small place at Gratitude, which offers no room for expansion. With the new property already equipped with a cottage officers say that an ideal yachting rendezvous can be established.

The property which is being considered is reached by a nine-foot concrete road, with but a mile of slag road right up to the gate.

"THE PLACE" - 1939

Purchase Property Elect New Officers

At a meeting Friday night final plans for the purchase of an 18-acre site and clubhouse for the Rock Hall Yacht Club were completed. Remodelling of the cottage on the site is expected to begin at once so that the property can be used this fall.

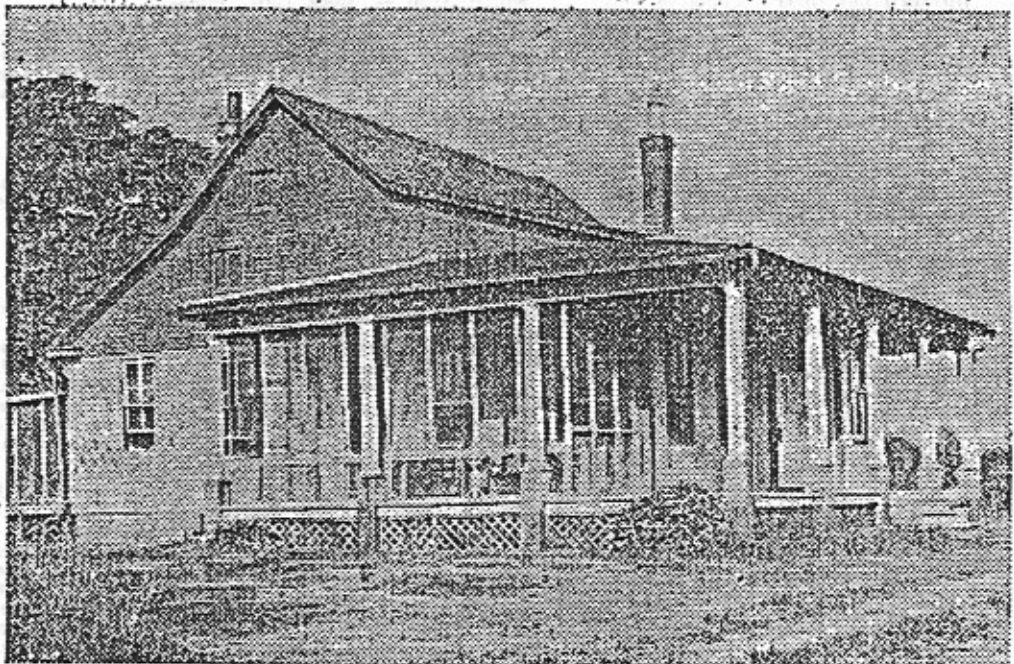
The property is located on Lankford's Bay overlooking the Chester River.

The Rock Hall Yacht and Boat Club has elected the following officers: Commodore, James P. Copperthwaite; vice-commodore, Lowrey Harrison; rear commodore, Norbert Nitsch, Jr.; secretary, T. Allen Stradley; treasurer, John Harmon.

The officers, with John DeCoursey, Arthur Prettyman, Harvey Brice, Paul Noble, Alonza Hubbard and Albert Strong, constitute the board of governors.

