

Capt. Wade Murphy, Jr., left, of the skipjack *Rebecca T. Ruark*, and Capt. Lawrence Murphy of the skipjack *Thomas Clyde*, debate who is going to win this year's Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race.



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***Nathan* Kicks Off Skipjack Race Campaign**

Capt. Wade Murphy, Jr., of the skipjack *Rebecca T. Ruark*, and Capt. Lawrence Murphy of the skipjack *Thomas Clyde*, the last two winners of the Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race, stopped by the Dorchester County Visitors Center for a photo to help the Dorchester Skipjack Committee kick off the planning for this year's event. The race will take place on the Choptank River off Cambridge on Saturday, September 24.

The nonprofit Dorchester Skipjack Committee owns and operates the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester*, sailing out of Cambridge. The Committee's volunteers have agreed to take on the coordination and fundraising for the annual race.

The Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race is one of only two skipjack races still being held on the Bay. The other is Deal Island's annual Labor Day Skipjack Race. The Cambridge race is sailed for pride, not prize money. All skipjacks participating receive equal show-up money. The winning captain's name is engraved on the Choptank Cup trophy. The captain also receives a smaller version of the cup, engraved to commemorate the win.

Rebecca T. Ruark won last year's race and *Thomas Clyde* took the honors in 2009. Other winners of the race, held since 1997, have been *Martha Lewis*, with nine wins, *Helen Virginia* and *Nathan of Dorchester*.

The Dorchester Skipjack Committee welcomes sponsors and donors for this year's event. The race is part of a full weekend of the area's Summer Sendoff activities, including Crabtoberfest and the Dorchester Arts Showcase.

For more information, to make a donation to the race or sponsor the event, contact the Dorchester Skipjack Committee at 410-228-7141 or visit its website, www.skipjack-nathan.org.

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