



## Dorchester Skipjack Committee

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Members of the Dorchester County Council presented Dorchester Skipjack Committee President Ed Nabb and Secretary Lou Hyman with a commendation for coordination of this year's Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race. Left to right, Councilmen William Nichols, Ricky Travers and Jay Newcomb; Nabb and Hyman; Councilmen Rick Price and Tom Bradshaw.

## County Council Commends Skipjack Committee for 2011 Race

The Dorchester County Council presented the Dorchester Skipjack Committee with a commendation at the Council's October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The council members applauded the Skipjack Committee's coordination of the 2011 Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race "in an effort to showcase and preserve the vanishing heritage of the oyster dredging vessels that represent the nation's last commercial sailing fleet, the legendary Skipjack," according to the commendation.

This was the first year that the Dorchester Skipjack Committee's volunteers have coordinated the event, which has been held annually on the Choptank River off Cambridge since 1997. It is one of only two skipjack races still held on the Chesapeake Bay, the other being Deal Island's Labor Day race.

This year's event featured a meet-and-greet reception for the skipjack captains and crews, along with vendors and other activities at Long Wharf, in an effort to raise awareness and build support for the race and the vessels.

Seven skipjacks participated in this year's race, held on September 24. Capt. Wade Murphy, Jr., came in first with the *Rebecca T. Ruark*, followed by Capt. John Price with the *Ida May*, and Capt. Lawrence Murphy with *Thomas Clyde* in third place. The winner received a trophy



Capt. Stanley Larrimore, center, once captain of a number of historic skipjacks, presented the Choptank Heritage Cup trophy at Snappers Waterfront Café after this year's race and congratulated the captains who participated. Left to right, Capt. John Price of the *Ida May*; Capt. Wade Murphy Jr. of the *Rebecca T. Ruark*; Capt. Lawrence Murphy of the *Thomas Clyde*; Capt. Larrimore; Capt. Casey Copsey of the *Caleb W. Jones*; Capt. Mike Gosman of the *Lady Helen*; Capt. Frank Newton of the *Nathan of Dorchester*. Not shown, Capt. Ed Farley of the *H. M. Krentz*.

sponsored by the National Bank of Cambridge and all participants received show-up money, funded by sponsorships and donations.

The nonprofit Dorchester Skipjack Committee owns, operates and maintains the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester*, which serves as host vessel for the annual event and donates her own show-up purse back to the race to allow for larger shares for the other vessels.

The organization's President, Ed Nabb, and Secretary, Lou Hyman, accepted the commendation on behalf of the group. Nabb thanked the Skipjack Committee volunteers and their efforts to enhance the race this year, and the County Council for its continued support for the race and the *Nathan*.

"We are especially pleased with the support we had from everyone in the community for presenting the 2011 race," he commented after the presentation. In addition to the National Bank of Cambridge, other major business sponsors included the Nathan Foundation, Cambridge Rotary Club, Delmarva Power, Rommel's Ace Hardware, Yacht Maintenance Company, Snappers Waterfront Café and Canvasback Restaurant.

Nabb also expressed his appreciation to the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority for a grant in support of the event. "This truly is a community event, with everyone coming together to help keep this heritage alive," he added. "We welcome everyone's participation in helping us make next year's race even better."

*For more information, to make a donation or to volunteer, contact the Dorchester Skipjack Committee at 410-228-7141 or visit its website, [www.skipjack-nathan.org](http://www.skipjack-nathan.org).*

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