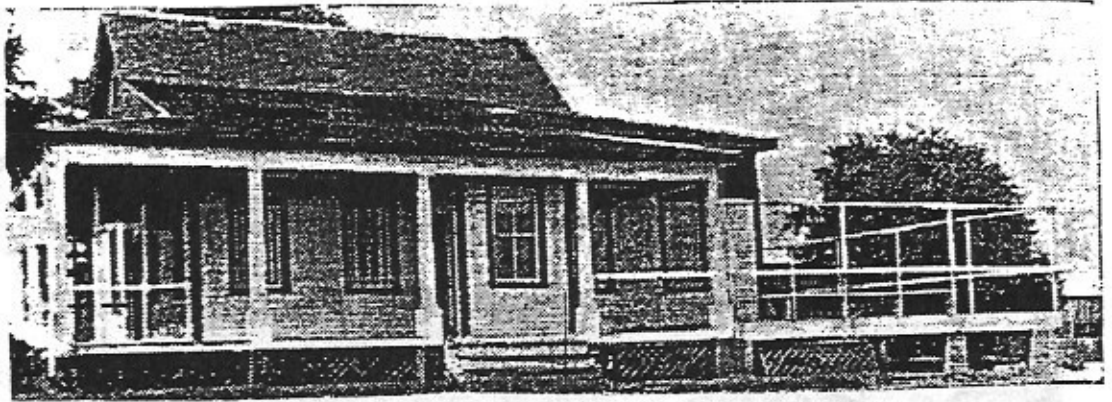
Kent News 8-1939

Rock Hall Yachtsmen Get Clubhouse



Pictured here is the dwelling on the 18-acre property purchased this week by the Rock Hall Yacht Club. Overlooking the broad expanse of Lankford Bay as it joins Chester River, this house faces a broad, sloping area which goes clear to the water's edge. The house will be remodelled and is expected to be open for use this fall.

CAPT. SOUTHARD'S PLACE PURCHASED -



No. 77		
Aug. 26 1939		
Capt Southard	345.00	
deposit on place.	166.89	
\$		

No. 80		
Sept 23 1939		
To Mr. Heck.		
for settlement	110.43	
of place	46.46	
\$		

No. 79	156.89	
Sept 23 1939	2,3138.37	
Capt Southard	3295.26	
Final payment		
on place	3138.37	
\$	156.89	



Opening reception for the new Rock Hall Yacht Club, pictured above, was held last Saturday night. Several hundred persons attended and all were loud in their praise of the work which has been accomplished by the various committees. The club plans an extensive campaign next summer in yachting events other than the annual regatta, which it hopes will rank with the best on the bay.

FISHING N
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CLUB S
By DOC. BRINSFIELD
Kent News-10-1939

The house warming party of our Yacht Club was a grand success. All members who attended donated something and we received all kinds of things from decorative wall lights to a piano. Mill Strong and Harry Price evidently thought the sandwiches were very good judging by the way they consumed them. Harry Carter made the coffee and it did turn out good, much to the surprise of us all. Several of the ladies got our president, Ellsworth Leary, cornered in a pitch game and he really seemed to enjoy himself. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Pyle, of Chestertown, spent most of their time talking about boats with the commodore. Mrs. Julia Skirven chased around selling chances on a pair of silver candlestick holders which were won by Jack Stewart. Pitch player Frank Puppe persisted in giving pointers on the right way in playing pitch while Jane Hatcherson and Herman Hill, Jr., kept piling up points, which was evidence that they know about playing the game. Joe Downey circulated around, mostly in the kitchen, puffing his usual big cigar. Mrs. Julia Skirven was the champion dish washer and Marie Strong, Angie Downey and Mary Wood were champion dish driers. Kathryn Brinsfield played the piano while Mill Strong led the singing. After the affair was over, several members lingered around while Cliff Simms gave a remarkable exhibition which showed what an extremely sensitive mind he has.

War Has Begun

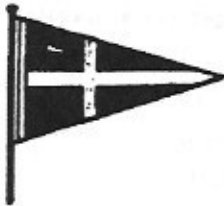
Hitler says his patience has been abused and like a madman orders his army to invade Poland. This has been done and Danzig taken.

Children and sick have been removed from London and other cities.

Roosevelt declares state of hostilities and congress will be called in session.

This war had to come if Hitler's greed for power was ever stopped. Every means has been used to satisfy him, but like a spoiled child, the more he got the more he cried—to grab more from others.

COMMODORE COWPERTHWAITTE'S LETTER - 1940



ROCK HALL YACHT CLUB, Inc.
ROCK HALL, MD.

September 27, 1940.

Dear Member:

We are just starting our second year in our Club House.

During the past year much progress has been made. The water system has been installed and paid for. Major alterations have been made in the house itself, including papering throughout and painting. The outside of the house has been painted and the labor bill paid. (The paint was donated by Allen & Bennett). The wharf has been built and paid for; also the large porch on the east side of the house. All improvements and additions have been completed and every bill has been paid. The interest on the mortgage has been promptly paid; the bank loan has been paid off and other notes paid off. To date, every outstanding bill has been paid.

The Junior Members of the Rock Hall Yacht Club have bought and paid for the equipment for the Tennis Court. Congratulations are due the Juniors for their splendid work.

The House & Grounds Committee has laid out a progressive program for further repairs and improvements to the house and grounds, for the coming year.

