



Occoquan Yacht Club
P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, Va. 22125

The Daymarker

July, 1984, Vol. I, Issue 1

Summer 1984

COMING EVENTS

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| 4 July | - Dock Party at Prince William Marina |
| 18 & 19 August | - Mount Vernon Cruise |
| 8 & 9 Sept. | - Overnight cruise with dinner ashore at Popes Creek Md |
| 15 Sept. | - Open Regatta (sail) and Predicted Log Race (power) |

1984 OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Commodore	Bill Shaw	491-8227
Vice Commodore	Gene Fichter	250-6182
Executive Rear Commodore	Aaron Martin	491-1287
Secretary	Nedra Connor	491-3176
Treasurer (pro tem)	Ed Connor	491-3176
Rear Commodore for Sail	Chuck Sands	491-2467
Rear Commodore for Power	Jim Dagenhart	250-6842
Social	Paula Shaw	491-8227
Public Affairs	Ann Burrows	751-1319
Historian	Adele Baker	494-9079
Rear Commodore for Racing	Open, Volunteer!	

COMMODORE COMMENTS. The response and enthusiasm of the general membership has been most gratifying to me and the members of the Executive Board. Our meeting in May was a fabulous success as I am sure our fall meeting will be. Plans are being made for a 4th of July get together at Prince William Marina, and the Social Committee is recommending a Christmas dinner party, which I think is a great idea! Our membership rolls now total over 80, with the majority being family members. Publicity has been exceptional with nice articles appearing in The Potomac News, Boating Tide, and the Lake Ridge Lantern.

There is still plenty of summer left, and plenty for us to do both individually and as a club; thus I ask for your continued support. Our leadership on the water is an important unwritten aspect of club operation. As a major boating and sailing organization on the Occoquan and Potomac, we set the example and establish the trends which affect our river way of life. Remembering that as you arrive at your boat will go a long way in positively influencing our future. Thanks.

FOURTH-OF-JULY. This year's "Fourth" falls on a Wednesday which means most of us will be working before and after. This will limit our normal overnight cruising activity and thus the time seems right for our first annual (?) Fourth of July Dock and Lawn Party! Plans are for the club to provide beer and soft drinks, charcoal fires, and hot dogs! You should bring a dish to share (salad, casserole or dessert), lawn chairs, and perhaps a small table for your group. Festivities should start around 16:00 (4:00 p.m.) and run till dusk when a BYO fireworks festival will occur. Timing somehow worked out for those people who purchased flares in 1981 (when they became a required item on most boats over 16 ft.), as they expire this summer (3 year shelf life) and must be replaced. What could be a better occasion to familiarize your family and crew in how to use your flare pistol than on the 4th along with other conventional fireworks. Plan accordingly (OYC will obtain permission from local fire officials first). Club officers will provide limited supervision and instruction in the proper operation of your expired flares). Dick Lynn and the Prince William Marina staff will join us and have even promised to turn off the lawn sprinklers so we won't get wet. If you plan to attend, please call Paula Shaw (491-8227) before Monday, July 2, so we can be sure to have enough food and beverage.

CLUB SHIRTS Jim Dagenhart (250-6842) is coordinating obtaining truly first class club shirts. Normally \$36.00 in Annapolis, we are getting these individually monogrammed ("Occoquan Yacht Club" in script gold on navy blue shirts) for only \$20.00 each. The minimum order (to get the \$20.00 price) is 36 shirts and Jim needs 6 more orders before submitting. If you are interested, please contact Jim direct, or see him on "SUGAR BULL" on "D" dock Prince William Marina with your check and required sizes.

NO WAKE. Thanks to the efforts of Dough Phelps who keeps his boat the "TWO WORLDS III" at Capt. John Beach's Marina, the Occoquan River is being designated a "No Wake" zone from marker 12 to the headwaters. A total of 14 no wake signs are to be erected in a joint effort between Fairfax and Prince William counties. This move is endorsed by the State and Coast Guard and will be the subject of a special notice to mariners once the signs are up. As a public service project OYC has volunteered the manpower to install the no wake signs. If you are interested in assisting in this project, please contact Bill Shaw.

Those pesky mosquitoes can create problems for boaters. One suggested repellent is, believe it or not, "Avon Skin So-Soft Bath Oil." Backpackers and campers swear by it. It seems to be better than the commercial "Off." Just a few dabs of this oil here and there (it also has a pleasant odor) should keep the mavericks away. I have tried it and it works.

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Caution for those skiing or boating in Belmont Bay. When the Lorton Prison was manufacturing bricks at the now new Regional Park on the Occoquan, defective bricks were towed out to Belmont Bay and discarded. No one seems to know exactly where they are, but many boaters will attest to dings in their props from hitting these underwater piles.

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If you anchor at Sandy Point, please be aware that a jetty of rocks extends out from the Point toward the Channel. Crossing this at high tide may be a problem since they are unseen.

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Please be aware of the crab pots and fishnets out toward the Potomac, both up and down river, when boating at night. I suggest one of those portable spotlights, preferably 300,000 candlepower which can be plugged into a cigarette lighter. Most stores carry them and they run about \$25.00.

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It is great to see our club members socializing at night on the docks after a day's boating. I have run across some people leaving their running lights on inadvertently. If such is the case, please attempt to find the Dockmaster to "help your neighbor" and, if possible, disconnect or turn them off to save the battery. Also, how about checking lines to see the boats are secure.

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We are indeed fortunate to have Dick Lynn, Francis and other staff members of the Prince William Marina and Pier 5 Restaurant complex on hand. They do go out of their way to help. A "thank you" to them is always appreciated by all.

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A "float plan" is always a good idea. Let your neighbor or someone else know where you are going and when expected back. We have not as yet set up this communication network, but it is something we are working toward. The river can be treacherous in storms and if you plan to stay away overnight, we don't want to start worrying about you if you don't return when expected.

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Another product we found which really cleans those stubborn stains is Spray-Nine. It can be found in most stores.

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A word of caution if you plan a cruise to the District to see the fireworks on the Fourth of July. It has been our experience to find that many boaters leave the area when the display is over as if it were the start of the Indianapolis 500. Some of them don't have navigation lights and the wakes are horrendous.

You may wish to stay over or at least leave much later than the mass exodus. A much more pleasant area to view the pyrotechnics is from the channel behind Maine Avenue restaurants. Here you should check with the Metropolitan Marine Police (VHF 16) as space is at a premium. You would probably need two anchors, one from forward and one from astern your vessel. Security here is better. We have even experienced firecrackers thrown at us from the river banks and bridges when we anchored by the Jefferson Memorial.

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Commodore Bill Shaw is updating the local charts for inclusion in an upcoming publication. If you are aware of some underwater obstruction or other mariner's warnings, please let him know. This should make all our boating safer, especially within our cruising range from the Occoquan base.

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Reduced dues for membership with Boat/U.S. for members of OYC

OYC has been granted a Cooperative Group Accord with Boat/U.S. as of June 12, 1984, renewable annually. Members of OYC may now join Boat/U.S. or renew their membership at a special group rate of \$8.50 (half of the current regular annual dues of \$17.50). A list of the current OYC members has been furnished Boat/U.S. for their records. Please ask for the joint Accord right when joining Boat/U.S. Present your OYC membership card if you are a new OYC member.