

# THE *Typhoon*

*a newsletter for owners of CAPE DORY TYPHOON sailboats, as well as for those who want to own one, and those who once owned one, and now realize that selling the neat little boats they had was the biggest mistake of their lives.*

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irregular, free (for the present)

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This newsletter is being sent to all of you who answered my letter in *Practical sailor*, v. 20, nos. 23-24, December 1994. I had tried to find the whereabouts of a Cape Dory Typhoon owners' association through a couple of other sailing magazines, but I was either rebuffed or ignored. I wrote to several addresses which were given me, in Massachusetts, Maine, and New York, plus the address of Nauset Marine in Orleans, Massachusetts (the one given in *Practical sailor*), but there was no answer. A recent correspondent confirmed what I had suspected, namely that the owners' association was run out of the offices of the company which made the boats, and when the company folded the files of owners' names was discarded, or stored in a smokehouse for fish in New Bedford, or in a particularly combustible barn in the Berkshires, or even (let us hope, but it sounds unlikely) in the library of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester. So here I am, out in California, patiently re-inventing the wheel.

*Who* I am: a retired librarian, been sailing with the Olympic Circle Sailing Club in Berkeley for some years now, bought my Cape Dory Typhoon (1 Dec. 1992, a month after I retired) from Anthony Sandberg, president and founder of the club, and fell in love with it from the day I first sailed it. I have also been trying to find out information on the boat, and one of you photocopied for me the manual he

had (thank you again!) but other information has been hard to come by. Richard M. Sherwood's *Field guide to sailboats of North America* (2d. edition, Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1994) has a brief description and a drawing (p. 98-99) but I have not seen a full description elsewhere. Since the Typhoons are not racing boats there doesn't seem to be a one-design association for them (I looked in various nautical sources, not only Sherwood, but also the *Directory of associations* — under "Cape", "Dory", and "Typhoon"). If anyone has any further info, could they please send it to me?

I have some experience (25 years) in running a newsletter (for librarians) but none at all in starting a boat owners' association. So at present, with only around 15 of you, I'm not pretending to start one. Until we get a lot more people, let's just reach each other through this newsletter. Also, one of you suggested we meet on the Internet. Unfortunately, while I have a computer and laser printer, I don't have a modem and I'm not on the Internet, and more importantly, I can't assume that everyone else is on the Internet or even that they all have computers. Nobody should be left off the mailing list because they don't have a lot of fancy equipment. Finally, I'm not a boat designer nor a sailmaker nor rigger nor mechanic, so while I'll be glad to pass on requests for help through this forum, I doubt that I'll be able to answer them myself.

Indeed, I have a couple of questions to *you*, to start us off. The word *typhoon* is a very curious word; it comes from three different unrelated languages: Greek (the giant Typhon), Arabic *tufan* (big wind) and Chinese *tai feng* (big wind), — all of which blended together in the mouths of sailors in the Indian Ocean to produce the word for a hurricane there and in the western Pacific. But here's the question: why did designer Carl Alberg name these little boats after a big tropical storm from which any owner would, on the first notice, trailer them a hundred miles inland? And is Carl Alberg still alive, and where is he now? Let's give him three cheers and one cheer more!

Other questions: though Cape Dory Typhoons are not designed as racing boats, has anyone ever raced them? Or tried out other competitive maneuvers — such as man-overboard drills? What problems have you had, and what modifications seem to be consistently necessary?

Finally, although it's too early to start an association with officers, dues, and so on, I'd like to begin a directory, suitable for publication in this newsletter (as apart from a mailing list). However, experience has shown me that some folks don't want to see their names in print without permission. So to help me compile such a directory, please send me a postcard or letter with as much of the following information as you are comfortable in sharing (I'm giving my data by way of example):

NAME: Noel Peattie  
MAILING ADDRESS: 23311 County Road 88, Winters, CA 95694  
TELEPHONE: (h) (916) 662-3364 (I have no work phone)  
NAME OF BOAT: *Fair American*  
MODEL: daysailer  
WHERE BERTHED OR MOORED: Berkeley Marina, CA  
CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Olympic Circle Sailing Club, Berkeley  
MODIFICATIONS: Installed jib downhaul (there's a block for it)  
MISCELLANEOUS INFO: date blind-stamped on starboard aft deck: 10 16 79

Absent any real organization, I'm paying for sending out this newsletter myself, but if you can spare a few dollars, I'll be glad to make use of them. If and when we get a real organization going — which would probably require a real meeting, probably somewhere on the East Coast — we can set up a proper treasury, budget, and all the rest of it.

That's all I can think of for the moment. I want to get this out before the postage rates go up. Hope you had a happy holiday and that you will have a prosperous New Year. I will have back surgery in early January, but will still be able to collect mail and send out further copies of this newsletter. In the meanwhile, please send problems, questions, anecdotes, stories, poems, about your sailing experiences on your Cape Dory Typhoons. Thank you!

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