The Entertainment Committee has scheduled a most comprehensive program for the entertainment of the members for the coming year. Semi-Formal Dances will be held for members and their friends, at \$1.00 per couple, on Oct. 5th; Hallowe'en, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve. Friday nights the Club will be open for members only, and no charge will be made. If any member desires, house guests or close personal friends may be invited by securing from the Secretary or the Entertainment Committee a special Guest Card, which must be presented at the door. There will be a charge made for such special guests of 25c. In addition, other special get-togethers for members are scheduled, as well as the monthly Semi-Formals.

This change in policy has been made by the Board of Governors, believing that it is the desire of the Club membership.

The Rock Hall Yacht Club is your club to enjoy to the fullest extent; and you are urged to use it. A successful Fall and Winter season is anticipated, and we want you to come each Friday night and enjoy the Club with us.

Remember, Friday night is Club Night for members.

Cordially yours,

J. P. Cowperthwaite
Commodore.

THE MORTGAGE RELEASE - 1941

STATE OF MARYLAND, KENT COUNTY TO WIT:

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that on this 23rd day of September in the year nineteen hundred and thirty-nine before the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for Kent County, aforesaid, personally appeared J. C. Cowperthwaite, President of the Rock Hall Yacht Club, aforesaid, and he acknowledged the foregoing Mortgage to be the act of the said The Rock Hall Yacht Club.

As witness my hand and Notarial Seal:

NOTARIAL SEAL'S PLACE

Priscilla C. Grainger
Notary Public.

STATE OF MARYLAND, KENT COUNTY TO WIT:

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that on this 23rd day of September in the year nineteen hundred and thirty-nine before the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for Kent County, aforesaid, personally appeared John B. DeCoursey and made oath in due form of law, that the consideration set forth in the foregoing Mortgage is true and bona fide, as herein set forth.

As witness my hand and Notarial Seal.

NOTARIAL SEAL'S PLACE

Priscilla C. Grainger
Notary Public.

And was duly recorded by, *Robert A. Shallcross* Clerk.

For Value received I hereby release the within and foregoing Mortgage. As witness my hand and seal this 29th day of August, 1941.

Witness: Kathryn L. Strong
And was duly recorded Apr. 26, 1941 by, *Robert A. Shallcross*, Clerk.

For Value received I hereby release the within and foregoing Mortgage. As witness my hand and seal this 3rd day of September, 1940.

Witness: Kathryn L. Strong
And was duly recorded Apr. 26, 1941 by, *Robert A. Shallcross*, Clerk.

For value received I hereby release the within and foregoing Mortgage. As witness my hand and seal this 23rd day of March, 1941.

Witness: C. Franklin Wood
And was duly recorded Apr. 26, 1941 by, *Robert A. Shallcross*, Clerk.

For value received we hereby release the within and foregoing Mortgage. As witness our hands and seals this 25th day of April, 1941.

Witness: J.P. Cowperthwaite
Preston F. Heck
C. Franklin Wood
C. Franklin Wood
Byron Richards
E. Scott Thompson
Lowery Harrison
G. Paul Noble
And was duly recorded Apr. 26, 1941 by, *Robert A. Shallcross*, Clerk.

CARRIED FORWARD to folio 640.

(continued from folio 489 - Mortgage, Rock Hall Yacht Club To John B. DeCoursey et al)

FOR VALUE RECEIVED we hereby release the within and foregoing mortgage. As witness our hands and seals this 24th day of September in the year 1940.

WITNESS: J. P. Cowperthwaite
John B. DeCoursey (seal)
Herman Hill (seal)
T. Allan Stradley (seal)
Preston P. Heck (seal)
Arthur Prettyman (seal)
Mary Wood (seal)

And was duly recorded Apr. 26, 1941 by, *Robert A. Shallcross*, Clerk.

feet; then N 55 degrees W 394 feet to a stone set at the end of a division line between the lands herein described and lands now owned by William J. Carrick;

ROCK HALL REGATTA A 50-YEAR TRADITION FOR YACHT CLUB

State News-1987
By Jennifer Brooks
Staff writer

The Rock Hall Yacht Club celebrates its golden anniversary with the 50th Sailing Regatta today, continuing Saturday and Sunday.

The club was founded 50 years ago by a group of yachting enthusiasts. A prominent Rock Hall businessman, G. Ellsworth Leary, was named the first president.

In 1939, the club moved to its present location on 18 acres in the Piney Neck area of Rock Hall on Lankford Bay.

"I daresay it's the largest gathering in Rock Hall," said Commodore Marian E. Simmons, the first woman commodore at Rock Hall and on the Eastern Shore. Last year about 100 boats came to Rock Hall for the Regatta, Simmons said.

The regatta will kick off at 1 p.m. today with an 11-mile down-river race on the Chester River. The race begins at the Chester River Yacht and Country Club in Chestertown, Md. and finishes its course off Nichols Point.

"It's sort of like a free-for-all," Simmons said. Sailboats of all shapes and sizes enter in this race. A trophy is given for the first boat to cross the finish line and to the fastest boat after handicaps are applied.

Saturday racing will begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. with three different racing classes.

Log canoe sailing vessels will be racing off the coast of Cliff City. The Cruising Class for boats 25 feet and up will be held on Gray's Inn Creek. The one-design and handicap races will be held off the Rock Hall Yacht Club.

Saturday night from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., sailors and guests are invited to a dockside dance with country music performed by "Branded Outlaws" from Dover.

"(Rock Hall) is a very quiet place and this is the one night people don't get to sleep early," said Simmons.

ROCK HALL YACHT CLUB'S 50th REGATTA

July 10th, 11th, 12 1987

All activities are open to the Public
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Served

For information call Commodore M. Simmons 639-7968.

FRIDAY

1 P.M. Down River Race
Chester River
Yacht & Country Club
(Starting at Dockside)

SUNDAY

10 a.m. Sailing Races
2:30 Trophy
Presentations

SATURDAY

9 a.m. Skippers Meeting
(Launching Ramp)
10 a.m., 2 p.m. Sailing
Races

DANCE

9 p.m. -12:30 a.m.
"BRANDED OUTLAWS"
Dockside

All Members, Skippers, Crew, Participants & Guests May Purchase
A Three-Day Pass At The Club Gate. Guests Arriving By Boat May
Purchase Passes At Dockside

Rock Hall Y.C. to celebrates 50th regatta

Milk was selling at 10 cents a quart, tomatoes at 15 cents a basket and you could buy a top-of-the-line hammer at Jones & Satterfield in Chestertown for 99 cents.

The year was 1937 and the Rock Hall Yacht Club was being formed.

The 50th annual regatta will be held this weekend in the Chester River from the Piney Neck clubhouse. A special 50th anniversary perpetual trophy will be presented to a member of the club who has contributed to the furtherance of sailing and boating skills, and to enthusiasm for the Chester River and its tributaries.

Commodore Marian E. Simmons is regatta chairman with Emily Finch as co-chairman.

Sailboat racing will begin Friday with the traditional Down River Race starting at 1 p.m. from the Chester River Yacht and Country Club. The finish for the 11-mile race is at a commit-

tee boat off Can 5 at Nichols Point in the Chester River.

A skippers' meeting at dockside at 9 a.m. will initiate Saturday racing, with competition for Chesapeake Bay Log Canoes, one-designs and handicap beginning at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Racing will resume Sunday at 10 a.m.

The Cruising Class will race at 11 a.m., Saturday and 10 a.m., Sunday.

Breakfast, lunch and a barbequed dinner by the Rock Hall Lions will be served at the club. A three-day pass can be purchased at the gate by skippers, boaters and guests. The boat gate fee is \$5. The public is invited to attend all activities, Mrs. Simmons said.

The Rock Hall Yacht Club in Piney Neck is situated on a knoll overlooking Lawyer's Cove, across Lankford Bay and beyond Nichols Point to the Chester River.

Saturday night's dance at dockside from 9 p.m. to 12:30

a.m. will feature the country music of "Branded Outlaws" from Dover.

Sunday's trophy presentation will be at 2:30 p.m. with awards for the first three places. A class must have a minimum of five boats.

In 1937, a group of enthusiastic yachtsmen organized the RHYC with the first clubhouse near Rock Hall Harbor. A Rock Hall businessman, G. Ellsworth Leary, was the first president. In October, 1939 the club moved to its present location of 18 acres.

An announcement of the organizing of the club appeared in the Saturday, August 28, 1937 issue of the Kent News. It appeared on page 2 with an advertisement for Chevrolets sold at Russell Motors Corporation, Chestertown; Newsome's Garage, Belterton; and Francis Motor Co., Rock Hall. None of these businesses exist today, although Classic Chevrolet is an extension of Russell Motors

Corp.

Front page stories fifty years ago related that Washington College expected a freshman enrollment exceeding the 111 of the previous year, and a bill authorized the State Roads Commission to construct a toll bridge from Miller's Island to Tolchester or an alternate from Annapolis to Kent Island.

The Hal Roach-M-G-M super feature comedy "Topper" was showing at the New Lyceum, starring Constance Bennett and Cary Grant. W. M. Medders & Co., Still Pond, was selling work shoes for \$3.65 a pair.

Olla S. Davis lost horse and cow stables, plus sheds from lightning in a storm on his Sassafras-Warwick Road Farm.

Schauber's Dairy was offering pasteurized milk at 5 cents a pint.

Medders Store and Schaubers Dairy have passed into oblivion.

The Rock Hall Yacht Club lives in Piney Neck.



Saturday evening, members of the Rock Hall Yacht Club gathered at their clubhouse overlooking Langford Bay to talk and remember the past fifty years of the club.

The club started in August of 1937 at a meeting of "those interested in boating to form a yacht club". With annual dues of \$5.00, the small started out in their meeting place at the Rock Hall Fire Hall. In August of 1938 the *Enterprise* reported, "The Rock Hall Yacht Club regatta moves for its place in the nautical sun this weekend. Rock Hall is the watering center of Kent County and hence the ideal place for such sport as a regatta affords. Kent Countians from all sections should lend a hand to put the first affair of its kind across."

1939 brought the purchase of the club's present home on the Langford and the decision to hold log canoe races at the next year's regatta.

Speaking Saturday night, past commodore Carl Stenger remarked, "members can be proud of the fact that there wouldn't be any log canoe racing in the part of the Bay if the club hadn't been built," reminding members of a trip down to Talbot County to negotiate with Judge North, Sr. to bring the Miles River Club up to Rock Hall to race.

Those were not the only memories shared with us Saturday night. Judge Elroy Boyer reminded his wife of their first date, a Sunday night at the club house. A commodore in 1958, he remembered when Mill Foil choked the waters in front of the clubhouse to the point "you could almost walk on it."

"Fortunately we had a few friends at DNR who sent up a couple of cutters and bailed it up." The weeds ended up in dairy barns; the kids went back to the water.

Commodore Wayne Brady was reminded of the time when towing Bob Hewes' *Silver Heal* from one race to another he came upon Captain Bill Grieb in the *Mystery*. When he offered the man from Quaker Neck a tow, he replied, "No thanks, I'm in a hurry," as his crew passed by in his log canoe.

At the event, Bill Grieb presented the club an enlargement of a photo of the *Mayflower*, the pride of the Strong family, at a regatta on the Miles River in 1938. "One of the best," is how he described the log canoe that no longer graces the water, but is just a memory of summers past.

The history of the club will not be forgotten. Past commodore Clyde Sparks reminded them of the importance of maintaining a history, something never seemed to get done in the early days, but ought today.

Part of that history will be kept on the Commodore's Plaque that represents past leaders and has room for more.

The little yacht club in Piney Neck

Rock Hall Yacht Club honors past commodores at 50th birthday party

The Kent News 1987

by H. Hurtt Deringer

From Chestertown you keep tacking to port at every crossroads from Edesville.

Finally, after miles of farm fields, quaint houses, tiny fishing villages, the motorist swings down a small hill, sees Lawyer's Cove to starboard and perched to port on a tiny knoll the little clapboard club house that harbors the Rock Hall Yacht Club.

The sailboats that ushered in the beginning of Rock Hall Yacht Club have faded with the wake of many wood sailboats. The great Hampton One Design, the Chesapeake 20, the International Penguin Dinghy no longer dominate the breezes off Nichol's Point.

Gone to Fiddler's Green are the great skippers: Albert "Snooks" Strong, Edgar Strong, Brian Kane and "B." Kane, and the colorful characters that gave Rock Hall Yacht Club its warmth and joy - Mill Strong, "Splint" Downey, "Bud" Hubbard, Parks Rasin, Scott Beck and the incomparable "Sonny" Usilton.

Saturday night Rock Hall Yacht Club threw a 50th birthday party. They invited back the past commodores and an "elegant"

group showed up. There was Ermyrn Heck, representing the wise and unforgettable Preston "Pete" Heck. There was my man, Emory "Pie" Edwards, humble and quiet, but always full of humor. There was James "Big Dinky" Coleman, who served five times. There was Bob Strong, farmer E. Clyde Sparks, ol' El - now Judge Elroy Boyer, Carl Stenger, John Boulter, T. Martin Legg, Wayne Brady, John Heinefield and Donald Roderick. There was Harold C. Williams, who had come home. There was Captain Bill Grieb, the best sailing commodore. There was Marian E. Simmons, the only woman and in her third straight year as commodore.

Missing, but accounted for, were Bob Sparre and T. Allan Stradley. Absent, but not forgotten, were Howard Kelly, Allan Bramble, Charles F. Clark Jack Elburn, McCall Ayres, Harold Whittum, Harold Hill and James Coppertwalte.

Patsy Skirven Reihl performed with wit and humor - accounting the history of the club.

And then the commodores the carpenters, cooks, grass cut-

ters and janitors - gave anecdotes about some of their memorable experiences. The house came down.

• Judge Elroy Boyer remembered the problem millfoil, a form of seaweed, gave him in 1958 and how he had his first date with his wife Mickey there.

• John Boulter told how he voted against borrowing more money, how he was asked to change his vote, and how when the interest came back to haunt the club his vote looked mighty good.

• Clyde Sparks related about "tight times" and how he paid \$90 for regatta music and only took in \$40, stayed late, closed up the place, at dawn, then went home to milk cows.

• Bob Strong spoke of how just before the regatta the club's ceiling in the main room fell down, but how the Heinefield clan of carpenters pitched in to criss-cross with lattice a ceiling that is still there today.

• How his uncle, Mill Strong, bailed out his boat with 10 foot of rain spout, swooshing the water into another boat. The owner showed up and said, "You're putting all that water in my boat."

Mill Strong replied, "I know I am, but I am getting it out of mine!"

Later in the evening a plaque remembering the commodores was unveiled and Mrs. Heck helped unveil it.

It was a nice, warm, wonderful evening. The old club has come a long way since it was organized on August 28, 1937 and G. Ellsworth Leary was made the first president. It was not until two years later that they paid \$3,500 for 18 acres in Piney Neck for the old Captain Southard property.

The first mortgage was secured for \$2,000 with Capt. Southard holding the second mortgage for \$1,000 for three years. Five hundred dollars of stock was sold, but in September 1939 the question of the \$1,000 note was discussed. It was decided that "a married man would have to have his wife sign with him and that the signatures would be approved by Mr. Herbert Urie at the bank."

"Such were the humble beginnings of the little club in Piney Neck. Hopefully, it will remain that way for the next 50 years.

50th ANNIVERSARY AWARD

RHYC ANNIVERSARY TROPHY 1937-1987 IS GIVEN FOR VALUED PARTICIPATION IN THE CONDUCT OF THE ORGANIZATION AND READINESS TO RENDER SERVICE IN ITS BEHALF.

1987	Hallie Skirven
1988	Emory Edwards
1989	James L. Coleman
1990	Patsy S. Reihl
1991	Walter A. Simmons
1992	Mary Dunn
1993	Clem Gaines
1994	Gertrude Heinefield
1995	Copeland Aubrey Reihl
1996	T. Martin Legg
1997	Jane Ford
1998	Pat Geisler-Brown
1999	Richard & Marvel Evans

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

GIVEN TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TOWARD THE SAILING PROGRAM AT RHYC:

1987	Fred Rudisill
1988	Marian E. Simmons
1989	T. Allan Stradley
1990	June F. Stenger
1991	Donald A. Dunn
1992	Martha Rudisill
1993	John G. Macielag
1994	H. Morris Paschall
1995	Richard Evans
1996	Mary Dunn
1997	Gertrude Heinefield
1998	Lee Clampffer
1999	Richard Crater

PAST COMMODORES OF THE ROCK HALL YACHT CLUB

1937	G. Ellsworth Leary(Pres)		James L. Coleman
	William Brinsfield	1968	J. McCall Ayres
1938	G. Ellsworth Leary(Pres)	1969	William C. Grieb
	William Brinsfield	1970	William C. Grieb
1939	G. Ellsworth Leary(Pres)	1971	T. Martin Legg
	William Brinsfield	1972	Charles F. Clark
1940	James P. Cowperthwaite	1973	Charles F. Clark
1941	James P. Cowperthwaite	1974	Emory B. Edwards
1942	Preston P. Heck	1975	Emory B. Edwards
1943	Preston P. Heck	1976	Jack L. Elburn
1944	Preston P. Heck	1977	C. Wayne Brady
1945	Preston P. Heck	1978	Charles F. Clark
1946	James P. Cowperthwaite	1979	Allan S. Bramble
1947	Albert M. Strong	1980	Howard A. Kelly
1948	Robert H. Sparre	1981	Howard A. Kelly
1949	Robert H. Sparre	1982	James L. Coleman
1950	Robert H. Sparre	1983	Donald R. Roderick
1951	James L. Coleman	1984	Marian E. Simmons
1952	James L. Coleman	1985	Marian E. Simmons
1953	T. Allan Stradley	1986	Marian E. Simmons
1954	T. Allan Stradley	1987	Raymond W. Zimmerman
1955	T. Allan Stradley	1988	Donald A. Dunn
1956	Robert H. Strong	1989	Donald A. Dunn
1957	E. Clyde Sparks	1990	Copeland Aubrey Reihl
1958	Elroy G. Boyer	1991	Copeland Aubrey Reihl
1959	Harold B. Hill	1992	Copeland Aubrey Reihl
1960	Carl C. Stenger	1993	T. Martin Legg
1961	Carl C. Stenger	1994	David Austin
1962	Harold C. Williams	1995	Richard Evans
1963	John J. Heinefield	1996	Richard Evans
1964	Lester K. Jenkins	1997	Russell F. Burton
1965	C. Harold Whittum	1998	Erwin Parkell
1966	John E. Boulter	1999	Mary Dunn
1967	James L. Coleman	2000	

ORGANIZE YACHT CLUB AT ROCK HALL

Officials Elected And Plans Made Last Saturday Night

A group of enthusiastic yachtsmen of the lower part of the county have organized a yacht club to be known as the Rock Hall Yacht Club. At a meeting this week they elected: Mr. G. Ellsworth Leary, President; Mr. Frank O. Puppe, vice-president; Mr. W. S. Brinsfield, secretary-treasurer.

The meeting authorized the president to proceed with papers of incorporation, and a drive for membership is underway.

A commodore and other club officers are to be elected at a later meeting.

A membership committee has been named and the club expects a charter membership of over a hundred and fifty members.

Plans are for an annual regatta and membership in the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association will be sought.

Quite a few members have signified their intention of building boats and the club hopes that they will be one recognized design as this would help the club to a considerable extent.

It is the hope of the organization to buy a piece of property and build a club house near the new breakwater and yacht basin which is to be constructed by the government.

This new yacht basin will make Rock Hall the most desirable harbor on the Chesapeake Bay as it is convenient to the large cities of the North and by boat a few minutes from ideal fishing grounds. It should draw many yachts and the need for yacht club is essential.



Temporary headquarters for the Yacht Club will be the Leonard Rich house next to Alexander's Department Store. The House and Grounds Committee are: John Harman, Chairman, Mrs. Harry Skirven, Sr., Mrs. E. J. Lussier, Mrs. Leonard Rich, Mrs. Miller Strong, Mrs. Ruthwin Strong, Herman Hill, Sr., Clifton Sims and Larry Harrison. The first meeting at the new headquarters will be Monday night, March 21. We expect to have the largest number of members present that have ever been to a meeting. The committee will submit the House Rules and Regulations at this meeting. With these new developments, we feel that the Club is really getting somewhere.

Jacquette boys, Med and Jack, have purchased a canoe with a Model A Ford engine from Grit Urie and they say she is the fastest thing around here. E. Lipscomb says he believes he will have one to beat her when he gets his canoe overboard.

Capt. Hurley, boat builder from Wingate, Md., and who built Wilkes Hubbard's big cabin cruiser last summer, pulled into Rock Hall harbor this week with a new 39 foot boat he built for a man in North East.

George Myers has been after Carl Zimmerman for all the data on a Scrappy. Let's hope George really builds one so we can have another good Scrappy for our fleet next summer.

Every Club member who has some old chairs or other furniture around the house that they do not need, please get in touch with John Harman or leave it at the Yacht Club headquarters.